

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust position on pilot badger culls

Introduction

This summer pilot culls are starting in parts of south west England, to test the 'controlled shooting' method of culling badgers.

This badger cull is being undertaken as part of measures against the devastating impacts of bovine tuberculosis (TB), a disease which is carried and transmitted by badgers and other wildlife, as well as cattle, and costs the UK cattle farming industry tens of millions of pounds every year.

Policy

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is very conscious of the hardship that bovine TB causes in the farming community and the need to find the right mechanisms to control the disease. However, we believe that a badger cull is not the answer. Biosecurity and vaccination should be at the centre of efforts to tackle this disease rather than a badger cull.

Tackling the disease should therefore include the following measures:

- **Biosecurity:** All possible measures should be pursued to prevent disease transmission on-farm.
- **Badger vaccination:** Support landowners to use the injectable Badger BCG vaccine. We also urge Defra to continue development of an oral badger vaccine.
- **Cattle vaccine:** Complete development of a cattle vaccine and secure change to EU regulation to permit its commercial deployment.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust does not support badger culling and will not allow access to its own nature reserves or land under its control for culling, as we do not believe this is an effective method for disease control.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will consider vaccinating badgers on those Wildlife Trust nature reserves and land under our control where a reactor was found in our cattle herd, other cattle grazing our land or cattle nearby. The Trust is supporting vaccination efforts being undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Further details can be found at here: <http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/badgers>

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust will continue to maintain the highest standards of biosecurity for its livestock operations to reduce the risk of bovine TB.

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