



Better Training for Safer Food BTSF

**Programme Animal Health Prevention and Control
of Emerging Animal Diseases**

EU Animal Health Strategy
Prevention is better than cure

EU legislation

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Agenda

- *Prevention is better than cure (EU Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013)*
- *Overview of the EU legislation on Animal Health*
- *Example of emerging disease control: 2007 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in UK*

A new **Animal Health Strategy**
for the European Union (2007-2013) where
“**Prevention is better than cure**”





The Community Animal Health Policy (CAHP)

- *Covers the health of all animals in the EU kept for food, farming, sport, companionship, entertainment and in zoos.*
- *Covers wild animals and animals used in research where there is a risk of them transmitting disease to other animals or to humans.*



The Community Animal Health Policy (CAHP)

- *Strongly linked to the EU's obligations under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement adopted in 1994 in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).*
- *This Agreement is aimed at minimising the negative effects of unjustified health barriers on international trade.*

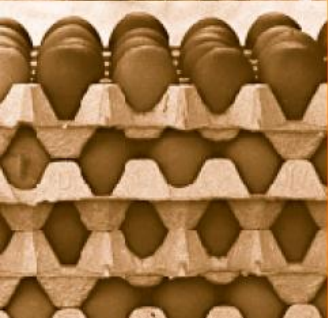
New Strategy 2007-2013

- *Adapt the European Animal Health legislation to the quick evolution of the world*
- *And the quick evolution of the European Union counting 27 Member States*
- *Scope of the strategy*
 - **Not only absence of animal disease**
 - **But critical relationship between the health of animals and their welfare**
 - **Pillar of public health and food safety**

From farm to fork (*de la fourche à la fourchette*)

- *Linked to public health and food safety*



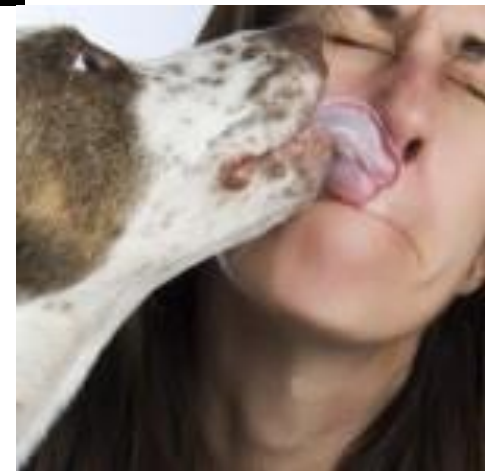


Food safety

The stable to table approach

Close link between the Community Animal Health Policy and Public Health

- *Zoonoses*
- *Severe diseases affecting meat and animal products production*
- *Early detection of emerging diseases*



Animal Health strategy: Four main goals

Goal 1

To ensure a **high level of public health and food safety** by minimising the incidence of biological² and chemical risks to humans.

Goal 2

To promote animal health by preventing/reducing the incidence of animal diseases, and in this way to support **farming and the rural economy**.

2. Referring to animal diseases, food borne diseases and biotoxins.



Animal Health strategy: Four main goals

Goal 3

To improve **economic growth/cohesion/competitiveness** assuring free circulation of goods and proportionate animal movements³.

Goal 4

To promote **farming practices** and **animal welfare**⁴ which prevent animal health related threats and minimise **environmental impacts** in support of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy⁵.

3. The movement of animals has to reach a balance where the free movement of animals is proportionate to the risk of introducing and spreading of diseases and to the welfare of the animals during transport.
4. In coherence with *the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on a Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 (COM(2006)0013)*.
5. The European Council adopted in June 2006 an ambitious and comprehensive renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy - *DOC 10917/06*.

Nine policy areas

- ***Intra-community trade***
- ***Preventive measures on import***
- ***Animal disease control, eradication and monitoring***
- ***Traceability***
- ***Animal nutrition, feed additives***
- ***Veterinary medicinal products***
- ***Research***
- ***Science***
- ***Financial aspects***

Four pillars

- *The action plan to deliver the strategic goals focuses on four main pillars, or areas of activity:*
 - **1. Prioritisation of EU intervention**
 - **2. The EU animal health framework**
 - **3. Prevention, surveillance and preparedness**
 - **4. Science, innovation and research**

Pillar 1



Prioritisation of EU intervention

The new Animal Health strategy must be seen as an integrated risk assessment and management strategy focusing on biological and chemical risks of EU relevance.

Prioritisation of EU intervention

Categorisation of animal-related threats

- *Identified threats to animal health must be assessed to determine:*
- ***their relevance to the four high level goals of the EU strategy;***
- ***the “acceptable level of risk” for the Community;***
- ***the relative priority for action to reduce the risk.***

Pillar 1: Prioritisation of EU intervention

Expected outcomes

- **Categorisation of biological and chemical risks** according to level of relevance for the EU;
- Agreement on the **acceptable level of risk**;
- Setting of **priorities**, quantifiable **targets** and performance **indicators**;
- Setting of the **amount of resources** to be committed to identified threats.

Pillar 2



A modern animal health framework

Towards a single regulatory framework, with a greater focus on incentives rather than penalties, consistent with other EU policies and converging to international standards.



Pillar 2a: a single and clearer regulatory framework

Expected outcomes

An **EU Animal Health General Law**:

- **A single horizontal legal framework** will define and integrate common principles and requirements of existing legislation (intracommunity trade, imports, animal disease control, animal nutrition and animal welfare).
- Existing legislation will be **simplified** and replaced by this new framework as appropriate, seeking **convergence to international standards** (OIE/Codex standards) while ensuring a **firm commitment to high standards** of animal health.

