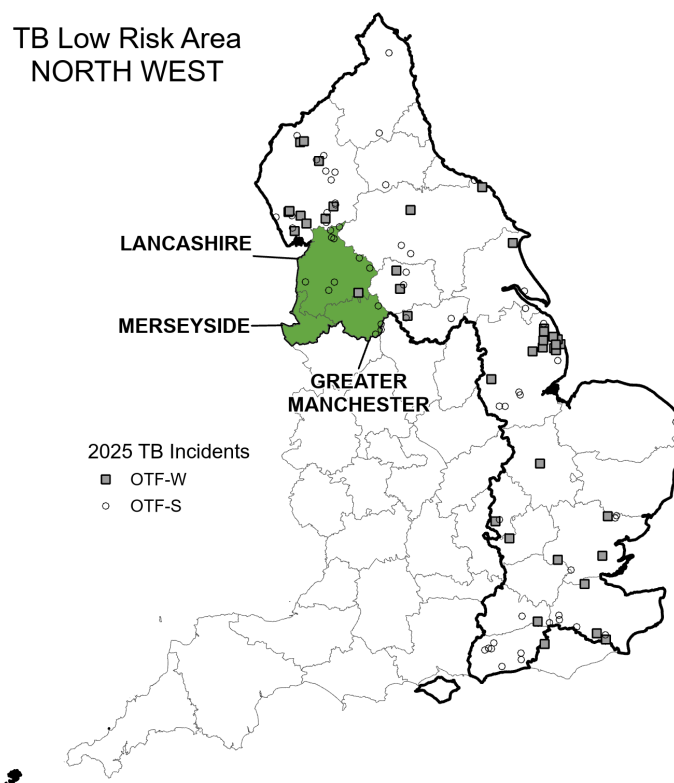




Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Year End Descriptive Epidemiology Report:

Bovine TB in the Low Risk Area of England 2025: North West of England



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Classification of TB incidents.....	3
Cattle industry.....	4
Number of new TB incidents.....	6
Disclosing TB surveillance method	9
Duration of TB incidents	10
Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed	12
Recurrent TB incidents	14
Three-year recurrence	14
Geographical distribution of TB incidents	16
Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection	19
TB hotspots	21
Hotspot 31.....	21
Forward look.....	22
Appendix 1: cattle industry demographics	24
Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics.....	26
Appendix 3: suspected sources of M. bovis infection for all the new OTF-W and OTF-S incidents identified in the report period	31

Introduction

This report describes the frequency and geographical distribution of TB in 2025 in cattle herds in the North West, 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 This includes both 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Withdrawn' (OTF-W) and 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Suspended' (OTF-S) incidents.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 2,318 active cattle herds registered in Sam (APHA's operational database) in the North West of England 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](#).

In 2025, the North West 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 was one LFU operating in Lancashire at the end of 2025.

In 2025, there were 1,610 beef herds, 595 dairy herds and 79 other herds active on the 31 December and 34 of undetermined type (Appendix 1). Over the last 10 years, the number of small beef herds with between one and 50 animals decreased steadily from 1,010 in 2016 to 814 in 2025. Despite the decline in these smaller herds, they remain the largest proportion of beef herds in the region (51%). Beef herds with more than 50 animals have remained relatively stable in number since 2016 (Figure 1).

The number and size of dairy herds have remained stable over the last 10 years. Approximately 79% of dairy herds in the North West have more than 100 cattle.

The number of herds in the 'Other' production type category have remained relatively low in number and consistent over 2023 to 2025 (Appendix 1). This category includes a range of herd types not limited to mixed herds, dealers, specialist breeders and non-standard holdings.

Appendix 2 provides a summary of headline cattle TB statistics in the North West of England.

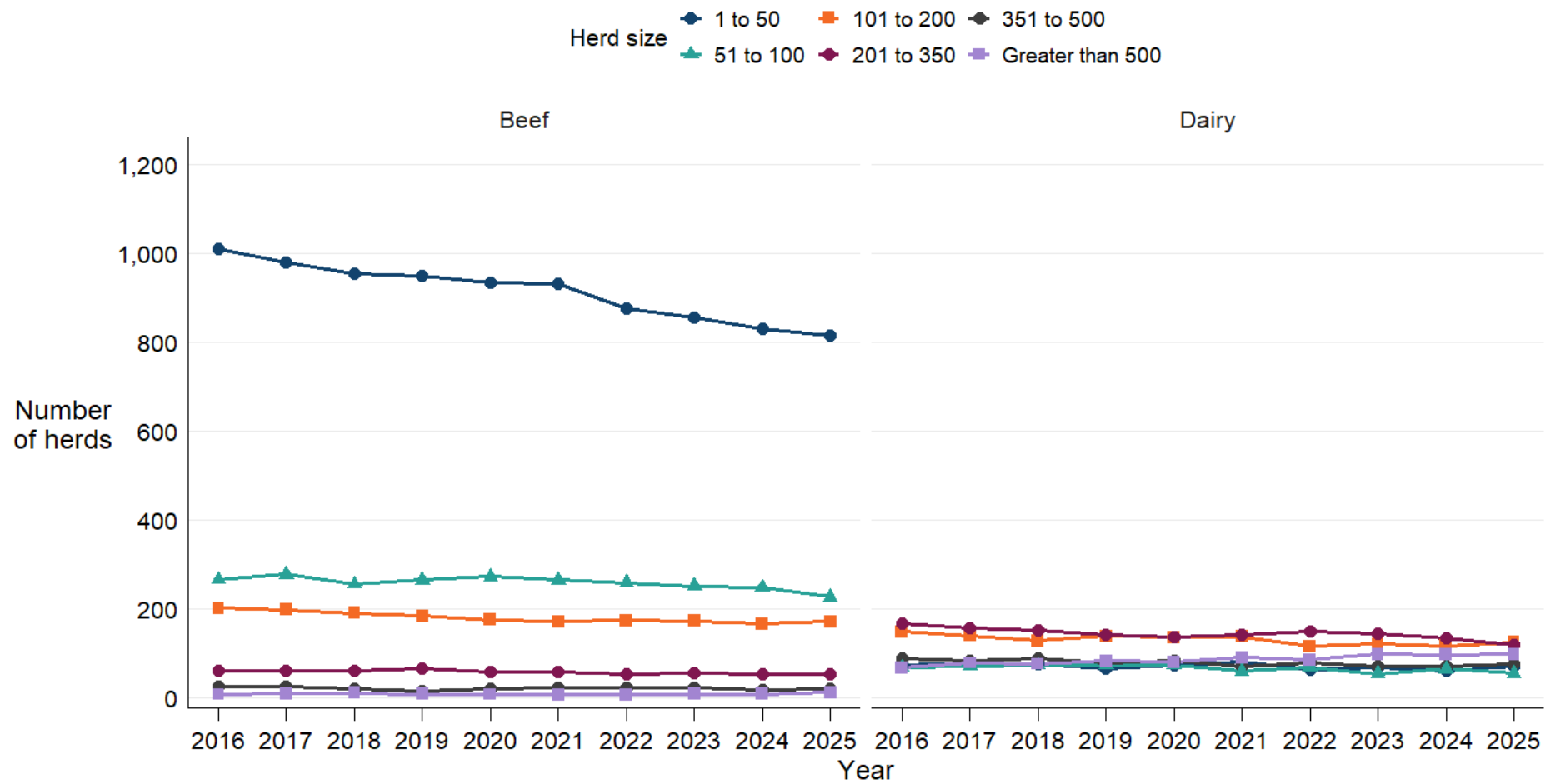


Figure 1: Number of herds with ≥ 1 animal on the last day of the reporting year in North West of England by herd size and herd type (dairy and beef), between 2016 to 2025.

Number of new TB incidents

In 2025, 14 new TB herd incidents were declared in the North West of England, one OTF-W and 13 OTF-S (Figures 2a to 2c). This represented a decrease of one TB incident (6.7%) compared to 2024.

The number of OTF-W incidents remained unchanged from 2024 (one incident). Since 2016, this figure has fluctuated between one and 9, peaking in 2022, before declining sharply to one.

The number of OTF-S incidents (13) was similar to 2024 (14) and has also declined overall since 2016 (17 to 13), with values ranging from 6 to 17 over the period.

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

In 2025, Lancashire recorded 10 new TB incidents, 2 less than in 2024, and down overall from 13 in 2016, with fluctuations between 8 and 17 (Figure 2a). Since 2016, OTF-W incidents fluctuated, with a gradual increase from none in 2018 to 5 in 2022. The number of OTF-W incidents decreased thereafter to one in both 2024 and 2025. In the last 10 years, OTF-S incidents in Lancashire have generally ranged between 9 and 13, with lower numbers reported in 2017 (2) and 2020 (6). In 2025, there were 9 OTF-S incidents, a reduction of 2 compared to 2024.

