

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/>

Galvanised steel panels



Fig.1: Galvanised steel panels on yard fence

How does this measure work?

Attaching solid, galvanised steel sheet panels to existing 5-bar gates, fences, boundary structures and gaps in building walls can prevent badgers from entering cattle yards and buildings. Galvanised steel sheets will provide a secure barrier to prevent badgers climbing under, through or over weak entry points into farm buildings and yards. If mounted either directly onto solid ground, or with a gap to the solid ground of less than 7.5 cm, then this provides an effective barrier to deter badgers. When mounted correctly and well maintained these panels will prevent access and hence reduce opportunities for badgers to come into contact with cattle or cattle feed, water and bedding.

How has this measure been tested?

Tested by APHA during a 2-year Defra funded project (SE3119) which found that panels were 100% successful in excluding badgers from buildings and yards when correctly installed and well maintained.

Product examples	Approximate Guide Price (£*)
Galvanised Sheet Panels (1mm thick): 500mm x 500 mm	£15.30 - £16.50
1000 mm x 1000 mm	£22.70 - £24.80
2000 mm x 1000 mm	£34.40 - £41.40
2500 mm x 1250 mm	£44.20 - £64.60
Galvanised Sheet Panels (1.5 mm thick) 2500 mm x 1250 mm	£84.50 - £89.00
Galvanised Sheet Panels (0.6 mm thick) 2500 mm x 1250 mm	£29.40 - £32.70
* Prices listed exclude VAT and cost of fitting (as of January 2017)	

Examples of biosecurity measures: Galvanised steel panels

Case study A: (Before)

The cattle yard of this farm extends from the old, secure, walled yard with a post and wooden rail fence (Fig.2). Badgers could easily gain entry through the extended yard area to visit the cattle sheds and feed store within. Badgers were seen foraging in the yard for natural food items and also cattle feed in troughs and bags of feed stored for livestock.



Fig. 2:

Case study A: (After)

Installing galvanised steel panels on the existing wooden fence structure prevented badgers from entering the yard (Fig.3, viewed from outside & Fig.4, viewed from inside yard). Badgers could no longer forage in and around the feed troughs, visit the feed store or approach cattle in sheds.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Case study B:

Galvanised steel panels were used on this farm in two ways. Panels were cut to size and attached to existing 7-bar gates, creating a gap of less than 7.5 cm to the ground. Panels were also used to block gaps and holes in existing walls (Fig.5). This was an effective method to prevent badgers entering cattle sheds, where cake was fed in low feed troughs and stored in open bags.



Fig. 5

Measure recommendations

Sheet metal panels mounted on existing gates, fences, perimeters & gaps in buildings and yard enclosures to create barriers:

- Requires solid structures (including existing gates) to permanently mount panels onto.
- Can be modified to specific requirements to fill irregular gaps and to accommodate uneven ground.
- Gaps from panels to the ground can be set as appropriate to a maximum of 7.5 cm.
- The barrier should preferably be over 120 cm high (smooth on the outside surface, with no adjacent structures for badgers to climb).
- Vertical gaps between gates and posts/structures should be less than 7.5 cm wide.