



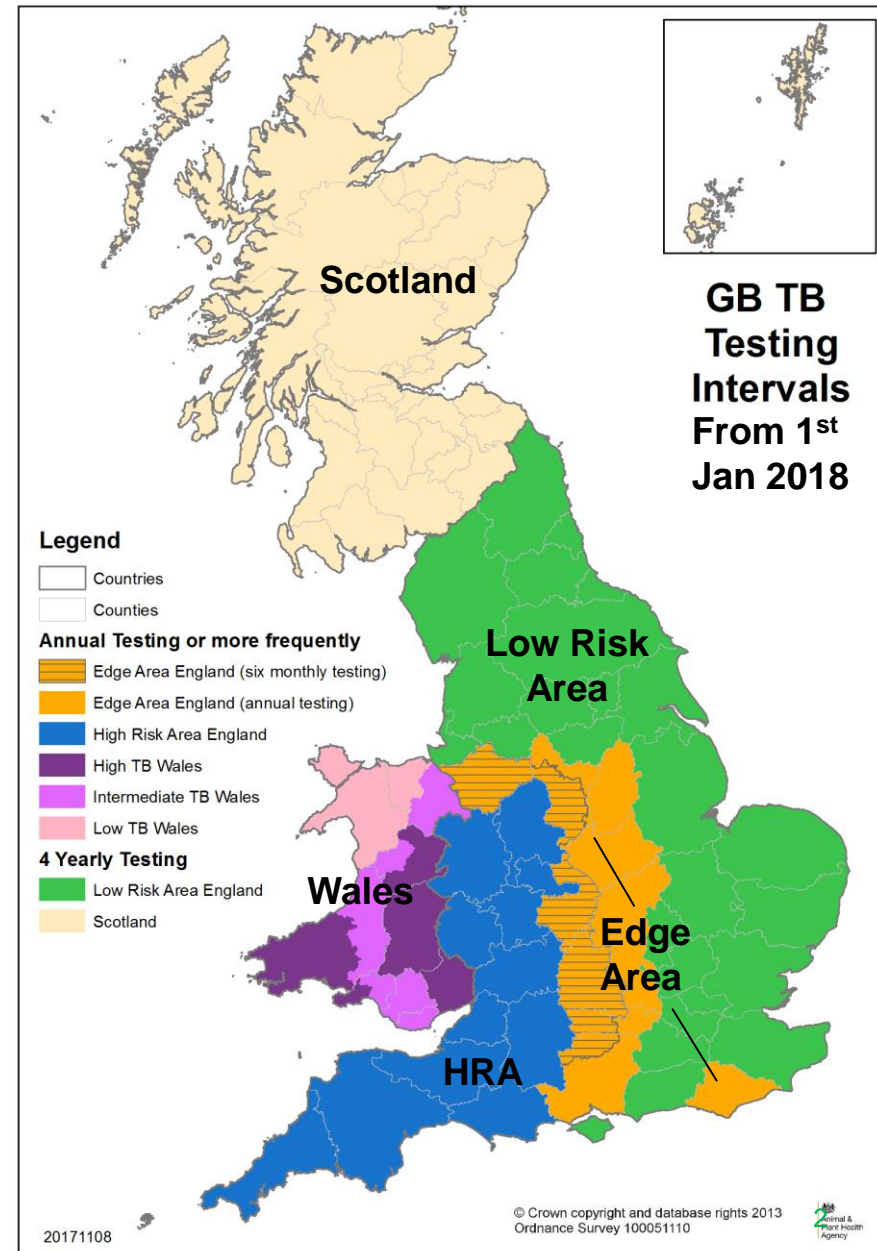
Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

United Kingdom: report on the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme in 2018

SCoPAFF meeting
Brussels
12-13 June 2019

bTB surveillance and control zones in GB

- **Scotland:** OTF since Oct 2009
- **Low Risk Area of England (LRA):**
 - 19,900 cattle holdings
 - 4-yearly default herd testing interval, but ~10% of herds tested every year
 - Very low and stable incidence
- **Edge Area of England:**
 - 8,700 cattle holdings
 - Annual or 6-monthly herd testing
 - Intermediate (but rising) incidence
- **High Risk Area of England (HRA):**
 - 20,000 cattle holdings
 - Annual herd testing
 - High, stable incidence & prevalence