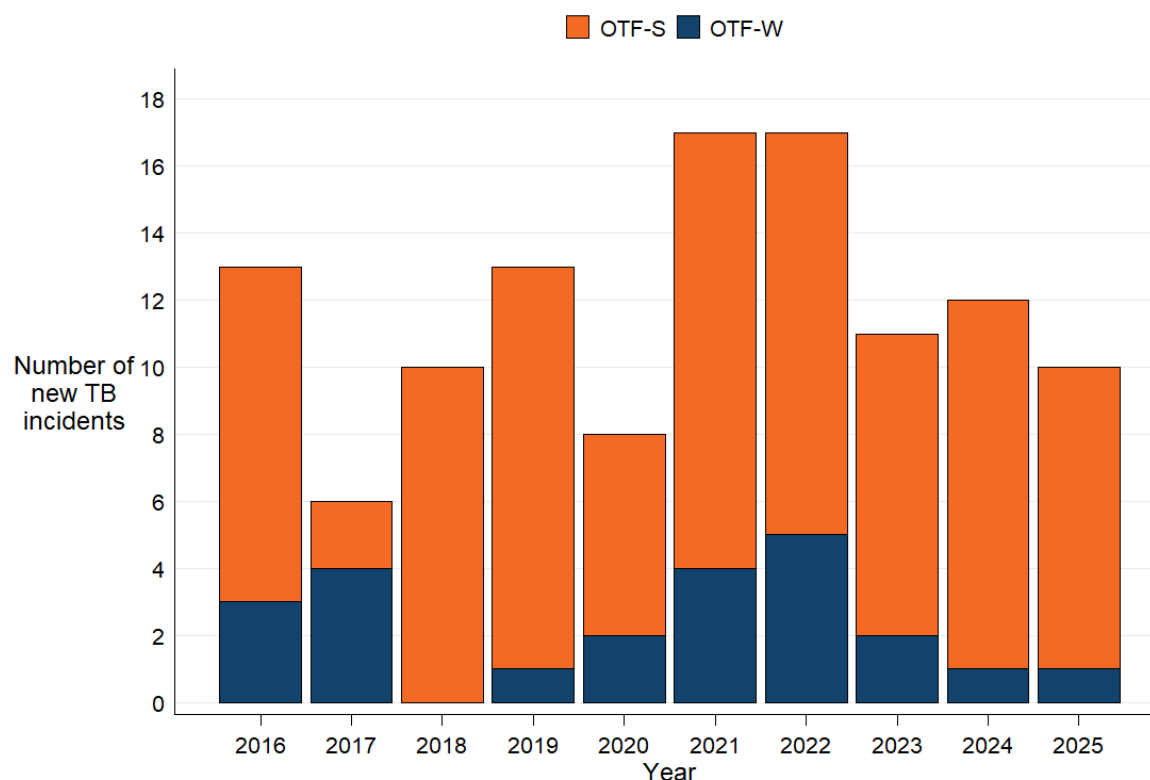


Figure 2a: Annual number of new TB incidents in Lancashire from 2016 to 2025.

In 2025, Greater Manchester recorded 4 new incidents, which was double the total number reported in 2024 (Figure 2b). The total number of incidents fluctuated since 2016, with a decrease from 7 in 2016 to 4 in 2018, followed by a steady increase to a peak of 9 incidents in 2022, then a subsequent decrease to 2 in 2024. There were no new OTF-W incidents in Greater Manchester in 2025, unchanged from 2024. The number of OTF-W incidents remained low between 2016 and 2018 before increasing to a peak of 5 in 2020. This was followed by a decrease to 2 in 2023. The number of OTF-S incidents doubled from 2 in 2024 to 4 in 2025 and has fluctuated over the last 10 years between one and 6.

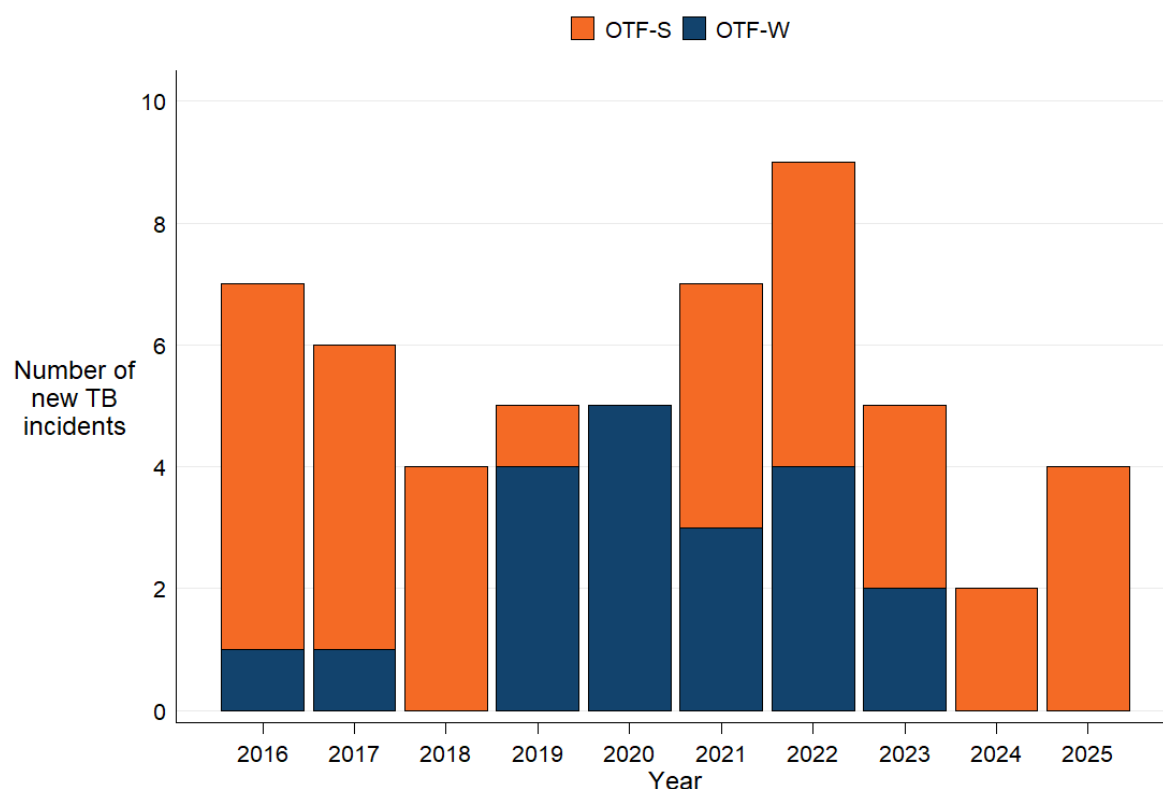


Figure 2b: Annual number of new TB incidents in Greater Manchester from 2016 to 2025.

There were no new incidents in Merseyside in 2025, compared to one in 2024 (Figure 2c). The total number of incidents in Merseyside has remained low since 2016. There were 2 incidents recorded in both 2017 and 2018, one incident in 2016, 2023 and 2024, and no new incidents between 2019 and 2022. There have been 3 OTF-W incidents reported in Merseyside, 2 in 2017 and one in 2018.

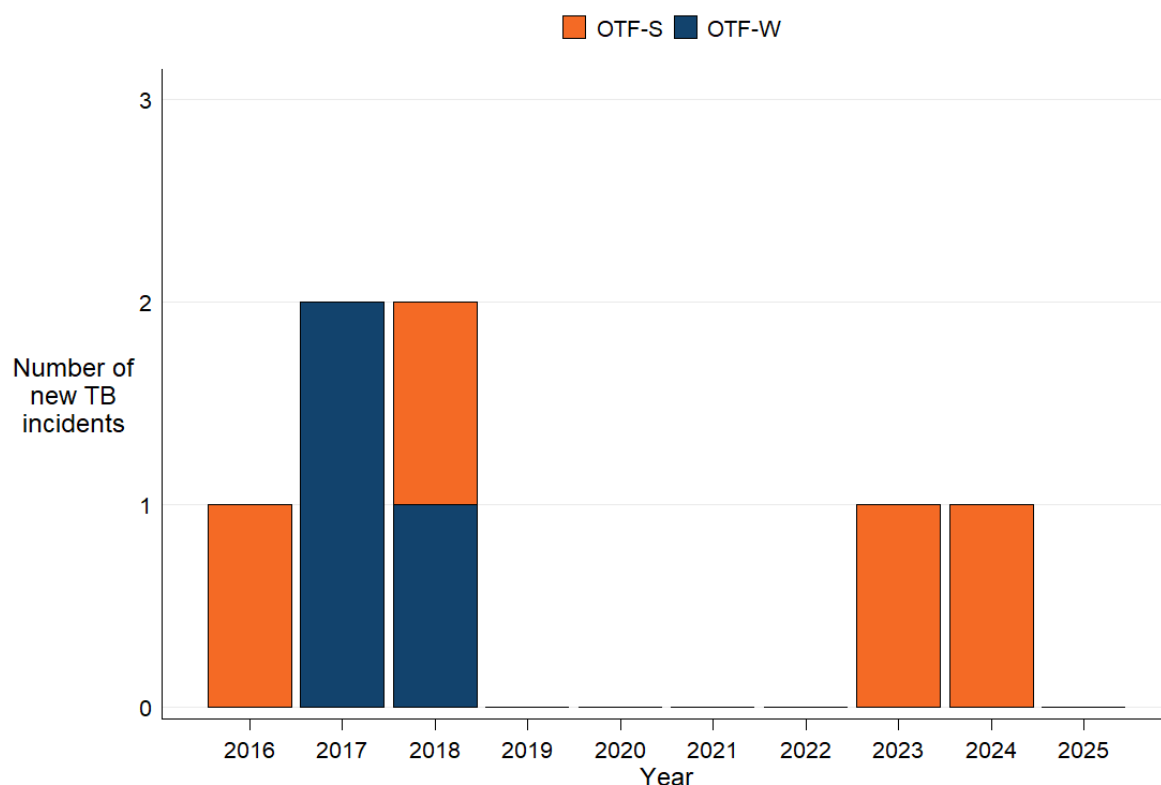


Figure 2c: Annual number of new TB incidents in Merseyside from 2016 to 2025.

