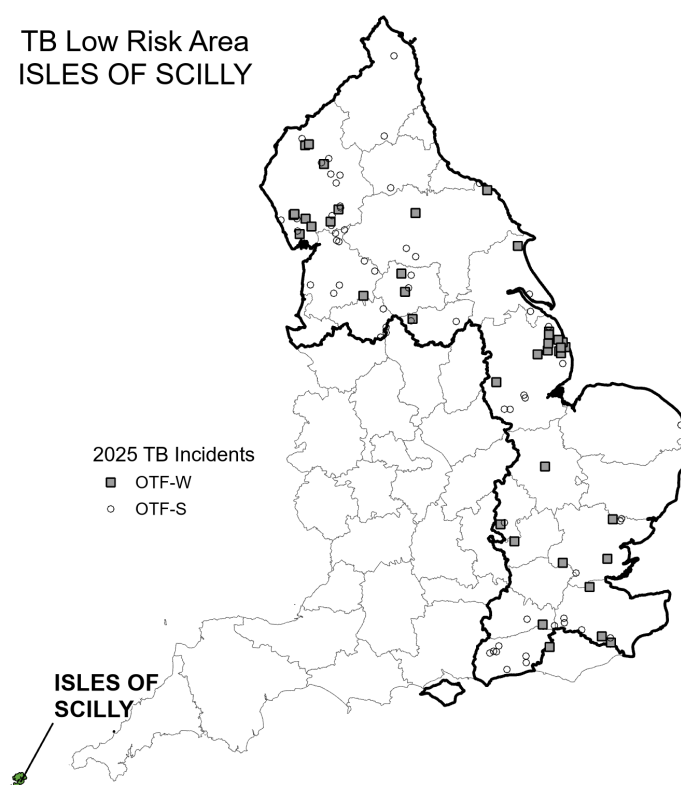




Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Year End Descriptive Epidemiology Report: Bovine TB in the Low Risk Area of England 2025: Isles of Scilly



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Introduction

This report describes the frequency and geographical distribution of TB in 2025 in cattle herds in the Isles of Scilly, which is part of the Low Risk Area of England (LRA).

This report is intended for those involved in the control of TB, both locally and nationally. This includes, but it is not limited to:

- cattle farmers
- private veterinarians
- government
- policy makers
- the scientific community

Details of the data handling methodology used in this report, a glossary of terms, and the TB control measures adopted in the LRA, can be found in the [explanatory supplement for the annual reports 2025](#).

Classification of TB incidents

Unless otherwise specified, this report includes all new TB incidents detected during the reporting period (1 January to 31 December 2025). This includes both 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Withdrawn' (OTF-W) and 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Suspended' (OTF-S) incidents.

OTF-W incidents are those involving the detection in the affected herd of at least:

- one reactor (positive animal) to the Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (SICCT) test, or a positive animal to the supplementary interferon gamma (IFN- γ) blood test, with typical lesions of TB identified at post-mortem (PM) meat inspection, or
- one animal (such as a skin test reactor, IFN- γ test-positive animal, or slaughterhouse case) with *Mycobacterium bovis* (M. bovis) positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or bacteriological culture results in tissue samples collected from carcasses during the PM inspection

OTF-S incidents are triggered by reactors to the skin test (or IFN- γ test-positive animals), but without subsequent detection of TB lesions or positive PCR test (or culture) results in any of those animals.

[Licensed Finishing Units](#) (LFUs) have been excluded from the numbers presented in this report due to the limited epidemiological impact of any TB detections in such units.

Cattle industry

The Isles of Scilly are a small archipelago situated 28 miles south-west of the Cornish peninsula (Figure 2). Five of the islands are populated and they have their own independent council.

There were 20 active cattle herds registered in Sam (APHA's operational database) on the Isles of Scilly on 31 December 2025 (Appendix 1). Sam includes herd type and herd size, with size based on a herd's most recent test or when the herd was first registered. In this report herd size is generated for a point in time (31 December) from the number of on and off movements of cattle in the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) data accessible via the RADAR data warehouse. In the LRA where most cattle herds are OTF and tested every 4 years this can therefore provide a more recent description of the herd size at a point in time.

Further details on the data sources used in these reports can be found in the [explanatory supplement for the annual reports 2025](#).

Appendix 2 provides a summary of headline cattle TB statistics in the Isles of Scilly.

There are no livestock markets, abattoirs or LFUs active on the islands. Cull and fat cattle are transported by sea to abattoirs on the mainland. Each of the 5 inhabited islands constitutes a distinct epidemiological group for bovine TB control purposes.

All cattle moving onto the islands from the mainland since 1 April 2016 have been subject to mandatory post-movement skin testing and, as most travel from the High Risk Area (HRA) of England, they will have also been skin TB tested with negative results in the 60 days before shipment to the islands.

In 2025 there were 14 beef herds and 3 dairy herds with ≥ 1 animal on the 31 December (Figure 1). The total number of beef herds has declined steadily since 2016, due to a reduction of small herds with less than 50 cattle, from 17 to 13. There were 4 small dairy herds between 2016 and 2022, then 3 thereafter. In all those years only one (beef) herd in these islands contained more than 50 animals (Figure 1).

