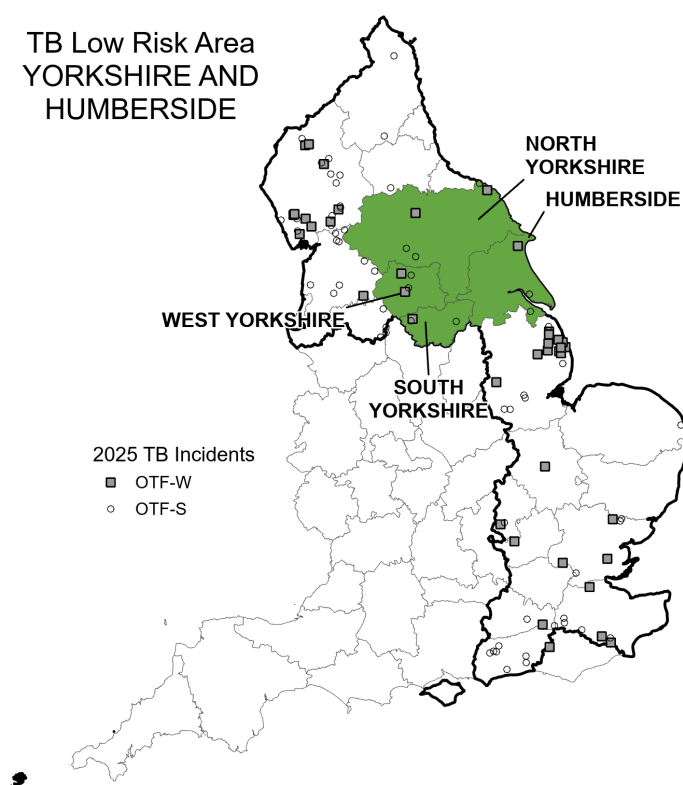




Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Year End Descriptive Epidemiology Report: Bovine TB in the Low Risk Area of England 2025: Yorkshire and Humberside



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Introduction

This report describes the frequency and geographical distribution of TB in 2025 in cattle herds in Yorkshire and Humberside, 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 This includes both 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Withdrawn' (OTF-W) and 'Officially Tuberculosis-Free Status Suspended' (OTF-S) incidents.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 5,506 cattle herds registered in Sam (APHA's operational database) in Yorkshire and Humberside 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 there were 4,473 beef herds, 754 dairy herds and 190 other herds, with an additional 84 of undetermined type in the data, active on the 31 December (Appendix 1). Over the last 10 years, the number of beef herds with between one and 50 animals has decreased from 2,361 in 2016 to 1,959 in 2025. The number of beef herds with 51 to 100 animals has also decreased slightly from 864 in 2016 to 678 in 2025. The number of all other beef herd sizes has remained fairly constant during the last 10 years. The number of dairy herds has also remained constant over the last 10 years (Figure 1).

The number of herds in the 'Other' production type category have remained few in numbers and consistent over time (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 Yorkshire and Humberside.

In 2025, Yorkshire and Humberside had 4 livestock markets approved by APHA to hold slaughter gatherings of cattle from OTF herds that are eligible for, but have not been subjected to, pre-movement TB testing (known as 'TB pre-movement testing-exempt' markets).

There were 25 LFUs operating in this region during 2025, 19 in North Yorkshire, 2 in Humberside and 4 in South Yorkshire. No new TB incidents were detected in any of those units in 2025, and one pre-existing incident in one of those LFUs ended in 2025.

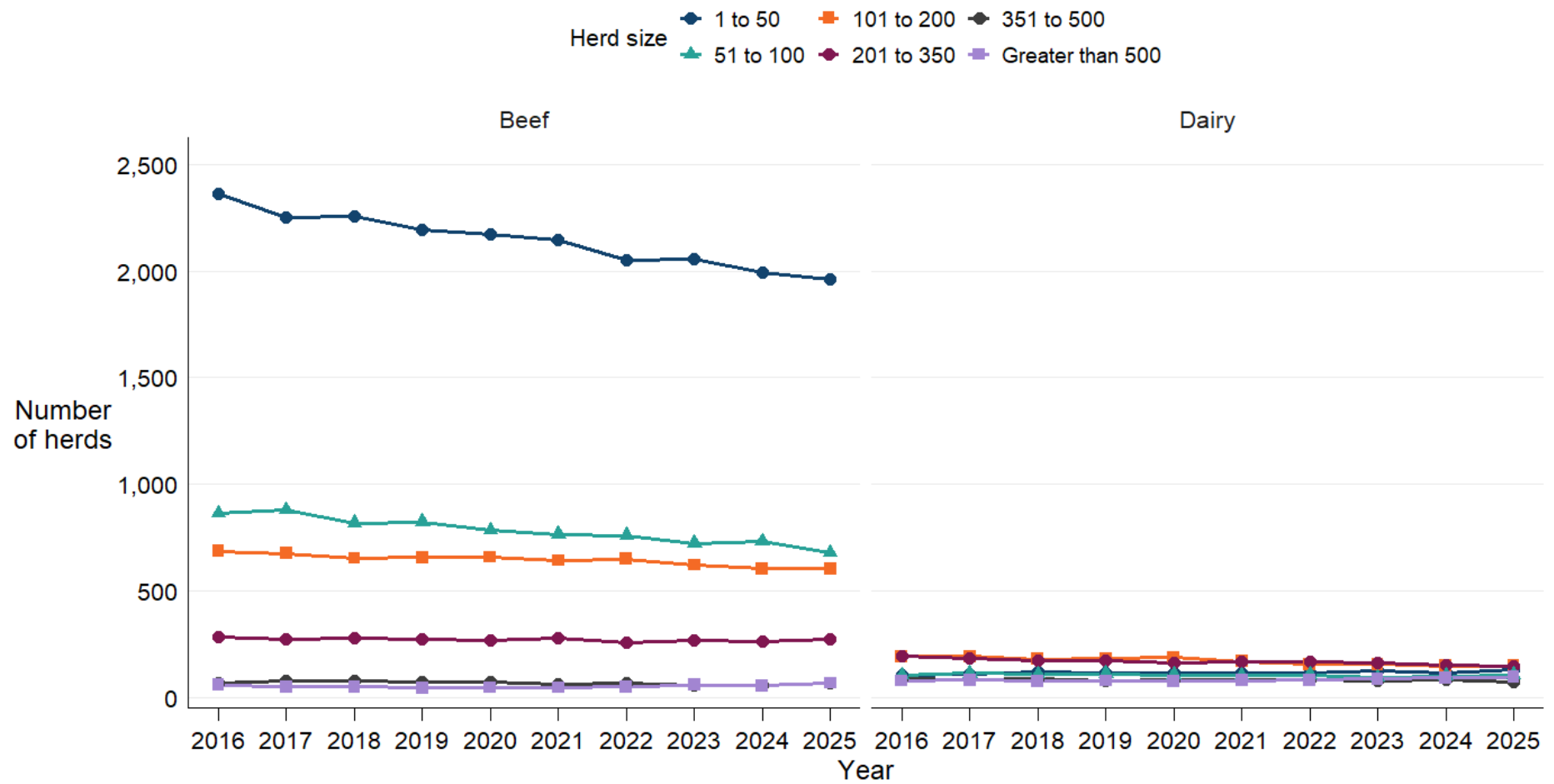


Figure 1: Number of herds with ≥ 1 animal on the last day of the reporting year in Yorkshire and Humberside by herd size and herd type (dairy and beef), between 2016 to 2025.

Number of new TB incidents

In 2025, 15 new TB herd incidents were declared in Yorkshire and Humberside, 6 OTF-W and 9 OTF-S (Figures 2a to 2d). This represented a decrease of 4 TB incidents compared to 2024.

The 6 OTF-W incidents detected in 2025 were twice as many as those found in 2024, although this was from a very low baseline. Over the longer period from 2016 to 2025, the overall trend remained stable, beginning and ending at 6, with figures fluctuating between 3 and 14 during this time.

The number of OTF-S incidents was 9 in 2025, representing a decrease of 8 from 17 in 2024. The number of such incidents detected annually in the region from 2016 to 2025 shows an overall downward trend, starting at 17 and ending at 8, with values ranging between 8 and 24 and noticeable fluctuations over that period.

There were 5 new incidents in North Yorkshire in 2025, less than half of the total incidents in 2024 (11). The decline was driven by a 70% decrease in the number of OTF-S incidents (from 9 to 3), the lowest number detected in North Yorkshire in the last 10 years. Prior to 2025, the number of OTF-S incidents in this county ranged between 8 and 16. There were 2 OTF-W incidents in 2025, unchanged from the previous year. Since 2016, the number of OTF-W incidents has fluctuated from year to year, increasing from 3 in 2016 to 8 in 2020, then decreasing to 2 in 2021, and increasing again to 8 in 2023 (Figure 2a).

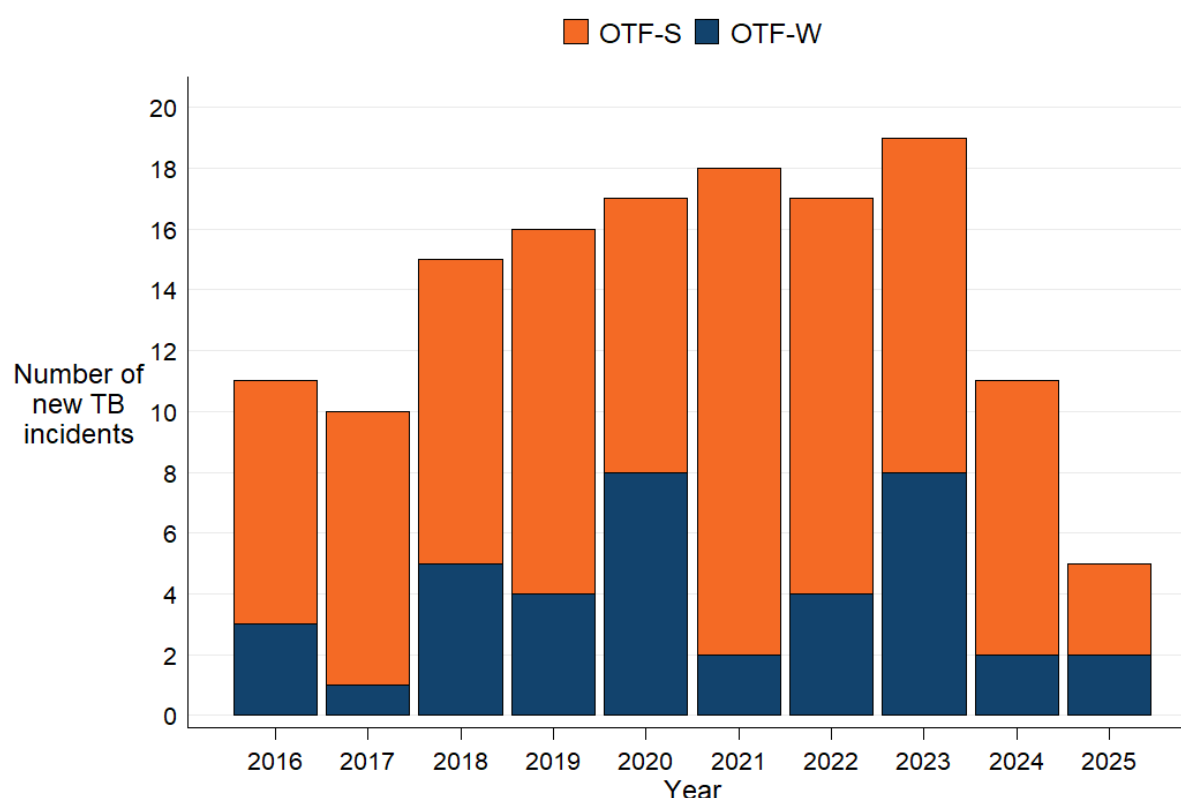


Figure 2a: Annual number of new TB incidents in North Yorkshire from 2016 to 2025.

