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

Fourth Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17

on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2013 to December 2018

Supporting documentation for the
conservation status assessment for the habitat:

H1220 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks

NORTHERN IRELAND

IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ

- The information in this document is a country-level contribution to the UK Report on the conservation status of this habitat, submitted to the European Commission as part of the 2019 UK Reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.
- The 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this supporting information was used to produce the UK Report.
- The UK Report on the conservation status of this habitat is provided in a separate document.
- The reporting fields and options used are aligned to those set out in the European Commission guidance.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) by the country are included at the end. These provide an audit trail of relevant supporting information.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was only relevant at UK-level (sections 10 Future prospects and 11 Conclusions).
- For technical reasons, the country-level future trends for Range, Area covered by habitat and Structure and functions are only available in a separate spreadsheet that contains all the country-level supporting information.
- The country-level reporting information for all habitats and species is also available in spreadsheet format.

Visit the JNCC website, https://jncc.gov.uk/article17, for further information on UK Article 17 reporting.

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 17 for Annex I habitat types (Annex D)

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information

1.1 Member State	**UK (Northern Ireland information only)**
1.2 Habitat code	**1220 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	2013-2018
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.3 Distribution map Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
2.4 Additional maps	No

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

3. Biogeographical and marine regions

3.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the habitat occurs	**Atlantic (ATL)**
3.2 Sources of information	Data on aerial Nitrogen deposition taken from Air Pollution Information System website - http://www.apis.ac.uk/ Cooper, E.A., Crawford, I., Malloch, A.J.C. & Rodwell, J.S. (1992). Coastal vegetation survey of Northern Ireland. Lancaster, Lancaster University Environment and Heritage Service, Belfast. Northern Ireland Habitat Action Plan - Coastal Vegetated Shingle - March 2005 NIEA. Internal Condition Assessment Reports (various sites and years). Rodwell, J.S. (2000). British Plant Communities. Volume 5, Maritime Communities and Vegetation of Open habitats. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Rodwell, J.S., Dring, J.C., Averis, A.B.V., Proctor, M.C.F., Malloch, A.J.C., Schaminee, J.H.J & Dargie, T.C.D. 1998. Review of Coverage of the National Vegetation Classification. Lancaster: Unit of Vegetation Science report to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. JNCC (1997). Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom, Region 17 Northern Ireland. Coastal Directories Series Martin, J.R., Daly, O.H. and Devaney F.M. (2017) Survey and assessment of vegetated shingle and associated habitats at 30 coastal sites in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 98. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland.

4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)		
4.2 Short-term trend Period		
4.3 Short-term trend Direction	Stable (0)	
4.4 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
4.5 Short-term trend Method used		
4.6 Long-term trend Period		
4.7 Long-term trend Direction		
4.8 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
4.9 Long-term trend Method used		
4.10 Favourable reference range	a) Area (km²) b) Operator	

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 17 for Annex I habitat types (Annex D)

	c) Unknown	No
	d) Method	
4.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	No change	
	The change is mainly due to:	
4.12 Additional information		

5. Area covered by habitat

5.1 Year or period	2013-2018		
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value 0.4
5.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate		
5.4 Surface area Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate		
5.5 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018		
5.6 Short-term trend Direction	Stable (0)		
5.7 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Confidence interval
5.8 Short-term trend Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate		
5.9 Long-term trend Period	1994-2018		
5.10 Long-term trend Direction	Stable (0)		
5.11 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Confidence interval
5.12 Long-term trend Method used			
5.13 Favourable reference area	a) Area (km²)		
	b) Operator		
	c) Unknown	No	
	d) Method		
5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	No change		
	The change is mainly due to:		
5.15 Additional information			

6. Structure and functions

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum 0.02	Maximum 0.02
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum 0.35	Maximum 0.35
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum 0.03	Maximum 0.03
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate		
6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Period	2013-2018		
6.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Direction	Stable (0)		

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 17 for Annex I habitat types (Annex D)

6.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
6.6 Typical species	Has the list of typical species changed in comparison to the previous reporting period? No
6.7 Typical species Method used	
6.8 Additional information	

7. Main pressures and threats

7.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10)	H
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	M
Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell) (C01)	M
Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures) (F08)	M

Threat	Ranking
Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10)	M
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	M
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	H
Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell) (C01)	M
Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change (N04)	H
Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures) (F08)	M

7.2 Sources of information

7.3 Additional information

8. Conservation measures

8.1 Status of measures	a) Are measures needed?	Yes
	b) Indicate the status of measures	Measures identified, but none yet taken
8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species	
8.3 Location of the measures taken	Both inside and outside Natura 2000	
8.4 Response to the measures	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)	
8.5 List of main conservation measures		

