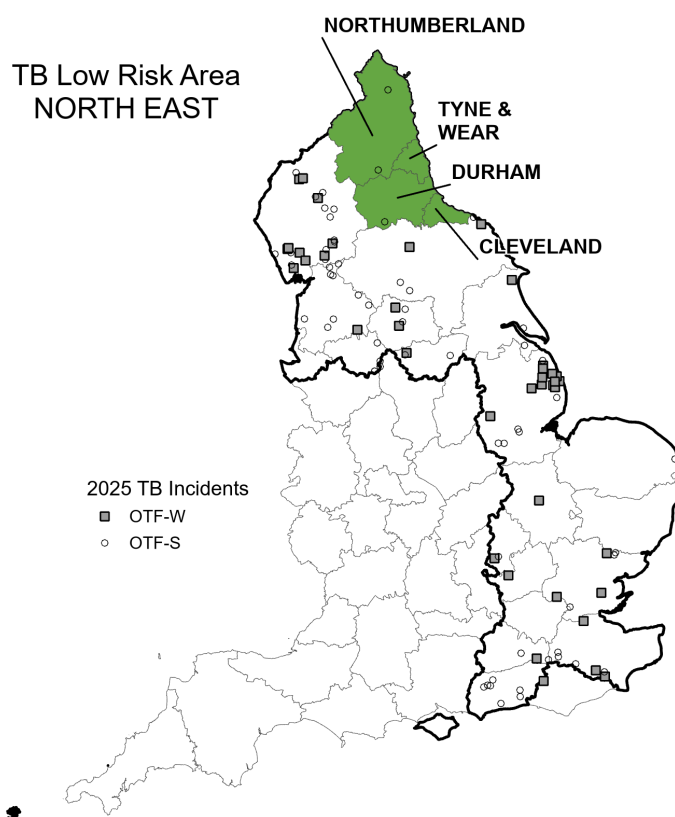




Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Classification of TB incidents.....	3
Cattle industry.....	4
Number of new TB incidents.....	6
Disclosing TB surveillance method.....	8
Duration of TB incidents.....	9
Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed.....	11
Recurrent TB incidents.....	13
Three-year recurrence.....	13
Geographical distribution of TB incidents.....	15
Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection.....	17
Forward look.....	19
Appendix 1: cattle industry demographics.....	21
Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics.....	23
Appendix 3: suspected sources of M. bovis infection for all the new OTF-W and OTF-S incidents identified in the report period.....	28

Introduction

This report describes the frequency and geographical distribution of TB in 2025 in cattle herds in the North East of England, 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 This includes both 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Withdrawn' (OTF-W) and 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Suspended' (OTF-S) incidents.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

There were 2,179 cattle herds registered in the North East of England at the end of the year, as shown in Appendix 1 and 2.

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 North East.

In 2025, the North East had one livestock market approved by APHA to hold slaughter gatherings of cattle from OTF herds that are eligible for, but have not been subjected to, pre-movement TB testing (known as 'TB pre-movement testing-exempt' markets).

There were 7 LFUs operating in the North East of England, but no new or ongoing TB incidents were recorded in those units in 2025.

In 2025 there were 1,991 beef herds, 100 dairy herds and 54 other herds active on the 31 December (Appendix 1). Over the last 10 years beef herds of size 1 to 50 has consistently been the predominant category in the area but this number has reduced from 792 herds in 2016 to 705 in 2025). There has also been a reduction in the number of herds of size 51 to 200. The number of herds in the herd size category above 200 cattle heads have all remained stable over the last 10 years. The number of dairy herds in the area has remained low and stable in the same period, across all herd size categories (Figure 1).

The number of herds in the 'Other' production type category has remained consistently low over the 10-year period 2016 to 2025 (Appendix 1). This category includes a range of herd types not limited to mixed herds, dealers, specialist breeders and non-standard holdings.

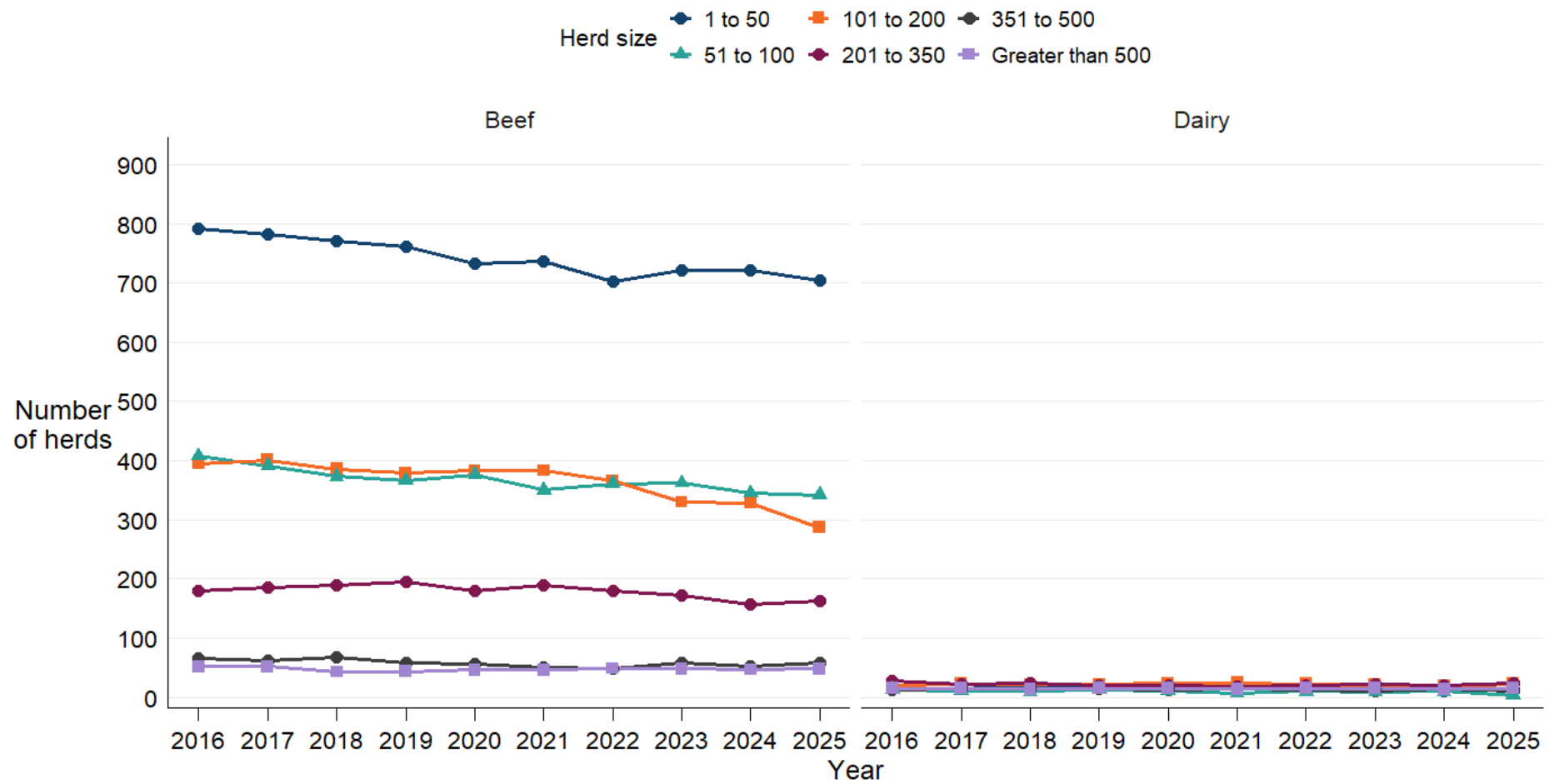


Figure 1: Number of herds with ≥ 1 animal on the last day of the reporting year in North East of England by herd size and herd type (dairy and beef), between 2016 to 2025.

Number of new TB incidents

In 2025, 3 new TB herd incidents were declared in the North East of England, all OTF-S (Figures 2a to 2c). This represented a decrease of 6 TB incidents (67%) from the 9 recorded in 2024.

In all the counties of the North East region of the LRA the annual number of incidents has traditionally been low, so it is difficult to identify any temporal trends in the 10-year period between 2016 and 2025.

