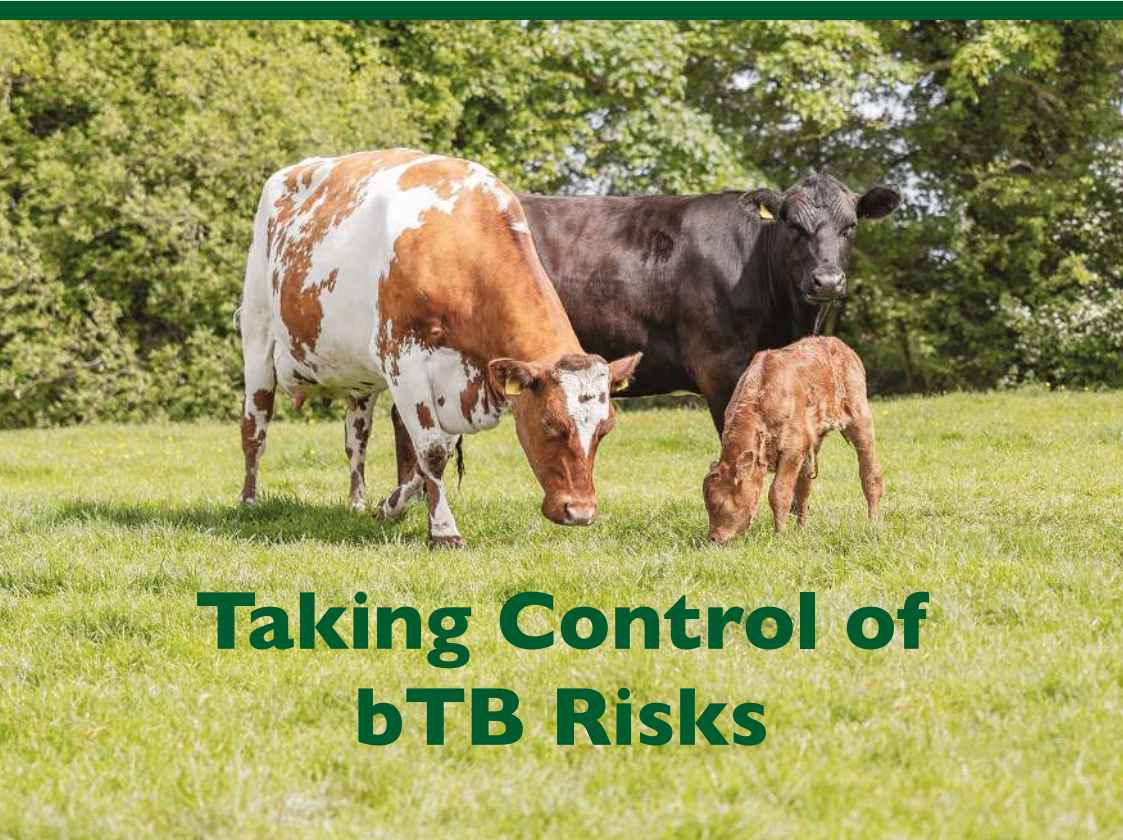


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North Wales bTB Project



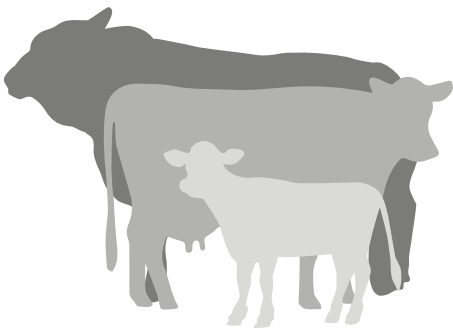
Taking Control of bTB Risks



Ariennir gan
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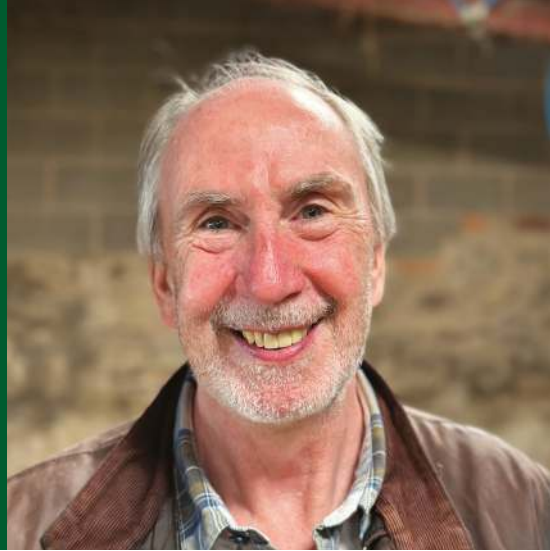
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Introduction

Professor Glyn Hewinson CBE, FLSW



Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) remains one of the most complex animal health challenges facing Wales, affecting livestock, wildlife, and rural communities. The Pembrokeshire Project and the North Wales Bovine TB Project bring together farmers, veterinarians, academics, and policymakers in a collaborative, evidence-led effort to better understand and control the disease.

The Pembrokeshire Project is an initiative to empower farmers and vets to control bovine tuberculosis at a local level. It focuses on using farm-specific data, particularly skin test results, alongside practical biosecurity and behaviour-change approaches to support more effective, evidence-based disease management.

