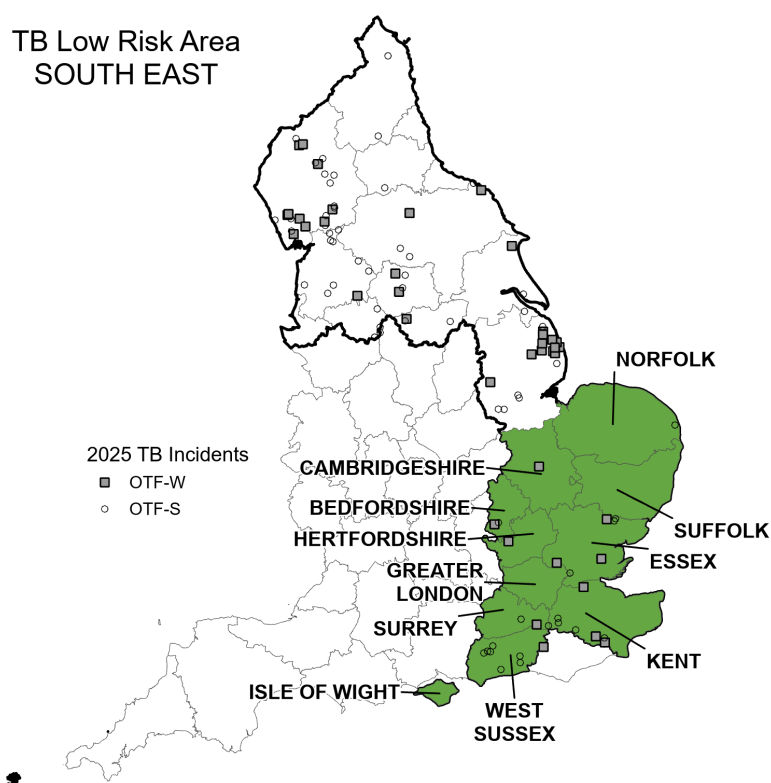




Animal & Plant Health Agency

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



Contents

Introduction	3
Classification of TB incidents	3
Cattle industry	4
Number of new TB incidents	6
Disclosing TB surveillance method	16
Duration of TB incidents	19
Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed	25
Recurrent TB incidents	36
Three-year recurrence	36
Geographical distribution of TB incidents	41
Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection	46
TB hotspots	49
Hotspot 30	49
Forward look	51
Appendix 1: cattle industry demographics	53
Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics	57
Appendix 3: suspected sources of M. bovis infection for all the new OTF-W and OTF-S incidents identified in the report period	72

Introduction

This report describes the frequency and geographical distribution of TB in 2025 in cattle herds in the South East of England (excluding East Sussex), which are 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 This includes both 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Withdrawn' (OTF-W) and 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Suspended' (OTF-S) incidents.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 4,172 cattle herds registered in the South East 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 South East.

In 2025 there were 4 livestock markets operating in the South East, located in Essex, Kent and Norfolk, and a collection centre operating in Essex. These were used regularly to trade cattle within and outside the South East region. There were no sales or collections approved by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for the onward movement of cattle from TB-restricted premises directly to a slaughterhouse (SLH) in this region. Approved dedicated sales of negatively tested cattle from TB-restricted herds ('orange markets') are not permitted within the LRA and therefore do not operate within the South East region.

There were 8 LFUs in operation in the South East of England during 2025: 3 in Cambridgeshire, 2 in Norfolk, and one each in Bedfordshire, Essex and Suffolk. Those 8 LFUs recorded no new TB incidents in 2025, but 2 incidents were ongoing in LFUs in Cambridgeshire at the end of the year.

There were 3,579 beef herds, 402 dairy herds and 148 other herds active at the end of 2025 (Appendix 1). Over the last 10 years beef herds of size 1 to 50 animals have consistently been predominant in the area but they have declined in number over this time (from 2,035 herds in 2016 to 1,718 in 2025). The number of all other sizes of beef herds has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years. The number of dairy herds in the area has remained low and stable in the same period (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).

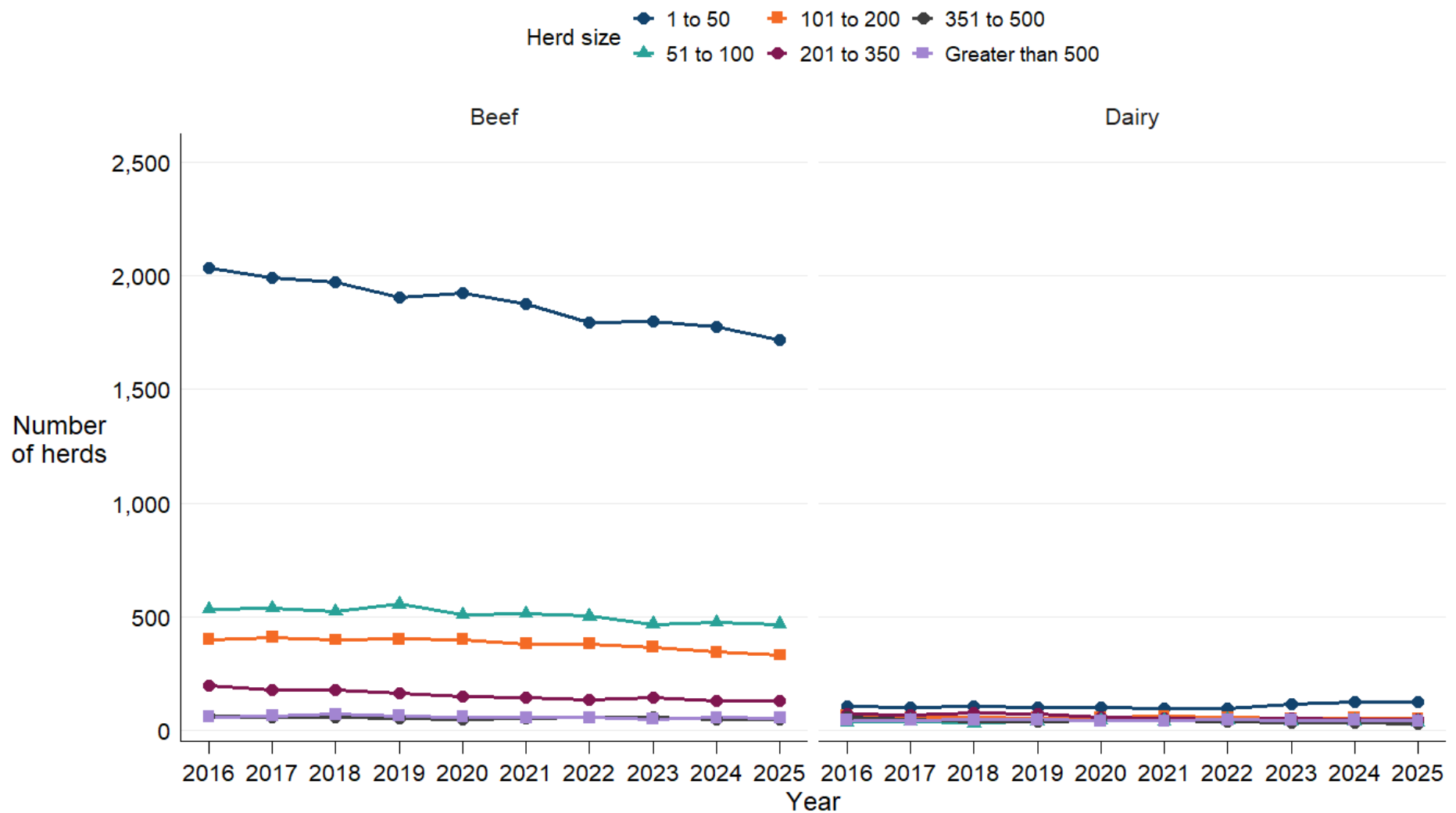


Figure 1: Number of herds with ≥ 1 animal on the last day of the reporting year in the South East of England by herd size and herd type (dairy and beef), between 2016 to 2025.

Number of new TB incidents

In 2025, 29 new TB herd incidents were declared in the South East, 11 OTF-W and 18 OTF-S (Figures 2a to 2k). This represented an increase of 6 TB incidents (26%) compared to 2024. The 11 new OTF-W incidents detected in 2025 represented an increase of 5 from 6 in 2024, and there was also an increase in the number of OTF-S incidents, from 14 in 2024 to 18 in 2025.

In all the counties of the South 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.

Increases in the total number of incidents from 2024 were observed in Essex (2 to 6), Kent (1 to 7) and West Sussex (6 to 8), whereas fewer incidents occurred in Hertfordshire (2 to 1), Isle of Wight (2 to 0), Norfolk (2 to 1), Suffolk (1 to 0) and Surrey (4 to 3). The number of incidents remained unchanged in Bedfordshire (2), Cambridgeshire (1) and Greater London (0).

The total number of incidents in Bedfordshire was unchanged from 2024 (1 OTF-W and 1 OTF-S). Apart from 2019, 2021 and 2025 when the total number of new incidents was 6, 4 and 3, respectively, the annual number of new incidents in this county since 2016 did not exceed 2. There were 3 OTF-W incidents in 2021, 2 each in 2017 and 2018 and one each in 2016 and 2020. No OTF-W incidents were detected in 2019 and 2022. One new OTF-S incident was detected in most years, except for 4 in 2018, 3 in 2023, and none in 2017 or 2022 (Figure 2a).

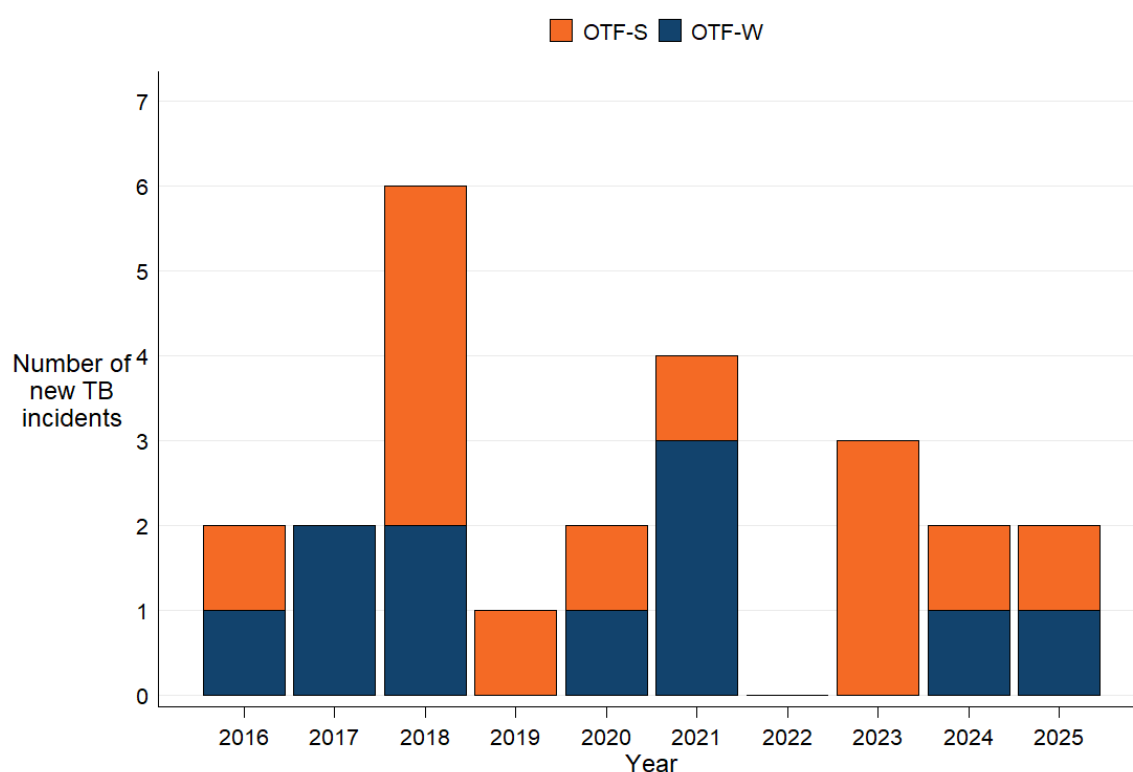


Figure 2a: Annual number of new TB incidents in Bedfordshire from 2016 to 2025.

In Cambridgeshire, one new OTF-W incident was detected in 2025, the first in this county since 2022. There was one OTF-W incident detected in each of 2016, 2021 and 2022, and 2 in 2018 and 2019. There were no new OTF-W incidents in 2017, 2020, 2023 and 2024. The number of OTF-S incidents in this county fluctuated in the last 10 years from 0 to 2, apart from the 5 detected in 2022 (Figure 2b).

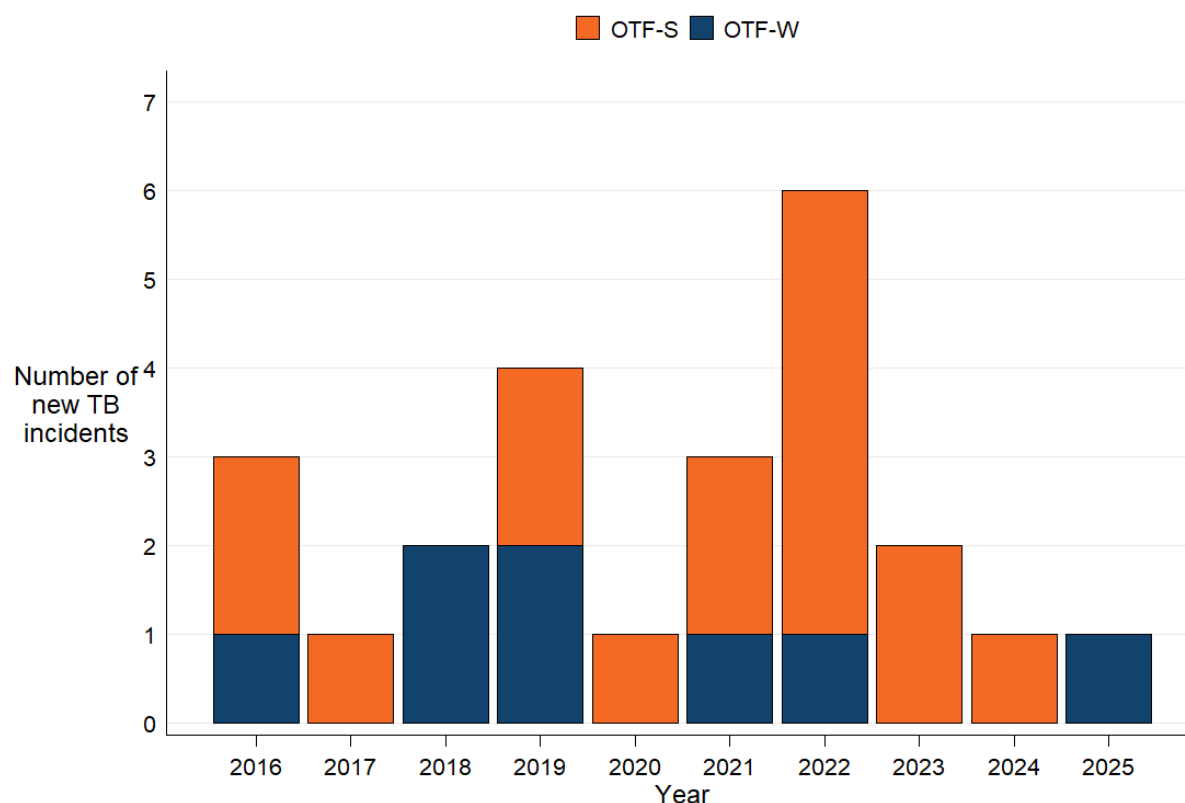


Figure 2b: Annual number of new TB incidents in Cambridgeshire from 2016 to 2025.

There were 3 OTF-W and 3 OTF-S new incidents in Essex in 2025, an increase from the 2 OTF-S incidents found in 2024. The number of OTF-W incidents ranged from 0 to 3 in the last 10 years, with no clear trend up or down. No OTF-W incidents were reported in 2018, 2023 and 2024. The number of OTF-S incidents ranged between 0 and 7, again with no obvious trend over the 2016-2026 period. No OTF-S incidents were detected in 2020 (Figure 2c).

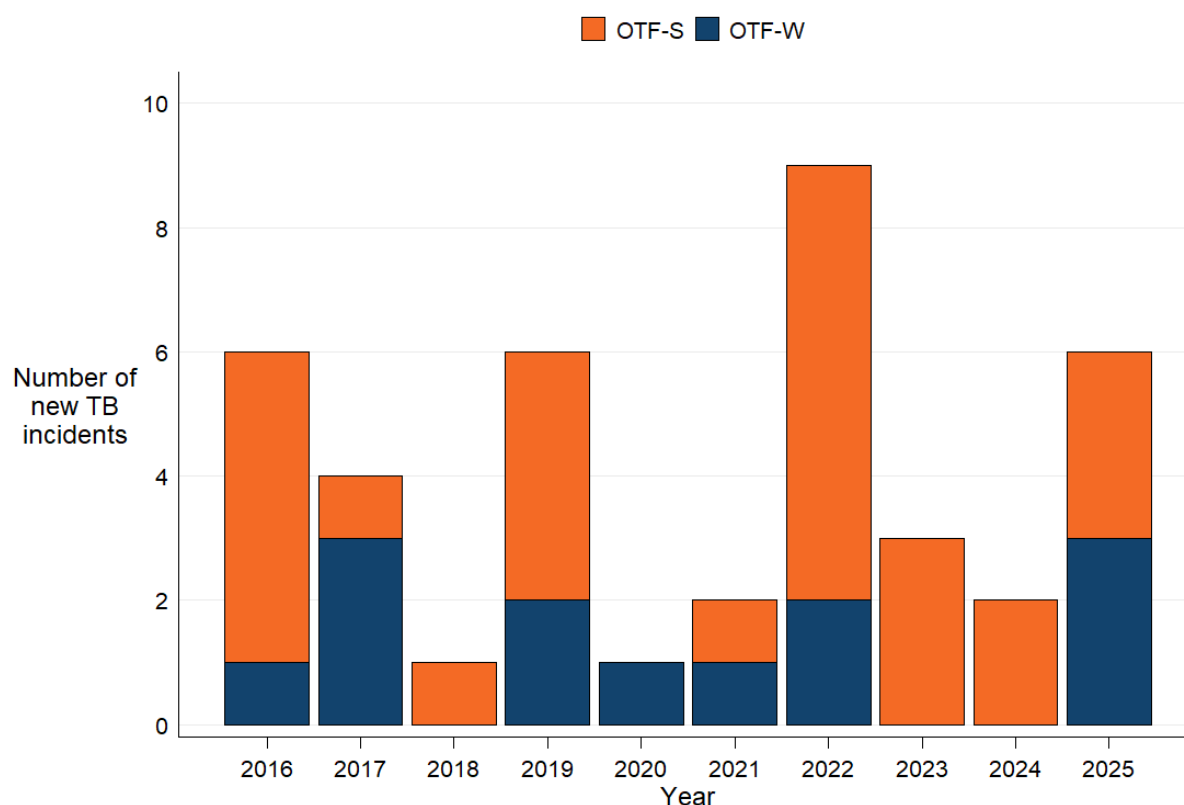


Figure 2c: Annual number of new TB incidents in Essex from 2016 to 2025.

There have been no new incidents detected in Greater London since 2023. In the last 10 years, only one OTF-W incident was recorded in 2019 and one OTF-S incident each in 2018, 2020 and 2022 (Figure 2d).

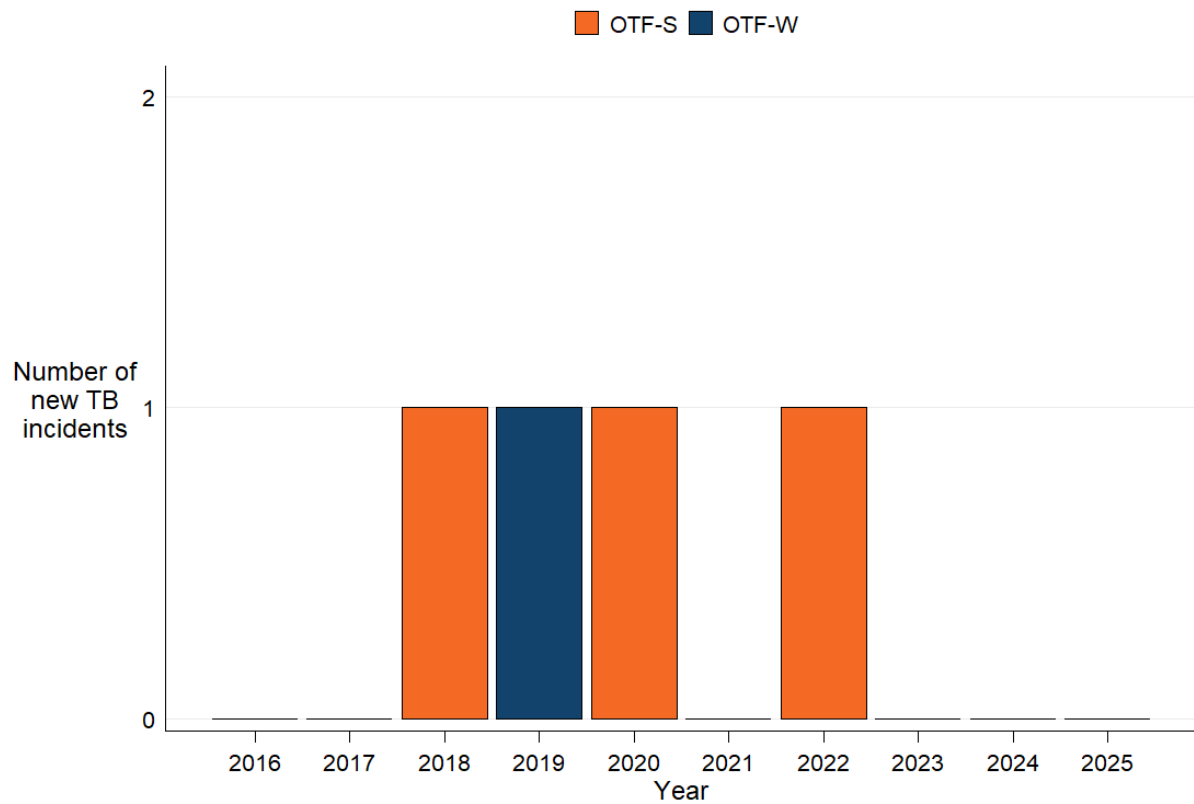


Figure 2d: Annual number of new TB incidents in Greater London from 2016 to 2025.

In Hertfordshire there was one new OTF-W incident in 2025, which was the lowest number of incidents detected since 2017 and the second consecutive year with a declining total number of incidents (5 in 2023 and 2 in 2024). There were no incidents in 2016 followed by a steady increase to 5 incidents in 2019, then a decrease to 2 in 2022. The total number of incidents increased to 5 in 2023, driven by Hotspot 30, but this trend has now reversed.

The annual number of OTF-W incidents fluctuated between 1 and 3 since 2017, with peaks of 3 in both 2021 and 2023, and 2 each in 2018 and 2024. The number of OTF-S incidents increased from one each in 2017 and 2018 to 4 in 2019. There was a decrease to 3 in 2020 and then one each in 2021 and 2022, followed by an increase to 2 in 2023. No OTF-S incidents have been reported in the county since 2023 (Figure 2e).

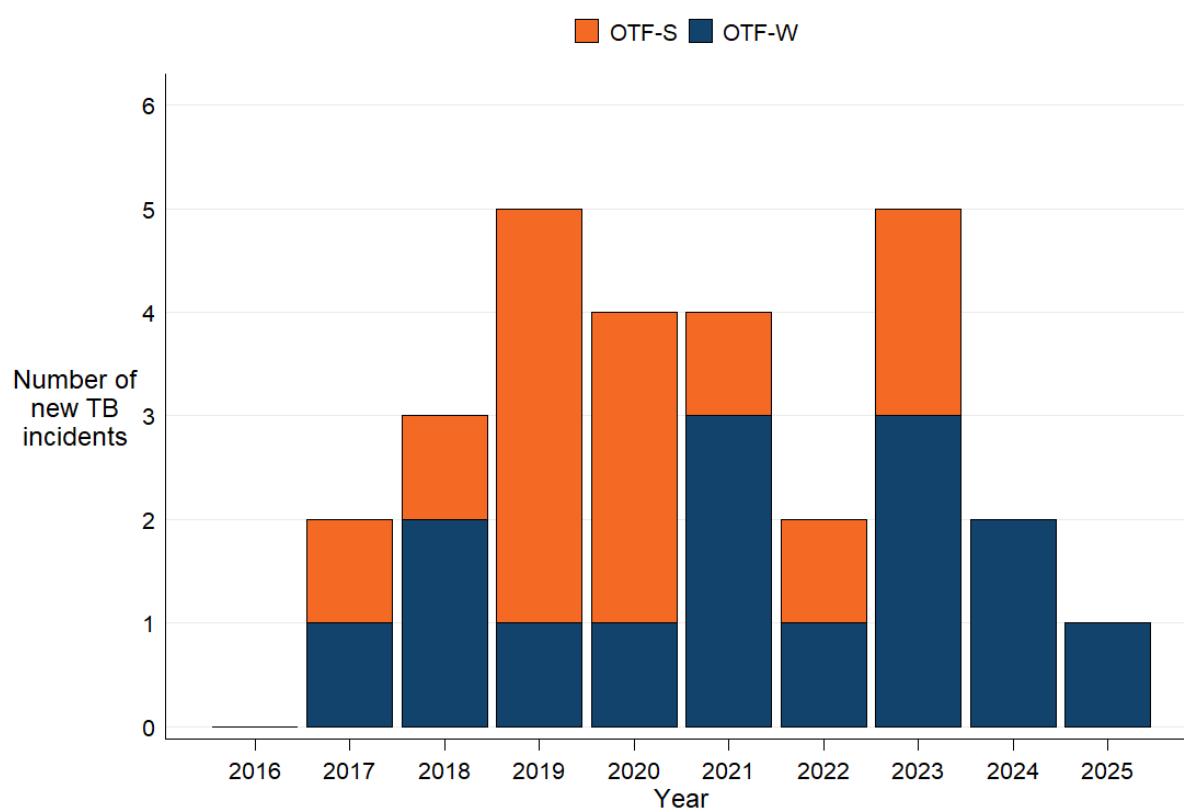


Figure 2e: Annual number of new TB incidents in Hertfordshire from 2016 to 2025.

There were no new TB incidents in the Isle of Wight in 2025, compared to 2 incidents the previous year. Sporadic OTF-W incidents were reported in the county in the last decade, with 2 in 2018 and one each in 2016, 2019 and 2022, and none in the other years. Five OTF-S incidents were detected in 2018, 2 each in 2016, 2019 and 2024, and one each in 2020 and 2023. No OTF-S incidents were reported in other years (Figure 2f).

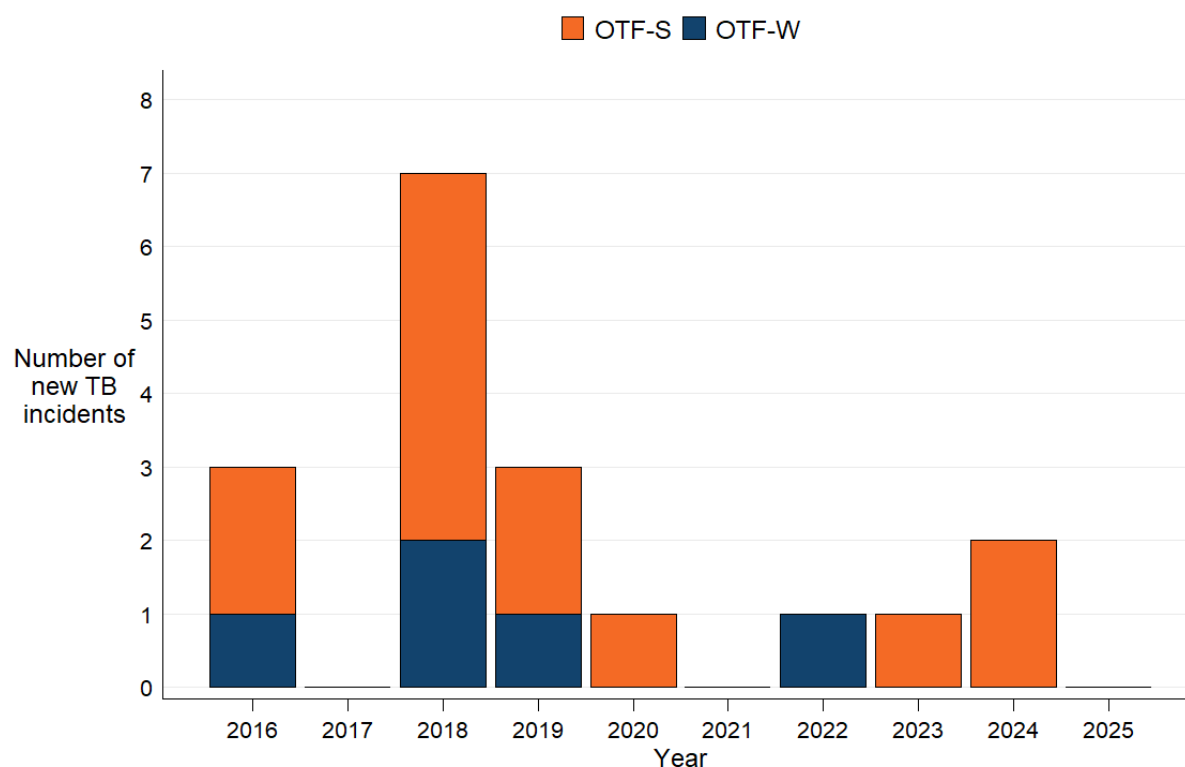


Figure 2f: Annual number of new TB incidents in Isle of Wight from 2016 to 2025.

In 2025, Kent sustained the third highest number of total new incidents reported in this county since 2016 (4 OTF-S and 3 OTF-W). This was a large increase from the single OTF-S incident the previous year. At most a single OTF-W incident has sporadically occurred in this county since 2016, apart from the 3 reported in 2025. The number of OTF-S incidents ranged from 1 to 8. There was a gradual increase from 3 in 2016 to 8 in 2020. The numbers have remained comparatively high (from a very low historical baseline) since then, with the exception of one in 2024 and 3 in 2021 (Figure 2g).

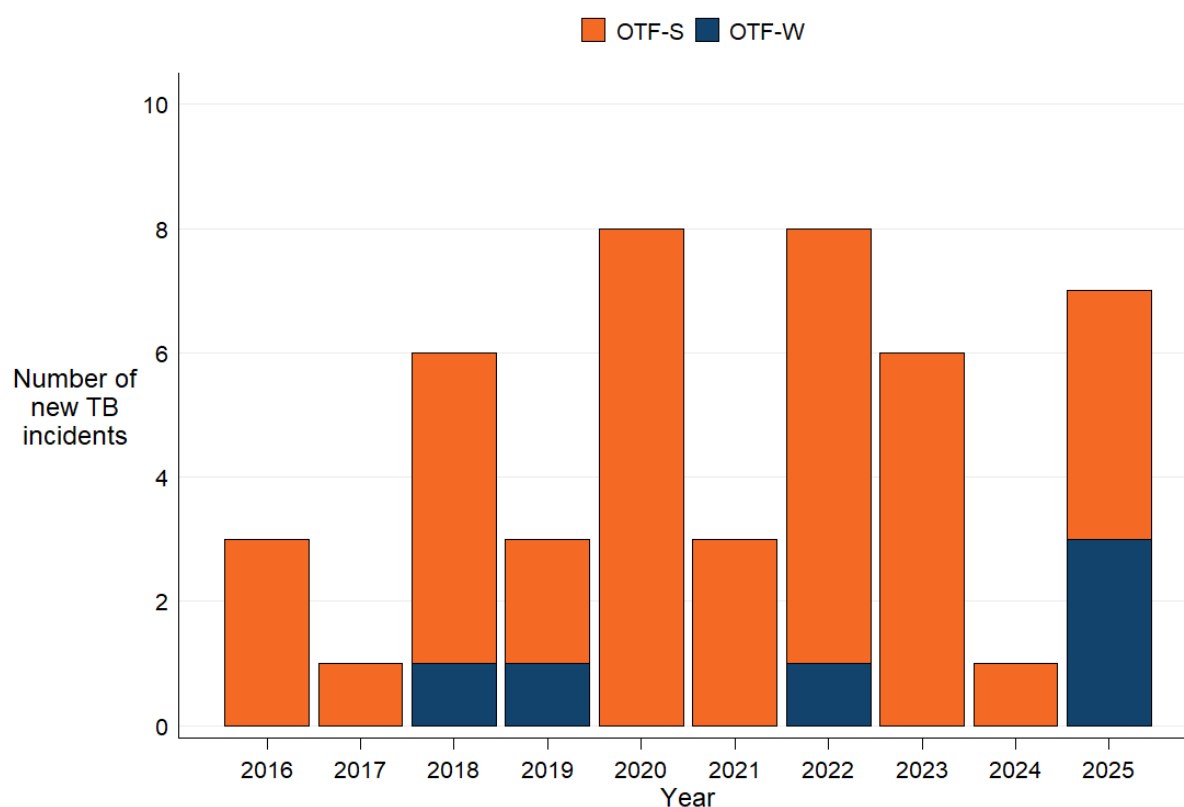


Figure 2g: Annual number of new TB incidents in Kent from 2016 to 2025.

In Norfolk, one new OTF-S incident was detected in 2025, a decrease from the 2 incidents detected in 2024 (both OTF-W). Between 2016 and 2020, the annual total number of new incidents ranged from 4 to 7 and decreased thereafter fluctuating between 1 and 2.

There were 3 OTF-S incidents in 2016, a slight decrease to 2 in 2017, and then an increase to 6 in 2019. There was a gradual decrease to one in 2021 followed by a slight increase to 2 in 2022. Three new OTF-W incidents were detected in 2017, 2 in 2024, and one each in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2023. No OTF-W incidents were detected in other years (Figure 2h).

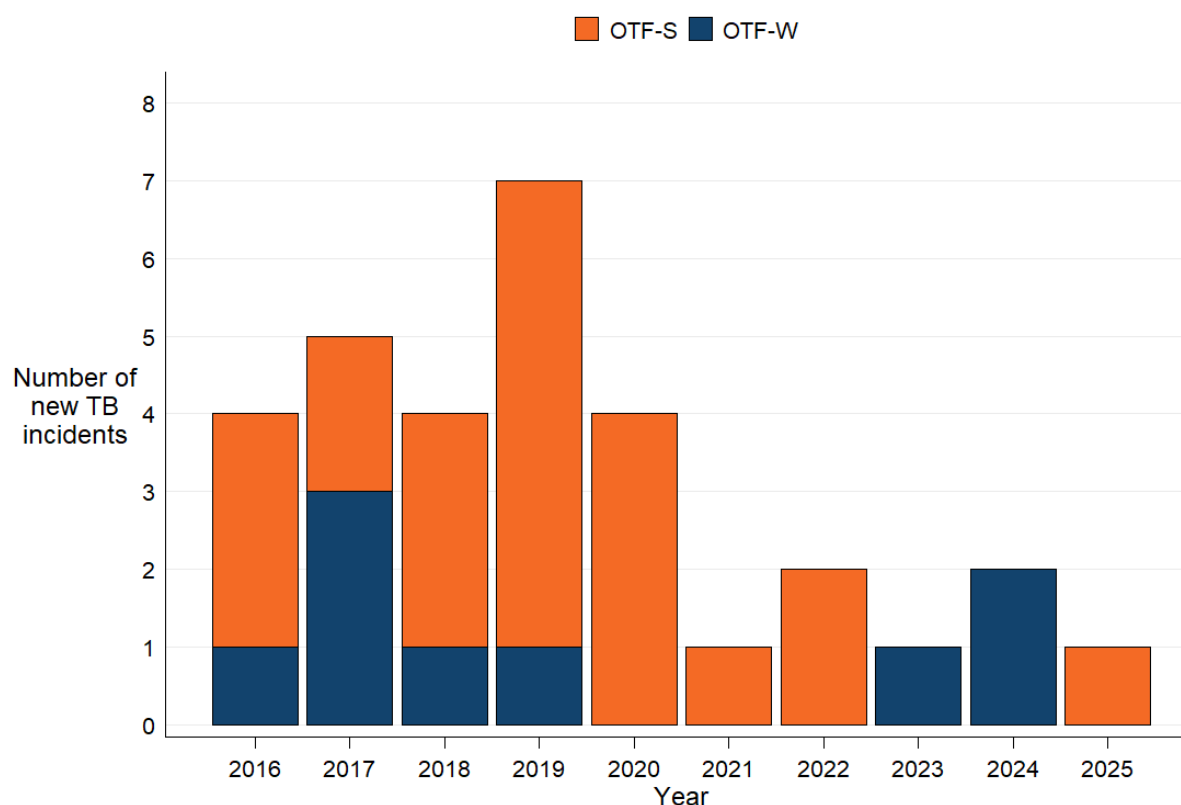


Figure 2h: Annual number of new TB incidents in Norfolk from 2016 to 2025.

No new incidents were detected in 2025 in Suffolk, a county that has seen a steady reduction in the annual total number of new incidents in recent years, from 4 in both 2020 and 2021, to 3 in 2022 and 2023, and then one in 2024. Prior to 2020, there were 6 incidents in 2017, 2 in both 2016 and 2018, and one in 2019.

In the last 10 years, the number of OTF-S incidents ranged between 2 and 3 each year, except for one in 2024 and none in 2019 and 2025. Four OTF-W incidents were detected in 2017 and one each in 2019, 2020, and 2021. No OTF-W incidents were detected in other years (Figure 2i).

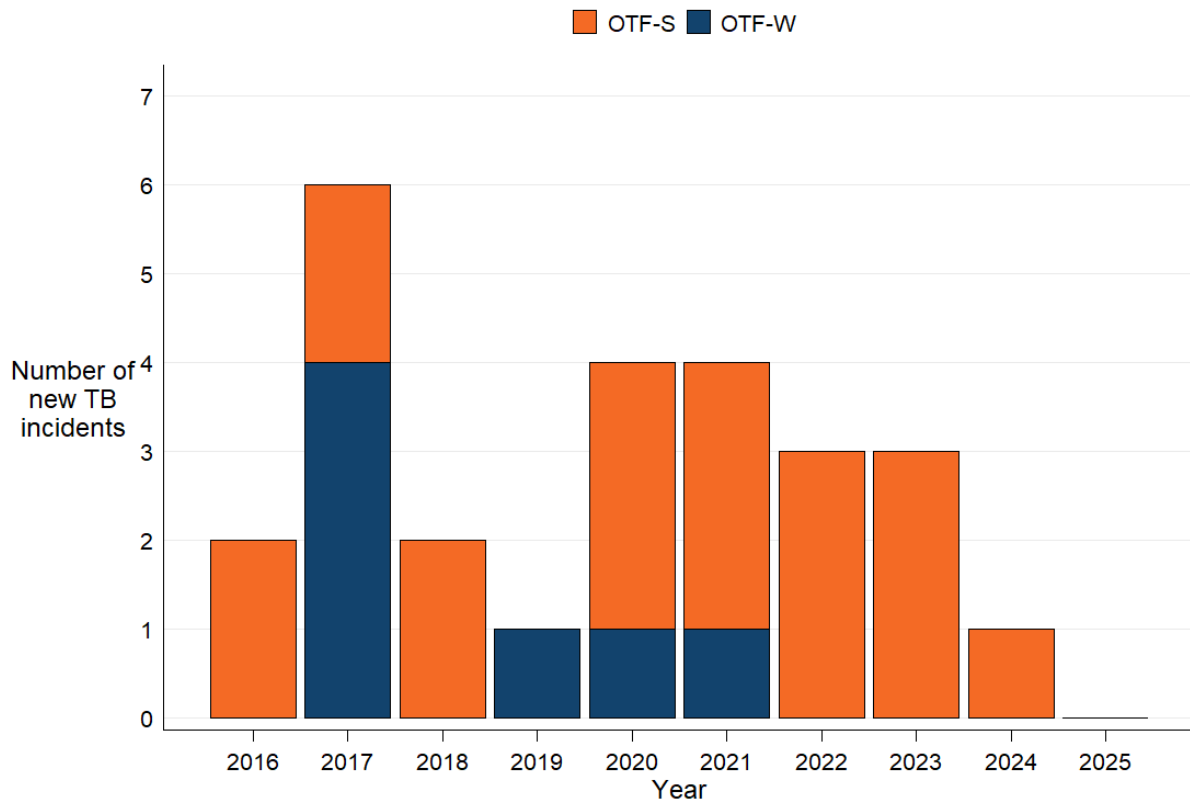


Figure 2i: Annual number of new TB incidents in Suffolk from 2016 to 2025.

In Surrey, there were 3 new incidents in 2025 (2 OTF-S and 1 OTF-W). This was the second consecutive year that the total number of incidents decreased, and the lowest number of incidents recorded since 2022.

The annual number of new OTF-W incidents detected in this county over the 10-year period remained very low, ranging between 0 and 3 and with no obvious trend up or down. The number of OTF-S incidents generally ranged between 4 and 5 each year, except for 3 in 2022, 2 in 2025, and none in 2020 and 2021 (Figure 2j).

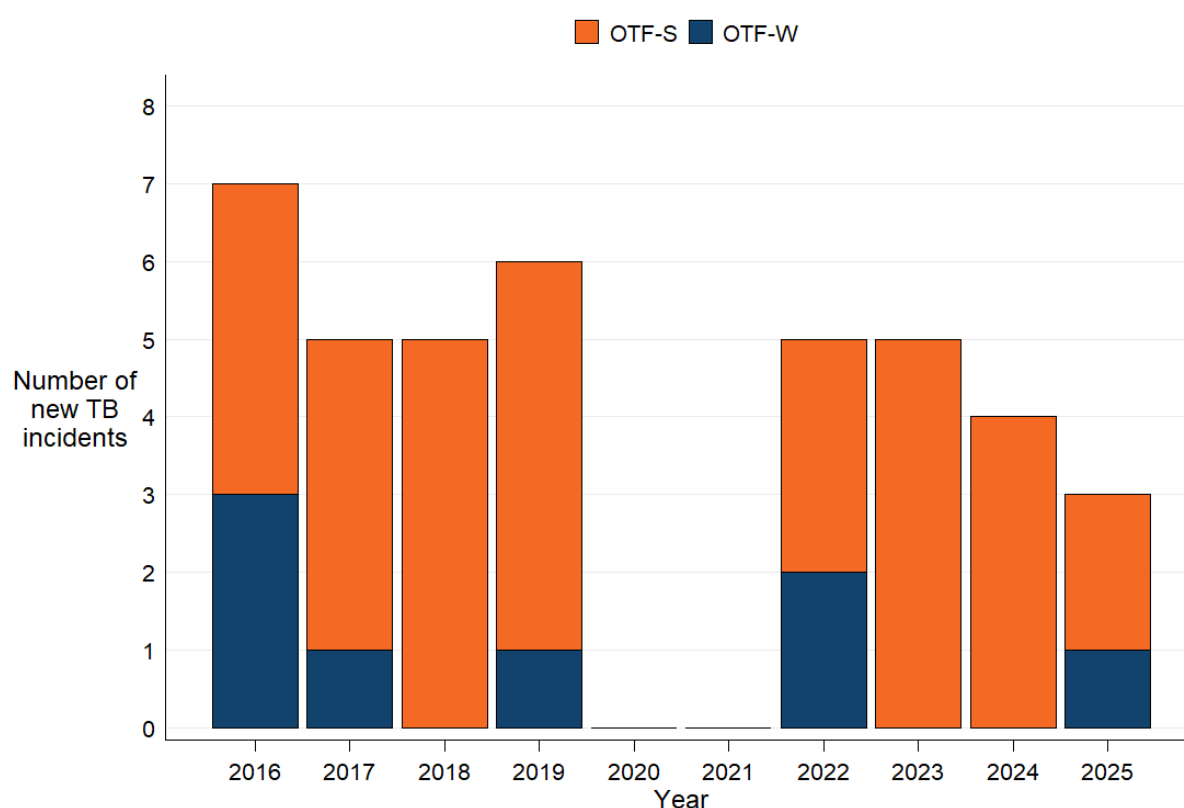


Figure 2j: Annual number of new TB incidents in Surrey from 2016 to 2025.

The total number of incidents in West Sussex was 8 in 2025 (1 OTF-W and 7 OTF-S), a slight increase compared to the previous year (1 OTF-W and 6 OTF-S).

The annual number of OTF-W incidents decreased from 3 and 6 between 2016 and 2018 to one each year, except for none in 2020 and 4 in 2023. In 2016 there were 12 new OTF-S incidents, then 7 in both 2017 and 2018, before increasing to 12 in 2019. The annual number of OTF-S incidents has fluctuated between 4 and 8 since 2020 (Figure 2k).

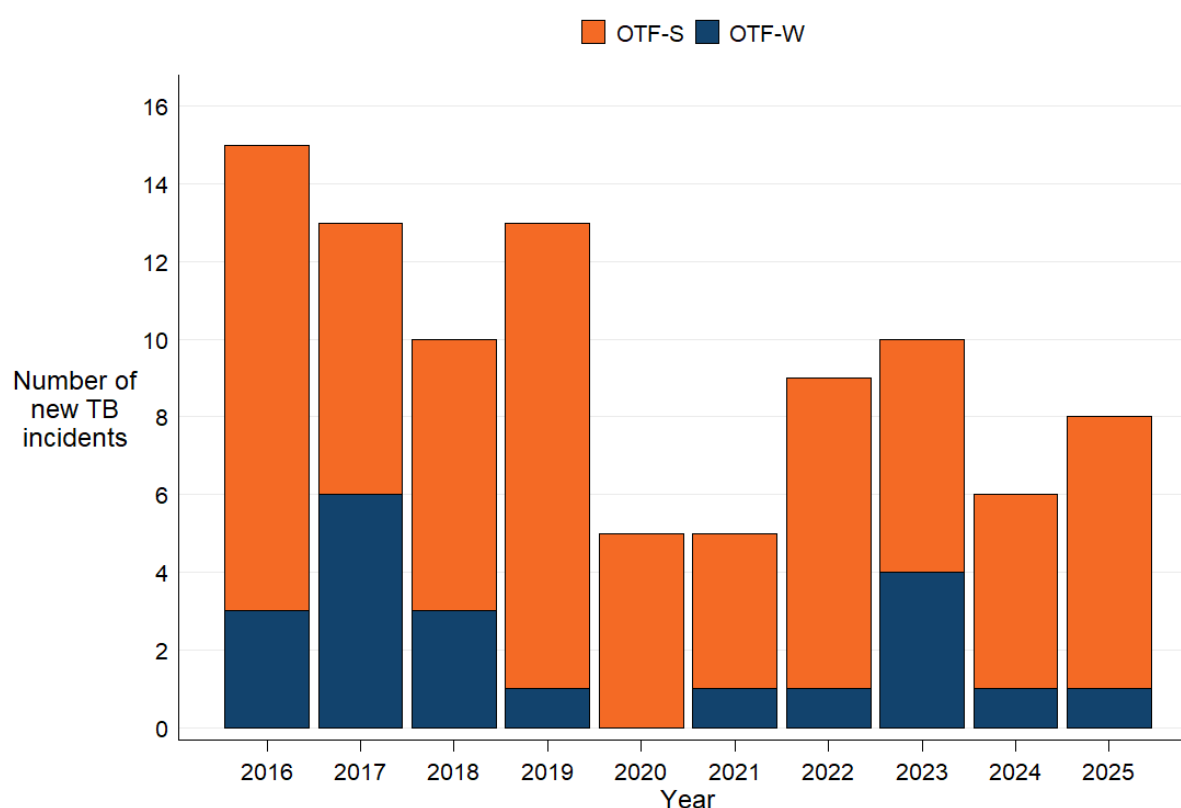


Figure 2k: Annual number of new TB incidents in West Sussex from 2016 to 2025.

Disclosing TB surveillance method

Five of the 29 new TB herd incidents in the South East region of the LRA in 2025 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 5 incidents detected by routine herd tests, 5 by slaughterhouse surveillance, 4 by post-movement skin testing and 3 by herd tests conducted 12 months after the conclusion of a TB incident (12M tests) (Figures 3a to 3d). Two incidents were detected by check tests and 2 by pre-movement skin testing. Six-monthly (post-incident) herd testing (6M tests) and hotspot testing each detected one new incident in 2025. One incident was detected by 'other' types of tests, which includes, but is not limited to, private testing, inconclusive reactor (IR) retests, and export tests.

As no new TB herd incidents were reported in Greater London, Isle of Wight and Suffolk in 2025, those counties are not represented in the series of charts in Figures 3a to 3d).

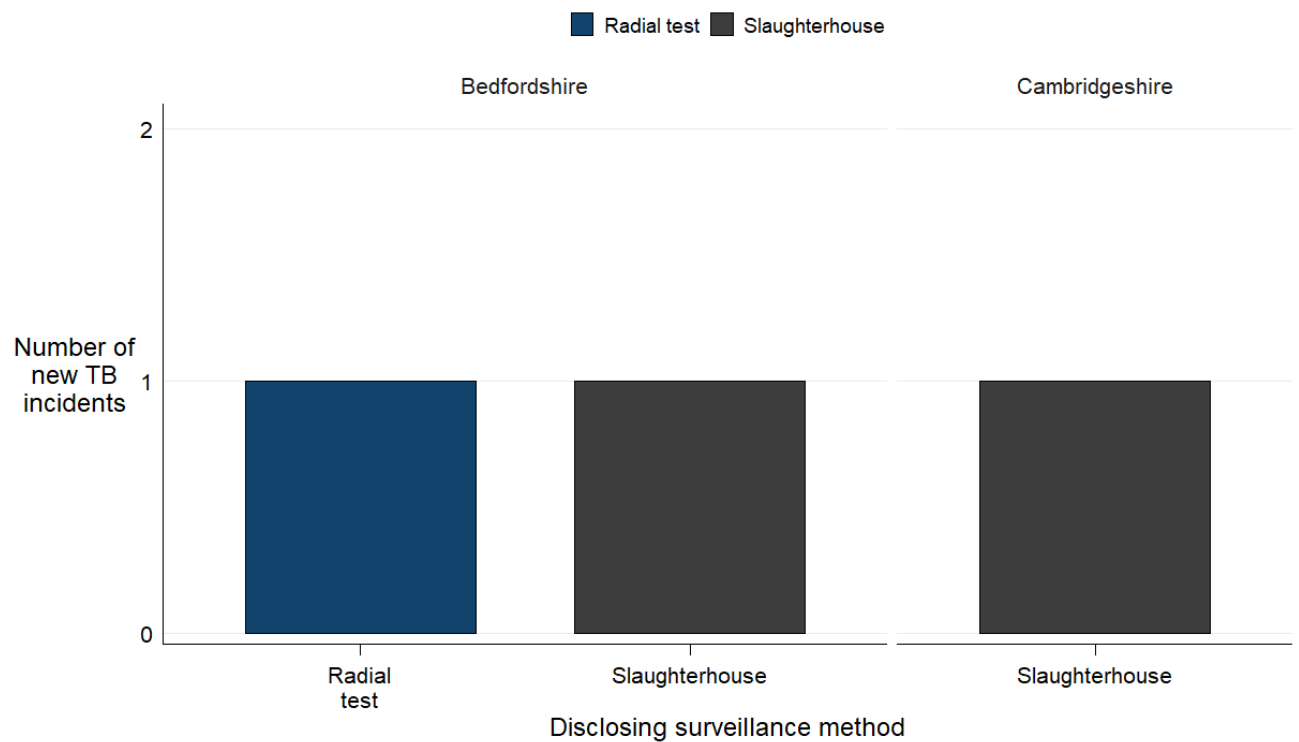


Figure 3a: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

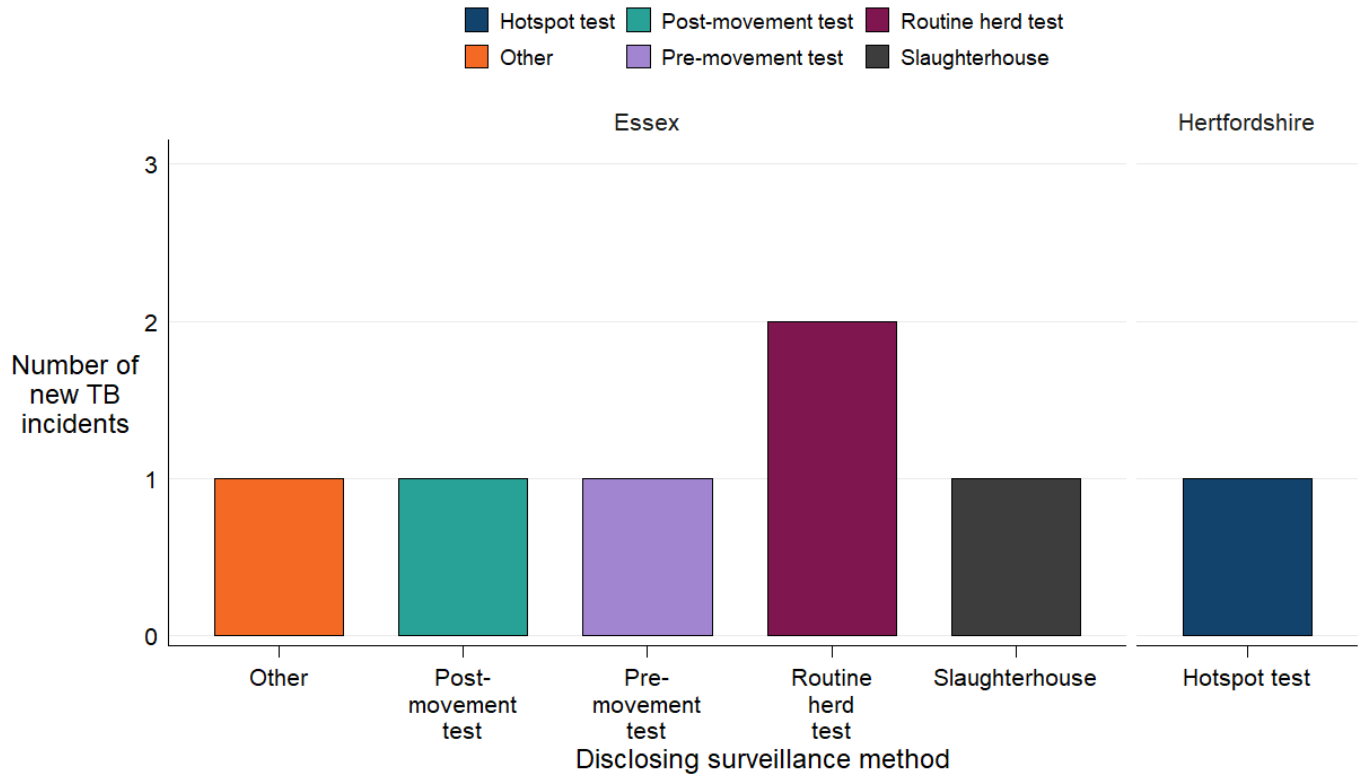


Figure 3b: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in Essex and Hertfordshire in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

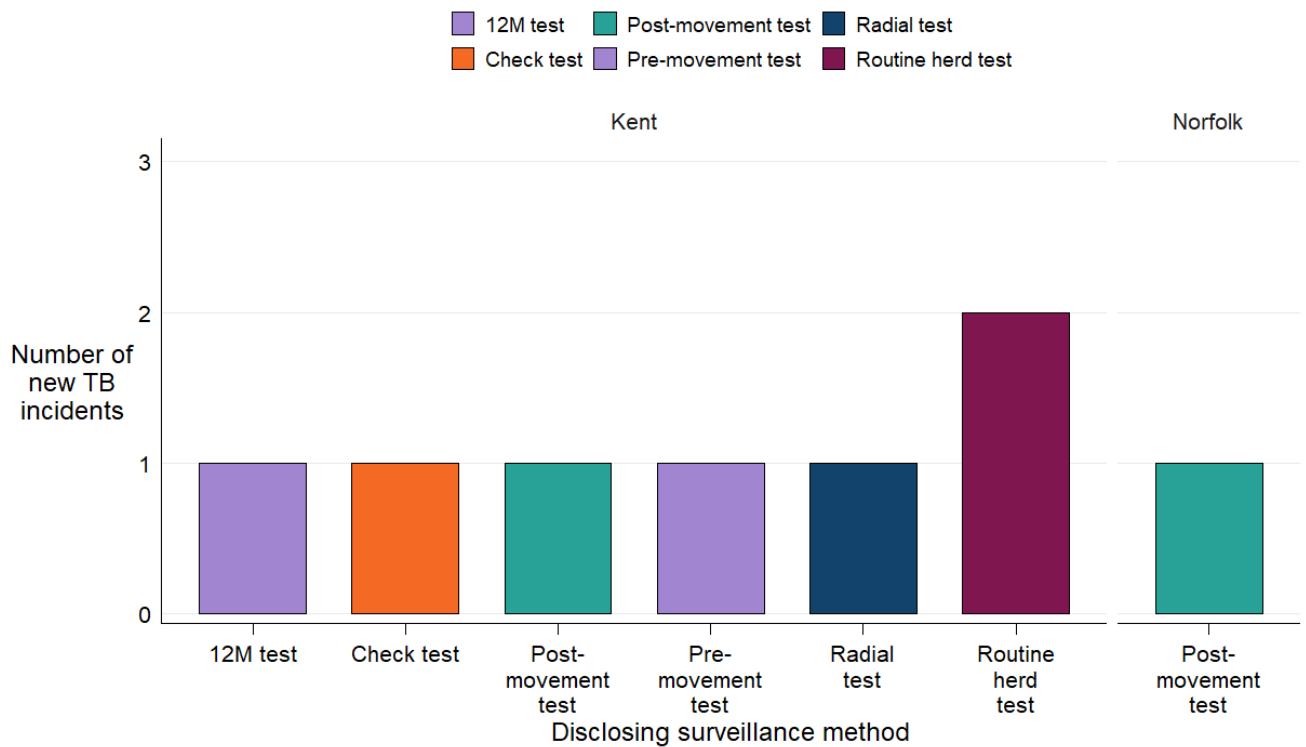


Figure 3c: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in Kent and Norfolk in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

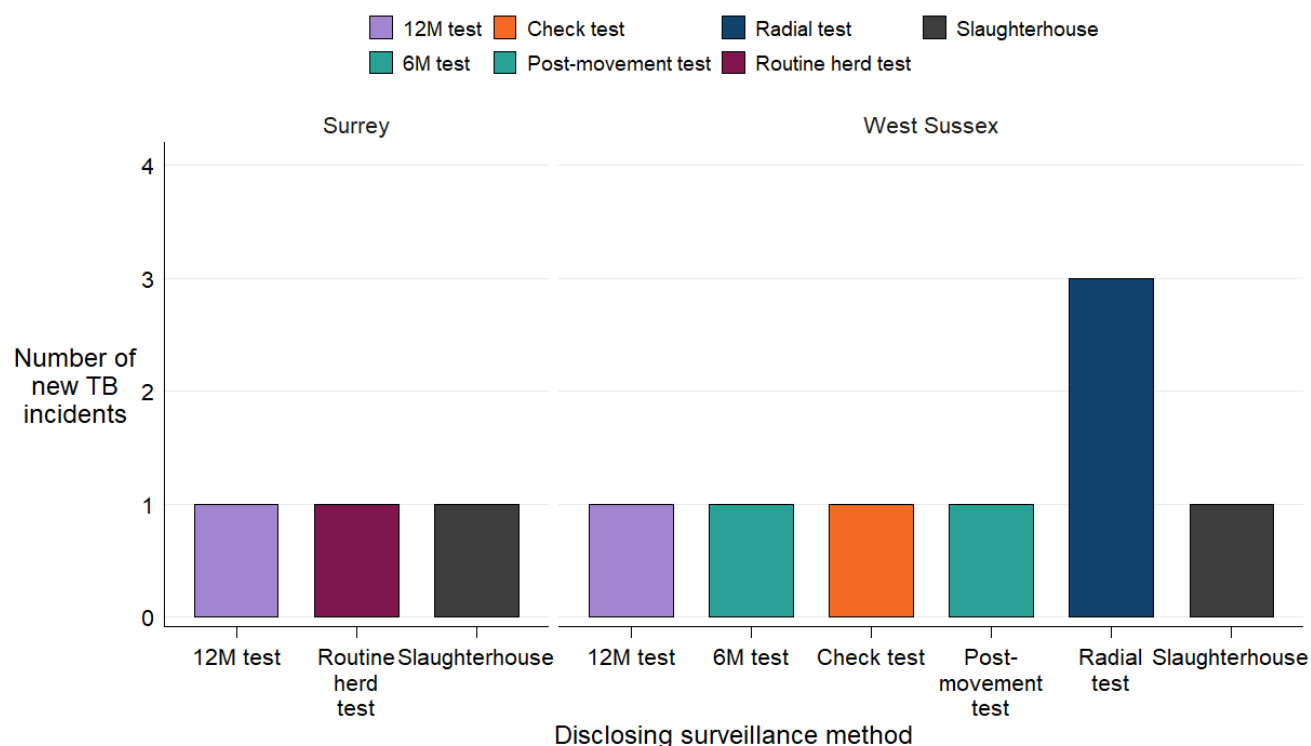


Figure 3d: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in Surrey and West Sussex in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

Greater London, Isle of Wight and Suffolk were not included as there were no new incidents disclosed in 2025.

Duration of TB incidents

A total of 33 incidents were resolved across the South East of England in 2025: 8 in West Sussex, 6 each in Essex and Kent, 5 in Bedfordshire, 3 in Surrey, 2 in Hertfordshire and one each in each of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Twenty of the incidents that were resolved had begun in 2025, 9 in 2024, 2 in 2023 and one began in 2022 and one in 2021. Three of those incidents were classified as persistent (lasted more than 550 days): one OTF-W in Bedfordshire, one OTF-S in Suffolk and one OTF-S in Surrey.

Of the 10 OTF-W incidents that ended in 2025, one was resolved within 101 and 150 days in Surrey, 5 within 151 and 240 days (one in Cambridgeshire, and 2 each in Essex and Hertfordshire), 3 within 241 and 550 days (2 in Bedfordshire and one in Kent), and the one persistent incident in Bedfordshire.

Of the 23 OTF-S incidents, 3 were resolved quickly within 100 days (one each in Bedfordshire, Kent and Norfolk), and 10 within 101 and 150 days (one in both Bedfordshire and Surrey, 2 in Kent, and 3 each in Essex and West Sussex). There were 5 OTF-S incidents that lasted between 151 and 240 days (2 in Kent and 3 in West Sussex), and 3 between 241 and 550 days (1 in Essex and 2 in West Sussex).

(Figures 4a to 4i). There were 2 persistent incidents, one in Suffolk and one in Surrey.

There were 10 incidents ongoing at the end of 2025 (3 in West Sussex, 2 each in Essex, Kent and Surrey, and one in Cambridgeshire), compared with 14 ongoing at the end of 2024. One those incidents at the end of 2025 (in the county of Cambridgeshire) was persistent (>550 days).

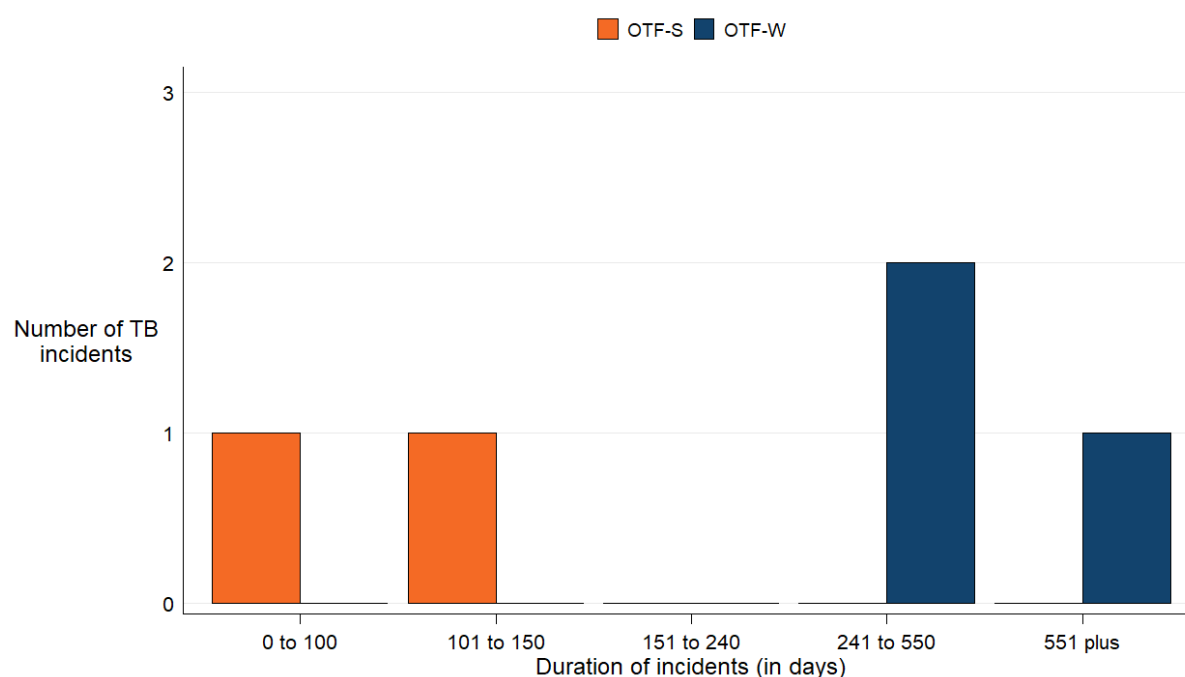


Figure 4a: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Bedfordshire in 2025.

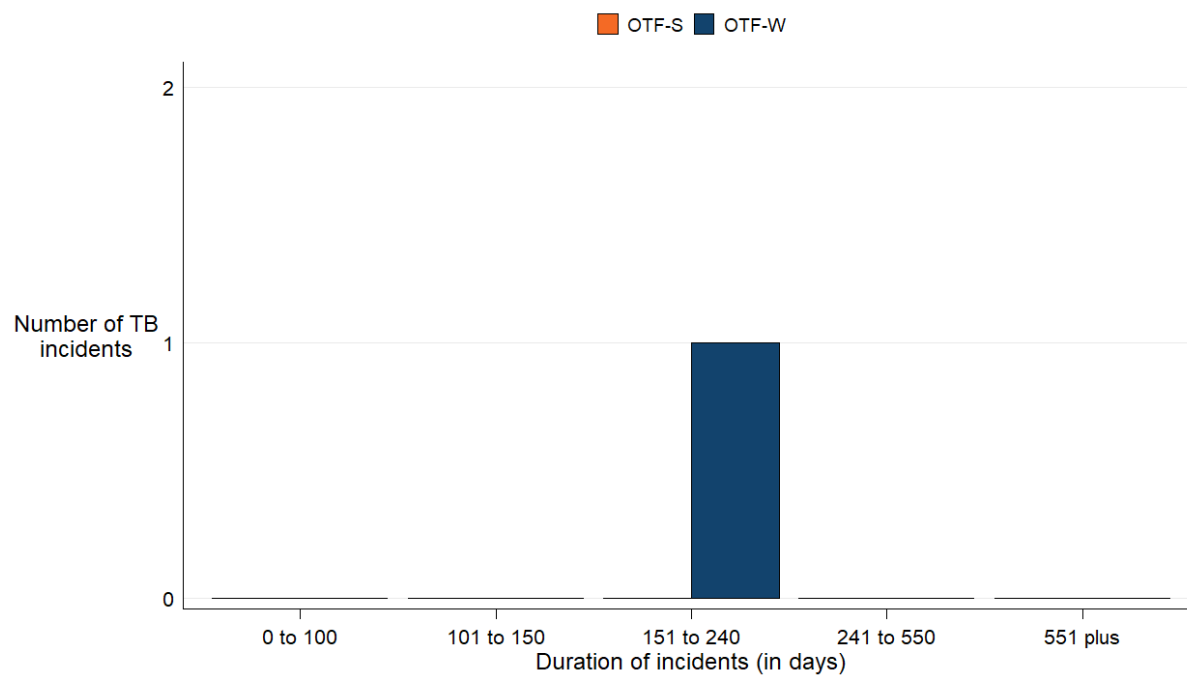


Figure 4b: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Cambridgeshire in 2025.

