AgriSearch NI
Driving Excellence & Innovation

AGRISEARCH EVIDENCE BRIEFING

Bovine TB Wildlife Intervention

Key findings from AgriSearch's response to the DAERA consultation

September 2026



Executive Summary: Key findings

Northern Ireland needs an evidence-led wildlife intervention capable of reducing bTB effectively and as rapidly as can reasonably be achieved, alongside strengthened cattle controls, with interventions targeted, monitored and adapted to local conditions.

1 Wildlife and cattle controls must work together



Wildlife infection needs to be addressed alongside effective cattle controls. Neither should be treated as a stand-alone solution.

2 The evidence is not equivalent

Culling

Strongest direct field evidence for reducing cattle bTB.

TVR

Operational feasibility demonstrated; favourable badger-level outcomes observed; cattle benefit remains modelled, not directly, demonstrated.

Vaccination

Can support longer-term control but is likely to act more slowly where infection is established.

3 Northern Ireland starting conditions matter



Badger density and infection, recurrent cattle disease, herd type and trading patterns, WGS evidence, landscape and achievable coverage should inform where and how intervention is used.

4 Consultation evidence must be presented consistently

Demonstrated, observed, modelled and inferred effects should remain clearly distinguishable across all options and in all consultation materials.

AgriSearch has particular concerns about the evidential balance of the Easy Read document.

5 Economic conclusions remain sensitive

DAERA's broad methodology is logical, but assumptions matter. Farmer breakdown costs are likely to be higher than DAERA assumes, and rankings can change when effectiveness assumptions, scoring or weightings change.

Delivery cost does not determine who should pay.

6 Select, monitor and adapt



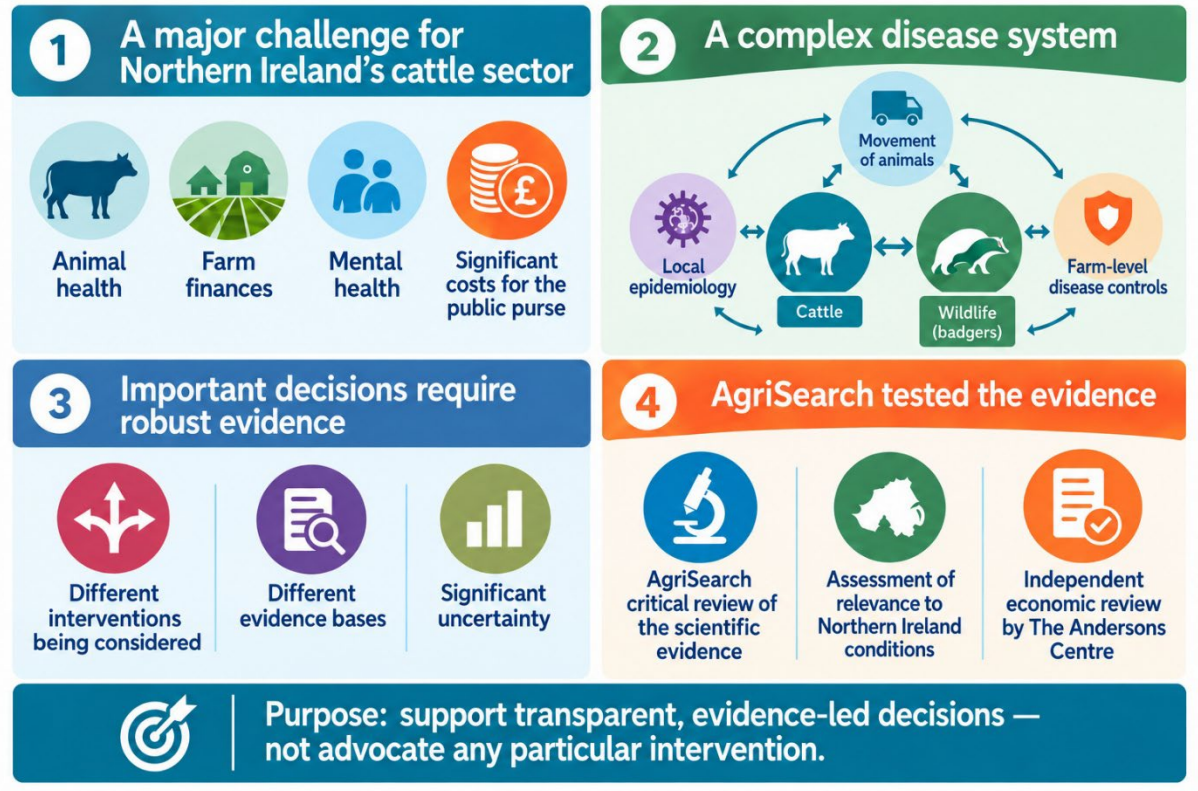
Use the best available science to seek substantial and sustained disease reduction as rapidly as reasonably achievable, while taking account of the evidence, local conditions and wider impacts. Monitor outcomes and be prepared to change, sequence or end interventions as evidence develops.