Disclosing TB surveillance method

Six incidents were detected by targeted surveillance tests conducted around holdings affected by OTF-W incidents (commonly known as radial or ‘RAD’ tests). This was followed by 3 incidents detected by routine herd tests and 2 incidents by herd tests conducted 12 months after the conclusion of a TB incident (12M tests) (Figure 3). Trace testing, annual whole herd testing, and ‘other’ tests (which includes, but is not limited to, private testing), and export tests each disclosed one incident in 2025.

In Lancashire, 4 incidents were disclosed by radial tests (40%). This constitutes a slight decrease compared to 2024. Four-yearly routine herd testing (RHT) detected 3 incidents, which was consistent with the previous year. Trace testing, 12-monthly testing and other testing detected one incident each. Unlike 2024 and 2023, no incidents were detected by pre-movement testing.

In Greater Manchester, 2 new incidents were disclosed by radial testing, which was consistent with the previous year. One incident was detected through 12-monthly testing and one by annual whole herd testing.

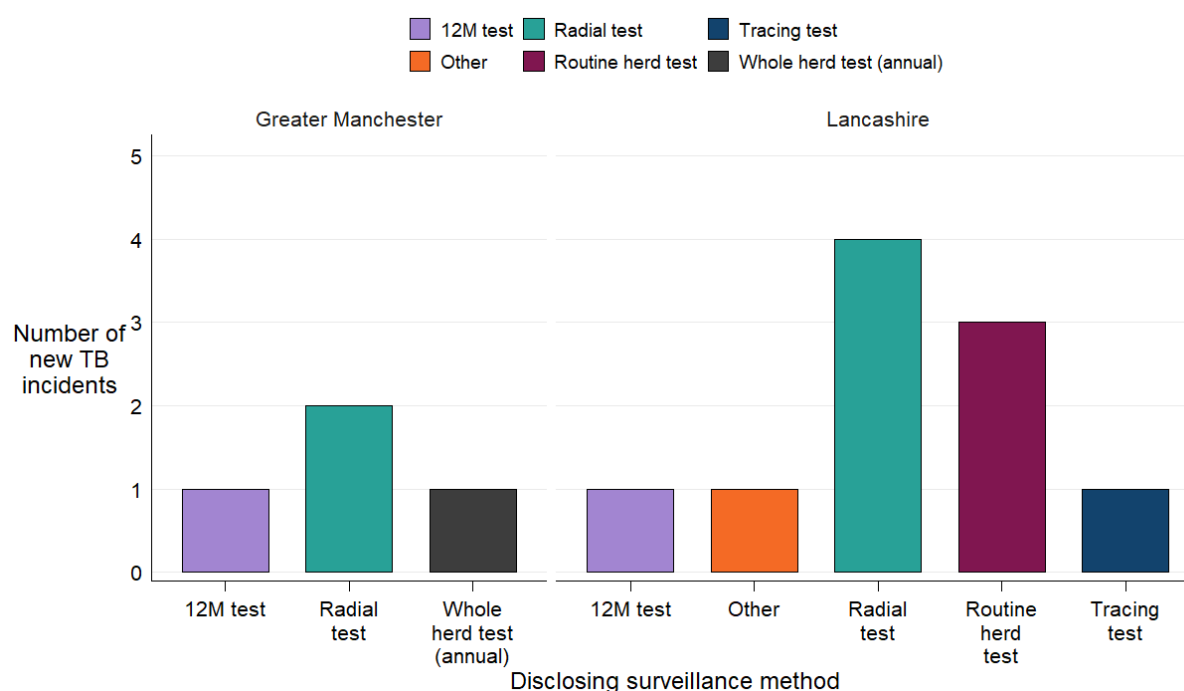


Figure 3: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in Greater Manchester and Lancashire in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

Merseyside was not included as there were no new incidents disclosed in 2025.

Duration of TB incidents

A total of 18 incidents were resolved across the region in 2025. Of these, 13 were in Lancashire (Figure 4a) and 5 in Greater Manchester (Figure 4b). Thirteen incidents started in 2025 and 5 started in 2024. None of those incidents were persistent (lasted more than 550 days).

Consistent with 2024, most of the OTF-S incidents resolved within 150 days. Six incidents were resolved quickly within 100 days and 7 within 101 and 150 days. Three OTF-S incidents were resolved within 151 and 240 days and one within 241 and 550 days.

The one OTF-W incident in Lancashire, which started in 2024, was resolved after 480 days, approximately twice as long as OTF-W incidents in the previous 2 years.

There were 2 incidents ongoing at the end of 2025, a reduction from 6 the previous year. One of those incidents (OTF-S) started in 2024. The other (OTF-W) was resolved in the first quarter of 2026.

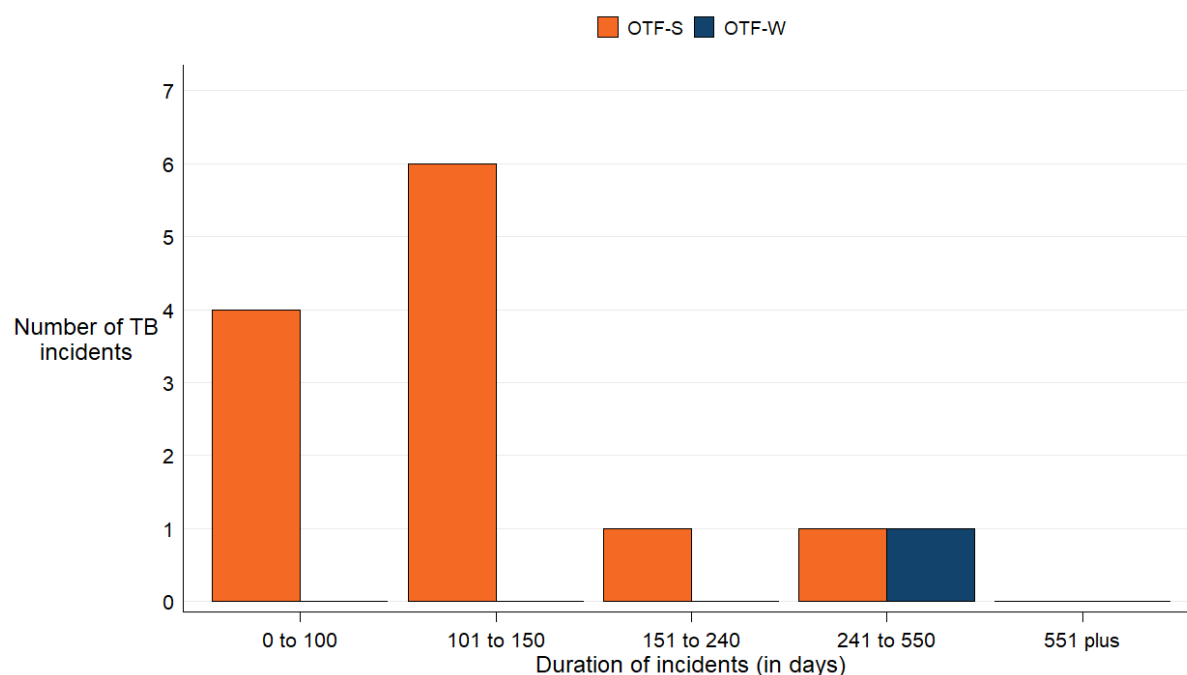


Figure 4a: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Lancashire in 2025.