There were no OTF-W incidents in the North East in 2025, compared to 4 in 2024. The 3 OTF-S incidents constituted a reduction in OTF-S incidents compared to 5 the previous year.

Like in the previous 2 years, no new TB incidents were detected in Cleveland in 2025. There have only been 3 OTF-W incidents and 2 OTF-S incidents in total since 2016 in this county, where the annual number of incidents has ranged between 0 and 2 (Figure 2a).

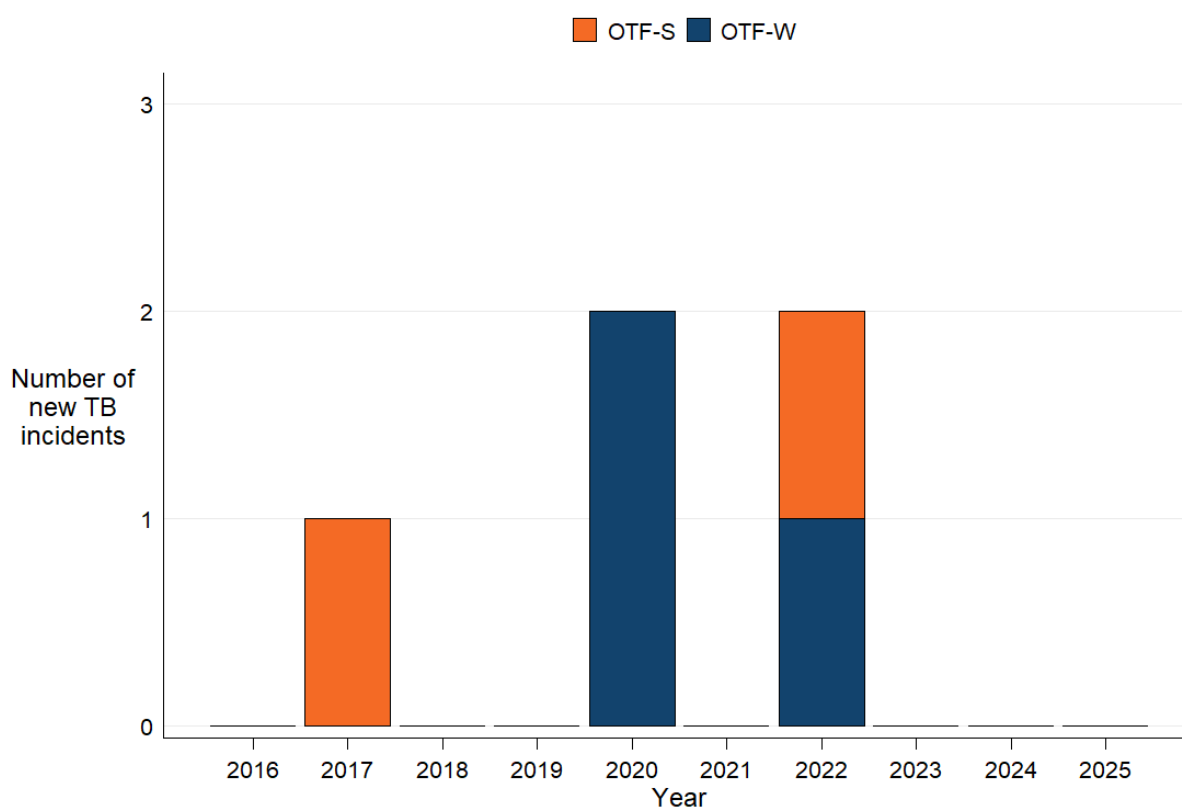


Figure 2a: Annual number of new TB incidents in Cleveland from 2016 to 2025.

One of the 3 OTF-S incidents was detected in Durham (Figure 2b).

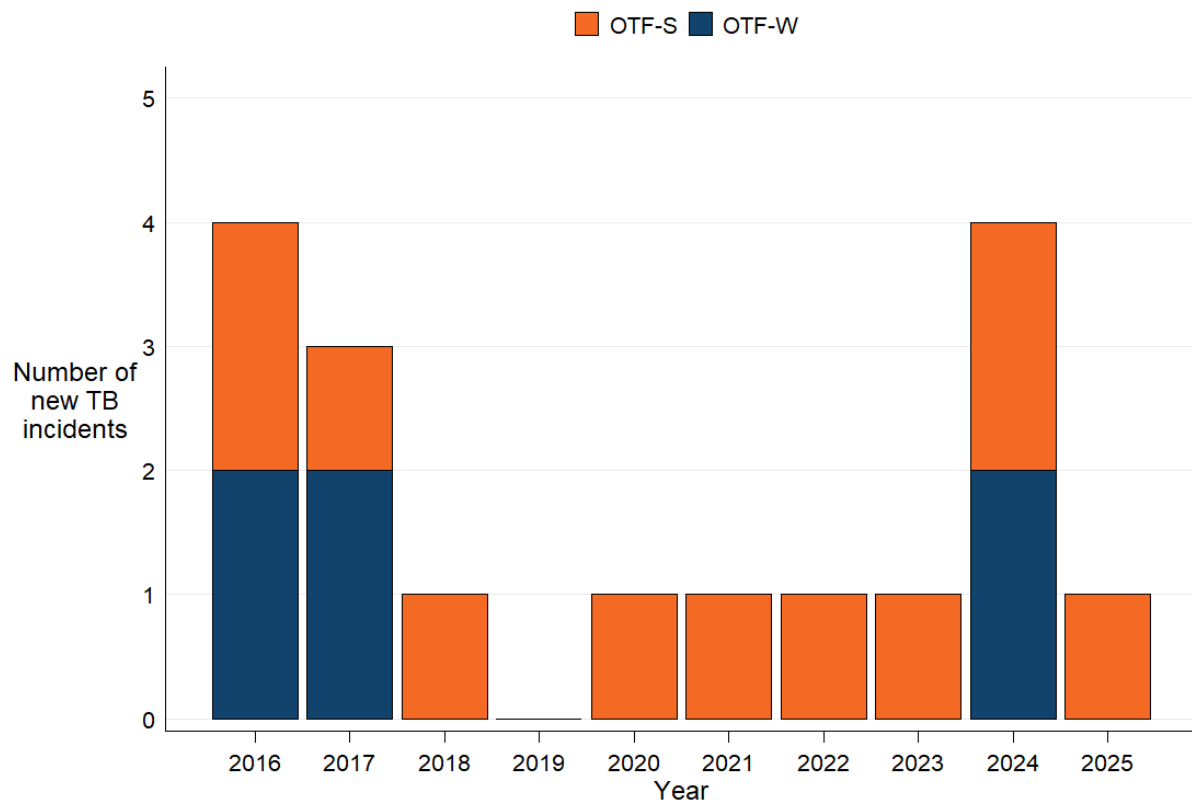


Figure 2b: Annual number of new TB incidents in Durham from 2016 to 2025.

Two new OTF-S incidents were detected in Northumberland, a reduction compared to 2024 (2 OTF-W and 3 OTF-S incidents). Over the 10-year period from 2016 to 2025, the annual number of OTF-S incidents in this county ranged between 0 and 6 and of OTF-W incidents, between 0 and 2 (Figure 2c).