The North Wales Bovine TB Project aims to improve understanding of bovine

tuberculosis dynamics across diverse farming systems in the region. A major objective of the project is to help keep disease out by supporting early risk identification, strengthening farm-specific biosecurity, and promoting evidence-based practices that reduce the likelihood of bTB introduction and spread.

The impact of this work is already being recognised beyond Wales: the Pembrokeshire Project has been referenced in the recent Godfray Review of bovine TB in England and in the Northern Ireland bovine TB strategy, highlighting its value as a model for integrated, science-informed disease control that can be applied on farm by the farmer working side by side with their vet.

Professor Glyn Hewinson
CBE, FLSW

Introducing the Pembrokeshire and North Wales bovine TB Projects



Taking control of bovine TB risks on farms

The Pembrokeshire Project was born from the determination of farmers and their vets to take greater control of TB on their own farms. This pioneering project created a strong collaborative approach to TB control between farmers vets and academia and laid the foundations for the subsequent development of a similar collaborative, epidemiologically appropriate approach to TB control in North Wales.

The bovine TB situation in Pembrokeshire had become critical by 2019. The county accounted for two-thirds of Wales' persistent bTB breakdown herds and around 40% of all reactors disclosed in Wales. Similarly, there was growing concern of increasing bTB incidents and spread into the lower TB areas, of north Wales. Farmers and vets wanted to keep the disease out or stamp it out as soon as possible. Many farmers felt increasingly isolated as the disease tightened its grip, strengthening their resolve to work together and gain more control.

At the Aber TB Conference in 2019, several motivated individuals came together with their discussions culminating in the introduction of the Wales Enferplex Pilot.

This allowed the private use of the Enferplex Bovine TB antibody test in a

pilot in bTB free and bTB affected herds in Wales. The aim of the pilot was to use individual animal skin testing data and the Enferplex test to identify and manage bTB high-risk cattle out of these herds.

The pilot aimed to better identify high-risk animals for blood testing. Using existing skin test data, MV Diagnostics had developed an algorithm called "RiskRate" that generated an individual bTB risk score for every animal in a herd.

It quickly became clear that RiskRate was more than a diagnostic aid. It can also be a powerful herd management tool capable of highlighting the risk of residual bTB infection in a herd and support informed decision-making at farm level RiskRate is currently being trialled on farm through the two projects. Feedback and outcomes are discussed in this booklet.

Building a new approach

Creating a new approach evolved from frequent discussions with key stakeholders, including; Farmers, Vets, Farming Unions and academic experts at The Sêr Cymru Centre of Excellence for Bovine TB and Welsh Government representatives. One of the outcomes to date has been to support these two dedicated TB projects to support and empower farmers and vets to take greater control of bTB risks on their farms.



A growing body of evidence suggested that while wildlife may have introduced bTB into some areas, residual infection within herds was now a major driver of ongoing disease necessitating, on-farm interventions including a focus on biosecurity.

At the same time, working in partnership with Iechyd Da, Cefn Gwlad Solutions developed a biosecurity risk-assessment app called “HerdSafe” that produces a weighted risk score for individual farms. The app is being trialled on project farms as part of this work.

Empowering farmers and vets

Harnessing the ability to make informed decisions supported by the RiskRate and HerdSafe tools have become core components of both projects. Together, they empower farmers and vets to:

- Identify and manage bTB risk more accurately
- Target residual infection within herds
- Improve on-farm biosecurity

Taking this farmer and vet led approach represents a fundamental shift in mindset – from enforcement to empowerment. The delivery boards of both projects consists of farmers and vets, alongside the veterinary delivery partners and Aberystwyth University. The groups are working together to make decisions relating to the projects.

With thanks

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to this work so far—too many to name individually. By working together as a motivated, practical team, we can drive real change and help reduce the burden of bTB for future farmers.

The HerdSafe approach

The HerdSafe application was developed (by lechyd Da) as a tool for vets to use in collaboration with their farmers, following these steps:

- 1

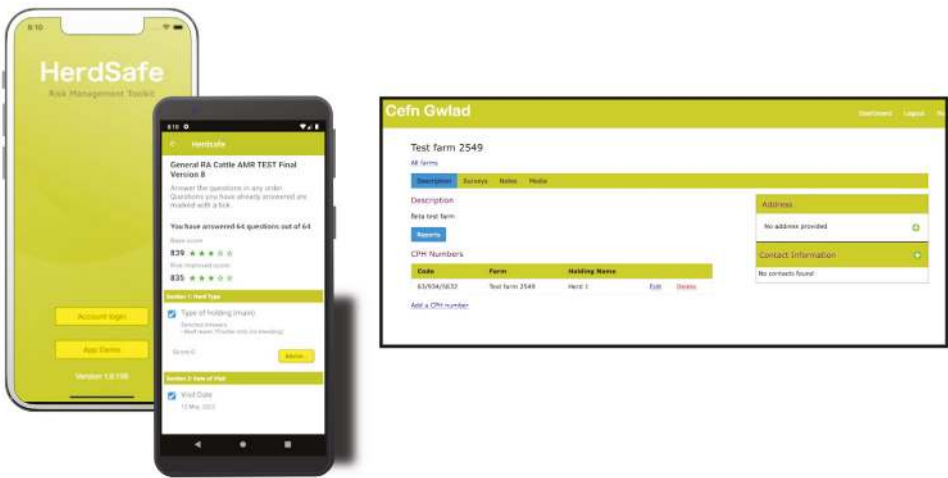
Each farm has a biosecurity visit at the beginning of the project and receives a weighted risk score for each biosecurity risk.
- 2