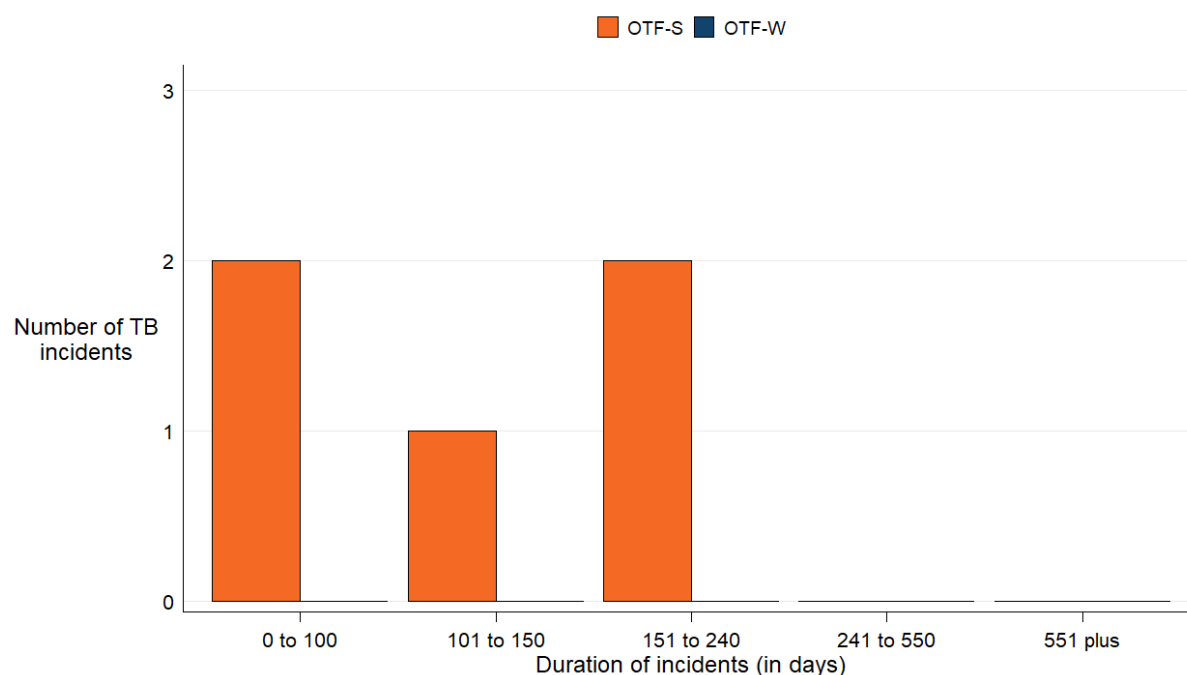


Figure 4b: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Greater Manchester in 2025.

Merseyside is not shown as there were no incidents that ended in 2025.

Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed

During 2025, a total of 28 cattle were removed as TB test reactors from incident herds in the North West (90 in 2024). All 28 cattle were skin test reactors (compared to 36 in 2024) and there were no cattle that tested positive to the supplementary interferon gamma blood test (IFN- γ) (compared to 54 in 2024). This represented a 68.9% decrease in the number of reactors removed in the region.

The number of skin test reactors decreased by 22.2% from 2024 to 2025. Decreases were seen in Lancashire (33 to 22) and Merseyside (one to 0). Increases were seen in Greater Manchester (2 to 6). In reality, these were small fluctuations in the context of the number of incidents in each year.

The number of IFN- γ test reactors decreased by 100% from 54 in Lancashire in 2024 to 0 in 2025. The 2024 figure was driven by a single incident in a large herd. In 2025, there has been one OTF-W incident in a small herd which required IFN- γ test, but all the sampled animals were negative.

In Lancashire, the number of IFN- γ reactors in 2025 was the lowest annual number recorded since 2020, and the same as in 2016 and 2018 (0) (Figure 5a). In the other years, the numbers fluctuated between one and 58. There were 22 skin tests reactors removed in Lancashire in 2025. The annual numbers ranged between 12 and 26 from 2016 to 2023, with a peak in 2021. In 2024, the number of skin test reactors doubled to 33 from 16 the previous year.

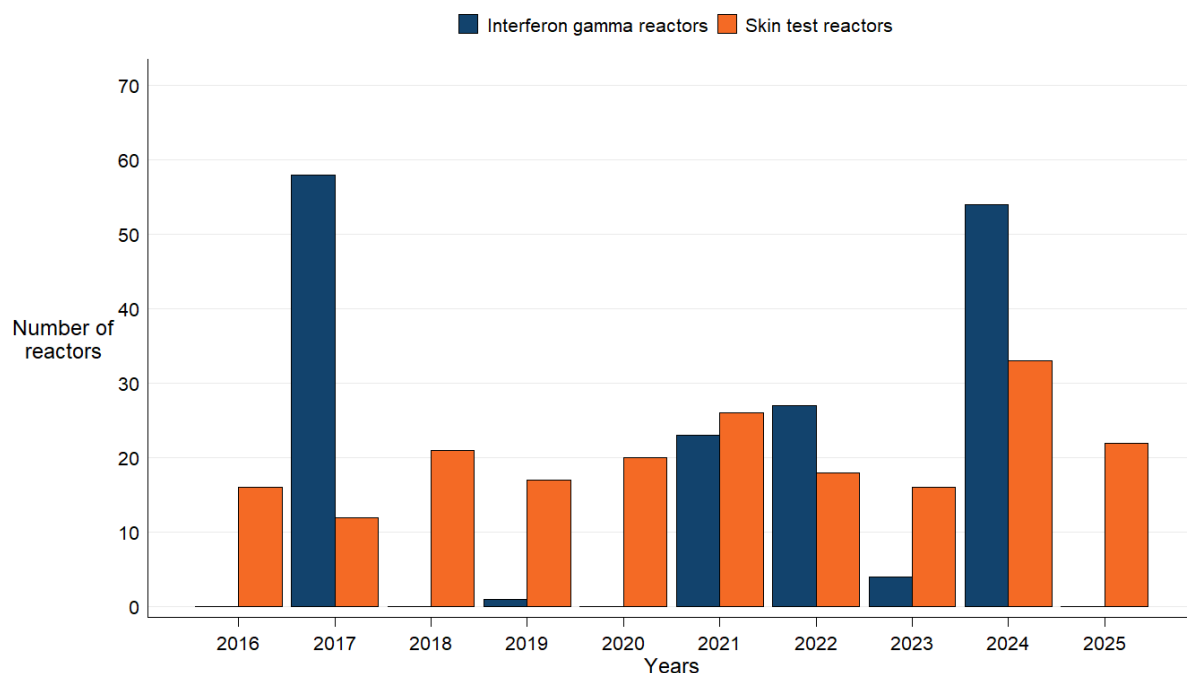


Figure 5a: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Lancashire from 2016 to 2025.

Over the last 10 years, the number of IFN- γ test reactors removed in Greater Manchester typically ranged between 9 and 0, except for a large spike of 20 IFN- γ reactors removed in 2021 (Figure 5b). In 2024 and 2025, there were no IFN- γ test reactors. The number of skin test reactors fluctuated between 2 and 12. Since 2022, the numbers decreased from 12 to 2 in 2024, with a subsequent increase to 6 in 2025.

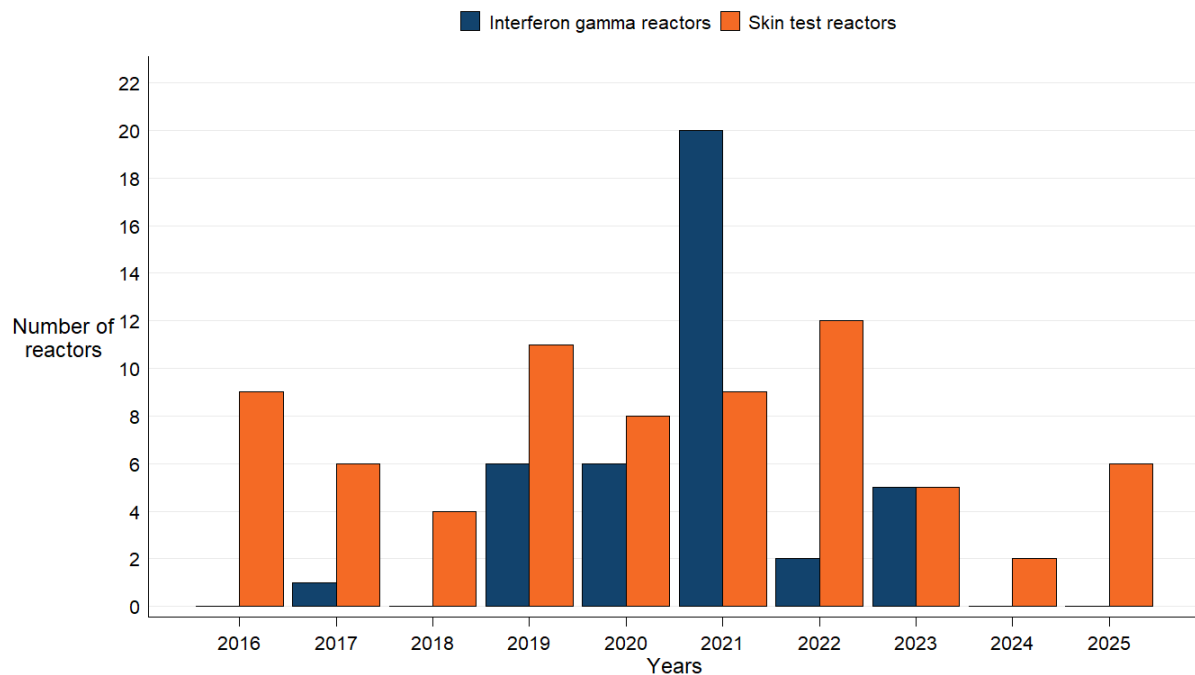


Figure 5b: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Greater Manchester from 2016 to 2025.

