

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/>

Sheeted gates



Fig.1: Sheeted gates across feed storage bays

How does this measure work?

Gateways are often the only easy access point for badgers into otherwise secure farm buildings and yard perimeters. Replacing horizontal barred gates (e.g. 5 or 7-bar gates) with solid sheeted gates mounted close to the ground provides a secure barrier. Galvanised steel sheeted gates will stop badgers from climbing through gates into yards and accessing cattle sheds, feed stores, and barns within. Mounting solid gates with a gap no greater than 7.5 cm to the floor when closed will prevent badgers squeezing underneath. When gates are mounted correctly and kept shut, there will be fewer opportunities for badgers coming into contact with cattle or potentially contaminating cattle feed/water.

How has this measure been tested?

Tested by APHA during a 2-year Defra funded project (SE3119) which found that gates mounted with the recommended gap to the floor were 100% successful in excluding badgers from buildings and enclosed yards when installed correctly and kept shut at night.

Product examples	Approximate Guide Price (£*)
Sheeted Gates (Example dimensions, bespoke gate dimensions are available commercially):	
1270mm (4'1") x 1220 mm (4'0")	£125
1270mm (4'1") x 2440 mm (8'0")	£170
1270mm (4'1") x 3050 mm (10'0")	£190
1270mm (4'1") x 4270 mm (14'0")	£255

* Prices listed exclude VAT and cost of fitting (as of January 2017)

Examples of biosecurity measures: Sheeted gates

Case study (Before):

This farm consisted of a cattle yard with cattle sheds, surrounded by a wall. Barred gates allowed badgers from the adjacent fields and woodland to gain free access into the yard at three places. Badgers can use farm buildings to forage for both natural food items and livestock feed. Free access allowed badgers to come into the yard where open feed and water troughs were present, to visit the cattle shed and areas where calf pellets were stored.



Fig. 2: Barred gates from fields into cattle yard

Case study (After):

Installing three galvanised sheeted gates at the entrances to the yard completely prevented badgers from gaining access to any areas within the perimeter of the yard barrier. This stopped the chance of direct contact between cattle and badgers, and also prevented indirect contact, where badgers were foraging in cattle feed, and bedding which the cattle would then use.



Fig. 3: Sheeted gate replacement to barred gate

Measure recommendations

Where secure yard walls, buildings or barriers are present and old gates are the access points for wildlife, sheeted gates mounted on solid posts or structures should have:

- Solid panels, such as galvanised steel
- Level ground, preferably hard standing, beneath the gate when closed
- Maximum gap of 7.5cm from the bottom of gate to the floor
- Minimum height preferably greater than 120 cm
- Vertical gaps between gate and posts/structures should be less than 7.5cm.