



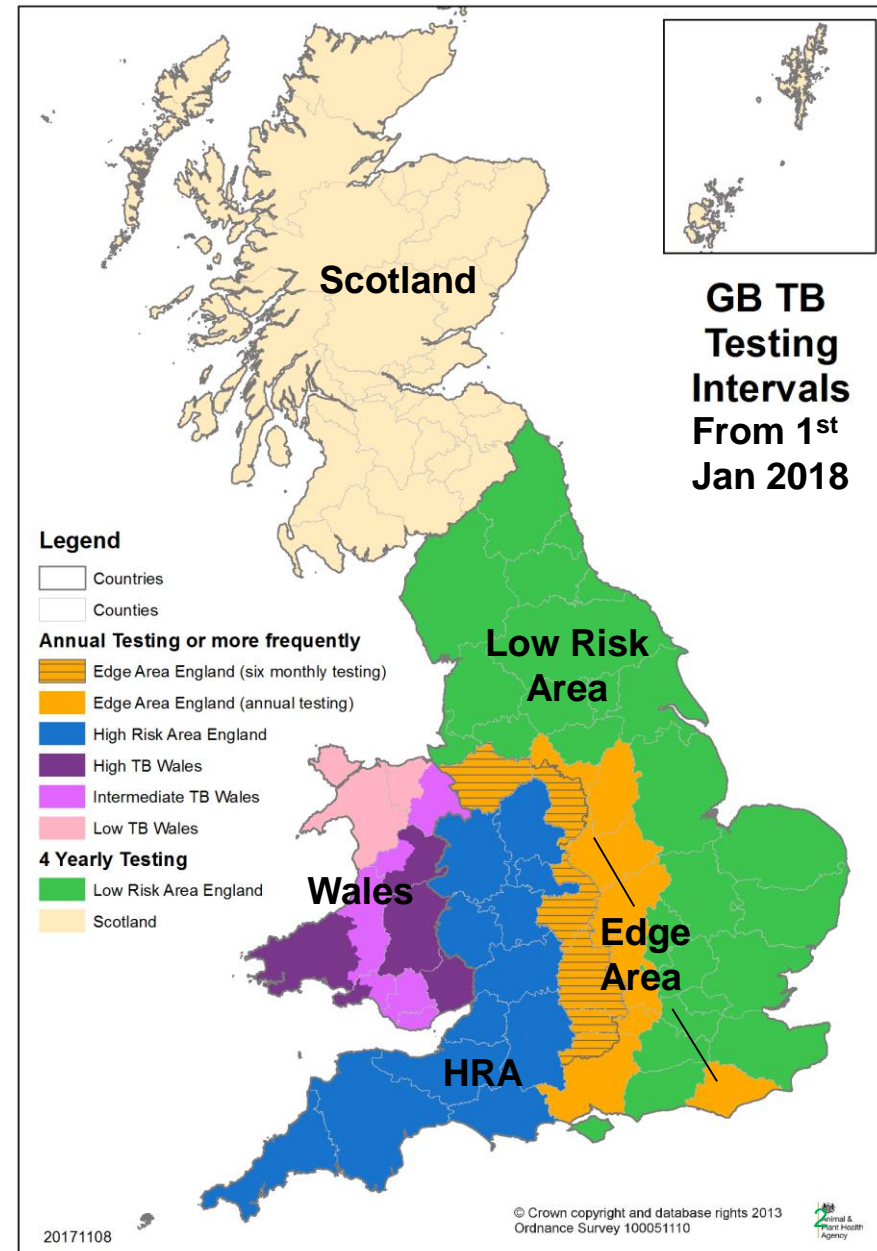
Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

United Kingdom: report on the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme in 2017

SCoPAFF
Brussels
12 July 2018

TB surveillance and control zones in GB

- Scotland: OTF since Oct 2009
- England - Low Risk Area (LRA):
 - 20,500 cattle holdings
 - 4-yearly default herd testing interval, but ~10% of herds tested every year
 - Very low and stable incidence
- England - Edge Area:
 - 8,900 cattle holdings
 - Annual or 6-monthly herd testing
 - Intermediate (but rising) incidence
- England - High Risk Area (HRA):
 - 20,500 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:

