

# Intensive Action Area: then and now (2010-2022)

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## Introduction

- The Intensive Action Area (IAA) in north-eastern Pembrokeshire was established in May 2010<sup>1</sup>
- Since 2012, it had the highest TB breakdown density in Wales<sup>3</sup>
- Accounts for 14% of national compensation cost in Wales with 25% of herds suffering a breakdown<sup>5</sup>
- This 288km<sup>2</sup> area (Figure 1) accounts for approximately 2.5% of the Welsh national herd
- Over 70% of animals in the area are dairy cattle
- The last 10 years have seen a 25% loss in beef herds and cattle numbers

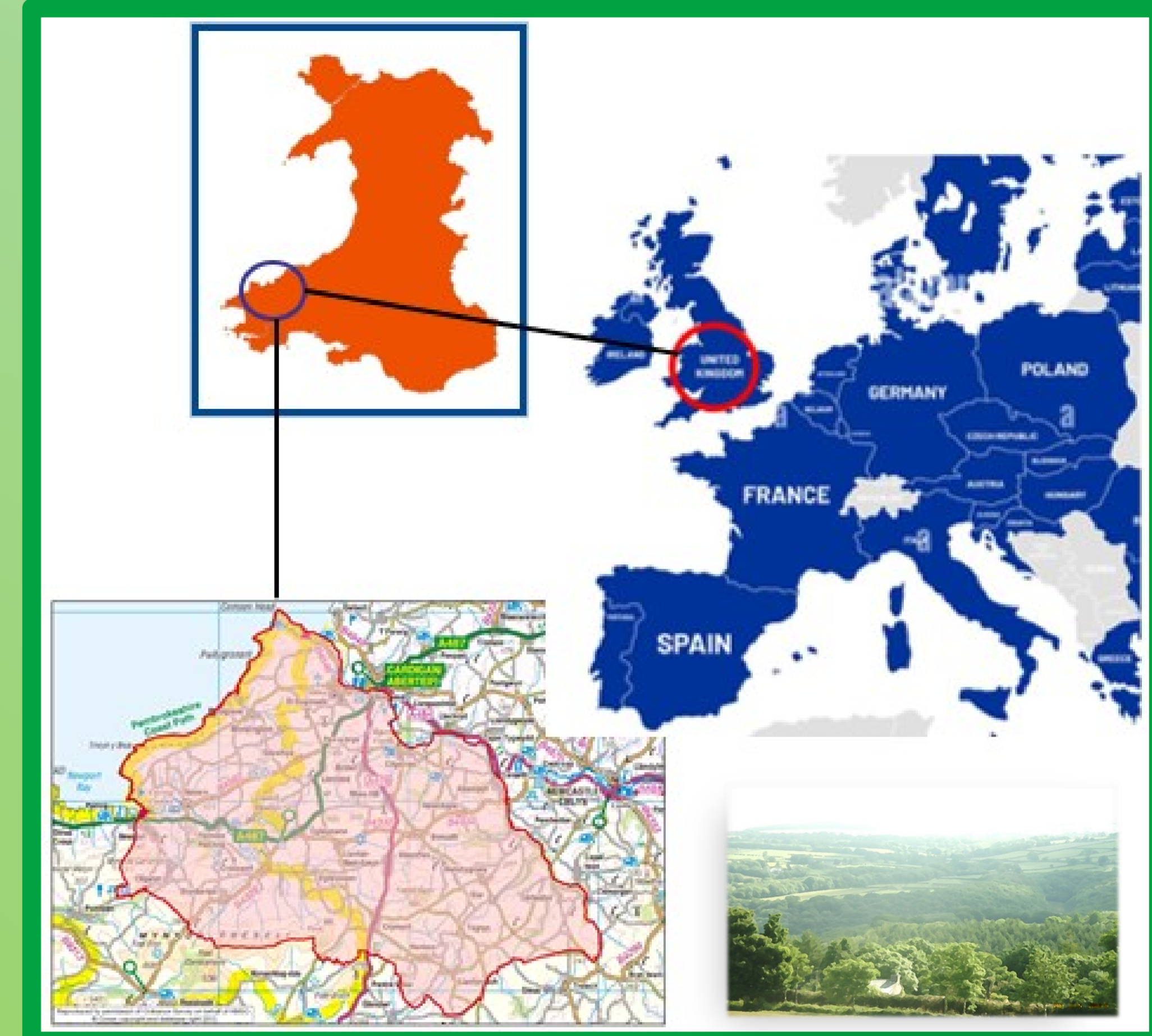


Figure 1 - Map of Wales and the Intensive Action Area (IAA)