In 2025, Humberside recorded a total of 3 incidents (one OTF-W and 2 OTF-S), which was a slight increase from 2 in 2024 (both OTF-S).

Since 2016, the number of OTF-W incidents remained low most years, ranging from 0 to 2, except for 2023 where there were 4 incidents. The number of OTF-S incidents fluctuated since 2016 between 0 and 2 each year (Figure 2b).

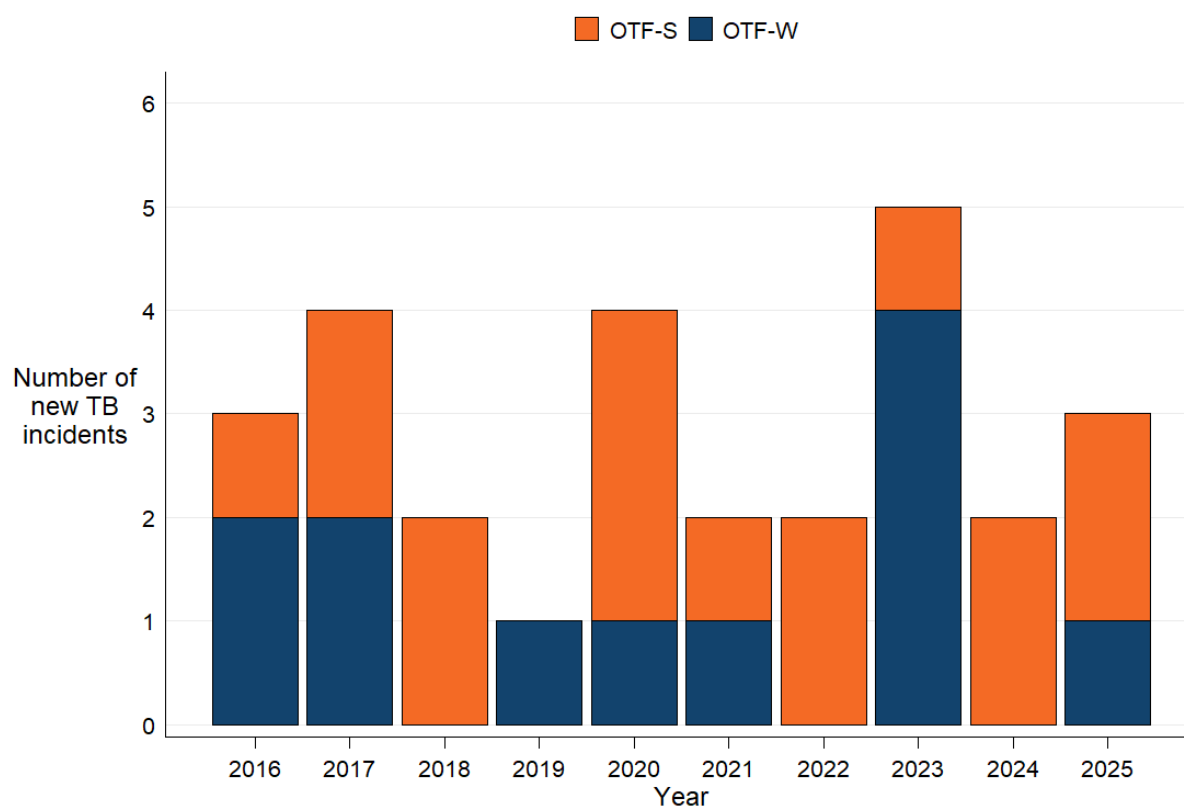


Figure 2b: Annual number of new TB incidents in Humberside from 2016 to 2025.

In 2025, South Yorkshire recorded 3 incidents (2 OTF-S and one OTF-W), an increase from 0 in 2024. Apart from 2016 and 2019, where there were 8 and 10 incidents, respectively, the total number of incidents in this county has remained below 5 in the last decade. There were 7 OTF-S incidents in 2016, 3 in 2017 and 8 in 2019, and between 0 and 2 in other years. There was one OTF-W incident recorded each year except 2 each in 2018 and 2019, and none in 2021 and 2024 (Figure 2c).

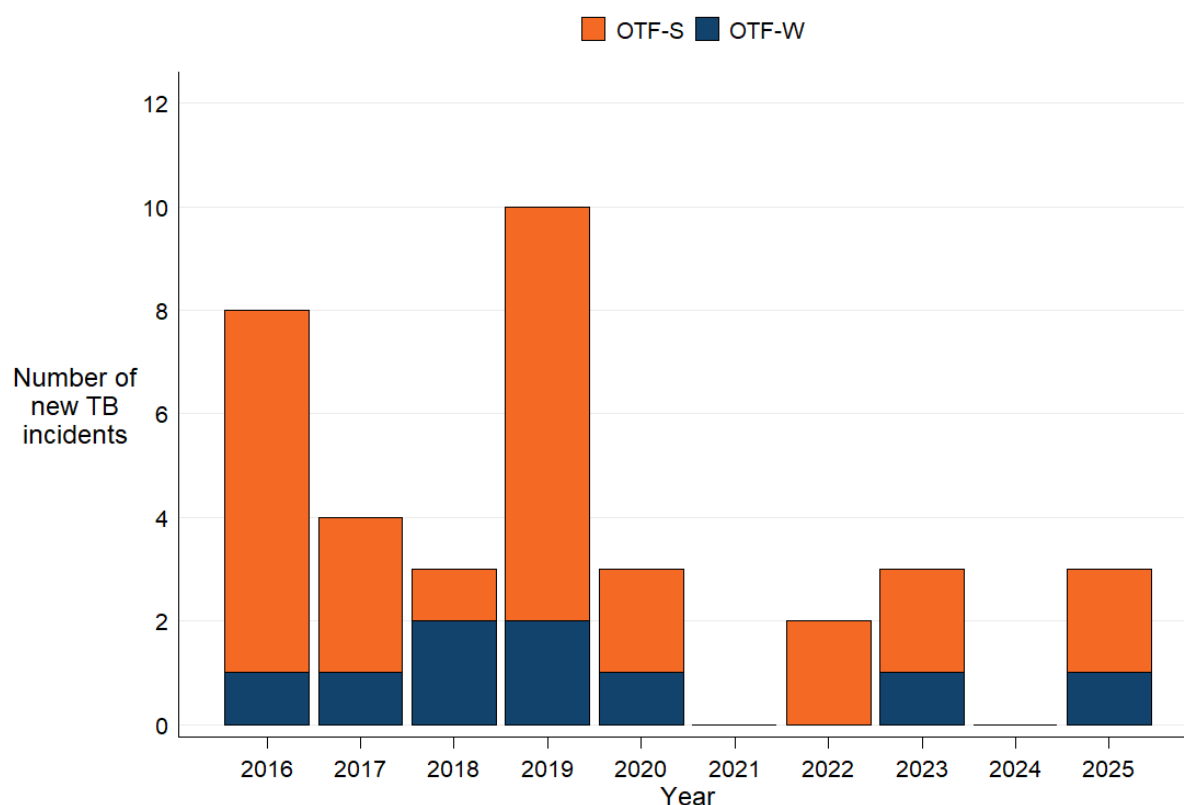


Figure 2c: Annual number of new TB incidents in South Yorkshire from 2016 to 2025.

In 2025, West Yorkshire recorded a total of 4 incidents (2 OTF-W and 2 OTF-S), compared to 6 incidents in 2024 (1 OTF-W and 5 OTF-S). There has been a steady decline in the total number of incidents since a peak of 11 in 2020.

In 2025, the number of OTF-S incidents returned to numbers recorded prior to 2020, where the numbers ranged between one and 3. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of OTF-S incidents ranged between 5 and 8. There were no OTF-W incidents between 2016 and 2019, then the numbers ranged between one and 3 each year thereafter (Figure 2d).

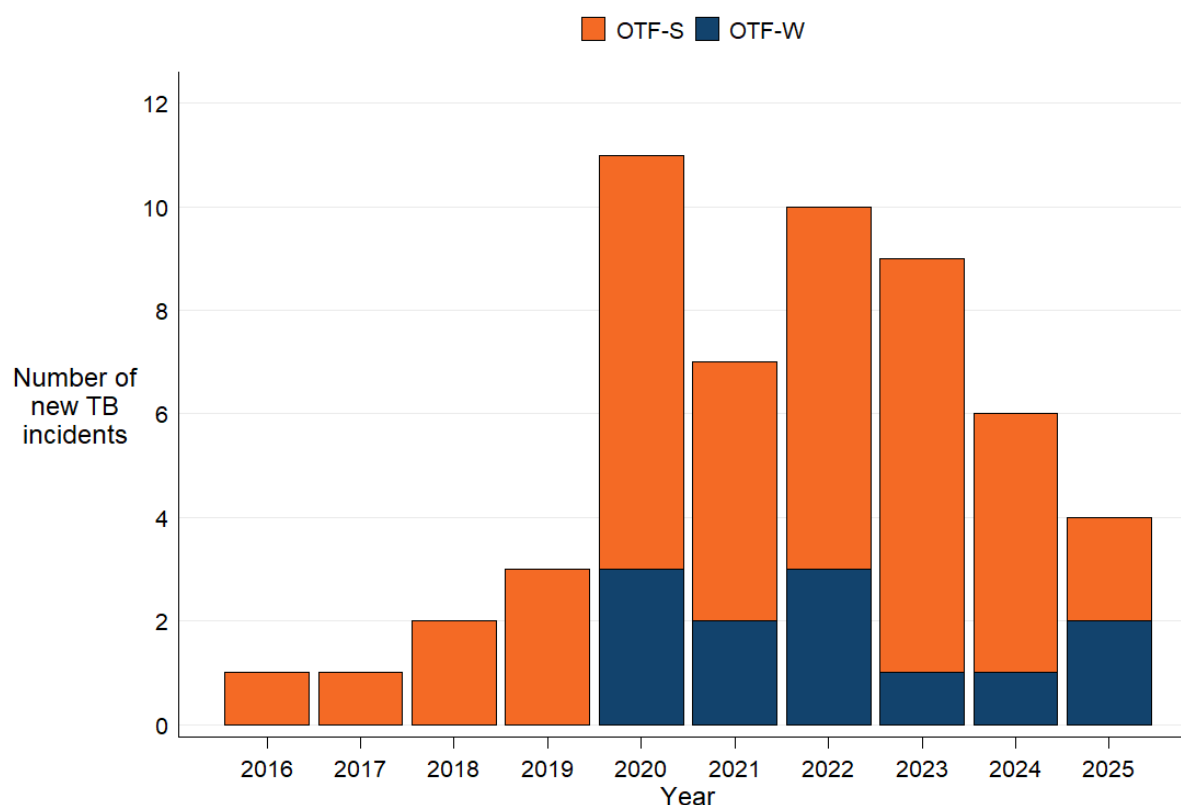


Figure 2d: Annual number of new TB incidents in West Yorkshire from 2016 to 2025.

Disclosing TB surveillance method

Four incidents were identified through routine herd testing, followed by 3 detected at slaughterhouses and 2 through 'other' testing routes, including (but not limited to) private tests, inconclusive reactor (IR) retests, and export testing. In addition, 2 incidents were detected through targeted surveillance testing around OTF-W affected holdings (radial or 'RAD' tests) and 2 by trace testing. A further incident was identified through 6-month post-incident herd testing (6M test) and one through post-movement testing (Figures 3a and 3b).

In North Yorkshire, 6-monthly testing, trace testing, post-movement testing, routine herd testing and slaughterhouse surveillance all disclosed one incident (5 incidents in total) during 2025. This is less than the total incidents in 2024 (11 incidents),

where 4 were disclosed by radial testing, 3 by post-movement testing, 2 from routine herd testing, one from 12-monthly testing and one from other testing methods.

In Humberside, routine herd testing disclosed 2 incidents, and trace testing disclosed one incident (3 incidents in total) during 2025. This is greater than the total incidents in 2024 (2 incidents), both of which were disclosed by routine herd testing.

In South Yorkshire in 2025, radial testing disclosed 2 incidents and slaughterhouse surveillance disclosed one (3 incidents in total). No new TB incidents started in this county in 2024.

In West Yorkshire in 2025, 'other' testing methods disclosed 2 incidents, which includes, but is not limited to, private testing, inconclusive reactor retests, and export tests. Routine herd testing disclosed one incident, and slaughterhouse surveillance disclosed one incident. This is less than the 6 incidents detected in 2024, of which 3 were disclosed by radial testing, one by whole herd testing, one from routine herd testing and one from other testing methods.

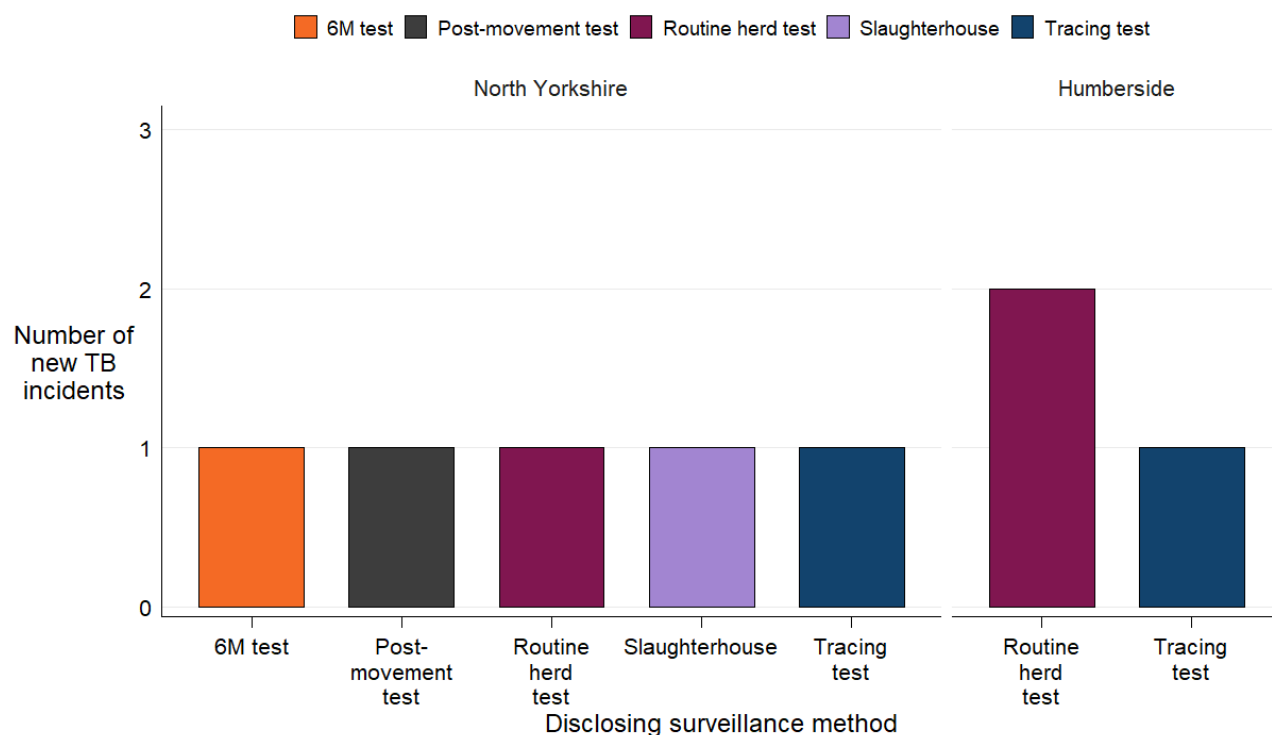


Figure 3a: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in North Yorkshire and Humberside in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

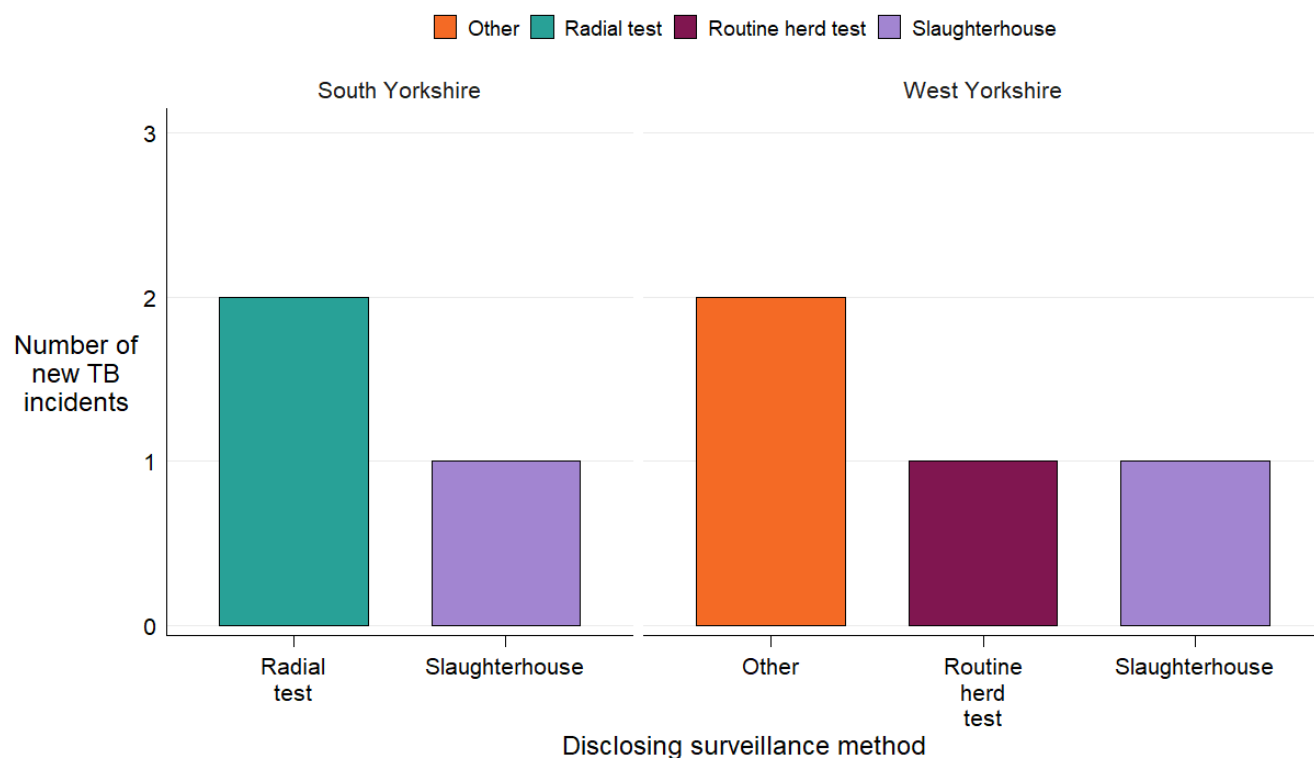


Figure 3b: Number of new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire in 2025, according to the surveillance methods that detected them.

Duration of TB incidents

A total of 16 incidents were resolved across the region in 2025, 6 of them in North Yorkshire, 5 in Humberside, 2 in South Yorkshire and 3 in West Yorkshire. Nine had started in 2025 and 7 started in 2024 (Figures 4a to 4d). None of those incidents were classified as persistent (lasting more than 550 days).

Three of the 16 resolved incidents were OTF-W incidents, 2 lasted between 151 and 240 days, while one lasted between 241 and 550 days.

Of the 13 OTF-S incidents that ended in 2025, 6 were resolved within 100 days, 3 within 101 to 150 days, 2 within 151 to 240 days and the remaining 2 within 241 to 550 days.

At the end of 2025 there were 6 ongoing incidents (4 of them OTF-W), which is fewer than the 8 ongoing at the end of 2024. None of these were persistent.

North Yorkshire had a single OTF-W incident ending in 2025, which lasted 280 days (Figure 4a).

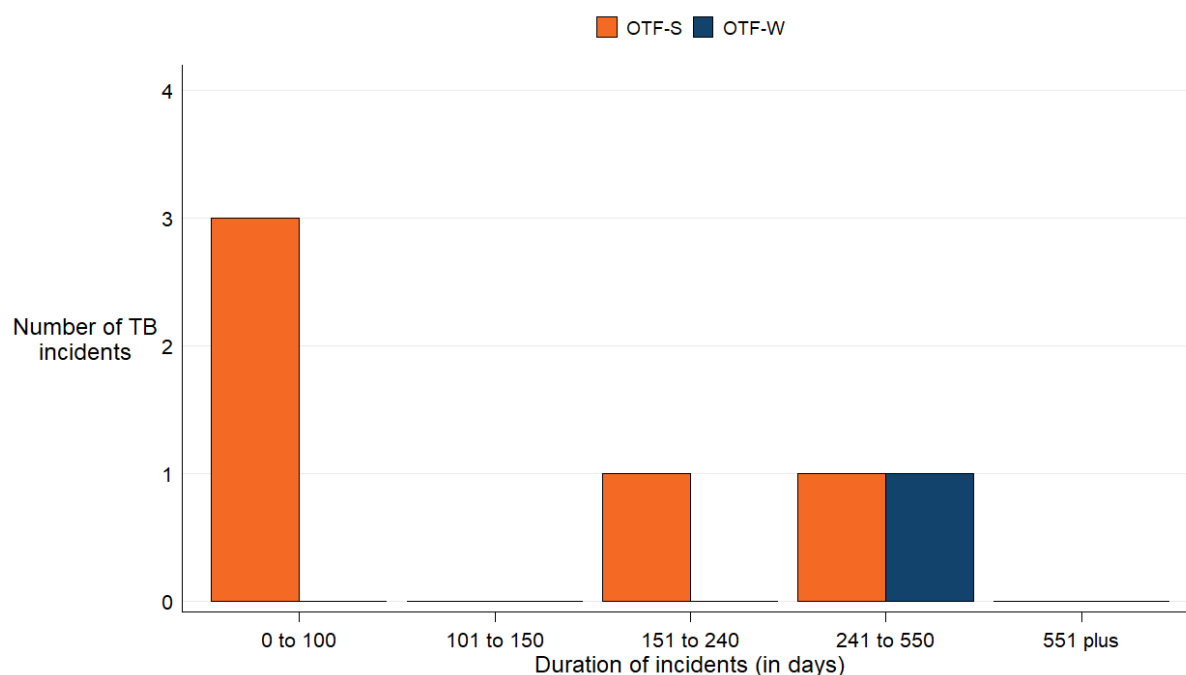


Figure 4a: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in North Yorkshire in 2025.

Humberside had a single OTF-W incident ending in 2025 and lasting 202 days (Figure 4b).

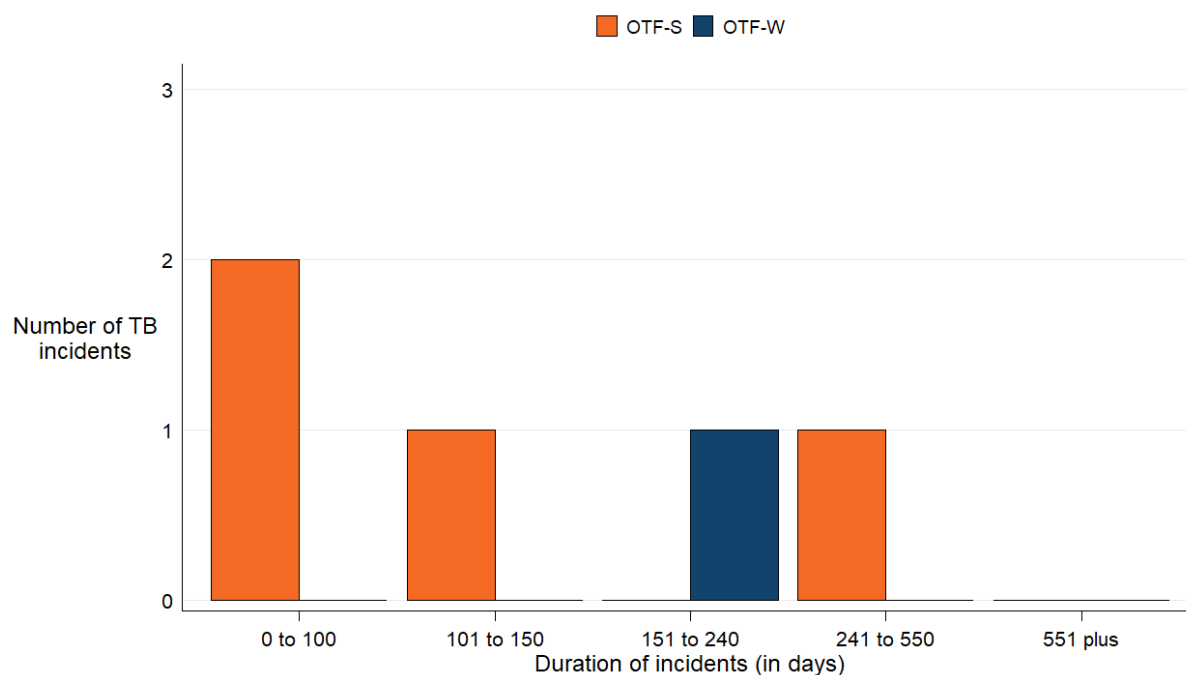


Figure 4b: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in Humberside in 2025.

The 2 incidents that ended in 2025 in South Yorkshire were both OTF-S and resolved within 150 days (Figure 4c).

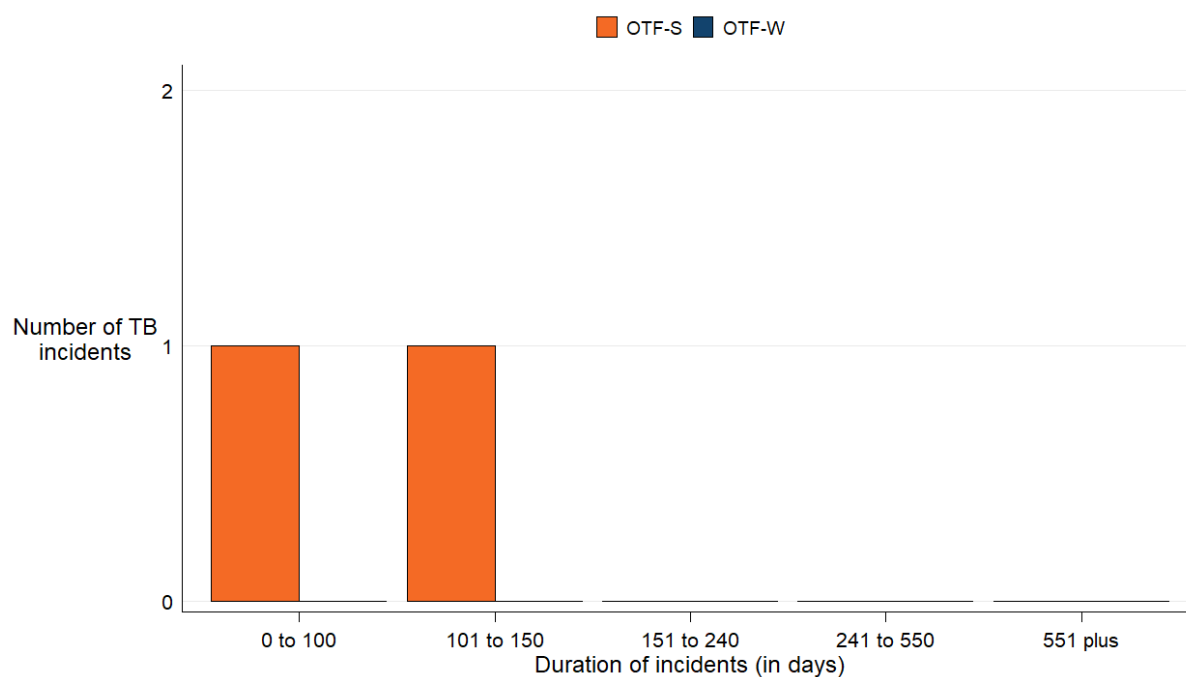


Figure 4c: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in South Yorkshire in 2025.

A single OTF-W incident ended in 2025 in West Yorkshire, with a duration of 195 days (Figure 4d).

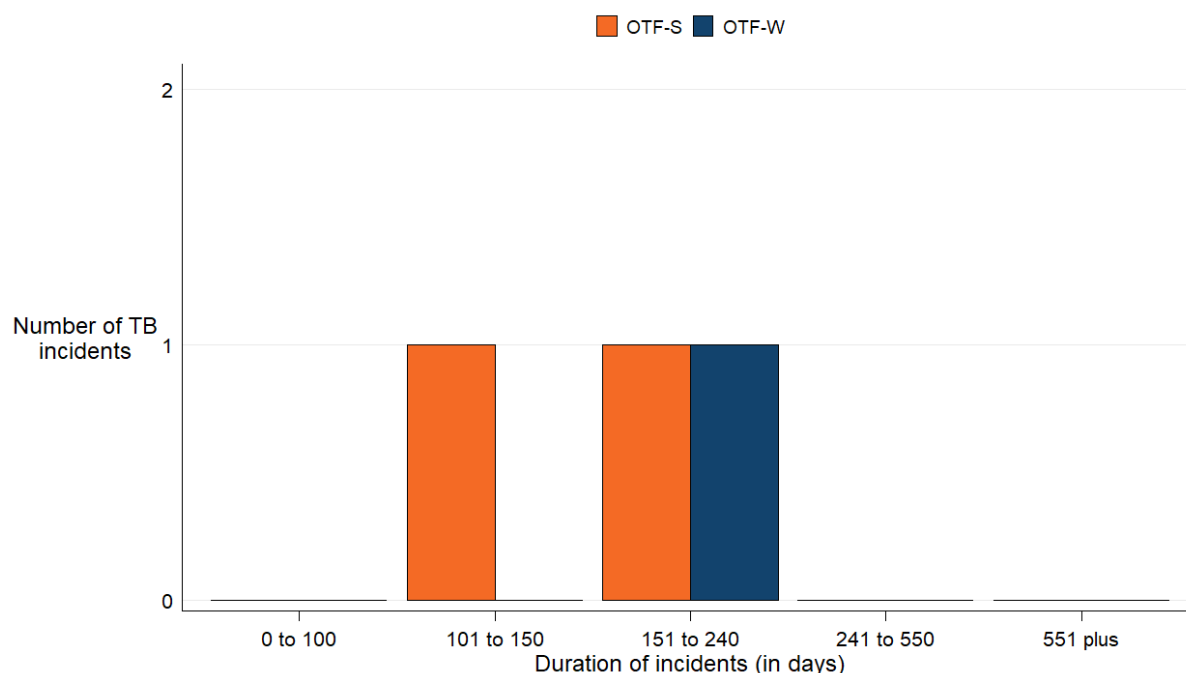


Figure 4d: Duration of TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) that ended in West Yorkshire in 2025.

Skin test reactors and interferon gamma test positive animals removed

During 2025, a total of 37 cattle were removed as TB test reactors from TB incident herds in Yorkshire and Humberside, representing a 23% increase on the 30 animals slaughtered for TB control reasons in 2024. Of those, 14 were skin test reactors (23 in 2024) and 23 were positive to the supplementary interferon gamma (IFN- γ) blood test (7 in 2024) (Figures 5a to 5d).

The number of skin test reactors decreased by 39.1% from 23 in 2024 to 14 in 2025. Decreases were seen in North Yorkshire (16 to 4). Increases were seen in South Yorkshire (0 to 3). The number of reactors remained unchanged in Humberside (0 in both years) and West Yorkshire (7 in both years).

The number of IFN- γ test reactors rose by 228.6%, from 7 in 2024 to 23 in 2025. This increase was driven by rises in North Yorkshire (from 7 to 11), South Yorkshire (from 0 to 5), and West Yorkshire (from 0 to 7). In absolute terms, these were small increases in the number of IFN- γ test reactors removed but the latter 2 counties each had one additional OTF-W incident (requiring mandatory gamma testing) in 2025 compared to the year before. The number of IFN- γ test reactors in Humberside remained unchanged, with 0 recorded in 2024 or 2025.

In North Yorkshire, the number of skin test reactors showed an overall increase between 2016 (12) and 2022 (32), but it then declined in each of the last 3 years (2023 to 2025). The number of IFN- γ test reactors showed an overall decrease, starting at 14 in 2016 and ending at 11 in 2025 (Figure 5a). Values ranged from 7 to 41 over the 10-year period, with noticeable fluctuations over time.

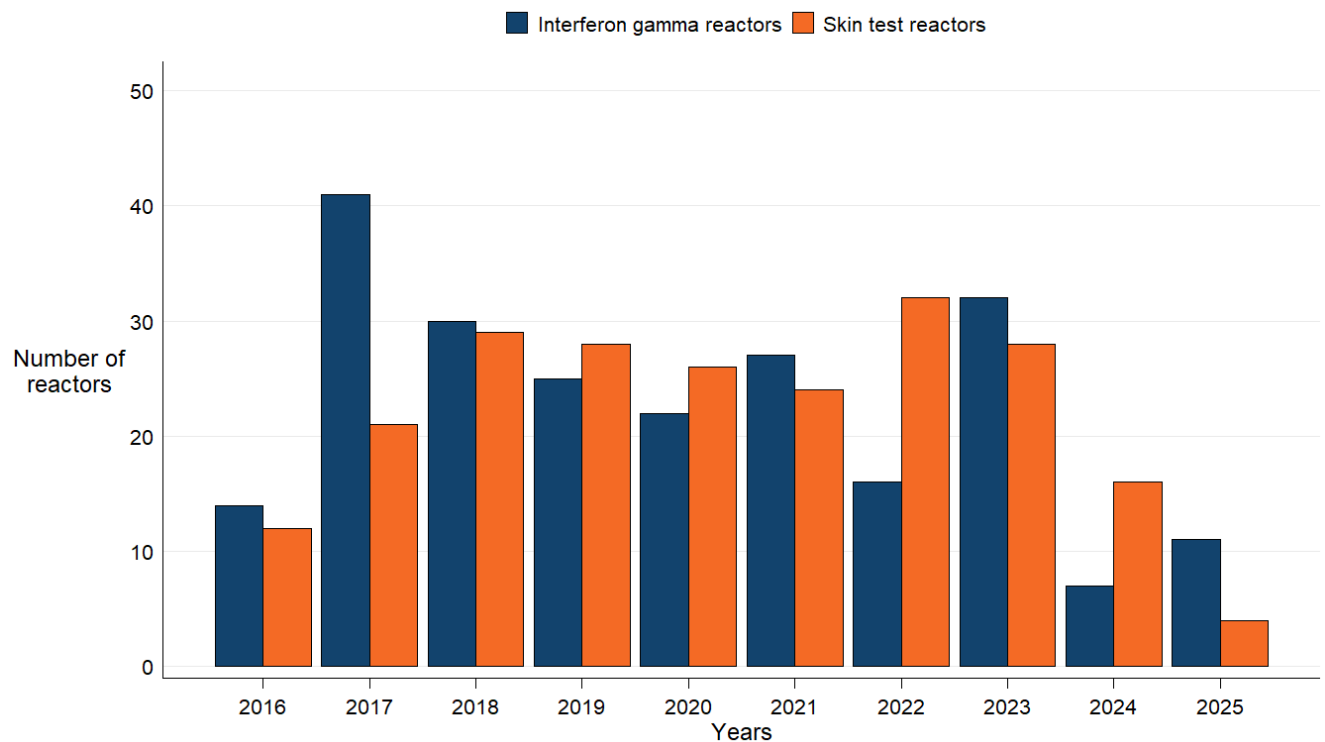


Figure 5a: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in North Yorkshire from 2016 to 2025.

In Humberside, the number of skin test reactors fluctuated between 2 and 7, except for 2019 when there were 0. IFN- γ test-positive animals decreased from 17 in 2016 to one in 2017, followed by an increase to 10 in 2019 (Figure 5b). The numbers decreased thereafter, with 0 removed in both 2024 and 2025.

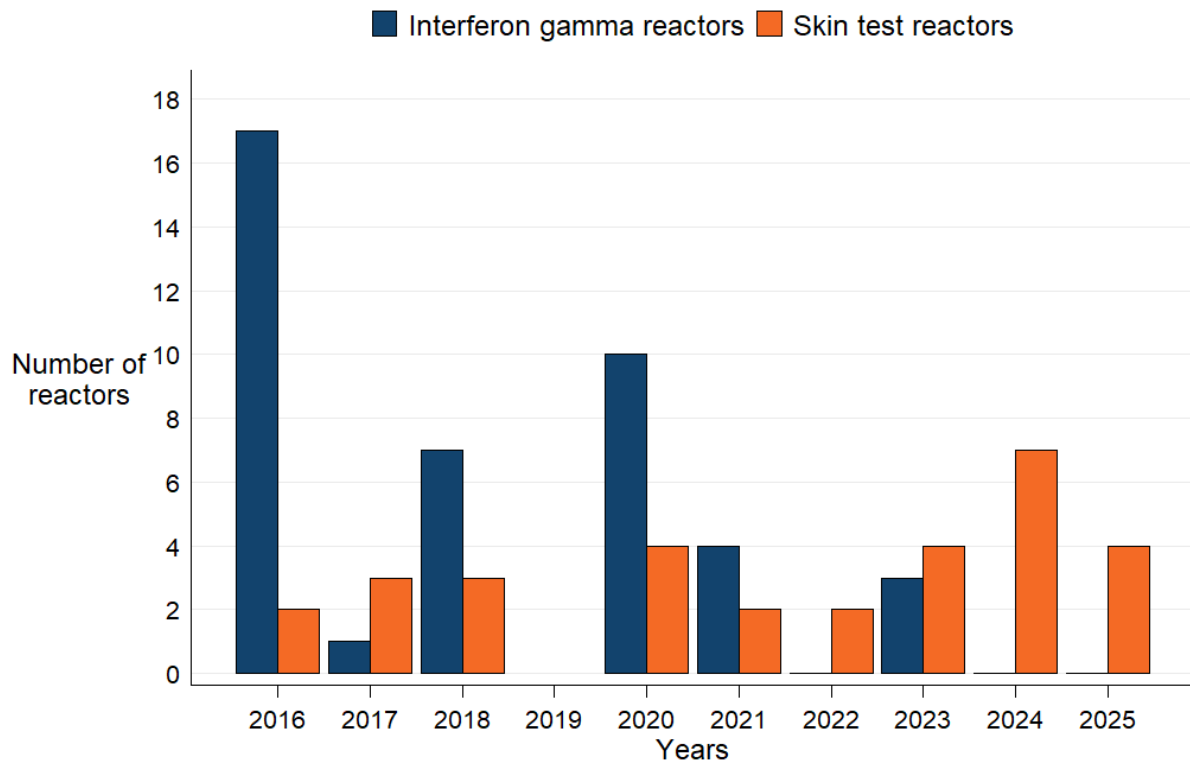


Figure 5b: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in Humberside from 2016 to 2025.

In South Yorkshire, skin test reactors decreased overall, dropping from 9 in 2016 to 0 in 2024, with values ranging from 0 to 16 and showing noticeable fluctuations (Figure 5c). IFN- γ test reactors, however, remained broadly stable, starting and ending at 0, with figures varying between 0 and 11 over the period.

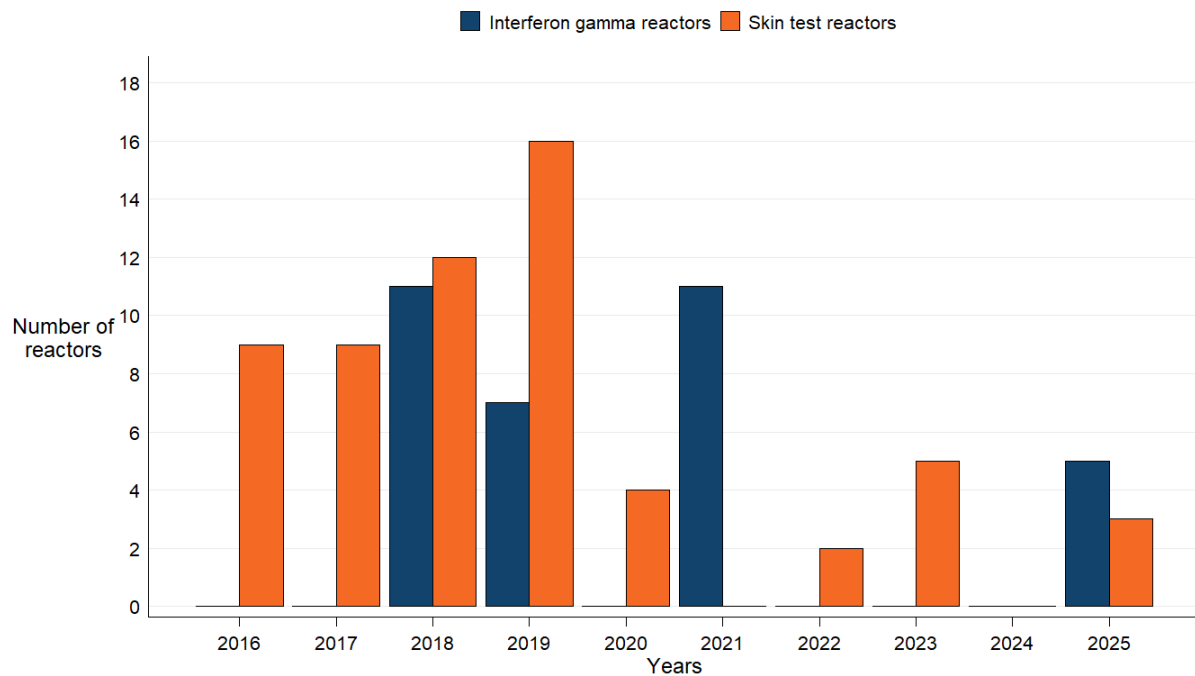


Figure 5c: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in South Yorkshire from 2016 to 2025.

In West Yorkshire, the annual number of skin test reactors ranged between 0 and 38 in the last 10 years, with peaks of 38 and 30 reactors detected in 2019 and 2022, respectively, but much lower numbers in the last 3 years (2023 to 2025) (Figure 5d). The annual number of IFN- γ test reactors also peaked in 2019 and in 2022, but at lower levels than the skin test reactors (figures fluctuating between 0 and 11).

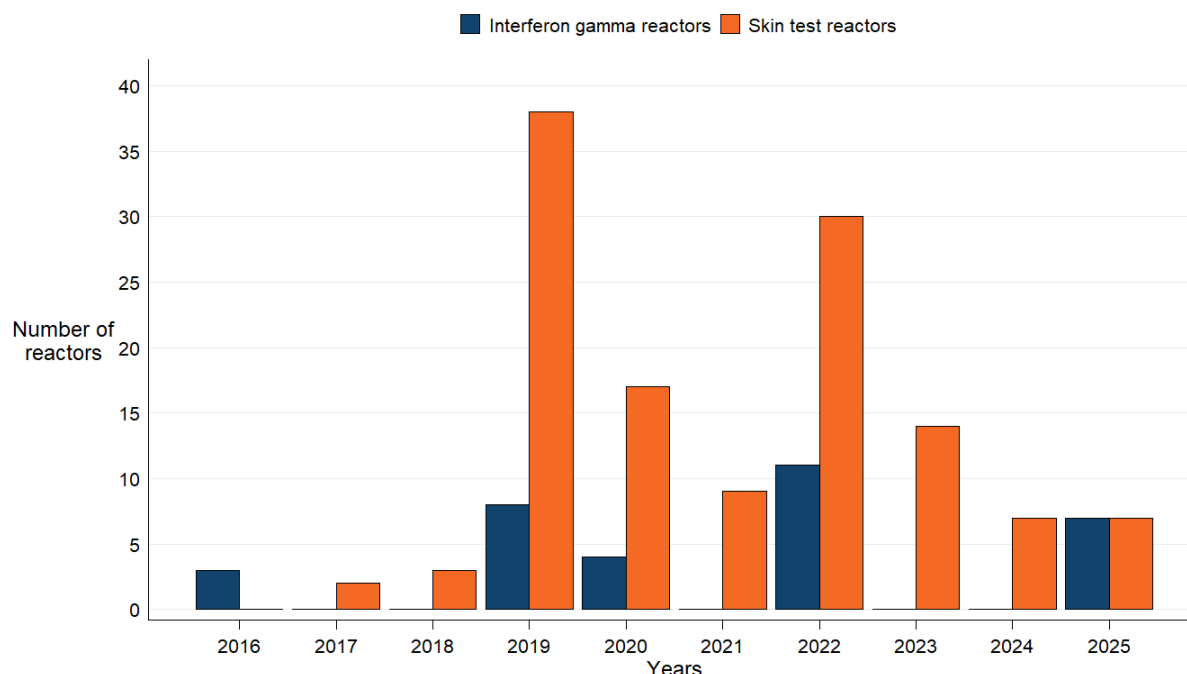


Figure 5d: Number of skin test reactors and IFN- γ test positive cattle removed by APHA for TB control reasons in West Yorkshire from 2016 to 2025.

Recurrent TB incidents

Three-year recurrence

None of the herds in this region with a new OTF-W incident in 2025 had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years (Figures 6a to 6d). Of the 9 herds with a new OTF-S TB incident, 2 (22%) had experienced another TB incident in the previous 3 years, in North and West Yorkshire, respectively (Figures 6a to 6d).

Yorkshire and Humberside had the third lowest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA (13%) and was lower than 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%). Recurrence in the North West was slightly higher (14%). Cumbria (21%) and the South East (34%) had the highest overall percentage of recurrent herd incidents in the LRA.

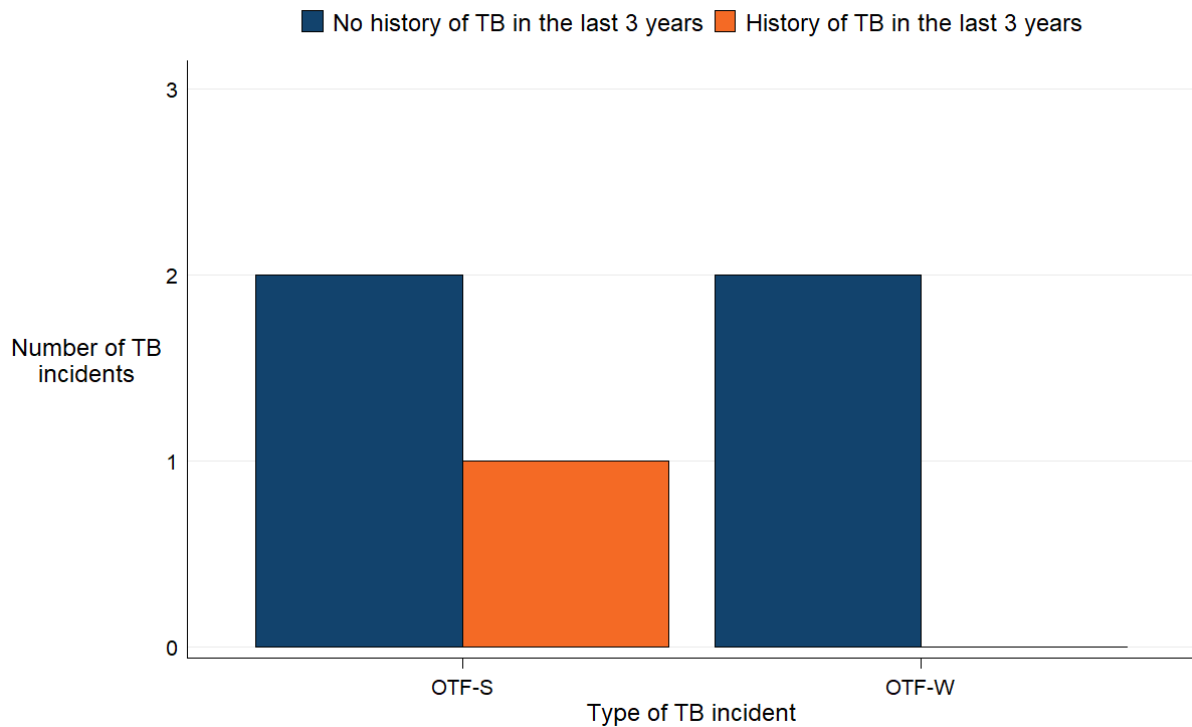


Figure 6a: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in North Yorkshire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

