

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Food and farming](#) > [Keeping farmed animals](#)  
> [Bovine tuberculosis \(bovine TB\)](#)  
> [Bovine TB: summary of badger control monitoring during 2019](#)



Policy paper

# Summary of badger vaccination in 2019

Published 27 March 2020

**Applies to England**



© Crown copyright 2020

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-summary-of-badger-control-monitoring-during-2019/summary-of-badger-vaccination-in-2019>

Contents

[Background](#)

[Field monitoring](#)

# Background

The government's strategy<sup>[\[footnote 1\]](#)</sup> on tackling bovine tuberculosis in England includes badger vaccination.

As the licensing authority, Natural England issue licences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 to take and mark badgers for vaccination to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis in cattle.

Licence holders must have the permission of the landholder where they propose to vaccinate badgers. Before individuals can set cage-traps or vaccinate badgers, they must also prove to Natural England that they have completed the relevant training<sup>[\[footnote 2\]](#)</sup>.

## Number of badgers vaccinated in England in 2019

The open season for vaccinating badgers runs each year from 1 May to 30 November.

Licence holders must submit to Natural England an annual return of the number of badgers vaccinated during the open season.

In 2019, licence holders vaccinated 890<sup>[\[footnote 3\]](#)</sup> badgers across England.

County	Licenced area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Badgers vaccinated
Avon	2.6	22
Berkshire	12.0	22
Cheshire	38.3	135
Cornwall	33.5	159
Derbyshire	57.1	155

County	Licenced area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Badgers vaccinated
Devon	3.9	34
Dorset	6.6	66
East Sussex	3.2	20
Gloucestershire	2.8	58
Greater Manchester	0.5	3
Hampshire	1.7	0
Hereford and Worcester	2.8	27
Leicestershire	15.1	34
Nottinghamshire	9.3	30
Oxfordshire	7.6	23
Shropshire	4.6	26
Somerset	5.7	12
Staffordshire	13.2	33
Warwickshire	1.3	20
Wiltshire	6.3	11

## Field monitoring

Cage-trapping is a long established method of catching badgers and the welfare of badgers captured in cage-traps has been investigated before [\[footnote 4\]](#).

In 2019, Natural England conducted compliance monitoring visits on 7 (3.5 % [\[footnote 5\]](#)) individual authorised to cage-trap and vaccinate badgers. All

exhibited a high level of compliance with licence conditions and best practice.

---

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-strategy-for-achieving-officially-bovine-tuberculosis-free-status-for-england>.
2. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bovine-tb-badger-vaccination-training>.
3. Based on a preliminary analysis of the return forms submitted to Natural England in December 2019.
4. Woodroffe, R, Bourne, FJ, Cox, DR, Donnelly, CA, Gettinby, G, McInerney, JP, and Morrison, WI (2005) 'Welfare of badgers (*Meles meles*) subjected to culling: patterns of trap-related injury', *Animal Welfare*, 14 (1), pp. 11-17.
5. Based on the number of compliance visits conducted as a proportion of the total number of licensed individuals.

---

**OGI**

All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright