



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Asiantaeth  
Iechyd Anifeiliaid  
a Phlanhigion



Canolfan  
Milfeddygaeth Cymru  
Wales Veterinary  
Science Centre

## Veterinary scanning surveillance in Wales

Veterinary surveillance in Wales is undertaken by APHA and the Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC) in Aberystwyth, operated by Iechyd Da in partnership with Aberystwyth University. By engaging with APHA and WVSC, the veterinary profession and the livestock industry in Wales gain access to expert veterinary diagnostic and pathology advice and, through the data collected and analysed, to surveillance intelligence. Vets and farmers are then better equipped to recognise and understand what is happening on farm and to respond appropriately.

Only by working together can we create an effective surveillance network for Wales and wider GB, and we urge you to continue to make use of the considerable expertise that exists within APHA and WVSC.

Professor Christianne Glossop, the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales, said:

“Vets and farmers in Wales have access to excellent post mortem examination and diagnostic services. There are constant threats to animal health and I strongly encourage practices and livestock keepers to work with APHA and WVSC to strengthen surveillance here in Wales and help to detect and manage disease risks.”

Phil Thomas, Senior Veterinary Officer of Iechyd Da, said:

“The new surveillance network provides excellent access to veterinary diagnostic and pathology advice for all vets and livestock keepers. We would urge everyone to engage with the network to help us deliver the best possible disease surveillance for Wales.”

Richard Irvine, Veterinary Head of Scanning Surveillance at APHA, said:

“Post mortem examinations undertaken by APHA and other expert providers are an important part of being able to identify new threats within an environment of varied

endemic diseases. By working together with the veterinary profession and livestock industry in Wales, we can provide the best possible information on animal disease.”

## **Post Mortem Examination and Diagnostic Provision**

### **1. Wales Veterinary Science Centre**

Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC), in Aberystwyth, is operated by Iechyd Da, a consortium of independent veterinary practices based in Wales, together with Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd., working in collaboration with Aberystwyth University. Iechyd Da has been appointed by APHA as a provider of PME and diagnostic services for farm animals in Wales. WVSC provides support to the veterinary profession in mid and north Wales, and contributes to an enhanced scanning surveillance network in Great Britain, which includes APHA Veterinary Investigation Centres, the wider veterinary profession and the livestock industry.

### **2. APHA Carmarthen**

APHA Carmarthen Veterinary Investigation Centre continues to undertake PMEs in parts of South Wales. APHA veterinary staff at Carmarthen are happy to advise when needed, including investigation of complex, unusual or problematic outbreaks of disease.

### **3. APHA Shrewsbury**

APHA Shrewsbury Veterinary Investigation Centre undertakes PMEs in parts of North Wales. APHA veterinary staff at Shrewsbury are happy to advise when needed, including investigation of complex, unusual or problematic outbreaks of disease.

## **Free Carcase Collection Service in Wales**

A free carcase collection service is available to farms across Wales for livestock PMEs that are of surveillance value. This free service will be provided for a period of two years.

To use the service, or if you have any queries about the service, first check the appropriate post mortem examination centre for your client, by visiting the APHA post mortem examination postcode finder at: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp> and then contact the appropriate post mortem examination centre and speak to the Duty Vet. If submission of the carcass for a surveillance PME is agreed, APHA or WVSC will arrange for a collection and the transport contractor will then liaise direct with the farmer.

## Postal Submissions

With the aim of undertaking effective scanning surveillance, APHA provides a quality-assured diagnostic service to the veterinary profession and their clients. There is information and advice on how to access diagnostic support and submit samples at: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/diagnostic-support.htm>

## Contact details for Post Mortem Examination and Diagnostic Services:

### Wales Veterinary Science Centre

Email: [enquiries@wvsc.wales](mailto:enquiries@wvsc.wales)

Telephone: 01970 612374

Website: English version - [www.wvsc.wales](http://www.wvsc.wales) / Welsh version - [www.cmc.cymru](http://www.cmc.cymru)

Wales Veterinary Science Centre

Buarth Road

Aberystwyth

Ceredigion

SY23 1ND

### APHA Carmarthen

Email: [carmarthen@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carmarthen@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01267 235 244

Fax: 01267 236 549

APHA Veterinary Investigation Centre  
Job's Well Road  
Johnstown  
Carmarthen  
Dyfed  
SA31 3EZ