In Merseyside, there were no skin test reactors in 2025, the same as in 2019 to 2022 (Figure 5c). There were 6 skin test reactors in 2017, 3 in 2016, 2 in 2023, and one each in 2018 and 2024. There have only been 4 IFN- γ test reactors from herds in Merseyside, all in 2017. No IFN- γ reactors have been disclosed since then.

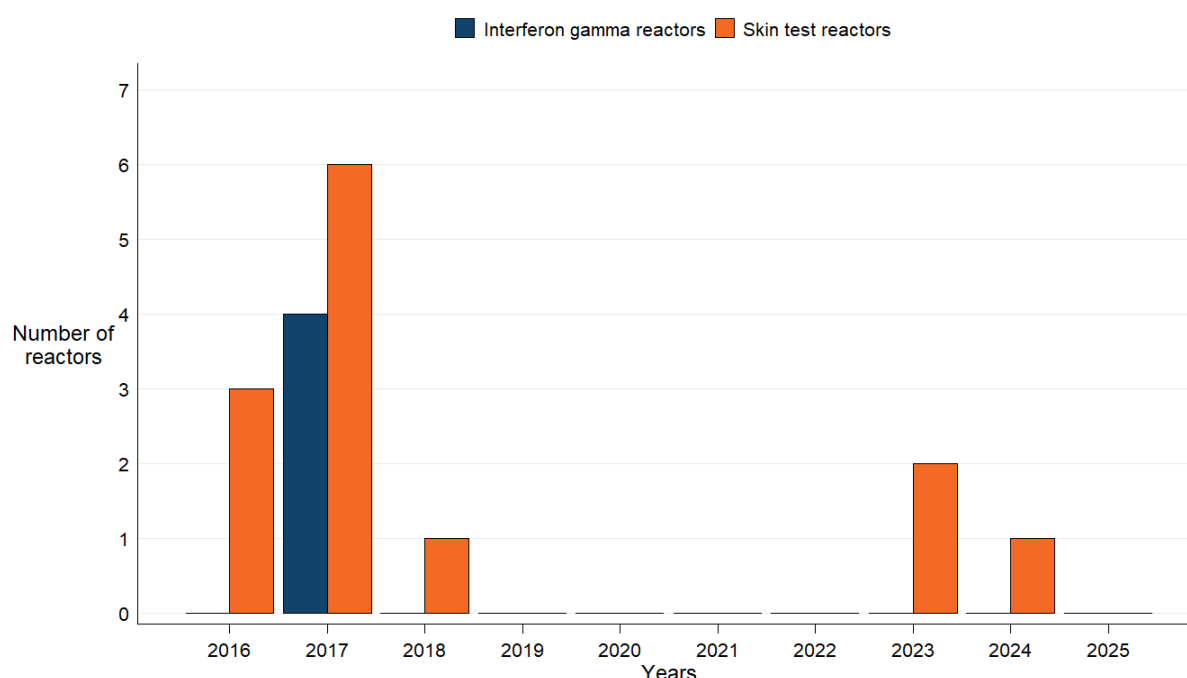


Figure 5c: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Merseyside from 2016 to 2025.

Recurrent TB incidents

Three-year recurrence

The one herd with an OTF-W incident in 2025 had not experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years (Figures 6a and 6b). Of the 13 herds with a new OTF-S TB incident, 2 (15%) had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years.

The North West of England had the third highest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA (14%), but still below the average for the LRA (19%). The lowest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA was in the North East (0%), followed by Lincolnshire (5%), Yorkshire and Humberside (13%), the North West (14%) and Cumbria (21%). The South East (34%) had the highest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA.

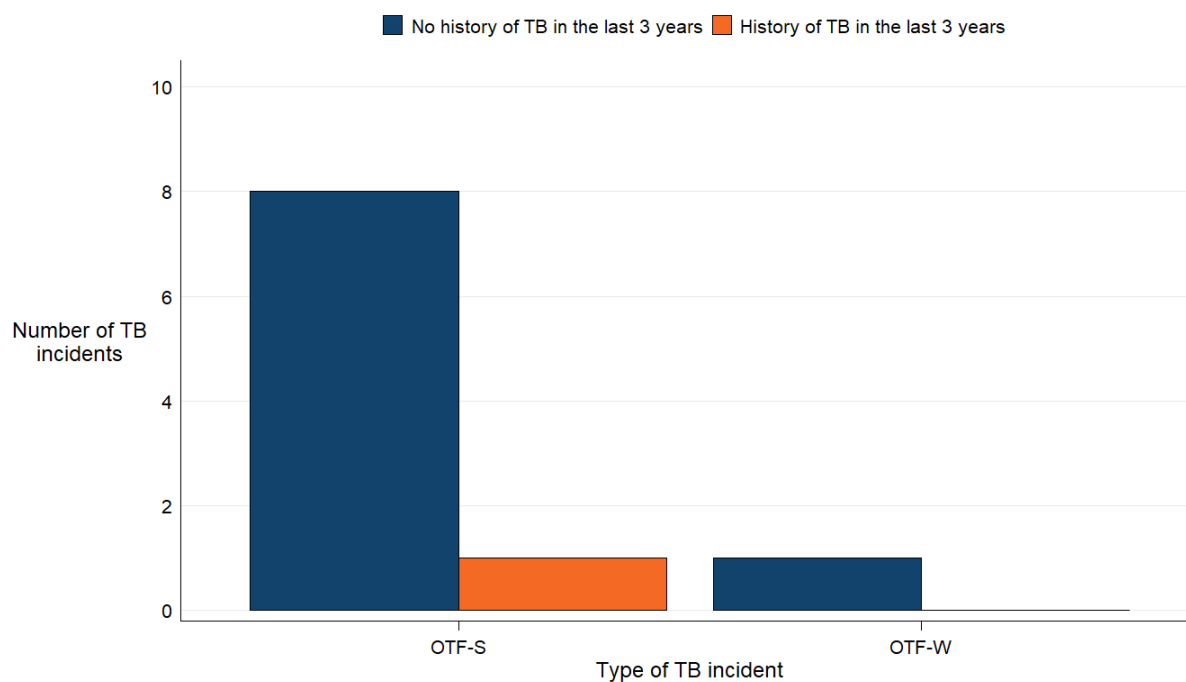


Figure 6a: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Lancashire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

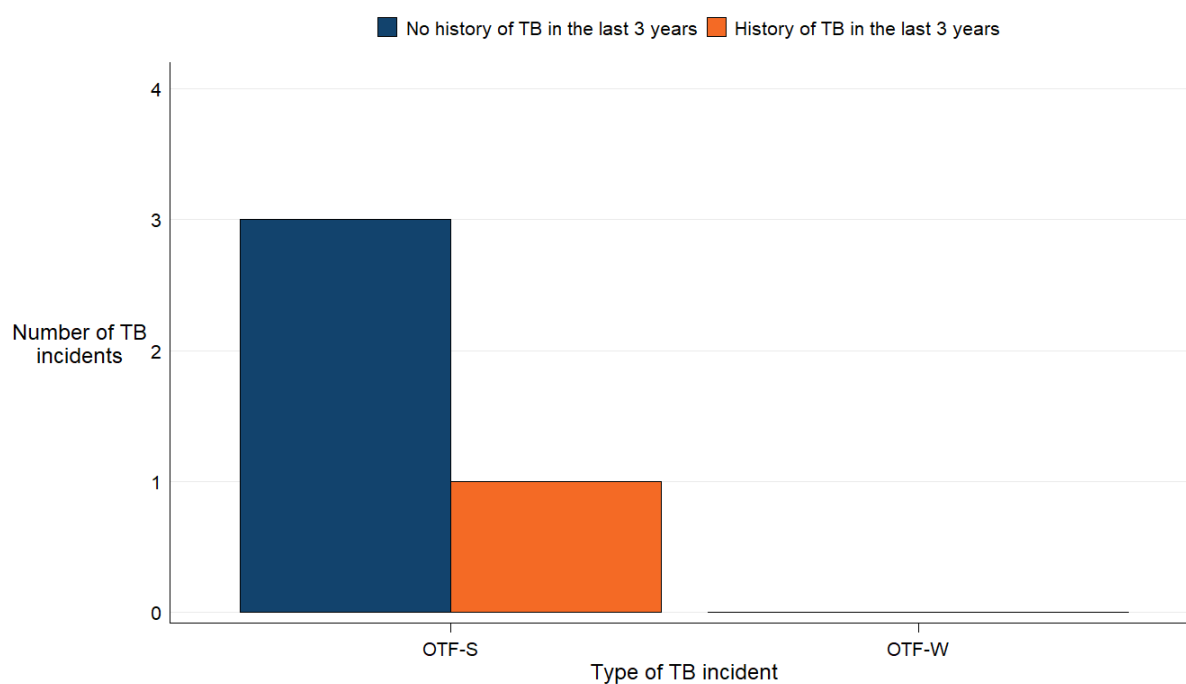


Figure 6b: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Greater Manchester in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

