

UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Descriptions



Traditional Orchards

Traditional Orchards : Description, Definition and Extent

Correspondence with existing habitat/s

- UK BAP broad habitat: Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland (the proposed habitat is a habitat complex like lowland wood-pasture and parkland, which is in this broad habitat)
- Phase 1: A. Woodland and scrub, A 1.1.2. Broadleaved plantation, orchard, to be identified by existing/added symbols (England Field Unit 1990).
- NVC: Incorporates several types as part of the orchard habitat complex e.g. MG5, MG6, W24.
- Annex I: Incorporates parts of several Annex I types, for example lowland calcareous grassland in some sites within the Annex I type H6210 semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*).

Description

Habitat structure rather than vegetation type, topography or soils, is the defining feature of the habitat.

Traditional orchards are structurally and ecologically similar to wood-pasture and parkland, with open-grown trees set in herbaceous vegetation, but are generally distinguished from these priority habitat complexes by the following characteristics: the species composition of the trees, these being primarily in the family Rosaceae; the usually denser arrangement of the trees; the small scale of individual habitat patches; the wider dispersion and greater frequency of occurrence of habitat patches in the countryside. Traditional orchards include plantings for nuts, principally hazel nuts, but also walnuts. Management of the trees is the other main feature distinguishing traditional orchards and wood-pasture and parkland. Trees in traditional orchards are, or were, grown for fruit and nut production, usually achieved through activities such as grafting and pruning; whereas timber has been the main product from trees in wood-pastures and parkland, mostly derived from pollarding or selective felling. Grazing or cutting of herbaceous vegetation are integral to orchard management, as they are in wood-pastures and parkland. The presence of scrub, mostly in the form of hedgerows on the site boundaries, or sometimes, especially in unmanaged orchards, among the orchard trees, is analogous to the frequent occurrence of scrub in wood-pastures and parkland and plays a similar ecological role (see under biodiversity characteristics described below). Ponds and other wetland features are often present; being used now, or in the past, for watering livestock.

Orchards are hotspots for biodiversity in the countryside, supporting a wide range of wildlife and containing UK BAP priority habitats and species, as well as an array of Nationally Rare and Nationally Scarce species. The wildlife of orchard sites depends on the mosaic of habitats they encompass, including fruit trees, scrub, hedgerows, hedgerow trees, non-fruit trees within the orchard, the orchard floor habitats, fallen dead wood and associated features such as ponds and streams. A feature of the biodiversity of traditional orchards is the great variety of fruit cultivars that they contain. For example, Luckwill and Pollard (1963) list 101 varieties of perry pear distributed across the parishes of Gloucestershire. This agricultural biological

diversity is not an explicit part of the current UK BAP, although the UK Government is a signatory to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (2001). The Government response (Cheffings and others 2004) includes a target for conserving crop diversity.

Traditional orchards are defined for priority habitat purposes as orchards managed in a low intensity way, in contrast with orchards managed intensively for fruit production by the input of chemicals such as pesticides and inorganic fertilisers, frequent mowing of the orchard floor rather than grazing or cutting for hay, and planting of short-lived, high-density, dwarf or bush fruit trees.

Spacing of trees in traditional orchards can vary quite widely (from c. 3m in some plum orchards and traditional cobnut plats to over 20m in some large perry pear and cherry orchards). There is some overlap of density of planting with intensive orchards, but these orchards often have densities at least twice as high as the most closely-spaced traditional orchard.

Like wood-pastures and parklands, traditional orchards can occur on a wide range of soil types, from slightly acid, relatively infertile soils to fertile river floodplain soils and lime-rich soils. Orchards can be found on slopes ranging from steep to level, and with any aspect. Generally, sites do not have badly impeded drainage, although locally, within sites, there may be wetter areas. Orchards are found in the lowland landscape in the UK, defined as the land below the altitudinal limit of enclosure (i.e. below the 'moor wall').

Traditional orchards can easily be distinguished from other wooded habitats based on the preponderance of domestic fruit and nut species: apple, plum, pear, damson, cherry, walnut and cobnut. Only in a very few cases will there be a significant number of other tree species in a traditional orchard, unless the orchard is becoming woodland through neglect. An arbitrary distinction of requiring, say, 50% of trees to be domestic fruit or nut species in an orchard, is rarely likely to be invoked for distinguishing orchards from wood-pasture/parkland.

