

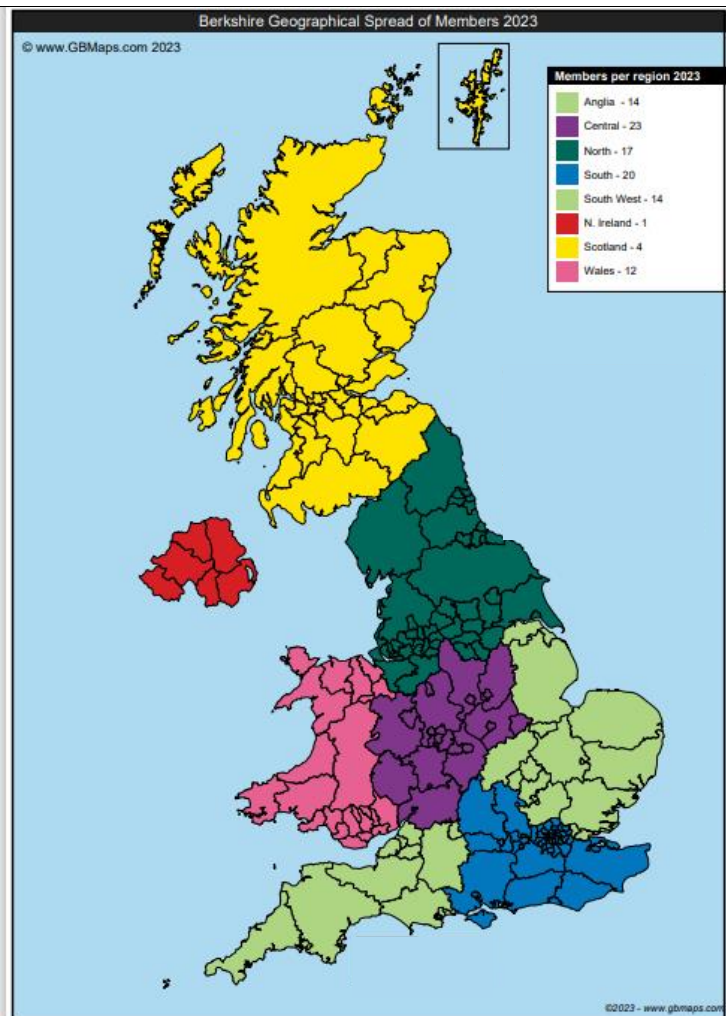
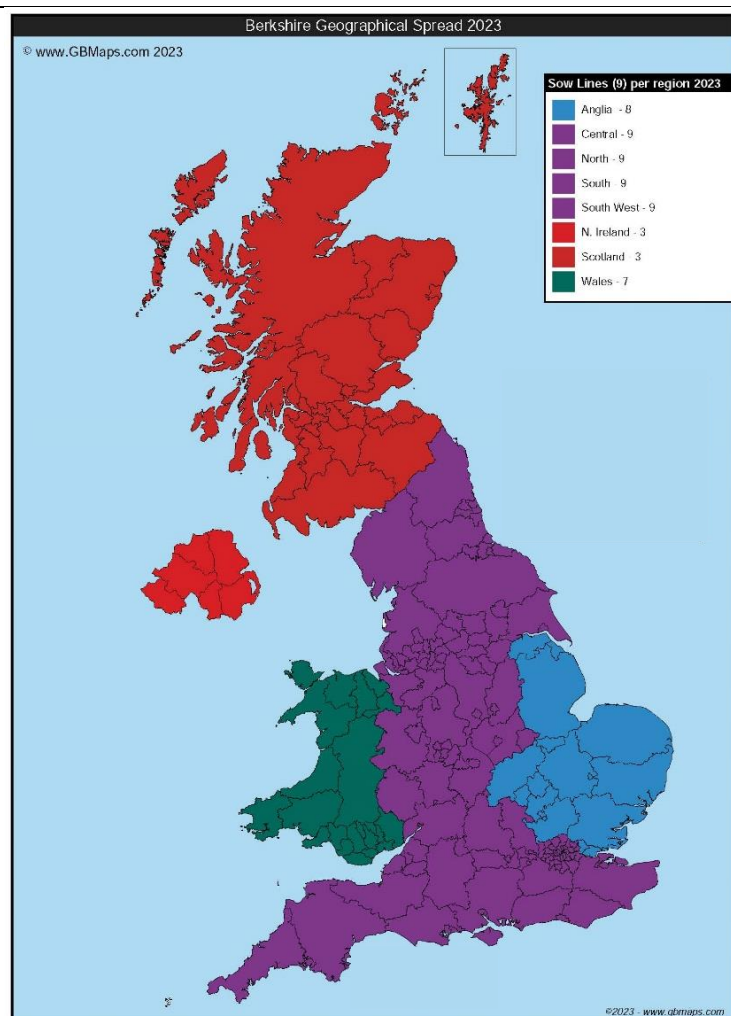
The Berkshire breed continues to meet our baseline objective of a minimum of 5 breeding pigs in each of the male and female lines with each line being kept by at least 5 different breeders.