AgriSearch is not advocating any particular wildlife option.

It is asking for consistent evidential standards, robust Northern Ireland data, transparent economic assumptions and an adaptive approach focused on effective disease reduction.



Why AgriSearch undertook this work



Bovine tuberculosis remains one of the most significant animal-health challenges facing Northern Ireland's cattle sector. Its effects extend beyond the animals directly affected, creating substantial financial, operational and mental-health pressures for farm families, as well as significant costs for the public purse.

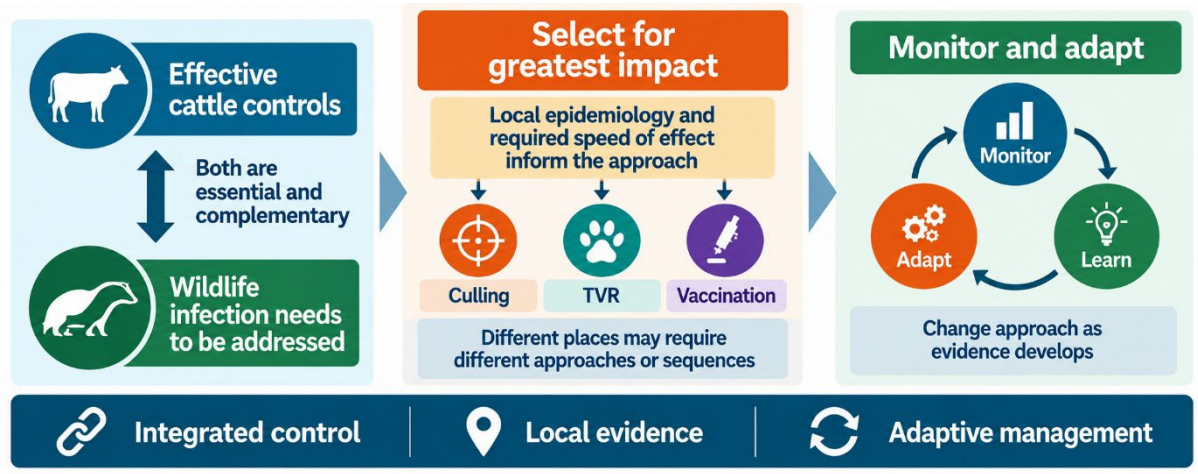
DAERA's consultation on potential wildlife interventions therefore raises important questions. Badgers are one part of a complex disease system involving cattle, wildlife, movement, local epidemiology and farm-level disease control. Decisions on wildlife intervention need to be based on the best available evidence and on a clear understanding of both the potential benefits and the uncertainties.

AgriSearch undertook this work to provide an evidence-led assessment of the options being considered. We reviewed the scientific evidence underpinning non-selective culling, Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) and vaccination-only approaches, considered their relevance to Northern Ireland conditions, and commissioned The Andersons Centre to independently review DAERA's economic appraisal.

The purpose was not to advocate for any particular option, but to test whether the consultation assesses the different options against consistent scientific and evidential standards, transparent economic assumptions and a realistic understanding of how interventions would operate in practice.

What this means
AgriSearch's role in this consultation is to test the evidence and assumptions behind the available options and identify what DAERA should address before final decisions are taken.

The headline conclusion



Wildlife infection needs to be addressed alongside effective cattle controls. Given Northern Ireland's current disease situation, wildlife intervention should aim to achieve a substantial and sustained reduction in bTB as rapidly as can reasonably be achieved, taking account of the available evidence, local epidemiology and wider welfare, environmental, legal, economic and operational considerations. The approach should then be monitored and adapted as evidence develops.

The uncertainties identified in this review are not a reason for inaction; rather, they strengthen the case for timely, targeted and adaptive intervention, with outcomes monitored and the approach changed where the evidence requires it.

What does the evidence say about the three approaches?

All three approaches have a scientific basis, but they differ in the type and directness of evidence for cattle outcomes. AgriSearch distinguishes between demonstrated field effects, badger-level observations, modelling and inference.

Non-selective culling

Strongest direct evidence for reducing cattle bTB

- Replicated field trials have demonstrated reductions in cattle bTB.
- Can produce a faster disease response than vaccination-only, but effectiveness depends on scale, coverage, boundaries and sustained delivery.
- Effectiveness may be influenced by perturbation and other operational factors, and outcomes could vary between areas.

