

**European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)**

Third Report by the United Kingdom under
Article 17

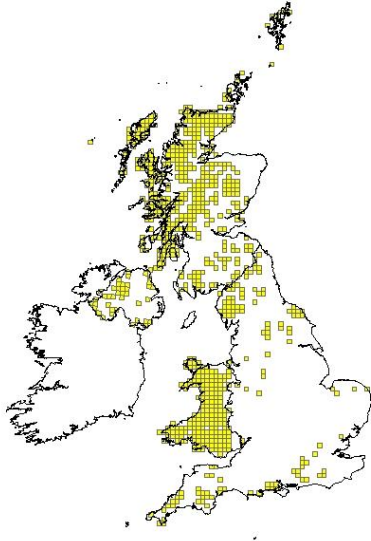
on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2007 to December 2012
Conservation status assessment for

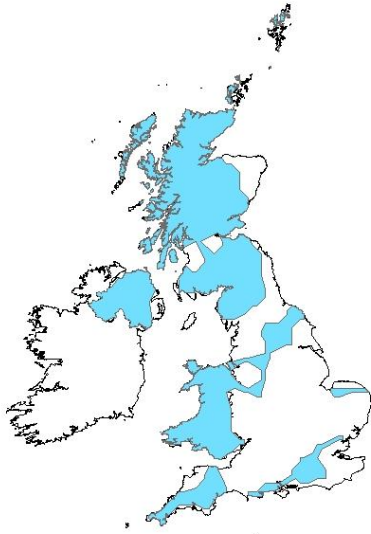
Habitat:

H4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

Reporting format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex I Habitats Types

0.2 Habitat code	H4010
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1.1 Maps	
1.1.1 Distribution map	True
	
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
1.1.2 Method used - map	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
1.1.3 Year or period	1962-2012
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
1.1.4 Additional distribution map Optional	False
1.1.5 Range map	True

	
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document

2.1 Biogeographical region or marine regions	ATL
2.2 Published sources	<p>Information sources as supplied by Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Anglesey Grazing Animals Partnership http://www.agap-ynysmon.co.uk/</p> <p>Averis, A. 2001. Vegetation survey of selected proposed extensions to the Eryri SAC comprising parts of the Glyderiau and Carneddau SSSI, Gwynedd, Wales. CCW Science Report 448.</p> <p>Averis, A., 2002. Vegetation survey of the eastern part of the Carneddau SSSI and cSAC, Conwy, Summer 2001. CCW Science Report 535.</p> <p>Averis, B. 2002. Vegetation survey of two areas in Elenydd SSSI, Ceredigion, Wales 2002. CCW Science Report 541.</p> <p>Averis, B. 2002. Vegetation survey of parts of the Migneint-Ddualt area, North Wales 2001. CCW Science Report 533.</p> <p>Averis, B. 2002. Vegetation survey of Mynydd Eglwyseg, Denbighshire, Wales 2000-2001. CCW Science Report 542.</p> <p>Averis A. and Averis, B, 2004. Vegetation survey of Rhinog Site of Special Scientific Interest, 2003. CCW Science Report 654.</p> <p>Averis, B. and Averis, A., 2002. Vegetation survey of the western part of the Carneddau, Eryri Site of Special Scientific Interest and candidate Special Area of Conservation NW Wales 2002. CCW Science Report 577.</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Reporting System http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/archive/search/losses_results.asp</p> <p>Blackstock T. H., Howe E. A., Stevens J. P., Burrows C. R. & Jones P. S.</p>

