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

Conservation status assessment for the habitat:

H1320 - *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)

UNITED KINGDOM

IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ

- The information in this document represents 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.
- It is based on supporting information provided by the geographically-relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, which is documented separately.
- The 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- The reporting fields and options used are aligned to those set out in the European Commission guidance.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the habitat are included (where available).
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the UK assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country-level and/or UK offshore-level reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; and/or (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory.
- The UK-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**
1.2 Habitat code	**1320 - Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	2013-2013
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.3 Distribution map Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
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	England Cooper, M. A. 1993. Population biology of Spartina maritima and Spartina anglica monocultures in estuarine saltmarshes. Ph.D thesis, University of East Anglia. http://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?uin=uk.bl.ethos.336180 GARBUTT A., BURDEN A, MASKELL L., SMART S., HUGHES S., NORRIS D., COPPER M. 2015. The status of Habitats Directive Annex I saltmarsh habitats, transition zones and Spartina species in England. Natural England Commissioned Report, NECR185 . Harkin, C. 2016. Ecological interactions of an invading insect: the planthopper Prokelisia marginata. Doctoral thesis (PhD), University of Sussex. http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/65533/ Stewart, A. 2015. Prokelisia INNS factsheet http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=3821 Natural England. 2015. Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS): Planning for the future Programme Report - a summary of the programme findings. (NE601). Natural England. http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5757712073752576?category=4878851540779008 Jones L, Garbutt A and Angus S. 2013. Impacts of climate change on coastal habitats, MCCIP Science Review, 4 http://www.mccip.org.uk/media/13315/2013arc_backingpapers_18_chab.pdf JNCC. 2013. Third report by the United Kingdom under article 17 on the implementation of the directive from January 2007 to December 2012. H1320 Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)

4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)	3652.19
4.2 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018
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	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
4.6 Long-term trend Period	

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

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	Much more than (>>)
	c) Unknown	No
	d) Method	The FRR is more than 10% above the current range area. An FRR operator has been used as it is not clear what the exact area of the FRR is. The approach taken to set the FRR is explained in the 2007 and 2013 UK Article 17 habitat reports (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064 and http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6563).
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	1999-2012		
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value 0.77
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	Decreasing (-)		
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			
5.10 Long-term trend Direction			
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	Much more than (>>)	
	c) Unknown	No	
	d) Method	The FRA is more than 10% above the current area. An FRA operator has been used as it is not clear what the exact area of the FRA is. The approach taken to set the FRA is explained in the 2007 and 2013 UK Article 17 habitat reports (see http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4064 and http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6563).	
5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	No change The change is mainly due to:		
5.15 Additional information	The short term trend direction is considered to be decreasing by 1%/yr or less, based on the rate of decline identified in England.		

6. Structure and functions

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

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum	0	Maximum 0
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum	0.77	Maximum 0.77
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum	0	Maximum 0
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data			
6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Period	2007-2018			
6.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Direction	Decreasing (-)			
6.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data			
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
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	M
Intrusive and destructive research and monitoring activities (H07)	M
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	H
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change (N04)	H

Threat	Ranking
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	M
Intrusive and destructive research and monitoring activities (H07)	M
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	H
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change (N04)	H

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 and taken

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

8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	Restore the habitat of the species (related to 'Habitat for the species')
8.3 Location of the measures taken	Only inside Natura 2000
8.4 Response to the measures	Long-term results (after 2030)
8.5 List of main conservation measures	

Manage/reduce/eliminate diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters from resource exploitation and energy production (CC09)

Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development (CF10)

Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)

8.6 Additional information

9. Future prospects

9.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	Bad
	b) Area	Bad
	c) Structure and functions	Bad
9.2 Additional information	Future trend of Range is Overall stable; Future trend of Area is Very Negative - decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average; and Future trend of Structure and functions is Very negative - important deterioration	

10. Conclusions

10.1. Range	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.2. Area	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.3. Specific structure and functions (incl. typical species)	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.4. Future prospects	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Deteriorating (-)
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 Genuine change The change is mainly due to: Genuine change
10.8 Additional information	Conclusion on Range reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Range surface area is stable; and (ii) the current Range surface area is more than 10% below the Favourable Reference Range. Conclusion on Area covered by habitat reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Area is decreasing by more than 1% per year; and (ii) the current Area is more than 10% below the Favourable Reference Area. Conclusion on Structure and functions reached because habitat condition data indicates that more than 25% of the habitat is in unfavourable (not good)

condition.
Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are bad; (ii) the Future prospects for Area covered by habitat are bad; and (iii) the Future prospects for Structure and functions are bad.
Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Unfavourable-bad because one or more of the conclusions is Unfavourable-bad.
Overall trend in Conservation Status is based on the combination of the short-term trends for Range - stable, Area covered by habitat - decreasing, and Structure and functions - decreasing.
The Overall trend in Conservation Status has changed between 2013 and 2019 because the Structure and functions trend has changed from increasing to decreasing.