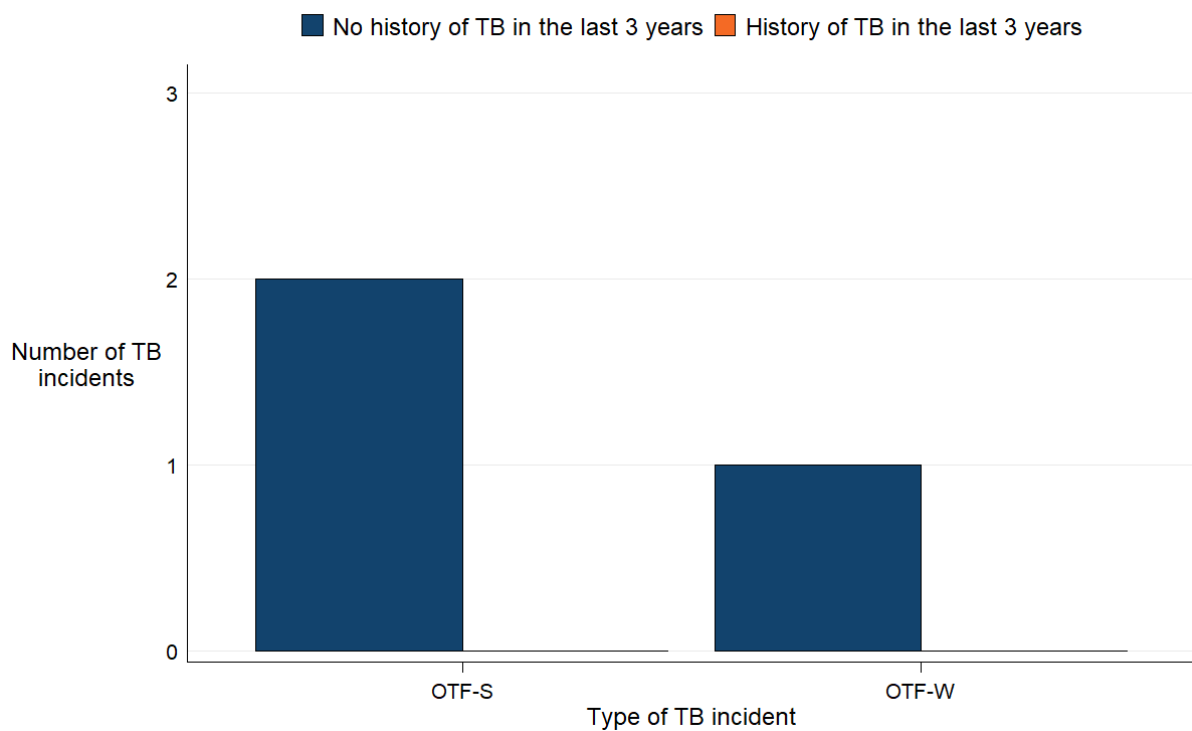


Figure 6b: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in Humberside in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

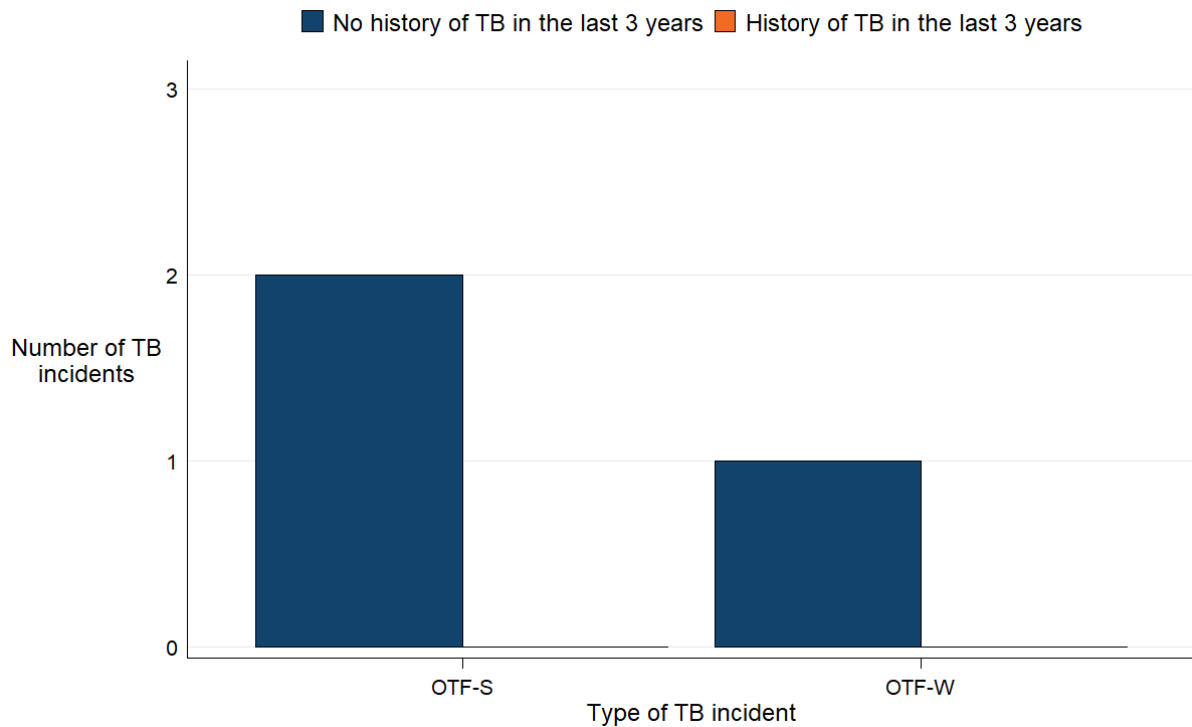


Figure 6c: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in South Yorkshire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

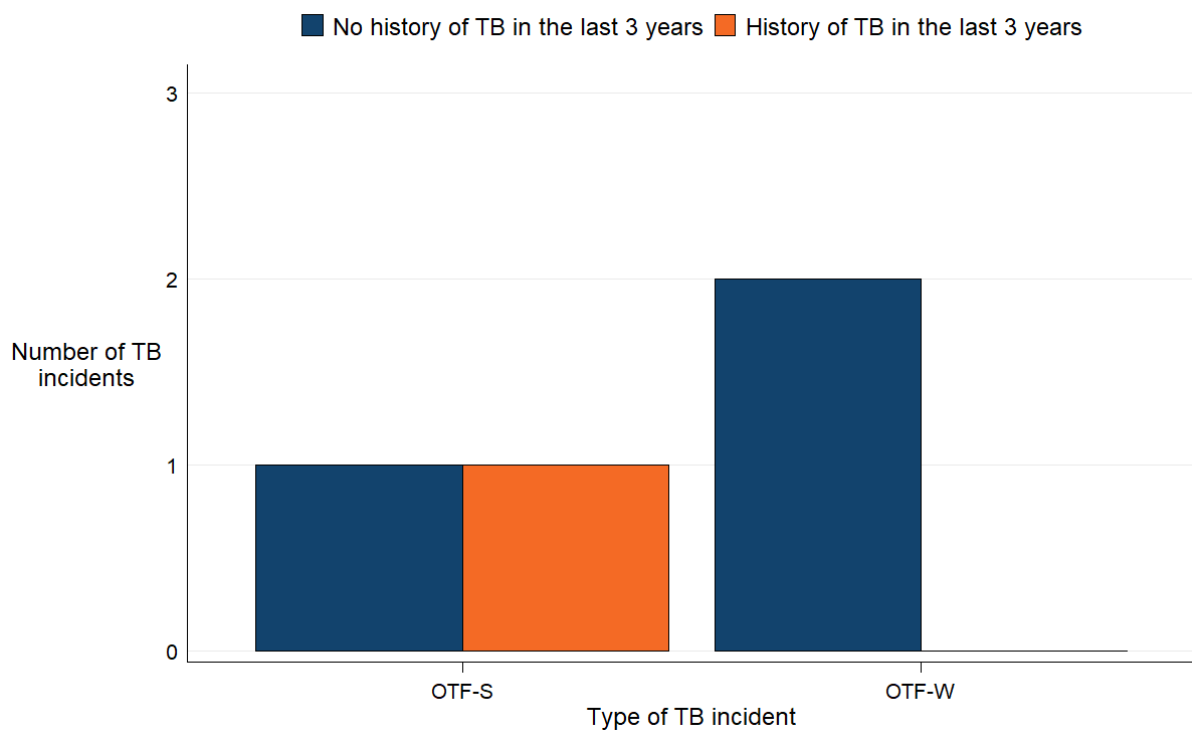


Figure 6d: Number of herds with a TB incident (by OTF-W and OTF-S) in West Yorkshire in 2025, with and without a history of any TB incident in the previous 3 years of the disclosing test.

Geographical distribution of TB incidents

Consistent with previous years, new TB incidents in Yorkshire and Humberside typically occurred in areas of a higher cattle density (Figure 7). In 2025, 4 different WGS (Whole Genome Sequencing) clades of *M. bovis* (B6-14, B6-84, B3-11 and B6-11) were isolated from TB test reactor cattle across Yorkshire and Humberside, compared to 2 in 2024 (Figure 7).

North Yorkshire

In North Yorkshire, one of the 2 new OTF-W incidents disclosed in 2025 (incident 284 on the map) was located near the centre of the county and it was associated with *M. bovis* WGS clade B6-14 (with a homerange in southwest Wales). There had been previous OTF-W TB incidents around this area in 2023, but all were caused by infection with other strains of the bacterium (WGS clades B3-11, B6-62, B6-51 and B3-11).

Between 2015 and 2025 there have been 8 different WGS clades of *M. bovis* introduced into central North Yorkshire and as such, it is considered an area concern due to the pressure from purchased infected cattle. The area is being monitored and there has been some local stakeholder engagement. LFUs should be promoted in order to limit the risk of disease spillover into wildlife.

The other OTF-W incident was disclosed in the north-east of the county and was caused by clade B6-11 (incident 873, Figure 7). The homerange of clade B6-11 spans much of the west of England and into Wales. It is commonly endemic across the West Midlands, south Cheshire, Avon, Wiltshire, and parts of East Wales. There was also one OTF-S incident in this area in 2025 (591, Figure 7), approximately 18km away from the OTF-W incident.

The most recent OTF-W incidents on the east coast of North Yorkshire were in 2020. There were 3 incidents, one with clade B4-11, one with B6-62 and one was unknown.

During 2025, a large number of suspected TB-like lesions were detected in pigs by routine meat inspection at the slaughterhouse. The pigs were from various holdings, all under the same overarching ownership. The company has approximately 20 holdings across North Yorkshire. Many of the TB-like lesions have yielded *M. microti*. One has yielded *M. tuberculosis* complex (which includes *M. bovis*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. microti*, amongst others) but further speciation was not possible. A third lesion is being subject to further testing and the result is pending. Should *M. bovis* be isolated, further epidemiological investigation will be carried out.

In addition to the OTF-S incident on the east coast, the other 2 OTF-S incidents disclosed in North Yorkshire involved cattle farms situated towards the West Yorkshire border. These were approximately 10km apart (incidents 228 and 263, Figure 7). There had been 2 previous OTF-S incidents in this area in 2023.

