Aid to assessment of thinning need
For each variety, if more than 50% of buds are floral, first decide which GROUP is appropriate, then considering each factor, award a score accordingly. If desirable, a personal score system may be developed with experience of individual orchards.

GROUP A
Strongly biennial varieties.
Tremletts, Somerset
Redstreak, Vilberie etc
Thinning is not normally recommended for this group.

GROUP B
Young trees, vigorous varieties
Browns Apple
Sweet Coppin
Yarlington Mill
Old trees of Michelin and Dabinett

GROUP C
Weakly biennial varieties
Michelin
Dabinett
Harry Masters
Chisel Jersey

ORCHARD SCORE
1] Soil type
Grade 1/good 2 4
Grade 2/3 2

2] Tree condition
Poor/fair/good 1-7

3] Past crop record
Yields reducing 0
Biennial 2
Yields rising 5

4] Last year’s crop
Heavy 1-4
Moderate 5-7
Light – off 8-10

5] Harvesting date
Late/mature 1
Early/immature 2-3

6] Weak blossom
Omit NAA

WEATHER
7] Autumn
Short/cool/long/warm 1-5

8] Prolonged winter
wet grade 1 -1
grade 2/3 -4

9] Spring abnormally
warm -1

10] Severe frost after
bud burst -4
-8

SCORE
12 or more
Spray Carbaryl + NAA at petal fall. Reassess after 10 days. Repeat if more than 50% of clusters bear fruit

8 – 12
Group C. Wait 10 days. Assess fruit-set before spray as above.

8 -12
Weak blossom. Omit NAA from petal fall spray.

Less than 8
No thinning required.