Members keeping this sow line					Sow Line	Total Sows				
2022	2021	2020	2019	2004		2022	2021	2020	2019	2004
17	25	25	24	24	Excelsa	31	40	45	40	46
26	26	23	21	24	Farewell	42	48	40	38	38
25	32	31	32	17	Lady	42	58	50	54	32
14	20	17	11	17	Louise	21	27	25	22	26
18	23	25	21	24	Mermaid	28	30	39	36	37
18	25	10	8	20	Royal Sapphire	37	48	24	26	38
13	11	26	28	32	Royal Lustre	30	26	51	51	79
25	27	24	21	40	Stonebow	40	45	41	33	65
20	24	19	17	22	Suzanne	39	41	30	24	21
					Total	310	363	345	324	382
Percentage of sows with purebred litters						53%	50%	55%	62%	

Members keeping this boar line					Boar Line	Registered Boars				
2022	2021	2020	2019	2004		2022	2021	2020	2019	2004
13	11	15	20	17	Ambassador	14	12	16	22	19
17	14	9	4	13	Freight Train	17	19	11	4	13
6	11	13	11	7	Lasseter	6	11	13	12	8
12	17	17	19	4	Nama Abel	14	20	19	20	4
13	19	19	18	13	Namatjira	16	20	22	18	13
8	6	5	4	7	Orlando	9	6	5	4	8
13	19	18	18	28	Peter Lad	14	22	21	23	32
					Total	90	110	107	103	89
Members keeping registered Berkshire pigs						110	115	105	108	153

The national pig breeding herd has seen a 17% decline in numbers and we are relieved that the pedigree Berkshire population has only declined by 15% given the extremely difficult economic conditions. We are braced for further downward pressure on numbers and we must ensure that we continue to look for opportunities to mitigate the adverse impact of the current cost of living crisis whilst at the same time managing genetic diversity in a shrinking population. We must also continue to encourage the distribution of our lines across the regions as an insurance policy against exotic disease such as African Swine Fever. It is encouraging to see that the number of breeders is still ahead of the pre-pandemic total and that not all the gains made in 2021 have been lost.

These maps use a sliding rainbow scale from red to purple. The colours do not represent specific values as the range of lines and numbers of breeders varies greatly from breed to breed. What they do show for each breed is where the breed is strongest in terms of lines or members and where it is weakest



Even though overall numbers are down we are making progress in achieving our distribution targets for the sow lines. We now have all 9 sow lines in 4 out of 5 English regions and we are in sight of having all the 9 sow lines represented across the whole of England and Wales.

The majority of the boar lines are present in at least 5 regions with only the Ambassador line giving cause for immediate concern.

The greatest concentration of breeders of Berkshire remains the Central region but the numbers across the rest of England and Wales are still encouraging. Only Anglia and the South West have seen declines and the increase in numbers of Berkshire breeders in Scotland is very encouraging.

These tables show in more detail the progress being made to establish all the lines in as many regions as possible.