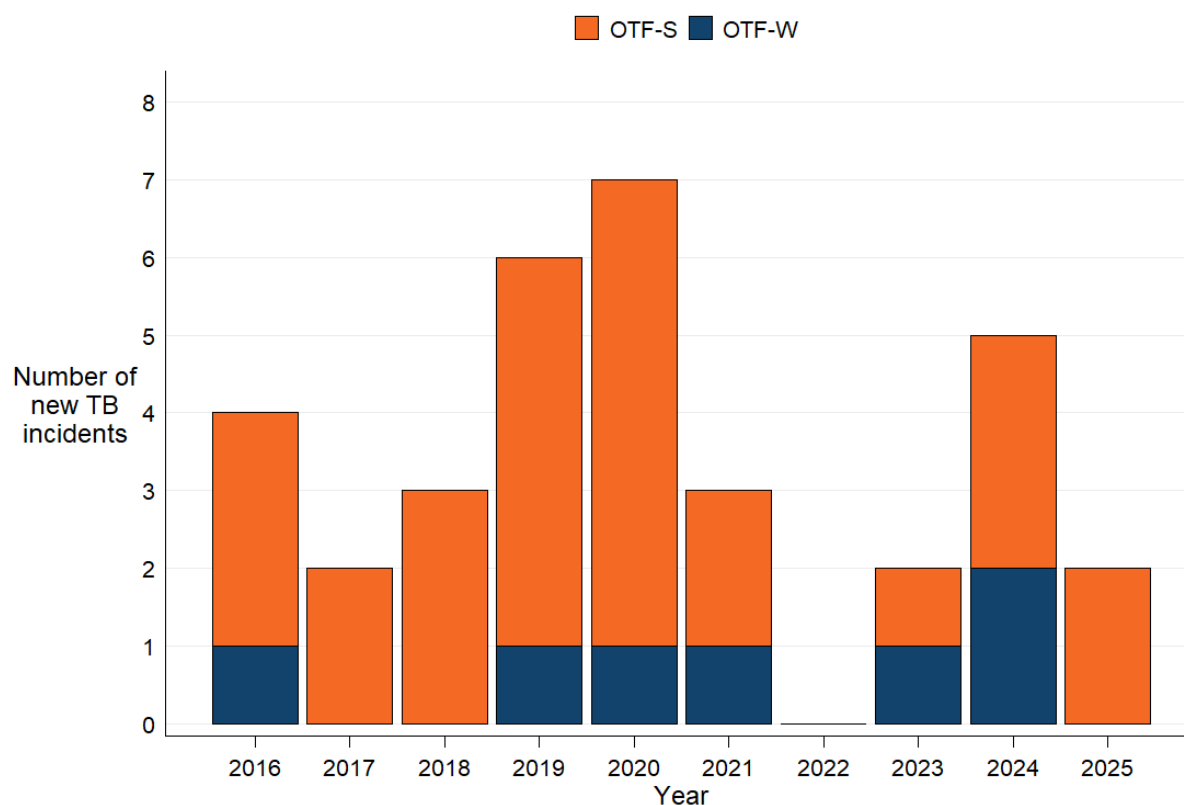


Figure 2c: Annual number of new TB incidents in Northumberland from 2016 to 2025.

There were no new incidents in Tyne and Wear in the period of interest. The last TB incident in that county was recorded in the 1990s.

Disclosing TB surveillance method

In 2025, one of the 3 new TB herd incidents in the North East of England was detected by targeted surveillance tests conducted around holdings affected by OTF-W incidents (commonly known as radial or 'RAD' tests), one by routine herd testing and one by trace testing (Figure 3).

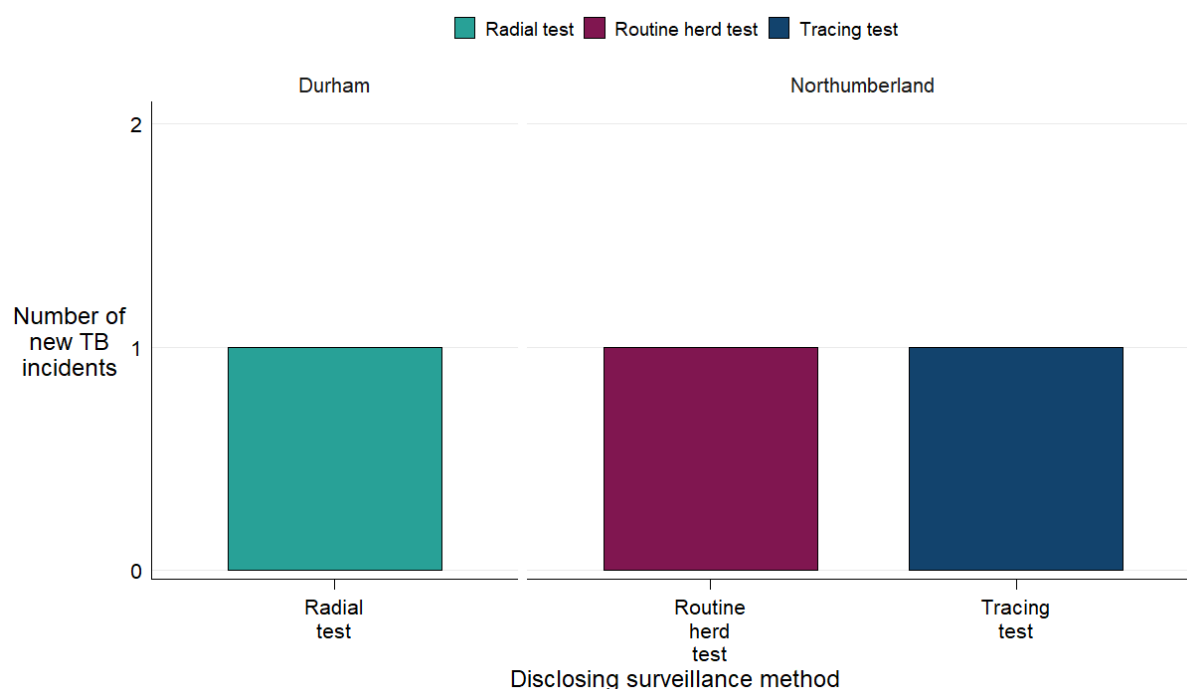


Figure 3: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in Durham and Northumberland in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

Cleveland and Tyne and Wear were not included as no new incidents were disclosed in those counties in 2025.

Duration of TB incidents

A total of 4 incidents were resolved across the region in 2025, 2 in Durham (Figure 4a) and 2 in Northumberland (Figure 4b) (compared to 3 in Durham and 5 in Northumberland in 2024). In each of these 2 counties there was one resolved OTF-W incident ending in 2025 which had started in 2024 and one OTF-S which had started in 2025. None of those incidents could be categorised as persistent (lasted more than 550 days).

Of the 2 OTF-W incidents that ended in 2025, one lasted between 101 and 150 days and the other 151 and 240 days. This was similar to resolved incidents in 2024. Of the 2 OTF-S incidents, both were resolved quickly within 100 days (Figures 4a and b).

One new OTF-S incident that had started in Northumberland in November 2025 was still ongoing at the end of the year.

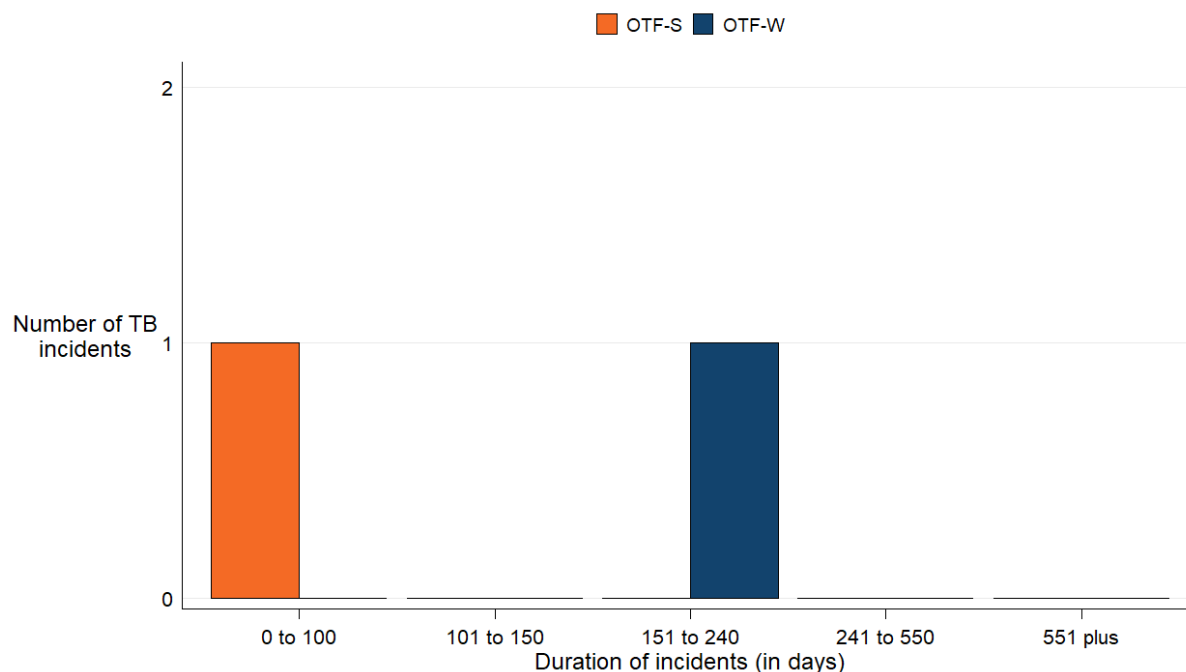


Figure 4a: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Durham in 2025.