Geographical distribution of TB incidents

As in previous years, most new TB incidents in Lancashire continued to occur in areas of higher cattle density in the north and centre of the county (Figure 7). However, there was an OTF-W incident WGS (Whole Genome Sequencing) clade B3-11 (incident 339, Figure 7) which occurred in the south near the border with Greater Manchester. There have been no other OTF-W incidents disclosed in this area over the preceding 10 years but there were a few OTF-S incidents between 2019 and 2022. The source of this incident was unclear, with cattle movements from the LRA and exposure to infected wild deer both considered possible. The homerange for clade B3-11 spans much of Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, north-east of Shropshire and parts of Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

There was a cluster of 4 OTF-S incidents in the north of Lancashire near the border with Cumbria (incidents 8, 13, 251 and 501, Figure 7). New incidents have sporadically occurred in this area along the Lune Valley over the last 10 years. It could be an extension of the area of concern in south Cumbria, where there was one new OTF-W incident and one new OTF-S incident in 2025. One of the North Lancashire incidents was detected by a tracing test, the other 3 were detected by RAD testing or a subsequent Inconclusive Reactor (IR) test triggered by initial IR disclosure at RAD test. There is currently no known epidemiological link between these incidents. One had a high likelihood of being attributable to purchased infected cattle based on the application of the cattle movement algorithm. The source for the other 3 was unclear with several risk pathways considered possible. More data is needed to determine whether these were unrelated detections due to increased testing or early indications of possible local spread. This area of concern spanning the border of Lancashire and Cumbria is being closely monitored. There have been several OTF-W incidents within the area since 2021, but all have either been different clades or too geographically disparate to imply locally spreading disease.

One new OTF-S incident emerged in the higher cattle density area of central Lancashire (incident 61, Figure 7). This incident occurred to the east of Preston, an area that has experienced sporadic OTF-W and OTF-S incidents in recent years. Clade B3-11 was isolated from 3 incidents in that area from 2019 to 2020. Two were in 2020 and, although found in the same branch of the B3-11 clade, were not closely related. The third one occurred in 2019 and was genetically unrelated. More recently, in 2022, there were 2 new OTF-W incidents around the higher cattle density area to the east of Preston. WGS clade B6-11 was isolated from one and B6-82 from the other. OTF-W incidents in this area currently do not provide evidence for locally spreading disease.

One OTF-S incident (incident 828, Figure 7) was identified to the south of Preston. This incident appears to be isolated. There have been several OTF-S incidents in this area over preceding years and one OTF-W incident in 2016.

Two of the OTF-S incidents in Lancashire were detected towards the east of the county close to the border with North Yorkshire (incidents 89 and 509, Figure 7).

These were located near the location of former TB Hotspot 27 (HS27), which was closed in Autumn 2024 due to the absence of evidence for locally spreading disease. The more southern one of the 2 had had a previous incident in 2017. There have been sporadic OTF-S and OTF-W incidents in this area over the preceding 10 years, but OTF-W incidents do not provide evidence for local spread of infection.

One OTF-S incident (incident 67, Figure 7) occurred in West Lancashire towards the border with Merseyside. In the previous years, there was one OTF-W incident detected in the area in 2023, which was associated with clade B6-86 (uncommon in Great Britain).

Three OTF-S incidents (incidents 17, 38 and 495, Figure 7) disclosed in Greater Manchester occurred in the south-east of the county near Stockport. Small numbers of both OTF-W and OTF-S incidents have continuously occurred in this area since 2020. Two of these incidents were located within Hotspot 31 (HS31) and one to the north of the hotspot at the Derbyshire border. The other OTF-S incident (incident 508, Figure 7) was located on the east of Greater Manchester, to the south of the West Yorkshire border. The incident was located close to a B1-11 OTF-W incident detected in 2023 and there was on other OTF-S to the north in 2022, but this area has been otherwise clear of incidents.

There were no new incidents detected in Merseyside in 2025.

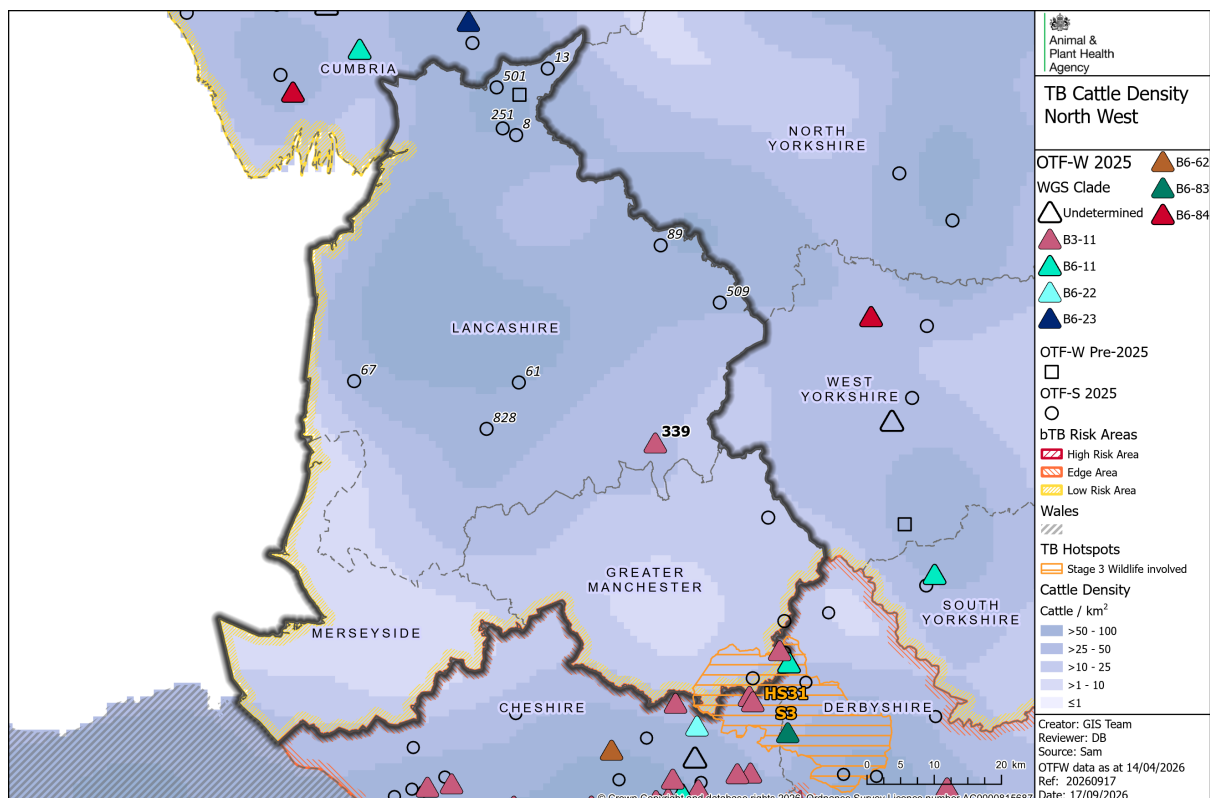


Figure 7: Location of cattle holdings in North West of England with new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in 2025, and cattle incident holdings with pre-2025 OTF-W incidents still ongoing at the beginning of 2025, overlaid on a cattle density (as in 2024) map.

Figure 7 description: A map of the North West 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 incident 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 blue represents clade B6-22, light green represents clade B6-11, light brown represents clade B6-62, dark green represents clade B6-83, red represents B6-84 and transparent triangles represent incidents where the WGS clade was undetermined. Dark blue areas represent higher cattle density and light blue represent lower cattle density. The geographical location of TB hotspots is shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with the suffix S3, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: orange is stage 3 (S3 is wildlife involved). All new TB incidents occurring in the reporting county or region in 2025 are numbered on the map. Unnumbered new incidents appearing within the reporting county or region relate to herds registered in a neighbouring county and are therefore reported elsewhere. Some 2025 incidents may not be visible on the map where they overlap with, or occur in very close proximity to, another incident. The location of new TB incidents are described in the main text.