A total risk score is produced for each farm. A bespoke report is produced outlining a few agreed actions to take, and the expected change in the risk score.
- 3

The vet uses the app to demonstrate the effect of proposed biosecurity farming practices on the weighted risk scores.
- 4

A new total improved risk score and star ratings are then produced based on the agreed actions.
- 5

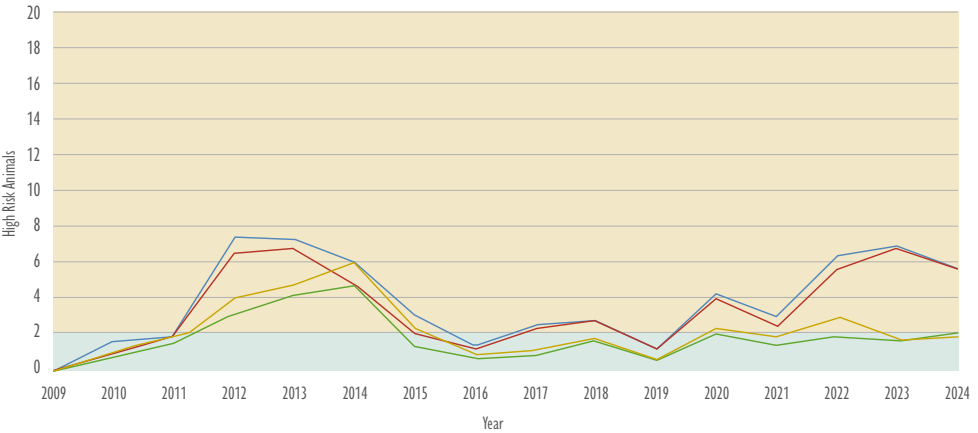
The app will be used at subsequent visits to assess changes made on the farm and to monitor progress.



The RiskRate approach and data analysis (MV Diagnostics)

- 1. ‘RiskRate’ uses historical skin test measurement data from each individual animal tested within a herd, along with a more sensitive interpretation of the results to identify high-risk animals. The analysis is conducted over the lifetime of the animal to determine when (and how often) individual animals are identified as having a high risk of being infected with bTB (*M. bovis*). The data, which builds with the number of tests, is presented in a traffic light system for the individual animals in the herd. Red, amber and yellow. Red (high-risk) animals are advised to be voluntarily culled.
- 2. Vets analyse the data with the farmers. Animals identified as high risk can be culled at a time convenient to the farmer such as at the end of lactation or when barren. Alternatively they may change their management, for example, snatch calving or being bred to a beef bull. It has often been noted that these high-risk animals also have other health problems at the same time (e.g., mastitis, lameness, Johne’s, high SCC, poor condition).

The RiskRate results are presented in a table with the highest risk animals at the top. A graph of herd RiskRate also illustrates how the herd risk changes over time.

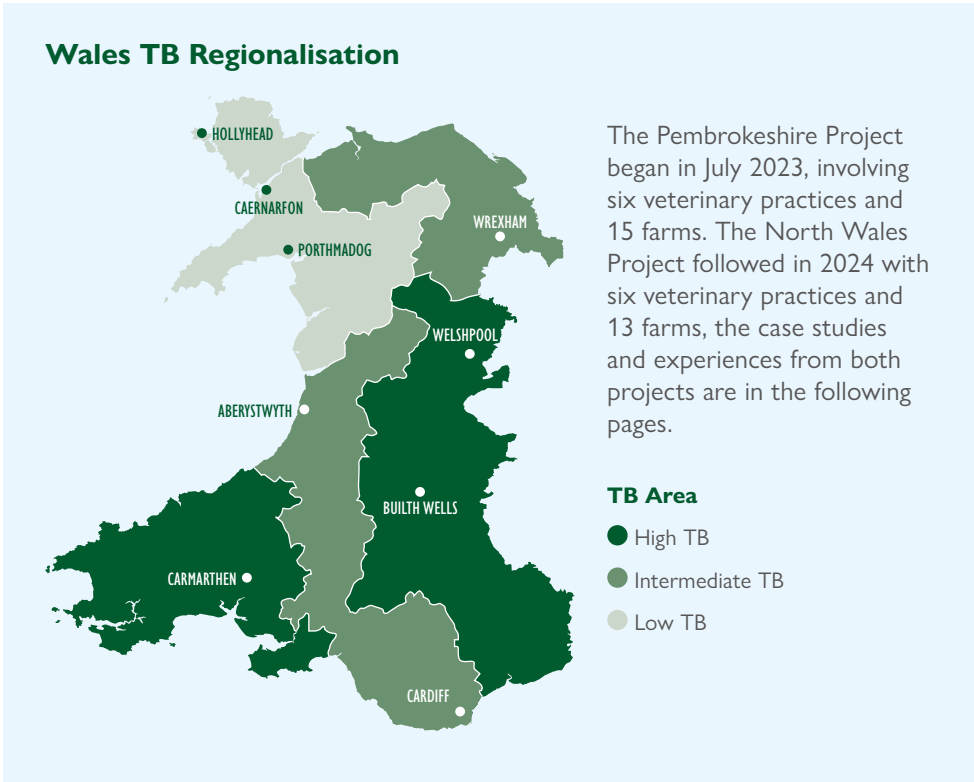


Along with RiskRate and HerdSafe, the projects are also providing training for vets and farmers to improve their knowledge of bTB and to help identify further research requirements as needed.

