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:

H1110 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

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	**1110 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1995-2016
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	**Marine Atlantic (MATL)**
3.2 Sources of information	England ABP Marine Environment Research Ltd. 2011. River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan. ABP Research and Consultancy Ltd. 2000. The Marine Environmental Impact Identification and Evaluation TS/ME2. ABP Southampton: Dibden Terminal, Associated British Ports, Southampton: ABP Research and Consultancy Ltd. ADAS Ltd. 2015. Solent Harbours Nitrogen Management Investigation: ADAS Ltd. Allen, C., Axelsson, M., Dewey, S. and Wilson, J. 2014. Fal and Helford SAC maerl drop-down video and dive survey 2013: Seastar Survey. Allen, J. H. and Proctor, N. V. 2003. Monitoring Subtidal Sandbanks of the Isles of Scilly and the Fal and Helford Special Areas of Conservation: Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (ICES), University of Hull. APEM. 2013. Analysis of Invertebrate Communities and Sediment Composition of the Subtidal Sandbanks of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast.: APEM. Associated British Ports (ABP). 2011. Environmental Statement for Port of Southampton: Berth 201 / 202 Works updated by Further Information Associated British Ports. Bailey, M. 2005. Wash littoral grab survey report 1991, 1993, 1999, 2002 Peterborough: Natural England. Bakare, A.-M., Simons, R., Morley, J. and Guillas, S. 2011. MORPHOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH SANDBANK & CHANNEL SYSTEM. Coastal Engineering Proceedings,, 1, 72.https://icce-ojs-tamu.tdl.org/icce/index.php/icce/article/view/1104 Ball, J., Hill, C., Thomas, N., Kenny, A., Collins, K., Mallinson, J., Sheader, M. and Jenson, A. 2000. Solent and South Wight Mapping of Intertidal and Subtidal Marine cSACs: GeoData Institute. Bedford, K. and Rees-Jones, S. 2004. Habitats Directive Stage 3 Review of Consents Technical Report. The Solent European Marine Site. The Impacts of Toxic Compounds in Effluents on Sediments.: Environment Agency. Black & Veatch Ltd. 2010. Baseline Document for Maintenance Dredging in Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site.https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/331063/mdp.pdf Black, G. and Kochanowska, D. 2004. Inventory of Eelgrass Beds in Devon and

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4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)	105785	
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 expert opinion with very limited data	
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)	105785
	b) Operator	
	c) Unknown	No
	d) Method	Range is not restricted or notably fragmented. Therefore, the current estimate (4.1) has been set as the favourable reference range. The known range has changed since the last reporting round due to improved mapping and a method change (See 4.11). Therefore, the favourable reference range has changed.
4.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Improved knowledge/more accurate data Use of different method	
	The change is mainly due to:	Improved knowledge/more accurate data

4.12 Additional information

4.1-Range was calculated by JNCC using mapped data of the habitat in addition to the area of sloping sandy sediment habitat down to 60 m and connected to a sandbank in less than 20 m of water. The 60 m limit is equivalent to the deepest known sandbank contour (found at Dogger Bank SAC). Mapped data of the habitat has been created by combining existing data (i.e. sandbanks already mapped within SACs) with an analysis of bathymetric depth, slope and aspect and sediment data across UK waters' and is based on current best available evidence (JNCC, 2018a).
4.3-As this feature is defined by topography and substrate type, its range is determined by geological and/or hydrodynamic processes depending on the type of sandbank (http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1452). The nature of these processes means that the geographic range of this feature is likely to have remained the same in recent geological times. Although the surface area of this feature may have declined due to the presence of infrastructure and abrasion, there is no evidence that has significantly affected the geographic spread of this feature. Therefore, the short-term trend is thought to be stable.
4.11-The mapping of this feature has been improved and updated since the last reporting round. There is also a new definition of sandbanks for some offshore marine protected areas where troughs of the banks included in addition to the actual elevated sandbanks. As a result of improved mapping and a definition change, the surface area of range for sandbanks is larger than the figure reported in 2019.