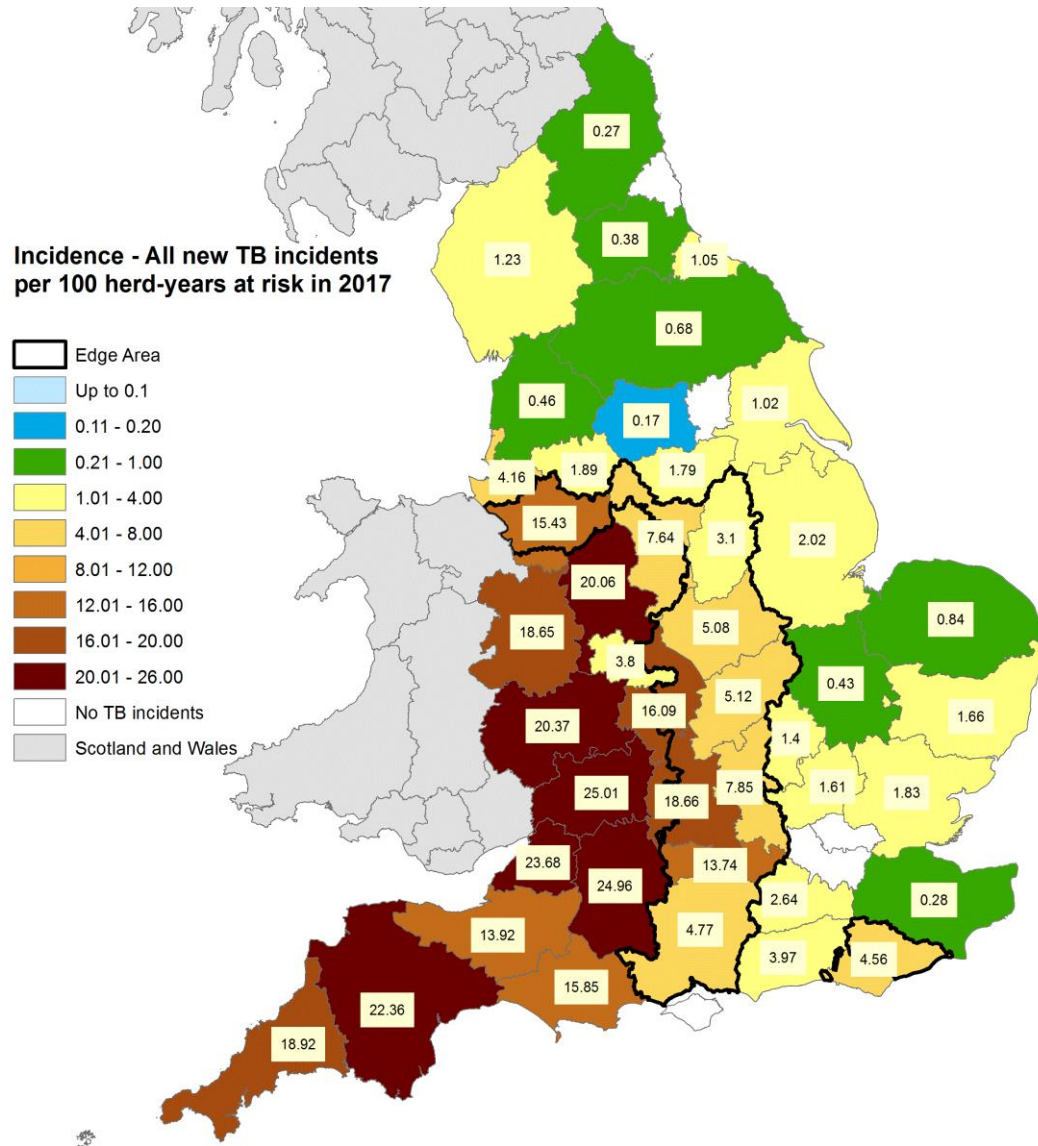
- **Low TB Area** – less than 0.2% of herds have had a TB incident in a year.
- **Intermediate TB Areas** - less than 5% but more than 0.2% of herds have had a TB incident in a year.
- **High TB Areas** - more than 5% of herds have had a TB incident in a year.



