

Bovine TB: authorisation for badger control in 2022

Natural England has licensed and authorised 11 new badger control areas to begin operations in 2022. It has also authorised the licence holders to resume operations in 29 existing badger control areas in 2022. 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 10 licences due to a change to their control areas as licensed in 2020/2021. These areas were: 46 – Gloucestershire, 50 – Shropshire, 51 – Somerset, 53 – Wiltshire, 55 – Shropshire, 56 – Hampshire, 57 – Berkshire, 58 – Staffordshire, 60 – Shropshire, 61- Oxfordshire.

It has also reissued the Annex B for all existing licences from area 33 to area 62 (inclusive). This follows a review of the conditions relating to licensed actions on or around protected sites.

Table 1: Badger control areas authorised in 2022

Area number and county	Minimum number	Maximum number	Authorisation date	Year of operations
Area 33 – Avon	360	993	26 August	Year 4
Area 34 – Cheshire	845	1685	26 August	Year 4
Area 35 – Cornwall	529	2163	26 August	Year 4
Area 36 – Staffordshire	47	594	26 August	Year 4
Area 37 – Devon	0	770	26 August	Year 4
Area 38 – Devon	0	963	26 August	Year 4
Area 39 – Dorset	40	473	26 August	Year 4
Area 40 – Herefordshire	0	691	26 August	Year 4
Area 41 – Staffordshire	0	144	26 August	Year 4
Area 42 – Wiltshire	0	2437	26 August	Year 4
Area 43 – Wiltshire	383	1324	26 August	Year 4
Area 44 – Avon	676	1700	26 August	Year 3
Area 45 – Derbyshire	171	1421	26 August	Year 3
Area 46 – Gloucestershire	201	427	26 August	Year 3
Area 47 – Herefordshire	349	1150	26 August	Year 3
Area 48 – Leicestershire	247	596	26 August	Year 3
Area 49 – Oxfordshire	242	735	26 August	Year 3
Area 50 – Shropshire	2675	4766	26 August	Year 3
Area 51 – Somerset	259	1887	26 August	Year 3
Area 52 – Warwickshire	644	1487	26 August	Year 3
Area 53 – Wiltshire	195	447	26 August	Year 3
Area 54 – Lincolnshire	N/A	N/A	26 August	Year 3

Area number and county	Minimum number	Maximum number	Authorisation date	Year of operations
Area 55 – Shropshire	335	493	26 August	Year 2
Area 56 – Hampshire	651	1026	26 August	Year 2
Area 57 – Berkshire	312	457	26 August	Year 2
Area 58 – Staffordshire	464	861	26 August	Year 2
Area 59 – Worcestershire	142	362	26 August	Year 2
Area 60 – Shropshire	1137	1940	26 August	Year 2
Area 61 – Oxfordshire	497	882	26 August	Year 2
Area 62 – Buckinghamshire	680	922	26 August	Year 1
Area 63 – Cornwall	278	377	26 August	Year 1
Area 64 – Cornwall	281	381	26 August	Year 1
Area 65 – Derbyshire	697	944	26 August	Year 1
Area 66 – Devon	408	553	26 August	Year 1
Area 67- Hampshire	413	560	26 August	Year 1
Area 68 – Northamptonshire	1353	1834	26 August	Year 1
Area 69 – Oxfordshire	570	772	26 August	Year 1
Area 70 – Somerset	270	366	26 August	Year 1
Area 71 – Warwickshire	680	922	26 August	Year 1
Area 72 – Warwickshire	1442	1954	26 August	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