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:

H4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

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	**4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1962-2018
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	England CRITCHLEY, N. 2011. Condition surveys of upland priority habitats in England: blanket bog. ADAS report to Natural England, Sheffield. DIAZ, A., KEITH, S.A., BULLOCK, J.M., HOOFMAN, D.A.P., NEWTON, A. 2013. Conservation implications of long-term changes detected in a lowland heath plant metacommunity. Biological Conservation, 167: 325-333. FAGUNDEZ, J. 2012. Heathlands confronting global change: drivers of biodiversity loss from past to future scenarios. Ann Bot. 2013 Feb; 111(2): 151-172. GROOME, G.M.; SHAW, P. 2015. Vegetation response to the reintroduction of cattle grazing on an English lowland valley mire and wet heath. Cons.Evid., 12: 33-39.TURAL ENGLAND's Designated Sites database. Accessed Feb-mar 2018. Habitat condition, threats and pressures. https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory Scotland References within - http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17Consult_20131010/H4010_SCOTLAND.pdf SNH SCM database, extract A2298772, 2017, processed and summarised in A2494879. Wet heath (upland) feature type (JNCC, (2009), Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Upland Habitats, Version July 2009 and previous versions) http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2237 Wales APIS (Nitrogen Deposition: Dwarf-shrub Heath). Available from: http://www.apis.ac.uk/node/974 Barker, C.G., Power, S.A., Bell, N.B. & Orme, C. D. (2004) Effects of habitat management on heathland response to atmospheric nitrogen deposition. Biological Conservation Volume 120, Issue 1, Pages 41-52 Blackstock T. H., Howe E. A., Stevens J. P., Burrows C. R. & Jones P. S. 2010. Habitats of Wales. A comprehensive field survey 1979-1997. University of Wales Press, Cardiff. Bishop, J. & Jones, N. 2011. Review into the impacts of management on the heathland community and the potential for the control of Phytophthora. Food

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4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)	138843.03
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

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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)	138843.03
	b) Operator	
	c) Unknown	No
	d) Method	The FRR is approximately equal to the current range area. The FRR value has been updated to take account of improved information on the habitat range. 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	Improved knowledge/more accurate data	
	The change is mainly due to:	Improved knowledge/more accurate data
4.12 Additional information		

5. Area covered by habitat

5.1 Year or period	1979-2018			
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value	5088.17
5.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate			
5.4 Surface area Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data			
5.5 Short-term trend Period	2006-2018			
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	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data			
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	More than (>)		
	c) Unknown	No		
	d) Method	The FRA has been changed to not more than 10% above the current area becuase the habitat area has declined. 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	Improved knowledge/more accurate data			
	The change is mainly due to:	Improved knowledge/more accurate data		
5.15 Additional information	The short term trend direction is considered to be decreasing by 1%/yr or less,			

because the rate of decline in NI indicates that there has been an overall reduction in area of about 1.5% between 2007-2018.

6. Structure and functions

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum	207.07	Maximum	207.07
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum	1183.834	Maximum	1183.834
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum	3397.276	Maximum	3997.276
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	2002-2018				
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)	H
Burning for agriculture (A11)	H
Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage) (B01)	M
Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (D01)	M
Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure (D02)	M
Management of fishing stocks and game (G08)	H
Problematic native species (I04)	M
Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests (I05)	M
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M

Threat	Ranking
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
Burning for agriculture (A11)	H
Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage) (B01)	H
Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (D01)	M
Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure (D02)	M

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Management of fishing stocks and game (G08)	H
Problematic native species (I04)	M
Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests (I05)	M
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M

7.2 Sources of information

7.3 Additional information

J03: Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants is ranked as a Medium ranked pressure and threat, due to the nutrient N critical load for the habitat being exceeded across 5-25% of the habitat area

8. Conservation measures

8.1 Status of measures

a) Are measures needed? Yes

b) Indicate the status of measures Measures identified and taken

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: Both inside and outside Natura 2000

8.4 Response to the measures: Short-term results (within the current reporting period, 2013-2018)

8.5 List of main conservation measures

Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (CA05)

Prevent conversion of (semi-) natural habitats into forests and of (semi-)natural forests into intensive forest plantation (CB01)

Adapt/manage renewable energy installation, facilities and operation (CC03)