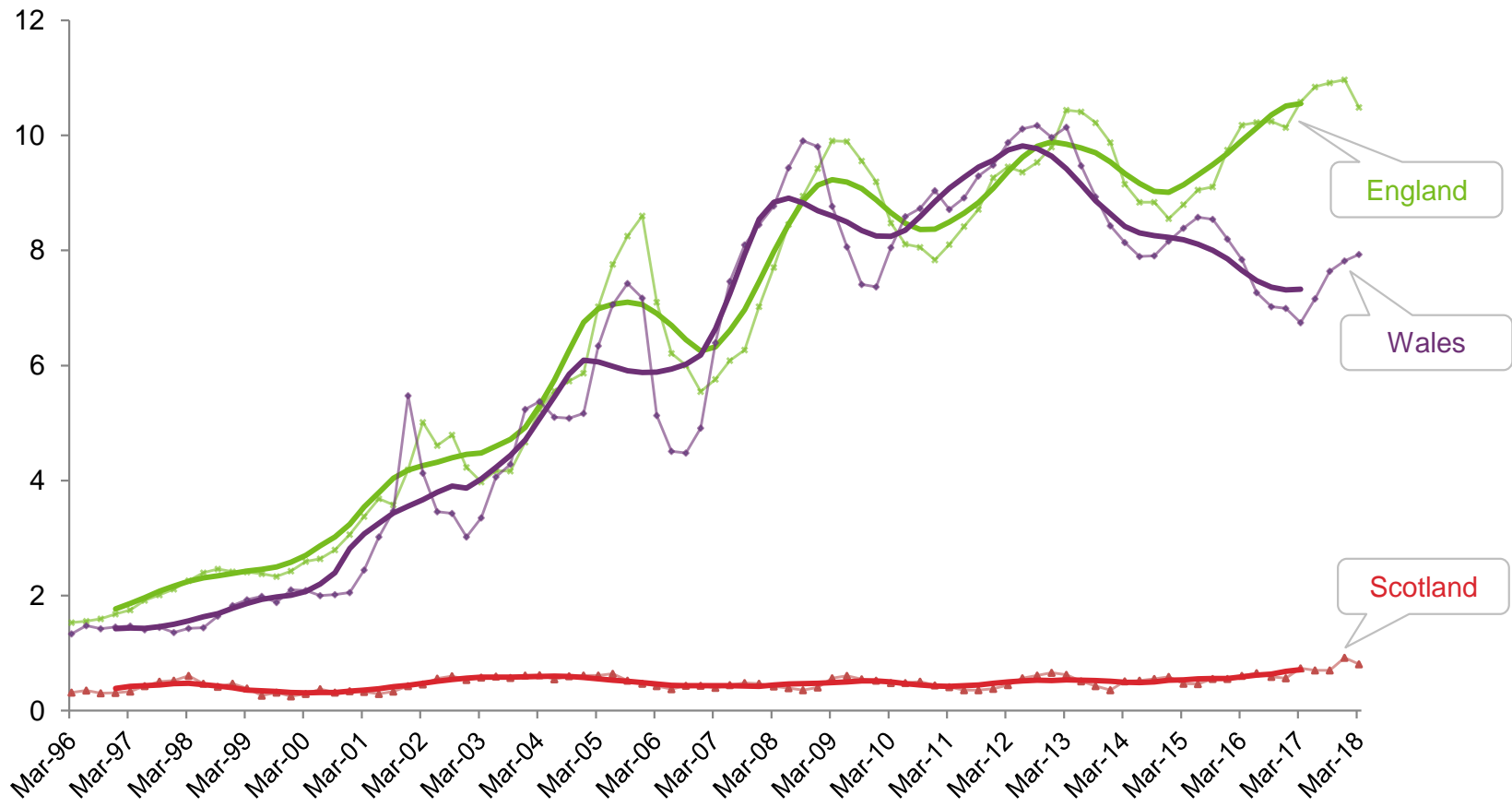
England: Herd incidence rate by county in 2017

(new positive herds per 100 herd-years at risk)

