



Survey for tuberculosis (TB) in found dead badgers



» What are we doing?

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is conducting a research project to detect the presence and location of TB infection in badgers in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire and East Sussex, collectively known as the Southern Edge Area.

The Government is implementing an ambitious and evolving, evidence-based strategy to eradicate TB in England. A key feature of the strategy is the division of the country into three bovine TB risk areas – High Risk, Low Risk and the Edge Area which lies between the two. These risk areas determine the disease control measures used in both cattle and wildlife. Evidence of the presence and location of TB infection in badgers within each area is extremely valuable to inform future policy as the eradication strategy evolves.

Starting in April 2021 and ending in March 2022, our aim is to collect a significant number of fresh, found-dead badger carcasses in these counties. These will then be examined and tested for TB.

» Get involved

We are looking for volunteers to help collect badger carcasses. Carcasses will need to be fresh and collected according to a simple protocol that will be provided along with collection kits containing everything you need.

- Carcasses will then be collected from your premises by a specialist courier and taken to the University of Nottingham.
- Carcasses will NOT be frozen as part of this project.
- We offer a contribution of £25 towards any personal expenses associated with the collection of carcasses.
- Should you wish to be informed, we will also let you know the TB test result of your collection. Testing will require a minimum of 12 weeks incubation time to provide a TB test result and you will be advised of the positive or negative result after this time.

Thank you for your interest in this project and we very much welcome your support.

» Find out more



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