	<p>2010. Habitats of Wales. A comprehensive field survey 1979–1997. University of Wales Press, Cardiff.</p> <p>Cadw'r Iliw yn Llyn/Llyn Landscape Partnership http://cymru.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/nef/casestudies/cs4</p> <p>CCW Phase 2 survey team 2004-2005 Mynydd Preseli SSSI (Mapinfo data no report).</p> <p>Forgotten Landscapes http://www.forgottenlandscapes.org.uk/the-project/</p> <p>Gray, D.A., 2004. A National Vegetation Survey (NVC) of the Brecon Beacons SSSI. CCW Science Report 667</p> <p>Gray, D.A., 2002. NVC Survey of proposed extensions to Eryri cSAC (Glydeirau and Y Wyddfa). CCW Contract Science Report 517.</p> <p>Gray, D.A., 2003. NVC Survey of Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangynidr. CCW Contract Science Report 605.</p> <p>Gritten R. 2012. Conservation Assessment of Lowland Heathland in the Upland Fringes (Ffrid Zone) of Snowdonia National Park. CCW Science Report No.992.</p> <p>Heather and Hillforts Landscape Partnership http://heatherandhillforts.co.uk/</p> <p>Jerram, R., 2005. Pumlumon SSSI. Survey of National Vegetation Communities and Vegetation Condition. CCW West Region Report WW/05/3.</p> <p>Jones, D. L. and Jones, G (2008). A Strategic Conservation Assessment of Heathland And Associated Habitats on the Coal Spoils of South Wales. Phase 2: Assessment of Environmental Parameters. CCW Science Report 824.</p> <p>Lamacraft, D. Vanstone A and R. I. Thorpe. 2012. Management for bird priorities and implications for site features and the CCW upland framework. (FINAL DRAFT) CCW Science Report 994.</p> <p>Nature Conservancy Council (NCC). 1990. Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough. Reprinted by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in 1993 and 2003 with minor amendments.</p> <p>Power S.A., Green, E.R., Barker, C.G., Bell, J.N.B. & Ashmore, M.R. (2006). Ecosystem recovery: heathland response to a reduction in nitrogen deposition. <i>Global Change Biology</i>, 12, 1241–1252.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1995). Gwynedd lowland heathland survey 1994. CCW Contract Science Report 113, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1995). Gwynedd lowland heathland survey supplement. CCW Contract Science Report 143, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1995). Pembrokeshire lowland heathland survey 1996. CCW Contract Science Report 205, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1996). Pembrokeshire lowland heathland survey 1995. CCW Contract Science Report 169, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1996). Survey of the Rivers Ystwyth & Rheidol shingle heath sites. CCW Contract Science Report 208, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1998). Lowland heathland survey of Wales. Pembrokeshire 1997. CCW Contract Science Report 309, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1998). Lowland heathland survey of Wales. The Gower commons 1997. CCW Contract Science Report 310, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p> <p>Prosser, M.V. & Wallace, H.L. (1999). Lowland heathlands of Wales. Additional sites surveyed in 1998. CCW Contract Science Report 310, Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.</p>
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 UK distribution map data sources

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UK Distribution Map data sources

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 JNCC International Designations Database. Joint Nature Conservation Committee
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 Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 1986-93. Environmental Heritage Service & University of Ulster
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 Stevens, J. and J.Sherry: H4010 Northern Atlantic Wet Heath with *Erica tetralix* Inventory

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2.3 Range	
2.3.1 Surface area Range	132751.78
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.3.2 Method used Range	Complete survey/Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.3.3 Short-term trend Period	2001-2012
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.3.4 Short-term trend Trend direction	stable
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.3.5 Short-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum
	b) Maximum
2.3.6 Long-term trend Period Optional	1994-2012
	based on a combination of the trend info given under 2.3.3 and the trend info given in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.3.7 Long-term trend Trend direction Optional	stable
	based on a combination of the trend info given under 2.3.4 and the trend info given in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.3.8 Long-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum

	b) Maximum	
2.3.9 Favourable reference range	a) Value in km².	132751.78
	this is an updated value based on the latest version of the UK range mapping tool and the latest 10km square distribution data for the habitat - this data provides a more accurate baseline than used in 2007 to set the Favourable Reference Range value - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document	
	b) Operator	
	c) FRR is unknown (indicated by "True")	False
	d) Method used to set FRR	the approach taken to set the Favourable Reference Range is explained in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064) - further details are given in the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.3.10 Reason for change Is the difference between the reported value in 2.3.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to:	a) Genuine change?	False
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	True
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")	True
	the use of a revised range mapping tool has contributed significantly to the differences in calculated range area - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document	

2.4 Area covered by habitat

2.4.1 Surface area	Value in km²	4677.14
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		for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.4.2 Year or period	1987-2012	
		for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.4.3 Method used Area covered by habitat	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling	
		for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.4.4 Short-term trend Period	1998-2012	
		for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.4.5 Short-term trend Trend direction	stable	
		for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.4.6 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
Optional		
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.7 Short-term trend Method used	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling	
		for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.4.8 Long-term trend Period	1994-2012	
Optional		based on a combination of the trend period given under 2.4.4 and the trend info in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.4.9 Long-term trend - Trend direction	stable	
Optional		based on a combination of the trend direction given under 2.4.5 and the trend info in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document