In Lancashire, there was one new active radial TB surveillance zone in the south of the region in 2025 (radial zone 339). WGS clade B3-11 was isolated from TB reactor cattle during the OTF-W incident which triggered this radial zone. So far, radial testing here has not identified any further incidents, which could provide an early indication that disease is not spreading locally. No other radial zones have been initiated in this area since before 2012 (Figure 8).

Several radial zones that were initiated in 2023 and 2024 in Lancashire were still active in 2025, 2 initiated in 2024 towards the north, and 2 initiated in 2023 towards the centre and east of the county.

In Greater Manchester, OTF-W incidents and associated radial zones have continuously occurred since before 2020 in the south-east of the region near Stockport, bordering Cheshire and Derbyshire which is now part of HS31. In 2024 and 2025, no new radial zones were triggered in this area.

In Merseyside, there were no new active or ongoing radial zones in 2025.

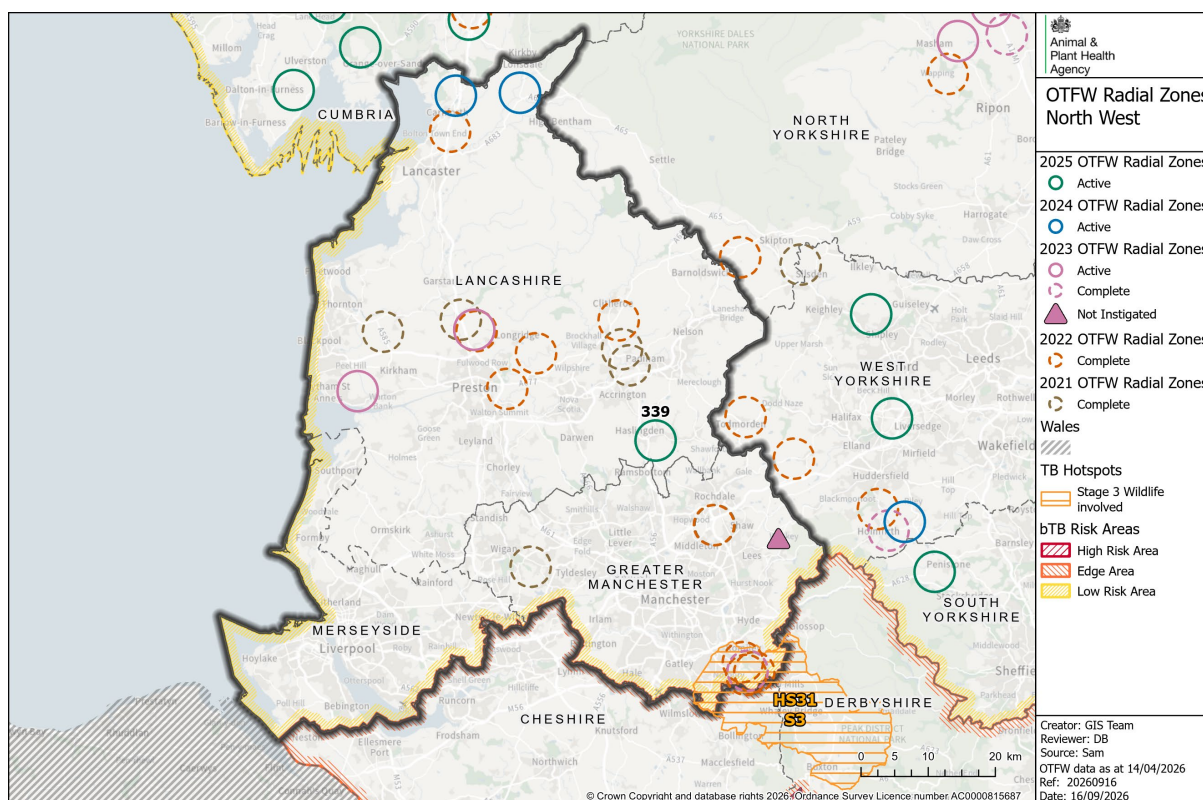


Figure 8: Hotspot areas and radial surveillance zones around OTF-W incidents that were active, completed or not instigated in North West of England during 2025, by year of initiation.

Figure 8 description: A map of North West 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 are shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with its suffix, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: light orange is stage 3 (S3 is wildlife involved).

Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection

In 2025, 11 out of 14 (79%) new TB incidents in North West of England 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 tabulated summary of identified risk pathways from these investigations and the subsequent calculated weighted contribution are given in Appendix 3.

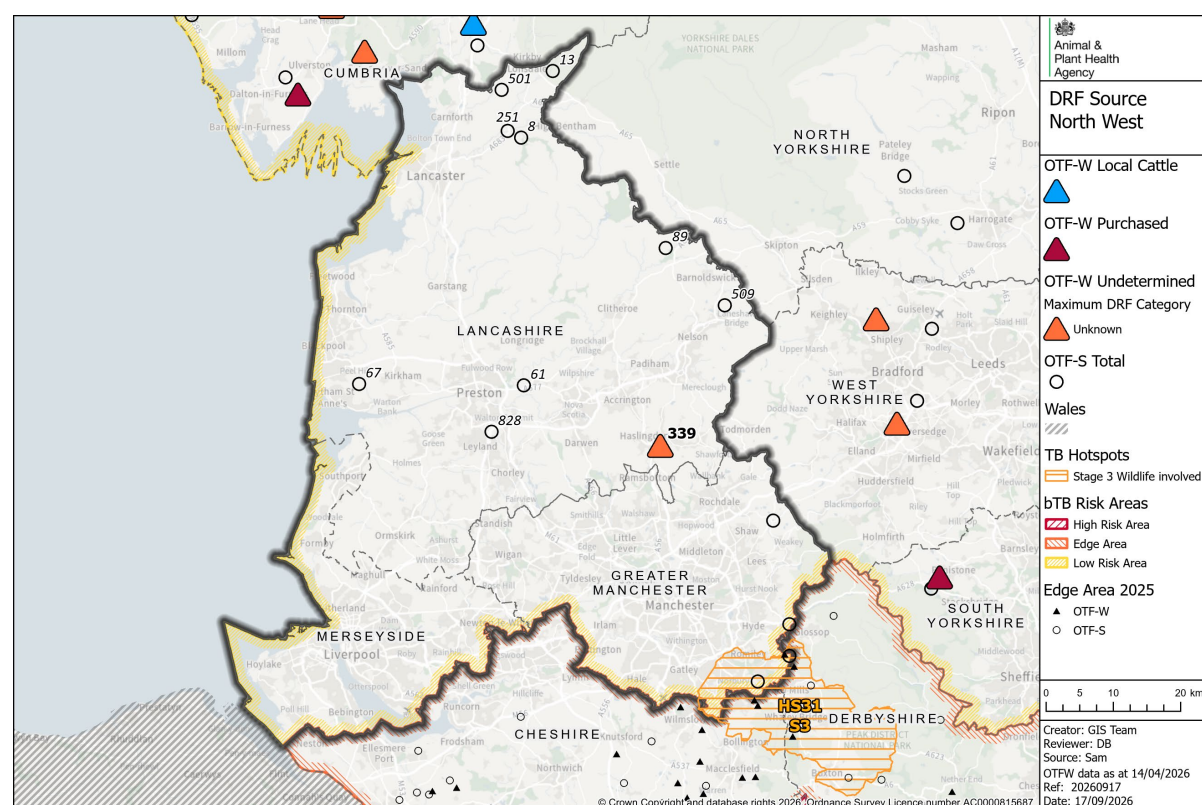
Details of the protocol used for these investigations, and the subsequent methodology used to calculate the weighted contribution of the different suspected

sources of infection can be found in the [explanatory supplement for the annual reports 2025](#).

The specific infection risk pathway with the highest calculated weighted contribution for cattle herds in the North West in 2025, identified during APHA veterinary investigations, was movement of undetected, infected cattle into (and within) the county (32.8%, Appendix 3). This was higher than in 2024 (30.1%) and 2023 (23.5%).

However, other or unknown sources has a weighted contribution of 39.4%. 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.

As shown in Figure 9, the source of infection for the one OTF-W incident in south Lancashire (incident 339) was undetermined ('Other or unknown').



triangles) refer to incidents where a most likely source of infection could not be ascertained. New OTF-S incidents in 2025 are shown as circles. TB hotspot areas are shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with its suffix S3, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: light orange is stage 3 (S3 is wildlife involved).

TB hotspots

In this report the number of incidents per year in each Hotspot has been gathered using field veterinarian data. Previously, spatial GIS data was used to inform whether an incident was inside of a designated Hotspot. This change may create discrepancies between the number of incidents per year reported here, compared to previous reports.

Furthermore, incidents shown on the maps (Figures 7 to 9) are point located at the centre of their County Parish Holding number (CPH). Incidents discussed in this section may also include holdings which are point located outside the boundary, but with land inside the hotspot boundary.

