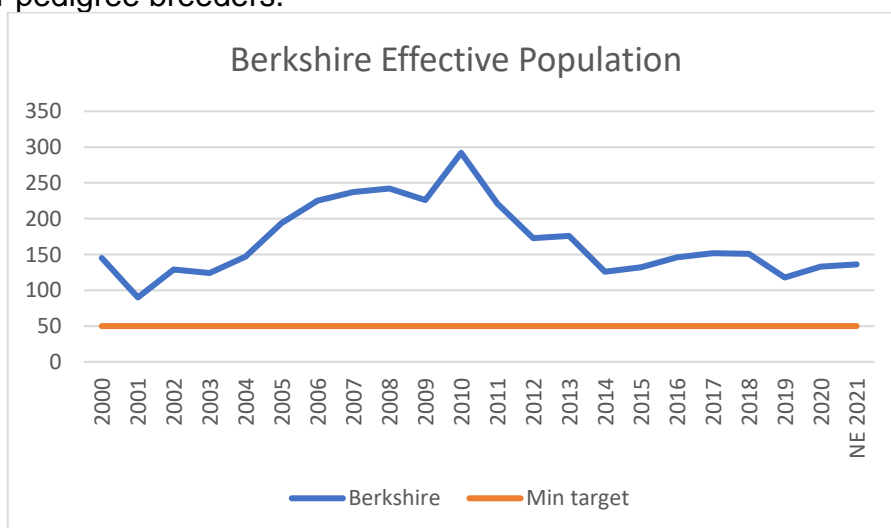


Our original conservation target was to ensure that we had at least 5 sows or boars in each line and that each line was represented in at least 5 herds. The Berkshire breed has met this target since 2020.

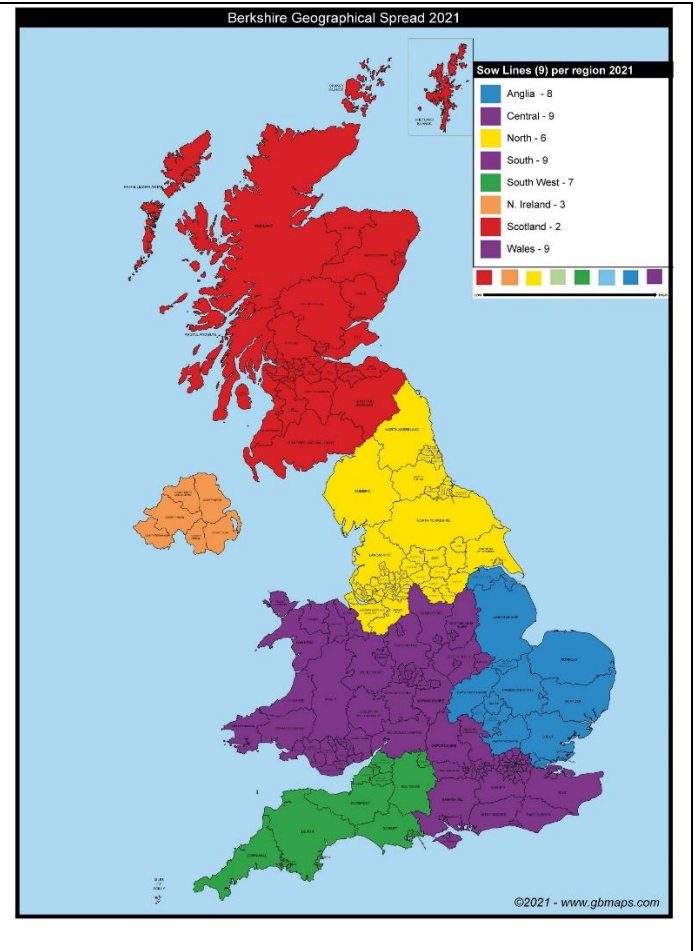
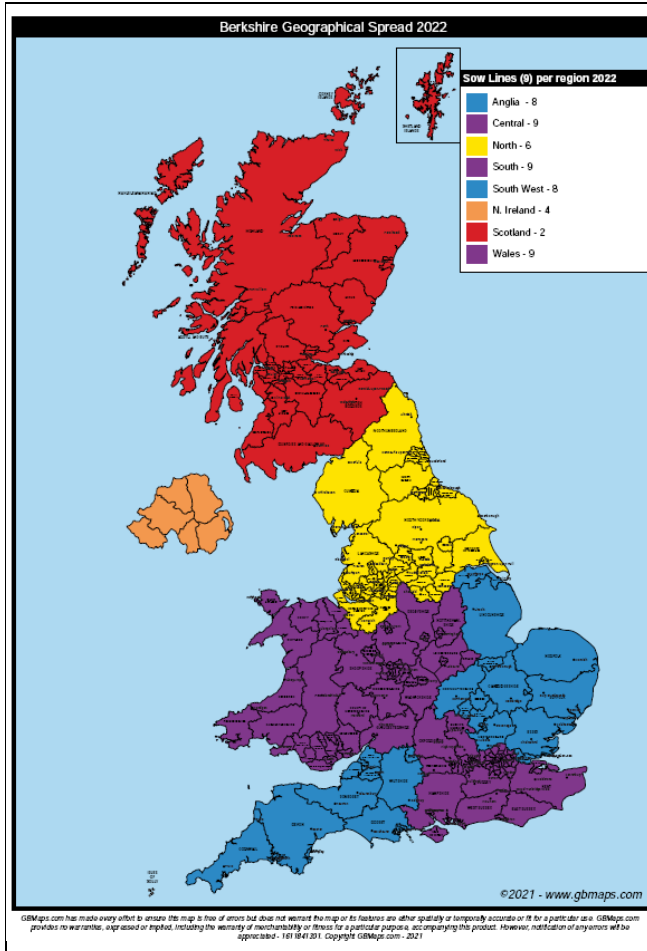
Members keeping this sow line					Sow Line	Total Sows				
2021	2020	2019	2018	2004		2021	2020	2019	2018	2004
25	25	24	29	24	Excelsa	40	45	40	47	46
26	23	21	23	24	Farewell	48	40	38	36	38
32	31	32	33	17	Lady	58	50	54	48	32
20	17	11	20	17	Louise	27	25	22	37	26
23	25	21	26	24	Mermaid	30	39	36	39	37
25	10	8	14	20	Royal Sapphire	48	24	26	39	38
11	26	28	30	32	Royal Lustre	26	51	51	68	79
27	24	21	15	40	Stonebow	45	41	33	30	65
24	19	17	17	22	Suzanne	41	30	24	36	21
Total						363	345	324	380	382
Percentage of sows with purebred litters						50%	55%	62%	58%	