Pillar2b: developing efficient cost and responsibility sharing schemes (animal diseases and feed sector)

Expected outcomes

→ Animal Diseases: development of an **harmonised EU framework of the criteria for responsibility and cost-sharing**, on the basis of:

- > Categorisation of biological and chemical risks according to EU relevance (pillar 1).
- > Incentives encouraging risk-reducing behaviour from all parties involved.
- > Possibility of covering indirect losses.
- > Balancing costs (public/private funding) and responsibilities. Solidarity aspects have to be considered.
- > Prevention of distortion of competition.
- > Compatibility with EU international commitments.
- > Effectiveness and flexibility of implementation at national or regional level.
- > Consultation mechanism between cost sharing partners, especially during crisis.

Pillar2c: Community influence on international standards

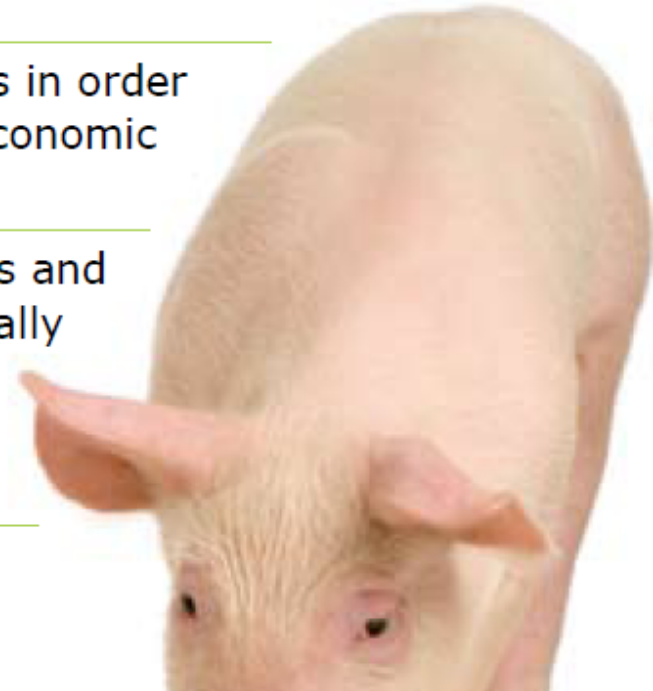
Expected outcomes

- **Support of EU positions** on the basis of sound scientific evidence, whenever necessary.
- **Community membership of the OIE** in order to strengthen the active role of the Community.

Pillar 2d: towards an export strategy at Community level

Expected outcomes

- A more efficient and transparent service for businesses, including SMEs, results-oriented and focussing on concrete sanitary problems that EU businesses face in third country markets.
- **Better prioritisation** of actions against sanitary barriers in order to target human resources and to achieve the greatest economic impact.
- **A strengthened role** in negotiating EU export conditions and tackling export problems through the development of locally based EU Market Access Teams drawn from Commission Delegations, Member State Embassies and business organisations, where appropriate.



Pillar 3



Animal-related threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness

Identifying problems before they take hold, and being ready to manage outbreaks and crisis.

Pillar 3a: supporting on-farm biosecurity measures

Expected outcomes

- **Guidelines** taking into account the level of risk associated with different types of production systems and species (e.g. intensive production, extensive production, high density area, hobby farmers). These guidelines will be coherent with the EU animal health legal framework.
- **Provision of funding** to finance and promote on-farm bio-security measures relating to infrastructures, via existing funds.

Pillar 3b: identification and tracing

Expected outcomes

- **TRACES** achieves its objective of becoming a **single portal for all veterinary matters**.
- **Interoperability of national identification databases**.
- **Introduction of electronic procedures** (longer term).
 - > Feasibility study for the introduction of electronic identification (with particular focus on ruminants) on either a voluntary or compulsory basis.
 - > Introduction of electronic certification to replace paper certification for the movement of live animals (intra-community trade and imports).
 - > Creation of a wider, integrated electronic system, with a unified database encompassing all elements of the current system under certification, animal identification, and animal health and welfare status.

Pillar 3c: better border security

Expected outcomes

- **Revision of the current legislation** and the development of a policy designed to deliver a better risk-based approach to border inspections and to target illegal trade. Development of EU based risk assessment to target higher risk consignments (products/countries) and assist in selection of containers to be examined physically.
- To optimise the **coordination of agencies/services regulating imports** (customs/veterinary services).
- To make **travellers** aware of restrictions and of their **responsibilities** and to ensure proportionate enforcement.
- To improve **risk management at third country level** and to provide **assistance for third countries** (via the external co-operation instruments, training, knowledge sharing and support through regional expertise).

Pillar 3d: surveillance and crisis preparedness/management

Expected outcomes

Surveillance:

- To improve surveillance prioritisation according to the categorisation of animal-related threats. Determine appropriate indicators and modalities for data collection.
- To encourage collaborative networks of interested parties, especially through the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Food Safety Authority, to improve data collection, risk analysis and information to the public, as well as training to allow early detection of animal health problems,
- To provide funding:
 - > to support epidemiosurveillance via existing funds,
 - > to maintain the EU diagnostic capability (e.g. funding of laboratory networking) and,
 - > to provide appropriate training (e.g. *"better training for safer food"*¹⁷ initiative).
- To adapt the Animal Diseases Notification System (ADNS) to allow better value to be derived from surveillance activities and information to be shared widely¹⁸.