Test, vaccinate and remove (TVR)

Operationally demonstrated; cattle benefit remains modelled, not directly demonstrated.

- Operationall feasibility was demonstrated in the Northern Ireland study.
- Badger test positivity declined during the study, but there were no replicated untreated controls.
- Selective removal may act faster than vaccination-only, but the scale and speed of any cattle benefit have not been demonstrated in the field.

Vaccination (BCG)

Reduces susceptibility to infection but does not clear established infection

- Reduces susceptibility to infection and can help limit transmission.
- Likely to act more slowly where infection is already established; sustained high coverage over many years may be required.
- Can contribute to longer-term control, particularly following prior removal; initial cattle benefit under NI conditions remains uncertain.

Different approaches have different evidence bases and likely timescales — field evidence, badger-level observations and modelling should not be treated as equivalent.

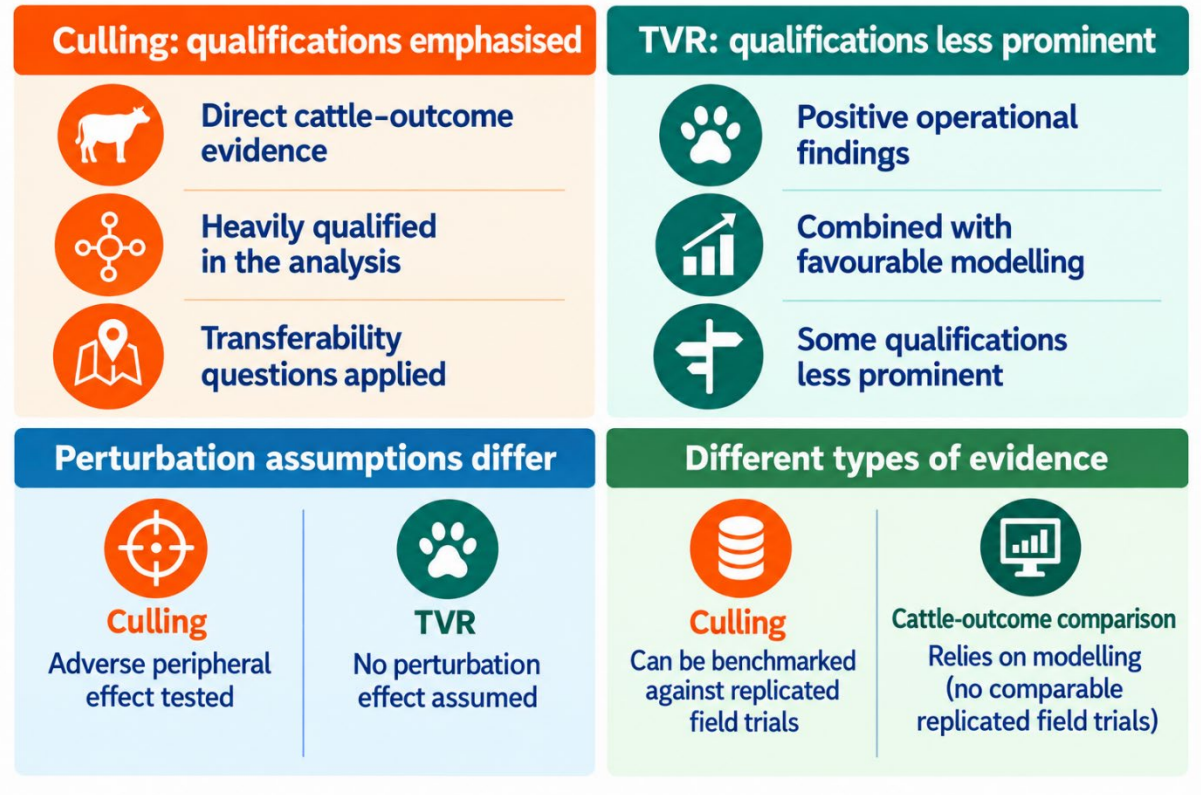
Approach	What it involves	What the evidence shows	Key qualifications
Non-selective culling	Badgers are removed within a defined area without individual testing. Intervention areas would be geographically targeted using epidemiological evidence.	Large field trials in England and the Republic of Ireland demonstrated reductions in cattle bTB following sustained proactive culling. Later English operational evidence is also consistent with a control effect, although other cattle measures changed at the same time. Benefits develop over several years.	Results depend on scale, boundaries, coverage, duration and local conditions. Behavioural perturbation has been observed following culling; an adverse cattle effect was observed around the English RBCT boundary but not in the Irish Four Area Trial, where larger intervention areas and hard boundaries were used. The Irish evidence may be particularly relevant to Northern Ireland given similarities in farming landscape, field pattern and geography.
Test and Vaccinate or Remove (TVR)	Badgers are captured and tested. Test-positive animals are removed; test-negative animals are vaccinated and released.	Northern Ireland's five-year TVR project showed that the approach is **operationally feasible**. Badger test positivity declined substantially and no broad, sustained increase in ranging behaviour was detected.	The NI study used one intervention area without replicated untreated controls, so it could not establish a causal effect on cattle herd incidence. Some infected badgers will also be missed through incomplete capture or imperfect testing. Cattle benefit therefore remains substantially model-dependent, with timing and magnitude sensitive to assumptions about perturbation, capture and test performance.