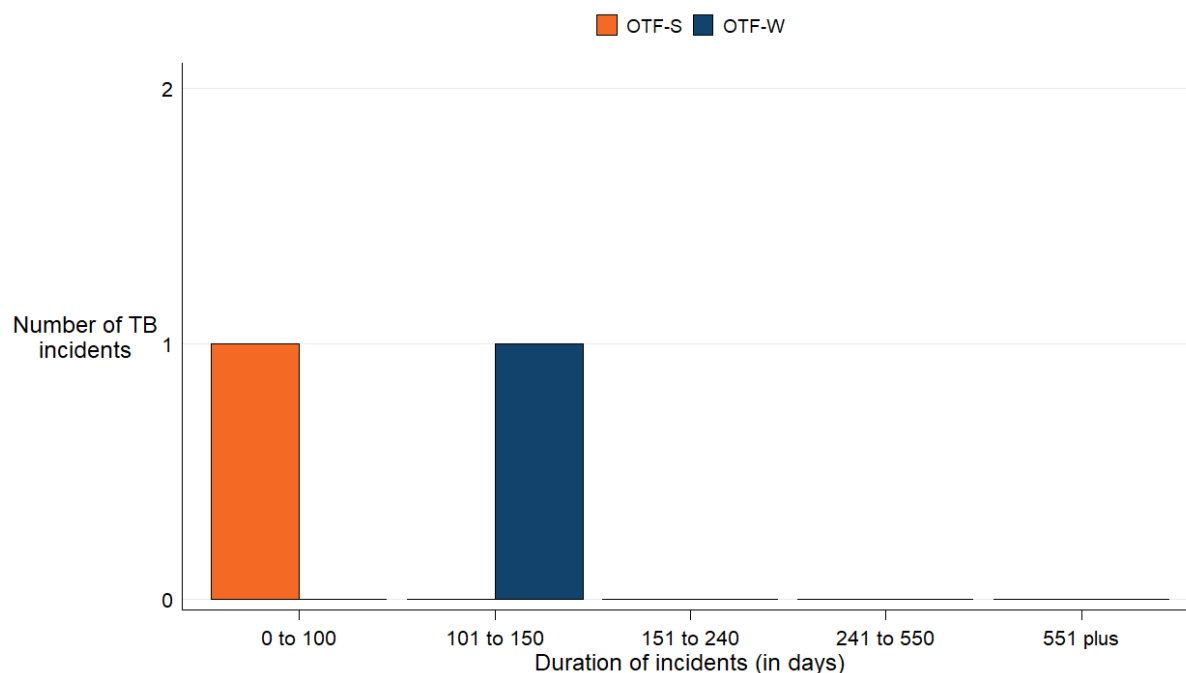


Figure 4b: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Northumberland in 2025.

As there were no incidents that closed in 2025 in Cleveland and Tyne and Wear, these were not included in this section.

Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed

During 2025, a total of 11 cattle were removed as TB test reactors from incident herds in the North East of England, similar to the 10 animals removed the previous year (Figures 5a to 5c). Of those, 4 were skin test reactors (compared to 7 in 2024) and 7 were positive to the supplementary interferon gamma blood test (IFN- γ) (compared to 3 in 2024).

The number of skin test reactors decreased from 7 in 2024 to 4 in 2025. Decreases were seen in Durham (4 to 1). The number of reactors remained unchanged in Cleveland (0 in both years), Northumberland (3 in both years), Tyne and Wear (0 in both years).

The number of IFN- γ test reactors increased from 3 in 2024 to 7 in 2025, all in Durham. No IFN- γ test reactors were removed from cattle herds in Cleveland, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear in both years.

A total of 13 reactors were removed from TB incidents in Cleveland in 10 years between 2026 and 2025, 2 IFN- γ test positive animals in 2020 and 5 in 2021, and 2 skin test reactors removed in 2017, 3 in 2020 and one in 2022 (Figure 5a).

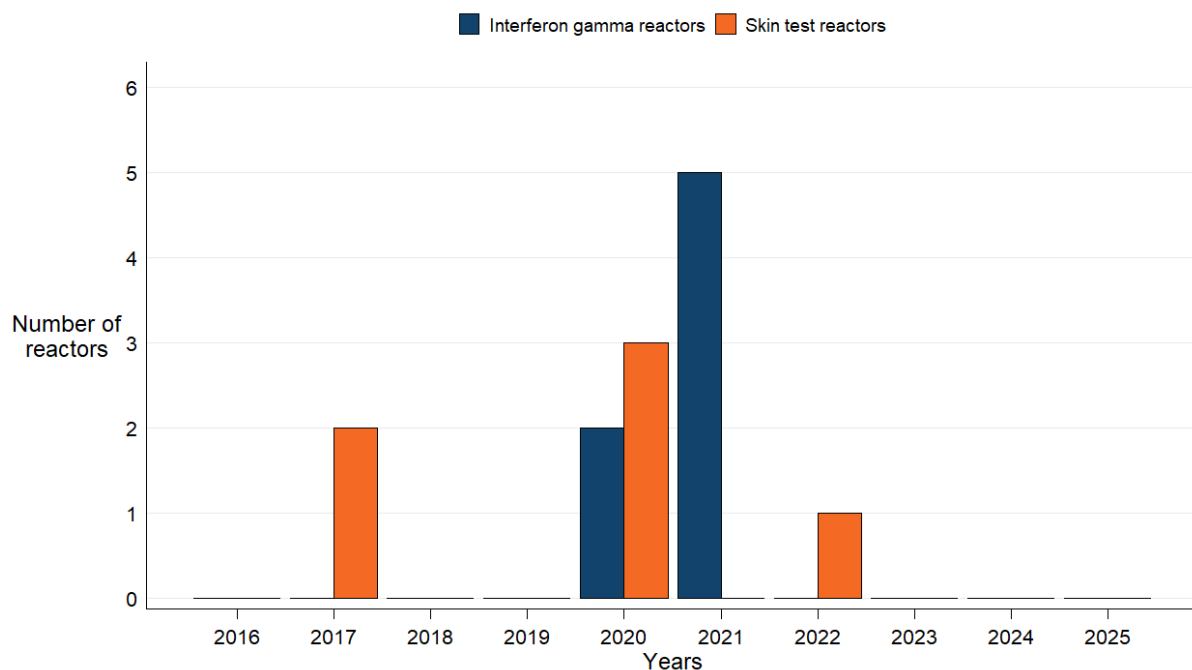


Figure 5a: Number of skin test reactors, IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Cleveland from 2016 to 2025.

In Durham, the annual number of skin test reactors remained stable over the same period, fluctuating between 0 and 4, except for 2017 when 9 were removed. For most years in the period, there were no IFN- γ test reactors removed, apart from 14 in 2017, 3 in 2024 and 7 in 2025 (Figure 5b).