Pillar 3d: surveillance and crisis preparedness/management (2)

Emergency preparedness:

- Initiative to improve EU preparedness against major threats to animal health. These components may also be useful for identifying and responding to potential bioterrorism attacks:
 - > Rapid response network,
 - > Supporting the diffusion of expertise and tools to allow humane killing of animals in emergency situations,
 - > Communication capacity during crisis,
 - > Crisis management units and community veterinary emergency team,
 - > Reinforcement of the necessary EU antigen/vaccine banks.
- To define and facilitate fast track approaches for EU-wide marketing **authorisation of veterinary products (e.g. vaccines)** used for the prevention of animal diseases subject to Community emergency measures.

Pillar 4



Science, Innovation and Research

To stimulate and coordinate risk analysis, science, innovation and research, hence contributing to a high level of public health and to the competitiveness of EU animal health businesses.

Pillar4a: science

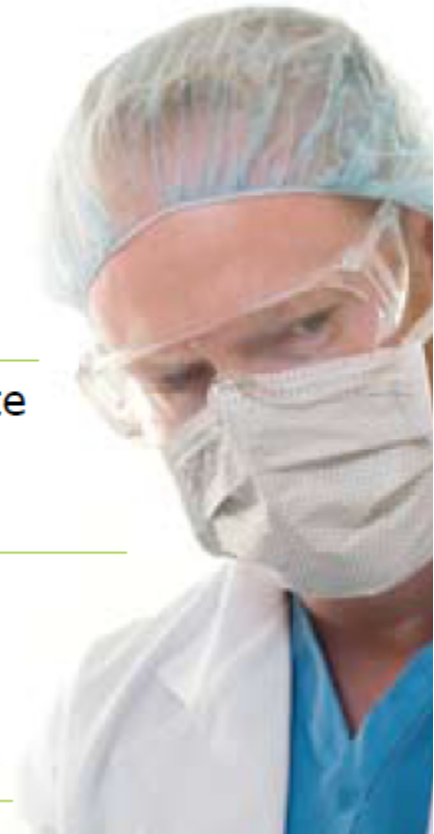
Expected outcomes

- To strengthen the collaboration between European agencies and national bodies.
- Based on an evaluation, to review and where necessary extend the activities of the Community Reference Laboratories.

Pillar 4b: innovation and research

Expected outcomes

- To define a **research action** plan involving the industry and other relevant stakeholders. This plan will **prioritise** animal-related threats and will **identify** the “**gaps**” in existing control tools for surveillance, diagnosis, vaccination and treatment.
- To ensure the **appropriate level of funding** to implement the research action plan through public-private partnerships.
- To develop a suitable framework at Community level to mitigate disincentives to manufacturers and maintain EU capacities, in particular for the reinforcement of the antigen/vaccine banks.
- To provide support for research in third countries through **international cooperation**, especially for exotic diseases of high relevance or for neglected zoonoses which have a serious impact on those countries.





*Directorate General Health and
Consumers –
Animal Health (Council Directives)*

**EU LEGISLATION ON
ANIMAL HEALTH**

*EU legislation on animal health can be found in the different sections
of this website: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index_en.htm*

Animal diseases – control measures

SPECIFIC CONTROL MEASURES

- *African horse sickness*
- *African swine fever*
- *Foot-and-mouth disease*
- *Avian influenza*
- *Bluetongue*
- *Certain diseases affecting aquatic animals*
- *Classical swine fever*
- *Newcastle disease*

CONTROL MEASURES FOR SOME FURTHER EXOTIC DISEASES

- *Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease of deer*
- *Lumpy Skin Disease*
- *Peste Des petits Ruminants*
- *Rift Valley Fever*
- *Rinderpest*
- *Sheep and Goat Pox (Capripox)*
- *Swine Vesicular Disease*
- *Vesicular Stomatitis*

Animal diseases – eradication and monitoring programmes - surveillance

- *Bovine tuberculosis*
- *Bovine brucellosis,*
- *Ovine and caprine brucellosis (B. melitensis)*
- *Bluetongue in endemic or high risk areas*
- *African swine fever*
- *Swine vesicular disease*
- *Classical swine fever*
- *Anthrax*
- *Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia,*
- *Infection with *Marteilia refringens**
- *Infection with *Bonamia ostreae**
- *White spot disease in crustaceans.*
- *Avian influenza*
- *Rabies*
- *Echinococcosis*
- *Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)*
- *Campylobacteriosis*
- *Listeriosis*
- *Salmonellosis (zoonotic salmonella)*
- *Trichinellosis*
- *Verotoxigenic *E. coli**
- *Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)*
- *Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)*
- *Koi herpes virus disease (KHV)*
- *Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA)*

Animal diseases notification system (ADNS)

Operational objective:

- *to ensure rapid exchange of information between the competent national authorities responsible for animal health and the Commission on outbreaks of contagious animal diseases.*
- *Compulsory for the Member States to notify primary and secondary outbreaks of listed infectious animal diseases*

Diseases which are subject to notification

- A. Terrestrial animals**
- *Foot-and-mouth disease*
 - *Glanders*
 - *Lumpy skin disease*
 - *Newcastle disease*
 - *Peste des petits ruminants*
 - *Rift Valley fever*
 - *Rinderpest (cattle plague)*
 - *Sheep and goat pox (Capripox)*
 - *Small hive beetle (Aethina tumida)*
 - *Swine vesicular disease*
 - *Tropilaelaps mite*
 - *Vesicular stomatitis*
 - *African horse sickness*
 - *African swine fever*
 - *Avian influenza*
 - *Bluetongue*
 - *Bovine spongiform encephalopathy*
 - *Classical swine fever*
 - *Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia*
 - *Dourine*
 - *Equine encephalomyelitis*
 - *Equine infectious anaemia*

