

## TB eradication targets for Wales

We established the TB eradication programme to carry out our long-term goal of eradicating bovine TB in Wales. In 2017 we implemented a refreshed programme, key to which was establishing a regionalised approach to tackling the disease. To supplement this approach the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, has now set targets for eradication in each of the TB Areas. The national eradication target emerges on the basis of the regional targets being achieved. When all regions become Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF), it follows that Wales will be OTF as a whole. If we achieve the targets that have been set Wales will be OTF by 2041. The concept for these targets is set out below.

The Wales TB Areas are themselves comprised of 58 Spatial Units (figure 1). We will set 6-year interim regional milestones according to improvements in herd incidence at regional level and the transfer of Spatial Units from higher to lower incidence areas. Thus, over time, the Low TB Area expands, the High TB Areas recede, and ultimately all of Wales will become Officially Tuberculosis Free.

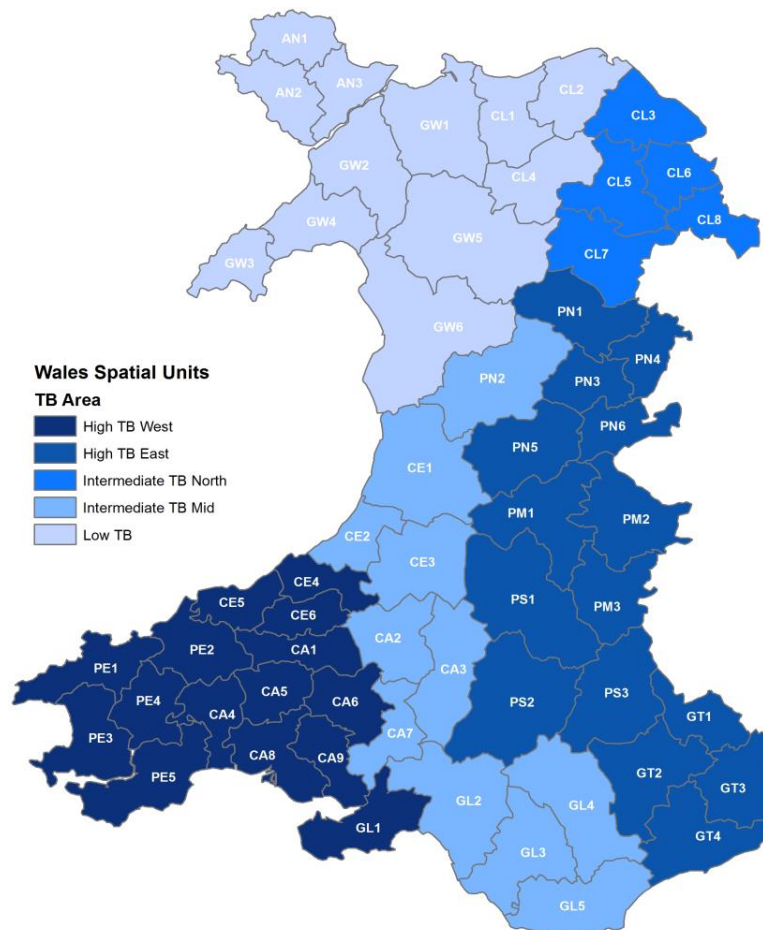


Figure 1. Wales TB Areas and Spatial Units

The first regional targets, covering the period from December 31st 2017 to December 31st 2023, are:

#### **High TB Area – West**

- 50% fall in herd incidence
- Transfer of Spatial Unit CE4 to Intermediate TB Area

#### **High TB Area – East**

- 50% fall in herd incidence
- Transfer of Spatial Unit PN1 to Intermediate TB Area

#### **Intermediate TB Area – Mid**

- 50% fall in herd incidence
- Merge with Intermediate TB Area - North

#### **Intermediate TB Area – North**

- 50% fall in herd incidence
- Transfer of Spatial Unit CL3 to Low TB Area
- Merge with Intermediate TB Area - Mid




#### **Low TB Area**

- Maintenance of incidence below 0.1%
- OTF status
- Expansion to include CL3

At the end of each 6-year period we will assess progress to date and set the milestones for the following period. Spatial Units will transfer from higher to lower incidence areas on the basis of improved disease trajectory over the previous period. As part of the 6-yearly review process it may also be appropriate to review and, if necessary, adjust the national eradication target on the basis of up to date evidence.

Having interim milestones as well as a long-term national eradication target is key. The regional milestones stress the urgency of the task at hand and reflect the need to realise strong progress during each period. They are intended to help convey the need for immediate action, to focus minds and to drive the progress necessary to achieve our collective goals.

The table below shows how the short-term regional milestones feed into the long-term target for national eradication (OTF). The targets are intended to be ambitious. Achieving them will require the cooperation and dedication of everyone involved, including Government, the APHA, industry and our veterinary colleagues.

	Low TB Area	Intermediate TB areas		High TB areas	
		North	Mid	East	West
<b>2018 - 2023</b>	<b>OTF</b>	50% fall in incidence;	50% fall in incidence;	50% fall in incidence;	50% fall in incidence;
		CL3 to Low TB area; Intermediate Areas to merge		PN1 and CE3 to Intermediate TB Area	
<b>2024 - 2029</b>	<b>OTF</b>	<0.1% incidence		40% fall in incidence;	40% fall in incidence;
		SU(s) to Low TB Area		SU(s) to Intermediate TB Area	
<b>2030 - 2035</b>	<b>OTF</b>			<0.1% incidence	<0.1% incidence
					
<b>2036 - 2041</b>	<b>OTF</b>				

## Background notes

- 1. Transfer of Spatial Units.** Spatial Units will be transferred at the end of each 6-year period on evidence of improved disease levels. To be considered for transfer to Intermediate TB Area, High TB Area spatial units should; have annual crude herd incidence of **1.5% - 5%**; form a continuous area with other spatial units of the Intermediate TB Area; show no significant levels of endemic disease (as established through badger found dead surveys and other field epidemiological investigations).

To be considered for transfer to the Low TB Area, Intermediate TB Area spatial units should; have annual crude herd incidence of **<1.5%**; form a continuous area with the rest of the Low TB Area; show no significant level of endemic disease (as established through badger found dead surveys and other field epidemiological investigations).

- 2. Definition of OTF.** The concepts of 'TB eradication' and 'officially tuberculosis free (OTF)' are used interchangeably here and refer to the same definition of TB incidence. It is the definition set out in Council Directive 64/432/EEC (as amended) which states that Member States or areas within Member States may be declared OTF if:

- The percentage of bovine herds confirmed as infected with tuberculosis (not including incidents where disease brought in from higher TB areas) has not exceeded 0.1% per year of all herds for six consecutive years
- At least 99.9 % of herds have achieved OTF status each year for six consecutive years (based on situation as at 31 December in each year)

In practice this means that eradication is not achieved until six years after the necessary incidence and prevalence levels have been reached.