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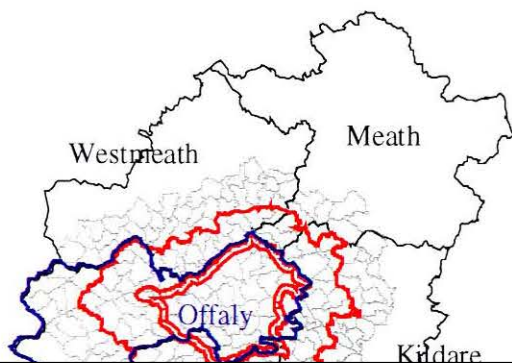
# Tuberculin Testing Data for Clear and Restricted Herds in the East Offaly Badger Research Project for the Period, 1988 to 1997

L.A. Dolan

## Introduction

The East Offaly Badger Research Project (EOP) continued during 1996 and 1997. The related data for the tuberculin testing of the cattle herds involved were added to the data previously published for the years 1988 to 1995 (Dolan, 1997). The project was undertaken to help to further knowledge of the extent of the involvement of a tuberculous badger population in the continuing problem of outbreaks of tuberculosis in the associated cattle population.

**Figure 1. The Project, Buffer and Control areas of the East Offaly Badger Research Project**



badger populations were controlled (O'Connor and O'Malley, 1989). These localised studies did not have any designated control areas for contemporaneous comparison. This situation has been addressed in the present study.

## Materials and Methods

The study area was comprised of three parts namely the Project Area, Buffer Zone and Control Area (Figure 1) (Eves, 1993). The systematic removal of the badgers commenced in 1989. Tuberculosis had been identified in badgers from many parts of the study area prior to the commencement of this control programme. The tuberculin testing data for the cattle herds in the central Project Area where badger control had been undertaken, were compared with the tuberculin testing data for the cattle herds in the surrounding Control Area. Data for herds in the Buffer Zone were excluded from the comparison to allow for the effect of immigration of badgers at the boundary (Figure 1). All of the cattl















