



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 43/21

Roll out of additional TB eradication measures in specific parts of the Low and Intermediate TB Areas of Wales.

Date issued: 05 October 2021

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) working in Wales that from 1st November 2021 additional TB eradication measures will be introduced in certain parts (Denbighshire/Conwy Valley) of the Low TB Area (LTBA) and an area near Pennal covering the Low and Intermediate TB Area Mid (ITBAM) of Wales.

Background

1. [OV Briefing Note 14/21](#) on 14th May 2021 informed OVs in Wales of the introduction of new measures in the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN), certain parts (Denbighshire/Conwy Valley) of the Low TB Area (LTBA) and an area near Pennal covering the Low and Intermediate TB Area Mid (ITBAM) of Wales in a phased approach from 1st June 2021.
2. These measures are being introduced as a result of epidemiological evidence of local disease spread occurring in certain parts of the LTBA (Denbighshire/Conwy Valley) and an area around Pennal (LTBA and the ITBAM). Cattle movement links between some local breakdown herds were identified and there is also evidence of breakdowns sharing similar or an identical genetic strain of *M. bovis*.
3. As yet, there has been no evidence of bovine TB infection in the local badger population from surveillance of dead badgers, although we do continue to monitor this situation closely. More badger carcasses for post-mortem examination can only improve our surveillance in this species and OV practices play a key role in offering storage facilities

and in ensuring their clients are aware of the contact details for reporting (please see at the end of this BN).

4. The number of new breakdowns in the Denbighshire and Conwy Valley areas has more than doubled in 2020 compared to the previous year, accounting for 50% of the overall increase in the number of new incidents in the LTBA.

5. Three initial measures were introduced in the Denbighshire and Conwy Valley areas (spatial units GW1, CL1 and CL2 in LTBA) and in the Pennal area (LTBA and ITBAM) on 1st of June:

a) expansion of Individual Herd Action Plans to TB Breakdowns recurrent up to and including the 6-month test for all herds, unless the breakdown is determined by APHA to be of purchased origin

b) interferon-gamma (the gamma test) and IDEXX antibody testing as a supplementary test of non-homebred animals with a positive reaction to bovine tuberculin at a clear herd surveillance test, i.e. a test with no reactors or inconclusive reactors

c) severe interpretation of TB tests in herd breakdowns for the duration of the breakdown with an exit strategy involving a gamma test of severe IRs

6. APHA wrote to cattle keepers in the affected areas informing them of the introduction of the above three measures from 1st June 2021 (you can find copies of the letter as annexes A and B in the **OV BN 14/21**) and that additional measures would be introduced later in the year.

What's Changing

1. APHA is writing now to affected cattle keepers in the Denbighshire and Conwy Valley areas (spatial units GW1, CL1 and CL2 in LTBA) and in the Pennal area (LTBA and ITBAM) to inform them of the introduction of three additional measures from **1st November 2021**:

- a) a **temporary reclassification of the three spatial units GW1, CL1 and CL2, from the LTBA into the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN)**, please see TB regions map at <https://gov.wales/wales-tb-regionalisation-map>. **This does not apply to the Pennal cluster.** The main consequence of this will be a **requirement to complete Pre-Movement Tests (PrMT), where applicable, for animals moving from the holding**, with a Post Movement Test (PoMT) for animals entering the holding from higher risk TB areas no longer necessary. Please note that **any animals moved into your herd before 1 November will still need to be post-movement tested** within 60-120 days after the movement, if moved from higher incidence areas.

Please find more information on GOV.UK at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-movement-and-post-movement-tb-testing-of-cattle-in-great-britain>.

- b) **introduction of additional testing in herds contiguous to an Officially TB Free Withdrawn (OTFW) TB breakdown.** Herds identified as being contiguous to an OTFW breakdown herd, will require additional testing (CON6) six months after completion of the initial contiguous test (CON) test, followed by a second CON6 test (a further six months from the previous CON6) and a final test 12 months from the latter (CON12), i.e. the testing sequence will be CON, CON6, CON6, CON12
- c) **introduction of free Cymorth TB “Keep it Out” visits for herds contiguous to a breakdown herd** but which have tested clear of disease at the tests set out above.