Diseases which are subject to notification

B. Aquatic diseases

- *Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis*
- *Epizootic ulcerative syndrome*
- *Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia*
- *White spot disease*
- *Yellowhead disease*
- *Taura syndrome*
- *Infectious haematopoietic necrosis*
- *Infectious salmon anaemia*
- *Infection with Perkinsus marinus*
- *Infection with Microcytos mackini*
- *Infection with Marteilia refringens*
- *Infection with Bonamia ostreae*
- *Infection with Bonamia exitiosa*
- *Koi herpes virus disease*

Community Veterinary Emergency Team

- *Experts in the fields of*
 - **Veterinary sciences**
 - **Virology**
 - **Wildlife**
 - **Laboratory testing**
 - **Risk management**
 - **and other relevant areas**
- *The experts will be on stand-by, ready to respond in animal health situations*



*Example of the implementation
of a Council Directive*

**2007 FMD OUTBREAK
IN UK**

Council Directive 2003/85/EC on Community measures
for the control of foot-and-mouth disease



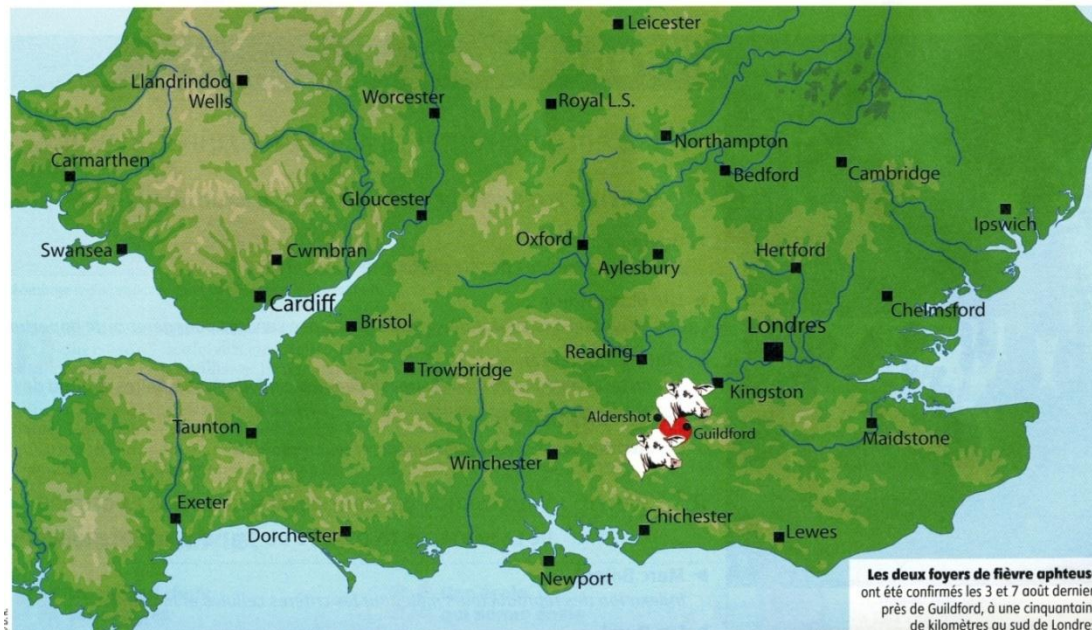
European
Commission

2007: Foot-and-mouth disease reemerges in England

Productions animales. Alerte à la "cocotte" en Grande-Bretagne

La fièvre aphteuse refait surface sur le sol anglais

Deux laboratoires, l'un privé l'autre public, sont suspectés d'être à l'origine des foyers de la maladie.





European

The Telegraph

Foot and mouth lab failure causes outbreak



Example of emerging disease control

Foot-and-mouth disease outbreak 2007 in UK

- *Friday 3 August 2007 : FMD outbreak in a beef finishing farm near Guildford in Surrey*
- *All the cattle on the premises have been culled*
- *Protection zone of 3 km radius*
- *Surveillance zone of 10 km around the premises*
- *GB wide national movement ban of all ruminants and pigs*



| Infected Premises | How FMD was reported/detected |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1st FMD cluster |
| IP1 | Farmer reported suspect disease |
| IP2 | Animal Health surveillance activity |
| | 2nd FMD cluster |
| IP3 | Farmer reported suspect disease |
| IP4 | Animal Health surveillance activity |
| IP5 | Animal Health surveillance activity |
| IP6 | Farmer reported suspect disease |
| IP7 | Animal Health surveillance activity |
| IP8 | Animal Health surveillance activity |

