

ARABLE AND HORTICULTURE (UK BAP BROAD HABITAT)

This priority habitat includes arable land, ploughed fields, set-aside land, intensively-managed commercial orchards, nurseries and other commercially managed horticultural land.

Commercial orchards differ from Traditional orchards, which belong in the Broadleaved, mixed & yew woodland broad habitat, in that they typically have smaller, more closely-spaced trees (commonly <3 m apart), which are sprayed with herbicide which makes the ground vegetation sparse, or even virtually absent, and whose other grassy ground vegetation is commonly mown, not grazed or cut for hay as in traditional orchards.

The Arable & horticulture broad habitat is common in the lowlands of Scotland, especially in the east where it dominates much of the landscape in parts of the Borders, East Lothian, Fife, Perthshire, Angus, Aberdeenshire and the Moray Firth coastal lowlands. It is less common in western lowland areas and scarcer still in upland parts of Scotland.

This broad habitat commonly occurs in association with the Boundary & linear features broad habitat, for example where arable fields are separated by hedgerows. Most of the land belonging in this broad habitat does not belong to any UK BAP priority habitat, but marginal parts of some arable fields belong to the Arable field margins priority habitat where they are managed deliberately to benefit wildlife.

The priority habitat included within this broad habitat type is:

- [Arable field margins](#)