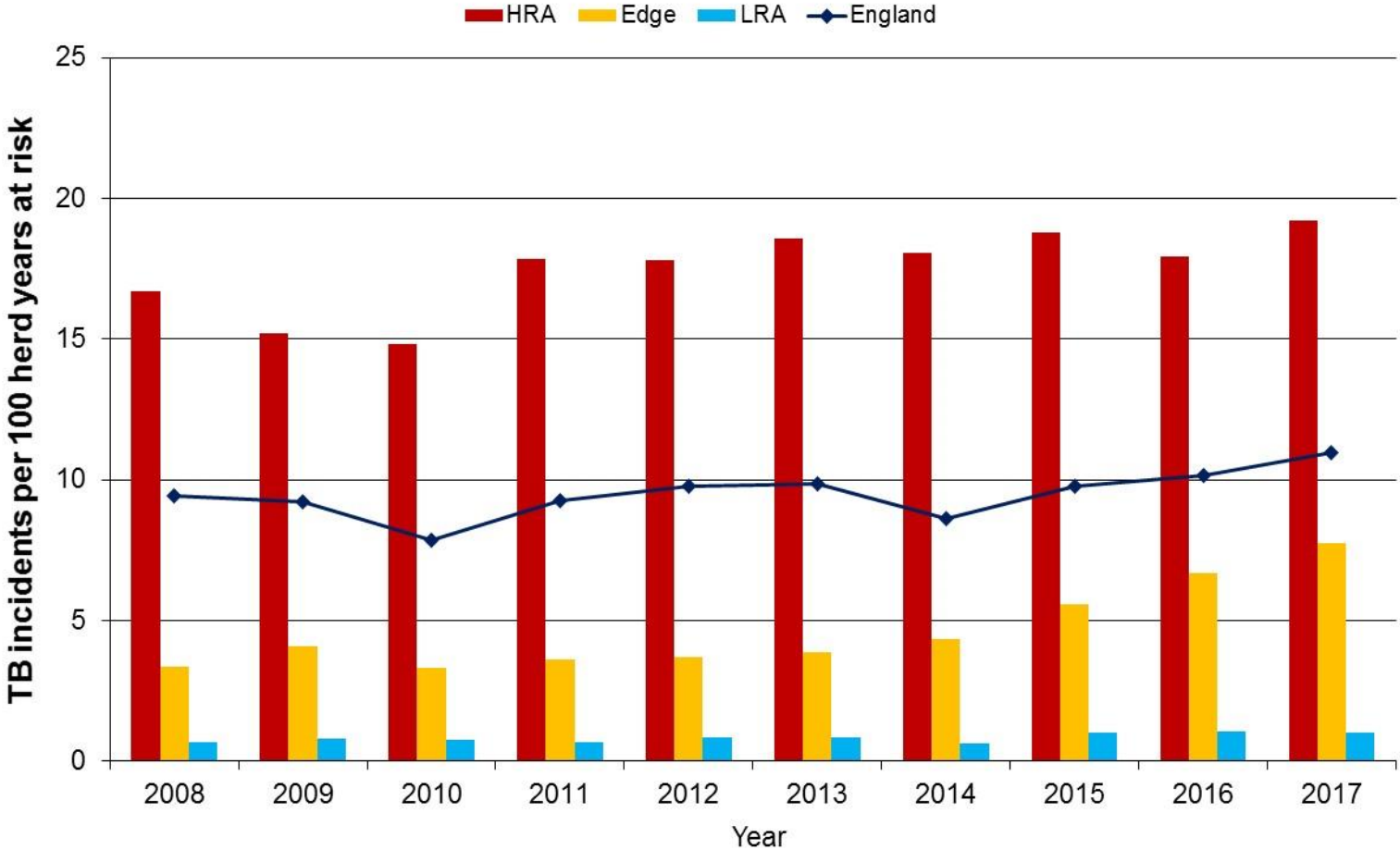
Herd incidence was highest in the West of England where *Mycobacterium bovis* infection is endemic in the Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*) – this native wildlife species is a true maintenance host and a major constraint to TB eradication in cattle in those areas