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	1
	b) Maximum	2.48
	c) Best single value	1.74
11.2 Type of estimate		Best estimate
11.3 Surface area of the habitat type inside the network Method used		Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network Direction		Decreasing (-)
11.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within network Method used		Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
11.6 Additional information		

12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
12.2 Other relevant information	

Distribution Map

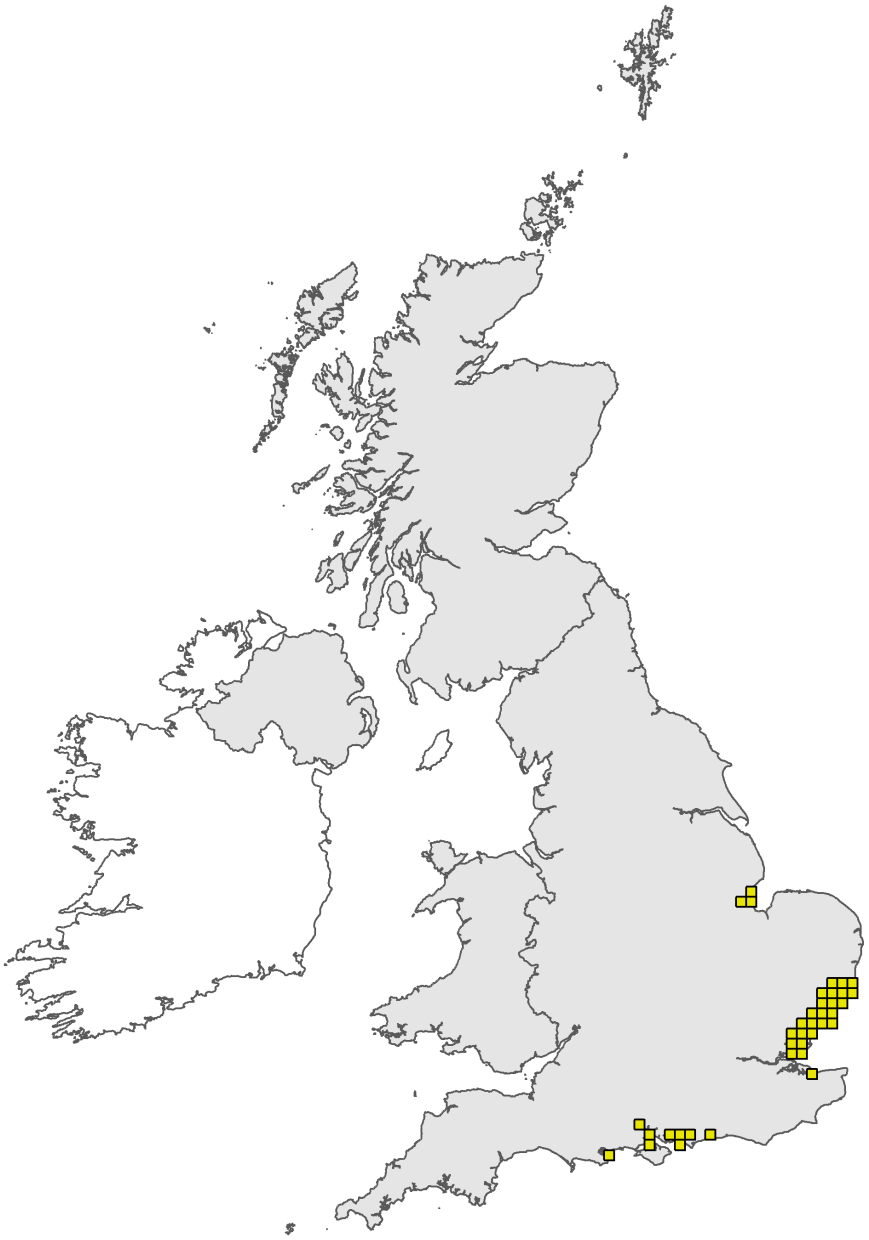

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H1320 - *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

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 H1320 - *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*). 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.