

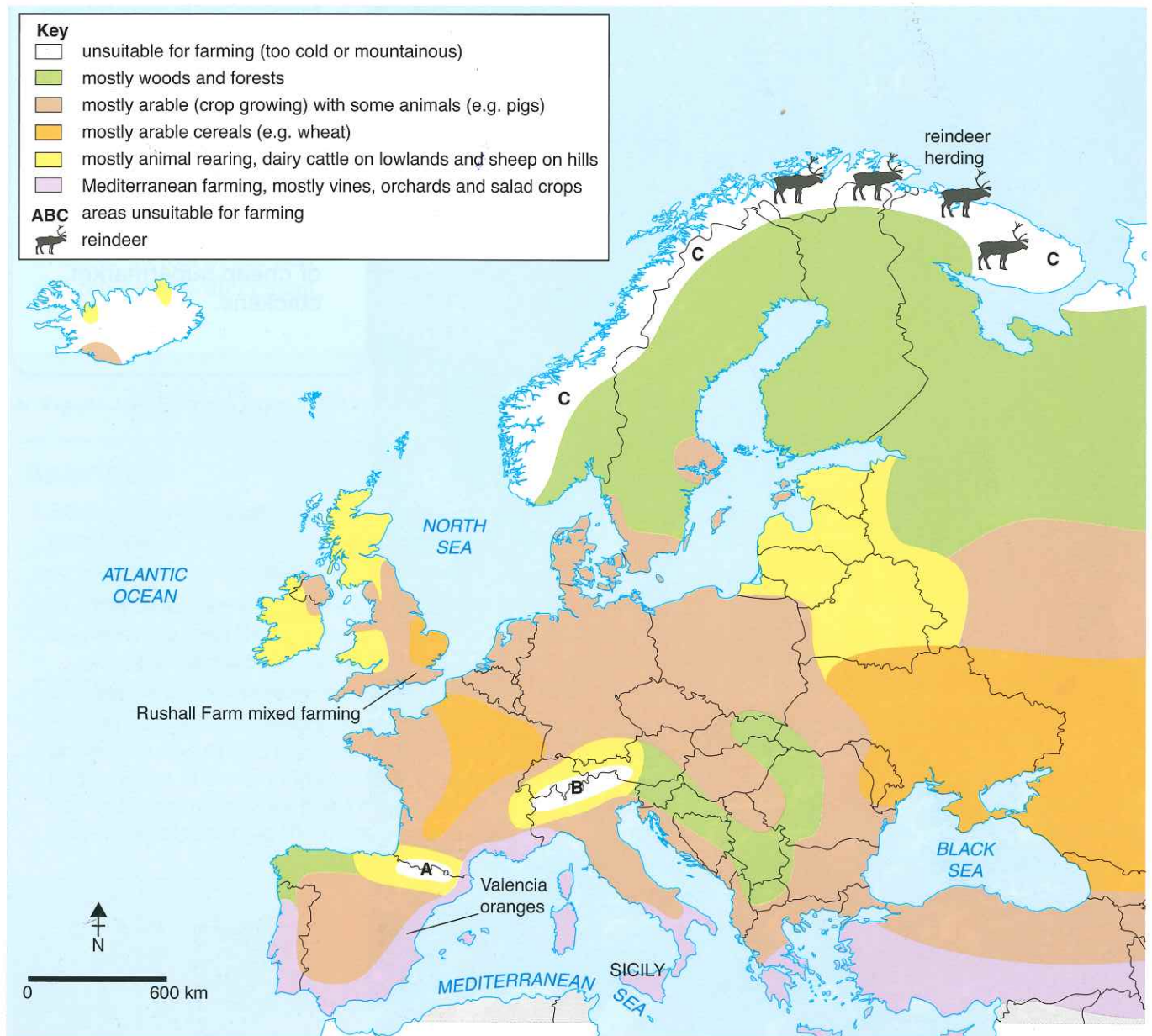
A Farming patterns in Europe

Look at Figure 1. It shows the main types of farming in Europe. Notice that there is a great variety of farming, from forestry and reindeer herding in the north to cereals in the centre and dairying in the west. Towards the south of Europe vineyards and orchards are common. In this chapter we are going to study three very different types of farming in Europe: a mixed farm in the UK, reindeer herding in Norway and oranges in Spain.

On a continental scale the main factor affecting farming is the climate. The wet mild climate in Western Europe suits dairying. The

drier climate in central Europe favours crops such as wheat and barley. The colder climates of the north are not good for farming, which is why forests are common. In the south around the coast of the Mediterranean the hot and sunny climate is ideal for grapes, citrus fruit and tomatoes.

Figure 1 is a simplified map of farming. In reality, within each type of farming there is considerable variety due to local conditions of climate, soils and markets. Look at Figure 3, which shows in more detail the farming types on the Italian island of Sicily.



▲ Figure 1 Farming patterns in Europe