

Bovine TB: authorisation for badger control in 2020

Natural England has licensed and authorised 11 new badger control areas to begin operations in 2020. It has also authorised the licence holders to resume operations in 33 existing badger control areas in 2020. Licence holders met all the criteria specified in [Defra's guidance to Natural England](#), dated August 2020.

Natural England has reissued the Annex A for 3 licences due to a change to their control areas as licensed in 2019. These areas were 34-Cheshire, 37-Devon and 40-Herefordshire.

It has also reissued the Annex B for all existing licences from area 11 to area 43 (inclusive). This follows a review of the conditions relating to licensed actions on or around protected sites.

Table 1: Badger control areas authorised in 2020

Area number and county	Minimum number	Maximum number	Authorisation date	Year of operations
Area 11 – Cheshire	228	514	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 12 – Devon	None	416	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 13 – Devon	86	617	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 14 – Devon	None	328	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 15 – Devon	306	542	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 16 – Dorset	691	2321	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 17 – Somerset	356	993	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 18 – Somerset	108	360	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 19 – Wiltshire	50	1067	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 20 – Wiltshire	217	657	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 21 – Wiltshire	625	1266	28 August 2020	Year 4
Area 22 – Cornwall	216	1716	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 23 – Devon	1505	2824	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 24 – Devon	None	294	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 25 – Devon	402	897	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 26 – Devon	590	1104	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 27 – Devon	9	127	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 28 – Devon	34	299	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 29 – Gloucestershire	185	890	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 30 – Somerset	1063	2660	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 31 – Staffordshire	1397	3516	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 32 – Cumbria	N/A	N/A	28 August 2020	Year 3
Area 33 – Avon	226	650	28 August 2020	Year 2

Area number and county	Minimum number	Maximum number	Authorisation date	Year of operations
Area 34 – Cheshire	1127	1939	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 35 – Cornwall	1665	3128	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 36 – Staffordshire	724	1272	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 37 – Devon	None	366	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 38 – Devon	1570	2696	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 39 – Dorset	175	472	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 40 – Herefordshire	719	1629	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 41 – Staffordshire	149	727	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 42 – Wiltshire	2310	4141	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 43 – Wiltshire	1058	1846	28 August 2020	Year 2
Area 44 – Avon	1514	2053	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 45 – Derbyshire	2054	2785	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 46 – Gloucestershire	599	812	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 47 – Herefordshire	1505	2040	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 48 – Leicestershire	1059	1435	3 September 2020	Year 1
Area 49 – Oxfordshire	1640	2223	2 September 2020	Year 1
Area 50 – Shropshire	4187	5676	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 51 – Somerset	1636	2218	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 52 – Warwickshire	1640	2223	3 September 2020	Year 1
Area 53 – Wiltshire	677	918	28 August 2020	Year 1
Area 54 – Lincolnshire	N/A	N/A	4 September 2020	Year 1

Licence holders carry out operations under a 4-year licence. This allows badger control to take place in the licensed control area every year between 1 June and 31 January inclusive.

The licence holder will decide the start date for control operations within this period.

Natural England has confirmed to the licence holders the minimum and maximum numbers of badgers they can remove.

Protected sites listed in the Annex Bs are not necessarily part of any active operations. These can and will only occur on protected sites where the landowner or occupier has granted permission.

The licences only permit badger control to take place outside these closed seasons:

- controlled shooting – 1 February to 31 May
- cage-trapping and shooting – 1 December to 31 May