

Low TB Area – Next steps

Measures for implementation on 1 November 2021

For background information on the situation in the Low TB Area and an outline of all measures please see <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-05/low-tb-area-frequently-asked-questions.pdf>

What are the measures that will come into force on 1 November 2021?

A series of new measures will come into effect from **1 November**. There are three measures you need to be aware of, relating to the spatial units CL1, CL2 and GW1. **PLEASE NOTE:** Only **two** of these measures apply to the **Pennal** cluster, a small area west of Machynlleth (see map at the bottom of the page):

- **A temporary reclassification of the three Denbighshire/Conwy Valley spatial units CL1, CL2 and GW1, but not the Pennal cluster, as part of the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN).** An important consequence of this will be a requirement to complete Pre-Movement Tests (PrMT), if applicable, before moves from a holding, and no longer a requirement to complete Post Movement Test (PoMT) following moves from higher incidence TB Areas. Please note that **any animals moved into your herd before 1 November will still need to be post-movement tested**, as required, within 60-120 days after the movement, if moved from higher incidence areas. Please find more information on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-movement-and-post-movement-tb-testing-of-cattle-in-great-britain>
- Introduction of additional testing in herds contiguous, or neighbouring, to an Officially TB Free Withdrawn (OTFW) TB breakdown. In practical terms, this means that if your herd is contiguous to a herd which has had its OTF status withdrawn, your herd will be subject to the following regime:

a CON test, CON6 test, CON6 test and CON12 test

For further clarification, this translates to a contiguous test as normal (CON), a contiguous test after 6 months (CON6), another contiguous test after a further 6 months (CON6) and a final contiguous test 12 months after (CON12).

- Introduction of free Cymorth TB style “Keep it out” visits for herds contiguous to a breakdown herd but which have tested clear of disease at the tests set out above, again in the same areas. These are Government paid visits by an Official Veterinarian (OV) (your own Private Vet) to discuss improving biosecurity and other actions you might take to minimise the risk of TB entering your herd. The OV could be your own private vet, providing they are an OV.

How will I know if these next set of measures affect my farm?

If your farm is located within one of the affected areas, you will be receiving a letter at the beginning of October to remind you of the temporary changes.

Additionally, please see the next item on [Data Map Wales](#).

What is Data Map Wales and how can I use it for my benefit?

We have recently published new TB functions on [Data Map Wales](#). The Wales TB Regionalisation Map displays parishes, spatial units and TB Areas across Wales.

This will be beneficial for farmers to easily identify their relevant spatial units when looking for local information, along with identifying neighbouring spatial units or incidence areas.

Our aim is to utilise Data Map Wales to further enhance the information available to the industry, with the aim of including a County Parish Holding (CPH) search function, as previously seen on 'Lle', in the short term.

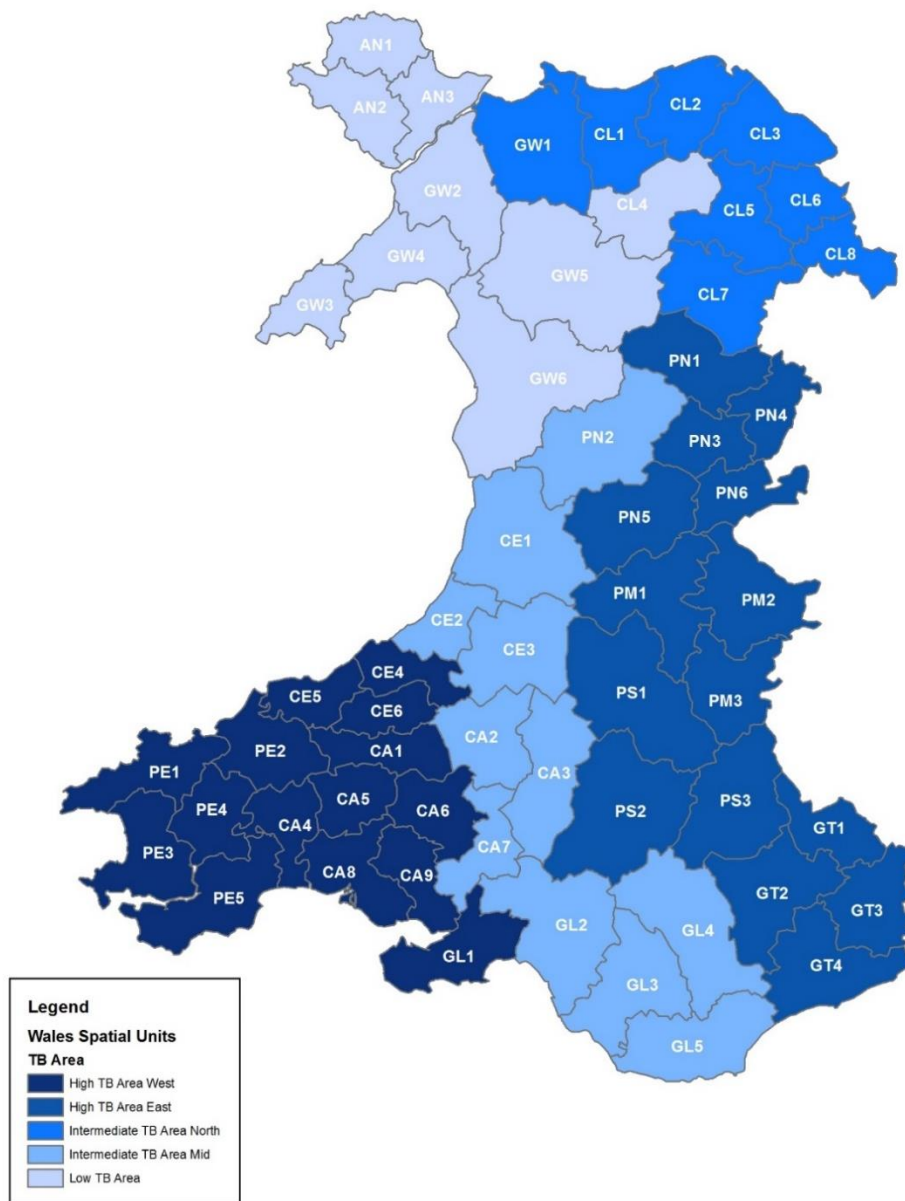
For guidance on how to select and view different map layers on the Wales TB Regionalisation map please click [here](#).

