World Organisation for Animal Health

Michael Baron - - UNITED_KINGDOM

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

***Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:**	Rinderpest
***Address of laboratory:**	The Pirbright Institute, Ash Road, Pirbright Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NF, U.K.
***Tel:**	+44-1483 23.24.41
***E-mail address:**	michael.baron@pirbright.ac.uk
Website:	https://www.pirbright.ac.uk/our-science/non-vesicular-reference-laboratory
***Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):**	Prof. Bryan Charleston, Institute Director
***Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:**	Dr Michael D Baron, Honorary Institute Fellow
***Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:**	Research agency Academic institution

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

No

Given that rinderpest has been eradicated, it is unsurprising that we did not carry out any diagnostic tests.

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAH?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAH Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
cELISA for anti-RPV antibodies	An approved project to develop a cELISA for post-outbreak surveillance is in progress.
real-time PCR for RPV	An approved project to evaluate an ammended probe for this assay is in progress

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAH Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAH Member?

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAH Members other than the own?

No

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAH?

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

No

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

0

b) International conferences:

1

Attended ISWAVLD meeting in Calgary, Canada, June 2025 to present data from new project (see TOR3) to develop RPV cELISA for post-outbreak surveillance: "A tool for the post-eradication era of rinderpest virus: the development of a serological assay for the detection of antibodies against rinderpest virus"

c) National conferences:

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAH Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO/IEC17025	see attached file	UKAS 4025 16June2025.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Real-time RT-PCR for rinderpest virus	UKAS (see attached certification for 2025)

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

All materials are stored, and potentially infectious material would be handled, at UK SAPO4, approximately equivalent to BSL3+ or BSL3-Ag. The facilities are inspected by the UK Health and Safety Executive as part of a proactive intervention plan, where parts of our biorisk management system are scrutinised and sampled to check compliance and we are also visited and inspected by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office to ensure any materials with a potential for biowarfare or bioterrorism are being held securely.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAH?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAH?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAH REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOAH REF. LABS
Rinderpest Holding Facilities Network	Secretariat	5	UK France USA Japan China

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAH Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

None available

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAH Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

None available

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAH?

Yes

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Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Technical expertise	Virtual	Relevant chapter of Terrestrial Manual
Technical expertise	In person and Virtual	Member of FAO-WOAH Joint Advisory Committee on Rinderpest

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Rinderpest has been eradicated, so there is little activity anywhere.
Note that Pirbright is also a WOAH/FAO-approved rinderpest holding facility (RHF); its status as an RHF was officially reconfirmed in September 2023. In addition to acting as a WOAH reference laboratory for RP, the institute is designated as an FAO reference laboratory for RP.

Dr Carrie Batten is a member of the JAC as an expert in diagnostics, she attended 20th meeting of the FAO-WOAH Rinderpest Joint Advisory, Rome, Italy (April 2025) and a virtual meeting on November 21st.

Dr Carrie Batten acts as the secretariat for the global RHF network and organises regular catch up meetings, every 6 months. In April 2025, the 4thmeeting of the FAO-WOAH Rinderpest Holding Facility (RHF) Network was held in Rome, Italy. In addition there were two virtual catch ups, 21st February and 17th March.

In June 2024, Dr Carrie Batten was awarded funding to develop a C-ELISA for the detection of RPV antibodies, the project will run for 3 years. A second research project was approved by WOAH and resources provided by Pirbright to perform an evaluation of a amended probe for the RPV real-time RT-PCR.