Reinstate appropriate agricultural practices to address abandonment, including mowing, grazing, burning or equivalent

measures (CA04)	
Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (CA05)	
Adapt/manage extraction of non-energy resources (CC01)	
Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development (CF10)	
Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)	
Reduce/eliminate air pollution from agricultural activities (CA12)	

8.6 Additional information

9. Future prospects

9.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range b) Area c) Structure and functions
9.2 Additional information	

10. Conclusions

10.1. Range	
10.2. Area	
10.3. Specific structure and functions (incl. typical species)	
10.4. Future prospects	
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	
10.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend	a) Overall assessment of conservation status No change The change is mainly due to: b) Overall trend in conservation status No change The change is mainly due to:
10.8 Additional information	

11. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex I habitat types

11.1 Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (in km² in biogeographical/ marine region)	a) Minimum b) Maximum c) Best single value 0.3
11.2 Type of estimate	Best estimate
11.3 Surface area of the habitat type inside the network Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network Direction	Stable (0)

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 17 for Annex I habitat types (Annex D)

11.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within network Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
11.6 Additional information	

12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
12.2 Other relevant information	

Distribution Map

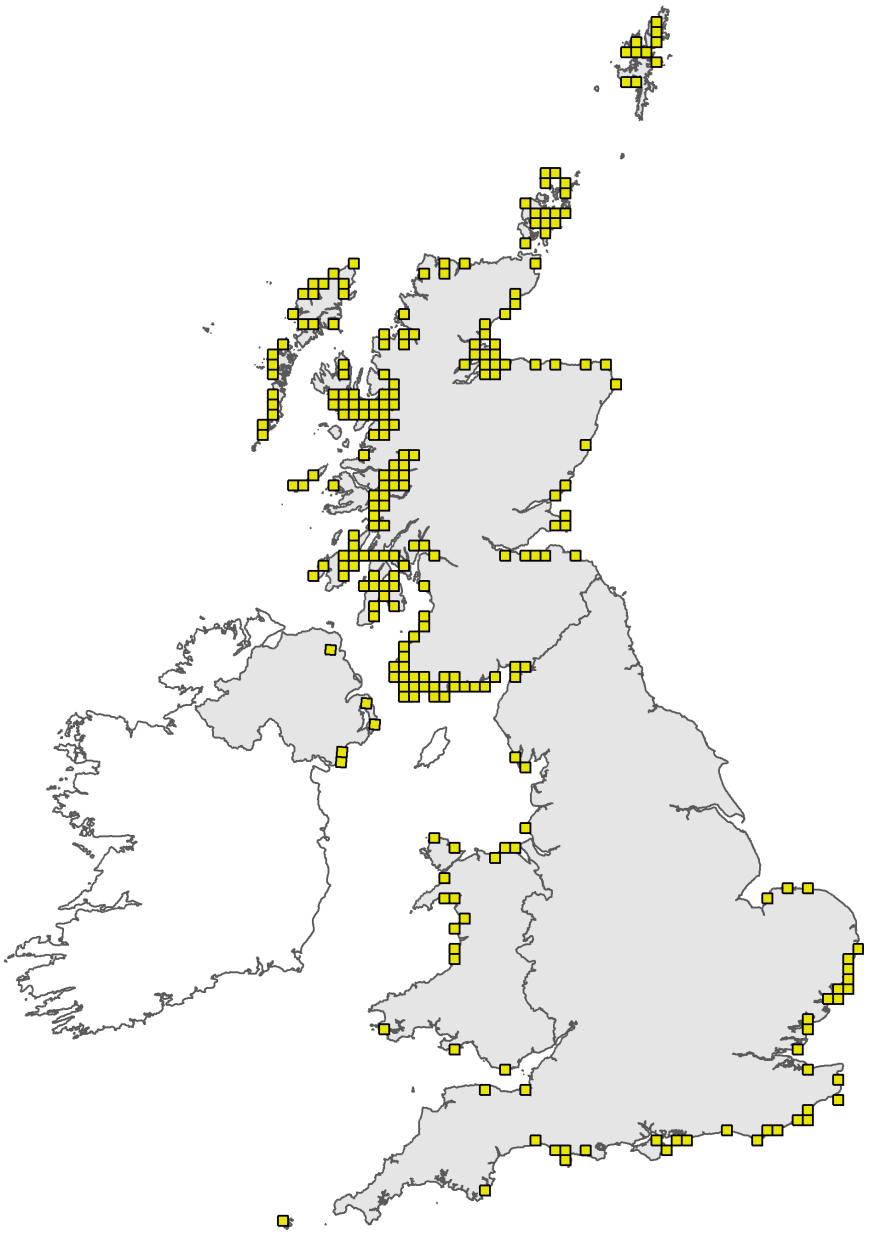

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H1220 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available habitat records which are considered to be representative of the distribution within the current reporting period. For further details see the 2019 Article17 UK Approach document.