FMD – 2007 UK

3 August 2007

6 August 2007

12 September 2007

14 September 2007

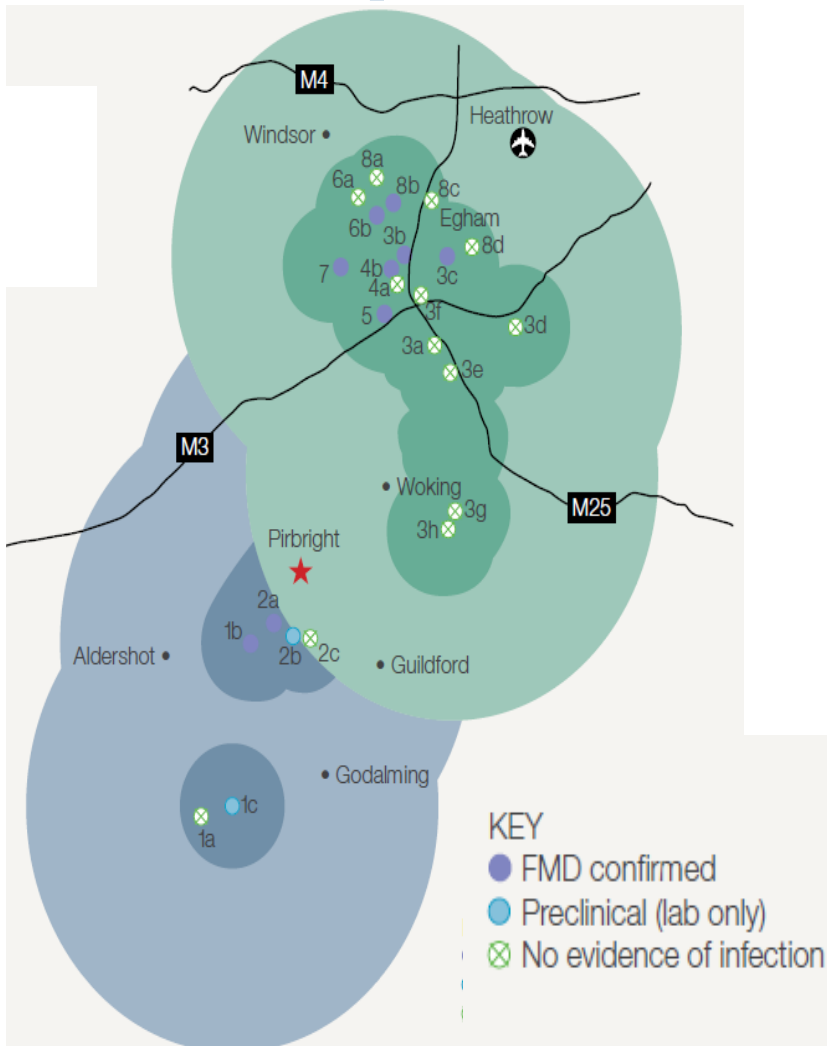
17 September 2007

21 September 2007

24 September 2007

30 September 2007

Map of the FMD outbreaks



- *Infected premises*
- *Control zones (1 km radius); not shown*
- *Protection zones (3 km radius)*
- *Surveillance zones (10 km radius)*

| Date | Event |
|----------|---|
| 26 July | Estimated date of infection at the first infected premises (IP1), based on the dating of tongue lesions |
| 29 July | Farmer at IP1 spotted that one of his animals was 'off colour' |
| 2 August | 19.30 Farmer called the Reigate Animal Health Divisional Office on the advice of his vet |
| | 20.15 The duty Animal Health vet arrived at the farm and placed temporary restrictions on the farm pending a proper clinical inspection at first light |
| 3 August | 06.00 Clinical inspection started |
| | 09.30 Animal Health vet made telephone report to the Veterinary Exotic Notifiable Diseases Unit (VENDU) in Defra, who requested that the blood samples taken be submitted to Pirbright for testing. Defra's Framework Response Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases was activated and an AMBER teleconference was called. An immediate one kilometre temporary control zone was put in place around the premises |
| | 12.15 First samples arrived at IAH, Pirbright for testing. The second batch followed at 14.15 |
| | 17.50 Defra notified by IAH of the initial positive test for FMD |
| | 19.30 Third AMBER teleconference held. The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) confirmed FMD on the infected premises and the alert status was increased to RED. The culling of animals on the affected premises was ordered. A three kilometre Protection Zone, ten kilometre Surveillance Zone and Great Britain wide movement ban were agreed |

Dating of the tongue lesions



New non ruptured vesicles, on the tongue and/or feet

1- 2 days

Partial rupture of lesions, covered by an intact epithelium but starting to lift off; bright red ulcers

2 - 3 days



Necrotic epithelium; granulation tissue on the tongue and some parts of the mouth

4 - 5 days

Epithelium removed; scarring in the mouth; clean separation of old and new horn at the level of the hoof

More than
7 days

| Date | Event |
|-----------|--|
| 4 August | 10.30 COBR meeting chaired by Prime Minister |
| | Foot patrols started in the Protection Zone |
| | Key staff started to arrive at the Reigate LDCC, including the Regional Operations Director and Divisional Operations Manager |
| | Test results confirmed the FMD strain which identified Pirbright as a possible source. A single Protection and Surveillance Zone created encompassing both the infected farm premises and the Pirbright site |
| | Merial voluntarily suspended the use of live virus at its production facility at Pirbright |
| | Government commissioned HSE and Spratt reviews |
| 6 August | Presence of the disease detected following a veterinary inspection at a further farm – IP2. Protection and Surveillance Zone re-sized to reflect the new IP |
| | EU bans UK live animal and meat exports |
| 7 August | Initial HSE report published on potential breaches of biosecurity at Pirbright |
| 23 August | Projected latest date at which animals at other sites infected by either IP1 or IP2 would have shown symptoms |
| | EU SCoFCAH meeting |
| 24 August | The Protection Zone merged into the Surveillance Zone to create a single surveillance area |
| | The Great Britain wide movement ban was lifted for animals outside the Surveillance Zone, subject to a 20-day standstill for animals after they had been moved |
| 25 August | Lifting of EU export restrictions on live animals and meat products |