## New Specific measures introduced in 2010

- Introduction of six-monthly testing (annual testing across the rest of Wales)
- Compulsory pre-movement testing
- Increase use of gamma interferon testing (gIFN)
- Annual advisory biosecurity visits conducted by private veterinarians (2010-2012)
- Goat and camelid herds were subjected to one skin test

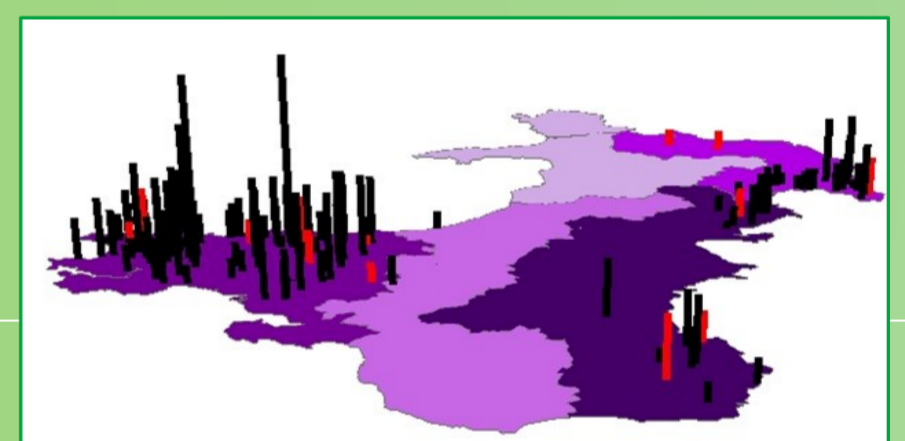


## Wildlife management and monitoring

- Wales Road Traffic Accident (RTA) Badger collection between 2005-2006<sup>4</sup>
- IAA Badger Found Dead scheme (BFDS) started in 2012, followed by All Wales Badger Found Dead (AWBFD) from September 2014
- Five-year Badger Vaccination Project started in 2012 using sett survey data collected in 2010 (four years completed)
- Badger Population Assessment in 2015 - collection of hair samples from 550 hair traps and 70 randomly selected main setts<sup>2</sup>
- By the end of four consecutive years of vaccination, 67–83 % of the total badger population in the IAA would have received at least one dose of vaccine<sup>2</sup>
- Decrease in estimated prevalence from 2005-2014 (14.4%) to 2015-2022 (7.3%) (Table 1)

## Cattle persistent breakdowns

- Breakdowns classified as persistent when have been under restrictions for ≥550 days from 2014
- Additional measures for persistent breakdowns introduced in 2017;
  - Increased sensitivity of skin testing
  - Mandatory removal of standard inconclusive reactors (IR)
  - Compulsory blood testing of severe IRs (Jan 2020)
  - Agreed Action Plan
- The number of persistent herds increased up to 2015, then continuous plateau
- 87% of persistent breakdowns are dairy herds



## Where are we now?

- Continuation of six-monthly testing
- Over a 60% drop in TB incidence in cattle herds between 2010-2020 (Figure 2 and 3)
- 1- and 2- year recurrence at the lowest in 14 years
- A 73% decrease in skin test reactors between 2009 and 2022 (contrary to gIFN reactors with 7% increase)

## What next?

- Is a 6-monthly testing regime an appropriate intervention for other areas with high incidence of bTB in Wales?
- What is the long-term impact of badger vaccination on bTB incidence in cattle?

