

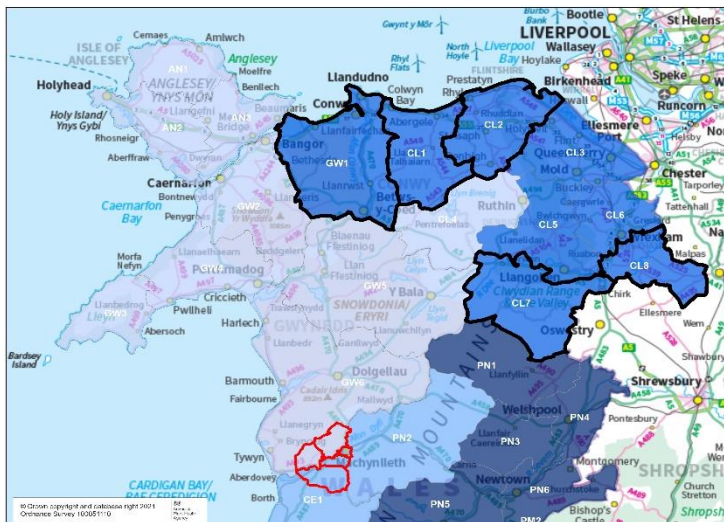
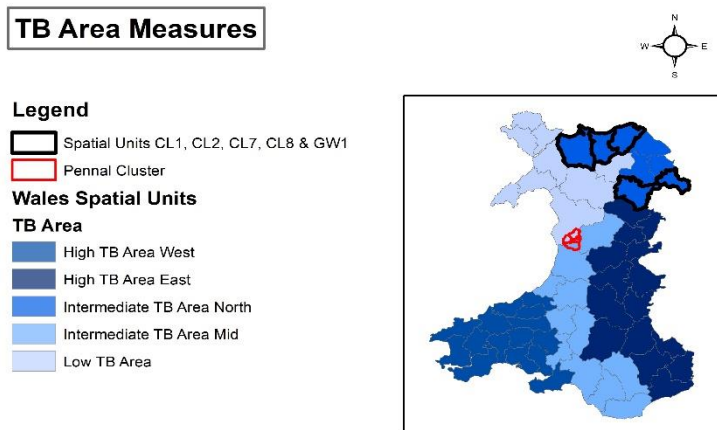
Bovine TB testing rules in the Low and Intermediate TB Areas: guidance for cattle farmers on the changes from April 2023

If you are a cattle keeper based in the Low TB Area (LTBA) and intermediate TB areas of north Wales, you will wish to be aware of changes to TB testing from **3 April 2023**. These will see initial contiguous tests (tests on herds in the locality of a breakdown herd) and post-breakdown tests (at approximately 6 and 18 months after movement restrictions are lifted) in the affected area being read at 'severe' and not 'standard' interpretation.

For those herds where no reactors are identified in the initial contiguous or post-breakdown tests, all inconclusive reactors (IRs) will receive a gamma interferon blood test. The test results will determine subsequent actions in these herds. Subsequent contiguous tests at 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months after the initial contiguous test will remain at standard interpretation.

The skin test at standard interpretation is much more likely to falsely identify TB infected cattle, as clear testing, than to identify false positive animals. This measure is aimed at increasing the likelihood of identifying and removing TB infected cattle.

Map of effected areas (spatial units highlighted in black and red)



Further, additional blood testing of some non-homebred animals has ceased for skin tests carried out after 30th January 2023.