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For further details see the 2019 UK Approach Document on the JNCC website. The mapping of this feature has been improved and updated since the last reporting round. There is also a new definition of sandbanks for some offshore marine protected areas where troughs of the banks included in addition to the actual elevated sandbanks. As a result of improved mapping and a definition change, the surface area of range for sandbanks has changed from 103943 km2 to 105785 km2; an increase of 1841 km2.

5. Area covered by habitat

5.1 Year or period	1995-2016			
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value	23890.63
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	2007-2018			
5.6 Short-term trend Direction	Uncertain (u)			
5.7 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Confidence interval	
5.8 Short-term trend Method used	Insufficient or no data available			
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): 23891

b) Operator

c) Unknown: No

d) Method: There is no reason to believe that the current area of the feature is below that required to maintain viability, so the feature is considered to be at its favourable reference area. The known surface area has increased due to improved mapping and method changes and this had led to a change in the favourable reference area.

5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

Improved knowledge/more accurate data
Use of different method

The change is mainly due to: Improved knowledge/more accurate data

5.15 Additional information

5.1-The data sources used to produce this map ranged from 1995 to 2016.
5.4-Area calculated by JNCC using mapped data of the habitat. This map has been created by combining existing data (i.e. sandbanks already mapped within SACs) with an analysis of bathymetric depth, slope and aspect and sediment data across UK waters and is based on current best available evidence. The 2013 UK Article 17 area data for Annex I sandbanks was revised at a UK level by the JNCC following updates submitted by the UK Country Agencies. For further details see JNCC website (JNCC 2018a).
5.6-Expert judgement was used to determine the overall short-term trend at the UK-level. Area is a more specific parameter than range and we don't generally have good enough data to establish a trend. Area of sandbanks are determined by the presence of suitable substrate and the hydrological regime maintaining the sandbank and is, therefore, unlikely to change significantly overtime.

However, anthropogenic activities may have caused localised losses of area.
5.14-The mapping of this feature has been improved and updated since the last reporting round. There is also a new definition of sandbanks for some offshore marine protected areas where troughs of the banks included in addition to the actual elevated sandbanks. As a result of improved mapping and a definition change, the surface area is larger than the figure reported in 2019.
For further details see JNCC website for the 2019 UK Approach Document.

6. Structure and functions

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum	10985.47757	Maximum	10985.4776
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum	11319.46961	Maximum	11319.4696
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum	1586.75534	Maximum	1586.75534
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 expert opinion with very limited 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	6.1-The area of habitat in 'good' (favourable), 'not good' (unfavourable) and unknown condition was assessed in each of the four inshore areas and also in the offshore area and the results were summed. 47% of the habitat is thought to be in unfavourable (not good) condition, 46% of the habitat is thought to be in favourable (good condition) and 7% of the habitat is in unknown condition. The structure and functions conservation status is, therefore, unfavourable-bad. In 2013, it was unfavourable-inadequate. The result is driven by the offshore sandbank assessment because the majority of sandbanks are located in the offshore area. The change in status of this parameter, is due to a change in method with the indicator 'Extent of Physical Damage to Predominant and Special Habitats (BH3)' (OSPAR Commission, 2017) being used to assess the condition of offshore sandbanks. This indicator is adapted from the vulnerability assessment method that was used to assess offshore sandbanks in 2013. It is a more refined method and allows for updated datasets to be incorporated. It is, therefore, a more accurate assessment of condition. However, there is low confidence in the assessment. See the offshore-level reporting information for detailed methods (JNCC website). 6.4- The short-term trend of habitat in good condition was assessed in each of the four inshore areas and in the offshore area and the results were aggregated (see 2019 UK Approach Document). The short -term trend is decreasing. The trend was also decreasing in 2013. For details on the approaches taken in this section see the JNCC website for 2019 UK Approach Document and relevant country- and offshore-level reporting information.				