Range Map

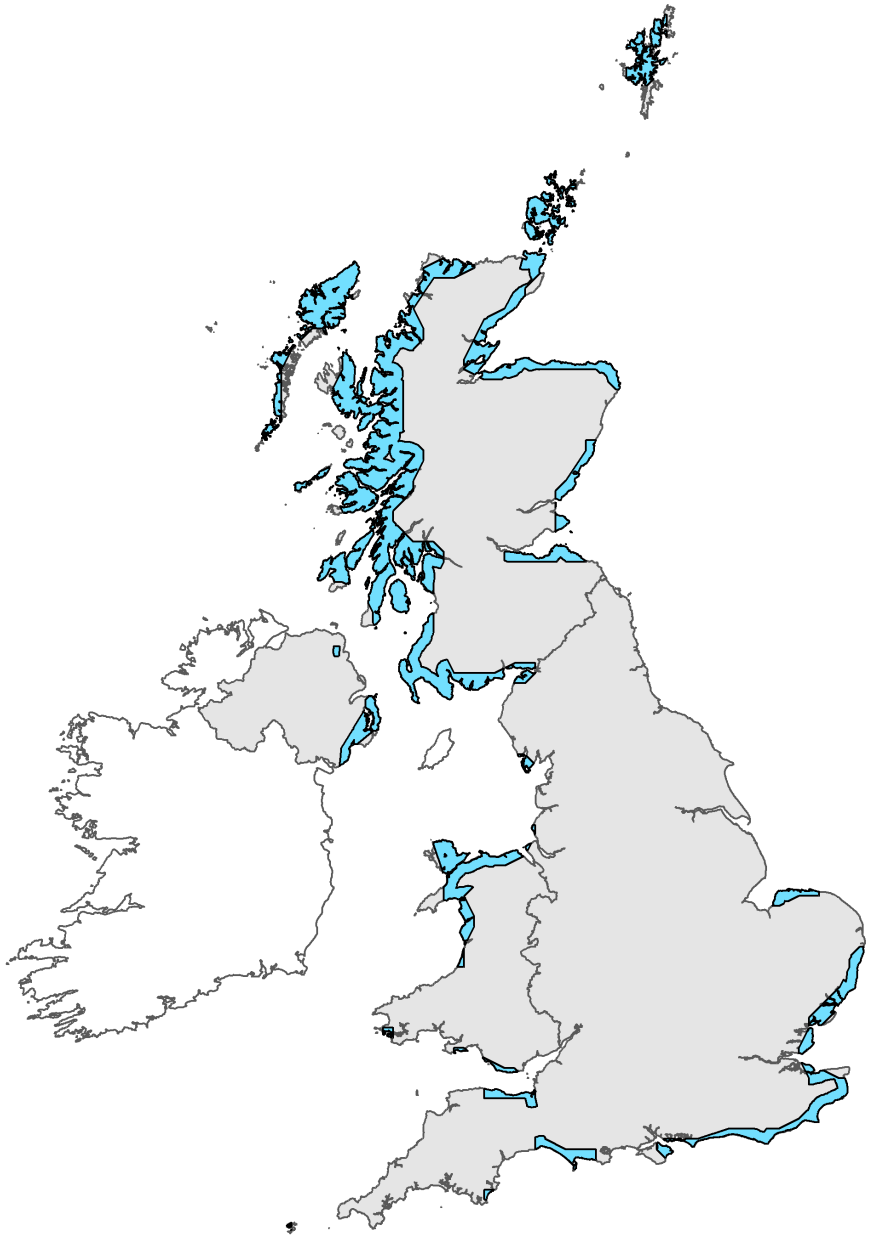

Figure 2: UK range map for H1220 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

The range map has been produced by applying a bespoke range mapping tool for Article 17 reporting (produced by JNCC) to the 10km grid square distribution map presented in Figure 1. The alpha value for this habitat was 25km. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.

