



hebridean sheep society

Bluetongue Update

As of 4 October, the restricted zone because of cases of Bluetongue has been extended. It now covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, City of Kingston upon Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Sussex, Essex, Greater London, Hampshire (part), Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire (part), Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire (part), Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Surrey and West Sussex. The DEFRA Map showing the Restricted Zone is [here](#).

The disease is spread by biting midges and these insects get more widely distributed when blown by the wind. With current cases all along the Eastern areas of England and the wind direction forecast to remain NE to E for the next few days, the possibility of further spread is high.

Movement of sheep out of a restricted zone can be only for slaughter and to a [designated slaughterhouse](#) and you must obtain a special licence from the DEFRA website [here](#).

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and so you must report any suspicion to 03000 200 301 (England), or 03000 038 268 (Wales) or your local Field Service Office (Scotland). The chief signs of infection in sheep are

- ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck and the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)

A vaccine is available but note that the circulating serotype in this outbreak is BTV-3; your vet will be able to advise.

More Information is available on the [DEFRA website](#) which will be updated as necessary.