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7. Main pressures and threats

7.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell) (C01)	M
Dumping/depositing of inert materials from terrestrial extraction (C06)	H
Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (D01)	M
Transmission of electricity and communications (cables) (D06)	M
Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging) (E03)	M
Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species (G01)	H
Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats (G03)	H
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	M
Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal) (J02)	M
Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change (N04)	M

Threat	Ranking
Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell) (C01)	M
Dumping/depositing of inert materials from terrestrial extraction (C06)	H
Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (D01)	H
Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species (G01)	H
Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats (G03)	H
Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01)	M
Change of habitat location, size, and / or quality due to climate change (N05)	M
Desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change (N06)	M
Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change (N07)	M

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Change of species distribution (natural newcomers) due to climate change (N08) M

7.2 Sources of information	
7.3 Additional information	There were often more than ten pressures, threats (of high or medium importance), or conservation measures identified, and an aggregation method was used to identify the top ten of each. As a result the top ten lists for the habitat may not correspond with each other. For example, a pressure may be in the reported top ten list, but the corresponding conservation measure might not appear in the top ten list of conservation measures. This does not mean that the measure is not in place, but instead it is in the extended list of measures that did not make the top ten but are detailed in the additional information section. The following pressures were also identified, however, a maximum of 10 could be listed: : E02- Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations, F22- Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam), F23- Industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam), C03-Extraction of oil and gas, including infrastructure, G16-Marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, F08-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), F07-Sports, tourism and leisure activities. The following threats were also identified, however, a maximum of 10 could be listed: E02- Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations, F22- Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam), F23- Industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam), G16- Marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, I02- Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern), F08- 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), D07- Oil and gas pipelines, F07- Sports, tourism and leisure activities, N04- Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, E03- Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging), J02- Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), D06- Transmission of electricity and communications (cables). For methods refer to JNCC website for 2019 UK Approach Document and country-level reporting information.

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	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)	

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8.5 List of main conservation measures

Reduce/eliminate marine pollution from agricultural activities (CA13)
Adapt/manage extraction of non-energy resources (CC01)
Adapt/manage renewable energy installation, facilities and operation (CC03)
Reduce impact of service corridors and networks (CC06)
Reduce impact of transport operation and infrastructure (CE01)
Reduce impact of outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities (CF03)
Reduce/eliminate marine pollution from industrial, commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities (CF07)
Reduce/eliminate marine contamination with litter (CF08)
Management of professional/commercial fishing (including shellfish and seaweed harvesting) (CG01)
Control/eradication of illegal killing, fishing and harvesting (CG04)

8.6 Additional information

8.1b) Measures have been identified and taken in UK inshore areas. In the offshore area some measures are in place, however, a number of proposals have been recommended for the majority of offshore sites but have not been submitted yet to the European Commission (EC). Please see offshore-level reporting information (JNCC website) for more details.
8.5- There were often more than ten pressures, threats (of high or medium importance), or conservation measures identified, and an aggregation method was used to identify the top ten of each. As a result the top ten lists for the habitat may not correspond with each other. For example, a pressure may be in the reported top ten list, but the corresponding conservation measure might not appear in the top ten list of conservation measures. This does not mean that the measure is not in place, but instead it is in the extended list of measures that did not make the top ten but are detailed in the additional information section.
The following conservation measures were also identified, however, a maximum of 10 could be listed: CN01- Adopt climate change mitigation measures, CE04-Manage/reduce/eliminate marine pollution from transport, CG05-Reduce bycatch and incidental killing of non-target species, CI03-Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species, CC07-Habitat restoration/creation from resources, exploitation areas or areas damaged due to installation of renewable energy infrastructure, CJ01-Reduce impact of mixed source pollution, CC02-Adapt/manage exploitation of energy resources, CC05-Adapt/manage fossil energy installation, facilities and operation, CC08-Manage/reduce/eliminate point pollution to surface or ground waters from resource exploitation and energy production, CG08-Reduce/eliminate marine pollution from marine aquaculture, CG09-Other measures to reduce impacts from marine aquaculture infrastructures and operation, CF10-Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development. For methods see JNCC website for 2019 UK Approach document and country- and offshore-level reporting 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 trends for each parameter were selected for the four countries' inshore