Approach	What it involves	What the evidence shows	Key qualifications
Vaccination-only	Captured badgers are vaccinated with BCG and released; infected animals are not deliberately removed.	BCG reduces susceptibility to infection and can provide indirect protection within badger social groups. Irish evidence also indicates that vaccination can maintain disease control following earlier badger-removal programmes.	Vaccination **does not treat existing infection**, so protection builds gradually. The strongest Irish cattle-outcome evidence comes from areas that had already undergone years of badger removal. Vaccination-only may therefore act more slowly where infection prevalence is high, and its cattle benefit as an initial intervention under NI conditions remains uncertain.

What this means

The evidence does not suggest that the three approaches are interchangeable. They act on infection in different ways, have different evidence bases and may perform differently depending on local starting conditions. The appropriate intervention — or sequence of interventions — may therefore depend on factors such as cattle disease history, badger infection prevalence and density, landscape, achievable coverage and the required speed of disease reduction.

Was the evidence treated consistently?



DAERA has assembled a substantial scientific evidence base. Its Scientific Opinion recognises the direct cattle-outcome evidence for proactive culling, the design limitations of the Northern Ireland TVR project, the context in which vaccination evidence has been generated and the limitations of mathematical modelling. AgriSearch's concern arises principally when that evidence is carried forward into the later options analysis, modelling, economic assessment and overall ranking, where **some of these qualifications are not carried through consistently and the different types of evidence are not always treated symmetrically.**

Direct cattle-outcome evidence for culling is extensively qualified by reference to perturbation, welfare, public acceptability, ecological effects and transferability. These are all legitimate considerations in a policy decision, but they are different from the scientific question of whether an effect on cattle bTB has been demonstrated in the field.

By comparison, TVR's operational feasibility, reduction in estimated badger infection and absence of detected sustained perturbation are presented positively and combined with favourable model outputs, even though the Northern Ireland TVR study did not provide equivalent controlled evidence of a reduction in cattle bTB. This can make TVR appear to occupy a stronger evidential position than its direct cattle-outcome evidence

supports, while culling can appear scientifically weaker than its field evidence alone would indicate. This uneven treatment has the potential to make it more difficult for consultation respondents to assess the relative strength and nature of the evidence supporting each option.

Perturbation provides a particularly clear example. DAERA appropriately tests a scenario in which non-selective culling causes an adverse peripheral effect. For TVR, however, no perturbation effect is assumed because no broad, sustained increase in badger ranging was detected during the Northern Ireland study. There is a reasonable scientific basis for considering perturbation less likely under TVR where only a relatively small proportion of the population is removed. But the evidence supports the narrower conclusion that no broad sustained perturbation was detected under the conditions and removal intensity studied; it does not demonstrate that an effect could not occur under different prevalence, removal rates or spatial conditions. If future TVR deployment resulted in materially higher removal rates than those studied in the Northern Ireland project, DAERA should not assume that perturbation remains negligible. The possibility should be explicitly incorporated into the appraisal and implementation framework, with monitoring capable of detecting behavioural or epidemiological effects and predefined criteria for adapting the intervention if they emerge.

Transferability should also be treated consistently. Evidence from England and the Republic of Ireland cannot simply be read across to Northern Ireland, but nor should evidence from different jurisdictions necessarily be treated as equally transferable. Where farming landscape, field pattern, herd structure, geography and intervention design more closely reflect Northern Ireland conditions, evidence from the Republic of Ireland may warrant greater weight. The same contextual test should apply to TVR and vaccination evidence generated under different badger densities, infection levels, intervention histories and cattle-control systems. DAERA itself acknowledges that there are no comparable large-scale replicated trials of TVR or vaccination against which cattle outcomes can be benchmarked in the same way as proactive culling. Modelling is therefore necessary for comparison, but a modelled projection should not be treated as equivalent to a cattle effect demonstrated in a controlled field study.