Case Studies

The case studies are from farms that represent the range of bTB risk areas in Wales from the HighTB area of southwest Wales under the Pembrokeshire project to the more widely distributed farms in the north Wales project with farms in the high TB east, Intermediate north and low TB north. The locations also cover a range of geographical locations from lowland coastal to hill farms and business types from larger dairy, beef and smaller suckler herds. Across all farm situations and types the farmer – vet engagement and interactions are key. They have been seen to develop over the course of the projects re-enforcing this engagement that is most important in disease control at a local level, which in addition supports local communities. Collaboration within and between projects has also been strong.

The projects focus decision making based on “controlling the controllables” i.e. achievable actions on each individual farm made in a pragmatic way.



Roger Lewis, Poyerston, Pembroke



Being a Pembrokeshire Project Farm has enabled me to use a data-driven approach to reduce my farm's bTB risk through targeted animal management and enhanced biosecurity. Central to the strategy is the use of a risk rating analysis, where individual animals are classified as Red, Amber, or Yellow based on their skin test history.

This classification enables me to make informed management decisions. These have included voluntarily culling 23 high-risk animals in the last 10 months, avoiding breeding replacement stock from Red or Amber cows and heifers, using a dedicated calving area for high-risk animals, and preventing the use of colostrum or transition milk from high-risk animals for replacement heifers

As wildlife can be a potential route for bTB transmission, we have implemented biosecurity improvements to prevent badger access to feed. Measures we

have taken include installing electric fencing around feed clamps with strands positioned at 10cm, 15cm, 20cm, and 30cm from the ground. Also, feed store doors are sheeted with gaps no larger than 7.5cm and positioned above hard ground to further limit access.

Our farm data suggests that bTB infection may occur at a very young age, possibly within the first days of life. To break this transmission pathway, all colostrum and transition milk is pasteurised before feeding. The colostrum is harvested, quality tested, and pasteurised, while transition milk from days two to seven is batch pasteurised. From day eight onward, calves are fed milk replacer powder

As a result of the Project, I have, for the first time, been empowered to fight this insidious disease on the farm with the support of my vet Brendan Griffin from Fenton vets.

Evan Roberts, Tŷ Newydd, Holywell



As part of the North Wales Project, together with my vet, Anna Williams of Wern Vets Cyf, we developed a plan to reduce the risk of bTB in my dairy herd. We walked the farm, using the HerdSafe bTB risk assessment app to score current biosecurity and discuss possible improvements. One of the most influential decisions was to reduce cattle purchasing to breeding bulls only and source them from herds free of bTB for over 10 years using the ibTB mapping tool data (see page 23).

Another important action we took was improving feed security. Previously, some feed was stored on pallets at ground level, which could easily attract wildlife such as badgers. We changed this by having all purchased feed blown directly into a loft, which greatly reduces wildlife access. There was also further discussion about reducing risky contact between

cattle and badgers that could roam onto neighbouring land, which led us to try to make badger bTB vaccination more accessible in North Wales. This work is ongoing.

We used the bTB risk rate report, which analyses historical bTB test results to give bTB risk ratings for every cow on the farm. Fortunately, as we have never had a bTB reactor on the farm, there was only one Red-risk cow and one Amber-risk cow. After listening to the farmers and vets from the Pembrokeshire Project, many of whom would give anything to be in the position with one Red risk cow and would cull immediately, we decided to cull this cow with the aim of 'keeping it (bTB) out'. The Amber-risk cow was five months in-calf, so the decision was made to keep her through until calving but not to return her to service.

Ed Clements, Broomhill, Martletwy



Broomhill is a late-summer, early-autumn block calving herd that has been a closed herd for over 25 years. The farm has suffered bTB breakdowns for many years.

As part of the Pembrokeshire Project and with support of Rob Davies from Prostock vets, we are using historical bTB skin test data from the cow's lifetime to determine a risk rating for every cow. Depending on the results, we can breed accordingly, and high-risk cows are either bred to terminal sires or culled.

We have successfully used the Johne's Disease risk register, and, by taking the necessary action, we have eradicated Johne's from the herd. We plan to do the same for bTB.

We've also used the biosecurity scoring tool to consider other transmission routes, and we have used wildlife cameras in and around buildings and grazing areas.

This has shown us where we can improve our efforts to prevent wildlife visits.

We have also done some youngstock blood testing. We hope that, with the results and research, we can determine the timing of transmission and potentially explore future prevention methods, such as pasteurising milk fed to the calves.

Working and learning alongside other participating farmers, vets, and a dedicated team at Aberystwyth University, through new research, data analysis, and commitment, we feel the project has given us the tools and confidence to reduce bTB incidence and, hopefully, eradicate it in the future.