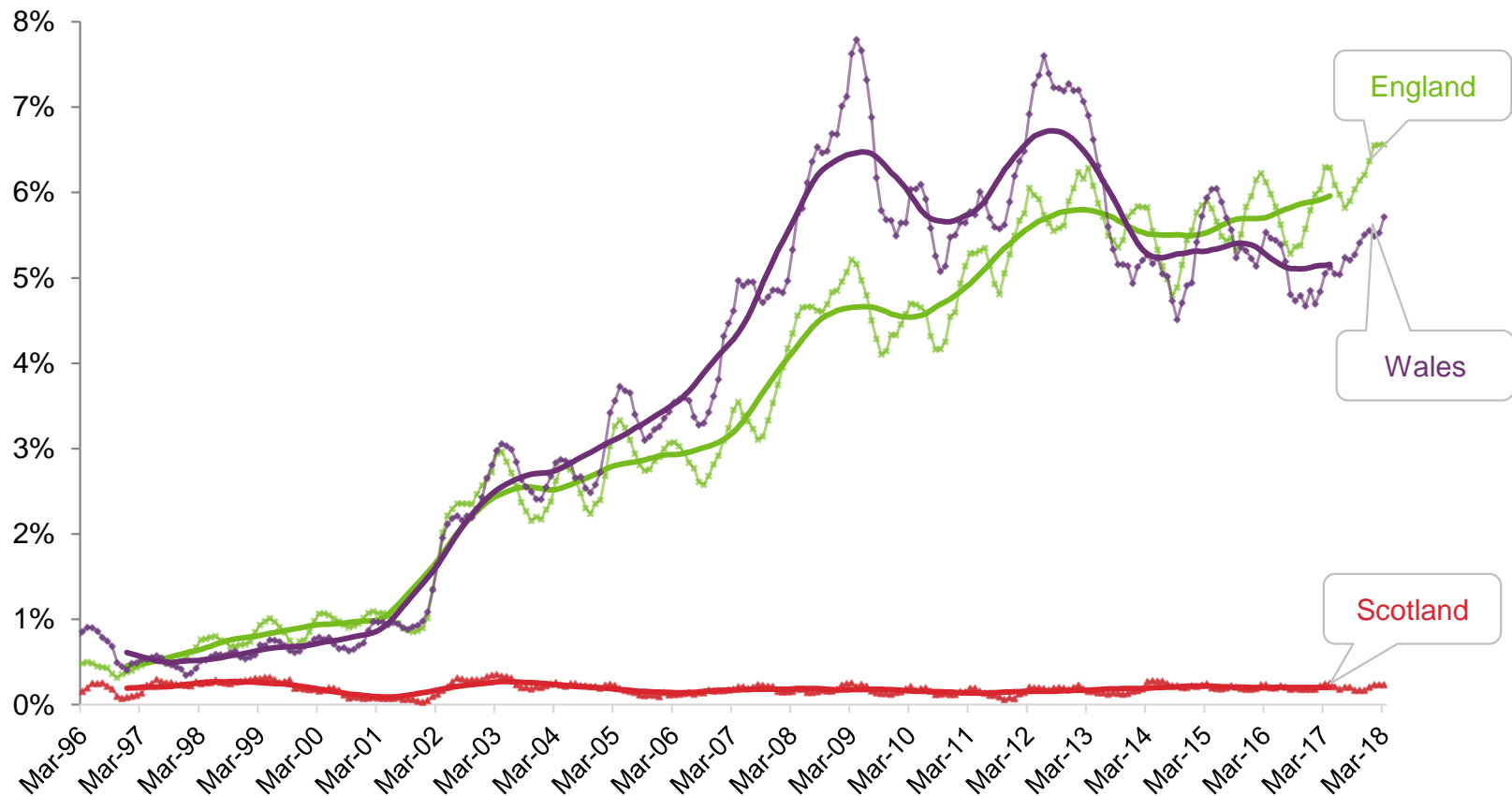
Herd incidence rate by country of GB: (total new positive herds per 100 herd-years at risk)