Traditional orchards contrast with orchards managed intensively for fruit production, where there are inputs of chemicals such as pesticides and inorganic fertilisers, frequent mowing of the orchard floor rather than grazing or cutting for hay, and planting of short-lived, high-density, dwarf or bush fruit trees (stems generally 75 cm or less).

The simplest visual indicator of intensive management is the presence of herbicided strips along the tree rows, where the ground is generally bare or with some annual plant re-growth; contrasting with the permanent grassland of the between-row spaces. Such strips are readily observable on aerial photographs. According to orchard pesticide usage surveys by the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), use of herbicide is associated with other pesticide use and intensive mowing between tree-rows, while in contrast, orchards with fully grassed floors can be considered traditional (Dr Joe Crocker, CSL, pers. comm.). There may potentially be cases where other pesticides or inorganic fertilisers or other intensive management practices are used without herbicide. As a consequence, for instance where herbicide strips are not evident but the trees appear small and closely spaced, there may occasionally be instances for limited ground-truthing by checking density / spacing (see below) and stature of trees on the ground. Spacing of trees in

traditional orchards can vary quite widely, from around 3 m to over 20 m between trees (see above). There is some overlap of density of planting with intensive orchards, so a density distinction is not useful on its own. However, non-traditional orchards often have densities at least twice the density of the most closely-spaced traditional orchard, and density/planting distance (< 3m in many intensive orchards) can help in the distinction of intensive orchards as described above.

Traditional Orchards : UK HAP Definition

Traditional orchards are defined, for priority habitat purposes, as groups of fruit and nut trees planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland; and managed in a low intensity way. Cobnut plats are also included.

Background / Explanation to Definition

Traditional orchards are a long-established and widely distributed habitat and make a significant contribution to biodiversity, landscape character and local distinctiveness across the UK. There are many regional variations on this theme, including apple, pear, cherry, plum, damson, and walnut orchards. Although cobnut plat structure and management varies from fruit tree orchards and has affinities with coppice woodland, they are also included in the definition.

They are a composite habitat (similar to wood-pasture and parkland), defined by their structure rather than vegetation type, which can include trees, scrub, grassland, ponds, walls, hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Traditional orchards can take several different distribution patterns, including small and large patches, along linear boundaries, and trees dispersed among settlements.

Prime traditional orchard habitat consists of grazed grassland with fruit trees of varying age structure, with an abundance of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood. Young trees and newly planted orchards that are managed in a low intensity way are also included in the definition.

Low intensity management refers to orchards that are managed extensively, with little or no use of chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers, with relatively long-lived trees that are allowed to reach the veteran stage, and with a permanent grass sward that is usually grazed by cattle or sheep or cut for hay. Although traditional orchards have sometimes been established with soft fruit or other crops grown between rows, where these are managed extensively the orchard floor has usually been grassed over once the trees have matured and the canopy has closed over.

In contrast, intensive management refers to orchards managed to maximise fruit production, usually including several of the following management practices; dense planting of short-lived trees on dwarfing rootstocks, high chemical inputs, intensive pruning to remove dead and decaying wood and maintain the trees in a restricted form, and frequent mowing and spraying of the orchard floor.

Planting density depends on the species of tree. For apple, pear and cherry this will usually be less than 150 trees/ha. (approximately 8 m spacing between the trees), but for other species such as plum and damson this density may be higher. Tree form will usually be standards or half-standards, but will vary accordingly to species and

local practice. Vigorous rootstocks include trees that are grown on their own rootstock, seedling rootstocks, and named rootstocks that allow the tree to develop to its full size.

The minimum size of a traditional orchard is defined as five trees with crown edges less than 20m apart. However the potential biological and genetic interest of sites with fewer trees, such as relict orchards and individual trees within gardens, is noted. Where appropriate these should be considered as potential restoration sites. It is recognised that other sites which fall outside the definition, such as organic bush orchards and fruit collections in walled gardens may also have biodiversity value, as well as historic, cultural and genetic importance.

Extent of Resource

Traditional orchards are found in all countries of the UK, although England has the bulk of the resource. Areas digitally mapped by the Ordnance Survey have been found to provide a relatively accurate estimate of total orchard area, as a result of testing by ground-truthing and aerial photograph interpretation (Natural England in prep.). Together with country information on extent of commercial orchards in agricultural census returns, digital Master Map polygons can be used to make initial estimates of the extent of the resource (see table below).