Roger Ridgway, Clovers Farm, Letterston



As an organic farm, low stocking density and preventative medicine were already paramount. Quarterly Johne's disease milk testing, regular foot trimming and detailed attention to calf husbandry were routine. This was evident during Rhiannon Lewis of Gwaun Vets "HerdSafe" biosecurity visit, with an initial score of 521. Residual infection in the herd and badger presence were the main negative points.

The RiskRate list allowed, for the first time, reactions on the bTB test to be as important as other health parameters, ensuring bTB could be treated like all other diseases or conditions affecting the herd. Other concurrent herd health data were annotated: a Somatic Cell Count (SCC) greater than 200, cases of mastitis, medium or high Johne's results, resolved Inconclusive Reactor (IR) animals, and incidences of lameness – were all marked next to each cow number.

Breeding, calving, feeding and culling decisions could now be based on numerous health conditions from a single, simple resource, ensuring the healthiest

herd and replacements. Daughters in the herd were also annotated, giving a proactive illustration of the relatively unknown risk of bTB transfer from cow to calf.

A list is hung in the dairy, providing an easy way to make personalised management decisions. At service, Red and Amber cows are not used to breed dairy replacements. At calving, these cows are separated to prevent contamination of the calving pen. If colostrum must be harvested and frozen, then it is for beef calves only. Importantly, all harvested colostrum is labelled with the dam number and risk rating, allowing for a current, proactive approach at all times.

Being part of this project has allowed me to take a targeted approach to bTB control on my farm. We have been Officially bTB Free for the duration of the project, and with the help of my vet, we have developed a plan to reduce the risk of bTB entering my herd, while improving biosecurity measures and removing high risk animals on the farm.

Eurig Jones, Hendre, Anglesey



At the beginning of the North Wales TB Project, I was sceptical. I wondered what a group of farmers and vets could achieve in trying to eradicate bovine TB (bTB). So, my vet Anna Williams of Wern Vets Cyf. knew she had a more challenging farmer to work with! But it was in a good, realistic way, and representative of many other farmers out there.

Having engaged with the developments and tools becoming available to help in the fight against bTB, we have become far more hopeful for the future.

I now believe individual farmers have some very useful tools at their disposal to help protect their individual farms against bTB, and as a result, they can help protect their neighbours and contribute to the fight against bTB in general. The most useful tools I've been introduced to are the iBTB maps which help farmers identify safer farms/areas from where to buy cattle – and the Risk Rate traffic light system for all cattle already on holding, which helps

us to select high-risk animals for culling before they become reactors.

When thinking about the future, I'm sure many more tools will become available soon, maybe even a workable cattle vaccine. We must all remain as positive as possible in this fight against bTB and embrace anything that could help us protect our herds, and our livelihoods.



David and Debbie Best, Treathro, Abergwaun



We came to Treathro, a coastal farm just a few miles from Goodwick, in 2017 and we have a small suckler herd of pedigree Red Devons. Bounded by the sea on one side, we have no nose-to-nose contact with neighbours' cattle but we have renewed all fencing to ensure safe boundary distances. The badger setts are all fenced off, preventing any direct contact between cattle and the setts.

Our first bTB breakdown was in 2021 (a single 2xIR). We decided to start badger vaccination, as with no obvious external source of infection, and two badger setts on the farm, this seemed like one positive step we could take. Vaccinations were completed in 2022 (2 badgers), 2023 (4 badgers), 2024 (4 badgers) and in 2025 (6 badgers).

Our bTB situation has been chequered since, with either a couple of reactors and IRs interspersed with clear tests.

We were approached about joining the Pembrokeshire Project in January 2024 alongside our vet Rachel Latter of Fishguard Vets. Our first Risk Rating report came in October 2024 and highlighted a potential source of the problem – a small group of heifers we bought in January 2020 from a farm in Somerset that has never been under bTB restrictions. Four of the six were Red rated, one was Amber and one was Yellow. Four of these have now been culled, and the remaining two will be culled in 2026.

Being part of the Project has given us ownership over our bTB situation and enabled us to take proactive steps to fight the disease.

Michael Williams, Fagwrfran East, Puncheston



Our first biosecurity HerdSafe visit with Rhiannon Lewis, Gwaun Vets the app produced a risk-based score of 1178, which was the highest among the Pembrokeshire Project farms. We identified that purchasing adult dairy cows from high and low-risk areas, slurry application by contractors, residual infection in the herd, and the presence of badgers were all contributing to the high score.

The farm immediately adopted a closed herd policy. Replacement dairy heifers remain on the home farm, and no animal returns from a secondary holding. A 'no visitor' or slurry contractor policy was adopted, and no slurry was spread on the grazing area within five months of grazing. Disinfectant stations were installed between stock groups, and a designated dead stock collection point was defined closer to the farm entrance, decreasing the risk of spreading infection.

Wildlife cameras confirmed badger activity from setts outside the boundary hedge to cow tracks and towards the cattle

housing. Three strands of electric fence were erected at 5, 10 and 15cm along the boundary of the farm. This protects the herd from the risk of direct and indirect bTB transmission from infected badgers and also protects roaming badgers from becoming infected from the residually infected herd, thereby protecting neighbouring farms and preventing the cycle of re-infection.

