

The UK native breeds support (NBS) list is currently published for information only. This list will come into effect in March 2026.

The current [native breeds at risk \(NBAR\)](#) list is applicable until March 2026 and should be used when determining eligibility for native breed agri-environment payments.

## UK native breeds support (NBS) list (for information only)

This list recognises all UK Government-approved native breeds of livestock and equines.

The list categorises breeds as 'at risk' or 'not at risk' according to estimated breeding female population levels against set Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) thresholds (Table 1).

Breeds are categorised as 'uncategorised' if no breeding female population data has been provided.

At risk native breeds are considered vulnerable and are therefore eligible for native breed agri-environment supplements (in England). Breeds that are categorised as 'not at risk' and 'uncategorised' are not eligible for these payments.

The rules for inclusion on the UK NBS List (in either the 'at risk', 'not at risk' or 'uncategorised' sections) are that:

- the breed must be a native breed of cattle, equines, pigs, sheep, goats (with heritage semi feral being listed separately)
- sufficient data must be submitted to Defra to enable the estimated number of pedigree breeding females to be calculated for that native breed (the methodology for these estimates is set out in the latest Breed Inventory results statistics release)
- an estimated pedigree breeding female population below the FAO threshold detailed below makes the breed 'at risk'
- an estimated pedigree breeding female population above the FAO threshold detailed below makes the breed 'not at risk'
- if insufficient data is submitted to estimate the number of pedigree breeding females according to the rules above, the breed is 'uncategorised'  
a breed in the 'uncategorised' section may be moved into the 'at risk' or 'not at risk' section where sufficient data is provided to estimate the number of pedigree breeding females according to the rules above

Please see the supporting [Definitions for use in the National Breed Inventory](#).

The population numbers and categories are based on [2024 UK National Breed Inventory](#) data (published in 2025).

**Table 1 - The NBS List thresholds, based on UNFAO for a breed to be considered 'at risk'.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of estimated pedigree breeding females</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	< 6,000
<b>Equines</b>	< 6,000
<b>Goats</b>	< 6,000
<b>Sheep</b>	< 6,000
<b>Pigs</b>	< 2,000

Prior to the NBS list coming into force, the linked society for each native breed will also be listed, following the completion and approval of the native breed society application form. This application outlines the criteria and supporting evidence required for inclusion in the national breed inventory. Compared to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 (UK assimilated law), it adopts a more flexible approach, particularly regarding the establishment of the breeding book. Consequently, if a society is a 'linked breed society' this doesn't necessarily mean that it is a 'recognised breed society' under Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 (UK assimilated law).

## **1. Cattle**

### **1.1 At risk cattle breeds**

The threshold to be considered 'at risk' is less than 6,000 estimated breeding females. Breeds categorised as 'at risk' are eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

- Belted Galloway
- British White
- Chillingham
- Dairy Shorthorn
- Dexter
- Galloway
- Gloucester
- Guernsey
- Highland
- Irish Moiled
- Lincoln Red
- Longhorn
- Northern Dairy Shorthorn

- Red Poll
- Shetland
- Sussex
- Vaynol
- Welsh Black
- White Galloway
- White Park
- Whitebred Shorthorn

## 1.2 Not at risk cattle breeds

Breeds categorised as 'not at risk' are not eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

- Aberdeen Angus
- Ayrshire
- Beef Shorthorn
- British Friesian
- Devon
- Hereford
- Jersey
- Luing
- South Devon

## 2. Equines

### 2.1 At risk equine breeds

The threshold to be considered 'at risk' by the FAO is less than 6,000 estimated breeding females. Breeds categorised as 'at risk' are eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

Defra have introduced a new method to determine estimated female breeding population for equine breeds, published as part of the UK National Breed Inventory in 2025.

