

## **10.10 ARABLE PLANT COMMUNITIES**

Many plant species classed as arable weeds have declined throughout their former ranges in the British Isles and are now widely perceived as rare and threatened. Modern intensive farming methods including seed cleaning techniques, use of selected herbicides, greater use of fertilisers and changes to traditional crop rotations have all affected the diversity and abundance of arable weeds. Today these plant communities are typically restricted to field margins and abandoned or derelict land. Often they occur as impoverished communities consisting only of the more resilient species.

Designating fields or parts of fields that support elements of this flora as Wildlife Sites has not previously been undertaken in Derbyshire, although sites have been designated elsewhere in the UK. The transitory nature of some of these weeds creates problems in the selection of sites and good sites may vary from year to year depending upon management and physical conditions.

### **Arable Plant Selection Guideline**

Sites that meet one or more of the following guidelines will be eligible for designation as a Wildlife Site.

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#### **Ar1 Arable plant communities that score 8 or more from Table 6.**

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**UKBAP Habitat Action Plan – Cereal Field Margins**

**LBAP Habitat Action Plans – Cereal Field Margins (LD), Arable (PD)**

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#### **Application**

Any arable plant community present within a field or field margin that meets the above guideline can be selected. Arable plants should ideally be present as part of an agricultural crop rotation system that allows the community to persist. Community composition may change during the course of the crop rotation.

#### **Justification**

Arable plant species and communities have been undergoing national declines since the 1950s and probably before. Many species typical of arable land-use are now rare nationally and in Derbyshire. Arable plants are a distinctive part of our flora and culture and often provide a valuable food source for farmland invertebrates, birds and mammals.

**Table 6: Arable weeds of Derbyshire**

## Scoring

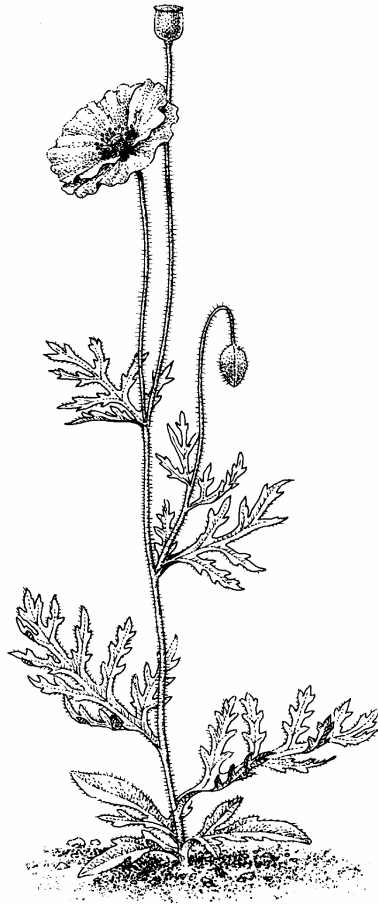
All species score 1 with the exception of those species in **bold** (Derbyshire Red Data Book Plant Species; provisional March 2002) which score 2.

Species marked with \* have no post 1987 records in Derbyshire.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	Fool's Parsley
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corncockle
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Black Bent
<i>Aira praecox</i>	Early Hair-grass
<i>Anagallis arvensis (and ssp.)</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<b><i>Anagallis minima</i></b>	<b>Chaffweed*</b>
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss
<i>Apera interrupta</i>	Dense Silky-bent
<i>Apera spica-venti</i>	Loose Silky-bent
<i>Aphanes arvensis agg.</i>	Parsley Piert
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild Oat
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oat
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower
<b><i>Cerastium arvense</i></b>	<b>Field Mouse-ear</b>
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Little Mouse-ear
<b><i>Chaenorhinum minus</i></b>	<b>Small Toadflax</b>
<i>Chenopodium album agg.</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Chenopodium polyspermum</i>	Many-seeded Goosefoot
<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	Red Goosefoot
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold
<i>Coronopus squamatus</i>	Swine-cress
<i>Erodium cicutarium agg.</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed
<b><i>Fumaria muralis</i></b>	<b>Common Ramping-fumitory</b>

<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory
<i>Galeopsis bifida</i>	Bifid Hemp-nettle
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	Large-flowered Hemp-nettle
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Small-flowered Crane's-bill
<b><i>Kickxia elatine</i></b>	<b>Sharp-leaved Fluellen</b>
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Hen-bit Dead-nettle
<b><i>Legousia hybrida</i></b>	<b>Venus's-looking-glass</b>
<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Field Pepperwort
<b><i>Lepidium heterophyllum</i></b>	<b>Smith's Pepperwort</b>
<b><i>Lepidium ruderale</i></b>	<b>Narrow-leaved Pepperwort</b>
<b><i>Lithospermum arvense</i></b>	<b>Field Gromwell</b>
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Corn Mint
<b><i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i></b>	<b>Bird's-foot</b>
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long-headed Poppy
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	Pale Persicaria
<b><i>Ranunculus arvensis</i></b>	<b>Corn Buttercup</b>
<b><i>Ranunculus sardous</i></b>	<b>Hairy Buttercup</b>
<b><i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i></b>	<b>Shepherd's-needle</b>
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	Night-flowering Catchfly
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field Woundwort
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	Field Penny-cress
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle
<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	Keeled-fruited Cornsalad
<b><i>Valerianella dentata</i></b>	<b>Narrow-fruited Cornsalad*</b>
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Common Cornsalad

<i>Veronica agrestis</i>	Green Field-speedwell
<i>Veronica polita</i>	Grey Field-speedwell



Poppy