Further Information

1. Maps of the Denbighshire and Conwy Valley areas (spatial units GW1, CL1 and CL2 in LTBA), the Pennal area and a map of the whole of Wales displaying the Spatial Units at **Annex A**

2. Q&A in Welsh Government website at <https://gov.wales/low-tb-area-frequently-asked-questions>

3. Contacts for badger carcass queries:

phone: 0808 1695110

e-mail: badger@bfd.wales

website: www.bfd.wales

4. [TB Testing Interval website](#) in GOV.UK, where the Spatial Unit for each parish in Wales can be checked in the parish list and the [TB Testing interval search tool](#).

5. Please refer any queries to Apha.CymruWales@apha.gov.uk

ANNEX A

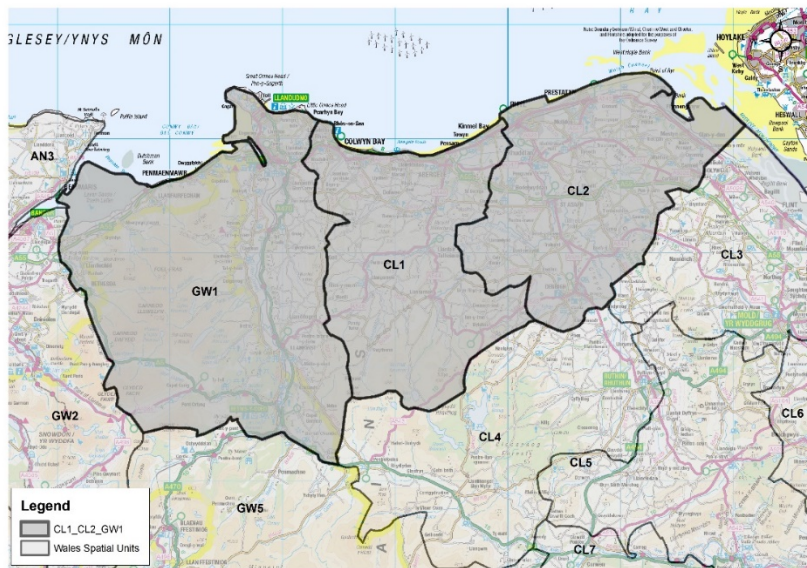


Figure1 – the Denbigh and Conwy Valley affected spatial units

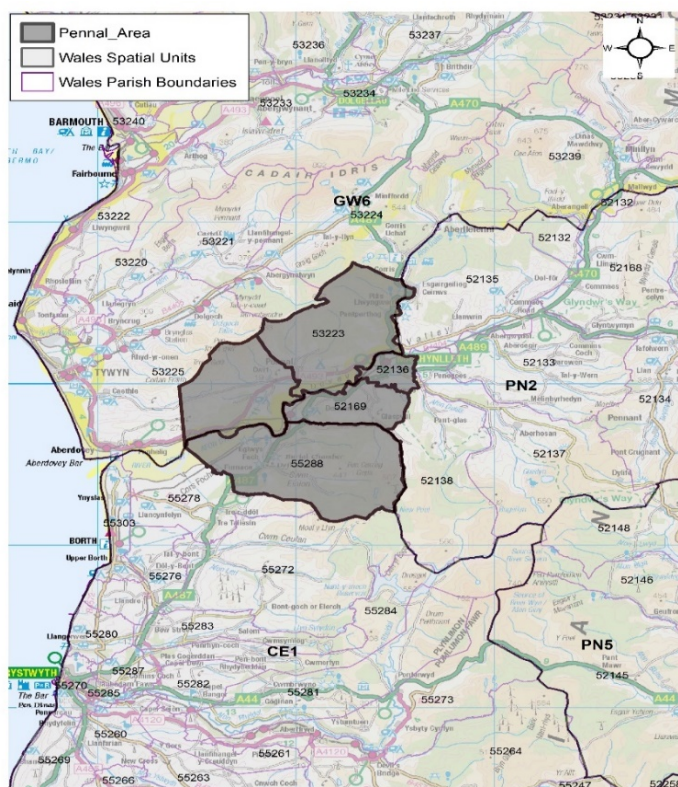


Figure 2 – Area near Pennal covering the Low and Intermediate TB Area Mid (ITBAM) of Wales

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.