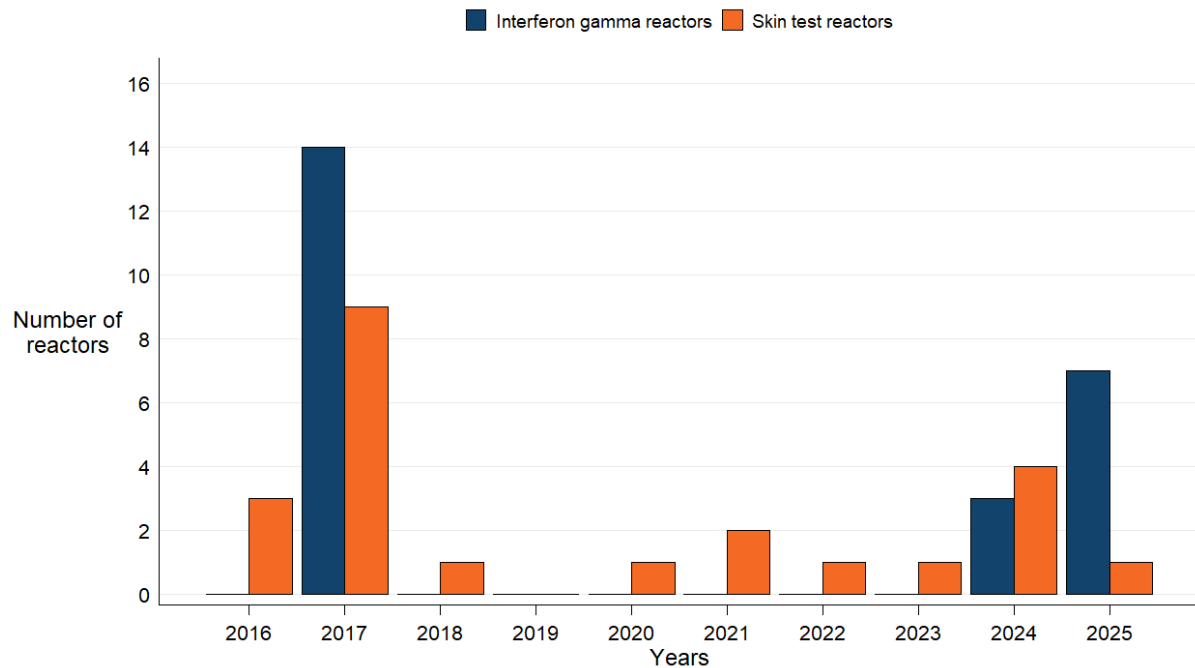


Figure 5b: Number of skin test reactors, IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Durham from 2016 to 2025.

In Northumberland, the annual number of skin test reactors showed an increasing trend between 2016 and 2020, rising from 2 to 11. Thereafter, the number fell and ranged between 0 and 3. For most years between 2016 and 2025, the annual number of IFN- γ test reactors removed varied between 0 and 3 with 2 notable exceptions in 2020 and 2022, with 17 and 10 animals removed respectively (Figure 5c).

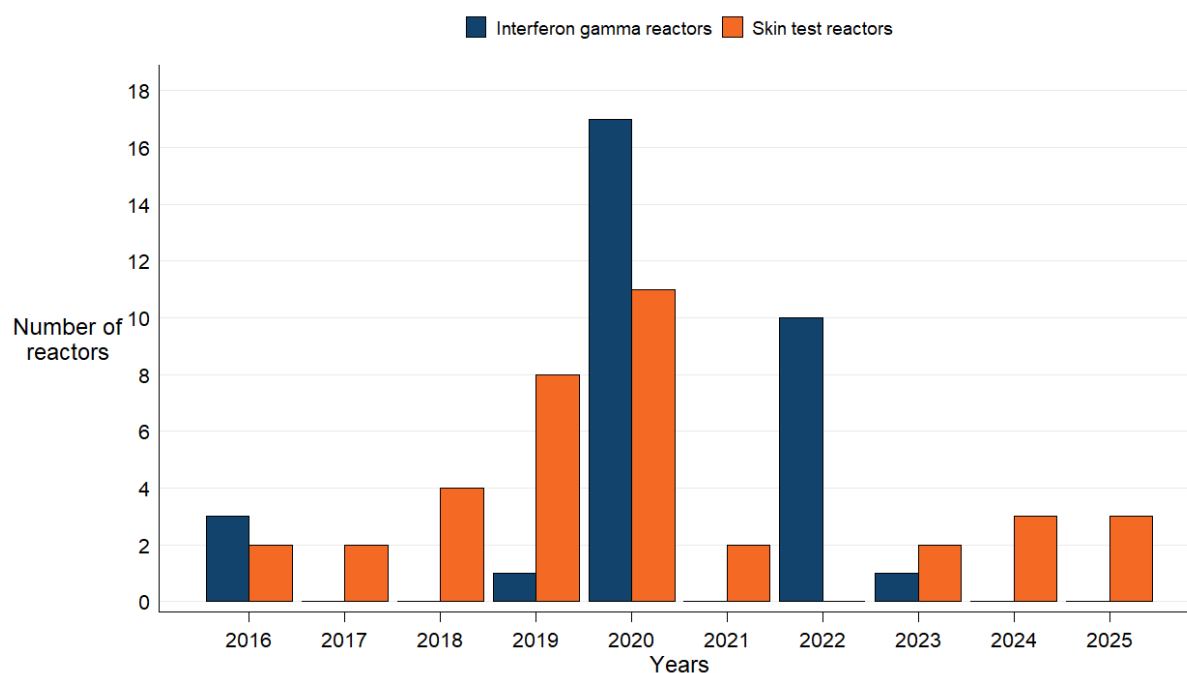


Figure 5c: Number of skin test reactors, IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Northumberland from 2016 to 2025.

As there were no incidents recorded in Tyne and Wear over the last 10 years, no TB test reactors were removed.

Recurrent TB incidents

Three-year recurrence

In the North East of England, 0 of the herds with a new TB incident starting in 2025 had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years (Figures 6a and 6b).

As a result, in 2025 the North East of England had the lowest percentage of recurrent herd incidents (0%) in the LRA. The overall recurrence rate in the LRA was 19%. The highest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA was identified in the South East (34%), followed by Cumbria (21%), the North West (14%), Yorkshire and Humberside (13%) and Lincolnshire (5%).

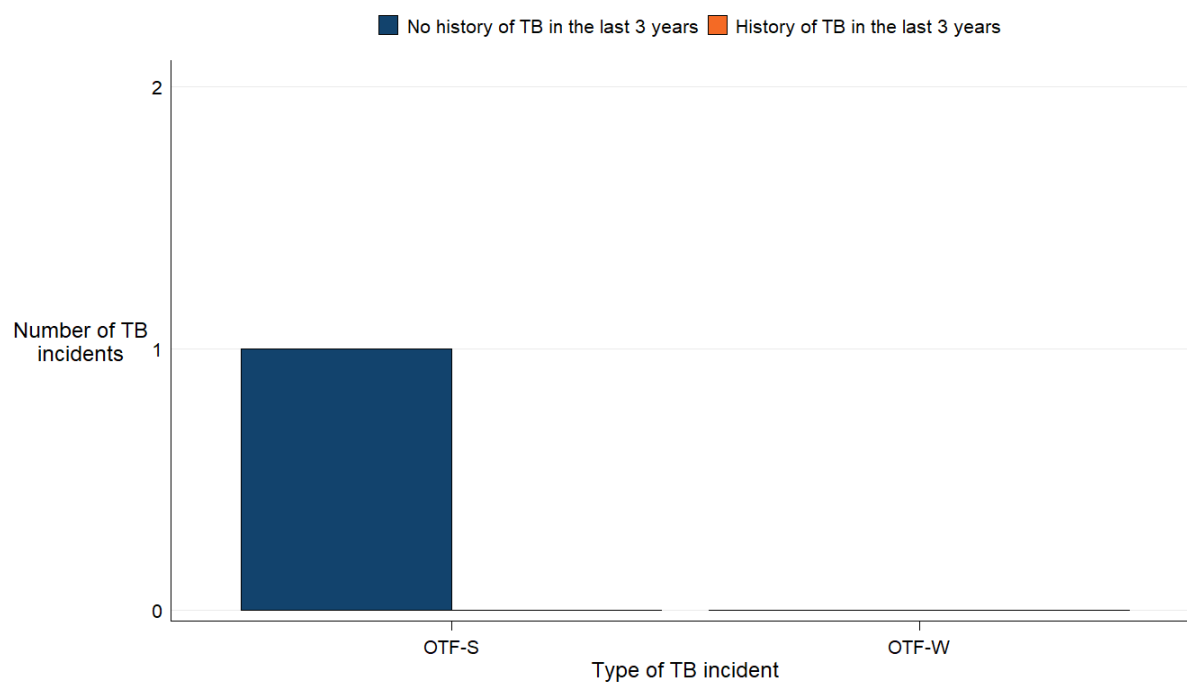


Figure 6a: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Durham in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