We have developed our own Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to facilitate breeding, calving and culling decisions using the Risk Rate data. This includes not breeding replacements from high-risk animals. Animals calve in cleansed and disinfected individual calving pens, with powdered colostrum and fed-milk replacer to decrease vertical disease transmission risk from dam to calf and to give the healthiest start to the naïve replacements of the future.

With these measures in place, our biosecurity has improved, and we achieved a HerdSafe score of 164 in year two.

Geraint Owen, Sandilands, Tywyn



We are a 350-cow beef farm split across four holdings in the low and intermediate risk area of North/West Wales. We have been officially bTB free since 2015. Previously, we were under restriction following a slaughterhouse case. Because of this history, our focus going into this project was on biosecurity. The HerdSafe app helped identify areas within the farming system where biosecurity could be improved. The scoring system on the app made it easy to identify the changes with the greatest impact.

Working with our vet, Alice Jones from Williams Vets, during our herd health visit, we identified that the biggest risk factor was buying in cattle from multiple sources, and the Risk Rate data reflected this. Most replacements are homebred, but every year we buy in several cows and calves, or in-calf cows, usually from market or dispersal sales. Currently, the bTB status of the source farm, or risk level of the area, is not a main consideration

when buying animals. We discussed ways to mitigate this risk, which helped to significantly reduce our risk score.

Becoming a fully closed herd is the best way to mitigate the risk associated with purchasing but buying from a single herd where the disease and bTB status are known and monitored would be the next best option. We discussed using the ibTB platform with Alice to identify bTB status of the source herd and local area, and how this can be used at the mart to help inform purchasing decisions.

The other main risk area identified during our visit was wildlife. There has been evidence of wildlife activity in the feed stores, so reducing access is a priority. We also plan to monitor badger activity using cameras. We hope to tackle these in the near future.

Paul Williams, Cae Haidd, Llanrwst



Thankfully, I have never experienced bTB on my farm. So, when I was originally approached to be part of the North Wales TB Project, I must admit that I had my doubts about what I could contribute to the project and how my business would benefit from it. But how wrong I was!

Being part of this group has vastly enhanced my knowledge of this devastating disease, and more importantly, helped me understand what can be done collectively to mitigate the risk of disease introduction.

Without doubt, one of the most beneficial aspects of the Group's work for me has been the enhanced and dedicated professional relationship with my local vet.

Working with my vet, Anna Williams (Wern Vets Cyf), has meant that I now have the confidence to collaborate with a professional who really understands my business and the way we work within it, helping me to identify how and where we can implement practical changes to significantly reduce the risk of introducing bTB onto the farm.

Participating in the North Wales TB Group project has enabled me to gain access to individuals who are experts in their fields, as well as groundbreaking technology and data to help evaluate and monitor disease risks.

Sharing experiences and ideas with fellow farmers within the group has been an invaluable exercise. Refreshingly, we have all positively contributed to the work, recognising that, collaboratively, we can influence subtle changes within our businesses that can result in significant reductions in disease risk

Hopefully, we can continue to advance the Project so that our experiences – both good and bad – can be disseminated and shared across the whole industry to ensure that we can begin to feel that we have some autonomy on how to prevent bTB infection on our farms, and just as importantly, reduce the risk of wider contamination.

A vet's view

Brendan Griffin, Fenton Vets & Iechyd Da



The Pembrokeshire Project has been a game-changer for me in re-engaging with my farmers on bTB. Bovine TB has always been perceived as a governmental disease, and many farmers and vets have developed a sense of fatalism. But that mindset is changing in Pembrokeshire from enforcement to empowerment.

The analysis of existing skin test results to identify high-risk animals (the bad apples in the box) is enabling farmers and vets to take ownership of their bTB situation at the farm level. By having this Johne's Disease type approach – using the 'RiskRate' traffic light list – a farmer and vet team can manage risk better in the herd, be it through breeding or culling decisions, in a more sustainable way. The result is a more 'test and manage' approach, rather than the existing 'test and cull' approach, which isn't sustainable.

We are identifying the high-risk animals in the herd and taking management actions

to minimise their risk, and it becomes obvious that we need to protect the whole herd from external risks through improved farm biosecurity. The HerdSafe biosecurity scoring app is a very useful tool for discussing how to manage risk in each area of the farm. A weighted score is assigned to each biosecurity risk, and an overall score is calculated. It's human nature to want to improve this score on repeat visits during the project.

By getting a new RiskRate after each skin test (which is unique to that farm) and having all other concurrent infection data side by side, bTB is now part of our Herd Health Plan moving forward. Bovine TB is now being seen in the same light as any other infectious disease, and the farmer/vet team, using that Johne's-type approach, can make informed decisions on how best to manage the risk. So, the Pembrokeshire Project really is a game-changer.

Learning and Adapting for the future (Pembrokeshire and North Wales)

Both bTB projects are helping us understand what support farmers and their vets need to control bTB risks on their farms. Researchers at Aberystwyth University are working with farmers, vets and others to identify what makes actions, such as a new biosecurity measure easier or harder to agree and do. These findings are being used to help project vets give practical, evidence-based support during routine visits and training, and crucially shape future on-farm policies.

Thoughts from farmers involved with the projects

"You don't know what is coming in the future, so nobody's asking us to cull them now. I just listened to what other farmers are doing."