Humberside

In Humberside, the only OTF-W incident in 2025 (incident 519, Figure 7) was located near the North Sea coast in the north-east of the county. This incident was associated with *M. bovis* WGS clade B3-11. The nearest incidents to this one were approximately 15km away and occurred between 2015 and 2017. There had been no previous OTF-W TB incidents in this county in 2024. The homorange of clade B3-11 is large and spans much of Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, north-east of Shropshire and parts of Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

There were 2 OTF-S incidents disclosed in 2025. One incident (incident 256, Figure 7) was in the south-east of the county near North Sea coast. There was one OTF-S in a nearby location in 2024. The other incident (incident 847, Figure 7) was located near the Lincolnshire border. There were no other OTF-W or OTF-S incidents in this area in 2023 or 2024.

South Yorkshire

In South Yorkshire, the one OTF-W incident (clade B6-11) occurred in the north-west of this county (incident 350, Figure 7). This incident was about 8km to the south of Holmfirth, where there was a cluster of 3 OTF-W incidents between 2022 and 2024 (2 associated with clade B3-11, one was unknown). This area is being monitored.

One of the 2 OTF-S incidents in South Yorkshire (512, Figure 7) was close to the OTF-W incident. The other one was located towards the east of this county on the border with Humberside (incident 332, Figure 7), approximately 3km away from a 2023 OTF-W incident.

West Yorkshire

One of the 2 OTF-W incidents detected in West Yorkshire in 2025 occurred in the centre of the county (incident 657, Figure 7). *M. bovis* could not be identified in cattle removed from the affected herd, despite the presence of visible lesions of TB in some of them. The other OTF-W incident (clade B6-84) was located towards the north of the county (incident 651, Figure 7). This clade of *M. bovis* is widespread across the West Midlands and parts of Wales. There were 2 OTF-W incidents in this central area of West Yorkshire in 2020, one with clade B3-11 and one with clade B6-51.

There was one OTF-S incident in the centre of the county to the north-east of the OTF-W incident with an undetermined clade (incident 326, Figure 7) and one OTF-S incident further north (incident 257, Figure 7), to the east of the B6-84 OTF-W incident mentioned above. There have been several OTF-S incidents through the centre of West Yorkshire over preceding years.

In 2025, there were no incidents towards the border with Greater Manchester and Lancashire. There was one OTF-S incident close to the border in Greater

Manchester and an OTF-W incident in the vicinity in Lancashire. This area is being monitored due to the regular detection of OTF-S incidents over preceding years.

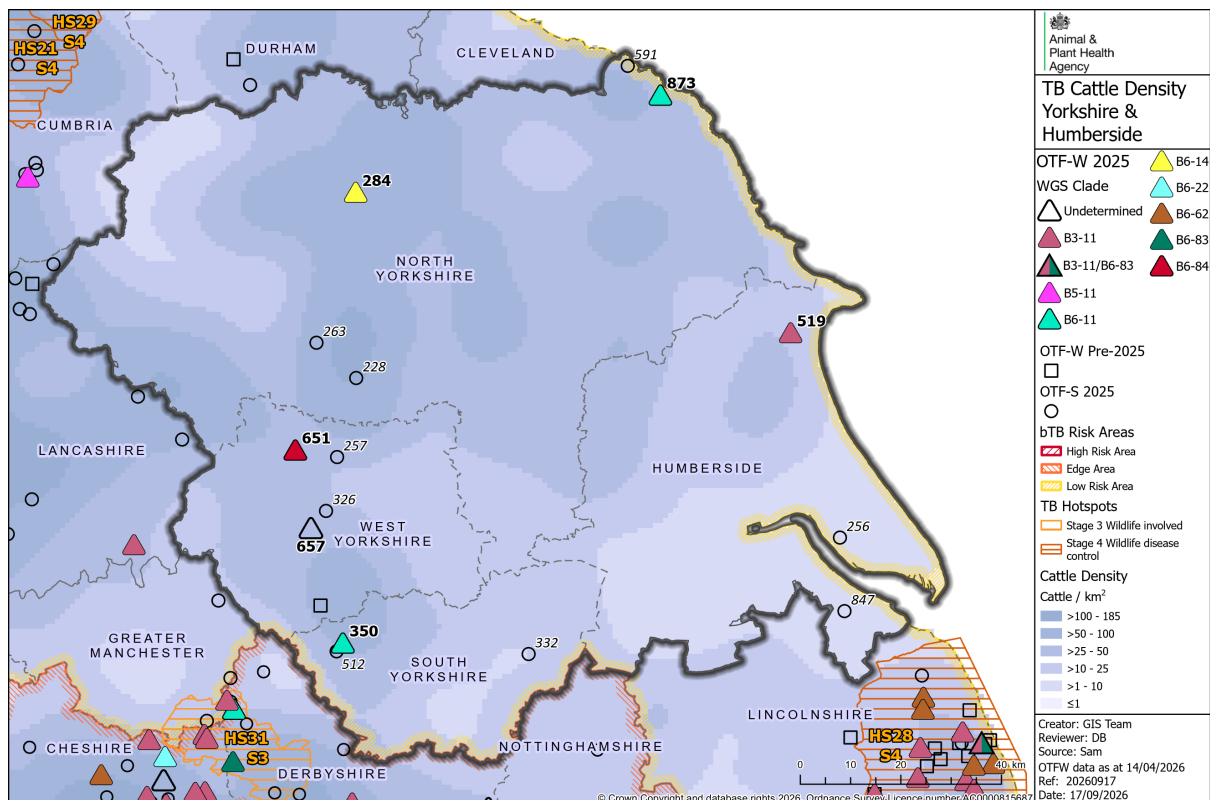


Figure 7: Location of cattle holdings in Yorkshire and Humberside with new TB incidents (OTF-W and OTF-S) in 2025, and cattle incident holdings with pre-2025 OTF-W incidents still ongoing at the beginning of 2025, overlaid on a cattle density map (as in 2024).

Figure 7 description: A map of Yorkshire and Humberside 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. Bright pink represents clade B5-11, dusky pink represents clade B3-11, half dusky pink and half dark green represents clade B3-11/B6-83, light green represents clade B6-11, light blue represents clade B6-22, light brown represents clade B6-62, bright yellow represents clade B6-14, 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. TB hotspots in neighbouring LRA and Edge Area regions 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), meaning wildlife involved, and dark orange is stage 4 (S4) meaning wildlife disease controls in place. A brief description of the new TB incidents is given in the main text.

Figure 8 shows the radial TB surveillance zones instigated by APHA around OTF-W incidents in this part of the LRA between 2021 and 2025, along with TB hotspot areas that were active during 2025 in neighbouring counties.

In the centre of North Yorkshire, there was a cluster of incidents that have triggered radial zones over the past few years. In this area, a new radial zone was triggered during 2025 (incident 284 on the map). As previously described, this incident was associated with *M. bovis* clade B6-14. The 2 OTF-W incidents in 2024 which triggered radial zones to the south of the predominant cluster, were still active at the end of the year. As previously described, one incident was associated with *M. bovis* clade B3-11 and the other one was associated with clade B6-11. This area constitutes the area of concern previously mentioned. A further radial zone was triggered in 2025 near the north coast of North Yorkshire (incident 873, Figure 8).

One new radial zone was triggered from the incident toward the coast of north Humberside (incident 519 on the map).

In South Yorkshire, a new radial zone was triggered during 2025 (incident 350 on the map). As previously described, this incident was associated with *M. bovis* clade B6-11.

Two radial zones were triggered from incidents in West Yorkshire (incident 651 and 657 on the map). One of these is the incident with the unknown clade. There was also a radial zone still active from 2024 to the south of the county.

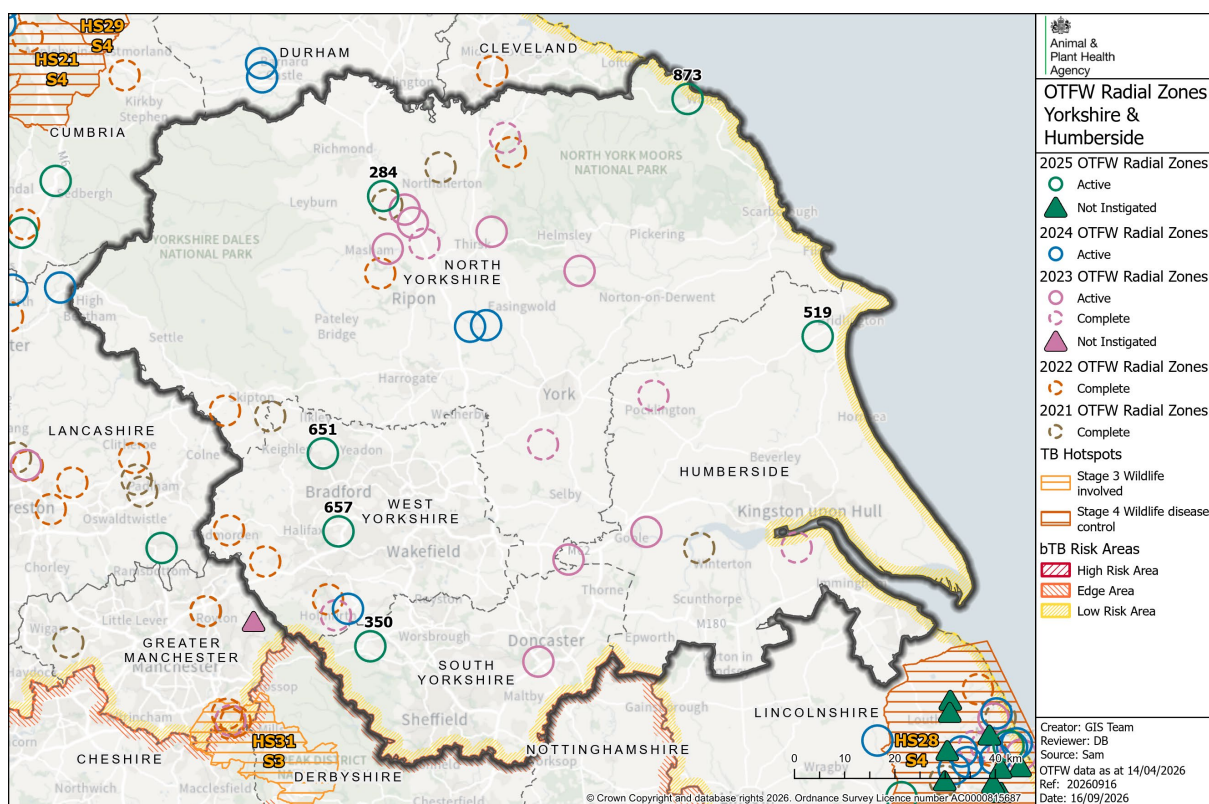


Figure 8: Radial surveillance zones around OTF-W incidents that were active, completed or not instigated in Yorkshire and Humberside during 2025, by year of initiation.

Figure 8 description: A map of Yorkshire and Humberside and adjoining areas showing the geographical location of radial TB surveillance zones around OTF-W incidents in 2025, along with TB hotspot areas that were active during 2025 in the neighbouring LRA and Edge Area regions. 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 hotspots in neighbouring LRA and Edge Area regions are shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with the suffixes, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: light orange is stage 3 (S3 is wildlife involved) and dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control).

Main risk pathways and key drivers for TB infection

In 2025, all 15 (100%) of new TB incidents declared in Yorkshire and Humberside received a preliminary or final APHA veterinary investigation (Disease Report Form or 'DRF') to identify the likely source of infection for the affected herds. The highest weighted source pathways of TB incidents are given below, and 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 *M. bovis* infection can be found in the [explanatory supplement for the annual reports 2025](#).