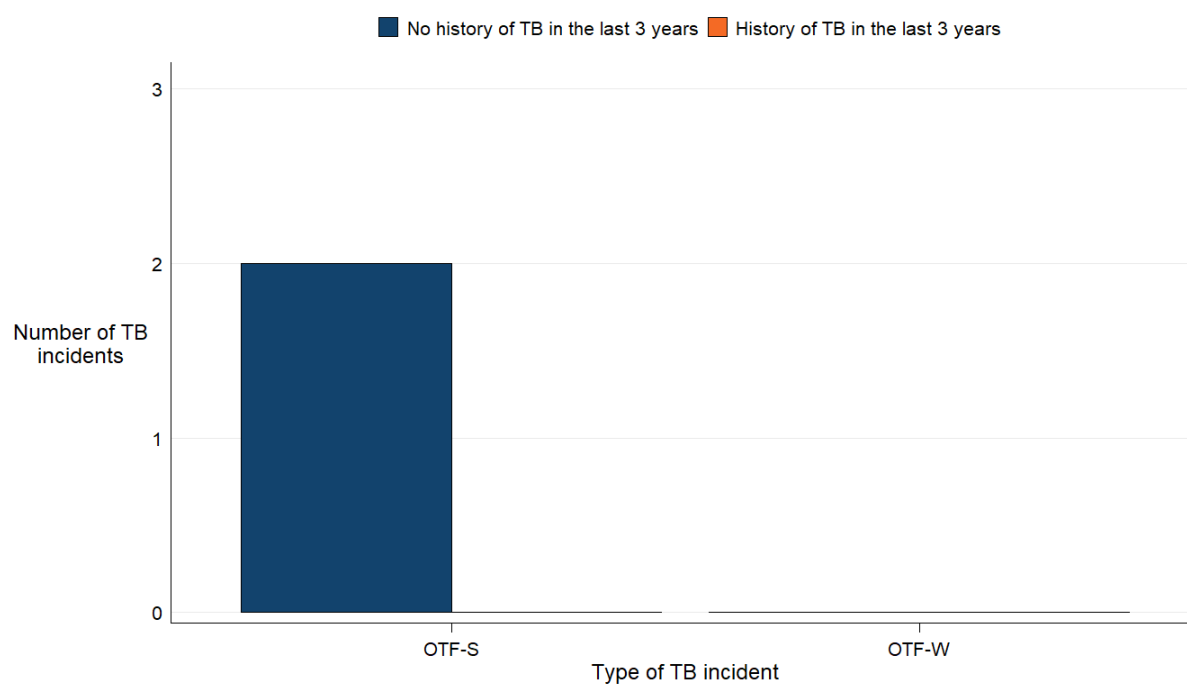


Figure 6b: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Northumberland in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

Geographical distribution of TB incidents

In 2025, the 3 new TB incidents (all OTFS) detected in this region all occurred in areas of high cattle density (Figure 7).

The first one occurred in the north-east of Northumberland (incident 638, Figure 7), an area where 2 TB incidents were detected in 2024: one was OTF-W (due to infection with WGS (Whole Genome Sequencing) clade B6-15 of *M. bovis* and attributed to an introduction of undetected infected cattle), and the other was OTF-S.

There was also a new OTF-S incident in the south of the county (incident 249, Figure 7). One OTF-S incident was declared in the same area in 2023, along with several OTF-S incidents prior to 2020 and an OTF-W incident in 2015. The most likely origin (risk pathways) of those historical incidents in the same area were undisclosed infected cattle movements.

The new OTF-S incident in Durham occurred in the south-west of the county (incident 74, Figure 7), an area that had sustained 2 OTF-W incidents in 2024. One was caused by infection with clade B1-11 of *M. bovis*, which has a home range centred in Shropshire and so the most likely source of infection was the introduction of undetected infected cattle. For the other, the test reactors were culture negative and it was not possible to determine a clear source of infection. There have also been several OTF-S incidents in this area in recent years.

In Cleveland and Tyne and Wear no new TB incidents were recorded in 2025, unchanged from 2024.

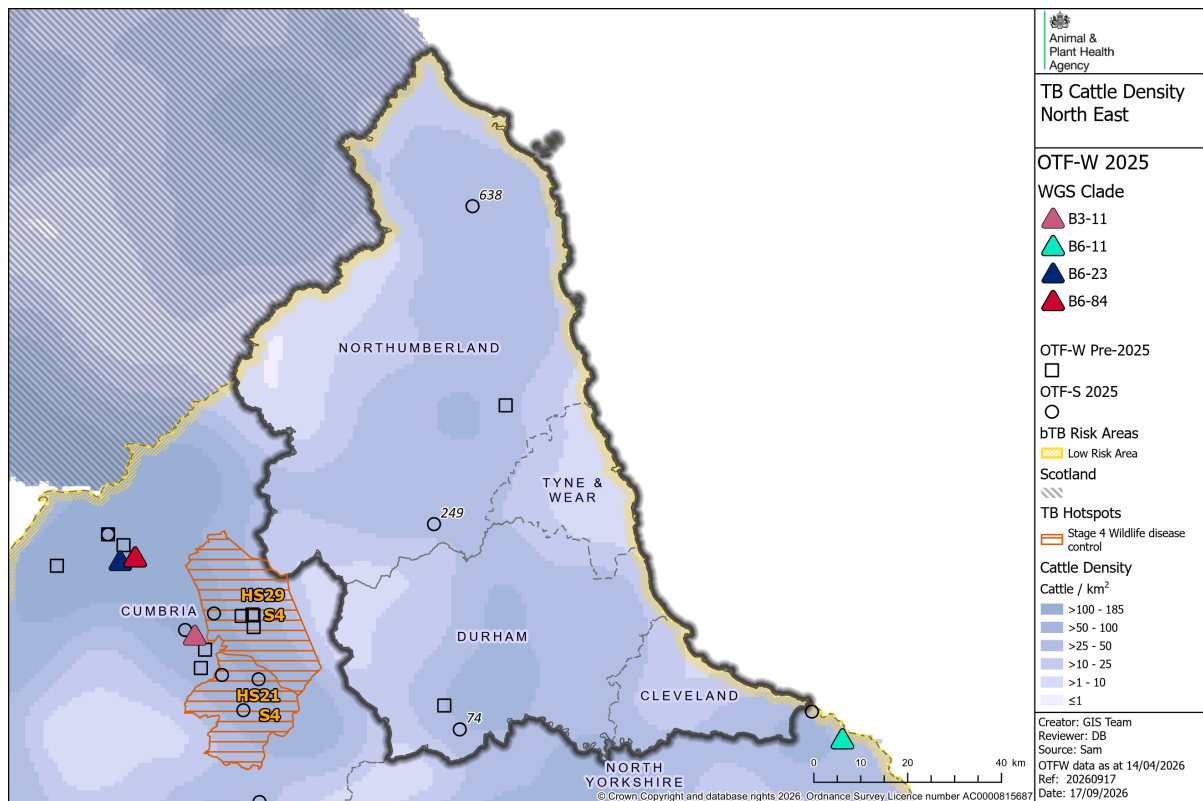


Figure 7: Location of cattle holdings in the North East of England with new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in 2025, and cattle incident holdings with pre-2025 OTF-W incidents still ongoing at the beginning of 2025, overlaid on a cattle density (as in 2024) map.

Figure 7 description: A map of the North East of England and adjoining areas showing the cattle density (as in 2024), the geographical location of cattle holdings with new TB incidents (OTF-W shown as triangles and OTF-S shown as circles) in 2025, and cattle holdings with OTF-W incidents still ongoing at the beginning of 2025, shown as squares. The 2025 OTF-W incidents are coloured by WGS clade. Navy blue represents clade B6-23, dusky pink represents clade B3-11, light green represents clade B6-11 and red represents clade B6-84. Dark blue areas represent higher cattle density and light blue represent lower cattle density. TB hotspot areas in the adjoining county of Cumbria are shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with its suffix, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control). The location of new TB incidents is described in the main text.

No new radial TB surveillance zones or TB hotspots were set up in the North East in 2025. There was one active radial zone from 2024 in Northumberland. One of the 2024 OTF-W incidents in Northumberland did not trigger a radial zone as described in the 2024 report. Two radial zones initiated in Durham in 2024 were still active in 2025 (Figure 8).