areas and for the offshore area. Results were then aggregated to give a future trend for the UK (see 2019 UK Approach Document). Table 32 in the EU Guidelines was used to bring the future trend and conservation status of each parameter together to conclude on future prospects.
9.1a) The Future prospects are good because the future trend for range is thought to be stable and the range conclusion is favourable. The future prospects were also good in 2013.
9.1b) The future prospects are poor because the future trend for area is thought to be negative and the area conclusion is unknown. The future prospects were unknown in 2013. The future trend has been identified as negative as a result of windfarm developments that are predicted to impact large areas of offshore sandbanks and because fisheries management measures are not currently in place. The trend could potentially be very negative, however, negative has been selected as a result of low confidence in the data.
9.1c) The future prospects are bad because the trend for structure and functions is thought to be negative and the structure and functions conclusion is unfavourable-bad. The future prospects were poor in 2013. This change was the result of improved knowledge on trends and a change in the structure and functions conclusion. The future trend has been identified as negative as a result of windfarm developments that are predicted to impact large areas of offshore sandbanks and because fisheries management measures are not currently in place. The trend could potentially be very negative, however, negative has been selected as a result of low confidence in the data.
For further details on approaches taken in this section see JNCC website for 2019 UK Approach Document and relevant country/offshore-level reporting information.

10. Conclusions

10.1. Range	Favourable (FV)
10.2. Area	Unknown (XX)
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	Unknown (x)
10.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend	a) Overall assessment of conservation status Improved knowledge/more accurate data Use of different method The change is mainly due to: Use of different method b) Overall trend in conservation status Use of different method The change is mainly due to: Use of different method
10.8 Additional information	10.1-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. 10.2-Conclusion on Area covered by habitat reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Area is uncertain; (ii) the current Area is approximately equal

to the Favourable Reference Area.
10.3-Conclusion on Structure and functions reached because habitat condition data indicates that more than 25% of the habitat is in unfavourable (not good) condition. 47% of the habitat is in unfavourable (not good) condition, 46% of the habitat is in favourable (good) condition and 7% of the habitat is in unknown condition.
The conclusion for the parameter has changed from unfavourable-inadequate to unfavourable-bad due to a change in methods. An improved method was used which incorporated the most recent datasets. There is low confidence in the assessment.
10.4-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.
The conclusion for this parameter has changed from unfavourable-inadequate (2013) to unfavourable-bad as a result of improved knowledge on trends and a change to the structure and functions conclusion.
10.5-Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Unfavourable-bad because one or more of the conclusions is Unfavourable-bad.
10.6-Overall trend in Conservation Status is based on the combination of the short-term trends for Range - stable, Area covered by habitat - uncertain, and Structure and functions - decreasing.
10.7a-The Overall Assessment of Conservation Status has changed because the conclusion for Structure and functions has changed from Unfavourable-inadequate to Unfavourable- bad, as a result of an improved method. The Future prospects has changed from Unfavourable-inadequate to Unfavourable-bad as a result of improved knowledge and as result of the change to the structure and functions conclusion, which influences future prospects.
10.7b-The Overall Trend in Conservation Status has changed between 2013 (stable) and 2019 (unknown). This is a methodological change because of the removal of the Future Prospects trend from the 2019 method used to assess Overall Trend. 2013: Range = stable, Area = unknown, S&F= declining, FP = unknown. 2019: Range=stable, Area = uncertain, S&F = decreasing, [FP not included].

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 21978.88
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 expert opinion with very limited data
11.6 Additional information	11.3- The sandbanks surface area map was intersected with all Natura 2000 sites that contain qualifying marine habitats or species (JNCC, 2018b). The cut-off used for SAC designations was Tranche 56 in November 2017. For further details

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on approaches taken in this section see JNCC website for 2019 UK Approach Document and relevant country/offshore-level reporting information.