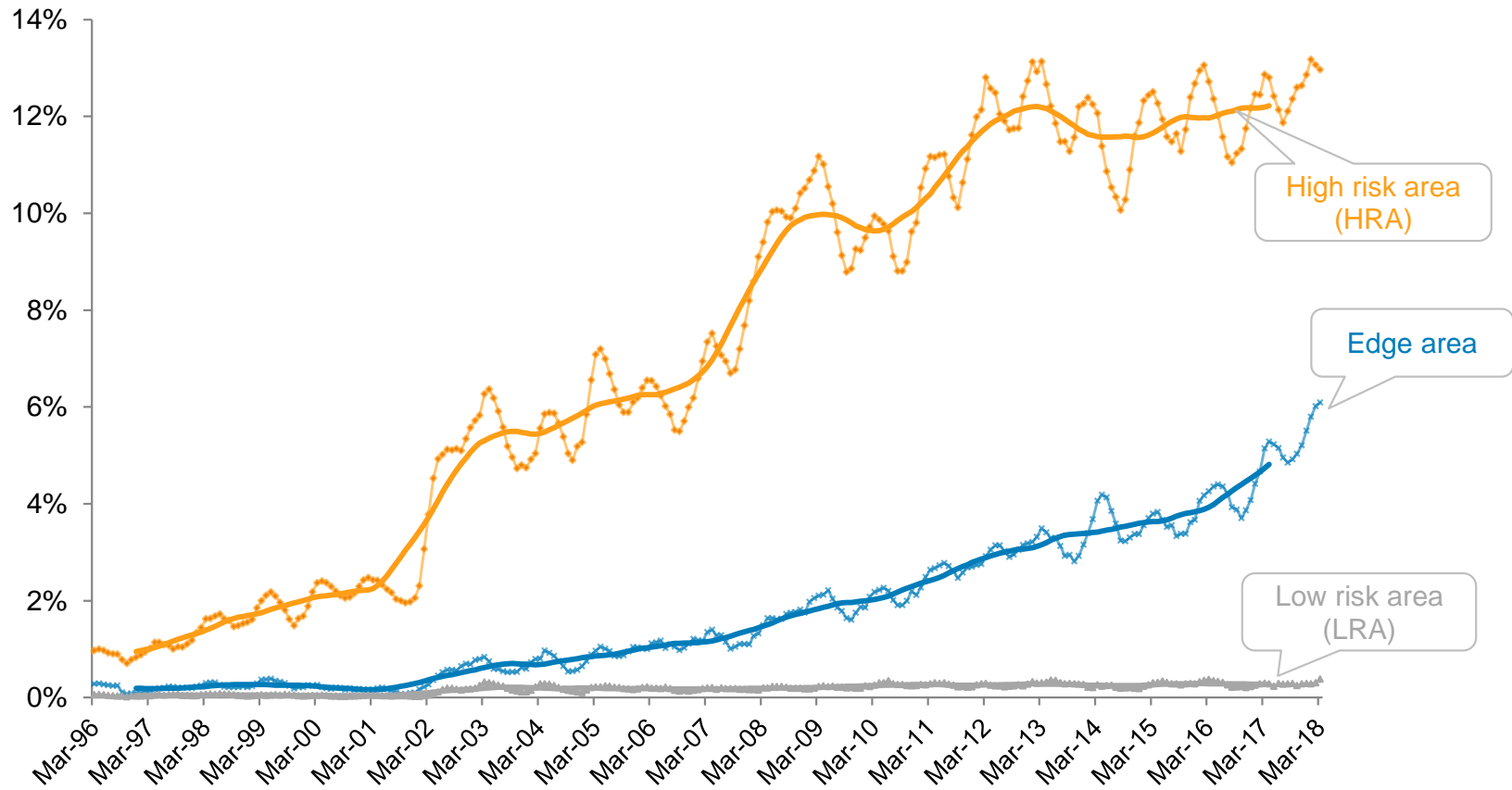
Annual herd incidence rate in England, by risk area: new positive herds per 100 active herds



Herd prevalence by country of GB: percentage of herds under movement restriction (OTF status suspended or withdrawn) at the end of the month



