

Badger removal options on Chronic TB Breakdown premises**Annex 1**

Trap, test and removal operations will be restricted to TB affected premises. Approaches that may be applied for the humane removal of badgers, once a positive test badger has been disclosed are:

Approach 1- Removal of all badgers subsequently captured on the affected premises

Positives	Comments
The Dual-Path Platform VetTB (DPP) test has an evaluated sensitivity of 55%. 9 in 20 infected badgers may give a false negative result. By removing as many badgers as possible once it has been established that there is a test positive badger on the premises, this approach maximises our ability to reduce the risk of releasing infected badgers.	As the industry and farming unions in Wales are lobbying us for a wide scale cull of badgers as is happening in England, a policy that will remove increasing number of badgers will generally be more accepted rather than removing test positives only. However, they will quickly and strongly criticise us if any action is delayed or prevented because of challenge, or our actions will be perceived to have caused the disease situation in the breakdown or surrounding herds to worsen.
Negatives	Comments
Wildlife groups made it clear that they were supporting the removal of test positive badgers whilst knowing the limitations of the sensitivity of the test we would use. A reason for engaging with wildlife groups was to inform them and bring them on board with a targeted badger removal policy. There is a risk that we will be legally challenged.	We have already received correspondence on behalf of some Badger Trust Cymru members which withdraws their support if we remove groups of badgers, as opposed to individual test positive animals. Discussions continue with both Badger Trust Cymru and the Badger Trust, including with their CEO and Chairman on this issue. A group of leading wildlife and veterinary experts representing organisations such as the Humane Society International and Born Free Foundation, are concerned that any badger intervention will not bring about any benefit and will dis tract from our current successful policy of cattle measures.
Risk of causing harm to breakdown herd and contiguous herds through the “Perturbation effect”.	<i>(ISG Final Report - Chapter 10.4) Reactive culling was associated with increased cattle TB incidence in the RBCT. This is consistent with the failure of previous localised culling</i>

	<i>strategies (particularly the 'interim strategy') to control cattle TB. It is therefore highly unlikely that reactive culling – as practised in the RBCT – could contribute, other than negatively, to future TB control strategies.</i>
The DPP has a test specificity of 95% and 1 in 20 badgers may give a false positive result.	A whole farm removal operation could be initiated on an incorrect result.
We may fail to recapture a high proportion of the test negative badgers that would have been trapped and released prior to the disclosure of any test positive animal.	Data from the IAA showed that approx. 34% of badgers were recaptured in the same season. The operation may need to be repeated

Approach 2 - Removal of all badgers subsequently captured associated with the same social group.

Positives	Comments
The DPP test has an evaluated sensitivity of 55%. 9 in 20 infected badgers may give a false negative result. Reduce the risk of releasing false negatives within the same social group	As a minimum we would need to establish badger social group territories. Would require at least a bait mark survey to establish social group territory boundaries. To be able to do this thoroughly, we would need access to off lying setts located on neighbouring land.

Negatives	Comments
The Badger Trust is not supportive of this option. A reason for engaging with wildlife groups was to inform them and bring them on board with a targeted badger removal policy and avoid a challenge. There is a serious risk that we will be legally challenged.	We have already received correspondence on behalf of some Badger Trust Cymru members which withdraws their support if we remove social groups of badgers, as opposed to individual test positive animals. Discussions continue with both Badger Trust Cymru and the Badger Trust, including with their CEO and Chairman on this issue. A group of leading wildlife and veterinary experts representing organisations such as the Humane Society International and Born Free Foundation, concerned that any badger intervention will not bring about any benefit and will dis tract from our current successful policy of cattle measures.
The DPP has a test specificity of 95% and 1 in 20 badgers may	A social group removal operation could be initiated on an

give a false positive result.	incorrect result.
We may fail to recapture a high proportion of the test negative badgers already released prior to the disclosure of the test positive animal.	Data from the IAA showed that only approx. 34% of badgers were recaptured in the same season. The operation may need to be repeated
There is an potential risk of causing harm to breakdown herd and contiguous herds through the “Perturbation effect”.	

Approach 3 - Removal of individual test positive badgers only

Positives	Comments
Wildlife groups and badger ecologists have generally accepted the removal of individual test positive badgers. All stakeholders generally accept this policy with a negligible risk of challenge	Some members of Badger Trust Cymru have subsequently withdrawn their support for any badger removal intervention, following our announcement that we could remove groups as opposed to individual test positive animals. Discussions continue with both Badger Trust Cymru and the Badger Trust, including with their CEO and Chairman on this issue. Although the industry would prefer a widespread cull of badgers, they also accept that the removal of test positive badgers is an appropriate measure.
Although a targeted test and remove operation has not been tried before, NWMC ecologists, believe it is a reasonable approach to test but there isn't sufficient evidence to say we would expect positive results.	This policy would be strengthened if adapted to a targeted TVR approach once vaccine becomes available.
Minimise the disruption to badger social groups and possible adverse perturbation effect	
This option would be simple and practical to deploy	The operation may need to be repeated

Negatives	Comments
The DPP test has an evaluated sensitivity of 55%. 9 in 20	The sensitivity can be improved by applying a panel of lab tests.

infected badgers may give a false negative result.

Badgers giving a test positive result from the panel of tests could then be removed if recaptured. Micro-chipping released badgers would allow us to identify them if recaptured.

We are unlikely to recapture all badgers released. Data from the IAA showed that only approx. 34% of badgers were recaptured in the same season.