The estimated extent of traditional orchards in the UK is 25,350ha. This puts the habitat at the rarer end of the scale compared to existing priority habitats. These range from Upland hay meadows (1,100ha), Lowland wood-pasture and parkland (35,000ha), Lowland heathland (over 60,000ha), Upland oakwood (85,000ha) to Upland heath (2,109,400ha).

| Country | *Orchard area (ha) | **Traditional orchard area (ha) |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| England | 39,600 | 24,600 |
| Scotland | 290 | 250 |
| Wales | 840 | 440 |
| Northern Ireland | (1,600) | 60 |

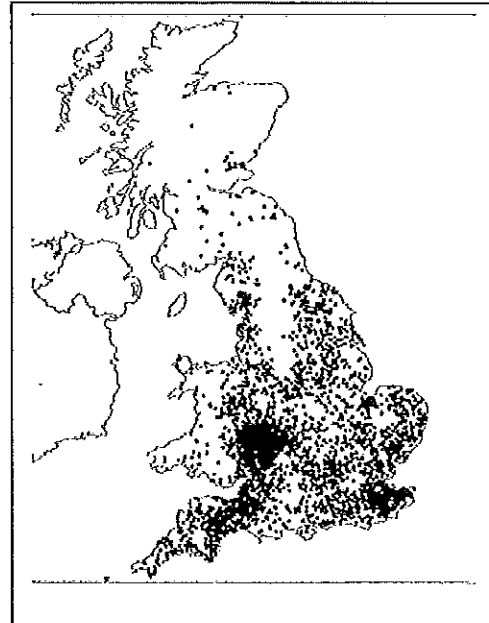
*Ordnance Survey area except for Northern Ireland where area under fruit (top and soft) is given from the agricultural census 2004.

** England : Ordnance Survey area in 2006 minus area of commercial orchards in Agricultural census of 2006 defined as intensive (84%) by lack of fully grassed orchard floor (Central Science Laboratory data).

Scotland and Wales : Ordnance Survey area minus area of commercial orchards in agricultural censuses of 2003 and 2002 respectively. Note that some of the commercial orchards in Scotland and Wales may be traditional orchards; thus the estimate of traditional orchard area may be an underestimate.

Northern Ireland : estimate from figure given in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme booklet, traditional orchards option.

The Ordnance Survey data, which do not distinguish traditional and intensive orchards, show that orchards are dispersed throughout the lowlands of Britain, although there are concentrations in some areas particularly Kent, Cambridgeshire, Somerset and the Three Counties (Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire). The bulk (78%) of the commercial fruit production occurs in these concentrations in England, which implies that traditional orchards comprise the majority of the orchards elsewhere, as well as being known to occur in the orchard concentration areas.



Map: Orchard distribution in England, Scotland and Wales. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceeding. English Nature 100017954 [2005].

An inventory of traditional orchards in England is currently in progress and is due to be completed in March 2011. The data set can be downloaded via the [GIS Digital Boundary Datasets](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx) page on the Natural England Website <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx> and can be viewed via the MAGIC interactive map online resource <http://www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/>

A simple mappable definition has been adopted and is based on the rules adopted for the Natural England orchard project. The minimum size of a traditional orchard is defined as five trees with crown edges less than 20m apart.

For further information visit Orchard Network www.orchardnetwork.org.uk (From April 2010)

References:

Cheffings, C., Harper, M. and Jackson, A. 2004. *Plant diversity challenge: the UK's response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Luckwill, L. C. and Pollard, A. 1963. *Perry pears*. Bristol: Published for the National Fruit and Cider Institute by the University of Bristol

Traditional Orchards

Working UK Habitat Action Plan

DEFINITION

Traditional Orchards are defined, for priority habitat purposes, as groups of fruit and nut trees planted on vigorous rootstocks at low densities in permanent grassland; and managed in a low intensity way. Cobnut plats are also included.

Background / Explanation to Definition

Traditional Orchards are a long-established and widely distributed habitat and make a significant contribution to biodiversity, landscape character and local distinctiveness across the UK. There are many regional variations on this theme, including apple, pear, cherry, plum, damson, and walnut orchards. Although cobnut plat structure and management varies from fruit tree orchards and has affinities with coppice woodland, they are also included in the definition.