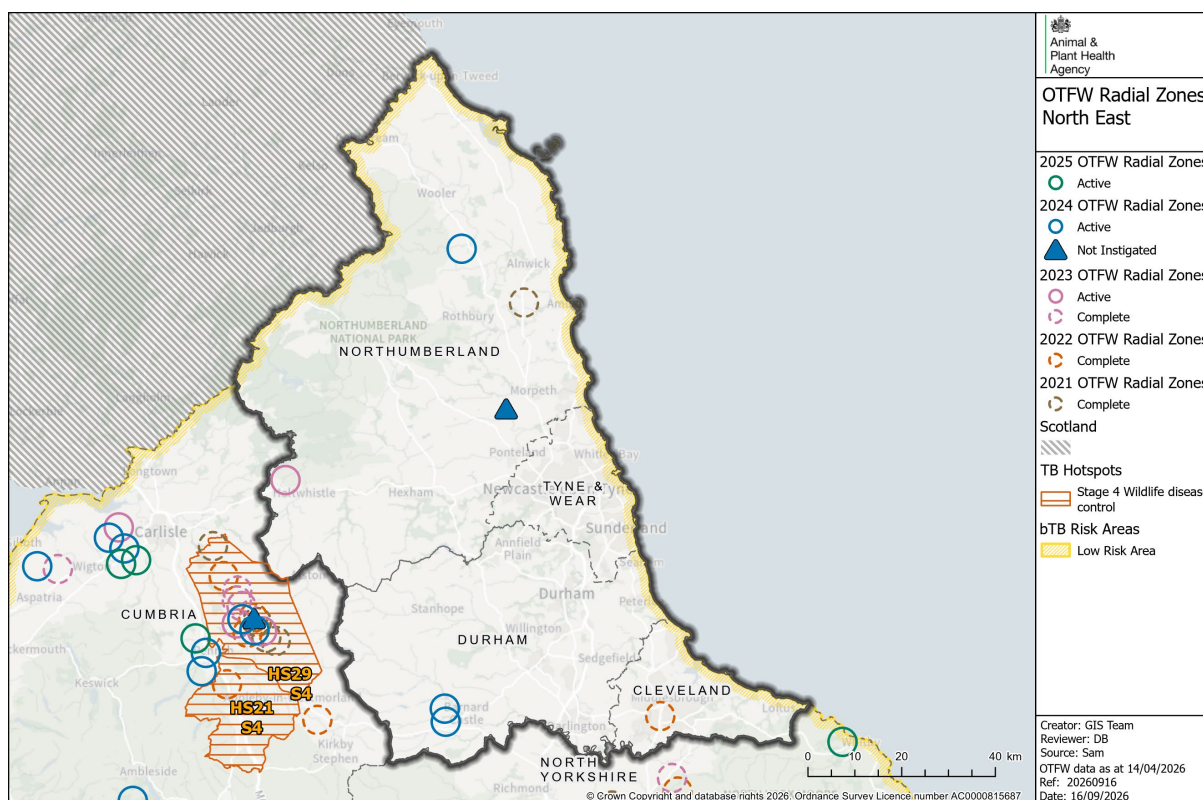


Figure 8: Hotspot areas and radial surveillance zones around OTF-W incidents that were active, completed or not instigated in the North East of England during 2025, by year of initiation.

Figure 8 description: A map of the North East of England and adjoining areas showing the geographical location of hotspots and radial surveillance zones around OTF-W incidents in 2025. The active radial zones are shown as solid line circles, completed radial zones are shown as dotted line circles. The colour of the circles represents the year in which the radial zone was instigated: 2025 is green, 2024 is blue, 2023 is pink, 2022 is orange, and 2021 is brown. TB hotspot areas in the adjoining county of Cumbria are shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with its suffix, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control). Incidents in the adjacent Edge Area counties are not shown on this map.

Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection

All 3 new TB incidents starting in the North East of England in 2025 received a preliminary or final APHA veterinary investigation (Disease Report Form or 'DRF') to identify the likely source of *M. bovis* infection for the affected herds. The possible drivers of TB incidents are listed below, and the tabulated summary of identified risk pathways from these investigations and the subsequent calculated weighted

contribution are given in Appendix 3. Figure 9 shows the location of these OTF-S incidents.

Details of the protocol used for these investigations, and the subsequent methodology used to calculate the weighted contribution of the different suspected sources of infection can be found in the [explanatory supplement for the annual reports 2025](#).

The identified possible drivers of the occurrence of TB in cattle in the North East of England during 2025 were:

- movements of undetected infected cattle
- exposure to fomites

The infection risk pathway with the highest calculated weighted contribution for cattle herds with new TB incidents in 2025, from APHA veterinary investigations, was the movement of undetected, infected cattle into (and within) the North East (38.9%, Appendix 3), similar to 2024 (41.1%) but higher than 2023 (5.6%).

Exposure to fomites had a weighted contribution of 11.1%, which although higher than previous years (1.9% in 2024 and 0% from 2021 to 2023), was only assigned the lowest probability of 'possible' each time that it was selected.

Despite not being directly selected as a risk pathway, given the low certainty assigned to some other risk pathways, additional weighting is given to 'Other or unknown' source resulting in a weighted contribution of 50%.

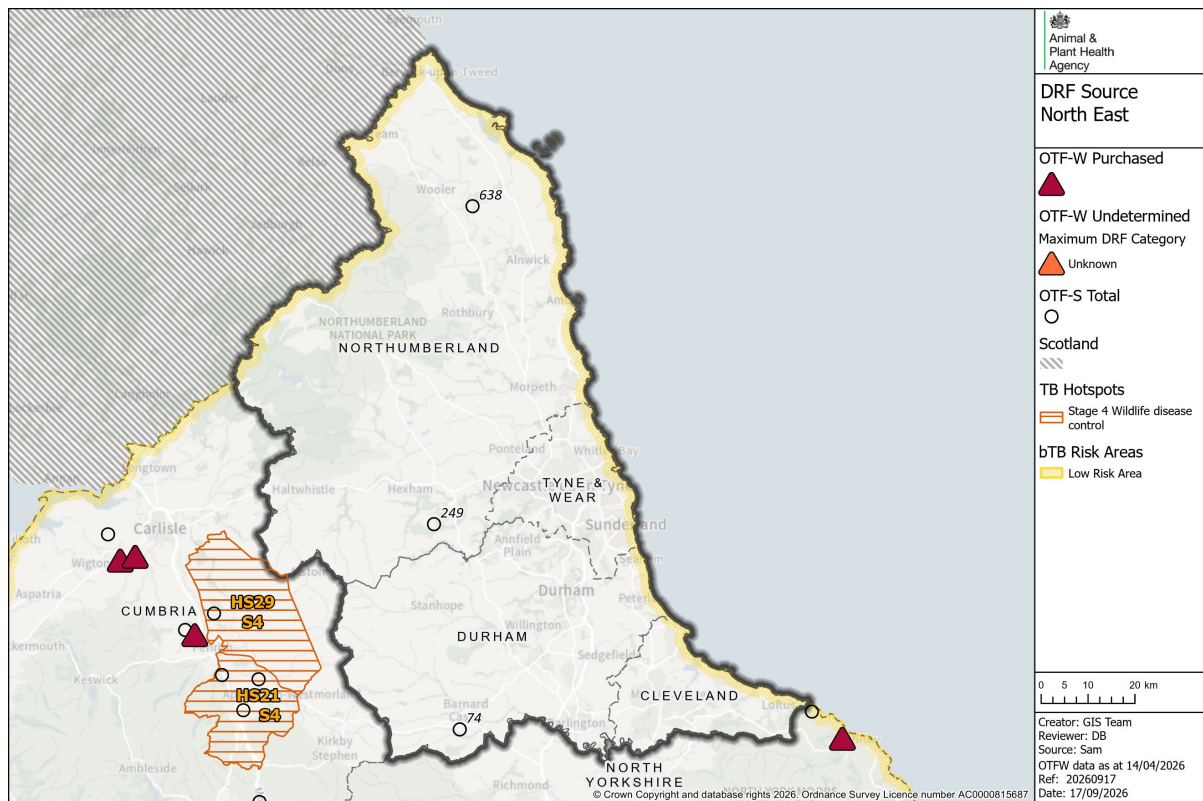


Figure 9: Map of the source of infection pathway recorded with the highest level of certainty, for OTF-W incidents, and the location of OTF-S incidents in the North East of England which started in 2025.

