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Effects of badger culling prove short-lived

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Badger culling is unlikely to be a cost effective way of helping control cattle TB in Britain, according to research published in PLoS ONE on 10 February. The authors of the study, from the MRC Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling at Imperial and the Zoological Society of London, say their findings suggest that the benefits of repeated widespread badger culling disappear within four years after the culling has ended.

[Professor Christl Donnelly](#), senior author of the study from the MRC Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling, said: “The Randomised Badger Culling Trial was set up to find out if culling badgers would help control the spread of the disease. Although badger culling reduced bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in cattle during the trial and immediately thereafter, our new study shows that the beneficial effects are not sustained, disappearing four years post-cull.

“this is not a cost-effective contribution to preventing bTB”

“Our new research also suggests that the savings that farmers and the government would make by reducing bTB infections in cattle are two or three times less than the cost of repeated badger culls as undertaken in the trial, so this is not a cost effective contribution to preventing bTB infections in cattle.”

— Lucy Goodchild, Communications

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