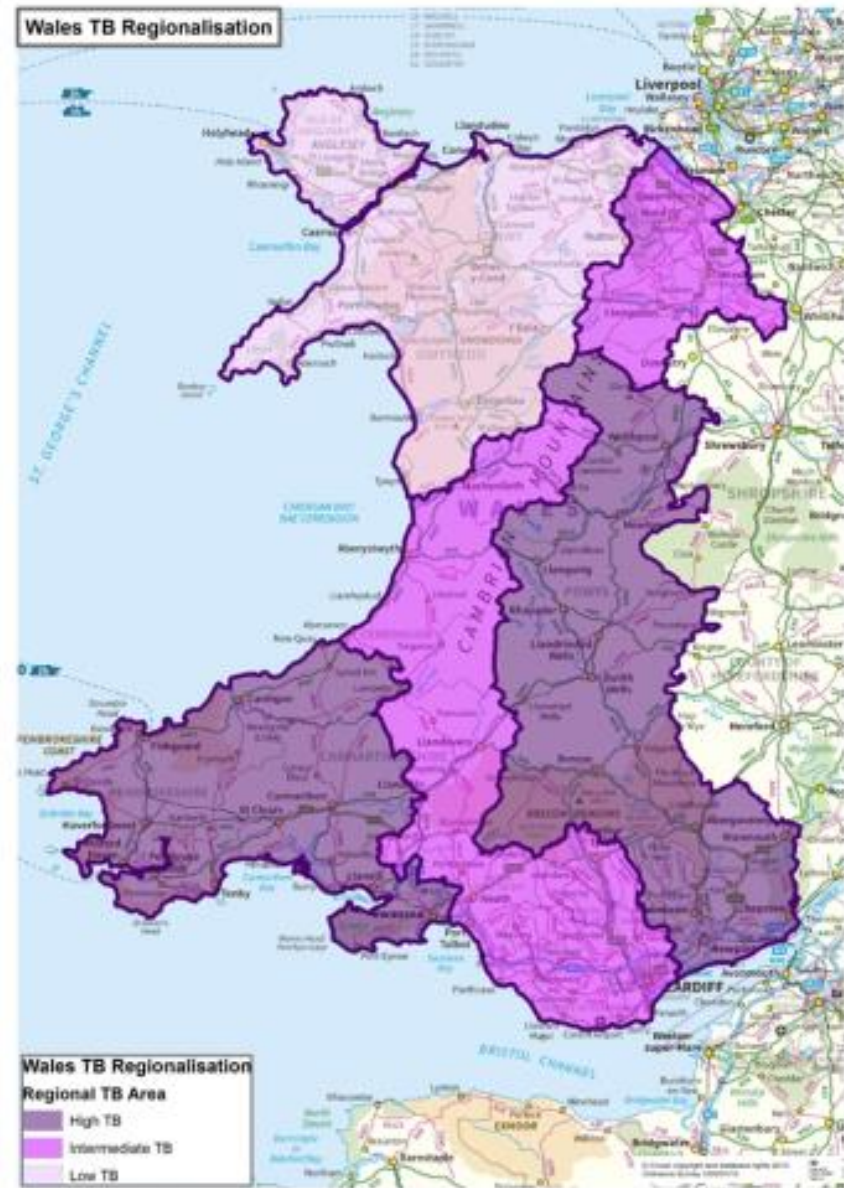


Wales:

- 11,900 holdings (annual testing)
- Areas of high, intermediate and low incidence (declining slowly overall)