The infection risk pathway for cattle herds in 2025 with the highest calculated weight contribution, from APHA veterinary investigations, was movements of undetected, infected cattle into (and within) the county, (51.2%, Appendix 3). This was higher than in 2024 (28.2%), and similar to 2023 (49.4%)

There was a degree of uncertainty around the source of some new incidents. Other or unknown sources had a weighted contribution of 32.1%. 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 higher than in previous years, 26.1% in 2024 and 19.6% in 2023.

As shown in Figure 9, 4 out of the 6 OTF-W incidents reported across Yorkshire and Humberside were attributed to purchased cattle infections: 2 in North Yorkshire, 1 in Humberside and 1 in South Yorkshire. Purchasing infected cattle continues to be the main source of infection for TB incidents across Yorkshire and Humberside.

The source of infection for the 2 OTF-W incidents in West Yorkshire remained unknown.

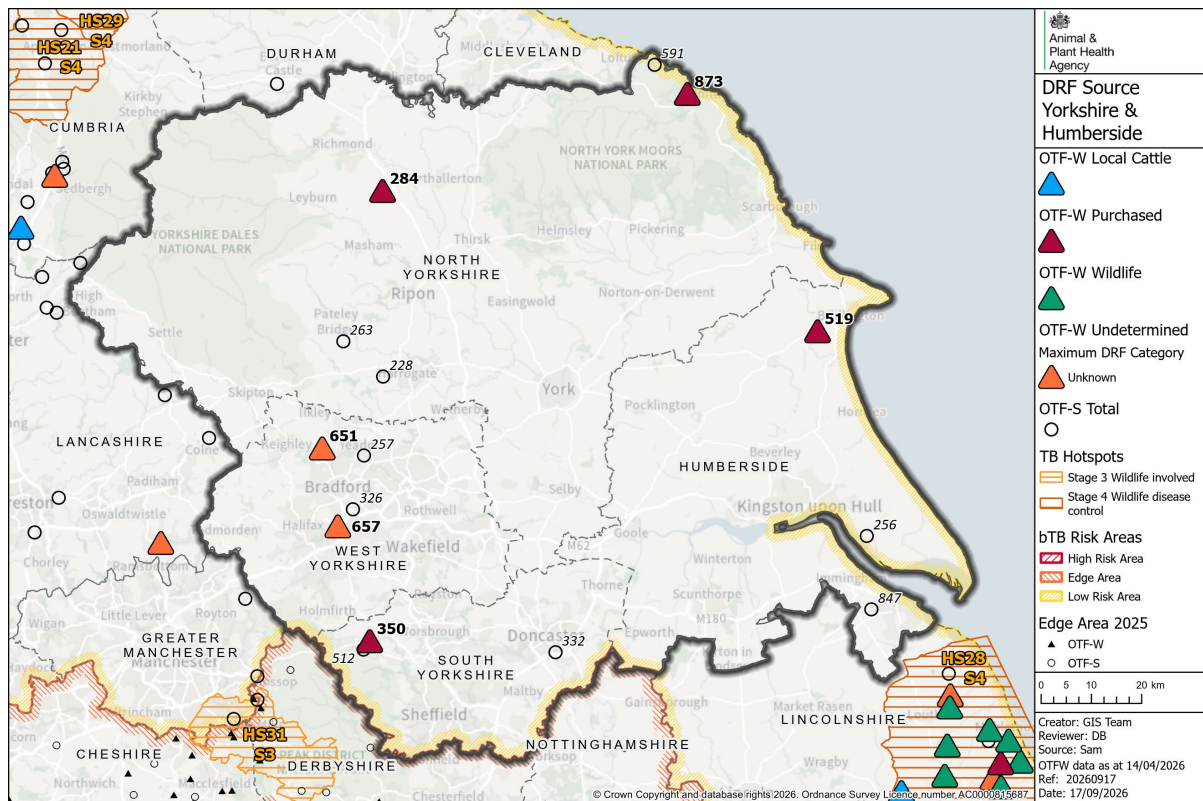


Figure 9: Map of the source of infection pathway recorded with the highest level of certainty, for OTF-W incidents, and the location of OTF-S incidents in Yorkshire and Humberside which started in 2025.

Figure 9 description: A map of Yorkshire and Humberside and adjoining areas showing the geographical location of cattle holdings with new OTF-W incidents in 2025 and the most likely source of infection. OTF-W incidents are shown as triangles in different colours which represent the source of infection with the highest level of certainty. Local cattle refers 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. The geographical location of TB hotspots is shown with hashed lines. The colour of the hotspot, along with the suffixes S3 and S4, indicates the stage of controls in place in 2025: light orange is stage 3 (S3 is wildlife involved) and dark orange is stage 4 (S4 is wildlife disease control).

Forward look

Yorkshire continues to be under threat from introductions of undisclosed infected cattle from higher TB risk areas of England and Wales. This is particularly notable in the high cattle density area of North Yorkshire, where 8 different clades have been introduced to the area since 2015. This infection pressure from purchased cattle puts the area at higher risk of spill-over into wildlife, as has been experienced by other LRA regions which now have hotspots. Although this area only had one OTF-W incident in 2025, spatial clustering is present when considering previous years. This is a geographical area of concern being closely monitored by APHA and further action may be considered.

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 [ibTB](#), which is now searchable by eartag. LFUs are also an important component of managing the risk from purchased cattle. One criterion for these units being approved is that they should be wildlife proof, which helps to prevent spillover of disease into wildlife and possible local spread to other cattle. Farmers could consider setting up LFUs where their business model is amenable. All stakeholders must continue to work to ensure that these units are operating according to approval conditions and enforcement measures will be applied where this is not the case.

Other areas of concern in Yorkshire include the area around Holmfirth and the area along the border with Lancashire and Greater Manchester. There were no notable developments in these areas in 2025, but nevertheless they continue to be monitored.

In order for Yorkshire and Humberside to reach OTF status by 2038, there will need to be a concerted effort to exercise due diligence in purchasing behaviour and mitigate the risks from purchased infected cattle. This will be underpinned by the new 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 Yorkshire and Humberside, by county.

Source: Sam

Breed purpose	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
Beef	2,626 (79%)	623 (88%)	347 (82%)	877 (84%)
Dairy	541 (16%)	45 (6%)	57 (13%)	111 (11%)
Other	116 (3%)	25 (4%)	11 (3%)	43 (4%)
Undetermined	54 (2%)	11 (2%)	9 (2%)	10 (1%)
Total	3,337	704	424	1,041

Table 2: Number of active cattle herds on the last day of the reporting year in the Yorkshire and Humberside, 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	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
0	568	151	77	209
1 to 50	1,193	260	193	550
51 to 100	504	112	59	123
101 to 200	532	102	49	85
201 to 350	307	50	29	41
351 to 500	93	20	9	18
Greater than 500	140	9	8	15
Total number of herds	3,337	704	424	1,041

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

Table 3: Number of active cattle herds in the Yorkshire and Humberside 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	903	59	110	10	1,082
2023	1 to 50	2,059	125	58	67	2,309
2023	51 to 100	722	92	7	8	829
2023	101 to 200	621	155	7	6	789
2023	201 to 350	268	161	2	3	434
2023	351 to 500	59	78	2	4	143
2023	Greater than 500	58	86	3	12	159
2023	Total	4,690	756	189	110	5,745
2024	0	946	62	106	14	1,128
2024	1 to 50	1,993	115	62	55	2,225
2024	51 to 100	732	101	7	8	848
2024	101 to 200	604	147	8	7	766
2024	201 to 350	262	149	6	4	421
2024	351 to 500	57	81		3	141
2024	Greater than 500	55	92	2	13	162
2024	Total	4,649	747	191	104	5,691
2025	0	824	60	108	13	1,005
2025	1 to 50	1,959	129	63	45	2,196
2025	51 to 100	678	106	9	5	798
2025	101 to 200	604	148	9	7	768
2025	201 to 350	275	146	5	1	427
2025	351 to 500	66	71		3	140
2025	Greater than 500	67	94	1	10	172
2025	Total	4,473	754	195	84	5,506

Appendix 2: summary of headline cattle TB statistics

Table 4: Herd-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in the Yorkshire and Humberside, by county in 2025.

Source: Sam

Herd-level statistics	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(a) Total number of cattle herds live on Sam at the end of the reporting period	3,285	693	415	1,031
(b) Total number of cattle herds subject to annual TB testing (or more frequent) at the end of the reporting period (any reason)	179	30	23	59
(c) Total number of whole herd skin tests carried out at any time in the period	802	150	81	223

Herd-level statistics	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(d) Total number of OTF cattle herds having TB whole-herd tests during the period for any reason	779	139	77	214
(e) Total number of OTF cattle herds at the end of the report period (herds not under any type of TB movement restrictions)	3,241	683	404	1,011
(f) Total number of cattle herds that were not under restrictions due to an ongoing TB incident at the end of the report period	3,282	693	414	1,028
(g.1) Total number of new OTF-S TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	3	2	2	2

Herd-level statistics	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(g.2) Total number of new OTF-W TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	2	1	1	2
(g.3) Total number of new TB incidents detected in cattle herds during the report period	5	3	3	4
(h.1) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many occurred in a holding affected by another OTF-W incident in the previous 3 years?	0	0	0	0
(h.2) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many could be considered secondary to a primary incident based on current evidence?	0	1	0	0

Herd-level statistics	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(h.3) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were triggered by skin test reactors or twice-inconclusive reactors (2xIRs) at routine herd tests?	0	0	0	0
(h.4) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were triggered by skin test reactors or 2xIRs at other TB test types (such as forward and back-tracings, contiguous, check tests)?	2	1	1	2
(h.5) Of the new OTF-W herd incidents, how many were first detected through routine slaughterhouse TB surveillance?	1	0	1	1

Herd-level statistics	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(i.1) Number of new OTF-S incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	0	0	2	0
(i.2) Number of new OTF-W incidents revealed by enhanced TB surveillance (radial testing) conducted around those OTF-W herds	0	0	0	0
(j) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period (including any ongoing OTF-W incidents that began in a previous reporting period)	1	0	1	2
(k) Number of OTF-W herds still open at the end of the period that were on a finishing unit	5	1	0	0

Herd-level statistics	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(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	0

Table 5: Animal-level summary statistics for TB in cattle in the Yorkshire and Humberside, by county in 2025.

Source: Sam

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(a.1) Number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests in the period	92,724	16,604	9,079	14,670
(a.2) Number of cattle tested with additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period	230	56	219	73
(a.3) Total number of cattle tested with tuberculin skin tests or additional IFN- γ blood tests in the period (animal tests)	92,954	16,660	9,298	14,743
(b.1) Reactors detected by tuberculin skin tests during the year	4	0	3	7
(b.2) Reactors detected by additional IFN- γ blood tests (skin-test negative or IR animals) during the year	11	0	5	7
(c) Reactors detected during year per incidents disclosed during year	3.00	1.33	2.67	3.50
(d) Reactors per 1,000 animal tests	0.16	0.24	0.86	0.95
(e.1) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (dangerous contacts, including any first time IRs)	0	0	0	1
(e.2) Additional animals slaughtered during the year for TB control reasons (private slaughters)	0	0	0	0

Animal-level statistics (cattle)	North Yorkshire	Humberside	South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
(f) Slaughterhouse (SLH) cases (tuberculous carcasses) reported by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) during routine meat inspection	4	0	1	2
(g) SLH cases confirmed by M. bovis PCR testing or bacteriological culture	1	0	1	1

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, all 15 (100%) new TB incidents in Yorkshire and Humberside 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 15 incidents with a preliminary or a final veterinary assessment in Yorkshire and Humberside, in 2025.

Source of infection	Possible (1)	Likely (4)	Most likely (6)	Definite (8)	Weighted contribution
Badgers	1	0	0	0	1.2%
Cattle movements	5	5	4	1	51.2%
Contiguous	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Residual cattle infection	0	1	0	0	4.8%
Domestic animals	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non-specific reactor (NSR)	4	0	0	0	4.8%
Fomites	2	0	0	0	2.4%
Other wildlife	3	0	0	0	3.6%
Other or unknown source*	2	0	0	0	32.1%

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.



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