Public consultation material should enable respondents to understand the evidential basis, strengths and principal uncertainties associated with each option. This requires a clear distinction between what has been **demonstrated, observed, modelled and inferred**. AgriSearch is concerned that these distinctions are not always articulated consistently in the later analysis. Wider considerations such as welfare, ecology, practicality, public acceptability and cost are legitimate parts of the eventual policy decision, but they should remain distinguishable from the underlying strength of the

scientific evidence, including when the consultation is communicated to a wider audience.

The Easy Read consultation document raises particular concerns. Simplification is necessary in an accessible document, but it should not alter the relative presentation of the evidence. AgriSearch is concerned that the Easy Read document does not present the strengths, limitations and uncertainties of the different intervention options consistently. In particular, the direct field evidence supporting proactive culling is given limited prominence, while TVR is presented more positively without equivalent explanation of its diagnostic limitations or the absence of demonstrated cattle-outcome evidence in the Northern Ireland study. For consultees relying on accessible material, the Easy Read document may be the principal consultation material they read, and for some it may be the only one. It is therefore especially important that simplification does not give respondents a materially different impression of the relative evidential strength of the options. **AgriSearch considers this a significant concern about the consistency and transparency with which the evidence is presented to consultees.**

What this means

AgriSearch is not arguing that TVR should be rejected or that culling must be selected. It is asking that the same evidential standards and degree of caution are applied to all three approaches and carried through consistently into all consultation materials, including accessible summaries. If one option is ultimately preferred because of a combination of scientific, welfare, ecological, economic, operational or other policy considerations, those trade-offs should be made explicit rather than the decision being presented as though the direct scientific evidence alone points unequivocally to that option.

Why Northern Ireland starting conditions matter

The effectiveness, cost and practical delivery of wildlife intervention will depend heavily on the conditions in the area where it is used. Northern Ireland should therefore not be treated as though badger populations, infection levels or cattle disease patterns are uniform.

Badger density and infection vary between locations. DAERA's economic appraisal assumes an indicative starting population of 423 badgers in a 100 km^2 area (4.23 badgers/km^2), while the most recent published Northern Ireland-wide population

estimate is based on fieldwork undertaken in 2007–08. Emerging Queen's University Belfast research using thermal imaging is finding substantial local variation. Earlier interim observations ranged from zero to 18 badgers/km^2, including 12–18 badgers/km^2 in four deliberately selected hotspot locations. A further survey at a mid-Down site in September 2026 recorded 36 individual badgers within a 1 km^2 survey area, with particular care taken to avoid double-counting animals. These site-specific interim observations do not provide a new Northern Ireland-wide population estimate, nor can they establish whether the historic estimates were inaccurate, but they reinforce the extent to which current local badger numbers can differ markedly from national-average assumptions. That uncertainty should be explicitly tested through sensitivity analysis. DAERA's cage-based calculations assume that around 55% of the local badger population can be captured annually; if the true population in an intervention area is substantially higher, maintaining that level of coverage would require correspondingly greater trapping, testing and treatment effort, with implications for cost and operational deliverability. It also strengthens the case for reviewing whether the badger population and density assumptions underpinning the modelling remain representative of current Northern Ireland conditions before modelled cattle benefits are relied upon for policy appraisal.

Infection and transmission also vary locally. Northern Ireland's road-killed badger surveillance confirms that *M. bovis* infection is widespread, but the proportion testing positive should not be assumed to represent the true prevalence in every proposed intervention area. Cattle disease patterns also differ markedly between locations and herd types. Breakdown history, recurrence and cattle movement or trading patterns should be considered alongside whole-genome sequencing (WGS), conventional epidemiology and veterinary investigation when assessing where wildlife is most likely to be contributing to persistent disease.

Landscape and achievable coverage also matter. Rivers, coastlines and other boundaries can influence badger movement, while land access and the spatial distribution of badgers determine whether the required proportion of the population can realistically be reached. An intervention that is effective with high coverage and suitable boundaries may perform very differently where coverage is incomplete.

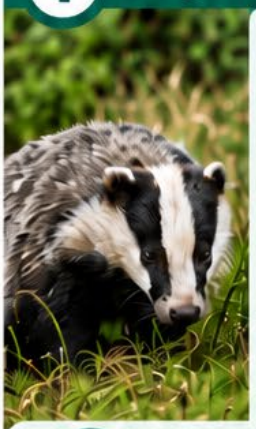
What this means

AgriSearch does not believe wildlife intervention should be designed around a single Northern Ireland-wide set of assumptions. Before intervention begins, DAERA should establish the local cattle and wildlife epidemiology, badger density and infection pressure, landscape and achievable coverage. Those starting conditions should inform both **where intervention takes place and which intervention, or sequence of interventions, is most appropriate.**

Why Northern Ireland starting conditions matter

Wildlife intervention will not operate under the same conditions everywhere. Its effectiveness, cost and practical delivery will depend on the characteristics of the area in which it is used.