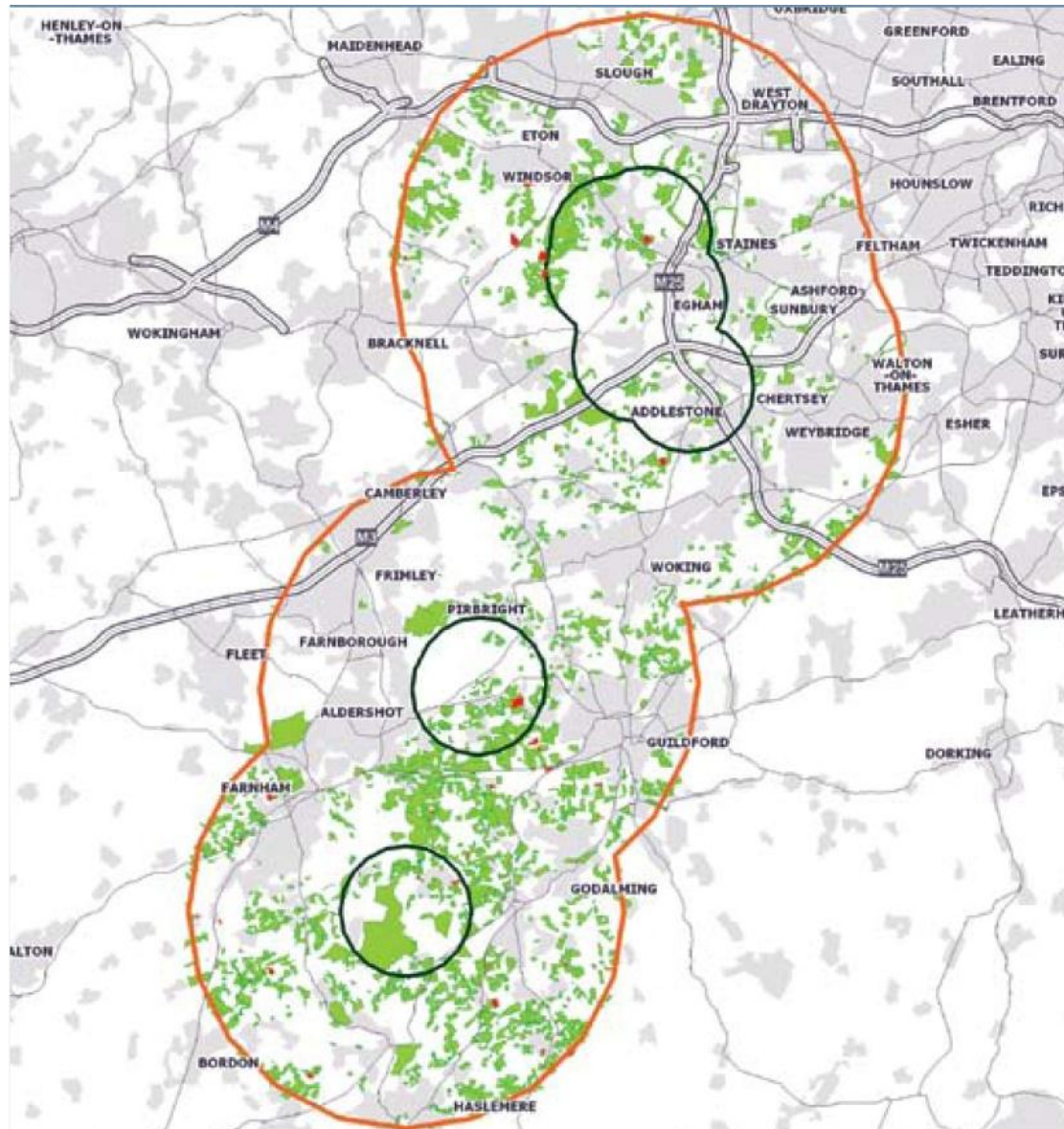
The Telegraph

Third case of foot and mouth as ban is eased

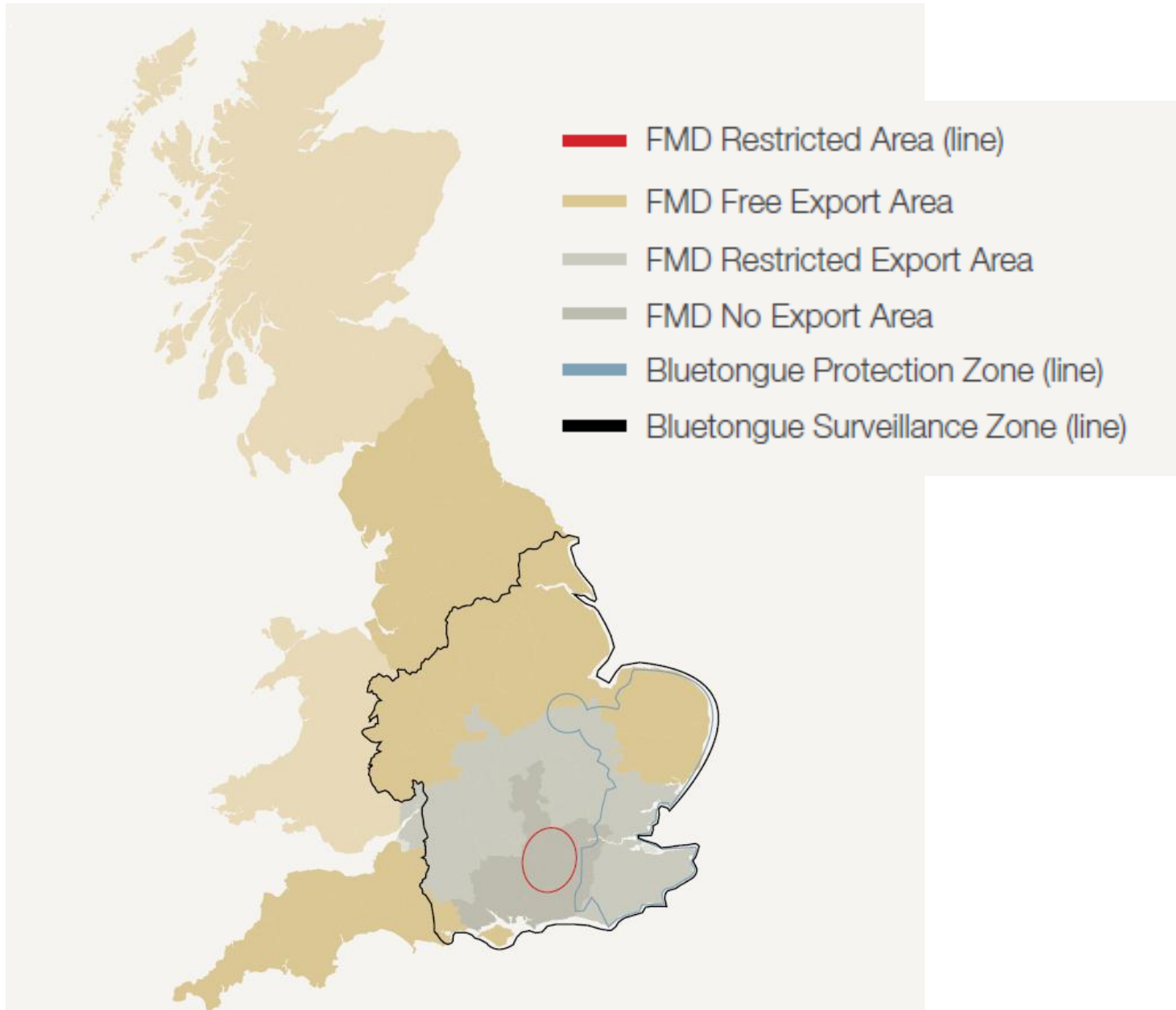


| | |
|--------------|---|
| 8 September | The Surveillance Zone was lifted. This was the earliest that it could be done under European disease legislation |
| | The remaining restrictions on animal movements outside the Surveillance Zone were lifted at the same time. This included the 20 day standstill for livestock following movement and additional controls on livestock market and shows |
| 11 September | Late evening: a farmer in Surrey reported a suspected case of FMD. An Animal Health vet visited the farm and imposed temporary restrictions |
| 12 September | Samples taken and sent to IAH, Pirbright. A ten kilometre temporary control zone was immediately put in place. The culling of the animals was ordered on suspicion |
| | 12.45 IP3 was confirmed. A new Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone were established and the Great Britain wide movement ban was reinstated, as was the EU export ban |
| 15 September | Beef cattle adjacent to IP3 that had been culled on suspicion tested positive. This became IP4. The cattle were identified as having older lesions than IP3 |
| 17 September | Blood samples from sheep, taken during a routine Protection Zone patrol, tested positive. IP5 confirmed. A subsequent post mortem examination confirmed lesions that were more than ten days old |
| 21 September | IP6 confirmed |
| 23 September | Detection of first confirmed UK Bluetongue case. The management of Bluetongue was integrated into the NDCC |
| 25 September | IP7 confirmed (discovered and culled the previous day) |
| | Creation of FMD Risk and Low-Risk Areas based on the historic movements of farm animals from Surrey. Movement restrictions were progressively relaxed in the Low-Risk Area |
| 30 September | IP8 confirmed |

