



Bluetongue Update

As of 18 May, the restricted zone because of cases of Bluetongue has been extended. It now covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, City of Kingston upon Hull, North Yorkshire, Lancashire, East Sussex, Essex, Greater London, Hampshire (part), Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire (part), Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire (part), Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, Somerset (part), Devon (part). The DEFRA Map showing the Restricted Zone is [here](#).

From 1 July 2025, all of England will be within the restricted zone. This means movements of livestock *within England* will revert to normal. Movements from England into Scotland or Wales are likely to require testing and special licence.

The disease is spread by biting midges and these insects get more widely distributed when blown by the wind. With current cases all along the Eastern areas of England and the wind direction forecast to remain NE to E for the next few days, the possibility of further spread is high.

Movement of sheep out of a restricted zone can be only for slaughter and to a [designated slaughterhouse](#) and you must obtain a special licence from the DEFRA website [here](#).

Bluetongue remains a notifiable disease and so you must report any suspicion to 03000 200 301 (England), or 03000 038 268 (Wales) or your local Field Service Office (Scotland). The chief signs of infection in sheep are

- ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck and the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)

A vaccine is available but note that the circulating serotype in this outbreak is BTV-3; your vet will be able to advise.

Members can watch a webinar considering vaccination. There is a link in the members' section of the website.

More Information is available on the [DEFRA website](#) which will be updated as necessary.