2.4.10 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.11 Long-term trend Method used	Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling	
	Optional based on a combination of the trend method under 2.4.3 and the 'quality of area data' in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document	
2.4.12 Favourable reference area	a) Value in km²	4677.14
	this is an updated value based on the latest, most accurate, area data for the habitat (see 2.4.1) - this data provides a more accurate baseline than used in 2007 to set the Favourable Reference Area value - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document	
	b) Operator	
	c) FRA is unknown (indicated by true")	False
	d) Method used to set FRA value	the approach taken to set the Favourable Reference Area is explained in the 2007 Article 17 habitat report (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064)
2.4.13 Reason for change Is the difference between the reported value in 2.4.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to:	a) Genuine change?	False
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	True
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")	False
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	

2.5 Main pressures		
a) Pressure	b) Ranking H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	c) Pollution qualifier
A04: grazing	H	
F03: deer grazing/ browsing/ trampling	H	
H04: Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	H	AN
J01: fire and fire suppression	H	
B01: forest planting on open ground	M	
C03: Renewable abiotic energy use	M	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	M	
I02: problematic native species	M	
K02: Biocenotic evolution, succession	M	
A03: mowing / cutting of grassland	L	
C01: Mining and quarrying	L	
D02: Utility and service lines	L	
E01: Urbanised areas, human habitation	L	
G02: Sport and leisure structures	L	
G05: Other human intrusions and disturbances	L	
H01: Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	L	NP
H02: Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	L	NP
I01: invasive non-native species	L	
J02: human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	L	
K04: Interspecific floral relations	L	

for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information

2.5.1 Method used – pressures	based exclusively or to a larger extent on real data from sites/occurrences or other data sources
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information

2.6. Main threats

a) Threats	b) Ranking H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	c) Pollution qualifier
A04: grazing	H	
B01: forest planting on open ground	H	
F03: deer grazing/ browsing/ trampling	H	
H04: Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	H	AN
J01: fire and fire suppression	H	
C03: Renewable abiotic energy use	M	
I02: problematic native species	M	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	L	
D02: Utility and service lines	L	
E01: Urbanised areas, human habitation	L	
G01: Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	L	
G05: Other human intrusions and disturbances	L	
H01: Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	L	
H02: Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	L	
I01: invasive non-native species	L	
J02: human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	L	
K02: Biocenotic evolution, succession	L	
K04: Interspecific floral relations	L	

M01: Changes in abiotic conditions	L	
M02: Changes in biotic conditions	L	

for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information

2.6.1 Method used –threats	expert opinion
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information

2.7 Complementary information	
2.7.1 Typical species (as used in the assessment of Structure and function)	
	a list of the specific species used to assess the condition of the habitat during the reporting period is not available
2.7.2 Typical species – method used	the status of various plant species has been considered when the condition of individual sites supporting the habitat have been assessed - these assessments have utilised Common Standards Monitoring Guidance, information on which is available via http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2199 (refer to guidance on individual habitats for details) - a list of the specific species used during the reporting period is, however, not available
2.7.3 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
2.7.4 Structure and functions - Methods used	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
2.7.5 Other relevant information	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information

2.8 Conclusions <i>(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</i>	
2.8.1 Range	a) Conclusion Favourable
	Conclusion reached because: (i) 2.3.4 Range short-term trend direction is stable; (ii) 2.3.1 Range surface area is not less than 2.3.9 Favourable Reference Range; - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
	b) Qualifier
2.8.2 Area	a) Conclusion Favourable
	Conclusion reached because: (i) 2.4.5 Area short-term trend direction is stable; (ii) 2.4.1. Surface area is not less than 2.4.12 Favourable Reference Area; - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
	b) Qualifier
2.8.3 Specific structures and functions (incl. typical species)	a) Conclusion Bad
	Conclusion reached because available site condition data indicate that more than 25% of the habitat is in unfavourable condition (based on SAC, SSSI/ASSI and non-SSSI/ASSI data 50% of area unfavourable; and based on SSSI/ASSI data 89% of features/monitoring units unfavourable) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
	b) Qualifier declining Qualifier reached because available site condition data, modified to take account of the current level of nutrient Nitrogen critical load exceedance (= 31% in 2005), indicate that more of the habitat in unfavourable condition is declining than recovering (based on SAC, SSSI/ASSI and non SSSI/ASSI data 35869ha declining and 20111ha recovering; based on SSSI/ASSI data 0 features/monitoring units declining and 0 recovering) - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document
2.8.4 Future prospects	a) Conclusion Bad
	Conclusion reached because: (i) 2.3.4 Range short-term trend direction is stable and 2.3.1 Range surface area is expected to be not less than 2.3.9 Favourable Reference Range in c.2025; (ii) 2.4.5 Area short-term trend direction is stable and 2.4.1. Surface area is