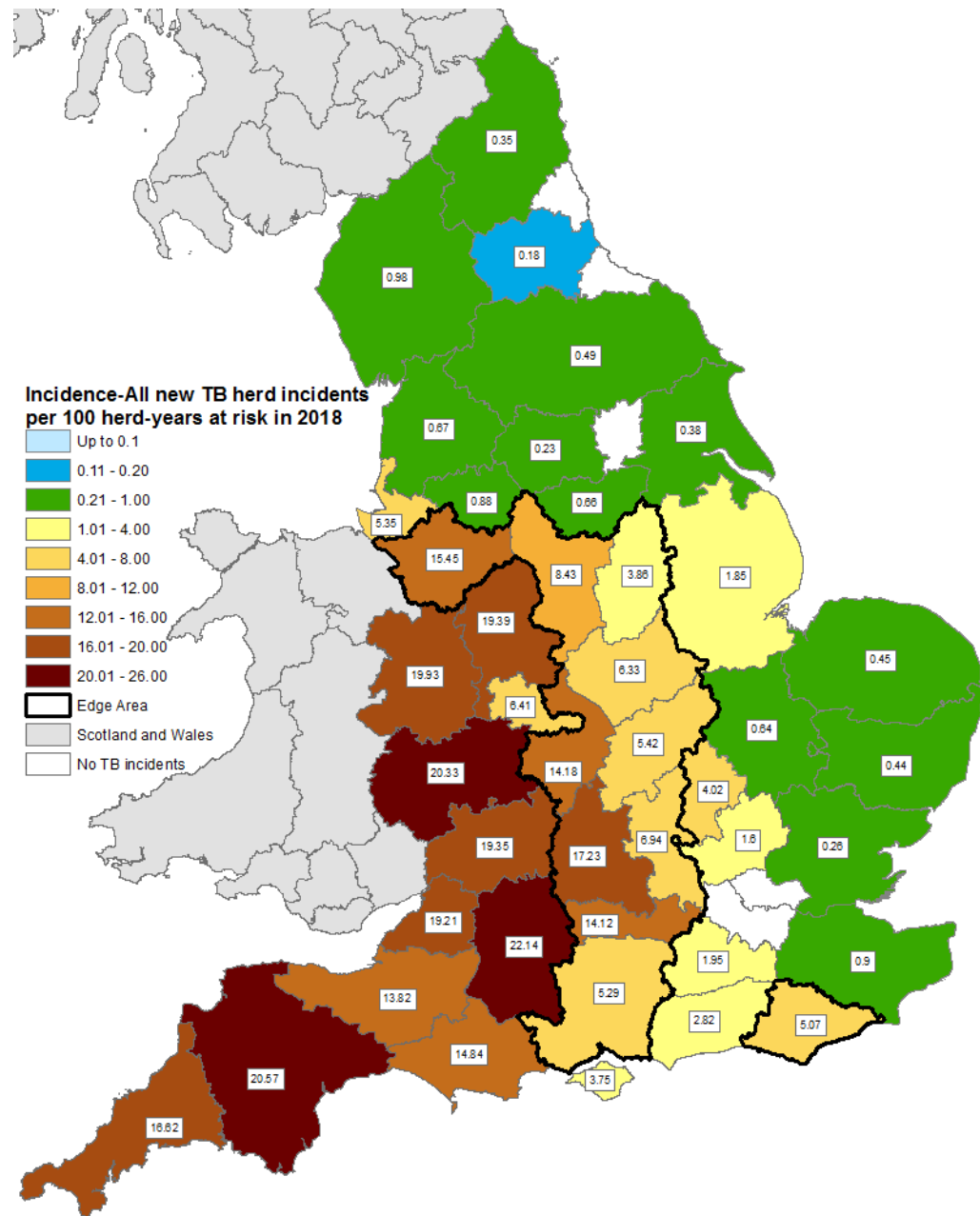
A refreshed TB Eradication Programme for Wales launched, 1 October 2017. This included introduction of a regionalised approach and, based on incidence, the creation of:

- **Low TB Area** – less than 0.2% of herds have had a TB incident in a year.
- **Intermediate TB Areas** - less than 8% but more than 0.2% of herds have had a TB incident in a year.
- **High TB Areas** - more than 8% of herds have had a TB incident in a year.

