



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Avian Influenza in the UK: H5N6 HPAI

Wild bird findings in England
February 2018

Current situation in the UK

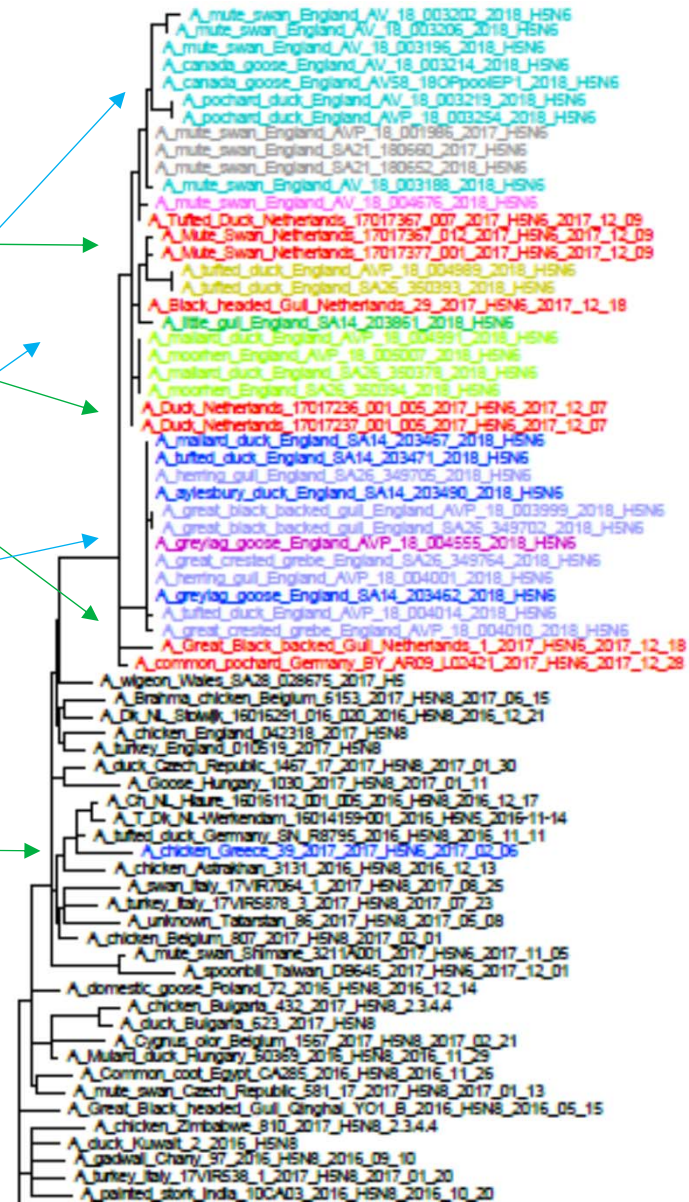
- Twelve wild bird findings across England in areas of low poultry density; no poultry cases detected.
- UK remains HPAI free for poultry.
- Most wild birds detected are considered resident species and were found in areas identified as Wild Bird High Risk Areas.
- Viruses detected in all findings are very closely related and are a Eurasian H5 lineage closely related to H5N8 HPAI circulating in 2016/2017 in Europe and a re-assortment with a low pathogenicity European N6 strain.
- Birds found dead included mute swans, great black backed gulls, herring gulls, great crested grebes, moorhens, greylag geese, mallards, tufted ducks and Canada geese.

Partial phylogenetic tree of H5N6 and related viruses (EURL)

Netherlands tufted ducks & mute swans

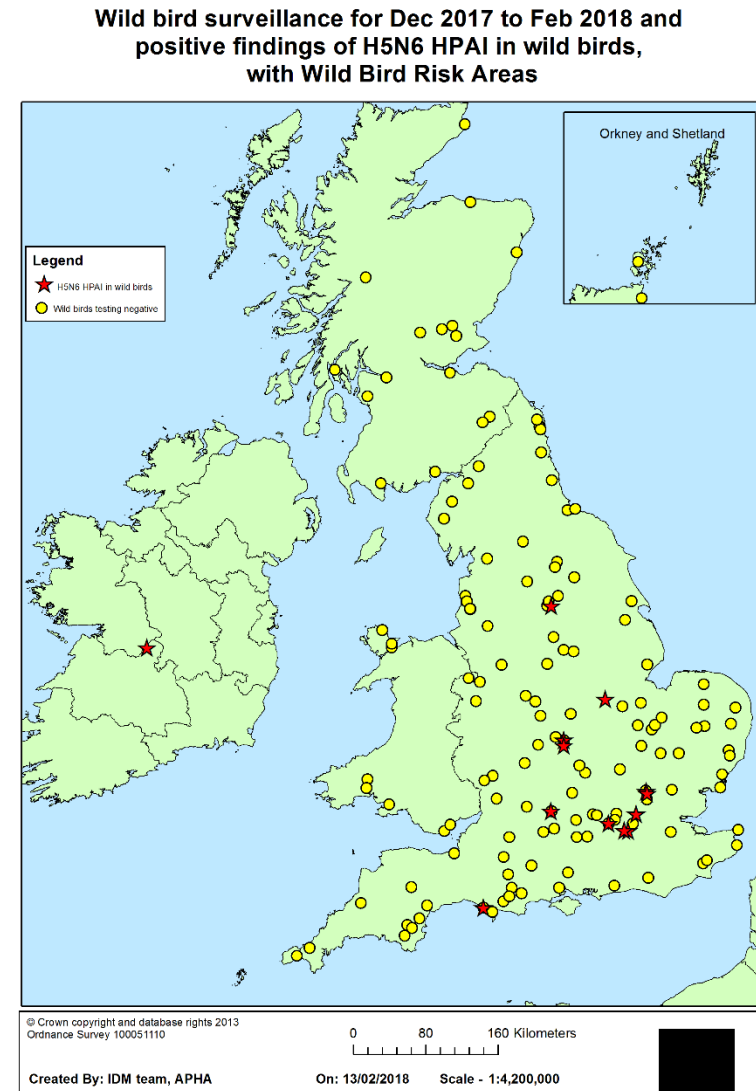
England wild bird viruses

Greece poultry H5N6 HPAI virus



Map showing the affected sites and negative testing of wild bird surveillance

- Over 250 submissions have tested negative;
- All were of target waterfowl species and include multiple submissions from wetland sites
- The wild migratory waterfowl populations are starting to move to breeding grounds outside the UK;



Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

- The findings in Warwickshire in gulls meant a change to the risk assessment that there was a high risk for further wild bird cases across a wide area.
- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/675425/rapid-risk-assessment-avian-flu-wild-birds-H5N6-180121.pdf
- AI *Prevention Zones* are in place in England and Wales requiring enhanced biosecurity for commercial poultry keepers but no mandatory housing.