1 Badger density and infection



Density varies substantially between locations across Northern Ireland.

Earlier QUB observations:
0 – 18 badgers/km²
(12 – 18 in four selected hotspots)

Additional mid-Down
36 observation:
badgers observed within 1 km²

Local infection pressure in badgers also varies between areas.

Interim, site-specific findings – not a Northern Ireland-wide population estimate.

2 Cattle epidemiology and herd characteristics



Cattle bTB patterns differ between areas and herd types, with some herds experiencing persistent or recurrent breakdowns.
Breakdown history and cattle trading patterns help inform the likely source of infection.

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) can help identify links between cattle and badger infection and inform targeting.

Conventional veterinary and epidemiological investigation remains essential, together with consideration of herd type and trading practices (e.g. closed herds vs, frequently restocked herds).

3 Landscape and achievable coverage



Rivers, coastlines and other boundaries influence badger movement and can affect delivery.

Land access and local circumstances affect what level of intervention coverage is achievable.

Incomplete coverage can reduce effectiveness and can also influence cost and the risk of perturbation.



Local intervention decision

4 Local evidence informs the intervention

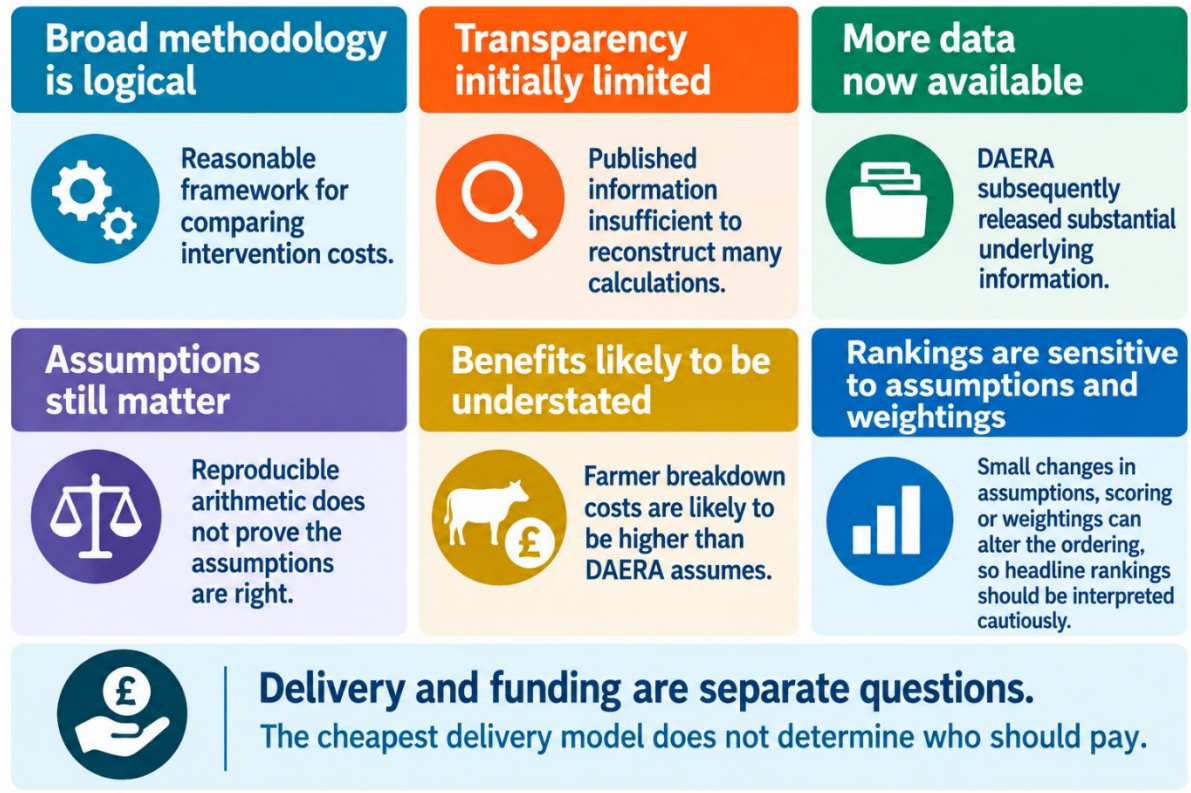
Local evidence on badgers, cattle epidemiology, herd history, trading patterns and landscape should inform:

- **Where infection is likely to be coming from** (recurrence, cattle movements, herd type and WGS evidence)
- **Where to intervene** (targeting of areas)
- **Which approach to use** (culling, TVR or vaccination)
- **What coverage is needed** (to achieve effective delivery)
- **How long to intervene** (including monitoring)
- **When to adapt or transition** (based on evidence of effectiveness and changing circumstances)



Different starting conditions → different intervention requirements

What did the economic review find?