| BFD Scheme         | Number of submissions in the IAA | Negative | Positive | Prevalence % |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| RTA 2005-2006      | 21                               | 18       | 3        | 16.67        |
| IAA BFDS 2012-2014 | 83                               | 71       | 12       | 14.46        |
| AWBFD 2015-2016    | 48                               | 45       | 3        | 6.25         |
| AWBFD 2017-2019    | 21                               | 19       | 2        | 9.52         |
| AWBFD 2020-2022    | 17                               | 16       | 1        | 5.90         |

Table 1 – Badger found dead submissions in the Intensive Action Area between 2005-2022

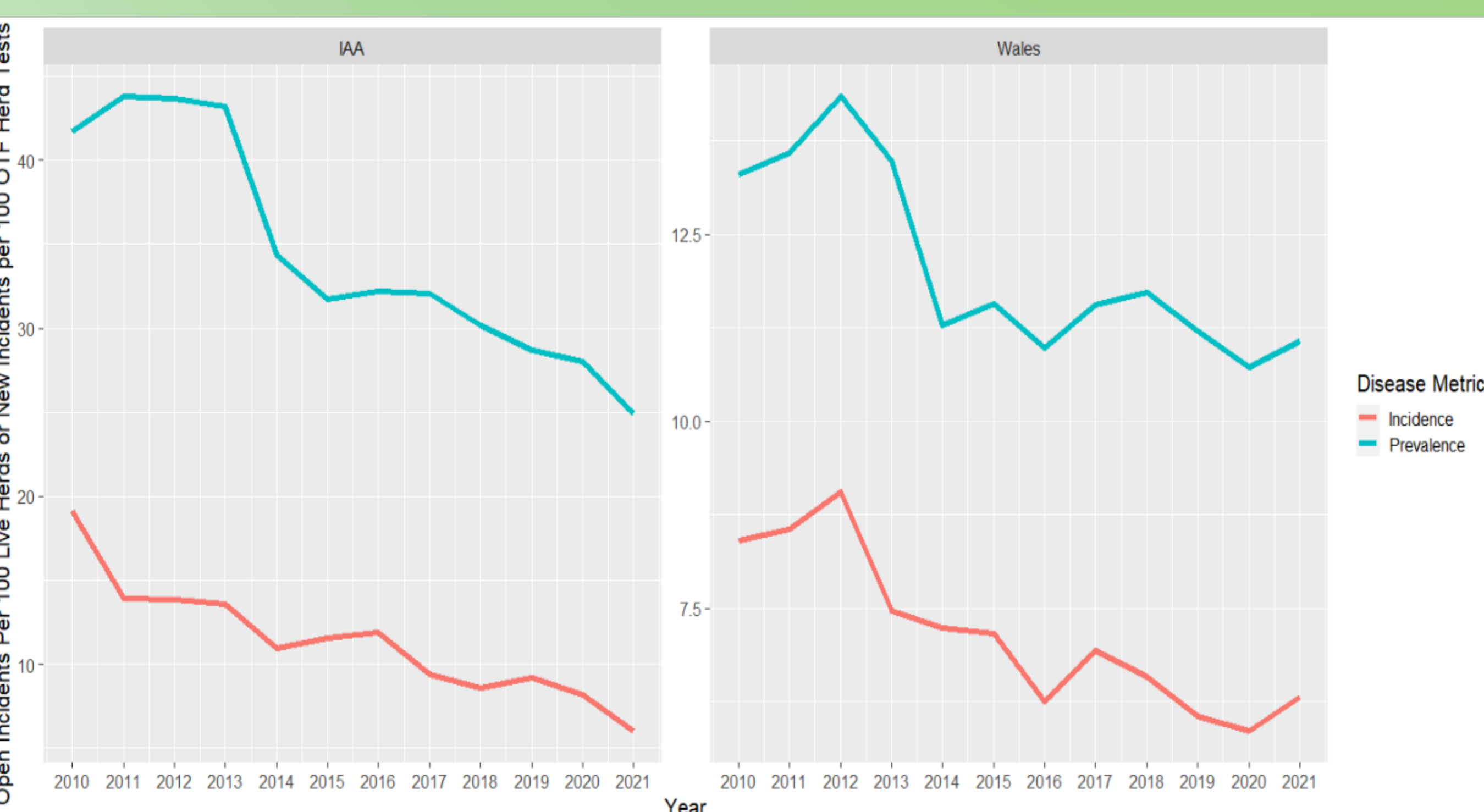


Figure 2 - Line graph showing incidence and prevalence of TB infection in cattle herds for Intensive Action Area (IAA) and Wales from 2010 - 2021