"Seeing others who've started on this course a little longer than us, there does seem to be some improvement in their RiskRate."

"There is a lot of data there, especially if you have a large number of higher-risk cows. Then, to go through that on your own, you might perhaps struggle to make some decisions. But yeah, if your vet is there to help you work through it, you're more likely to make the right decision."

"Having a little catch-up every now and again when the vet's got a bit of time is probably quite good because it re-focuses us slightly."

"So that's one thing that's coming out of this project, it's that different look, that different focus."

"The project is particularly good at bringing farmers together and then having them discuss what's happening on their farms, as a group or individually. That has been a benefit, and that certainly encourages me more than perhaps if I'd just been getting the things through the post."

bTB Research

Understanding the spread of bTB using Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of local *Mycobacterium bovis* isolates obtained from cattle and wildlife.

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) is an essential tool for tracking bovine tuberculosis in cattle and wildlife across Wales. By examining the entire genetic makeup of the disease-causing bacteria (*Mycobacterium bovis*), scientists can identify outbreaks and their transmission patterns, providing crucial information for effective disease control. The Sêr Cymru Centre of Excellence for Bovine TB at Aberystwyth University (CBTB) utilises WGS data from the APHA's routine surveillance to enhance its efforts.

By analysing small genetic differences in the bacteria, researchers can resolve the spatial distribution of bTB strains, pinpoint related cases, trace transmission chains, and determine whether infections are linked or separate. This genomic approach not only helps confirm connections between infected herds but also uncovers hidden transmission routes that might otherwise go unnoticed, ultimately aiding in more targeted interventions for bTB eradication.



Understanding bTB infection in the Badger Population

The Welsh Government have been funding bTB surveillance in badgers found dead in Wales since 2014.

As part of the Welsh Government Bovine TB Eradication Programme, it is essential to provide data on bTB infection in the most important wildlife reservoir, European Badgers (*Meles meles*). Evidence has been provided by a contract to collect and carry out postmortem examinations on badgers found dead in Wales. Samples from these badgers are sent for culture of *Mycobacterium bovis* followed by whole genome sequencing.

The results assist the bTB Epidemiology team at the APHA in providing valuable evidence. For vets and farmers, the results are reported through the Welsh Government bovine TB dashboard: <https://www.gov.wales/bovine-tb-dashboards-march-2025>.

In addition to the dashboard, farmers in the Pembrokeshire and North Wales bTB Projects receive maps relevant to their farms showing badger bTB results. These show if badgers were found to carry bTB within 10km of their holding. As a result, farmers know the disease status of local badgers, which helps them decide which biosecurity measures to prioritise on their farm.



To report a badger found dead in Wales, please telephone 0808 169 5110.

New genetic tools have been developed and are being used by scientists at Aberystwyth University (including the CBTB) to understand the structure and movement patterns of badger populations at a local level. Understanding how badgers move is crucial, as their behaviour influences bTB transmission among themselves and to cattle.

The CBTB hopes to implement these new genetic tools in areas where badgers are vaccinated to help ensure a sufficient number of badgers have been vaccinated to protect the local population. Moreover, knowledge of local badger movements can help target vaccination efforts more effectively. Overall, gaining insights into badger behaviour and demographics via genetic methods is key to controlling bTB in areas where cycles of bTB transmission between cattle and badgers is occurring and thereby protecting both wildlife and livestock.

Reducing the risks of spreading Bovine TB by inconclusive reactors

The latest expert advice from the Wales bovine TB Technical Advisory Group (bTBTAG) and the TB Programme Board on reducing the risk of spreading bovine TB between farms led to a new policy for Wales.

The policy, effective from 1 January 2026, restricts resolved standard Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) for life.

A standard IR is an animal that has reacted to the bTB skin test but not sufficiently for the reaction to be classified as a full reactor at the standard interpretation.

IRs are required to be isolated from clear tested cattle and have a repeat of the skin test after a minimum of 60 days. If clear at

this test, they become resolved IRs. Those that react at the repeat test are classified as reactors and culled.

The new policy requires these resolved IRs to be kept at the premises they were identified for the remainder of their lives and may only move off to slaughter. This applies to any bTB skin test carried out on a holding in Wales. A restriction notice for the individual animal will be issued by APHA. The only movements allowed off the premises are to slaughter either directly; via an approved slaughter gathering; via a bTB dedicated sale (orange market); or an Approved Finishing Unit (AFU). Any movement must be under a licence issued by APHA.

Why restrict these IRs?

Multiple studies, including the recently published Godfray Review, have found that resolved IR's have a significantly increased risk of becoming reactors during their lifetime than clear testing animals. Moreover, the time interval before a new bTB breakdown in IR only herds (no reactors) in England and Wales is half that of herds with a negative Whole Herd Test.

Resolved IRs are therefore much more likely to be reservoirs of the bovine TB bacteria (*Mycobacterium bovis*) and pass infection to other cattle in future. Restricting them to one premises reduces the risk of infecting another herd and allows the animal to be managed out of the herd, to slaughter,

under the keeper's management. On the risk rate they will all be classified as high risk (red).



Bovine TB: Whole life restrictions on resolved standard interpretation Inconclusive Reactors | GOV.WALES

BOVINE TB INFORMATION

Looking for information on **bovine TB** in the UK?