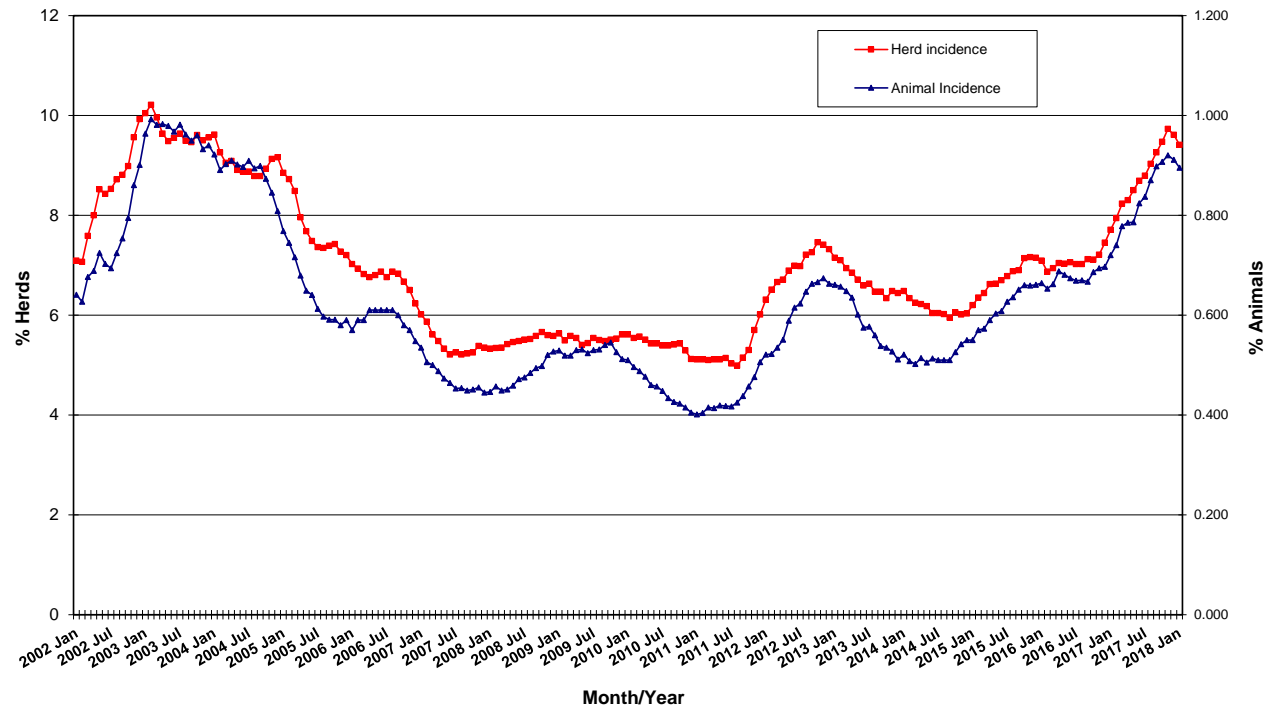
Herd prevalence in England, by risk area: percentage of herds under movement restriction (OTF status suspended or withdrawn) at the end of the month



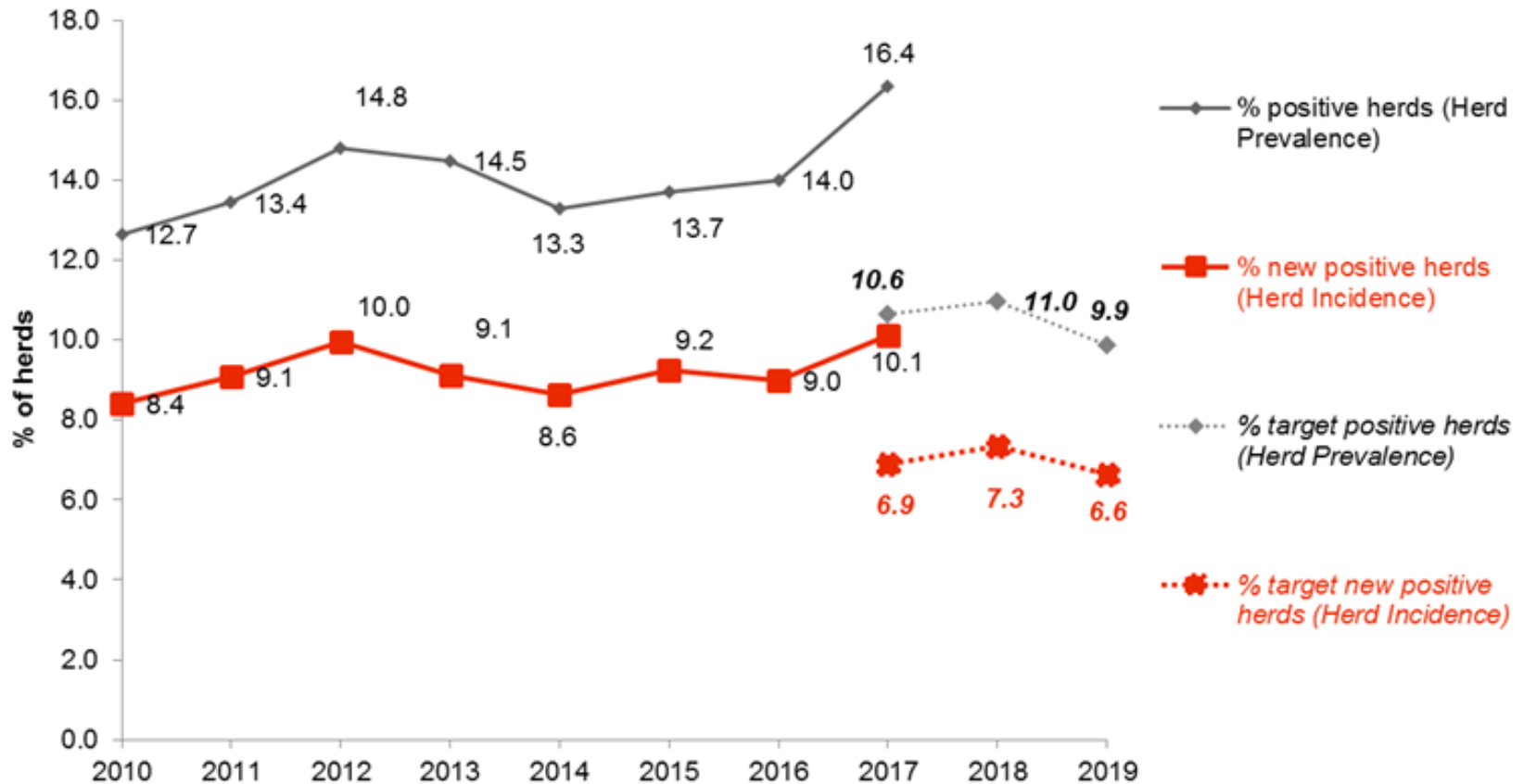
Northern Ireland: herd incidence & prevalence

