

# Why we believe that culling badgers is a really bad idea ...

The current proposals to cull badgers in an attempt to eradicate bovine TB focus on an area of 288 km<sup>2</sup> in and around North Pembrokeshire known as the Intensive Action Area (the IAA). **Pembrokeshire Against the Cull** is a large group of local landowners, farmers, residents and others who believe that **culling, far from being a solution, could make matters worse and has repercussions that have not been adequately addressed by the Welsh Assembly Government.** We believe:

## The Science

The scientists who carried out the largest and most comprehensive investigation in the Randomised Badger Culling Trials (the RBCT) do not recommend culling to reduce TB in cattle and badgers:

- Culling causes perturbation in badgers – they roam more widely - and this initially increases the spread of TB<sup>\*1</sup>
- Culling is not economic, it can cost more to trap and kill badgers than it *may* save in compensation to farmers for TB breakdowns.<sup>\*1</sup>
- After culling, badgers in the area have a higher prevalence of TB than before resulting in a less healthy badger population. <sup>\*1,\*2</sup>
- Restricting cattle movements, increased testing and biosecurity measures offer the best solution to reduce TB in cattle. <sup>\*1</sup>



Vaccination of badgers is a realistic alternative and recent trials are showing promising reduction in infection in badgers. <sup>\*3, \*4</sup>

<sup>\*1</sup> Bourne, J. et al. Bovine TB: the scientific evidence. (Defra, [http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/isg/report/final\\_report.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/isg/report/final_report.pdf), 2007).

<sup>\*2</sup> Woodroffe, R. et al. Culling and cattle controls influence tuberculosis risk for badgers. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 103, 14713-14717 (2006).

<sup>\*3</sup> Chambers, M. A. et al. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccination reduces the severity and progression of tuberculosis in badgers. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B-Biological Sciences doi:10.1098/rspb.2010.1953 (2010).

<sup>\*4</sup> Corner, L. A. L. et al. Oral vaccination of badgers (Meles meles) with BCG and protective immunity against endobronchial challenge with Mycobacterium bovis. Vaccine 28, 6265-6272 (2010).

## The Order (legislation which will allow culling of badgers)

- Enables enforced access to all land which raises serious human rights issues that have not been adequately addressed
- May criminalise ordinary people defending their rights
- Will blight the lives, businesses and property of many who live in the IAA, **indefinitely...**

## The Consultation

- We believe that the consultation process was unfairly biased
- The leaflet circulated to homeowners by the Welsh Assembly Government contained serious misrepresentation of the likely benefits of culling

## The Statistics



- The number of cattle slaughtered due to TB in Wales has declined rapidly over the past two years without culling badgers. Figures for 2010 show **an overall reduction of 36%** from 2008. The reduction is even more marked in areas with increased testing. **West Wales, which includes the IAA, shows a 44.5% reduction**\*5

We believe something has to be done about bovine TB but that culling is not appropriate or desirable. Implementing cattle measures, increased and better testing, cattle vaccination, attested herd status, badger vaccination (if necessary) are all preferable to the slaughter of our native wildlife in an area that relies heavily on tourism - its beautiful countryside and the abundant wildlife are its major asset and should be protected, not destroyed.

\*5 Defra, <http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/stats/latest.htm>



Os hoffech dderbyn copi o hyn yn Gymraeg,  
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