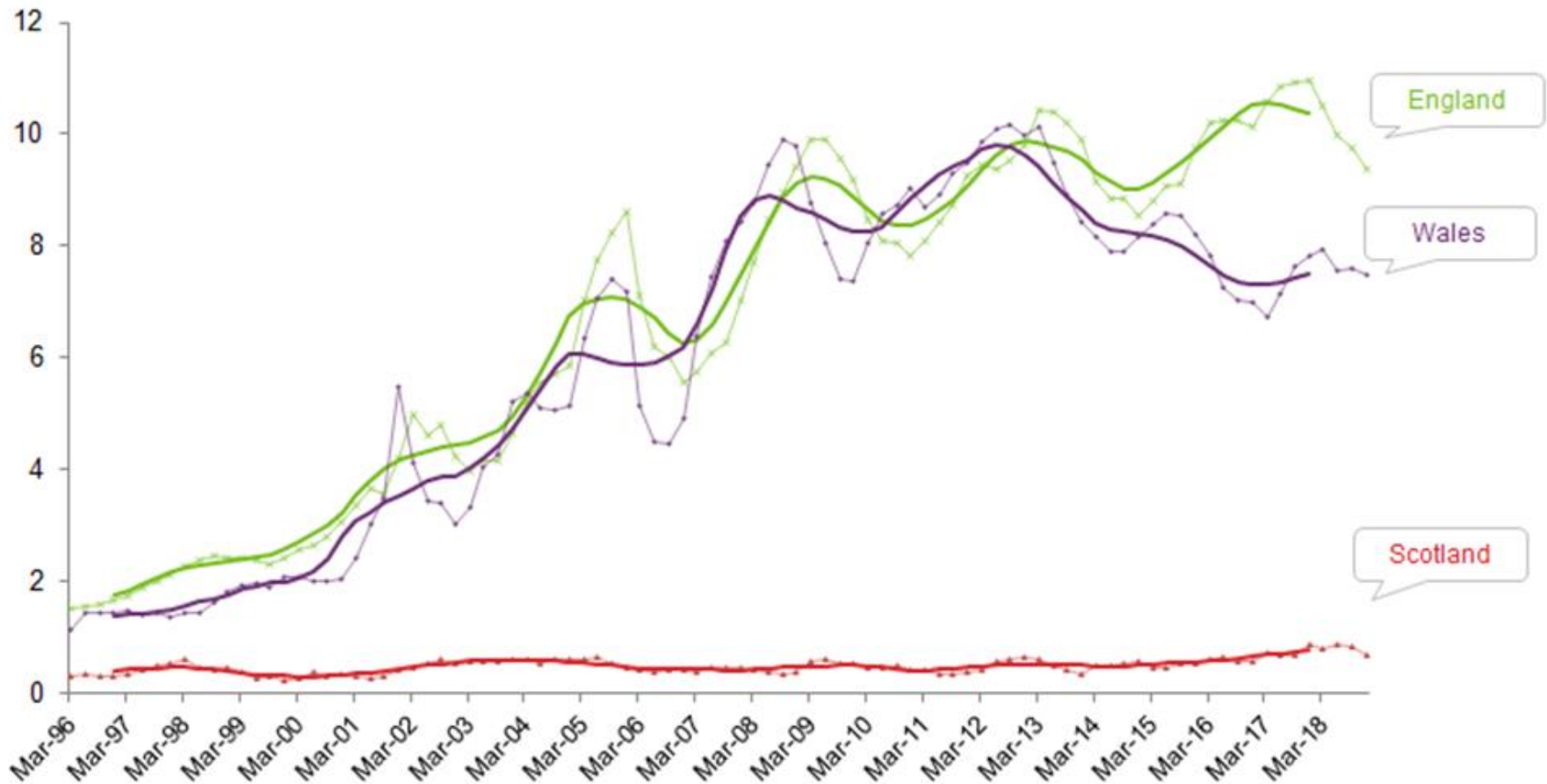


England: herd incidence rate by county (2018)

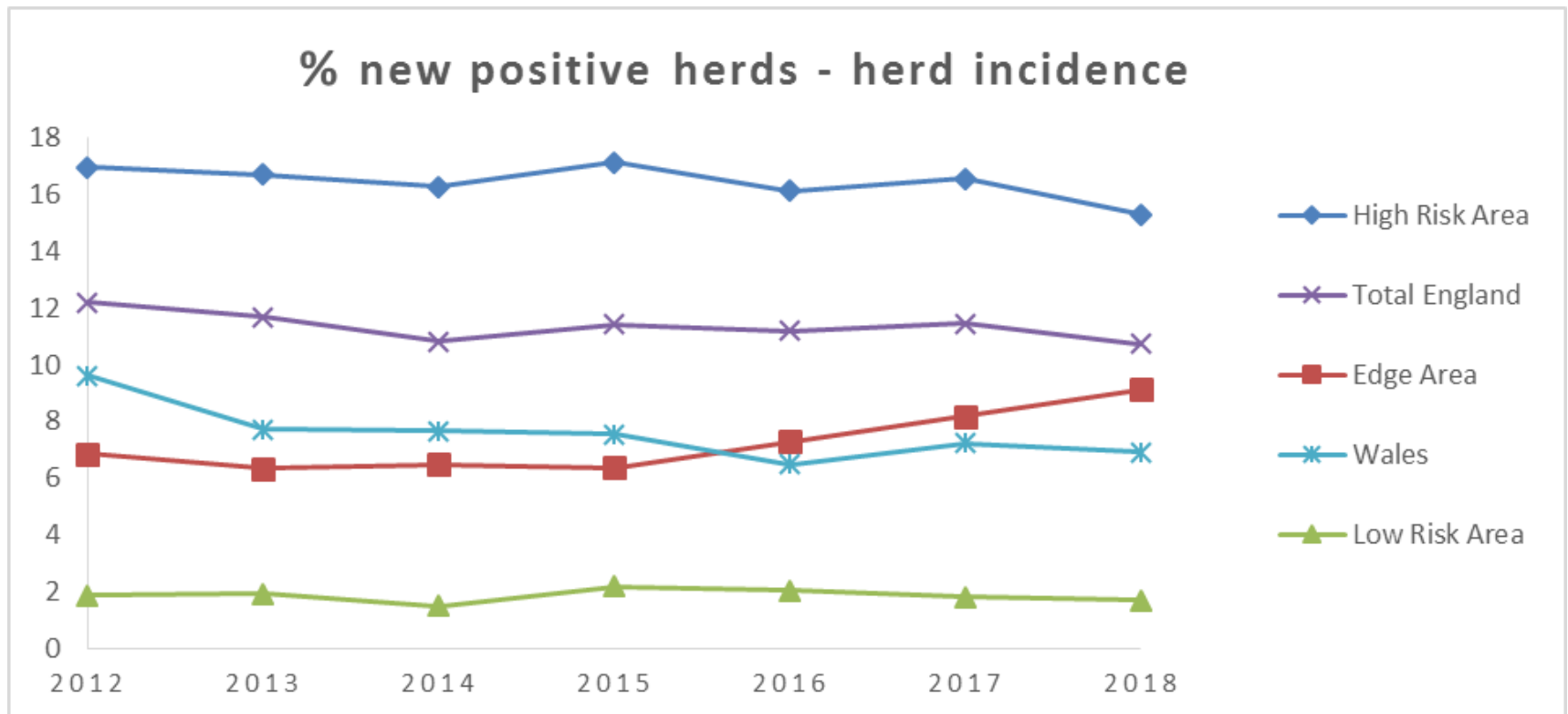
Herd incidence was highest in the West of England, where *Mycobacterium bovis* infection is endemic in the Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) – this native wildlife species is a maintenance host of *M. bovis* and a major constrain to bTB eradication in cattle in those areas