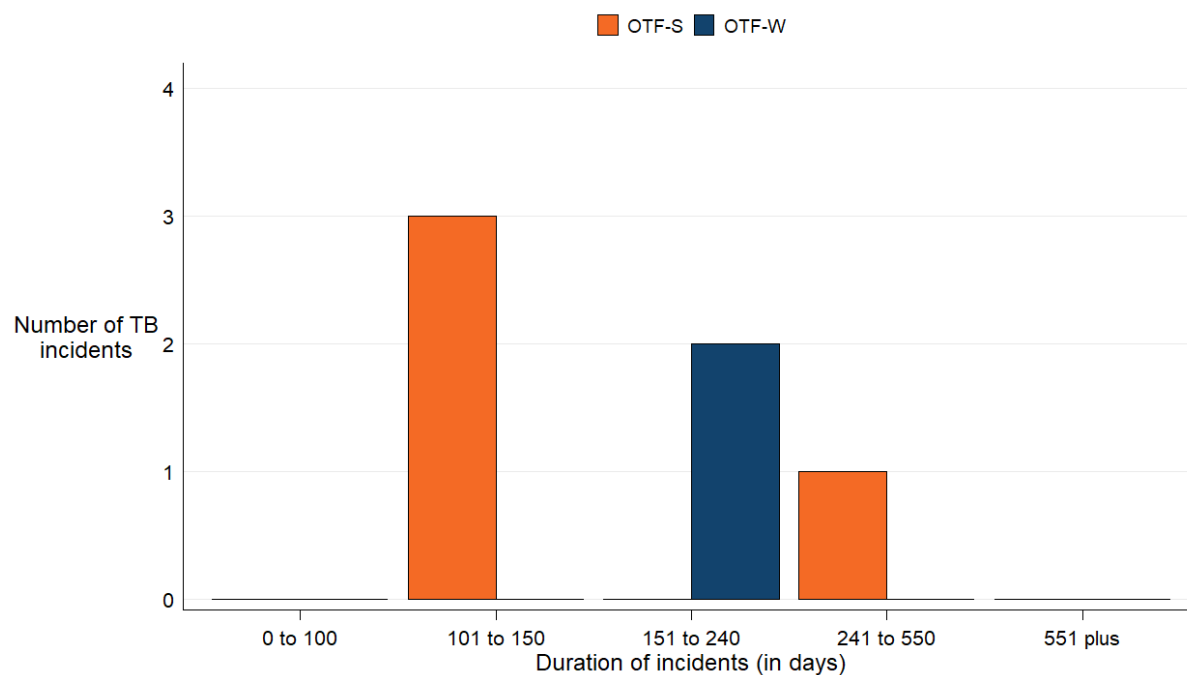


Figure 4c: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Essex in 2025.

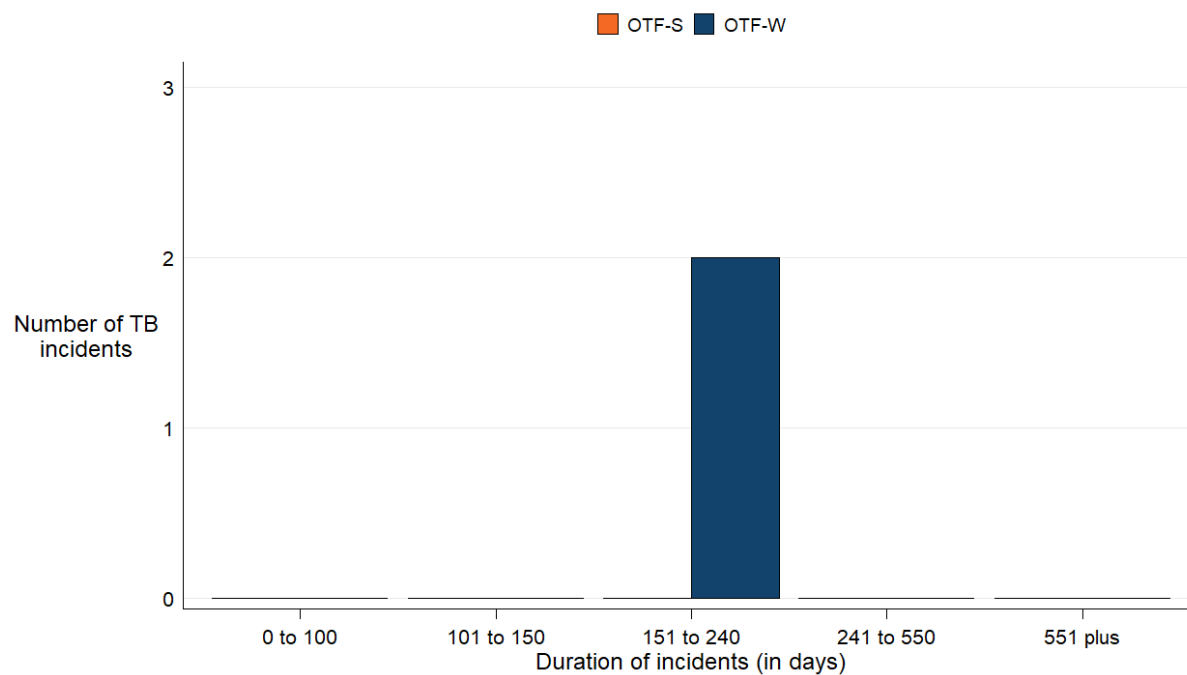


Figure 4d: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Hertfordshire in 2025.

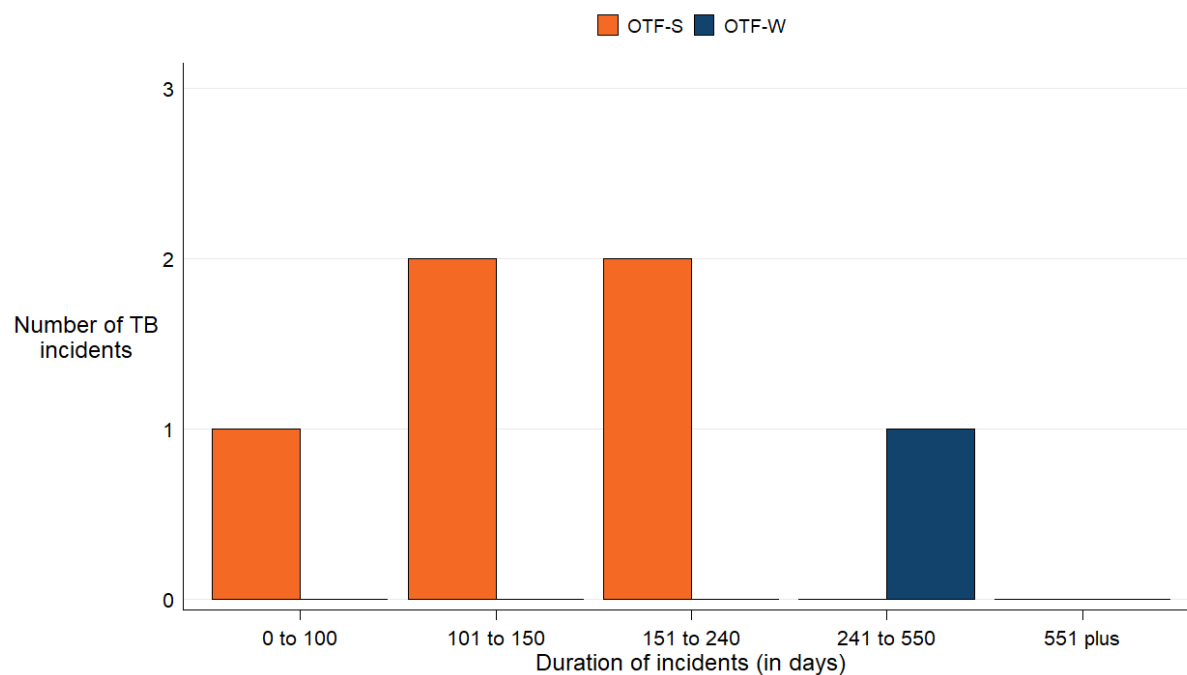


Figure 4e: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Kent in 2025.

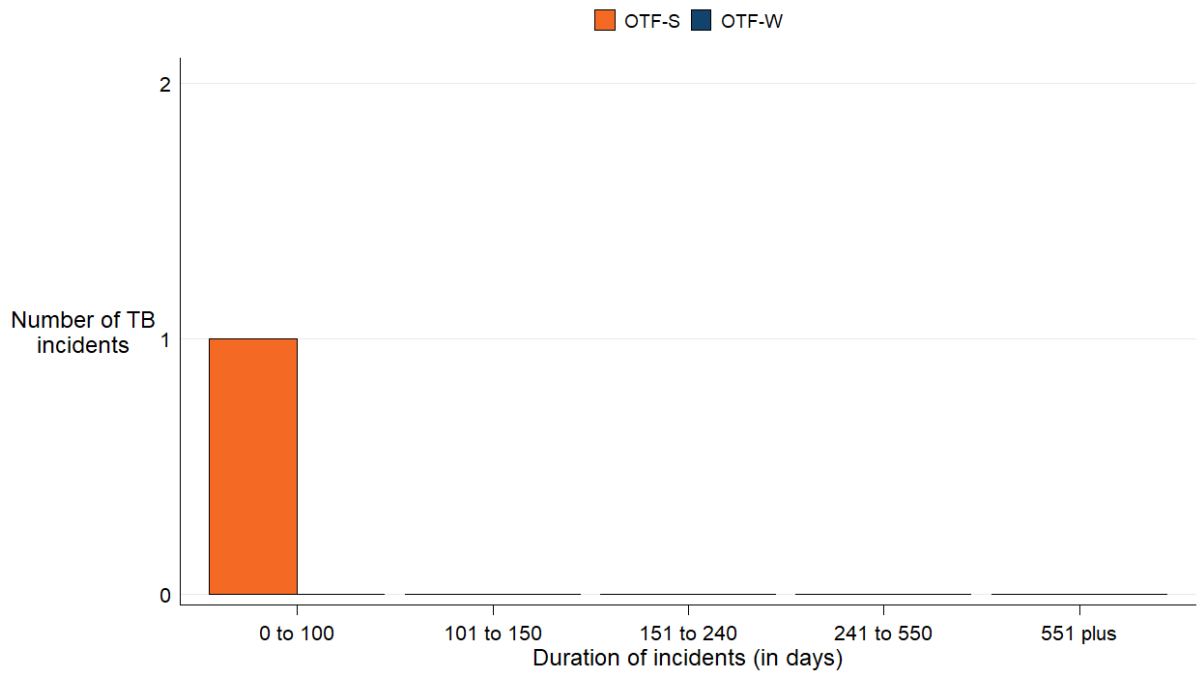


Figure 4f: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Norfolk in 2025.

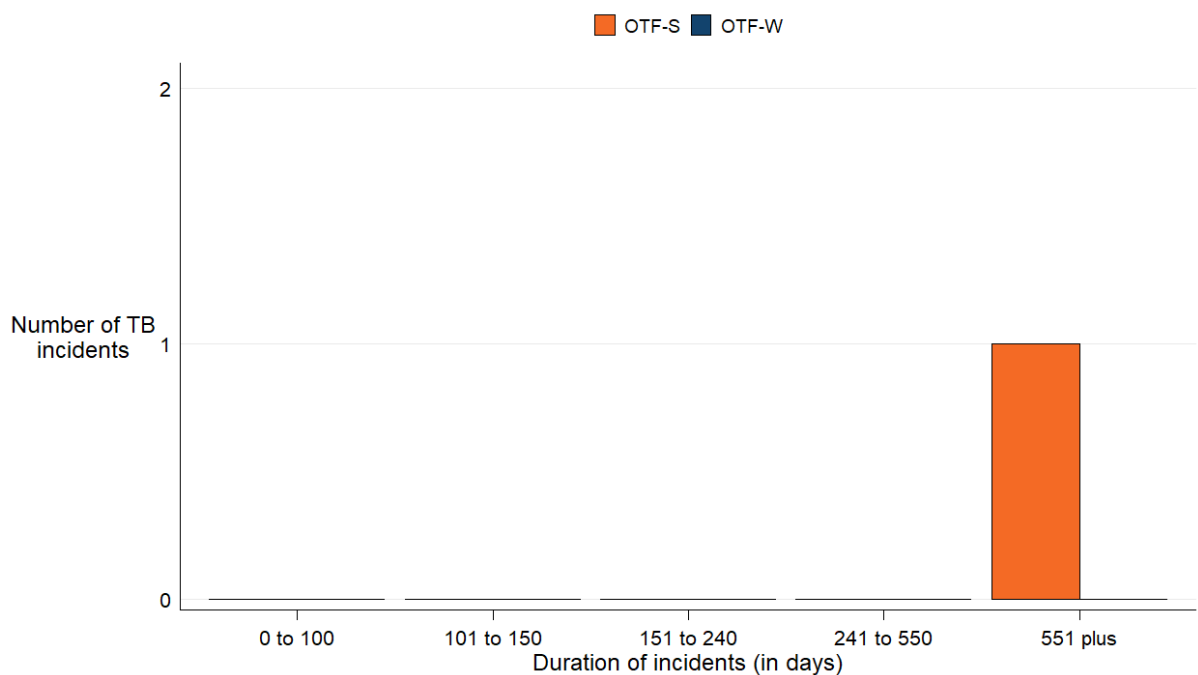


Figure 4g: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Suffolk in 2025.

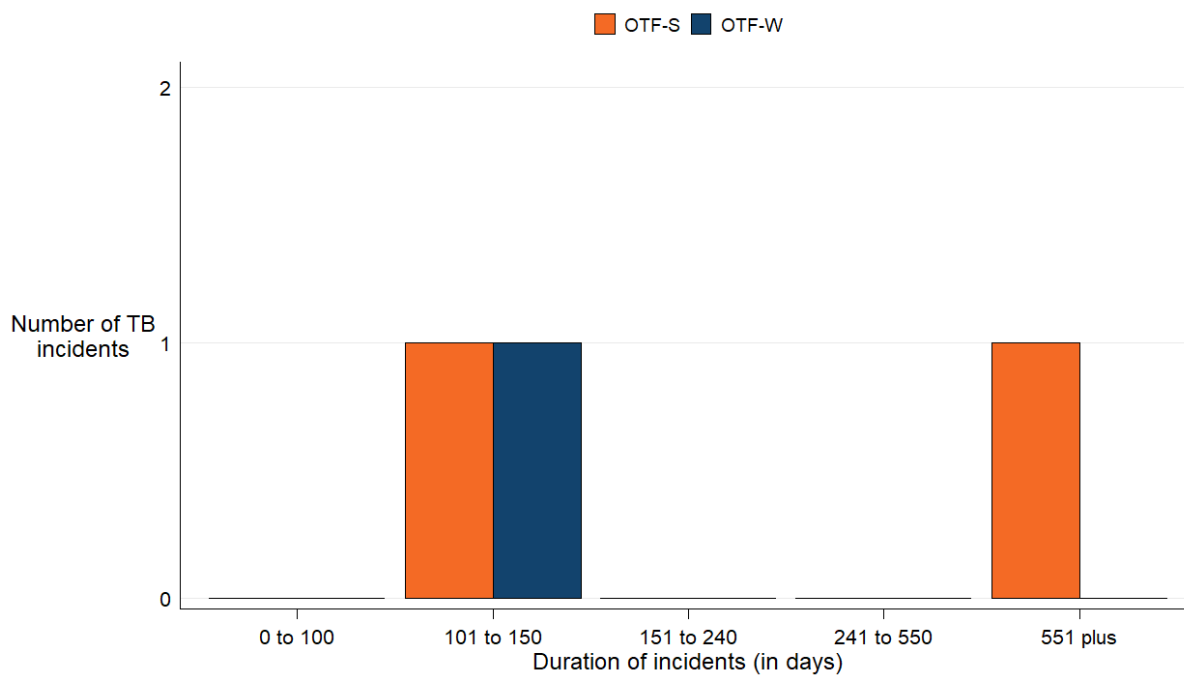


Figure 4h: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Surrey in 2025.

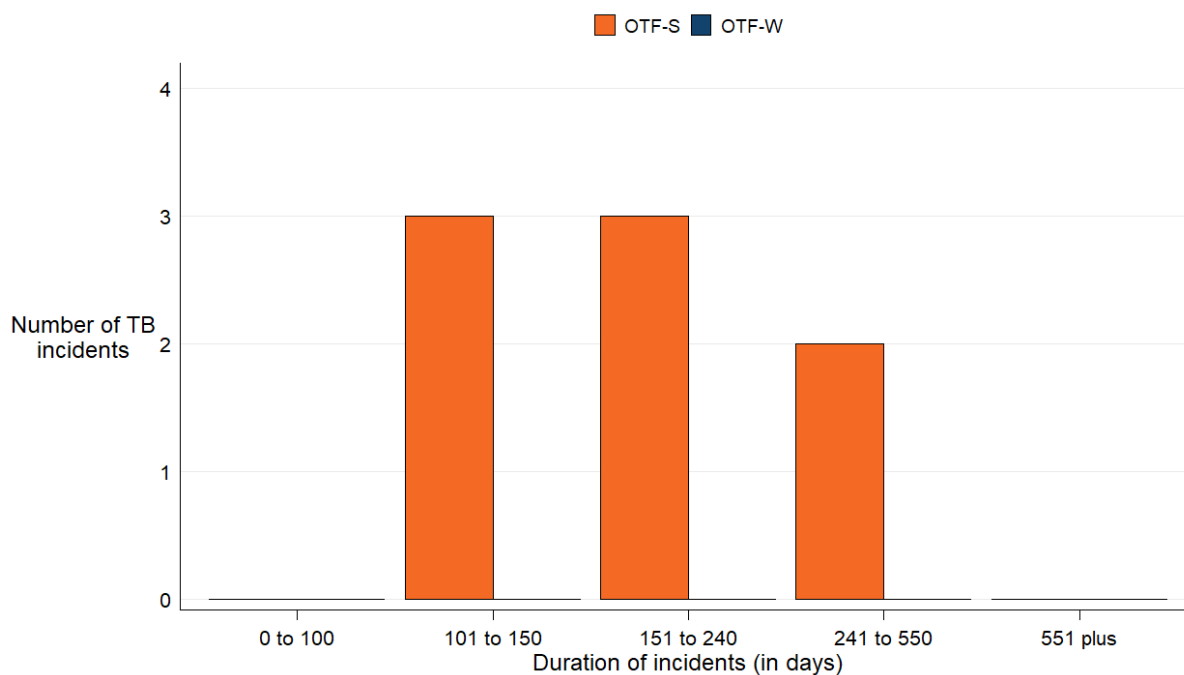


Figure 4i: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in West Sussex in 2025.

Greater London and the Isle of Wight are not shown as no TB incidents ended there in 2025.

Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed

During 2025, a total of 130 cattle were removed as TB test reactors from incident herds in the South East of England, a 40% increase on the 78 animals slaughtered the previous year. This was driven by a doubling of the number of skin test reactors removed, from 36 in 2024 to 72 in 2025. There was also an increase in the number of animals positive to the supplementary interferon gamma (IFN- γ) blood test, from 42 in 2024 to 58 in 2025 (Figures 5a to 5k).

Compared with 2024, decreases in the number of skin test reactors removed in 2025 were seen in Cambridgeshire (2 to 0), Suffolk (1 to 0) and Surrey (12 to 6), whereas Essex (3 to 6), Kent (1 to 18) and West Sussex (15 to 40) recorded increases. The number of skin test reactors remained unchanged in Bedfordshire and Norfolk (one each), and in Greater London, Hertfordshire and the Isle of Wight (0).

Despite the overall increase in the number of IFN- γ test reactors removed in 2025, decreases were seen in Norfolk (7 to 0) and West Sussex (32 to 1). Increases were recorded in Bedfordshire (2 to 4), Cambridgeshire (0 to 1), Essex (0 to 36) and Kent (1 to 16). The number of reactors removed remained unchanged in Greater London, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Suffolk and Surrey (0).

Over the 10-year period from 2016 to 2025 in Bedfordshire, annual numbers of skin test reactors remained low in most years (ranging between 1 and 7), except in 2016 (62) and 2023 (16) (Figure 5a). The number of IFN- γ test positive animals fluctuated over the same period, ranging from 12 to 51 between 2016 and 2018, 33 in 2021 and 18 in 2023, but in the remaining years the numbers were very low (between 0 and 4).