The **TBhub** is the place to go to find practical advice on dealing with bTB on your farm.

The site is an invaluable resource covering:

- Advice during a bTB breakdown
- Advice on preventing bTB breakdowns
- bTB testing of cattle, including different types of tests & their application
- Bovine TB policy
- bTB in badgers & wild deer
- bTB in non-bovines
- Useful contacts

The site has a wealth of information and resources, including several fact sheets covering topics such as tests, bTB in the environment, biosecurity and bTB and wildlife.

TBhub
The home of UK TB information

Search [Search](#)

[Advice during a TB breakdown](#) [Preventing TB breakdowns](#) [TB testing cattle](#) [Strategy & policy](#) [TB in wildlife](#) [TB in non-bovines](#) [Resources](#)

Here to inform you about all aspects of bovine TB

Are you dealing with a TB breakdown in your cattle herd?

We know that experiencing a TB breakdown can be particularly stressful. Explore what to expect if your cattle herd suffers a TB breakdown, including TB testing, compensation arrangements and trading options whilst under TB restrictions.

[I have a TB breakdown in my herd](#)

How to protect your cattle herd from a TB breakdown

There are many simple, practical steps that cattle keepers can take to protect their herd from TB. Find out about responsible cattle movements, on-farm biosecurity measures and contingency planning for a TB breakdown.

[Show me preventative measures](#)

Managing bTB risks to your herd using ibTB

ibTB is an online interactive mapping tool that displays ongoing and resolved bTB breakdowns in cattle herds in England and Wales over the past 10 years. The system was developed to help farmers protect their cattle against bTB infection by providing geographical information on the distribution of current and historical bTB breakdowns.

The mapping tool allows you to zoom in to individual breakdown level and to identify the holding number of an affected premises (CPHH). The label for the holding records the date restrictions were placed (TB02 date) and the date restrictions were lifted (TB10 date) in the case of resolved breakdowns. The system also provides details of individual animals and the two most recent herds where they have been located**.

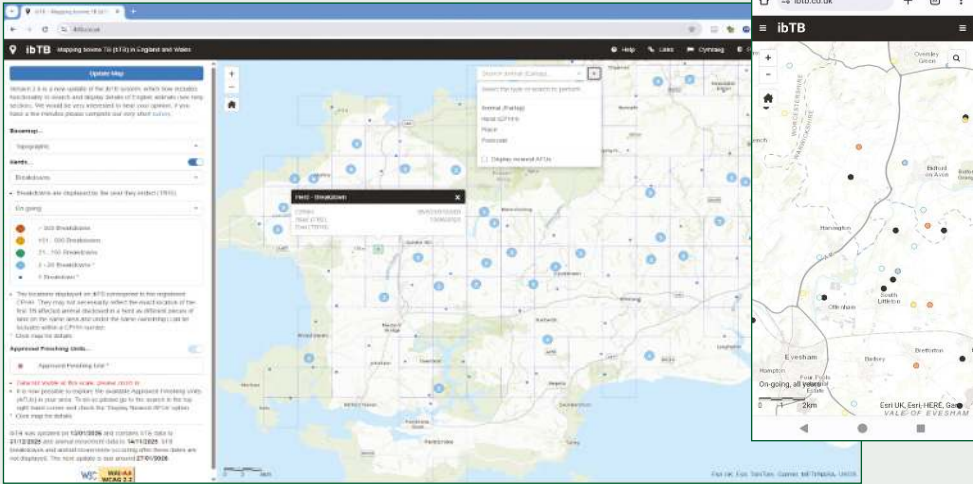
Use ibTB to:

- Find out about the bovine bTB situation in your local area
- Look further afield to assess risks when moving or purchasing cattle
- Look up how long a holding has been clear of bTB
- Identify the location of Approved Finishing Units (AFUs)
- Look up individual animal details and location by ear tag number**

**Currently only available for English animals. Access to Welsh animal data is planned for mid to late 2026.



ibTB <https://ibtb.co.uk>



Glossary

AFU	Approved Finishing Unit
APHA	Animal & Plant Health Agency
ATTs	Approved Tuberculin Testers
bTB	Bovine Tuberculosis
bTBTAG	bTB Technical Advisory Group
CBTB	Centre of Excellence for Bovine TB
CPHH	County Parish Holding Herd
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
ENFERPLEX	A blood antibody test for bTB
ibTB	An online interactive mapping tool
IR	Inconclusive Reactor
<i>M.bovis</i>	<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>
OTF	Officially bTB-Free
OTFW	Officially bTB-Free Withdrawn
Persistent	bTB incidents are those that have been under bTB restrictions for 550 days or more, or where a resolved persistent incident becomes a new incident within 6 months.
SCC	Somatic Cell Count
SICCT	Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin Test (the bTB skin test)
TB02	Official Notice placing a holding under restriction due to bTB
TB10	Official Notice lifting TB02 restriction notice from a holding
WGS	Whole Genome Sequencing
Authors	Members of the Pembrokeshire and North Wales bTB projects, funded by Welsh Government. Prepared by Beverley Hopkins BVetMed PGCertVEPH FHEA MRCVS

For more information please contact:

Mentera: post.gia@mentera.cymru

Iechyd Da: info@iechydda.cymru

Prifysgol Aberystwyth University: ibtstaff@aber.ac.uk