**APHA Shrewsbury**

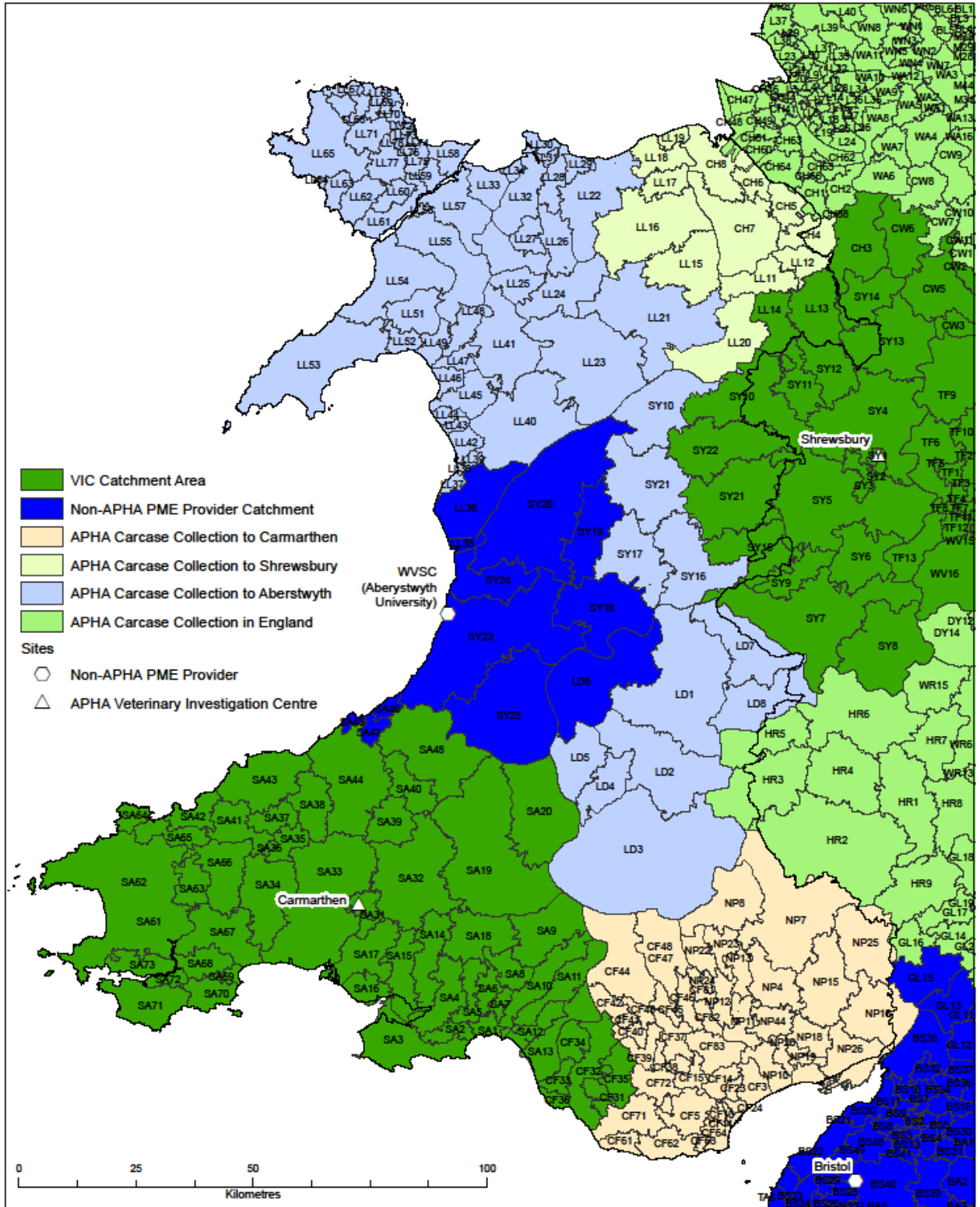
Email: [Shrewsbury@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Shrewsbury@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01743 467621

Fax: 01743 441060

APHA Veterinary Investigation Centre  
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Harlescott,  
Shrewsbury,  
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**The map overleaf shows service provision for post mortem examination and  
carcase collection in Wales**



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Service Provision for Post Mortem Examination  
 & Carcass Collection in Wales and England



# **Veterinary Scanning Surveillance**

## **What is scanning surveillance?**

Veterinary scanning surveillance enables the early detection and investigation of new and re-emerging animal diseases, as well as helping to understand the pattern and trends of endemic diseases, so that appropriate action can be taken to reduce their impact.

## **The new surveillance model in England and Wales**

A new model for veterinary scanning surveillance has been introduced to improve the geographical and species coverage of disease surveillance across England and Wales. The scanning surveillance network continues to be underpinned by a quality assured diagnostic capability, including post mortem examinations undertaken by APHA Veterinary Investigation Centres and other non-APHA PME providers, such as the Wales Veterinary Science Centre. This remains fundamental to identifying new threats within an environment of varied endemic disease.

Geographical coverage has been assured by providing access to diagnostic facilities through a carcass transport service which will operate in many regions across England and Wales.

The new surveillance model broadens the approach to scanning surveillance. In addition to post mortem examinations undertaken in government facilities to detect threats, emphasis is now placed on post mortem examinations undertaken within the livestock farming industry and by other specialist providers, as well as gathering animal health information from other sources, this enables a more comprehensive threat picture to be drawn than was previously the case.

A dedicated Surveillance Intelligence Unit (SIU) has been created within APHA to support data capture, exploration, collation, analysis, reporting and use of surveillance findings, and to trigger risk mitigation measures or further research. As well as being a centre of expertise, part of the SIU's role is to engage with the alternative sources of information on animal disease to improve surveillance coverage.

**Further information:** <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/index.htm>

## **Assisting Livestock and Wildlife Disease Diagnosis**

APHA's Species Expert Groups have published a guide to diagnostic sampling and test selection for livestock and wildlife: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/surveillance/sub-handbook.pdf> . The handbook aims to provide vets with guidance on sampling and test selection for common disease presentations.