



Farm news

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Assessing Autopsies

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Two vet students are about to witness a post-mortem examination for the first time.

One says to the other, "What do you think it'll be like?"

The other vet student shrugs and says, "Remains to be seen."

Sorry. Couldn't resist. But in all seriousness...

The APHA offers subsidised post-mortem examinations (PMEs) and diagnostic testing, as well as advice and support, to veterinary surgeons in practice to diagnose, control and prevent disease in farm animals.

The PME service in England and Wales is delivered through Veterinary Investigation Centres and several partner providers. This is part of a wider science network, which includes APHA's specialist avian centre at Lasswade in Scotland and further research and diagnostic facilities at Newcastle, Sand Hutton (York) and Weybridge in Surrey.



The map below shows the national network of APHA Veterinary Investigation Centres (blue) and partner post-mortem providers (pink).

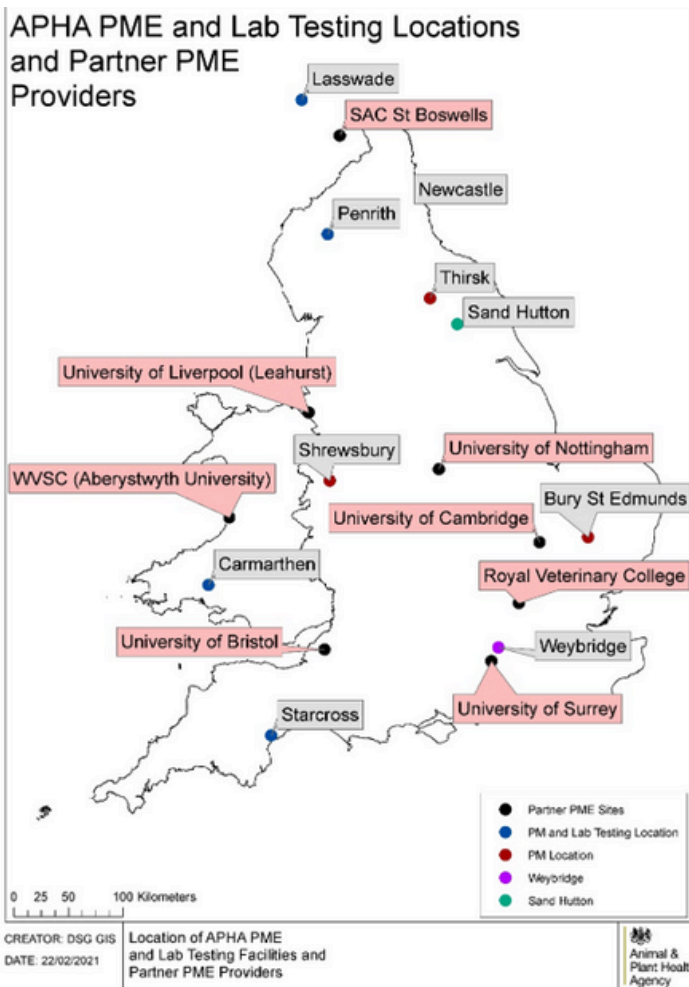
Here at Scarsdale we are very fortunate to be so close to the University of Nottingham Farm Animal Pathology Service, based in Sutton Bonington, which is one of the APHA's partner post-mortem providers. Many of our clients make use of this service.

We often get questions about the service, not least about the cost. A full PME at Sutton Bonington is far more thorough and in-depth (and cost effective) than a PME on farm can ever be. All extra testing (bacteriology, histopathology, detection of toxins... whatever's necessary) is included in the cost, whereas for on-farm post-mortems the cost of these extra tests has to be added on.

If you want to answer a specific question that can easily be seen on opening up the carcass, then an on-farm post-mortem might be the best thing (did this lamb have acute liver fluke infection or not? Did this cow have peritonitis? Did this ewe have haemonchus? Was there a wire in this cow or not?).