- Cleveland Bay Horse
- Clydesdale Horse
- Dales Pony
- Dartmoor Pony
- Eriskay Pony
- Exmoor Pony
- Fell Pony
- Hackney
- Highland Pony
- New Forest Pony
- Shire Horse

- Suffolk Horse
- Welsh Mountain Pony (Section A)
- Welsh Pony (Section B)
- Welsh Pony of Cob Type (Section C)
- Welsh Cob (Section D)

## 2.2 Not at risk equine breeds

Breeds categorised as 'not at risk' are not eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

- Shetland Pony

## 3. Sheep

### 3.1 At risk sheep breeds

The threshold to be considered 'at risk' is less than 6,000 estimated breeding females. Breeds categorised as 'at risk' are eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

- Badger Face Welsh (Torddu)
- Badger Face Welsh (Torwen)
- Balwen
- Border Leicester
- Boreray
- Castlemilk Moorit
- Clun Forest
- Cotswold
- Derbyshire Gritstone
- Devon and Cornwall Longwool
- Devon Closewool
- Dorset Down
- Dorset Horn
- Epynt Hardy Speckled
- Exmoor Horn
- Greyface Dartmoor
- Hampshire Down
- Hebridean
- Hill Radnor
- Jacob
- Kerry Hill
- Leicester Longwool
- Lincoln Longwool
- Llanwenog
- Lonk
- Manx Loaghtan

- Norfolk Horn
- North Ronaldsay
- Oxford Down
- Portland
- Shetland Mainland
- Shropshire
- Soay
- Southdown
- Teeswater
- Wensleydale
- White Face Dartmoor
- Whitefaced Woodland
- Wiltshire Horn

### **3.2 Not at risk sheep breeds**

Breeds categorised as 'not at risk' are not eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

- Beulah Speckled Face
- Bluefaced Leicester
- Dalesbred
- Lleyn
- Poll Dorset
- Rough Fell
- Ryeland (including Coloured Ryeland)
- Suffolk Sheep
- Swaledale
- Welsh Mountain

## **4. Goats**

### **4.1 At risk goat breeds**

The threshold to be considered 'at risk' is less than 6,000 estimated breeding females. Breeds categorised as 'at risk' are eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

- Bagot
- Cheviot Goats
- Golden Guernsey
- Old English Goats
- Saanen
- Toggenberg

## 5. Pigs

### 5.1 At risk pig breeds

The threshold to be considered 'at risk' is less than 2,000 estimated breeding females. Breeds categorised as 'at risk' are eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

The breeding female populations of all pig breeds except for British Lop are actual census figures for live animals rather than estimates based on registrations.

- Berkshire
- British Lop
- British Saddleback
- Gloucestershire Old Spots
- Landrace
- Large Black
- Large White
- Middle White
- Oxford Sandy and Black
- Tamworth
- Welsh

## 6. Uncategorised breeds

Defra has received insufficient population data for the breeds listed below and therefore is unable to calculate the estimated breeding female population. For equines this is a count of the females who have bred in a ten-year period. Such data gaps mean that Defra and the UKGLE Committee do not have the information required to monitor population trends or inform decisions about the risk status of the breed.

An 'uncategorised' breed can be recategorised as 'at risk' or 'not at risk' by providing data to the UK National Breed Inventory that enables estimates of breeding females to be made. Until the relevant data is submitted, the breed will remain in the 'uncategorised' section.

Uncategorised breeds are not eligible for native breed agri-environment payments.

### 6.1 Equines

- Percheron
- Thoroughbred

### 6.2 Sheep

- Black Welsh Mountain
- Herdwick

- North Country Cheviot
- Romney
- Scottish Blackface
- South Country Cheviot

### **6.3 Heritage semi-feral populations**

The NBS list includes herds or flocks that have been officially recognised by Defra as heritage semi feral populations under Defra's existing heritage semi feral application scheme. To retain their heritage semi-feral status, they are required to remain within their designated, or similar, environment and remain semi-feral. The tests that are used to [define heritage semi-feral populations](#) can be viewed on GOV.UK.

- Dartmoor Hill Pony

NOT CURRENT POLICY