



APHA Briefing Note 24/17

Bovine TB update –

Expansion of the Edge Area in England and new cattle testing arrangements

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of the expansion of the Edge Area and new cattle testing arrangements being introduced from 1 January 2018.

Background

2. Following a public consultation in 2016, Defra is introducing further enhancements to the Edge Area policy in England as part of the government's comprehensive bovine TB eradication strategy.

Edge Area changes from 1 January 2018

3. The part Edge, part High Risk Area (HRA) split counties of Cheshire, Derbyshire, East Sussex, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire will be re-classified as fully in the Edge Area. Herds in these counties will be subject to mandatory interferon gamma blood testing in TB breakdowns with lesion and/or culture positive animals, as is the case for herds in the current Edge Area.
4. Eligibility for support from the new [Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme](#) (known as BEVS 2) will also extend to these new parts of the Edge Area.
5. Herds in some parts of the Edge Area will be subject to six-monthly routine surveillance testing, while others will remain on annual testing supplemented with 3km radial testing around TB breakdown herds with lesion and/or culture positive animals. The table below shows the current surveillance testing

regime and new testing regime for each Edge Area county.

County	Current boundaries	Current testing regime(s)	Changes to boundaries and surveillance testing regimes
Berkshire	Fully Edge	Annual	Berkshire West will be on six monthly testing
			All other areas in Berkshire will be on annual with radial testing
Buckinghamshire	Fully Edge	Annual	Annual with radial testing
Cheshire	Part Edge & part HRA	Cheshire South (HRA) Annual	Fully Edge and six monthly testing
		Cheshire North (Edge) six monthly testing	NO CHANGE in testing regime
Derbyshire	Part Edge & part HRA	Derbyshire West (HRA) Annual	Fully Edge and six monthly testing
		Derbyshire (Edge) Annual with radial testing	NO CHANGE in testing regime
East Sussex	Part Edge & part HRA	Annual	Fully Edge – Annual with radial testing
Hampshire	Fully Edge	Annual	Hampshire North West will be on six monthly testing
			All other areas will be on annual with radial testing
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire	Fully Edge	Annual	Annual with radial testing
Oxfordshire and Warwickshire	Part Edge & part HRA	Annual	Fully Edge on six monthly testing

6. In summary, these changes amount to:

- Routine six-monthly herd testing in Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Cheshire (the south of which is currently in the HRA) the west of Berkshire, northwest Hampshire and west Derbyshire – i.e. where the incidence of bovine TB is highest and where radial testing may be impractical or administratively complex
- Radial testing around TB breakdowns with lesion and/or culture positive animals in all other parts of the new Edge Area, as currently happens in the Low Risk Area (LRA)

Implementing changes to surveillance testing in the Edge Area

7. The changes to TB testing in the Edge Area will be phased in from 1 January 2018.

8. Cattle keepers in areas which will be subject to annual testing supplemented with radial testing will be notified in writing by APHA. They will not need to take any action and their annual whole herd test will be unaffected. Keepers will receive notification from APHA if their herd requires radial testing.
9. Cattle keepers in areas that will be subject to six monthly testing will be notified in writing by APHA. The six month test will be scheduled once the herd has completed the routine whole herd test already scheduled for 2018. At this point keepers will be able to discuss their testing windows with APHA and they will as far as possible seek to accommodate preferred testing dates.

Further Information

- Detailed guidance explaining the Edge Area changes in England, including Q&A, is available on the [TB Hub website](#).
- [TB information note](#) explaining the changes to surveillance testing in the Edge Area, including a list of parishes in counties with split testing regimes (Berkshire, Derbyshire and Hampshire).
- The outcome of Defra's 2016 consultation on enhanced bovine TB surveillance and controls in the High Risk and Edge Areas of England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/bovine-tb-controls-in-the-high-risk-and-edge-areas-of-england>
- The strategy for achieving Officially Bovine Tuberculosis Free status for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-strategy-for-achieving-officially-bovine-tuberculosis-free-status-for-england>

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