They are a composite habitat (similar to wood-pasture and parkland), defined by their structure rather than vegetation type, which can include trees, scrub, grassland, ponds, walls, hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Traditional Orchards can take several different distribution patterns, including small and large patches, along linear boundaries, and trees dispersed among settlements. Prime Traditional Orchard habitat consists of grazed grassland with fruit trees of varying age structure, with an abundance of standing and fallen dead and decaying wood. Young trees and newly planted orchards that are managed in a low intensity way are also included in the definition.

Low intensity management refers to orchards that are managed extensively, with little or no use of chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers, with relatively long-lived trees that are allowed to reach the veteran stage, and with a permanent grass sward that is usually grazed by cattle or sheep or cut for hay. Although Traditional Orchards have sometimes been established with soft fruit or other crops grown between rows, where these are managed extensively the orchard floor has usually been grassed over once the trees have matured and the canopy has closed over.

In contrast, intensive management refers to orchards managed to maximise fruit production, usually including several of the following management practices; dense planting of short-lived trees on dwarfing rootstocks, high chemical inputs, intensive pruning to remove dead and decaying wood and maintain the trees in a restricted form, and frequent mowing and spraying of the orchard floor.

Planting density depends on the species of tree. For apple, pear and cherry this will usually be less than 150 trees/ha. (approximately 8 m spacing between the trees), but for other species such as plum and damson this

density may higher. Tree form will usually be standards or half-standards, but will vary accordingly to species and local practice. Vigorous rootstocks include trees that are grown on their own rootstock, seedling rootstocks, and named rootstocks that allow the tree to develop to its full size.

The minimum size of a Traditional Orchard is defined as five trees with crown edges less than 20m apart. However the potential biological and genetic interest of sites with fewer trees, such as relict orchards and individual trees within gardens, is noted. Where appropriate these should be considered as potential restoration sites. It is recognised that other sites which fall outside the definition, such as organic bush orchards and fruit collections in walled gardens may also have biodiversity value, as well as historic, cultural and genetic importance.

TARGETS

1. No net loss of Traditional Orchards across the UK.

The aim of this target is to ensure there is no loss of Traditional Orchards of high nature quality but we acknowledge there will be some losses and gains in space and time.

2. Improve Traditional Orchards to a favourable condition.

A condition assessment has been agreed and is being used. The aim for this target is for the Traditional Orchard resource to be in favourable condition within an appropriate landscape unit.

3. Increase the extent of Traditional Orchards across the UK.

This target aims to expand the number of Traditional Orchards to counter the rapid decline in the second half of the 20th century. It can be delivered in three ways:

- *planting fruit trees and / or clearing scrub on land parcels with scattered fruit trees (less than five and more than 20m apart) i.e. a relict orchard.*
- *planting fruit trees on historic orchard sites where no fruit trees remain.*
- *planting fruit trees where none occurred before.*

NB. we are actively seeking to map relict and historic orchard sites by the end of 2012 using the pilot methodology trialled in Monmouthshire, Wales.

Target 1. No net loss of Traditional Orchards across the UK

| | 2010 (baseline)* | 2015 | 2020 |
|-----------|------------------|--------|--------|
| UK | 25,350 | 25,350 | 25,350 |
| E | 24,600 | 24,600 | 24,600 |
| W | 440 | 440 | 440 |
| S | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| NI | 60 | 60 | 60 |

* NB. we are actively seeking to refine the estimates by the end of 2011.

England: Ordnance Survey area in 2006 minus area of commercial orchards in Agricultural census of 2006 defined as intensive (84%) by lack of fully grassed orchard floor (Central Science Laboratory data).

Wales and Scotland: Ordnance Survey area minus area of commercial orchards in agricultural censuses of 2003 and 2002 respectively. Note that some of the commercial orchards in Scotland and Wales may be Traditional Orchards; thus the estimate of Traditional Orchard area may be an underestimate.

Northern Ireland: estimate from figure given in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme booklet, Traditional Orchards option.

The Ordnance Survey data, which do not distinguish traditional and intensive orchards, show that orchards are dispersed throughout the lowlands of Britain, although there are

concentrations in some areas particularly Kent, Cambridgeshire, Somerset and the Three Counties (Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire). The bulk (78%) of the commercial fruit production occurs in these concentrations in England, which implies that Traditional Orchards comprise the majority of the orchards elsewhere, as well as being known to occur in the orchard concentration areas.