AgriSearch commissioned **The Andersons Centre** to undertake an independent review of the economic appraisal supporting DAERA's consultation.

The broad methodology is logical. Andersons considered DAERA's approach of building intervention costs from individual components reasonable, including the use of a common 100 km^2 area for comparison. The main concerns relate less to the overall framework than to the information available to test it and the assumptions underpinning the results.

The published information was initially insufficient to test many of the calculations. In several areas, insufficient detail was provided on quantities, labour requirements, staffing, wage rates and other inputs to independently reconstruct the headline figures. This matters because labour is expected to be the largest element of intervention cost.

DAERA has since released considerably more underlying information. On 11 September 2026, after the Stage 1 review was largely complete, DAERA supplied Andersons with substantial additional data. Initial examination indicates that the cage-trapping and controlled-shooting calculations are more detailed than the published consultation suggested and their headline costs can be reconstructed. Detailed DAFM information underpinning the stopped-restraint options has not been released.

The assumptions remain as important as the arithmetic. Reproducing a calculation does not demonstrate that its assumptions are correct. Costs are sensitive to badger density, intervention scale and duration, labour requirements and achievable coverage, while benefits depend on whether the assumed reductions in herd breakdowns are achieved. Sensitivity testing is therefore important, particularly where cattle benefits are modelled rather than directly observed.

Farmer breakdown costs are likely to be higher than DAERA assumes. DAERA's estimate of the costs borne by farmers is substantially lower than the estimate produced by The Andersons Centre in its separate March 2026 study for LMC, UFU and DCNI. **AgriSearch considers the Andersons estimates should be used as the benchmark unless robust evidence supports an alternative, and DAERA's internal calculations should be reassessed accordingly.** Using a higher estimate of the costs borne by affected farms would increase the economic value attributed to preventing breakdowns. AgriSearch has also highlighted that intervention is likely to be targeted towards areas with persistent or recurrent disease, where the cumulative costs experienced by affected farms may differ from the Northern Ireland-wide average, although this cannot presently be quantified with confidence.

Rankings depend on assumptions and weightings. The economic results are influenced by assumptions about intervention effectiveness and other uncertain inputs. DAERA's overall composite ranking also depends on how economic, non-monetary and operational-risk considerations are scored and weighted. Small changes in these assumptions or weightings can alter the ordering. To enable consultees to understand how robust the ordering is, the underlying assumptions, scores and trade-offs should therefore be presented transparently and tested against plausible alternatives. If the sensitivity of the ranking is not made sufficiently clear, the resulting ordering may be given greater weight than the underlying uncertainty justifies.

Who delivers an intervention and who pays for it are separate questions. Evidence that a particular delivery model may cost less does not establish who should meet that cost. AgriSearch considers that the economic appraisal does not provide a sufficient basis for determining the appropriate balance between Government and industry funding.

What this means

The economic appraisal provides a useful basis for comparing options, but the apparent precision of the headline figures should not obscure the uncertainty underneath them. Before final decisions are taken, the most important assumptions should be made transparent and tested against realistic alternatives. Economic performance should remain clearly visible alongside wider policy considerations, and any decision on how an intervention is funded should be assessed separately from the question of how it is delivered.

Key issues identified in the consultation

AgriSearch's review identifies six areas where the evidence, assumptions and analysis require closer scrutiny. These summarise the issues underpinning our 14 detailed recommendations.

1 Need to apply consistent evidential standards

- Evidential standards and qualifications are not always applied consistently across approaches.
- Distinctions between demonstrated field effects, badger-level observations, modelling and inference are not always maintained clearly.
- Public-facing summaries should preserve the same evidential balance and qualifications and should not present fundamentally different types of evidence as equivalent.

2 Need for robust Northern Ireland evidence

- Current Northern Ireland data on badger density, distribution and infection remain incomplete and locally variable.
- Robust local evidence on badgers, cattle epidemiology, recurrence, herd type and trading patterns, WGS and landscape is needed to inform targeting.
- Starting conditions vary between areas and can materially influence intervention design, achievable coverage and likely effectiveness.

3 Recognise differences in the evidence

- Reflect differences in the strength, directness and certainty of evidence for cattle outcomes.
- Take account of the likely speed of effect for each approach.
- Recognise that the effectiveness of each approach will depend on local epidemiology, landscape and achievable coverage.
- Avoid assuming that one approach will be optimal in all circumstances.