Further details on TB hotspots in the [Low Risk Area of England](#) can be found following the link.

There was one hotspot active in the North West: Hotspot 31 (HS31).

Hotspot 31

HS31 was established in October 2025 following detection of a cluster of cattle TB incidents associated with clade B3-11 (formerly known as genotype 25:a) of *M. bovis*. This hotspot straddles the border between Greater Manchester, and the Edge Area counties of Cheshire and Derbyshire. Herds in the Greater Manchester and Derbyshire portions of this hotspot are subject to annual whole herd testing by default, whereas herds in the Cheshire portion undergo 6-monthly testing.

In the area that is now established as HS31, there were 9 new incidents in 2025, 5 OTF-W and 4 OTF-S. Of these, 2 occurred in the Greater Manchester portion both of which were OTF-S (and started prior to October 2025). In the Cheshire portion, there were 2 OTF-W incidents and in the Derbyshire portion, there were 3 OTF-W incidents and 2 OTF-S incidents (Figure 7).

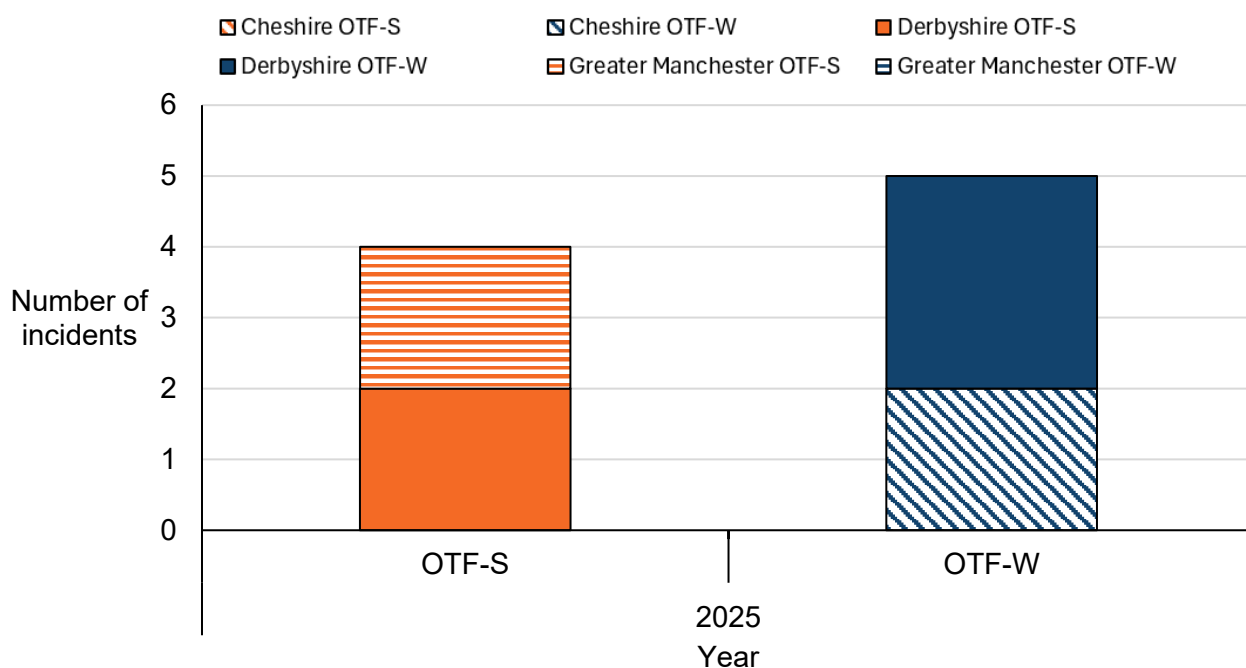


Figure 10: Annual number of new TB incidents detected in HS31 in 2025.

Forward look

The total number of incidents in the North West slightly declined compared to the previous 5 years. Moreover, the predominance of OTF-S incidents in the area suggests that TB-infected herds are being detected earlier, which reduces the risk of onward spread. This is a positive trend and demonstrates that current surveillance and incident management measures in the area are effective.

Cattle movement from higher risk areas of England and Wales continues to present a significant risk pathway for TB infection in this region. It is important that farmers exercise due diligence in their approach to purchasing cattle by seeking advice from private vets and other trusted advisers and using the interactive TB mapping tool [ibTB](#), which is now searchable by ear tag. Where the business model for fattening herds is amenable, consideration could be given to becoming an LFU. One of the criteria for establishing an LFU is that they should be wildlife proof, which helps to prevent spillover of disease into wildlife and possible local spread to other cattle.

The area of concern to the north of Lancashire, which extends across the border into Cumbria, is being monitored. It is not clear whether the increase in incidents through the Lune Valley are related to this, but the whole area will remain under review.

HS31 was set up in 2025 in order to implement enhanced bTB surveillance and control measures with the aim of ensuring that disease did not continue to spread into Greater Manchester from adjacent Edge Area counties, particularly Derbyshire.

Given the low incidence of the disease in the region, reaching OTF status by 2038 remains realistic in the North West, provided that current controls are maintained, the farming community takes measures to mitigate for the risk posed by purchased cattle and additional actions can be taken in areas of concern as necessary. This will be underpinned by the new bTB control strategy for England, which focuses on risk-based cattle controls, enhanced testing and introduction of BCG vaccination for cattle by 2030.

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 West of England, by county.

Source: Sam

Size of herds	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside
0	92 (22%)	324 (18%)	10 (19%)
1 to 50	231 (55%)	679 (37%)	18 (34%)
51 to 100	44 (10%)	237 (13%)	10 (19%)
101 to 200	35 (8%)	253 (14%)	9 (17%)
201 to 350	16 (4%)	153 (8%)	3 (6%)
351 to 500	2 (0.5%)	92 (5%)	1 (2%)
Greater than 500	2 (0.5%)	105 (6%)	2 (4%)
Total number of herds	422	1,843	53

Table 2: Number of active cattle herds on the last day of the reporting year in the North West 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	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside
Beef	350 (83%)	1,216 (66%)	44 (83%)
Dairy	48 (11%)	539 (29%)	8 (15%)
Other	20 (5%)	58 (3%)	1 (2%)
Undetermined*	4 (1%)	30 (2%)	1 (2%)
Total	422	1,843	53

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

Table 3: Number of active cattle herds in the North West 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	354	51	41	5	451
2023	1 to 50	856	67	27	37	987
2023	51 to 100	251	53	2	0	306
2023	101 to 200	172	121	8	0	301
2023	201 to 350	54	143	0	1	198
2023	351 to 500	21	71	1	1	94
2023	Greater than 500	8	97	0	1	106
2023	Total	1,716	603	79	45	2,443
2024	0	359	59	42	10	470
2024	1 to 50	830	59	25	26	940
2024	51 to 100	247	64	4	0	315
2024	101 to 200	166	117	5	2	290
2024	201 to 350	52	134	0	1	187
2024	351 to 500	18	70	1	1	90
2024	Greater than 500	8	96	0	1	105
2024	Total	1,680	599	77	41	2,397
2025	0	316	58	46	6	426
2025	1 to 50	814	69	19	26	928
2025	51 to 100	226	54	10	1	291
2025	101 to 200	171	124	2	0	297
2025	201 to 350	52	119	1	0	172
2025	351 to 500	20	74	1	0	95
2025	Greater than 500	11	97	0	1	109
2025	Total	1,610	595	79	34	2,318

Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics

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

Source: Sam

Herd-level statistics	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	418	1,812	53
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	64	156	7
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	125	471	10
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	105	447	10
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	404	1,792	51
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	418	1,810	53
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	4	9	0
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	1	0
(g.3) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	4	10	0

Herd-level statistics	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside
(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	1	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 (conducted in active radial zones)	2	4	0
(i.2) Number of new OTF-W incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (conducted in active radial zones)	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	1	0
(k) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period that were on a finishing unit	0	1	0

Herd-level statistics	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside
(I) 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 5: Animal-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in the North West of England, by county in 2025.

Source: Sam

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	9,088	85,631	1,296
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	0	14	0
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	9,088	85,645	1,296
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	6	22	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	1.50	2.20	0
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0.66	0.26	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)	3	3	0
(f) Slaughterhouse (SLH) cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during routine meat inspection	0	6	0
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	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, 11 out of 14 (79%) new TB incidents in North West 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 11 incidents with a preliminary or a final veterinary assessment in North West of England, in 2025.

Source of infection	Possible (1)	Likely (4)	Most likely (6)	Definite (8)	Weighted contribution
Badgers	4	1	0	0	9.6%
Cattle movements	3	3	2	0	32.8%
Contiguous	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Residual cattle infection	1	0	0	0	1.5%
Domestic animals	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non-specific reactor (NSR)	3	0	0	0	4.5%
Fomites	4	0	0	0	6.1%
Other wildlife	4	0	0	0	6.1%
Other or unknown source*	1	0	0	0	39.4%

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.