Hi Bill. Have you heard there’s been a report of scab in the area?

Yes, John. Trouble is, my land borders onto the common so I’m quite concerned. We should speak to the vet.

Should we just treat all our animals to be safe?

It’s not a good idea to be using these treatments unless you know they’re needed.

Have you heard about the recent cases of mites resistant to injectables? We need to use these with care to ensure they still work when we really need them.

There’s a new test that you can use which can tell you if there is scab in the flock before you get itchy sheep… and it’s cheaper than treating.

There are other ways you can minimise the risk...

- Isolate any new or returning sheep.
- Clean any shared equipment with the correct disinfectant.
- Minimise direct sheep to sheep contact by maintaining boundaries and use double fencing where possible.
- When treatment is required, it’s important to coordinate with your neighbours and treat together.

10 days later

John, all of your sheep have come back negative for scab and there are no obvious lesions or itching.

Bill, you’ve got three positives in the sheep that we’ve tested, so we need to get your whole flock treated to make sure we get rid of all the mites. At least we know what we’re dealing with.

Your double fencing will help minimise the risk of it spreading between your flocks.