	December 2017	December 2016
Herd incidence	9.61%	7.45%
Herd prevalence	12.41%	9.63%
Animal incidence	0.91%	0.70%

TB Herd and Animal Incidence:
(12 month moving average: January 2002 to January 2018)



Evolution of bTB eradication: Overall UK¹ herd prevalence & incidence and targets for 2018-2019



¹ Combined values for England, Wales & Northern Ireland

England – Programme enhancements 2017

- Progressive expansion of badger control operations: one culling area licensed in the Edge Area and 10 areas licensed in the HRA in 2017. In addition to the 10 existing badger cull areas, this currently represents ~21% of the HRA's land surface.
- More frequent testing of herds in enlarged Edge Area (Jan 2018)
- Increased deployment of IFN- γ blood test in HRA (Apr 2017)
- Lifetime movement restrictions of inconclusive skin test reactors that clear a re-test in High Risk and Edge Areas (from Nov 2017)
- Re-launch of the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme in Sept. 2017 (grants to support private badger vaccination projects)
- Prevalence survey of roadkill badgers completed in Edge Area
- Still aiming for OTF status in the whole of England by 2038
- Independent review of the Government's bTB Strategy (due to report September 2018)

Wales – Programme enhancements 2017

- Launch of an enhanced TB Eradication Programme for Wales and TB Eradication Delivery Plan on 1 October 2017, building on existing measures.
- The refreshed Programme includes a new regionalised approach to TB eradication and a number of region-specific measures. Key changes include:
 - Post-Movement Testing is required for all cattle moved into the Low TB Area;
 - The cap on TB compensation payable per animal was reduced to £5,000. The TB compensation regime will be subject to a wider review;
 - Exempt Finishing Units were phased out before end of 2017.
 - As part of the ongoing Action Plan process there were also a range of measures implemented in chronic herd breakdowns, focussing initially on those that have been under restriction for 18 months or longer.

N. Ireland – Programme enhancements 2017

- Public consultation on DAERA's response to the TB Strategic Partnership Group's recommendations
- Use of disease indicator statistics to inform programme/policy development and monitor the effect of policy changes
- Enhancements to field mapping systems for investigation of TB breakdowns
- Increased use of 'severe interpretation' of the skin test
- Year 4 field work of the 'Test and Vaccinate or Remove' wildlife intervention project
- Badger TB Detection Surveys in two areas of high TB incidence
- Launch of a Biosecurity Questionnaire to be carried out by an Approved Veterinary Surgeon for every herd at least once a year
- A Reactor Quality Assurance pilot to establish baseline data on skin reactors and inform future counter-fraud policy

Conclusions

- Bovine TB remains 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 deterioration of key indicators in 2017 relative to 2016 in England, Wales and NI. Very low and stable incidence & prevalence in the LRA of England.
- EC's targets for 2017 and beyond not realistic for a control programme which requires tough short-term measures for long-term accelerated eradication
- UK continued to strengthen its programme in 2017 & 2018
- EU financial contribution provides essential support
- Application submitted for EU financial support in 2019