Members keeping this boar line					Boar Line	Registered Boars				
2021	2020	2019	2018	2004		2021	2020	2019	2018	2004
11	15	20	21	17	Ambassador	12	16	22	28	19
14	9	4	7	13	Freight Train	19	11	4	8	13
11	13	11	11	7	Lasseter	11	13	12	12	8
17	17	19	19	4	Nama Abel	20	19	20	22	4
19	19	18	19	13	Namatjira	20	22	18	21	13
6	5	4	8	7	Orlando	6	5	4	8	8
19	18	18	21	28	Peter Lad	22	21	23	24	32
Total						110	107	103	123	89
Members keeping registered Berkshire pigs						115	105	108	125	153

Effective population (N_e) size is a measure of the genetic health of the breed. It is calculated as part of the National Inventory of Farm Animal Genetic Resources maintained by Defra based on the annual bloodline survey figures for the UK that we supply. Our 2021 figures will be added in May this year when the inventory is updated. The effective population size of all our native breeds is used in an index as part of the UK monitoring of biodiversity as part of our commitments under the Convention on Biodiversity to which the UK is a signatory. The effective population size is linked to the actual population but there are ways in which we manage this even when sow numbers are falling and this will be our challenge whenever we are faced with difficult times for pedigree breeders.



These maps use a sliding rainbow scale from red to purple. The colours do not represent specific values as the range of lines between breeds is very wide. What they do show for each breed is where the breed is strongest in terms of lines and where it is weakest





BPA Conservation Breeding Plan 2022

Berkshire Effective Population and Geographical Distribution



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 Sannahire	Stonebow	Suzanne	Total / Region	2021 Sow lines / region	2020 Sow lines / region	2019 Sow lines / region
Anglia	5	2	12	2	10	7	0	10	17	65	8	8	8
Central	9	4	18	7	8	19	14	8	9	96	9	9	9
North	2	10	16	0	5	0	3	13	0	49	6	6	6
South	9	5	2	6	2	7	1	3	8	43	9	9	9
South West	8	13	4	10	1	9	0	7	6	58	8	7	8
N. Ireland	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	4	3	5
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	2	3
Wales	7	13	5	2	3	6	4	3	1	44	9	9	9
2021 Regions with this line	6	7	7	5	7	5	6	7	5	363			
2020 Regions with this line	6	6	7	5	6	5	6	7	5				
2019 Regions with this line	6	6	7	4	5	6	4	6	6				