Restriction and surveillance zones

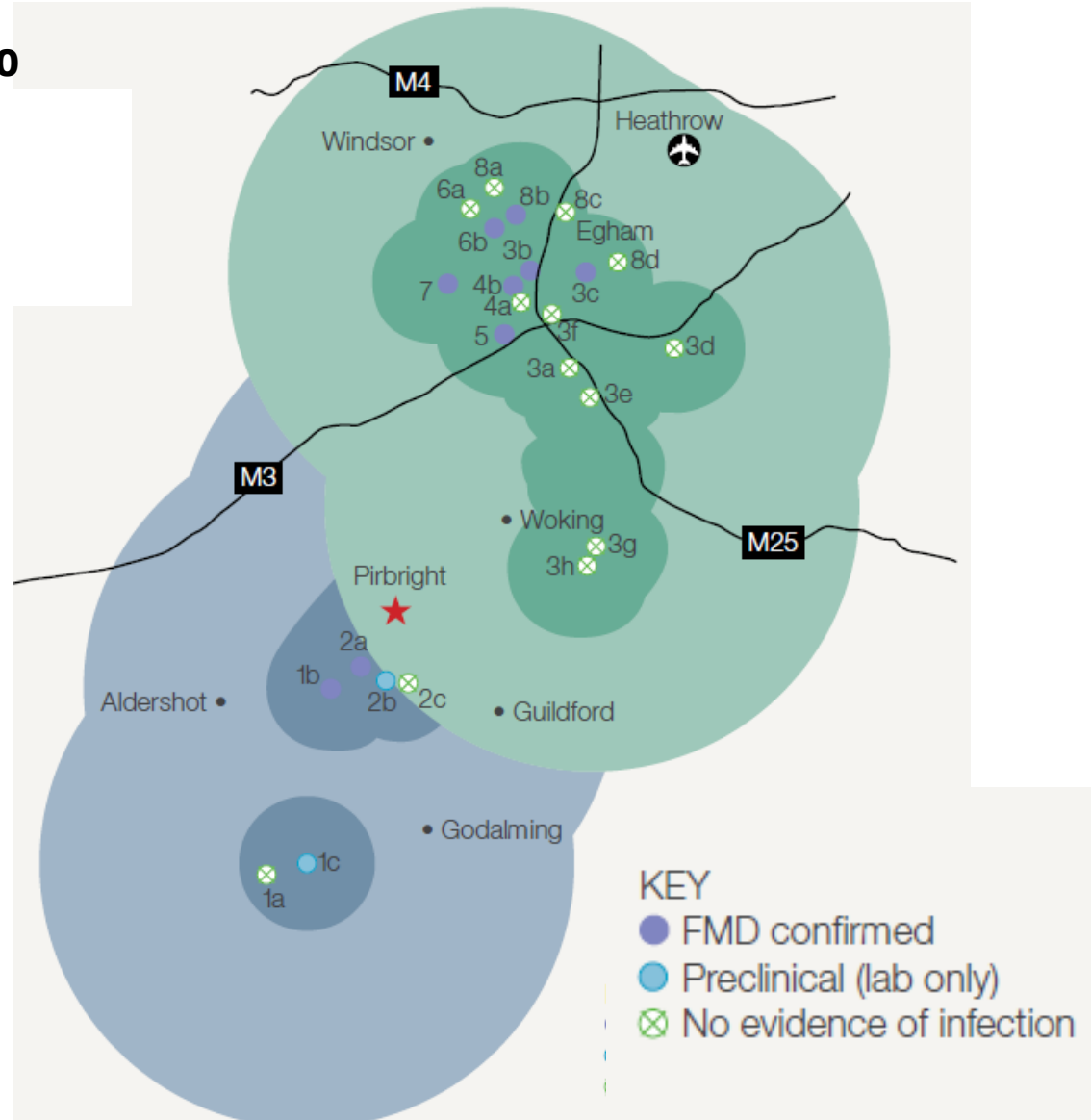
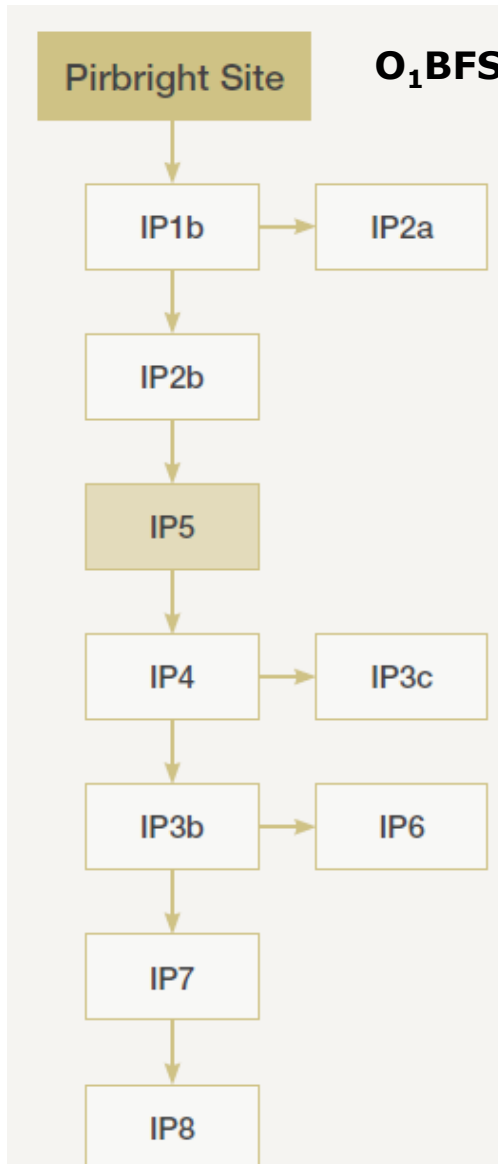


Zones for intra-community trade



| | |
|------------------|---|
| 4 October | Markets allowed to resume in the Low-Risk Area |
| 17 October | Restrictions outside the FMD Risk Area lifted |
| 21 October | FMD Risk Area reduced in size |
| 19 November | EU Commission split UK into three export areas. In the FMD Free Export Area, exports were allowed to the EU subject to certification. In the FMD Restricted Export Area, exports of meat products were allowed subject to conditions. No exports were permitted from the FMD No Export Area. (Decision was made on 6 November but came into force on 19 November) |
| 14 December | <p>Lifting of the FMD Restricted Export Area. Great Britain subsequently divided into two different export areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMD Free Export Area – including parts of Surrey and adjoining London boroughs – from where meat may be exported to the EU, but not live animals; and • FMD Live Export Area. The remainder of Great Britain from where live exports are permitted to the EU |
| 31 December | Removal of all remaining EU export restrictions |
| 22 February 2008 | OIE declared the UK FMD free |

Transmission pathway supported by molecular epidemiology



In summary, EU control measures

- *Stamping-out of infected and in-contact herds*
- *Restriction and surveillance zones: regional restrictions on the movement of susceptible animals and their products*
- *Restricted export area*
- *Provisions are made for the use of emergency vaccination (not used in this case)*

Thank you again for your attention

