

Bovine TB: authorisation for badger control in 2021

Natural England has licensed and authorised 7 new badger control areas to begin operations in 2021. It has also authorised the licence holders to resume operations in 33 existing badger control areas in 2021. Licence holders met all the criteria specified in [Defra's guidance to Natural England](#), dated May 2021.

Natural England has reissued the Annex A for 8 licences due to a change to their control areas as licensed in 2019/2020. These areas were 35-Cornwall, 44-Avon, 47-Herefordshire, 50-Shropshire, 51- Somerset, 52-Warwickshire, 53-Wiltshire and 54-Lincolnshire.

It has also reissued the Annex B for all existing licences from area 22 to area 54 (inclusive). This follows a review of the conditions relating to licensed actions on or around protected sites.

Table 1: Badger control areas authorised in 2021

Area number and county	Minimum number	Maximum number	Authorisation date	Year of operations
Area 22 – Cornwall	0	1087	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 23 – Devon	910	2229	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 24 – Devon	0	196	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 25 – Devon	156	651	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 26 – Devon	234	748	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 27 – Devon	0	115	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 28 – Devon	30	296	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 29 – Gloucestershire	0	502	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 30 – Somerset	0	1311	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 31 – Staffordshire	773	2893	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 32 – Cumbria	N/A	N/A	27 August 2021	Year 4
Area 33 – Avon	358	990	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 34 – Cheshire	1397	2237	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 35 – Cornwall	1689	3325	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 36 – Staffordshire	324	871	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 37 – Devon	380	1173	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 38 – Devon	571	1715	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 39 – Dorset	75	508	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 40 – Herefordshire	295	1267	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 41 – Staffordshire	20	479	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 42 – Wiltshire	1420	3950	27 August 2021	Year 3
Area 43 – Wiltshire	252	1193	27 August 2021	Year 3

Area number and county	Minimum number	Maximum number	Authorisation date	Year of operations
Area 44 – Avon	2613	4050	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 45 – Derbyshire	1758	3218	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 46 – Gloucestershire	556	860	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 47 – Herefordshire	1246	2198	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 48 – Leicestershire	544	933	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 49 – Oxfordshire	833	1412	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 50 – Shropshire	2703	4649	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 51 – Somerset	2632	4167	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 52 – Warwickshire	1450	2442	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 53 – Wiltshire	689	1054	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 54 – Lincolnshire	N/A	N/A	27 August 2021	Year 2
Area 55 – Shropshire	490	664	27 August 2021	Year 1
Area 56 – Hampshire	1215	1647	27 August 2021	Year 1
Area 57 – Berkshire	359	486	27 August 2021	Year 1
Area 58 – Staffordshire	632	857	27 August 2021	Year 1
Area 59 – Worcestershire	316	429	27 August 2021	Year 1
Area 60 – Shropshire	1478	2004	27 August 2021	Year 1
Area 61 – Oxfordshire	875	1186	27 August 2021	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