	Ambassador	Freight Train	Lasseter	Nama Abel	Namatjira	Orlando	Peter Lad	Total boars / Region	2021 Boar lines / region	2020 Boar lines / region	2019 Boar lines / region	2021 Breeders /Region	2020 Breeders /Region	2019 Breeders /Region
Anglia	2	4	1	1	5	2	6	21	7	7	7	20	16	15
Central	3	4	1	7	4	2	7	28	7	7	6	23	21	22
North	1	3	1	4	1	0	4	14	6	6	5	15	13	15
South	0	3	1	3	1	0	0	8	5	5	4	19	17	19
South West	0	2	3	2	5	0	4	16	4	4	4	19	18	18
N. Ireland	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	7	4	4	6	2	2	2
Scotland	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	2	1
Wales	6	2	2	1	1	1	0	13	7	7	6	15	13	13
2021 Regions with this line	4	7	8	8	7	4	5	109				115		
2020 Regions with this line	6	5	8	6	7	3	6							
2019 Regions with this line	6	3	6	7	7	3	7							

BPA Conservation Breeding Plan 2022

Berkshire Genebanking and Conservation Targets

We have all 7 boar lines in the tank. The inbreeding relationship between the boars in the tank is much lower than the average in the live population. Berkshire semen is in demand for crossbreeding and commercial production and so we are lucky that there is almost always a Berkshire boar available at Deerpark. That does not mean that we want the boar in the genebank. The objectives of the genebank are very specific. The boars must be unrelated to each other and ideally unrelated to the wider population. We want to have a selection of lines and we also want to see a range of breeders represented.

Re No	Name	DOB	Ear no	IB
HAL/16	Hollybrook Freight Train 2	12/08/1998	HAL/16	0.0104
TMM/783	Smallicombe Namatjira 6	22/03/2002	TMM/783	0.0065
R000682BK	Applegarth Nama Abel 142	02/06/2005	NAE/142	0.0153
R001566BK	Gracebank Orlando 2	12/02/2008	BTS/130	0.0156
R001801BK	Fairoaks Peter Lad 4	15/04/2008	CIM/292A	0.0248
R002609BK	Barlings Lassetter 707	08/09/2009	ASY/707	0.0127
R003217BK	Fairoaks Ambassador 9	06/11/2011	CIM/463	0.0174
R004928BK	Cobtree Peter Lad 2	25/07/2020	VFJ/9	0.0057
Inbreeding of the Berkshire boars in the Genebank				0.0136

Mean inbreeding of the Berkshire population 2019: 0.0557 2020: 0.0538 2021: 0.05176.

Berkshire Objectives for 2021

- Move the Mermaid line into the South West and the Mermaid and Royal Sapphire into Anglia –
 - *We have achieved some great work with getting the spread of the Mermaid line into Anglia and the South West but the Royal Sapphire still needs some work as do some of the boar lines, where fashion of lines plays a part in the spread ability of the lines.*
- Increase numbers and distribution of the Orlando line and move Ambassador and Nama Abel boars in the South West
 - *The Orlando line still causes concern with numbers struggling to get improvement. Another concern is the gene pool is very narrow because there are so few numbers about.*
 - *Additionally we have seen a decline in the ambassador bloodlines as it appears other more fashionable lines have frozen them out, some of this can be attributed to the blood line survey raising awareness, having said that numbers are not as low as the Orlando so its not a bad picture just one we need to keep an eye on.*
- Add a Peter Lad boar to the Genebank
 - *This has been achieved thanks to the work of Tracey Bretherton in sourcing the boar and getting it to over to Deerpark. This boar has further reduced the level of inbreeding in the Berkshire genebank.*

Berkshire Conservation Targets for 2022

- Improve the numbers of the Royal Lustre and Louise lines
- Improve the number of the Orlando boars potentially seeking to recycle Gracebank Orlando out of the tank and bring some daughters back to the UK
- And arrest the decline of the Ambassador boar line even further