Herd incidence rate by country of GB: (total new positive herds per 100 herd-years at risk)

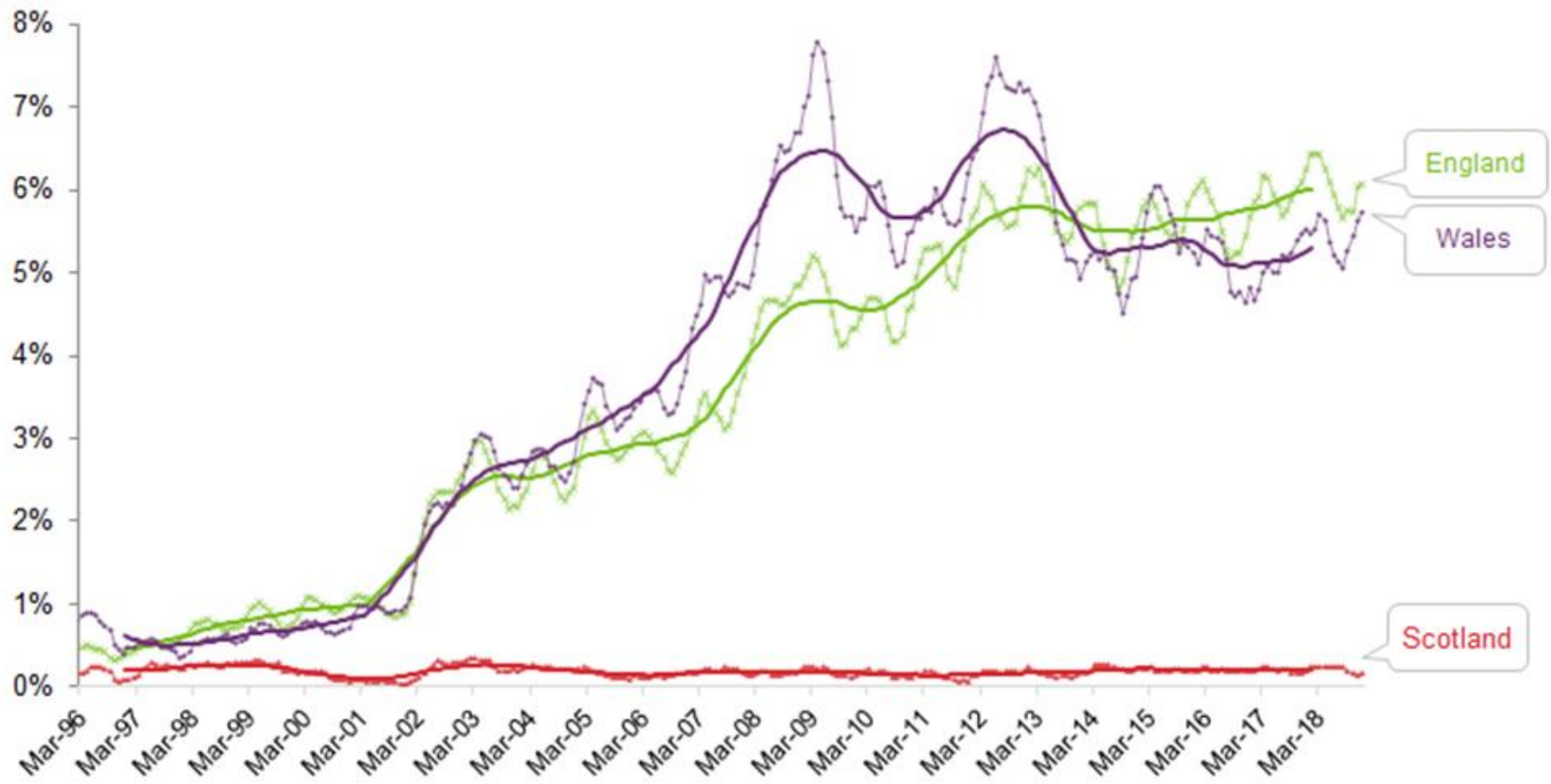


Annual herd incidence rate in England(by risk area) & Wales : percentage of new positive herds out of all cattle herds tested