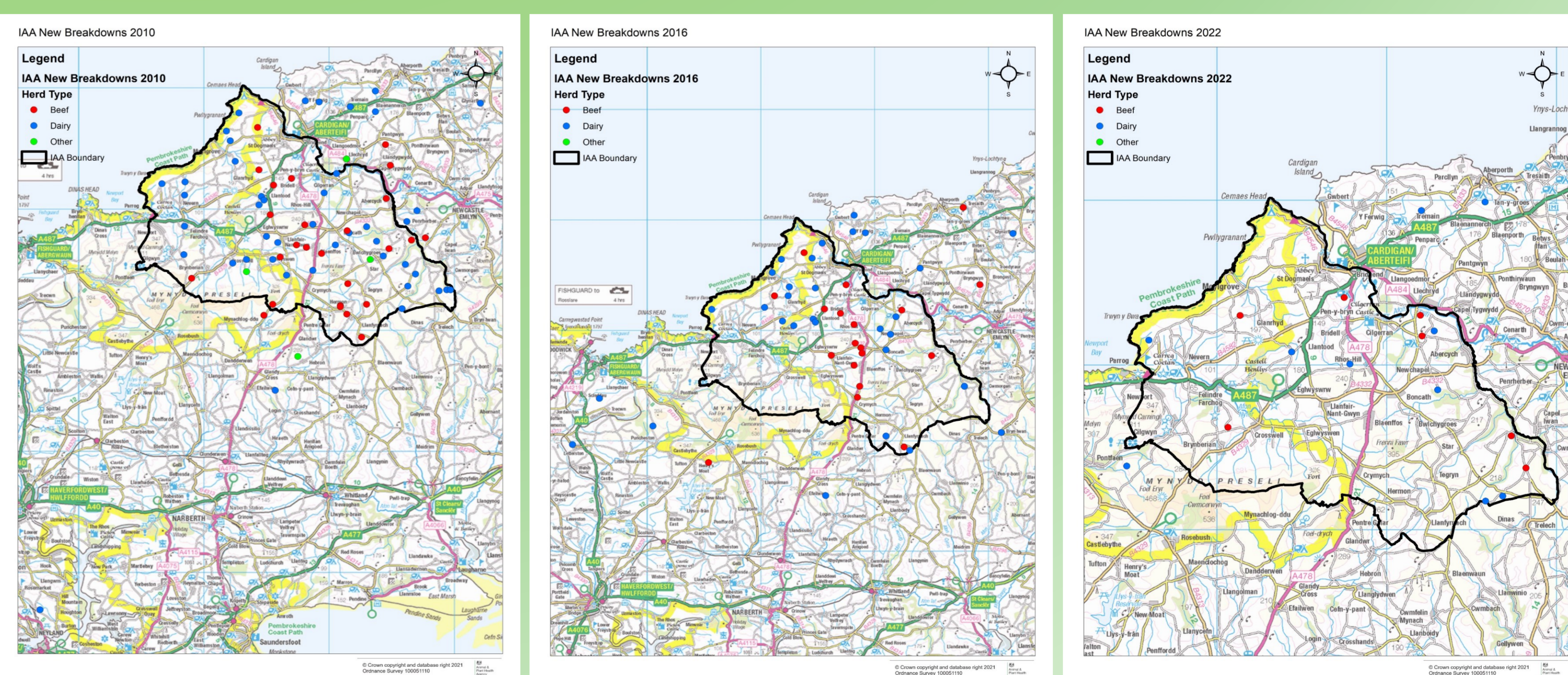


Figure 3 - New breakdowns in cattle herds in the Intensive Action Areas (IAA)