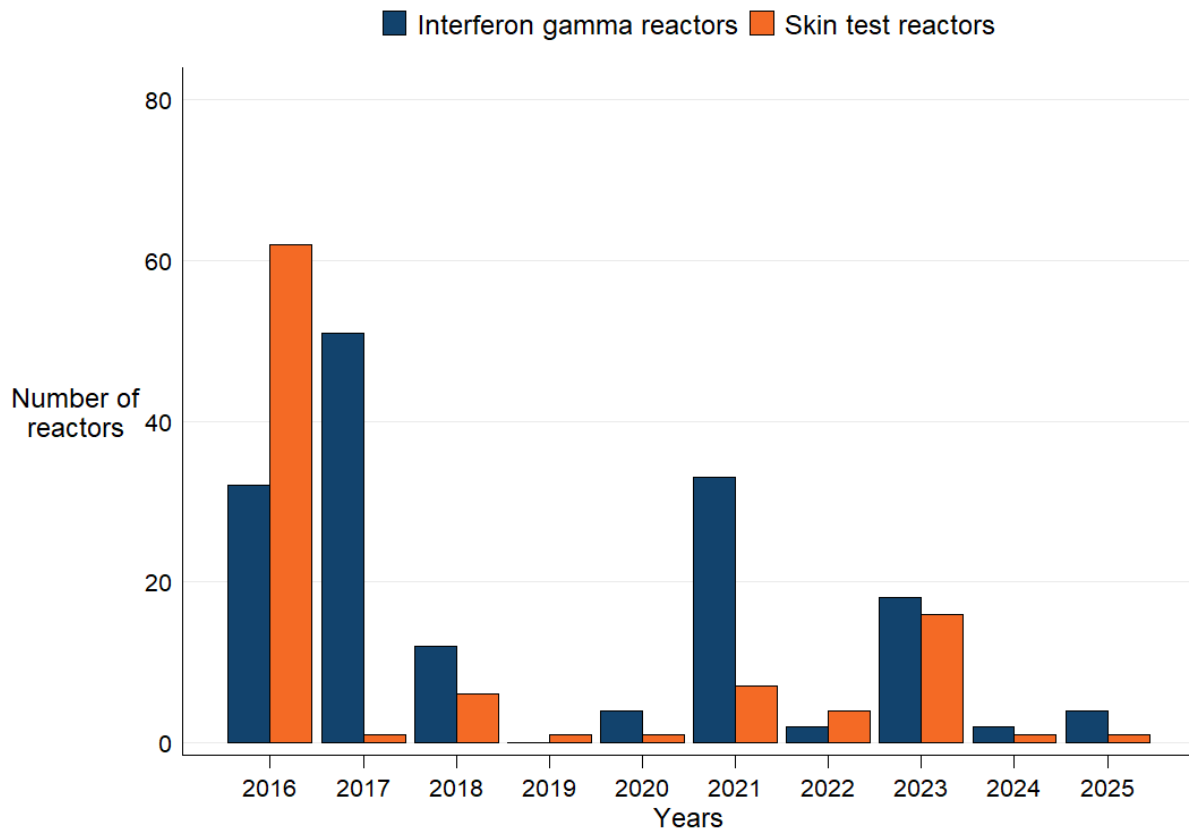


Figure 5a: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Bedfordshire from 2016 to 2025.

In Cambridgeshire, the annual number of skin test reactors increased from 3 in 2016 to a peak of 17 in 2022 but dropped quite markedly thereafter to 0 in 2025 (Figure 5b). Most years recorded no more than one IFN- γ test-positive animal removed, except for 5 in 2018 and 21 in 2019.

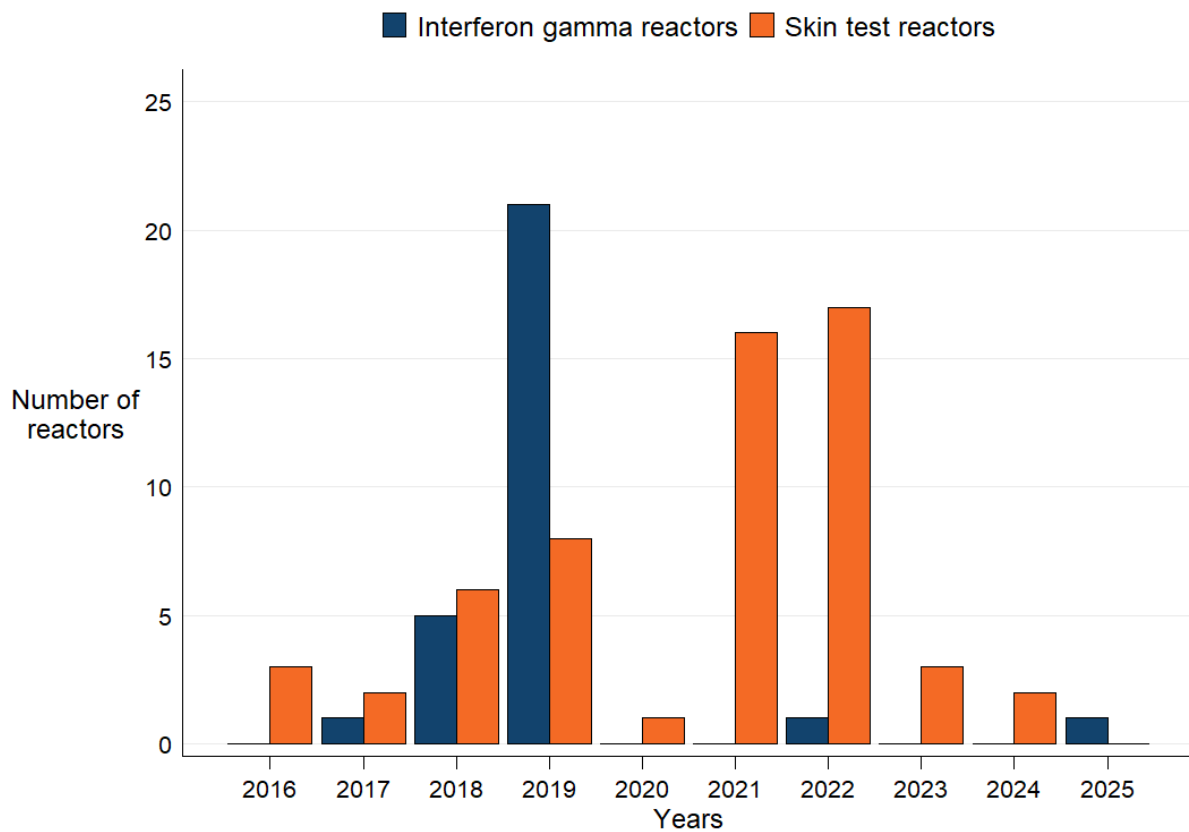


Figure 5b: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Cambridgeshire from 2016 to 2025.

In Essex, the annual number of skin test reactors fell from 7 in 2016 to one in 2018, followed by an increase to 14 in 2019, then a subsequent decrease to one in 2020 (Figure 5c). There was an increase to 35 in 2022 and 23 in 2023, but the numbers dropped and remained low thereafter (3 in 2024 and 6 in 2025). The number of IFN- γ test positive animals fluctuated, with higher numbers reported in 2016 (14), 2018 (31), 11 (2021), and 2025 (36). In other years there were less than 10 IFN- γ positive animals removed.

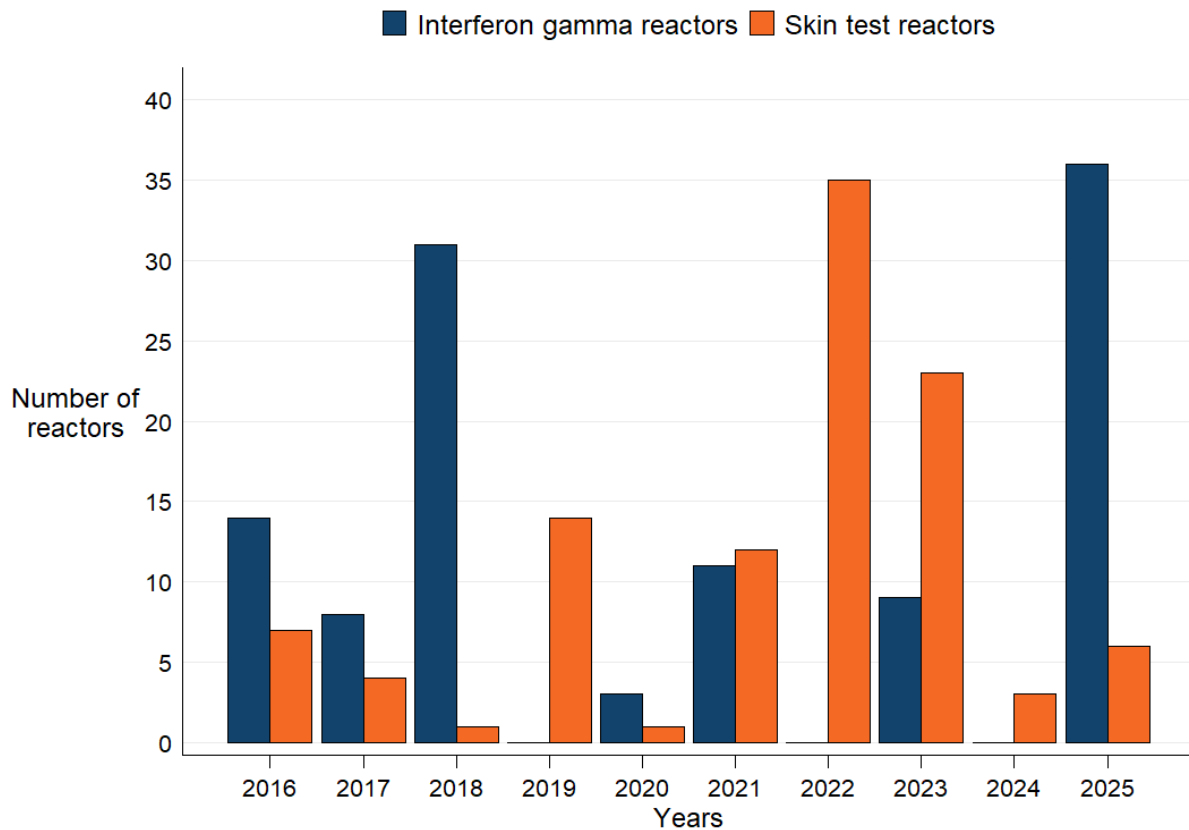


Figure 5c: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Essex from 2016 to 2025.

In Greater London 5 skin test reactors were removed in the last decade, 3 in 2018 and 2 in 2022. No IFN- γ test-positive animals were removed in the last 10 years (Figure 5d).

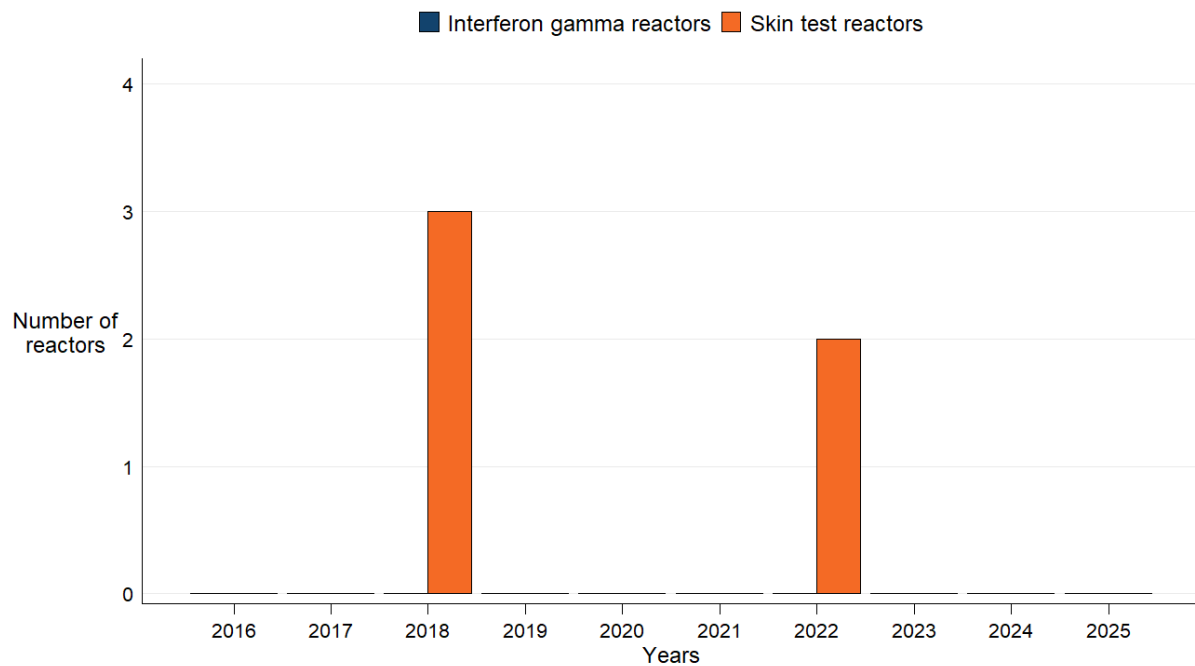


Figure 5d: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Greater London from 2016 to 2025.

In Hertfordshire, the annual number of skin test reactors fluctuated between 0 in 2016 and a high of 24 in 2021, then decreased thereafter (Figure 5e). In 2025 there was one skin test reactor removed, the lowest number recorded in the last 9 years. The number of IFN- γ test positive animals removed varied from no animals removed in 2016, 2020 or 2023, to a high of 48 in 2019. In 2025, 8 IFN- γ test-positive animals were removed.

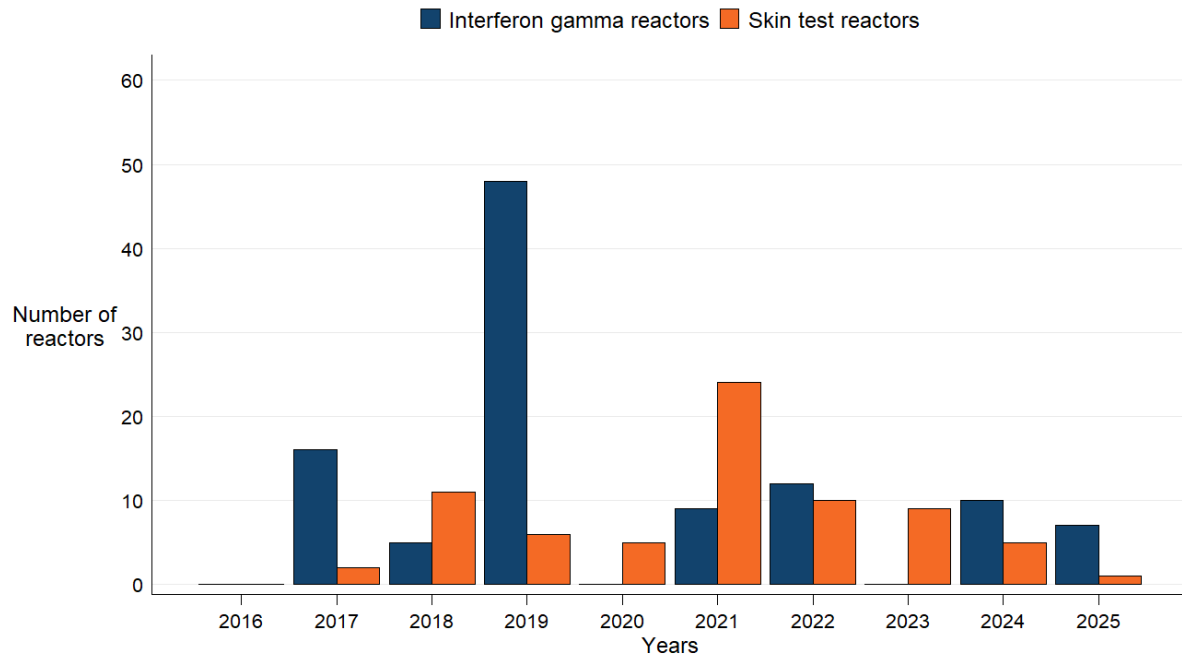


Figure 5e: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Hertfordshire from 2016 to 2025.

The number of skin test reactors remained low most years in the Isle of Wight, with an increase from 2 in 2016 to a peak of 11 in 2018 (Figure 5f). The numbers declined to 0 in 2021, then fluctuated between 0 and 3 thereafter. The number of IFN- γ test positive animals removed increased from 0 in 2016 to 70 in 2017, then steadily decreased to 16 in 2019. From 2020 onwards, no IFN- γ test positive animals were removed except for one in 2022.

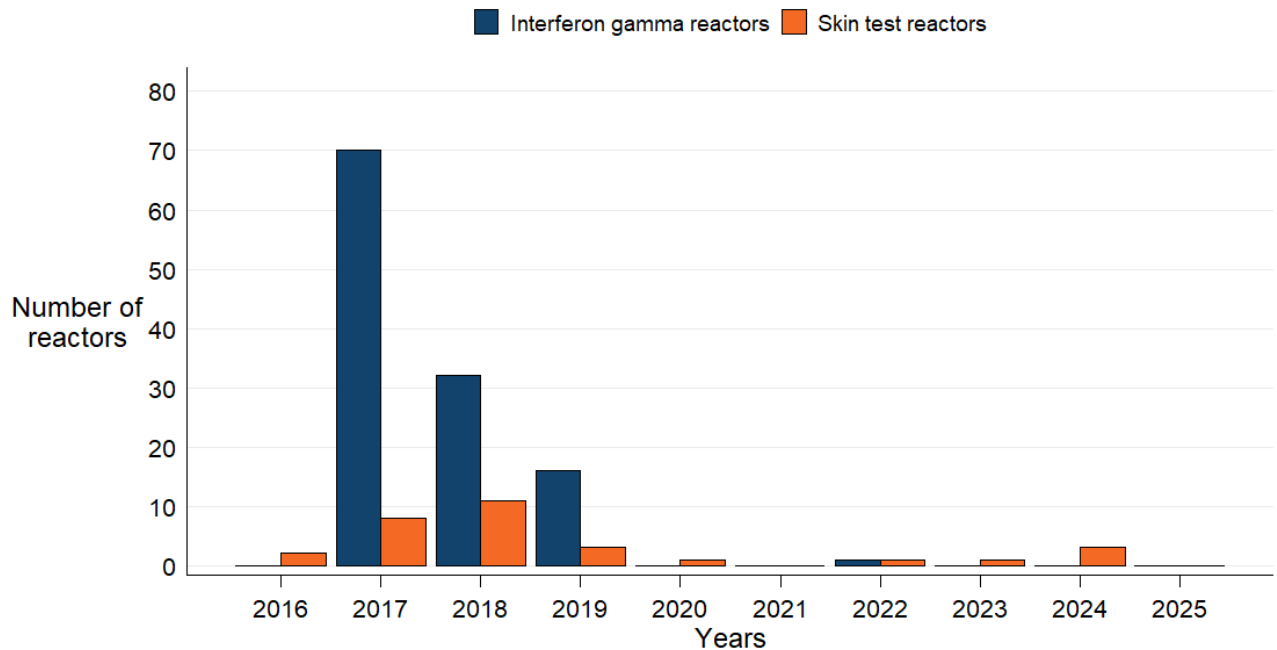


Figure 5f: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Isle of Wight from 2016 to 2025.

In Kent, the annual number of skin test reactors fluctuated between 1 and 18 over the 10-year period of interest, with sudden increases from 1 in 2017 to 32 in 2018 and from 1 in 2024 to 16 in 2025 (Figure 5g). The number of IFN- γ test positive animals removed remained low most years (between 0 and 2), except for 32 in 2018 and 16 in 2025.

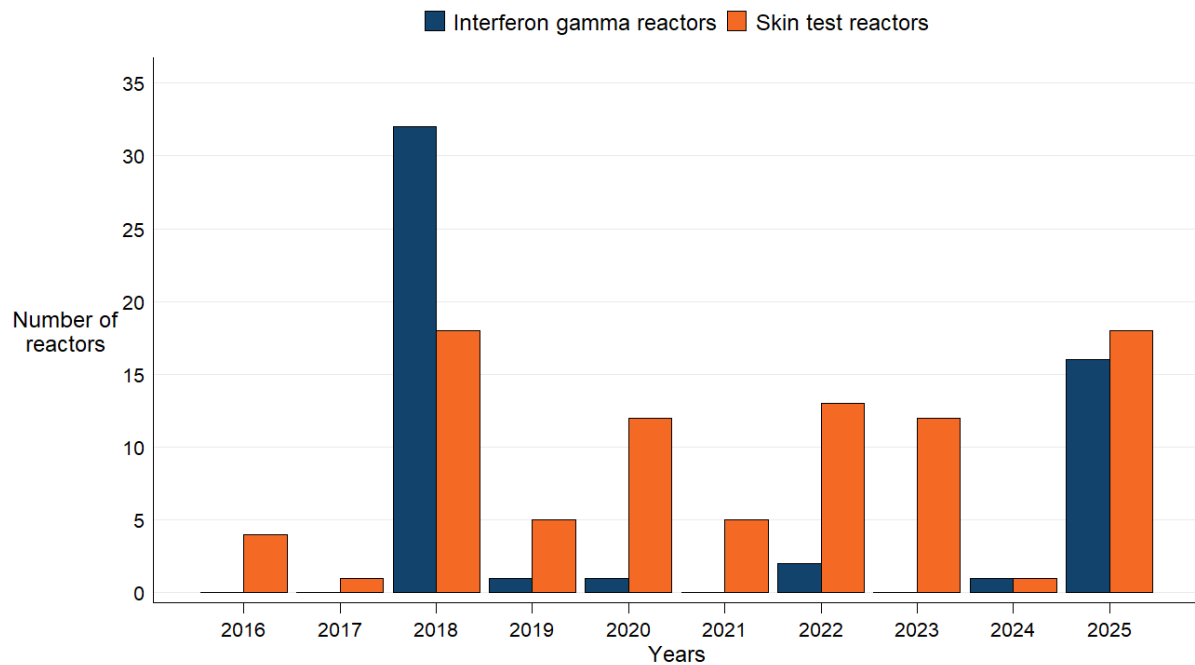


Figure 5g: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Kent from 2016 to 2025.

Norfolk experienced an increase from 8 skin test reactors removed in 2016 to 18 in 2018, but the numbers gradually decreased thereafter to one each in 2024 and 2025 (Figure 5h). Annual numbers of IFN- γ test positive animals increased from 5 in 2016 to 9 in 2018 and then dropped to 0 in both 2021 and 2022. There was an increase to 16 in 2023, and the figure decreased to 0 again in 2025.

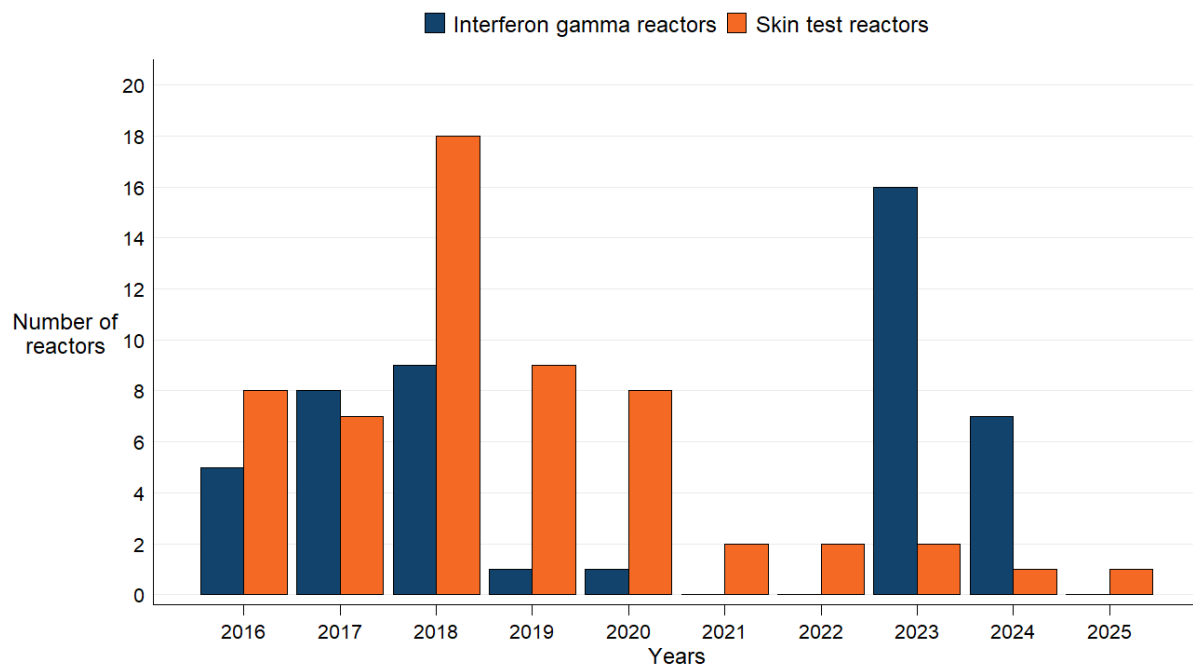


Figure 5h: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Norfolk from 2016 to 2025.