	<p>expected to be not less than 2.4.12 Favourable Reference Area in c.2025;</p> <p>(iii) available site condition data indicate that more than 25% of the habitat might be in unfavourable condition in c.2025 (based on SAC, SSSI/ASSI and non-SSSI/ASSI data = 59% of area unfavourable; and based on SSSI/ASSI data = 50% monitoring units/features unfavourable) - in addition, the level of threat from nutrient Nitrogen critical load exceedance is assessed as 'High', which is likely to have a substantial negative impact on the condition of the habitat;</p> <p>- for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document</p>	
	b) Qualifier	improving
	<p>Qualifier reached because:</p> <p>(i) 2.3.4 Range short-term trend direction is stable;</p> <p>(ii) 2.4.5 Area short-term trend direction is stable;</p> <p>(iii) available site condition data, modified to take account of the predicted level of nutrient Nitrogen critical load exceedance (= 33% in 2020), indicate that less of the habitat might be in unfavourable condition in c.2025 (based on SAC, SSSI/ASSI and non SSSI/ASSI data from 89% to 69% of area unfavourable; based on SSSI/ASSI data from 50% to 50% of features/monitoring units unfavourable);</p> <p>- for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document</p>	
2.8.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Bad	
	<p>Based on individual conclusions for Range, Area, Structures and functions, and Future Prospects - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document</p>	
2.8.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	stable	
	<p>Based on trends/qualifiers for Range, Area, Structures and functions, and Future Prospects - for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document</p>	

3. Natura 2000 coverage & conservation measures - Annex I habitat types

3.1 Area covered by habitat

3.1.1 Surface area

a) Minimum

1034.25

Estimation of habitat type surface area included <u>in the SAC network</u> .	This is based on information submitted to the European Union as part of a Standard Data Form for each candidate SAC. The source information used for these data are available on an individual site basis within a downloadable spreadsheet http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1461 . (Go to the sheet 'Site feature data' and filter on the relevant habitats). Individual site data forms can be accessed here: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458 . For the vast majority of sites the habitat extent figures are based on the best available information at the time of the original submission of the site as a candidate SAC to the European Union. In many cases these data have been compiled in the early 2000s, i.e. more than ten years prior to this report.	
	b) Maximum	1034.25
3.1.2 Method used	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling	
	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	
3.1.3 Trend of surface area within the network	stable	
Optional	for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information	

3.2 Conservation measures

Conservation measures taken (i.e. already being implemented) within the reporting period and provided information about their importance, location and evaluation.

3.2.1 Measure	3.2.2 Type					3.2.3 Ranking H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	3.2.4 Location where the measure is PRIMARILY applied			3.2.5 Broad evaluation of the measure					
	a) Legal/statutory	b) Administrative	c) Contractual	d) Recurrent	e) One-off		a) Inside	b) Outside	c) Both inside & outside	a) Maintain	b) Enhance	c) Long term	d) No effect	e) Unknown	f) Not evaluated
1.3: No measure known/ impossible to carry out specific				Y		L			Y			Y			

measures															
2.0: Other agriculture-related measures				Y		L			Y			Y			
2.1: Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	Y		Y	Y	Y	H			Y		Y	Y			
3.0: Other forestry-related measures				Y		L			Y		Y				
4.2: Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	Y			Y	Y	L			Y		Y	Y			
4.3: Managing water abstraction			Y			L			Y		Y				
6.0: Other spatial measures				Y		L			Y						Y
6.1: Establish protected areas/sites	Y				Y	H			Y		Y	Y			
6.3: Legal protection of habitats and species	Y			Y		L			Y		Y	Y			
6.4: Manage landscape features		Y				L			Y		Y				
6.5: Adaptation/abolition of military land use		Y	Y	Y		L			Y		Y				
7.1: Regulation/Management of hunting and taking	Y		Y	Y	Y	H			Y		Y	Y			
7.4: Specific single species or species group management measures	Y		Y	Y		L			Y		Y	Y			
8.0: Other measures				Y	Y	L			Y		Y	Y			
8.2: Specific management of traffic and energy transport	Y	Y		Y		L			Y		Y	Y			

systems																			
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for further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information