4 Strengthen the economic appraisal

- Make all key assumptions and cost inputs transparent, including labour, delivery model and overheads.
- Provide sufficient published detail to allow independent verification of costs.
- Test realistic alternatives and a wider range of sensitivity analyses (e.g. badger density, intervention duration, cattle benefit).
- Use the Andersons Centre estimates of farmer breakdown costs (LMC, UFU and DCNI) as the benchmark unless robust evidence supports an alternative, and reassess DAERA's internal calculations accordingly.

5 Set clear intervention and monitoring criteria

- Define clear objectives for wildlife intervention within an integrated bTB eradication programme.
- Set transparent criteria for targeting areas, including epidemiological evidence and achievable coverage.
- Agree baselines, key indicators and timescales for monitoring and review.
- Define criteria for adapting, sequencing or ending intervention in an area.

6 Ensure effective implementation

- Ensure clear ownership and resourcing for delivery.
- Use trained and competent staff and maintain high standards of animal welfare, biosecurity and health and safety.
- Put in place quality assurance, recording and independent oversight.
- Engage effectively with farmers, landowners and other stakeholders to support delivery and maximise long-term impact.

What this means

AgriSearch's review identifies a need for more consistent treatment of the evidence, stronger Northern Ireland data, clearer recognition of differences between the approaches, a more transparent economic appraisal, clear intervention and monitoring criteria, and effective implementation within an integrated and adaptive bTB eradication programme.

The full wording and supporting rationale for all 14 recommendations are set out in Section 12 of AgriSearch's consultation response.



An adaptive approach

Wildlife intervention should be managed adaptively, with speed and effectiveness at its core — seeking substantial and sustained disease reduction as rapidly as reasonably achievable, while taking account of the evidence, local conditions and wider impacts.

1 Diagnose

Understand local starting conditions using the best available evidence.



- Local badger density and infection.
- Cattle epidemiology and WGS.
- Landscape, land access and achievable coverage.

2 Select

Choose the most appropriate approach for the area, based on the evidence.



- Choose culling, TVR, vaccination or a sequence.
- Set clear objectives for the area.
- Define boundaries and required coverage based on epidemiological evidence.

3 Intervene

Deliver intervention to a high professional standard.



- Professional delivery with trained and competent staff.
- Implement at the required scale and for the agreed duration.
- Ensure high standards of animal welfare, biosecurity and record keeping.

4 Monitor

Measure what happens and compare with baseline.



- Measure delivery (e.g. coverage and effort).
- Track badger indicators (e.g. density, infection prevalence).
- Monitor cattle bTB outcomes (e.g. incidence, breakdowns, WGS links).
- Compare results with baseline and agreed targets.

5 Adapt

Be prepared to change as new evidence emerges.



- Change scale, coverage, boundaries or approach as evidence develops.
- Incorporate new evidence on effectiveness, costs, feasibility or risks.
- Engage with stakeholders and consider wider impacts (e.g. on neighbouring areas).

6 Transition / Exit

Move to another approach or step down the intervention, when predefined criteria are met.



- Move to another approach, or step down the intervention, when predefined criteria are met.
- Maintain ongoing surveillance.
- Ensure a planned and managed transition, with continued review to detect any resurgence.

What this means

Start with the best available local evidence, measure what happens and be prepared to change course. Criteria for adaptation, transition and eventual exit should be defined from the outset.



About AgriSearch

AgriSearch (the Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council) is an independent, farmer-led research and innovation charity, established in 1997 and working across Northern Ireland's dairy, beef and sheep sectors. Funded principally through farmer levies on milk, beef and lamb, AgriSearch works with farmers, researchers, industry and government to ensure that research and evidence are relevant, robust and capable of practical application.

Under AgriSearch's Strategic Statement 2025–2030, ***Evidence and Insight*** is one of three core areas of activity. It includes bringing independent evidence to bear on significant emerging challenges and policy issues affecting Northern Ireland's ruminant livestock sector. This work on bovine TB wildlife intervention forms part of that role.

Where to find the full evidence

This briefing summarises AgriSearch's consultation response. It does not replace or amend the full consultation response. The scientific assessment is a focused critical assessment rather than a systematic review. Its scope, evidence-identification approach, source-verification process and limitations are set out in Appendix 1 of the full consultation response.

The supporting documents are available below:
AgriSearch Evidence Assessment and Response to DAERA's bTB Wildlife Intervention Consultation
Independent Economic Review of DAERA's bTB Wildlife Intervention Options – The Andersons Centre

All scientific sources and references underpinning this briefing are provided in the full consultation response.

The findings presented reflect AgriSearch's assessment of the evidence available at the date of publication; readers should refer to the full response and original sources for detailed technical and policy context.

The DAERA consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 9 October 2026.

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