In Suffolk over the 10-year period of interest the annual numbers of skin test reactors did not exceed 10, with 0 removed in 2025 (Figure 5i). In most years, no IFN- γ test positive animals were removed, except for 4 in 2016, 25 in 2017, 3 in 2019 and 13 in 2021.

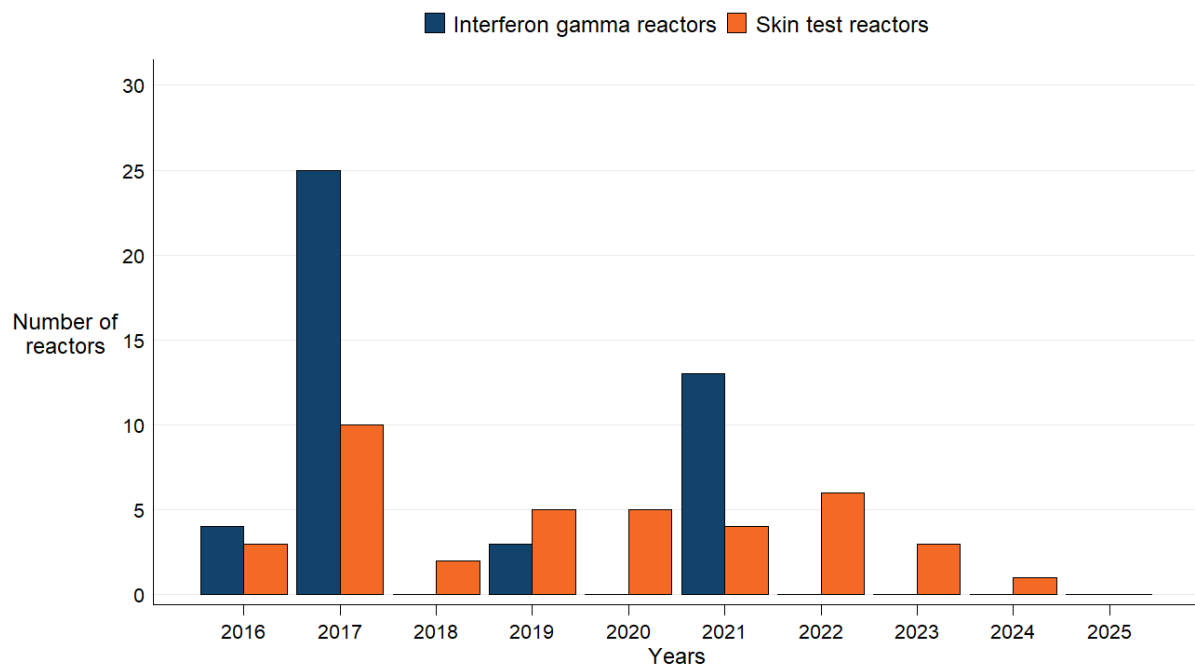


Figure 5i: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Suffolk from 2016 to 2025.

In Surrey, the annual number of skin test reactors removed over the 10-year period ranged between 6 and 19, with a peak of 32 in 2023 and 0 removed in 2021 (Figure 5j). In 2025, there were 6 skin test reactors removed. There were 28 IFN- γ test positive animals removed in 2016, and numbers fluctuated between 0 and 19 thereafter, with 0 removed in 2025.

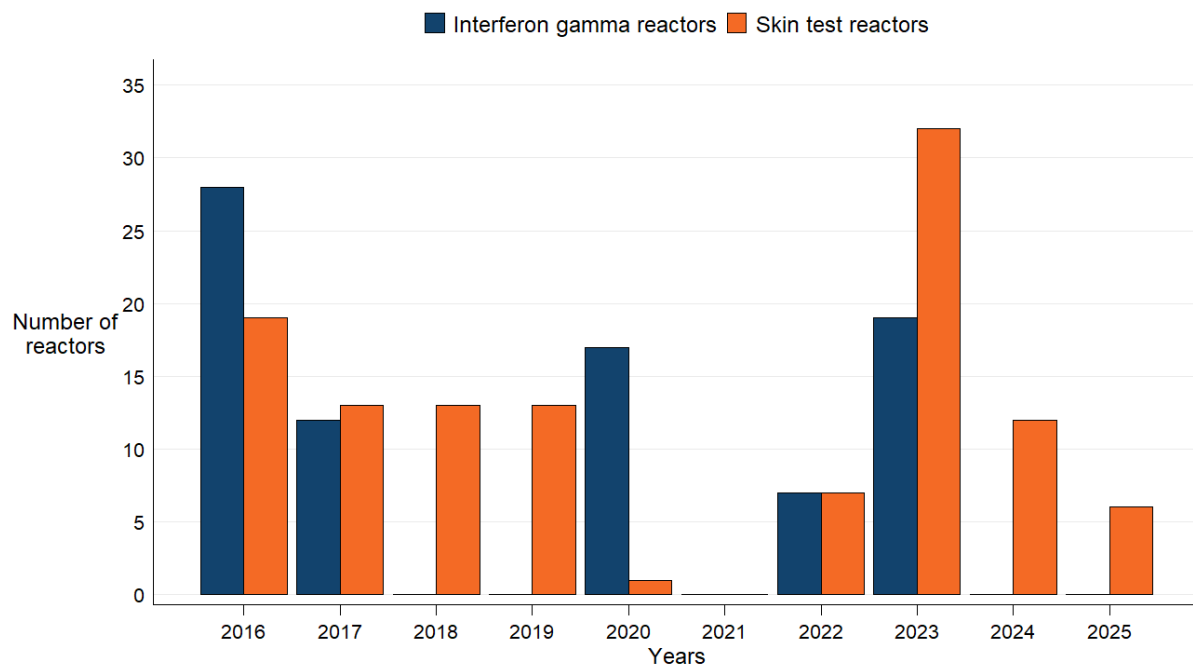


Figure 5j: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Surrey from 2016 to 2025.

In West Sussex, the annual number of skin test reactors ranged between 7 and 44, with 40 removed in 2025 (Figure 5k). There were 127 IFN- γ test positive animals removed in 2017, 87 in 2018, 47 in 2023 and 32 in 2024. In other years, the numbers ranged between 0 and 7, with only one removed in 2025.

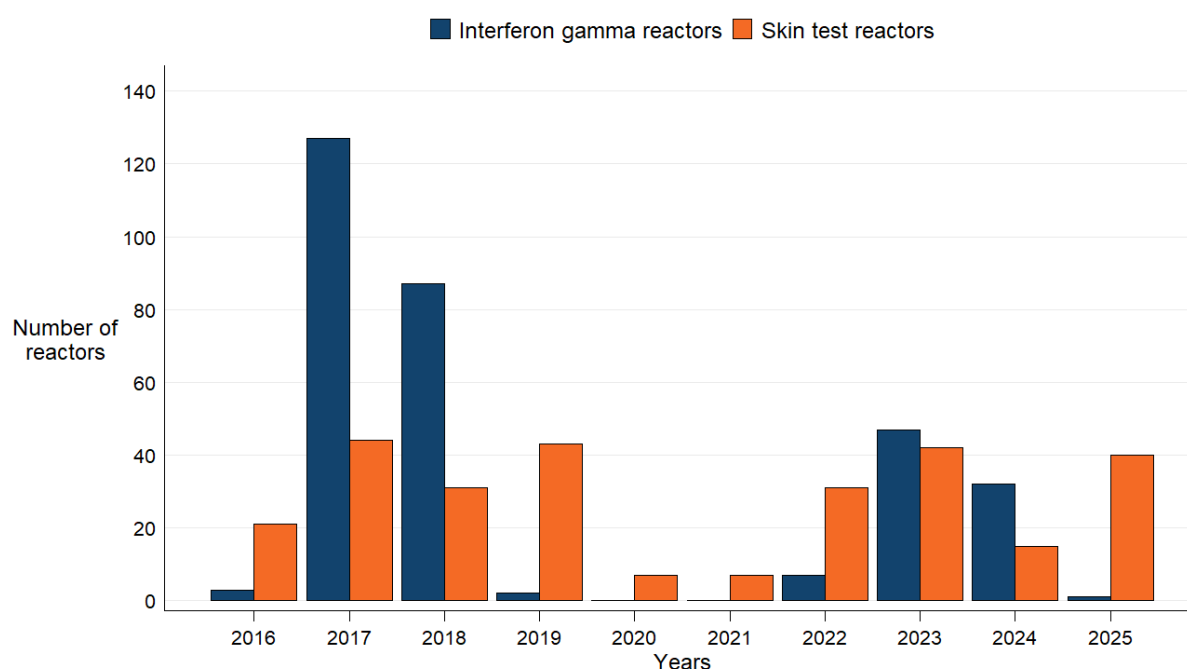


Figure 5k: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in West Sussex from 2016 to 2025.

Recurrent TB incidents

Three-year recurrence

Of the 11 herds in the South East with an OTF-W incident in 2025, only one (9%) in Essex had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years (Figures 6a to 6h). Of the 18 herds with a new OTF-S TB incident, 9 (50%) had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years. These occurred in West Sussex (5), Kent (2), and one each in Norfolk and Surrey.

The South East region had the highest percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA with 34% recurrence in 2025. This was higher than the whole LRA (19%). The lowest 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%).

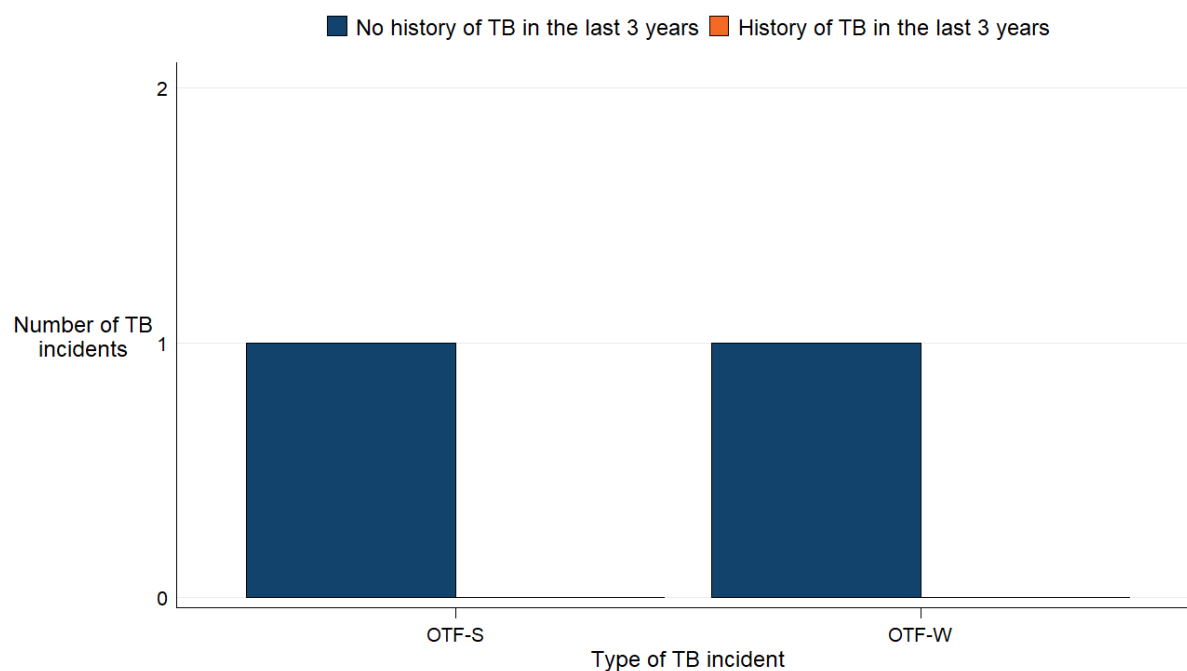


Figure 6a: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Bedfordshire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

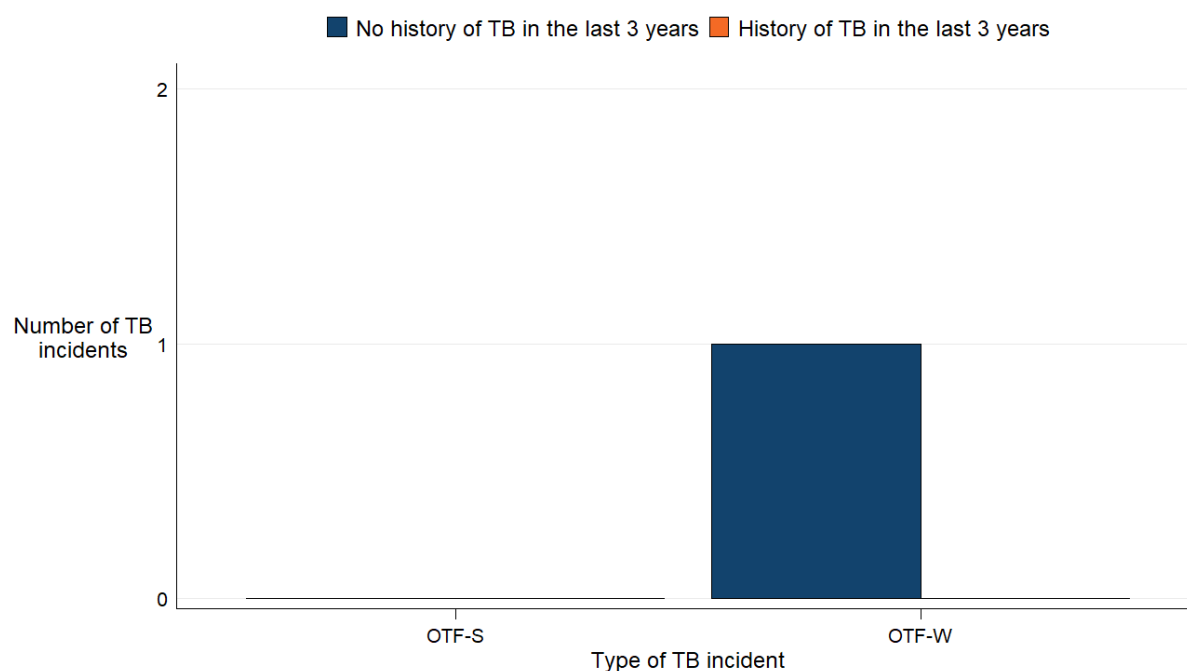


Figure 6b: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Cambridgeshire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

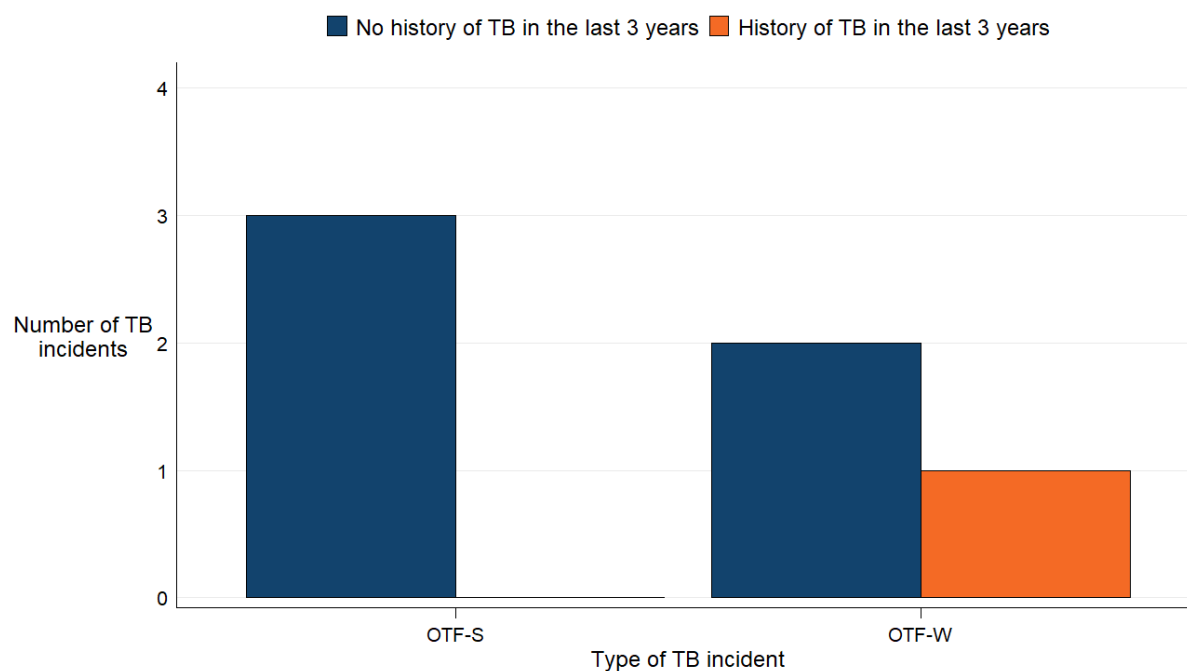


Figure 6c: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Essex in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

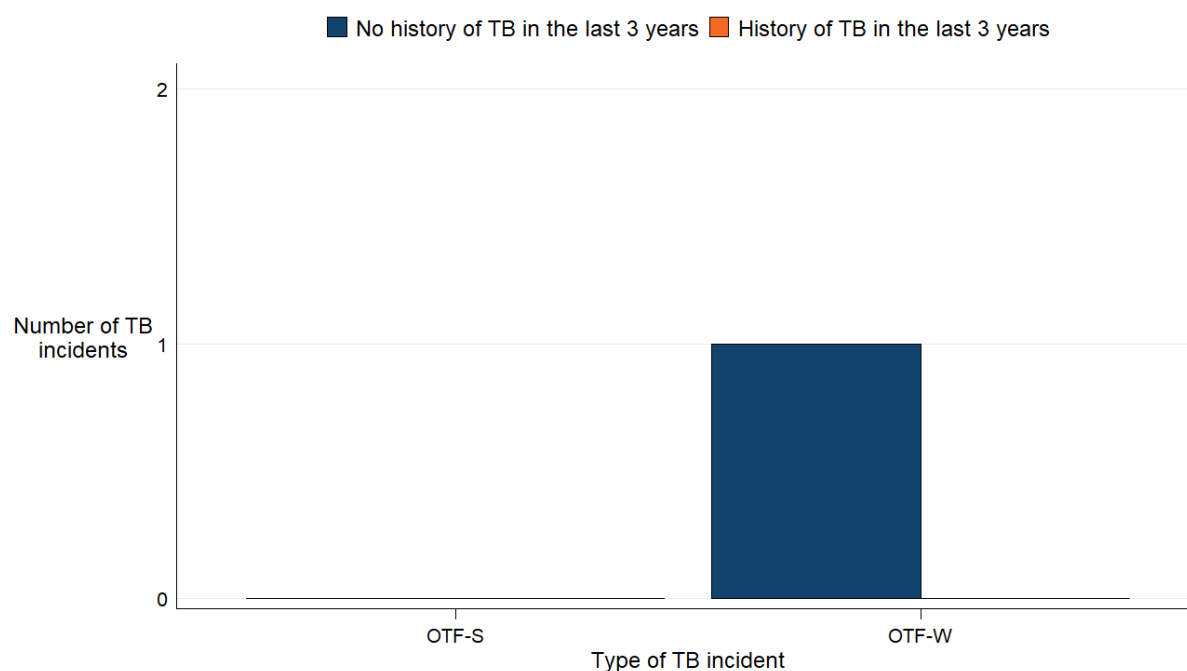


Figure 6d: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Hertfordshire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

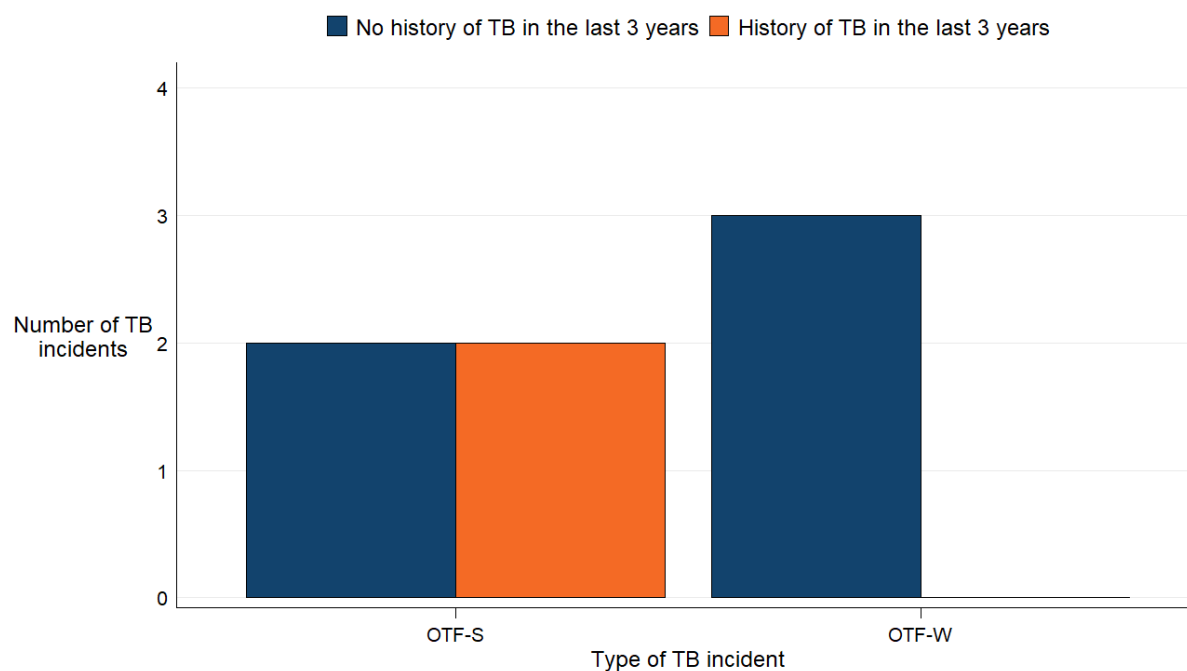


Figure 6e: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Kent in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