Maps of Wales displaying Spatial Units before and after the changes

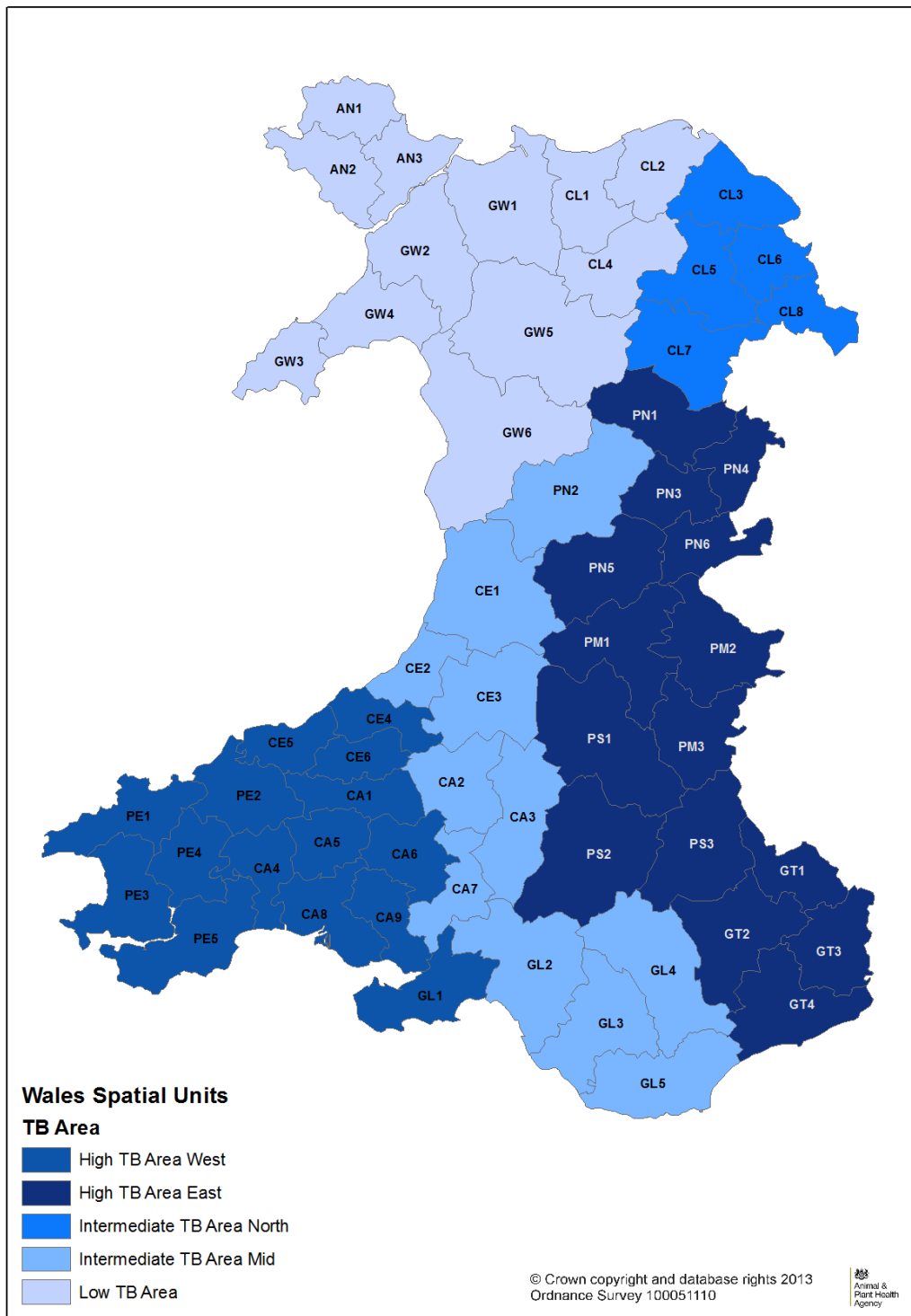


Figure 3 – Map of Wales displaying TB Areas and Spatial Units **prior** to 1st November 2021.