	Excelsa	Farewell	Lady	Louise	Mermaid	Royal Lustre	Royal Sapphire	Stonebow	Suzanne	Total sows / Region	2022 Sow lines / region	2021 Sow lines / region	2020 Sow lines / region
Anglia	4	1	4	2	5	1	0	6	15	38	8	8	8
Central	8	5	12	9	11	15	13	6	9	88	9	9	9
North	2	12	15	1	3	1	4	10	5	53	9	6	6
South	10	6	1	6	2	8	1	5	8	47	9	9	9
South West	3	7	5	3	1	9	1	6	2	37	9	8	7
N. Ireland	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	3	4	3
Scotland	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	5	0	11	3	2	2
Wales	4	10	4	0	5	3	3	2	0	31	7	9	9
2022 Regions with this line	6	7	7	5	7	6	7	7	5				
2021 Regions with this line	6	7	7	5	7	5	6	7	5				
2020 Regions with this line	6	6	7	5	6	5	6	7	5				

	Ambassador	Freight Train	Lassetter	Nama Abel	Namatjira	Orlando	Peter Lad	Total boars / Region	2022 Boar lines / region	2021 Boar lines / region	2020 Boar lines / region	2022 Breeders /Region	2021 Breeders /Region	2020 Breeders /Region
Anglia	3	1	0	0	3	1	4	12	5	7	7	14	20	16
Central	5	4	1	5	4	2	2	23	7	7	7	23	23	21
North	0	3	1	4	2	1	5	16	6	6	6	17	15	13
South	0	3	0	3	2	0	0	8	3	5	5	20	19	17
South West	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	7	5	4	4	14	19	18
N. Ireland	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	8	6	4	4	1	2	2
Scotland	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	2
Wales	6	3	1	0	1	2	0	13	5	7	7	12	15	13
2022 Regions with this line	3	8	5	5	7	6	6							
2021 Regions with this line	3	8	6	6	7	6	6							
2020 Regions with this line	6	5	8	6	7	3	6							

We have added second Namatjira boar to the Genebank which leaves us needing one more boar to complete the Berkshire quota.

HB Reg No	Name	DOB	Ear no	IB
HAL/16	Hollybrook Freight Train 2	12/08/1998	HAL/16	0.0091
TMM/783	Smallicombe Namatjira 6	22/03/2002	TMM/783	0.0059
R000682BK	Applegarth Nama Abel 142	02/06/2005	NAE/142	0.0134
R001566BK	Gracebank Orlando 2	12/02/2008	BTS/130	0.0136
R001801BK	Fairoaks Peter Lad 4	15/04/2008	CIM/292A	0.0261
R002609BK	Barlings Lassetter 707	08/09/2009	ASY/707	0.0121
R003217BK	Fairoaks Ambassador 9	06/11/2011	CIM/463	0.0192
R004928BK	Cobtree Peter Lad 2	25/07/2020	VFJ/9	0.006
R005273BK	Fairoaks Namatjira 6	06/07/2021	CIM/1229	0.0106
Inbreeding of the Berkshire boars in the Genebank				0.0129

Mean inbreeding of the Berkshire population

2019: 0.0557, 2020: 0.0538, 2021: 0.05176, 2022: 0.05130

Inbreeding levels of 5% are higher than we would like but the fact that we have been able to prevent any increase within such a small population is very encouraging. We will update this report with the latest figures for Effective Population size once they are published by Defra as part of their report to the Convention on Biodiversity.

Berkshire Objectives for 2022

- Improve the numbers of the Royal Lustre and Louise lines

Increasing numbers in individual lines was always going to be a challenge in a year when numbers declined across the whole herd. We did manage some success with the Royal Lustre line but the Louise line remains at the bottom of the numbers pile.

- Improve the number of the Orlando boars potentially seeking to recycle Gracebank Orlando out of the tank and bring some daughters back to mainland GB

Two litters have been produced from the frozen semen. A boar went back into the AI centre for commercial use only, one sow remains in Northern Ireland and a sow and a boar have been moved over to England

- And arrest the decline of the Ambassador boar line even further.

In spite of the overall decline in numbers for the population as a whole were able to improve the number of boars and breeders of the Ambassador line and maintain the distribution.

Berkshire Conservation Targets for 2023

- Improve the distribution of the Ambassador line
- Move the Louise and Suzanne lines into Wales and the Royal Sapphire line into Anglia so that all 9 sow lines are being bred across the whole of England and Wales.
- Improve the distribution of the Lassetter line