Explanatory Notes

Habitat code: 1220

Field label	Note
2.2 Distribution map	The coastal NVC community relating to the habitat is the SD1 Rumex crispus-Glaucium flavum, but more stable systems can have a range of different plant communities. This habitat is poorly-developed in NI, with no extensive examples and many of the characteristic species (e.g. Glaucium flavum, Crambe maritima and Lathyrus japonicus) are absent or very rare. In Northern Ireland, the Coastal Survey (1992) only recorded 5 quadrats with SD1 - all from the Mournes Coast (SD 1a). However, more stable shingle banks have a variety of vegetation communities - many of them non-maritime in character. The most extensive examples of vegetated shingle in NI occur in Strangford Lough (Gransha Point and especially at Ballyquintin Point), with other examples along the southern portion of the Outer Ards Coast (e.g. Kearney and Tara). More recently, the community (including both Glaucium flavum and Crithmum maritimum) has been discovered at Galboly ASSI on the Antrim Coast.
2.3 Distribution map; Method used	Survey nearly complete - due to restricted nature of the habitat in NI.

Habitat code: 1220 Region code: ATL

Field label	Note
4.1 Surface area	The most extensive examples of vegetated shingle in NI occur in Strangford Lough (Gransha Point and especially at Ballyquintin Point), with other examples along the southern portion of the Outer Ards Coast (e.g. Kearney and Tara). More recently, the community (including both Glaucium flavum and Crithmum maritimum) has been discovered at Galboly ASSI on the Antrim Coast.
5.2 Surface area	The habitat is scarce in NI and extensive examples are rare and generally small. The main location is the large raised beach at Ballyquintin Point in the Strangford Lough SAC. The extent of the habitat here is around 20-25 ha. The habitat also occurs at Gransha Point (also in the Strangford Lough SAC), where the extent is approximately 5 ha. Smaller stands occur at Kearney and Tara within the Outer Ards ASSI, and at the Mourne Coast and Galboly ASSIs.
6.1 Condition of habitat	Condition data for SACs and ASSIs with this feature recorded some sites in favourable condition (Mourne Coast and Galboly), but the most extensive sites were unfavourable for the habitat. These larger sites are generally more dependent upon the habitat being in managed appropriately, while the smaller, more linear stands are generally maintained by maritime influences. Condition data for SACs and ASSIs are indicative of the condition of the habitat across NI, as a large proportion of the habitat is in the protected sites network.
6.2 Condition of habitat; Method used	Data taken from the most recent Common Standards Monitoring on SACs and ASSIs that contain the habitat.
7.1 Characterisation of pressures/ threats	Pressures and threats vary according to the location of the habitat. Some issues are localised - for example, and particularly where the habitat is relatively extensive, agricultural activity is the key issue to address. Both lack of grazing and too intensive management are occurring. Sea-level rise and increased storminess are issues that will impact the habitat across its range in NI in the future. Nitrogen deposition is a future threat, but more significant where the habitat includes non-maritime elements (e.g. MG5 type grassland), as some of the characteristic maritime species that may also occur as drift-line species are less susceptible to N enrichment (see APIS website).
7.2 Sources of information	Threats and pressures information comes from Common Standards monitoring of the habitat at designated sites, which cover the bulk of the resource in NI.

8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	The more extensive examples of the habitat require low levels of grazing to maintain them, so the main measures are to encourage extensive grazing in sites that contain the habitat. A relatively high proportion of the habitat is within sites that are owned and managed by NIEA or nature conservation organisations, so there is effective control of the management regime within these.
10.1 Range	Range is restricted in NI to a few sites with suitable substate and coastal processes. There is no evidence of loss in range from known sites since 1994; therefore current range in NI judged favourable.
10.2 Area	No evidence of loss in area from the major sites for the habitat in NI. Therefore current area in NI judged favourable.
10.3 Specific structure and functions	The bulk of the habitat is in unfavourable condition at designated sites, and these include most of the resource in NI. Hence structure and function in NI are judged unfavourable.
10.4 Future prospects	Although many of the issues currently affecting the structure and function of the habitat can - and are likely to - be relatively easily addressed through management, future prospects are judged to be uncertain in the light of potential impacts of sea level rise and atmospheric deposition of Nitrogen.
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Range and extent are both favourable. However, structure and function is unfavourable, and future prospects are uncertain, due to atmospheric Nitrogen and potential impacts of sea-level rise; hence overall conservation status unfavourable bad.
11.1 Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network	Habitat is present at one SAC - Strangford Lough - with the major location at the large raised beach at Ballyquintin Point. The extent of the habitat here is around 20-25 ha. The other location for the habitat in Strangford Lough SAC is at Gransha Point, where the extent is approximately 5 ha.