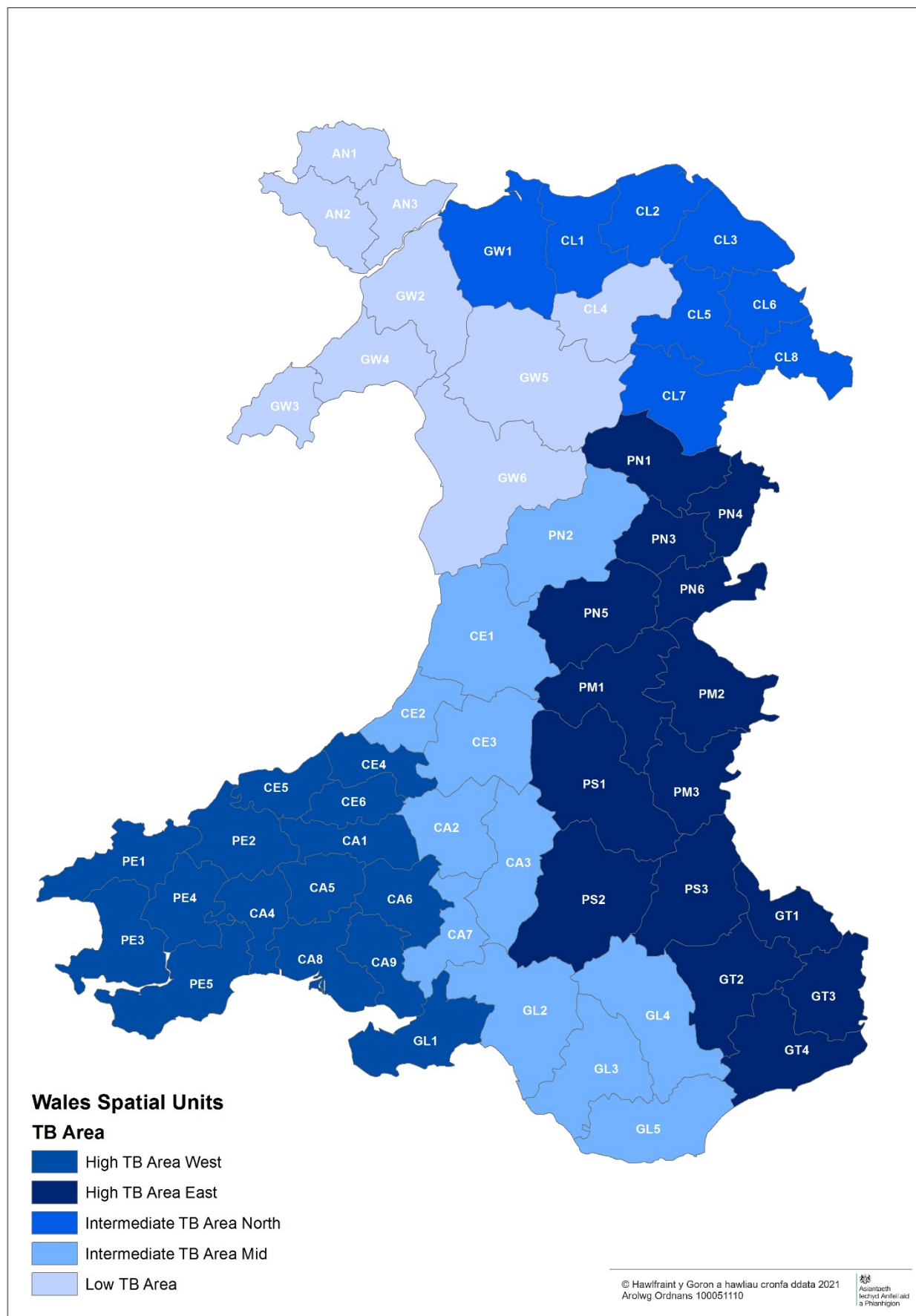


Figure 4 – Map of Wales displaying TB Areas and Spatial Units **from** 1st November 2021.

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.