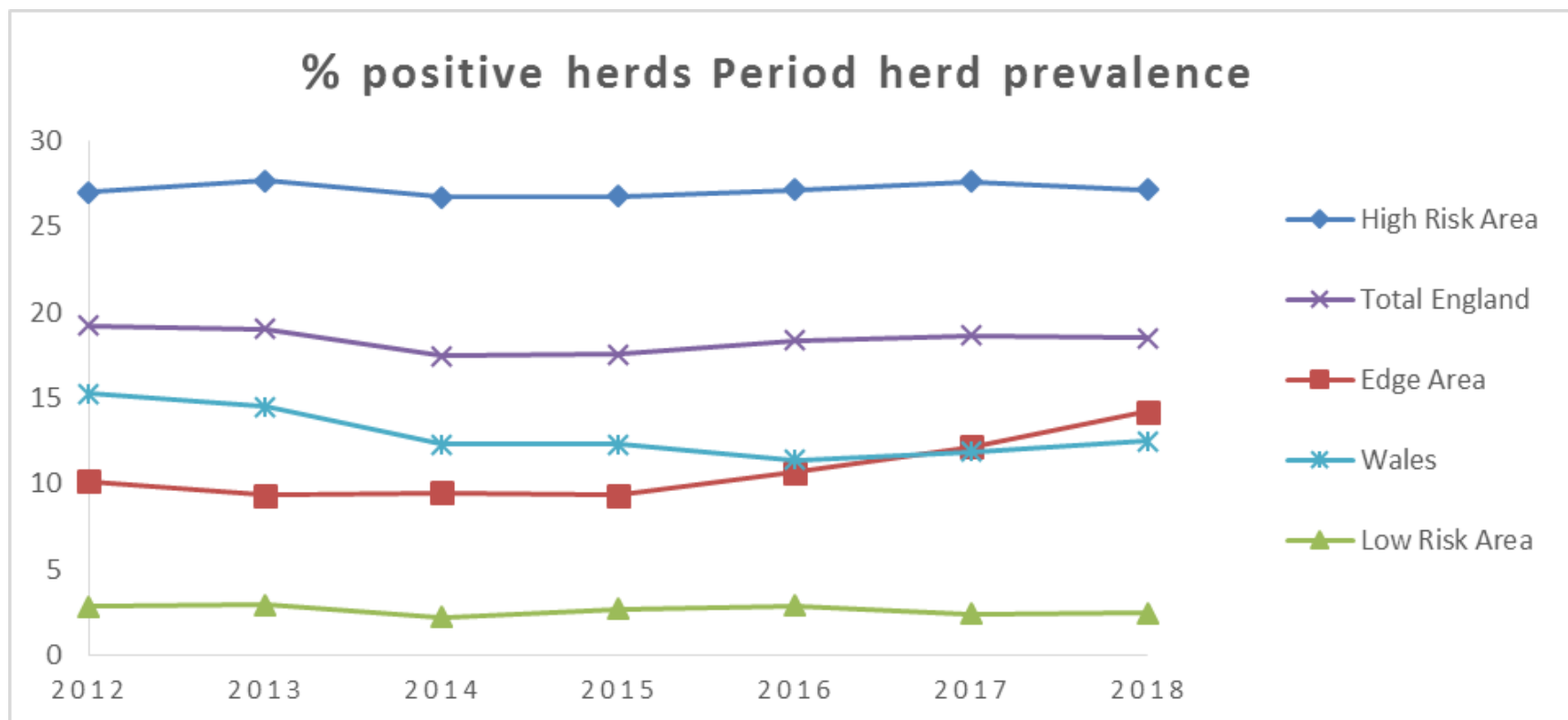
Herd prevalence by country of GB:

percentage of herds under movement restriction (OTF status suspended or withdrawn) at the end of the month



