

Restrict contact between badgers and cattle

- Introduce barriers to prevent badgers accessing cattle

Manage cattle feed and water

- Restrict badger access to feed stores, troughs and mineral licks

For more information see Five Actions on the TB Hub website: <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/biosecurity/protect-your-herd-from-tb/>

Wire mesh fencing

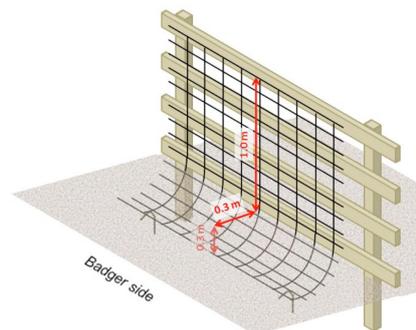


Fig.1: Wire Mesh fencing – example of recommended installation

How does this measure work?

By preventing badgers from gaining access into farm yards and farm buildings there will be fewer opportunities for them to come into contact with cattle or cattle feed/water, potentially reducing TB transmission risk. Wire mesh fencing can be erected to restrict badgers from entering large areas or used to secure smaller gaps between buildings. Mesh fencing can even be installed to ring-fence the farm buildings entirely. Where vehicular access or livestock movement is not needed galvanised wire mesh fencing dug into the ground can provide a permanent barrier. Although badgers can climb and may search for small gaps, such a barrier provides no easy way under or through a fence.

How has this measure been tested?

Trials of permanent wire mesh fencing were carried out by the South West TB Farm Advisory Service and students at Bicton College. The badgers were prevented from gaining access to the livestock areas beyond the fence during the trial which ran for several months, providing fewer opportunities for badgers and livestock to interact. See case study A (p.2) and details on the TB Hub website.

Product examples	Approximate Guide Price (£*)
Posts (wooden posts, round or squared)	£3 - £8 each
Wire (galvanised wire mesh; 2.5 mm diameter, 8 cm mesh)	£150 - £200 (per 50 metre roll)
Fixings (fencing staples)	£18 - £34 (per 5kg)
Badger fencing prices quoted from various suppliers depend upon location, quantities and delivery. However, for budgeting purposes quotes for mesh can be found ranging from (not including installation):	£2.50 - £5.00 per metre
* Prices listed exclude VAT and cost of fitting (as of January 2017)	

Examples of biosecurity measures: Wire mesh fencing

Case study A:

A trial of wire mesh fencing was carried out by the South West TB Farm Advisory Service at Bicton College. The fence was installed around a paddock where badger activity was known to occur. This was dug 45 cm into the ground and then angled for 20 cm in the direction from which a badger would approach. Students monitored the fence for several months with cameras. Initially badgers found a way into the paddock through a vertical gap of 10.5 cm. After blocking this gap the badgers were then unable to gain access to their latrine site beyond the fence.



Fig. 2: Wire mesh fencing

Case study B:

Wire mesh badger fencing is a more permanent fencing solution to deter badgers from areas. Although badgers and their setts are protected by law, badger fencing can be erected to encourage them to forage elsewhere. This type of fencing has been used in other situations to keep badgers away from busy roads, motorways and railway lines, and also from entire sites such as building developments, national monuments, gardens and cemeteries.

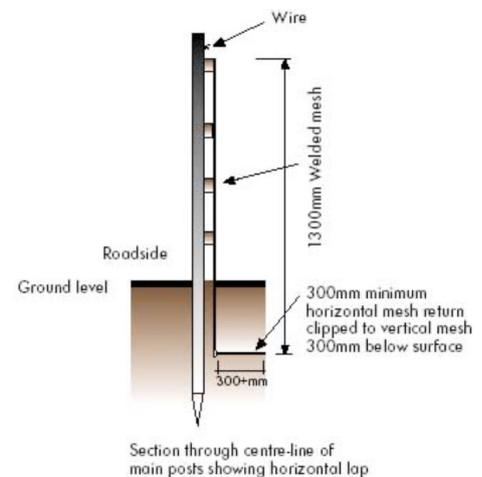


Fig. 3: Wire mesh fencing (Scottish Natural Heritage)

Measure recommendations

To deter badger access, it is generally recommended that permanent fencing consists of:

- High tensile line wires specific for badgers (mesh no larger than 8cm vertical spacing) with durable fixings.
- Dug into the ground (>45 cm) with a buried apron extending in the direction a badger would approach (>20 cm).
- To a height of no less than 100 cm (Optional step – electric strand on top of the fence line).
- Post spaced at 180-200 cm to be tensioned between strainer posts, with intermediate posts for extra support.
- Optional additional feature: To ensure badgers cannot climb fencing, use a strand of electric fence wire at the top of the fence on the external side.