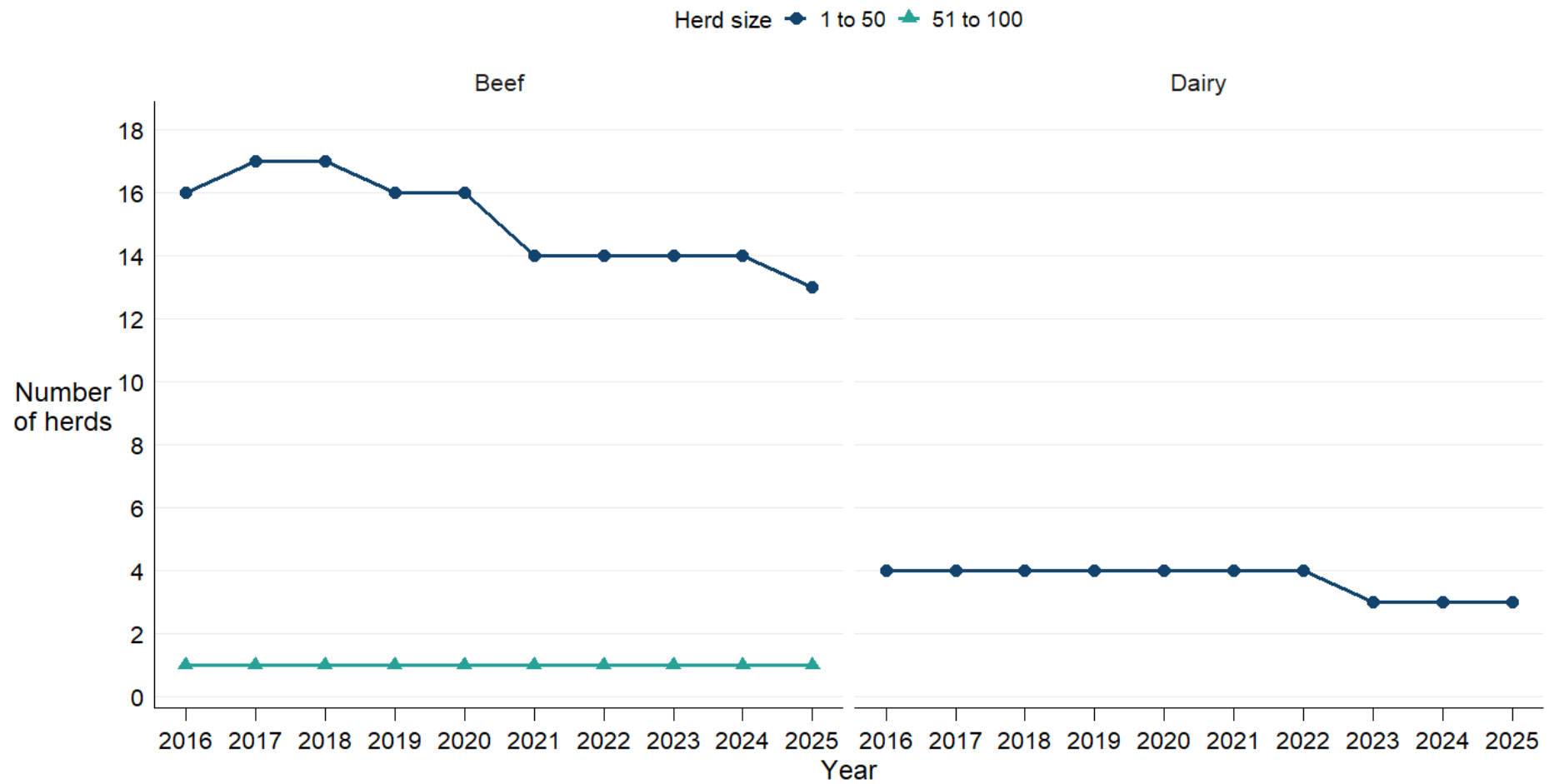


Figure 1: Number of herds with ≥ 1 animal on the last day of the reporting year in Isles of Scilly by herd size and herd type (dairy and beef), between 2016 to 2025.



Figure 2: Cattle population (animals) representation for the Isles of Scilly in 2024.

Figure 2 description: Map of the Isles of Scilly, showing the names of the 5 main islands and a representation of the cattle density on each. The cattle density is shown by blue circles, with the size of each circle directly proportional to the number of cattle. To note the figure is generated using 2024 data.

Number of new TB incidents

There were no new TB incidents between 2016 and 2025. The headline cattle TB statistics for the Isles of Scilly are summarised in Appendix 2.

Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection

The main TB infection risk to cattle herds on the Isles of Scilly are movements of cattle, or other domestic species, with undisclosed *M. bovis* infection from the HRA counties of England on the mainland. As in previous years, there were few cattle movements onto the islands. Any movements are subject to statutory pre- and post-movement tuberculin skin testing of cattle from higher TB risk areas of the mainland, providing some mitigation for disease introduction. Approximately, one quarter of all

the cattle herds are tuberculin skin tested every year, providing routine TB surveillance.