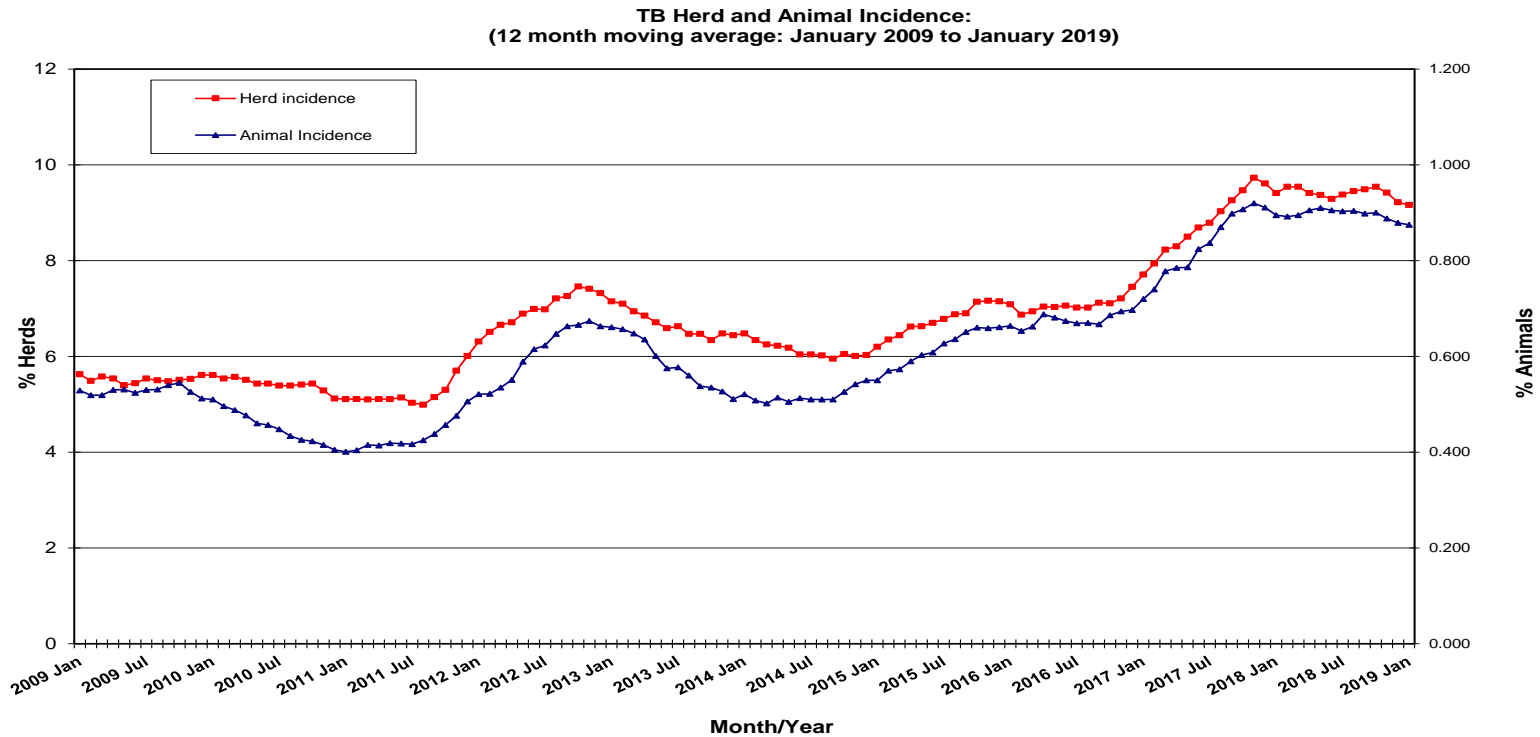
Annual period herd prevalence in England(by risk area) and Wales :

percentage of total positive herds out of all cattle herds tested during the year