Target 2. Improve Traditional Orchards to a favourable condition – a minimum of Good/Fair is to be reached across the current resource

| | 2010 (baseline) | 2015 | 2020 |
|----|-----------------|-------|------|
| UK | ~ | ~ | 100% |
| E* | 51%** | 75%** | 100% |
| W | ~ | ~ | 100% |
| S | ~ | ~ | 100% |
| NI | ~ | ~ | 100% |

* based on assessments of 4.3% of sites in England (N=22855 of which 983 have been assessed).

** based on no loss within current resource of Good/Fair & Excellent condition and restoration of 49% in Poor/[Destroyed] condition.

~ indicates there is currently no data.

PTES inventory condition data (covers 25 counties in England)

Excellent (6%)
 Good/Fair (45%)
 Poor/[Destroyed] (49%)

Excellent (*Favourable - no change*);
 Good/Fair (*Favourable - no change, Favourable – declining, Unfavourable – recovering*);
 Poor (*Unfavourable - no change, Unfavourable - declining*);
 Destroyed (*Unfavourable - destroyed*).

Given the current extent this would mean improving c6,000ha by 2015 and a further c6,000ha by 2020 – or just over 1,000ha/yr. We see agri-environment schemes as the main mechanism to achieve this target.

Target 3. Increase the extent of Traditional Orchards across the UK – a minimum of current area (ha) expanded by 50%.

| | 2010 (baseline)* | 2015 | 2020 |
|----|------------------|----------|--------|
| UK | 25,350 | 31,687.5 | 38,025 |
| E | 24,600 | 30,750 | 36,900 |
| W | 440 | 550 | 660 |
| S | 250 | 312.5 | 375 |
| NI | 60 | 75 | 90 |

* NB. we are actively seeking to refine the estimates by the end of 2011.

England: Ordnance Survey area in 2006 minus area of commercial orchards in Agricultural census of 2006 defined as intensive (84%) by lack of fully grassed orchard floor (Central Science Laboratory data).

Wales and Scotland: Ordnance Survey area minus area of commercial orchards in agricultural censuses of 2003 and 2002 respectively. Note that some of the commercial

orchards in Scotland and Wales may be Traditional Orchards; thus the estimate of Traditional Orchard area may be an underestimate.

Northern Ireland: estimate from figure given in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme booklet, Traditional Orchards option.

At least half of the Traditional Orchards area (ha) in the UK has been lost over the last 60 years, so at least 50% (12,675ha) of the current area should be expanded by 2020 i.e. just over 1,000 ha/yr. This should aim to include an increase in the number of sites by at least 1% over 2010 to 2020.

Again we see agri-environment schemes as the main mechanism to achieve this target but the role of LBAPs in identifying suitable areas for expansion is also crucial e.g. in orchard landscapes with noble chafer population concentrations. Some LBAPs are already adopting expansion targets, e.g. Norfolk has a 2 ha / year expansion target. Such LBAP targets may also be related to a future target for improving the connectivity or resilience of habitats and species populations, and to cross-plan action, especially with HAPs for hedgerows and wood pastures and parkland.

ACTIONS

1. Policy & Regulation

1.1 Agriculture

(i) Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

- Investigate the potential of Axis 2, 3 and 4 of the EU's Rural Development strand for possible funding.
- Strengthen cross-compliance under CAP to protect Traditional Orchards as landscape features.
- Engage and involve Regional Development Agencies (and the equivalent functions in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) for potential economic and social funding.

(ii) Agri-environment schemes

- Ensure Traditional Orchards are included and targeted in sufficiently funded agri-environment schemes.

(iii) High Nature Value (HNV) Farmland

- Liaise with those developing the HNV concept and devise a method to highlight those areas with a high density of Traditional Orchards to ensure they are identified as HNV areas.

(iv) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations

- Review the effect of EIA regulations on Traditional Orchards and revise regulations if necessary.