Small herd sizes on the islands minimise the likelihood of a TB incident, as large herd size is known to be a major TB infection risk. However, the key protective factors for these island cattle herds are likely to be their clear TB history, the relatively few inward movements of cattle, and the lack of known wildlife reservoirs of *M. bovis* infection on the islands.

Official movement records are not required for camelids. Sheep, goat and pig movements have not been analysed for 2025. However, these species are considered unlikely sources of infection for cattle.

Forward look

During a whole herd test (WHT) conducted in December 2025 in one of the herds undergoing routine surveillance tuberculin skin testing, a single Inconclusive Reactor (IR) was identified. This IR animal had moved onto an island during summer 2025 and had been subject to statutory pre- and post- movement tuberculin skin testing, with both tests returning negative results. As per statutory requirements, the IR is re-tested after a minimum interval of 60 days have passed since the disclosing skin test. The outcome of this re-testing will be included in the next (2026) annual TB report for the Isles of Scilly.

However, current TB controls still appear to be effective in preventing TB incidents on the Isles of Scilly. This is based on the previous history of over 20 years of TB disease freedom, very few inward cattle movements and the absence of a wildlife reservoir of *M. bovis* infection.

Appendix 1: cattle industry demographics

Table 1: Number (and percentage of total) of active cattle herds on the last day of the reporting year by herd type in Isles of Scilly.

Source: Sam

Breed purpose	2023	2024	2025
Beef	17 (81%)	17 (81%)	17 (85%)
Dairy	4 (19%)	4 (19%)	3 (15%)
Other	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	21	21	20

Table 2: Number of active herds on the last day of the reporting year in Isles of Scilly by herd size and herd type (dairy, beef, other and undetermined), between 2023 and 2025.

Sources: Herds and herd type data from Sam, herd size data from RADAR (as of 31 December each year).

Year	Herd size	Beef	Dairy	Other	Total
2023	0	2	1	0	3
2023	1 to 50	14	3	0	17
2023	51 to 100	1	0	0	1
2023	101 to 200	0	0	0	0
2023	201 to 350	0	0	0	0
2023	351 to 500	0	0	0	0
2023	Greater than 500	0	0	0	0
2023	Total	17	4	0	21
2024	0	2	1	0	3
2024	1 to 50	14	3	0	17
2024	51 to 100	1	0	0	1
2024	101 to 200	0	0	0	0
2024	201 to 350	0	0	0	0
2024	351 to 500	0	0	0	0
2024	Greater than 500	0	0	0	0
2024	Total	17	4	0	21
2025	0	3	0	0	3
2025	1 to 50	13	3	0	16
2025	51 to 100	1	0	0	1
2025	101 to 200	0	0	0	0
2025	201 to 350	0	0	0	0
2025	351 to 500	0	0	0	0
2025	Greater than 500	0	0	0	0
2025	Total	17	3	0	20

Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics

Table 3: Herd-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in Isles of Scilly between 2023 and 2025.

Source: Sam

Herd-level statistics	2023	2024	2025
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	21	21	20
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	0	0	1
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	5	5	5
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	5	5	5
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	21	21	20
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	21	21	20
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	0	0
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	0	0

Herd-level statistics	2023	2024	2025
(h.1) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many occurred in a holding affected by another OTF-W incident in the previous 3 years?	0	0	0
(h.2) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many could be considered secondary to a primary incident based on current evidence?	0	0	0
(h.3) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were triggered by skin test reactors or twice-inconclusive reactors (2xIRs) at routine herd tests?	0	0	0
(h.4) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were triggered by skin test reactors or 2xIRs at other TB test types (such as forward and back-tracings, contiguous, check tests)?	0	0	0
(h.5) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were first detected through routine slaughterhouse TB surveillance?	0	0	0
(i.1) Number of new OTF-S incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	0	0	0
(i.2) Number of new OTF-W incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	0	0	0
(j) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period (including any ongoing OTF-W incidents that began in a previous reporting period)	0	0	0

Herd-level statistics	2023	2024	2025
(k) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period that were on a finishing unit	0	0	0
(l) New laboratory-confirmed incidents of M. bovis infection in non-bovine domestic species or captive deer detected during the report period (indicate host species involved)	0	0	0

Table 4: Animal-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in Isles of Scilly between 2023 and 2025.

Source: Sam

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	2023	2024	2025
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	55	41	91
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	0	0	0
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	55	41	91
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	0	0	0
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	0	0	0
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	0	0	0
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0	0	0
(e.1) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (dangerous contacts, including any first time IRs)	0	0	0
(e.2) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (private slaughters)	0	0	0
(f) Slaughterhouse (SLH) cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during routine meat inspection	0	0	0

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	2023	2024	2025
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	0	0	0

Note (c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year, reactors may be from incidents disclosed in earlier years, as any found through testing during the report year count in the table above.

Note (g) SLH cases confirmed by culture of M. bovis, not all cases reported are submitted for laboratory analysis. All cases reported are from any period prior to or during restrictions.



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