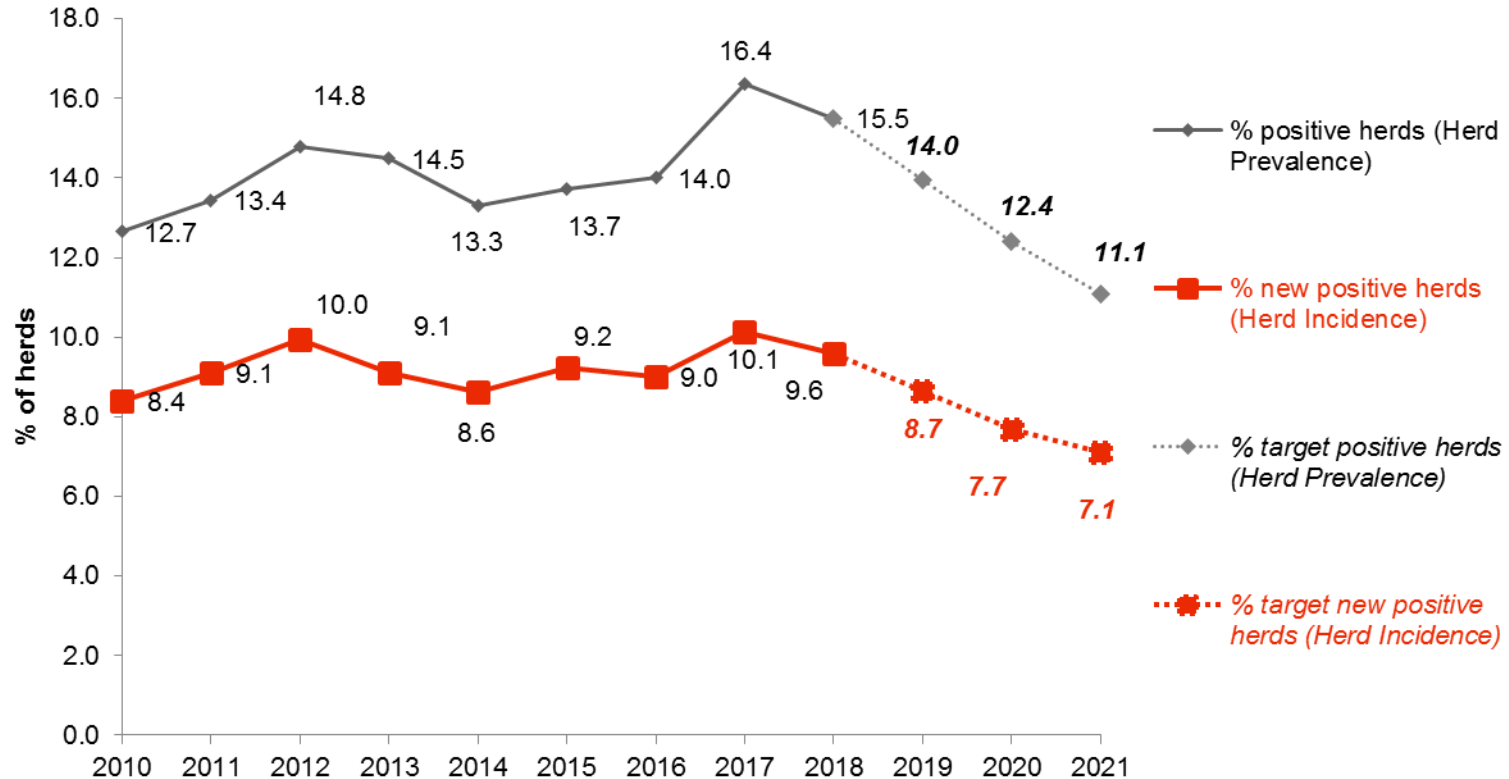


Northern Ireland: herd incidence & prevalence

	December 2018	December 2017
Herd incidence	9.22%	9.61%
Herd prevalence	12.38%	12.41%
Animal incidence	0.88%	0.91%



Evolution of bTB eradication: Overall UK¹ herd prevalence & incidence and targets for 2019-2021



¹ Combined values for England, Wales & Northern Ireland

England – Programme enhancements 2018

- Progressive expansion of badger culling operations: licensed in nine new areas in the HRA and one in the Edge Area, with operations now covering 40% the total land surface of the HRA
- Badger culling was also licensed for the first time in the LRA, to supplement additional TB control measures in cattle, in a defined section of East Cumbria where endemic *M. bovis* infection was identified in badgers in 2017
- Publication of the joint government-farming industry bTB biosecurity progress report in December 2018
- More frequent testing of herds in an enlarged Edge Area (Jan 2018)
- Recommencing badger vaccination projects in the Edge Area under the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme in summer 2018
- Compensation payments halved for cattle moved (under licence) into TB positive herds that are later removed as test reactors or direct contacts before that herd regains OTF status.
- Independent review of the Government's bTB Strategy reported in September 2018.

Wales- Programme enhancements 2018/19

- The phasing out of **Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs)** was completed in January 2018.
- The **Badger Vaccination Grant** was re-opened which will enable private vaccination of badgers at a 50% match funding.
- A **biosecurity mobile app** (scoring tool) has been developed by an industry group, which calculates a herd's risk score through a survey about the keepers management practices.
- **Intermediate TB Area North** - we have strengthened our contiguous testing regime around TB breakdowns in the area. Affected herds which test clear to a contiguous test are offered a veterinary 'Keep it Out' visit to advise on steps farmers can take to reduce the risk of a TB breakdown.
- **TB breakdown management and herd restriction Notices**
From this Autumn, there will be a change to the way TB movement restriction Notices are applied to herds that farm across multiple holdings, but where these holdings are run as one business.

N. Ireland – Programme enhancements 2018

- DAERA continues to develop policy advice to a future Minister following consultation on the Department's response to the TB Strategic Partnership Group's (TBSPG) recommendations
- Approach is focused on six thematic areas- Management, Oversight and Partnership; Tools and Processes; Herd Health Management; Finance and Funding; Research; and Wildlife.
- TB Eradication Partnership (TBEP) established to provide independent advice on the development and implementation of the TB Strategy. This was a TBSPG recommendation.
- Slow decline in herd incidence and animal incidence rate from high point in November 2017. May reflect effectiveness of increased use of 'severe interpretation' of the skin test
- 'Test and Vaccinate or Remove' wildlife intervention project is now complete. Results will become available throughout 2019

Conclusions

- Bovine TB remains one of the most serious and costly animal health problem for the UK cattle industry & taxpayer
- Wide regional variations in bTB frequency, distribution and epidemiology (largely determined by infection in badgers)
- Slight improvement of key bTB epidemiological indicators in 2018 relative to 2017 in England, Wales and NI.
- Very low, stable incidence & prevalence in England's LRA.
- EC's targets for 2018 not achieved. Targets for 2020 based on 20% reduction on 2018. UK continued to strengthen its programme in 2017 - 2019
- EU financial contribution provides valuable assistance
- Application submitted for EU financial support in 2020