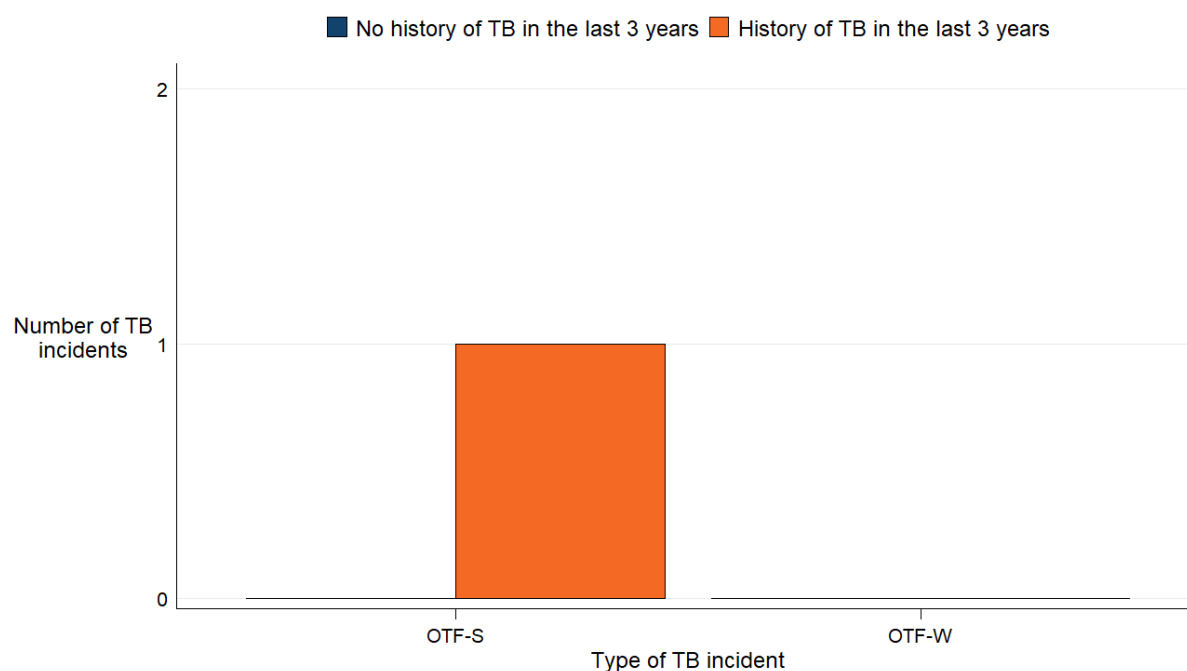


Figure 6f: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Norfolk in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

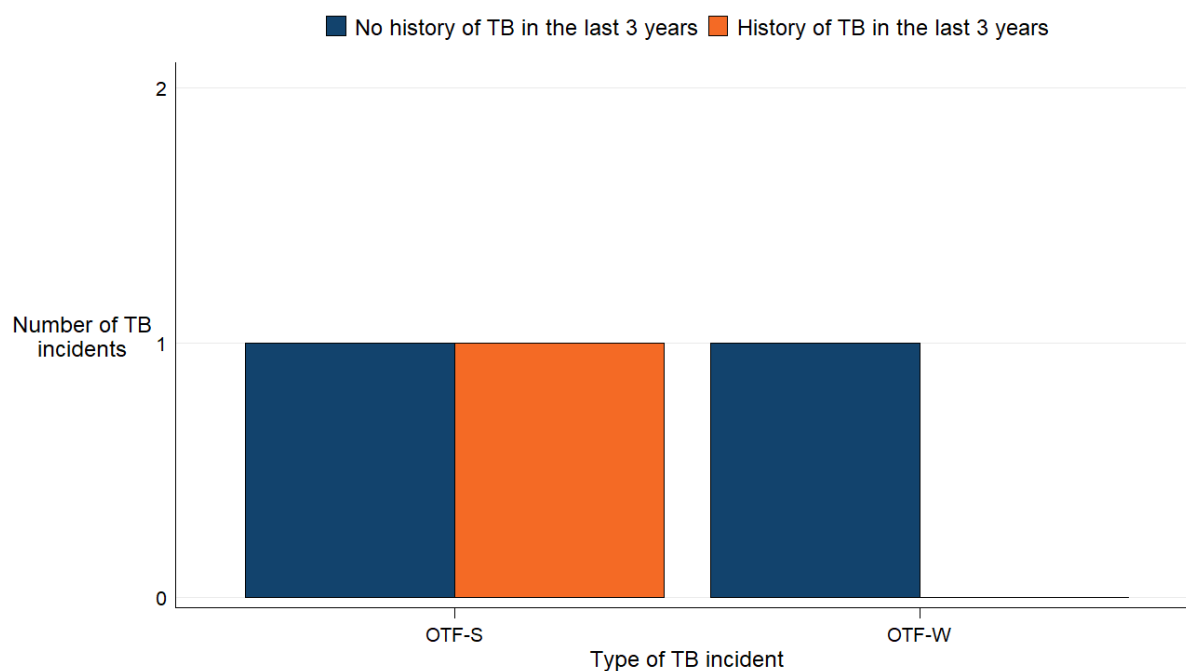


Figure 6g: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Surrey in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

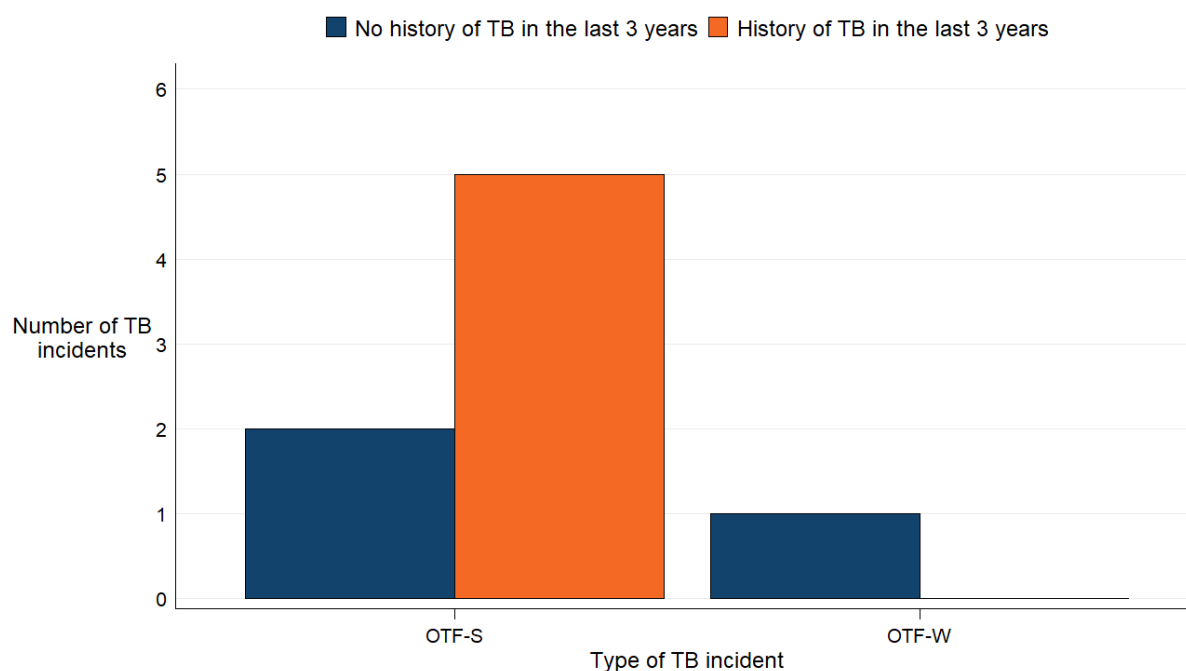


Figure 6h: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in West Sussex in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

Geographical distribution of TB incidents

As in previous years, new TB incidents in 2025 were unevenly spread across the South East of England and were generally more common in areas of a higher cattle density (Figure 7).

There was one OTF-S incident in the east of Norfolk in 2025 (incident 347, Figure 7), on a cattle holding that sustained another OTF-S incident in 2022.

An unusual TB incident was seen in pigs in north Norfolk in 2025. 50 suspected slaughterhouse cases of TB were reported in the carcasses of pigs originating from one holding, across several sites. All affected animals had visible lesions typical of TB noted at routine postmortem meat inspection and a range of causative organisms were identified across tuberculous and non-tuberculous mycobacteria through laboratory testing of the lesions. While the causative organisms included *M. microti* (in 5 cases) and *M. fortuitum* (in 1 case), *M. bovis* was also identified in 2 pigs from this incident. 8 results were still pending at the time of writing. Of the remaining cases, 23 tested negative and 11 returned unclassified results for mycobacterium TB complex organisms. Of these cases, 48 originated on the same site. Two cases originated on 2 other separate sites belonging to this holding. Both cases returned negative results from laboratory testing. All cases associated with this incident occurred in the latter half of 2025. This incident was unusual due to the large number of affected pigs from the same holding and the range of causative organisms (both tuberculous and nontuberculous) identified across those animals. Despite *M. bovis* being identified in only 2 of the cases, this represented an increase in TB cases seen in pigs for 2025, compared to 0 disclosed in 2024.

There was an OTF-W incident (incident 540, Figure 7) in the centre of Cambridgeshire associated with Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) clade B6-11 of *M. bovis*. A radial surveillance zone was triggered around the affected cattle farm in 2025 (Figure 8). This was the first incident with clade B6-11 detected in Cambridgeshire since 2021, when another one was recorded further south, but still within the higher cattle density area.

In Bedfordshire, there was one OTF-W incident (incident 243, Figure 7) and one OTF-S incident (incident 47) located in the southwest of the county. Both clades B6-11 and B6-62 of *M. bovis* were identified in cattle removed from the OTF-W incident herd. Both incidents were geographically clustered, along with a pre-2025 OTF-W incident, towards the west of the county close to the border with the Edge Area county of Buckinghamshire. This indicates a geographical link with OTF-W incidents disclosed in the Edge Area in 2025 that were also attributed to clades B6-11 and B6-62 (as evidenced in Figure 7). Historically, clade B6-62 has been linked in this region to Hotspot 30 (HS30) established in 2023, during which time there was a small cluster of 3 OTF-W incidents in this area, 2 of which were identified as clade B6-62 infections.

In Hertfordshire, one OTF-W incident was disclosed in 2025 (incident 246, Figure 7), but no WGS data could be obtained from the cattle removed from the affected herd, thus leaving the clade of *M. bovis* undetermined.

In Essex, 3 OTF-W and 3 OTF-S incidents were disclosed in 2025. Two of the OTF-W incidents (incident 270 and 32, Figure 7) were caused by infection with clade B6-62 of *M. bovis* and the 2 affected holdings were near the northern and southern borders of the county, respectively. The third OTF-W incident was detected in the centre of the county (incident 533, Figure 7) and was associated with an undetermined clade of *M. bovis*. Two OTF-S incidents (incident 229 and 506, Figure 7) occurred to the north of the county near the farm affected by OTF-W incident 270 mentioned above. A third OTF-S incident (incident 314, Figure 7) involved a cattle herd in the south-west of the county.

In Surrey, 2 incidents were disclosed in 2025, both in the east of the county. One was an OTF-W incident (incident 840, Figure 7) on a farm near the West Sussex border that could be attributed to infection with clade B6-11 of *M. bovis*. The other one was an OTF-S incident (incident 30, Figure 7).

A higher concentration of new TB incidents was seen across West Sussex and the southern region of Kent in 2025. One of the 3 new OTF-W incidents disclosed in Kent (incident 360) occurred in the north of the county and was attributed to clade B6-71 (normally isolated in the endemic bovine TB enclave of East Sussex). The other 2 OTF-W incidents (incidents 234 and 12) occurred on geographically close farms along the southern border of the county with East Sussex (Edge Area), and both were associated with WGS clade B6-85 of *M. bovis*. Historically, most TB incidents caused by infection of cattle with this clade have occurred within its home range in the Southwest peninsula (High Risk Area), mainly Devon and Somerset. However in 2022, 2 TB incidents caused by clade B6-85 were identified in the South East: one in central Kent, and the other on the northern border of West Sussex. In 2023, another TB incident associated with clade B6-85 infection occurred on the western border of West Sussex. In 2024, 2 incidents caused by this clade of *M. bovis* were disclosed in Norfolk and Hertfordshire.

Five OTF-S incidents were disclosed in Kent in 2025, 4 of which were located along the southern county border with East Sussex (incidents 553, 254, 859 and 830). Incident 830 was geographically clustered with 2 of the 3 OTF-W incidents disclosed in this county (incidents 234 and 12, both associated with clade B6-85 infection). The fifth OTF-S incident (incident 602) was located across the Kent-Surrey border.

In West Sussex, 7 OTF-S incidents were reported in 2025. Four of these incidents (incidents 850, 822, 232 and 789) were geographically clustered towards the north-west of the county. The other 3 (incidents 520, 581 and 359) were located across the southern and eastern region of the county, towards the West-East Sussex border and close to a cluster of OTF-S incidents located in East Sussex. One OTF-W incident was disclosed in West Sussex in 2025 on the East Sussex border and associated with clade B6-62 of *M. bovis* (incident 348).

The area spanning the south of Kent and east of Surrey and West Sussex along the border with East Sussex sustained an increased number of OTF-W incidents in 2025. In 2024 these counties saw a similar number of OTF-S incidents to those disclosed in 2025, but no OTF-W incidents. Of the 4 OTF-W incidents disclosed here in 2025, 2 were attributed to clade B6-85, one to clade B6-11 and one to clade B6-62. This increase in OTF-W incidents made this an area for close monitoring going forwards in 2025.

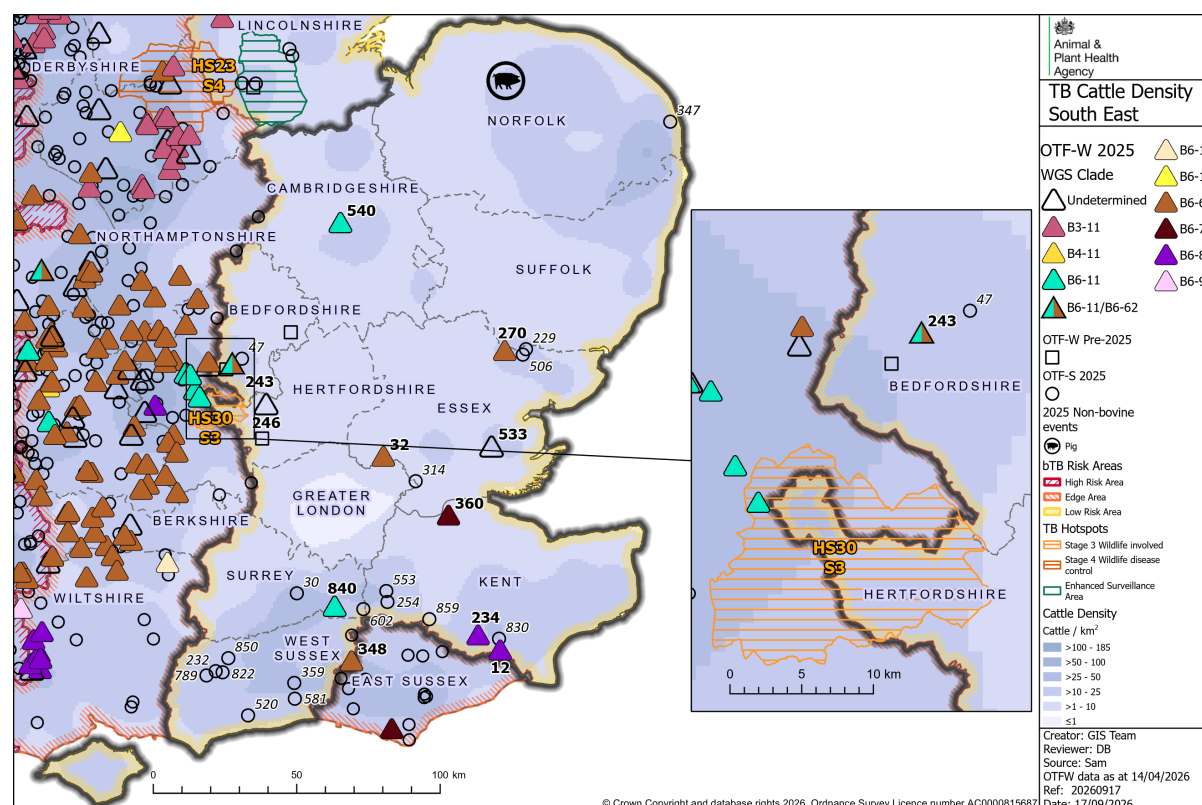


Figure 7: Location of cattle holdings in the South East region of the LRA, with new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in 2025, and cattle incident holdings with pre-2025 OTF-W incidents still ongoing at the beginning of 2025, overlaid on a cattle density map (as in 2024).

Figure 7 description: A map of the South East 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. Dusky pink represents clade B3-11, mustard yellow represents clade B4-11, light green represents clade B6-11, half light green and half light brown represents clade B6-11/B6-62, cream represents clade B6-13, bright yellow represents B6-14, light brown represents clade B6-62, dark brown represents clade B6-71, dark purple represents clade B6-85, light purple represents clade B6-91, 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. TB hotspot areas within the South East and in neighbouring counties of the Edge Area 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), dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control). The location of new TB incidents is described in the main text. The Enhanced Surveillance Area in the South West of Lincolnshire is shown with green hashed lines.

Radial surveillance zones that were active or completed around OTF-W incidents in the South East of England between 2020 and 2025 are represented in Figure 8. This indicates areas where OTF-W TB incidents have been repeatedly reported in recent years. Ten new active radial zones were set up in this part of the LRA in 2025. These new zones correspond to the OTF-W incidents disclosed in 2025, all had radial zones triggered for them except incident 840 (located in Surrey), which was exempt due to index case (skin test reactor) having spent very little time on the affected farm before its detection and removal to slaughter.

Two regions of radial zone clustering can be seen in Figure 8. One was in West Sussex and contained zones active from 2023 to 2025. The cluster extended across much of the county but particularly towards the north-east border, a region noted as an area of concern in 2025.

A second cluster of zones can be seen in the west of Hertfordshire along the border with Buckinghamshire, within HS30. The currently active zones in this area were set up from 2023 onwards and overlap with earlier completed (inactive) zones from 2021 and 2022. This suggests that the area would benefit from continued close monitoring.

The remaining active zones were distributed across the South East region.

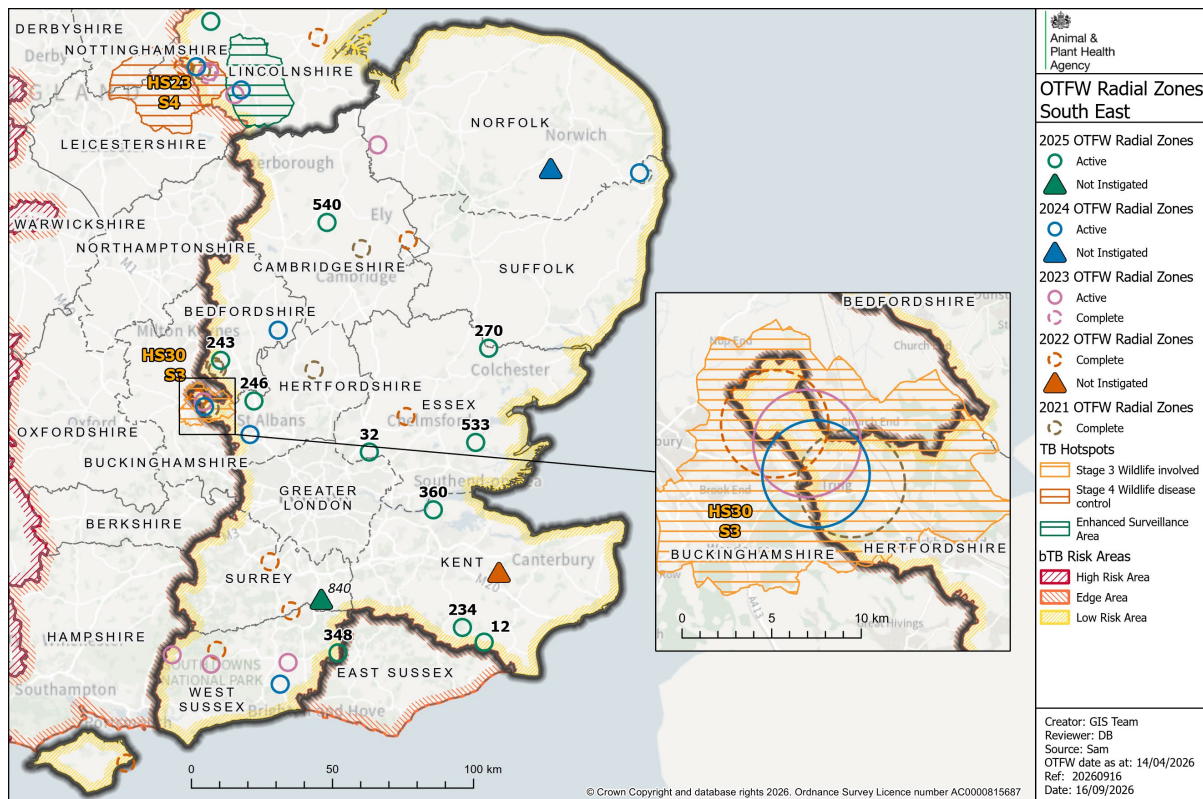


Figure 8: Hotspot areas and radial surveillance zones around OTF-W incidents that were active, completed or not instigated in the South East region of the LRA during 2025, by year of initiation.

Figure 8 description: A map of the South East 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 within the South East and in neighbouring counties of the Edge Area 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), dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control). The location of new TB incidents is described in the main text. The Enhanced Surveillance Area in the South West of Lincolnshire is shown with green hashed lines. Incidents in the adjacent Edge Area counties are not shown on this map.

Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection

In 2025, 26 out of 29 (90%) new TB incidents in the South East 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 top 3 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. It can be challenging to retrospectively establish the route of infection for a TB incident herd. Ideally this investigation includes a thorough on-farm investigation and scrutiny of routinely collected data, such as cattle movement records, and the results of WGS where available. Up to 3 hazards and risk pathways were selected for each incident investigated. Each of these potential sources were given a score that reflects the likelihood of that pathway being the true one, based on the available evidence.