Reduce impact of hydropower operation and infrastructure (CC04)

Management of hunting, recreational fishing and recreational or commercial harvesting or collection of plants (CG02)

Management of problematic native species (CI05)

Reduce impact of mixed source pollution (CJ01)

8.6 Additional information

9. Future prospects

9.1 Future prospects of parameters

a) Range: Good

b) Area: Poor

c) Structure and functions: Bad

9.2 Additional information

Future trend of Range is Overall stable; Future trend of Area is Overall stable; and Future trend of Structure and functions is Negative - slight/moderate deterioration.
The Future prospects of Structure and functions takes into account that 5-25% of the habitat area is expected to be in unfavourable condition in c.2030 due to nutrient N critical load exceedance, unless measures are taken to reduce N deposition impacts.

10. Conclusions

10.1. Range: Favourable (FV)

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10.2. Area	Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
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 Use of different method The change is mainly due to: Use of different method
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 approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Range. Conclusion on Area covered by habitat reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Area is decreasing by 1% per year or less; and (ii) the current Area is not 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 good; (ii) the Future prospects for Area covered by habitat are poor; 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 of the removal of the Future prospects trend from the 2019 method used to assess Overall trend.

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 1322.544
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 (-)

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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

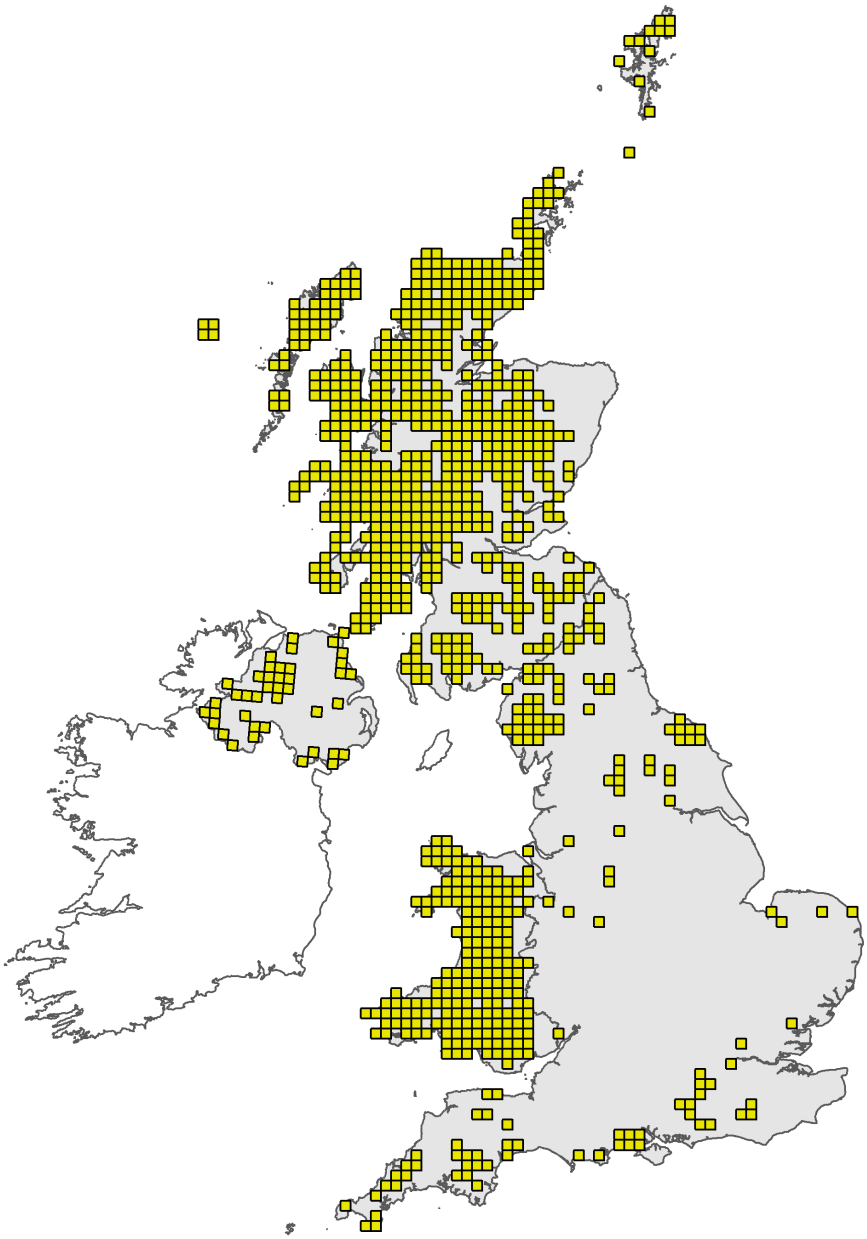

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

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

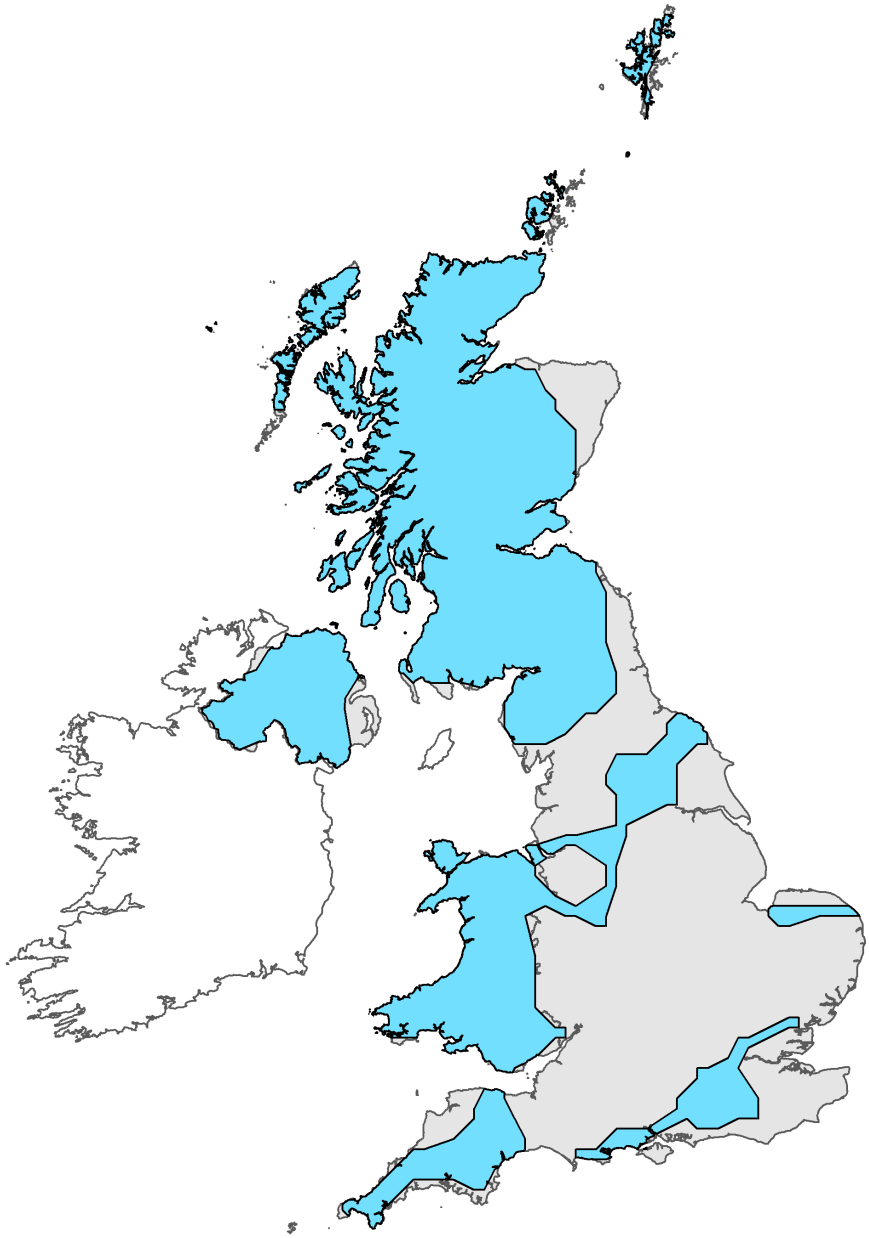

Figure 2: UK range map for H4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

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.