Do these measures include the Pennal cluster?

The temporary reclassification of the three spatial units as part of the ITBAN, with the subsequent requirement to Pre-Movement Test (PrMT), does not include the Pennal cluster.

However, the other two measures, the introduction of additional testing in herds contiguous to an Officially TB Free Withdrawn (OTFW) TB breakdown and the introduction of free Cymorth TB style "Keep it out" visits for herds contiguous to a breakdown herd, **will** apply to affected herds in the Pennal area.

What will the new temporary Wales TB Regionalisation Map look like from 1 November?



How will the introduction of a Pre Movement test requirement and the discontinuation of a Post Movement test requirement protect the area from incoming infection from other areas?

Bovine TB appears to have become well established in the cattle population in the Denbighshire and Conwy Valley areas affected by these changes. One of the transmission routes identified is local cattle movements, meaning Pre-Movement Testing is needed to help protect herds both within this area and within the rest of the Low TB Area. The quickest way legally to achieve this is by moving the spatial units into an Intermediate TB Area. Losing Post-Movement Testing as a requirement is a downside to this as it did have a deterrent effect, resulting in fewer cattle movements from higher risk areas (however the option to privately post-movement test cattle entering your herd from high risk holding is still an option) Additional blood testing surveillance, in herds that have had a clear surveillance test, of animals with an out-of-herd identification and a positive reaction to bovine tuberculin has already been introduced, which will help to mitigate the risk posed by purchased cattle to some extent.

Please note that any **animals moved into your herd before 1 November will still need to be post-movement tested** within 60-120 days after the movement, as required, if moved from higher incidence areas

Will I need to speak to my private vet regarding a Pre-Movement Test?

Yes, unless the movement you are planning is exempt.

You will need to consider doing this prior to 1 November if you wish to move animals on or soon after 1 November.

Will there still be Post Movement Testing in the areas affected by the change?

Post-Movement Testing will no longer be a legal requirement in the affected areas. However, to have further assurance of the TB status of cattle you purchase or bring back home, you may wish to consider Post-Movement Testing bought in animals or animals you are moving back to your CPH from other land parcels. If you wish to continue to Post-Movement Test cattle, please contact APHA prior to booking your test with your private vet.

Please note that any **animals moved into your herd before 1 November will still need to be post-movement tested** within 60-120 days after the movement, as required, if moved from higher incidence areas

Why have you introduced additional contiguous testing?

Herds contiguous to a TB breakdown are at greater risk of bovine TB entering their herd. Using the same additional surveillance measures in the ITBAN has already identified bovine TB in contiguous herds sooner than would have been possible with

a 12-month interval between contiguous tests. Early detection of bovine TB allows for timely control of potential disease spread on a herd and area level.

Why bother with a “Cymorth Keep It” Out visit?

When it comes to TB and indeed all diseases – “*prevention is better than cure*”. We cannot stress enough that being under TB restrictions because of a TB breakdown can have long-term and far-reaching effects for your herd and your business. However, every keeper’s experience of bovine TB is different including:

- “*I had a short-term TB breakdown with only one reactor removed and I haven’t had any further TB breakdowns*”
- “*I had a breakdown where 40% of my herd was removed at the initial test*”
- “*My herd kept going clear of restrictions and then I kept breaking down at the next test 6 months later*”
- “*I have had TB in my herd now for 5 years and keep losing cows at every test*”

These different scenarios are all due to the complex nature of *M.bovis*, the organism responsible for bovine TB, and the way cattle react to infection. Our advice would be to take every precaution you can to try and prevent the introduction of bovine TB into your herd. Talking with your OV can identify areas and practical steps you can take (small or large) to help prevent a TB breakdown in your herd.

Why should I consider a Cymorth TB “Keep it Out” visit?

These visits are paid for by Government and undertaken by your local Official Veterinarian (OV) to discuss biosecurity and other actions you could take to minimise the likelihood of bovine TB entering your herd. The consequences to you of a TB breakdown can be long term and far reaching. Impacts can be very high, so any measures that you can take to prevent the entry of disease into your herd should be seriously considered.

Pennal Cluster maps