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

The top 3 possible drivers of the occurrence of TB in cattle in the South East during 2025 were:

- movements of undetected infected cattle
- exposure to infected badgers
- exposure to other wildlife

The infection risk pathway with the highest calculated weighted contribution, for cattle herds with new incidents in 2025, from APHA veterinary investigations, was the movement of undetected, infected cattle into (and within) the county (28.9%, Appendix 3). This was higher than the previous year's (18.0%), but lower than in 2023 (49.5%).

Potential exposure to infected badgers accounted for a weighted contribution of 23.7%, which was lower than in 2024 (31.8%).

Other infected wildlife (mostly deer) represented a weighted contribution of 10.4%, which was slightly lower compared to the previous year (11.5% in 2024).

There was a degree of uncertainty around the source of some new incidents. Other or unknown sources had a weighted contribution of 15.4%. 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. This was lower than in previous years, 28.7% in 2024 and 18.7 % in 2023.

Four of the new OTF-W incidents in 2025 were attributed to purchased cattle. All 4 of these incidents were in the south of the region, within Kent, Surrey and West Sussex

(Figure 9). Of these incidents, the risk pathway in each case was attributed to cattle bought in from the Edge and High Risk areas of the country.

Two OTF-W incidents in 2025, located in Essex and on the southern border of Kent, were attributed to infection from wildlife (incidents 32 and 234). These 2 incidents were associated with WGS clades B6-62 and B6-85 of *M. bovis*, respectively. Incident 32 in the south-west of Essex was attributed to wildlife due to no evidence of purchased cattle infection, and many deer and badgers present in the area. Incident 234 in the south of Kent was attributed to wildlife due to information gathered at radial testing indicating that a wildlife component may have influenced spread within the local area.

One OTF-W incident was attributed to residual *M. bovis* infection in an affected herd, which had sustained other TB incidents in recent years, thus making local cattle (for example residual infection within the herd) the most likely risk pathway.

The final 4 OTF-W incidents detected in the South East region of the LRA in 2025 were attributed to unknown or undetermined sources. These incidents were all located in the northern half of the region, in northern Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. Incident 246, located in Hertfordshire, was attributed to undetermined sources such as fomites, due to a grazing connection with sheep within Hotspot 30 (this incident was attributed to clade B6-62, which is the strain of *M. bovis* associated with HS30). Incident 243, located in Bedfordshire, also had an undetermined final risk pathway, with movements of cattle from the High Risk Area and fomites both cited as possible risk pathways. Incident 540, located in Cambridgeshire, was attributed to undetermined sources due to lack of evidence linking the incident to wildlife, or cattle movement sources. Fomites remain a possible cause in this case. Finally, incident 270, located in northern Essex, had a similar risk pathway determination, with a lack of evidence to support cattle movements or wildlife as the possible cause. In this case, fomites remain a possible source of infection.

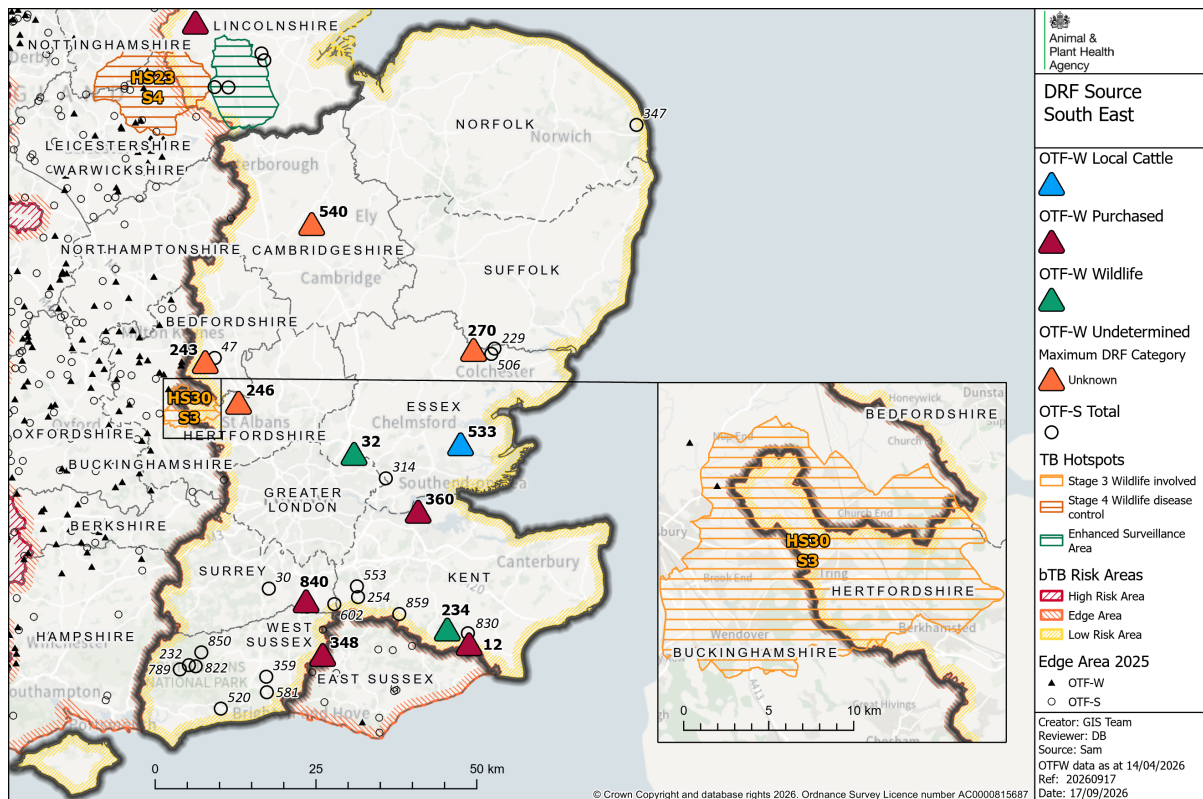


Figure 9: Map of the source of infection pathway recorded with the highest level of certainty, for OTF-W incidents, and the location of OTF-S incidents in the South East region of the LRA which started in 2025.

Figure 9 description: A map of the South East and adjoining areas showing the geographical location of cattle incident 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. Local cattle refer to residual infection and contiguous cattle risk pathways (shown as blue triangles). Purchased refers to cattle movement risk pathways (shown as red triangles). Wildlife refers to both badger and other wildlife risk pathways (shown as green triangles). Incidents with an undetermined pathway (shown as orange triangles) refer 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 within the South East and in neighbouring counties of the Edge Area 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), dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control). The location of new TB incidents is described in the main text. The Enhanced Surveillance Area in the South West of Lincolnshire is shown with green hashed lines. OTF-W incidents in the adjacent Edge Area counties are shown as small black triangles and OTF-S incidents as small white circles.

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 only one active bovine TB hotspot in the South East at the start of 2025: Hotspot 30 (HS30).

Hotspot 30

HS30 was established in early 2023 around the town of Tring in Hertfordshire following detection of a cluster of cattle TB incidents associated with clade B6-62 of *M. bovis*. The hotspot straddles West Hertfordshire (LRA) and East Buckinghamshire (Edge Area).

Approximately a year earlier (in February 2022) a single badger had been collected during the Southern Edge Road Traffic Accident (RTA) survey run by APHA in collaboration with the University of Nottingham, from the portion of West Hertfordshire extending into East Buckinghamshire. *M. bovis* was isolated from that badger and identified within the WGS clade B6-62 linked to the contemporaneous cattle incidents in the area.

Between 2020 and 2024, a total of 15 OTF-S (1 to 7 per year) incidents and 12 OTF-W incidents (1 to 4 per year) were disclosed within the HS30 area, of which 4 and 8, respectively, occurred in the Hertfordshire (LRA) section of the hotspot. There were 2 new OTF-W incidents detected within HS30 in 2025 (one of them in Hertfordshire), which was the same as in 2024. Both incidents were attributed to clade B6-11. A single new OTF-S incident was detected in 2025 (in Buckinghamshire), compared to 7 in 2024 (Figure 10).

Within the hotspot there is a programme of submission of 'found dead' wildlife carcasses as part of ongoing surveillance in this area. From establishment of the hotspot to 31 December 2025, a total of 8 badger carcasses have been submitted, all testing negative for bovine TB.

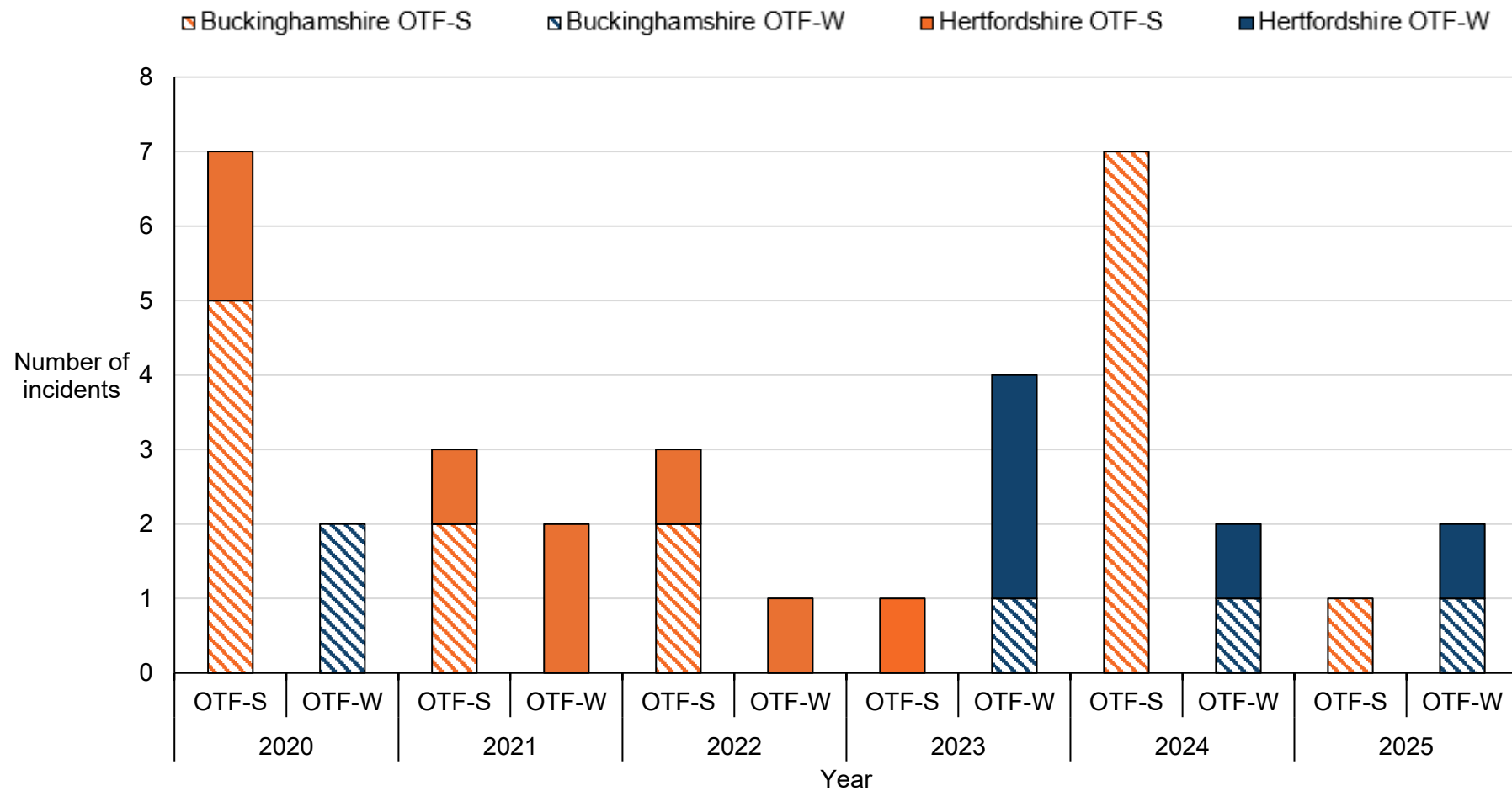


Figure 10: Annual number of new TB incidents detected in the area of HS30 (established 2023), from 2020 to 2025.

In the Buckinghamshire portion, there was 1 OTF-W incident in 2025 (no change compared to 1 in 2024) and 1 OTF-S incidents (a decrease from 7 in 2024).

In the Hertfordshire portion, there were 1 OTF-W incidents in 2025 (no change compared to 1 in 2024) and 0 OTF-S incidents (no change compared to 0 in 2024).

There were no new TB incidents on any Oxfordshire holdings with Temporary Land Associations within HS30.

Forward look

Current surveillance and incident management measures are keeping the incidence of TB under control in the South East region of the LRA. Overall, disease incidence remains low, however an increase of 26% in new TB incidents was seen in 2025 compared to the previous year. The recommendation would be to continue utilising all control measures currently available to mitigate this upward trend. Another crucial recommendation is to encourage herd biosecurity awareness through communication with veterinary providers and farming industry associations. Farmers purchasing from England and Wales should also be encouraged to use the [ibTB](#) tool, which is now searchable by ear tag.

In 2025, movements of undetected infected cattle were assessed to be the main risk pathway for infection of cattle herds in the South East region, resulting in a weighted contribution of 28.9%. This differs from the previous year, where for the first time exposure to potentially infected badgers was identified as the main risk pathway. This change in 2025 may indicate increased awareness and action by farmers, reducing the impact of direct or indirect contact between cattle herds and badgers as a risk pathway in this part of the LRA. Inward movements of undetected infected cattle emerging as the main risk pathway may also indicate a change in actions relating to cattle purchasing within the region.

Potential exposure to infected badgers was the next most likely risk pathway identified in 2025, with a weighted contribution of 23.7%, below that estimated in 2024 (31.8%). The third most likely risk pathway identified in 2025 was other infected wildlife (mostly deer), with a weighted contribution of 10.4%, slightly lower compared to the previous year (11.5% in 2024). Despite wildlife contact being an identified risk in 2025, there is still a lack of evidence to support wildlife reservoir of *M. bovis* infection within the region, outside of HS30. The trend does, however, indicate that wildlife may remain an important risk pathway in TB incidence within the South East region of the LRA over the coming years.

A notable area of concern in this region in 2025 was the area spanning the south of Kent along the border with the Edge Area county of East Sussex, and eastern borders of Surrey and West Sussex, with an increased number of OTF-W incidents recorded. In 2024 these counties saw a similar number of OTF-S incidents to those disclosed in 2025, although no OTF-W incidents were reported in this area in 2024. Of the 4 OTF-W incidents disclosed here in 2025, 3 were attributed to the

introduction of infected cattle. The fourth was attributed to wildlife infection and was closely related geographically to one of the incidents just mentioned. It was also attributed to the same WGS clade of *M. bovis* (B6-85, with a homorange in Devon and West Somerset). This raises concerns that infection introduced via cattle movements could spill over into wildlife hosts in the area.

Another concern was that the South East had the highest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA (34%) in 2025, higher than the overall percentage for the LRA (20%). Recurrent incidents were seen predominantly in OTF-S incidents in 2025. Of the 50% of herds with a new OTF-S TB incident in 2025 had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years. These occurred predominantly in the West Sussex and Kent region. This increased rate of recurrence contrasts to the previous year, where the South East region had the fourth lowest percentage of recurrent herd incidents.

The areas of concern mentioned should be closely monitored for further incidents of TB and trends mapped using WGS data. Increasing wildlife surveillance within radial zones and areas of interest would support this. If the above recommendations are actioned, and areas of concern within the region carefully monitored, a sustained declining trend in TB incidents within the South East region of the LRA could be achieved. This will increase the potential for declaring official freedom from TB in cattle in all the counties of this region 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 South East of England, by county.

Source: Sam

Breed purpose	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
Beef	141 (88%)	304 (88%)	360 (91%)
Dairy	7 (4%)	23 (7%)	17 (4%)
Other	9 (6%)	14 (4%)	18 (5%)
Undetermined*	3 (2%)	4 (1%)	2 (1%)
Total	160	345	397

Breed purpose	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
Beef	60 (83%)	188 (83%)	104 (83%)
Dairy	8 (11%)	25 (11%)	16 (13%)
Other	4 (6%)	7 (3%)	3 (2%)
Undetermined*	0 (0%)	6 (3%)	2 (2%)
Total	72	226	125

Breed purpose	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
Beef	549 (84%)	767 (86%)	452 (87%)
Dairy	74 (11%)	96 (11%)	40 (8%)
Other	22 (3%)	26 (3%)	18 (3%)
Undetermined*	7 (1%)	8 (1%)	7 (1%)
Total	652	897	517

Breed purpose	Surrey	West Sussex
Beef	286 (85%)	368 (83%)
Dairy	38 (11%)	58 (13%)
Other	12 (4%)	15 (3%)
Undetermined*	0 (0%)	4 (1%)
Total	336	445

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

Table 2: Number of active cattle herds on the last day of the reporting year in the South 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).

Size of herds	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
0	34	99	97
1 to 50	76	143	199
51 to 100	30	43	39
101 to 200	10	39	32
201 to 350	5	8	19
351 to 500	2	6	6
Greater than 500	3	7	5
Total number of herds	160	345	397

Size of herds	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
0	58	57	20
1 to 50	12	114	55
51 to 100	1	30	19
101 to 200	1	14	23
201 to 350	0	8	7
351 to 500	0	1	1
Greater than 500	0	2	0
Total number of herds	72	226	125

Size of herds	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
0	139	195	124
1 to 50	317	418	249
51 to 100	76	120	59
101 to 200	54	84	48
201 to 350	32	40	15
351 to 500	14	15	12
Greater than 500	20	25	10
Total number of herds	652	897	517

Size of herds	Surrey	West Sussex
0	74	105
1 to 50	168	174
51 to 100	27	63
101 to 200	29	50
201 to 350	17	23
351 to 500	9	14
Greater than 500	12	16
Total number of herds	336	445

Table 3: Number of active cattle herds in the South 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	830	63	70	7	970
2023	1 to 50	1,799	115	50	70	2,034
2023	51 to 100	467	37	5	2	511
2023	101 to 200	365	52	3	1	421
2023	201 to 350	141	52	3	1	197
2023	351 to 500	55	32	2	1	90
2023	Greater than 500	49	44	1	4	98
2023	Total	3,706	395	134	86	4,321
2024	0	863	65	74	14	1,016
2024	1 to 50	1,777	122	45	42	1,986
2024	51 to 100	473	38	5	2	518
2024	101 to 200	343	54	3	2	402
2024	201 to 350	130	48	2	0	180
2024	351 to 500	45	31	3	0	79
2024	Greater than 500	55	43	1	5	104
2024	Total	3,686	401	133	65	4,285
2025	0	838	74	81	9	1,002
2025	1 to 50	1,718	126	53	28	1,925
2025	51 to 100	466	35	6	0	507
2025	101 to 200	330	51	2	1	384
2025	201 to 350	127	46	1	0	174
2025	351 to 500	47	30	3	0	80
2025	Greater than 500	53	40	2	5	100
2025	Total	3,579	402	148	43	4,172

Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics

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

Source: Sam

Herd-level statistics	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	160	345	397
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	32	23	45
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	57	59	102
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	46	56	80
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	157	335	385
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	157	341	393
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	1	0	3
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	1	1	3

Herd-level statistics	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
(g.3.) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	2	1	6
(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	1
(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)?	1	1	3
(h.5) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were first detected through routine slaughterhouse TB surveillance?	1	1	1
(i.1) Number of new OTF-S incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	1	0	0

Herd-level statistics	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
(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	1
(k) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period that were on a finishing unit	0	2	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

Herd-level statistics	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	72	226	125
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	9	51	0
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	13	74	25

Herd-level statistics	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	13	62	25
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	69	216	122
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	72	220	123
(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	1	0
(g.3.) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	0	1	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
(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

Herd-level statistics	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
(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	1	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
(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

Herd-level statistics	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	652	897	517
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	76	35	12
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	175	210	106
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	150	206	105
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	634	874	500
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	642	890	510
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	4	1	0
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	3	0	0
(g.3.) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	7	1	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

Herd-level statistics	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
(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)?	3	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	1	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)	2	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

Herd-level statistics	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
(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	1 pig	0

Herd-level statistics	Surrey	West Sussex
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	336	445
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	20	60
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	90	154
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	83	135
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	326	431
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	334	438
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	2	7

Herd-level statistics	Surrey	West Sussex
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	1	1
(g.3.) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	3	8
(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
(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
(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
(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)?	1	1
(h.5) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were first detected through routine slaughterhouse TB surveillance?	1	1
(i.1) Number of new OTF-S incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	0	3

Herd-level statistics	Surrey	West Sussex
(i.2) Number of new OTF-W incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	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
(k) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period that were on a finishing unit	0	1
(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

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

Source: Sam

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	9,723	4,483	10,384
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	245	154	1,438
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	9,968	4,637	11,822
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	1	0	6
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	4	1	36
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	2.50	1.00	7.00
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0.50	0.22	3.55
(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	1

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Bedfordshire	Cambridgeshire	Essex
(f) Slaughterhouse (SLH) cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during routine meat inspection	5	2	3
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	3	1	1

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	284	6,348	2,185
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	0	122	0
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	284	6,470	2,185
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	0	1	0
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	0	7	0
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	0.00	8.00	0.00
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0.00	1.24	0.00
(e.1) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (dangerous contacts, including any first time IRs)	0	3	0

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Greater London	Hertfordshire	Isle of Wight
(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	1
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	0	0	0

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	19,084	15,212	11,523
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	785	0	0
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	19,869	15,212	11,523
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	18	1	0
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	16	0	0
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	4.86	1.00	0.00
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	1.71	0.07	0.00

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Kent	Norfolk	Suffolk
(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	1	2	1
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	0	0	0

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Surrey	West Sussex
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	8,976	19,650
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	11	76
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	8,987	19,726
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	6	40
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	0	1
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	2.00	5.13

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	Surrey	West Sussex
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0.67	2.08
(e.1) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (dangerous contacts, including any first time IRs)	0	0
(e.2) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (private slaughters)	2	0
(f) Slaughterhouse (SLH) cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during routine meat inspection	2	3
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	1	2

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, 26 out of 29 (90%) new TB incidents in the South East 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 26 incidents with a preliminary or a final veterinary assessment in the South East, in 2025.

Source of infection	Possible (1)	Likely (4)	Most likely (6)	Definite (8)	Weighted contribution
Badgers	9	8	3	0	23.7%
Cattle movements	4	4	4	2	28.9%
Contiguous	1	0	0	0	0.6%
Residual cattle infection	3	3	1	0	8.4%
Domestic animals	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non-specific reactor	0	1	3	0	9.6%
Fomites	5	0	0	0	3.0%
Other wildlife	3	3	2	0	10.4%
Other or unknown source*	3	0	0	0	15.4%

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.