1.2 Planning

(i) Development Control

- Look at incorporating Traditional Orchards in the following forward planning policy vehicles:
 - Local Development Frameworks.
 - Green Infrastructure Strategies, Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Areas, Ecological Networks, Tree Strategies.
 - Exclusion of Traditional Orchards from settlement boundaries showing land with potential for development.
 - Designation of County Wildlife Sites or their equivalents - develop criteria for Traditional Orchards for use in CWS designation.
 - Policies promoting tourism and economically sustainable communities.
 - Conservation Areas which include protection for trees with diameter of 75mm dbh.
- Ensure reference to and implementation of Section 40 of the 2006 NERC Act (biodiversity duty of public bodies) and the habitats and species listed in Section 41. – *England and Wales only.*

(ii) Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

- Explore if TPO regulations are different in each UK country and if necessary, amend regulations to exclude the exemptions for dead, dying and dangerous trees, as lead by Scotland.
- Raise awareness of and guidance to making TPOs for Traditional Orchards, and value of pro-active application.

(iii) Planning Legislation

- Value and vulnerability of Traditional Orchards should be emphasised in new and amended planning legislation and protection for trees retained.

2. Site Safeguard & Management

2.1 Skills & Knowledge Resource

- Increase opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in:
 - Wildlife surveys e.g. invertebrates: noble chafer, apple tree lacebug, mistletoe moth; birds: lesser spotted woodpecker; fungi; lichens; and bryophytes.
 - Fruit identification
 - Practical management techniques.
 - Marketing and funding orchard produce.
 - Community orchards.

2.2 Sustainable Economic Management

- Develop national links with producers, large and small.
- Investigate and establish sustainable economic producer schemes.

3. Research & Knowledge Base

3.1 Integration of Species, Habitats and Landscapes

- Improve knowledge of priority species, particularly ecology of Traditional Orchard invertebrates e.g. noble chafer, apple tree lacebug.
- Collect further information on occurrence and value of linear orchards (e.g. fruit trees in hedgerows) to biodiversity.
- Pursue further research into the function of 'open grown tree' landscapes for biodiversity.
- Develop the concept of orchard landscapes and their functional role; identify suitable areas for expansion.
- Acquire further information on the value of orchards:
 - Managed in a 'medium intensity' way and the impact of this on biodiversity.
 - Previously managed intensively and the impact of this on biodiversity.
- Acquire further information on biodiversity and value of orchard types in non-farmed situations and develop criteria to readily identify those of biodiversity value.

3.2 Conservation of Genetic Resource

- Explore possibility of extending current Defra genetic finger printing research to Traditional Orchard varieties.
- Develop local and regional collections of fruit varieties into a more formal network.
- Investigate funding streams to resource local groups managing collections and cost effective ways to identify varieties.

4. Survey & Monitoring

4.1 Inventories

- Confirm and update Traditional Orchard area (ha) extent estimates.
- Complete and maintain the Traditional Orchards inventory using aerial photography and as much ground-truthing as is possible.
- Complete a historic and relict orchard inventory based on c.1890 & 1930 maps with reference to current land use (aerial photographs)

4.2 Monitoring framework & methodology

- Develop a sampling strategy to monitor the change in extent of Traditional Orchards. Explore possibility of using aerial photography.
- Develop a standard condition assessment methodology to monitor condition changes.

5. Communication

5.1 Advice

- Maintain the Orchard Network website as a source of advice on orchard wildlife and sustainable land management.
- Develop other advisory material e.g. survey methods.
- Explore other ways of reaching orchard managers with advice and information.
- Inform orchard managers that Traditional Orchards are eligible for CAP Single Farm Payment.

5.2 Promote and Celebrate

- Promote and celebrate the value of orchards for wildlife at orchard events e.g. Apple Days, Wassails, Blossom Days.

Refining Targets

These are working targets that we will be refined overtime as new data and information becomes available. They are quite aspirational but we hope LBAPs will continue to pursue and develop local targets, which in turn will help to inform these targets.

Monitoring Targets

Monitoring is essential if targets are to have any meaning. A sample approach will be adopted as is currently done for BAP grasslands, heathlands and hedgerows. In England, the Traditional Orchard inventory would provide the population to be sampled in a statistically-robust way.

Suitable monitoring methods will be investigated and a sampling framework developed in each country by 2015.

Reporting on Targets and Actions

Progress on the Traditional Orchards Targets and Actions will be reported via the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) <http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/>

Partners

Natural England and the National Trust are joint lead partners for this priority UK habitat. The Traditional Orchards HAP Steering Group includes representatives and or corresponding contacts from Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland, the National Trust, People's Trust for Endangered Species, the Tree Council, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Somerset County Council, Weston's, the Ancient Tree Forum, and Common Ground.

UK Traditional Orchards Group
April 2010