Figure 9 description: A map of the North East of England and adjoining areas showing the geographical location of cattle holdings with new OTF-W incidents in 2025 and the most likely source of infection. OTF-W incidents are shown as triangles in different colours which represent the source of infection with the highest level of certainty. Purchased refers to cattle movement risk pathways (shown as red triangles). Incidents with an undetermined pathway (shown as orange triangles) refers to incidents where a likely source of infection could not be ascertained. New OTF-S incidents in 2025 are shown as circles. TB hotspot areas in the adjoining county of Cumbria shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with its, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control). OTF-W incidents in the adjacent Edge Area counties are shown as small black triangles and OTF-S incidents as small white circles.

Forward look

The North East of England remains one of the LRA regions with the lowest number of incidents of TB in cattle. A very low number of reactors are typically disclosed in each of those sporadic incidents, which tend to be of a relatively short duration. As a result, the impact of TB is relatively low in the North East in 2025 in comparison with other areas of the country.

Although current monitoring and control measures are sufficient to maintain a low incidence of bovine TB in the North East of England, it remains important to raise awareness about the risks of unwittingly introducing the disease into the region. The clearly predominant risk pathway for this is via movements of undisclosed infected cattle into local herds and we have examples in other regions of the LRA where this has resulted in locally spreading disease and necessitating enhanced and costly control measures, mainly in the form of formal TB Hotspot areas established by APHA. The farming community should seek advice from private vets and other trusted advisers when making decisions about purchasing cattle. Farmers purchasing from England and Wales should also be encouraged to use the [ibTB](#) tool, which is now searchable by ear tag. Prudent cattle purchasing behaviour should be combined with renewed efforts to improve biosecurity because this is the next line of defence to prevent local spread of disease. Farm biosecurity advice can also be obtained from private vets, the [TB Advisory Service](#) and on the [TB Hub](#).

Given the history of bovine TB the area, the current control measures combined with due diligence in purchasing and farm biosecurity, will make it very likely that the North East of England can achieve OTF status by 2038.

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 the North East of England, by county.

Source: Sam

Size of herds	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
Undetermined	33	171	212	22
1 to 50	50	374	3,019	26
51 to 100	20	157	163	11
101 to 200	16	117	173	8
201 to 350	9	56	117	7
351 to 500	3	24	41	1
Greater than 500	7	23	37	0
Total number of herds	138	922	1,044	75

Table 2: Number of active cattle herds on the last day of the reporting year in the North East of England, by county, by herd size and herd type (dairy, beef, other and undetermined), in 2025.

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

Breed purpose	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
Beef	123 (89%)	826 (90%)	973 (93%)	69 (92%)
Dairy	11 (8%)	41 (4)	44 (4%)	4 (5%)
Other	3 (2%)	32 (3%)	17 (2%)	2 (3%)
Undetermined*	1 (1%)	23 (2%)	10 (1%)	0 (0%)
Total	138	922	1,044	75

* Undetermined herd type herds are those are for which a herd type record is not available in Sam.

Table 3: Number of active cattle herds in the North East of England between 2023 and 2025 by herd size and herd type (dairy, beef, other and undetermined). 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	Undetermined	Total
2023	0	353	13	30	2	398
2023	1 to 50	721	10	17	16	764
2023	51 to 100	362	9	1	4	376
2023	101 to 200	330	21	1	3	355
2023	201 to 350	172	23	1	1	197
2023	351 to 500	58	11	0	1	70
2023	Greater than 500	48	15	1	3	67
2023	Total	2,044	102	51	30	2,227
2024	0	375	12	26	13	426
2024	1 to 50	722	10	20	16	768
2024	51 to 100	345	10	2	4	361
2024	101 to 200	329	19	1	3	352
2024	201 to 350	158	20	1	2	181
2024	351 to 500	52	15	0	0	67
2024	Greater than 500	47	14	1	3	65
2024	Total	2,028	100	51	41	2,220
2025	0	389	10	30	9	438
2025	1 to 50	705	13	17	16	751
2025	51 to 100	342	4	3	2	351
2025	101 to 200	287	23	1	3	314
2025	201 to 350	162	24	2	1	189
2025	351 to 500	58	11	0	0	69
2025	Greater than 500	48	15	1	3	67
2025	Total	1,991	100	54	34	2,179

Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics

Table 4: Herd-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in the North East of England, by county in 2025.

Source: Sam

Herd-level statistics	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	137	889	1,033	75
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	3	125	24	1
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	27	279	232	11
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	27	223	227	11
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	135	886	1,027	74
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	137	889	1,032	75
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	1	2	0

Herd-level statistics	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	0	0	0
(g.3) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	1	2	0
(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	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	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	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	0
(h.5) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were first detected through routine slaughterhouse TB surveillance?	0	0	0	0

Herd-level statistics	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
(i.1) Number of new OTF-S incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	0	1	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	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	0
(k) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period that were on a finishing unit	0	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	0

Table 5: Animal-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in the North East of England, by county in 2025.

Source: Sam

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	2,276	27,604	24,913	568
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	0	386	0	0
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	2,276	27,990	24,913	568
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	0	1	3	0
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	0	7	0	0
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	0.00	8.00	1.50	0.00
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0.00	0.29	0.12	0.00
(e.1) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (dangerous contacts, including any first time IRs)	0	0	0	0
(e.2) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (private slaughters)	0	0	0	0

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Cleveland	Durham	Northumberland	Tyne and Wear
(f) Slaughterhouse (SLH) cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during routine meat inspection	0	0	3	0
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	0	0	0	0

Note (a.3) The total number of cattle tested may be lower than the sum of the numbers reported in (a.1) and (a.2), as some cattle may have undergone both a tuberculin skin test and an additional IFN- γ blood test and are counted only once in (a.3).

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.

Appendix 3: suspected sources of *M. bovis* infection for all the new OTF-W and OTF-S incidents identified in the report period

In 2025, 3 (100%) new TB incidents in the North East of England received a preliminary or final APHA veterinary investigation to identify the source of infection.

Each TB incident could have up to 3 potential risk pathways identified. Each risk pathway is given a score that reflects the likelihood of that pathway bringing TB into the herd. The score is recorded as either:

- definite (score 8)
- most likely (score 6)
- likely (score 4)
- possible (score 1)

The sources for each incident are weighted by the certainty ascribed. Any combination of definite, most likely, likely, or possible can contribute towards the overall picture for possible routes of introduction into a herd. If the overall score for a herd is less than 6, then the score is made up to 6 using the 'Other or unknown source' option. Buffering up to 6 in this way helps to reflect the uncertainty in assessments where only 'likely' or 'possible' sources are identified.

Table 6 combines the data from multiple herds and provides the proportion of pathways in which each source was identified, weighted by the certainty that each source caused the introduction of TB. The output does not show the proportion of herds where each pathway was identified (this is skewed by the certainty calculation). WGS of *M. bovis* isolates can be a powerful tool in identifying a likely source of infection, however WGS clades are not determined for OTF-S herds. As a result of varying levels of uncertainty, only broad generalisations should be made from these data. A more detailed description of this methodology is provided in the [explanatory supplement for the annual reports 2025](#).

Table 6: Suspected sources of M. bovis infection for the 3 incidents with a preliminary or a final veterinary assessment in North East of England, in 2025.

Source of infection	Possible (1)	Likely (4)	Most likely (6)	Definite (8)	Weighted contribution
Badgers	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Cattle movements	1	0	1	0	38.9%
Contiguous	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Residual cattle infection	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Domestic animals	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non-specific reactor	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fomites	2	0	0	0	11.1%
Other wildlife	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other or unknown source*	0	0	0	0	50.0%

Please note that each TB incident could have up to 3 potential pathways so totals may not equate to the number of actual incidents that have occurred.

* For the purpose of reflecting uncertainty in the overall picture, this pathway may be ascribed additional weighting where there is low certainty (such as 'possible' or 'likely') within other pathways.



© Crown copyright 2026

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. This licence can be found at this [link](#) or requested by this [email](#).

Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

This publication is available [Bovine TB epidemiology and surveillance in Great Britain](#).

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at the [National TB Epi Mailbox](#).

www.gov.uk/apha

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment, and the economy.