For anything that requires a more in-depth investigation, a full PME at Sutton Bonington would be better (I have no idea why my goat died! My heifer was thin and there a few things that might have been going on with her – I wonder what, and which of them killed her?).

The Nottingham Farm Animal Pathology Service has recently released an updated information leaflet, with current prices. We thought it would be useful to share this with our clients. See below - we hope you find it helpful - any further questions, please do let us know.



Farm Animal Pathology Service Information for Farmers and Vets

Introduction to our service and staff

The University of Nottingham provides, on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), post-mortem services for farmed livestock animals. These post-mortem examinations (PMEs) are subsidised by the APHA to provide a cost-effective service for farmers. Our PME are carried out in our specially designed post-mortem facilities by our team of trained pathologists, farm veterinary surgeons, and technicians.

As the PME are subsidised, there is a basic payment for the PME with disposal, depending on the species and age. This allows us to include any additional testing deemed necessary within the price, at no further cost to you. Additionally, there may be free carcase collection available depending on the postcode of the farm.



For the APHA, surveillance and disease monitoring are essential to protect herds and flocks across Great Britain by identifying notifiable diseases, diseases that can spread to people, and other key diseases of national interest.

- Disease surveillance dashboards for each species – data from post-mortem diagnoses are collected and analysed to monitor disease prevalence. <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/scanning/diseasedashboards.htm>

- Monthly reports are also generated by the APHA for each species. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-disease-surveillance-reports>

How it works

1. Contact your vet to discuss the case and request a PME.
2. Your vet will call us to provide case details, on 01159 516743 (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday).
3. A pathologist will contact your vet to discuss the case and exclude notifiable diseases. Either delivery by the farmer, or transport via the free carcase collection service is arranged. Use the link (<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp>) to see whether you fall into a free collection postcode.
4. Your vet will need to provide us with a submission form that includes your details, Information about the farm, and specifics covering the case in question. Failure to provide a completed form may result in significant delays.
5. The post-mortem examination will be carried out by a pathologist. Anonymised photographs, tissues, samples, and data may be taken and used for educational, research, surveillance, or diagnostic purposes, unless indicated otherwise on the submission form.
6. The findings will be relayed to your vet once the post-mortem is completed.
7. Further testing may be sent off to APHA laboratories or done in-house.
8. Preliminary, interim, and final reports will be generated in due course and sent from the University of Nottingham to your vet.

Price list

All prices exclude VAT. Valid from September 15th 2023. May be subject to change.

	Description	PME	Disposal
Cattle & camelids	PME: Bovine abortion /stillbirth	£75	£10
	PME Neonatal calves < 7 Days	£59	£20
	PME Calves 7 Days- 6 months	£88	£45
	PME Calves 6 months – 12 months	£88	£60
	PME Cattle over 12 months	£125	£110
	Camelids < 12 months	£88	£35
	PME: Camelids >12months	£145	£35
Sheep, pigs, goats	PME: Neonatal (less than 1 week) sheep, pigs, goats Up to 3	£49	£10 each
	PME: Sheep, goats, deer and pigs Up to 3	£72	£10 each < 6 weeks £5 6 weeks - 6months £10, >6months £18
	Sheep/goat and pig abortion - fetus(es) +/- placenta - from 1 dam	£55	£1 per carcase
	Sheep/goat and pig abortion - fetus(es) +/- placenta - from 2 dams	£68	£1 per carcase
	PME: Farmed poultry/game birds up to 2 weeks old Up to 10	£39	£3 per 10kg
	PME: Farmed poultry/game birds older than 2 weeks and farmed rabbits Up to 5	£83	£3 per 10kg



University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Veterinary pathology service
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Alfreton
01773 304900

Pride Veterinary Centre
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Allestree
01332 554422

Shelton Lock
01332 700321

Hilton
01283 732999

Stapenhill
01283 568162

Langley Mill
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Stretton
01283 565333

Mickleover
01332 518585

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