12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

12.2 Other relevant information

Distribution Map

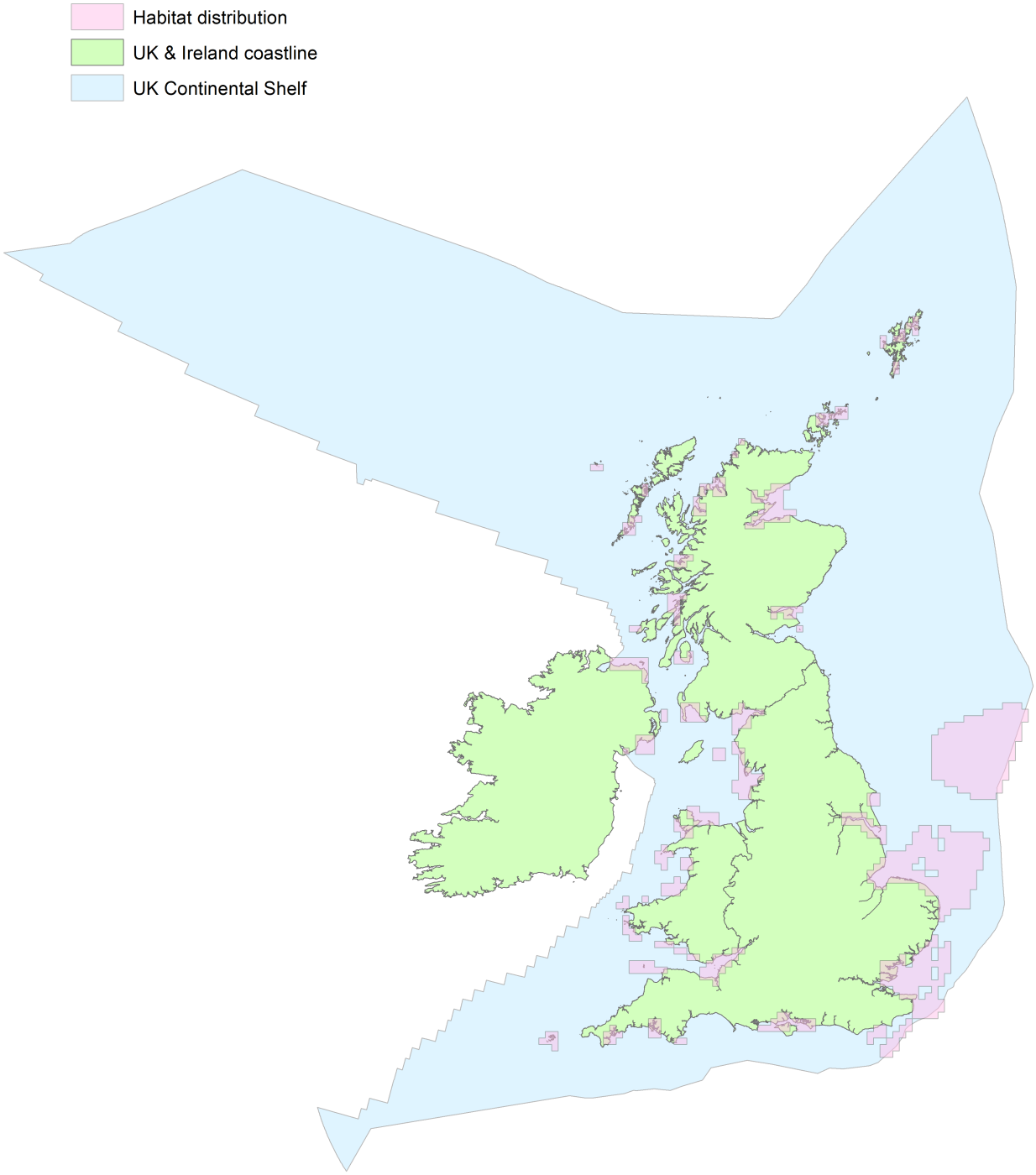

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H1110 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.

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

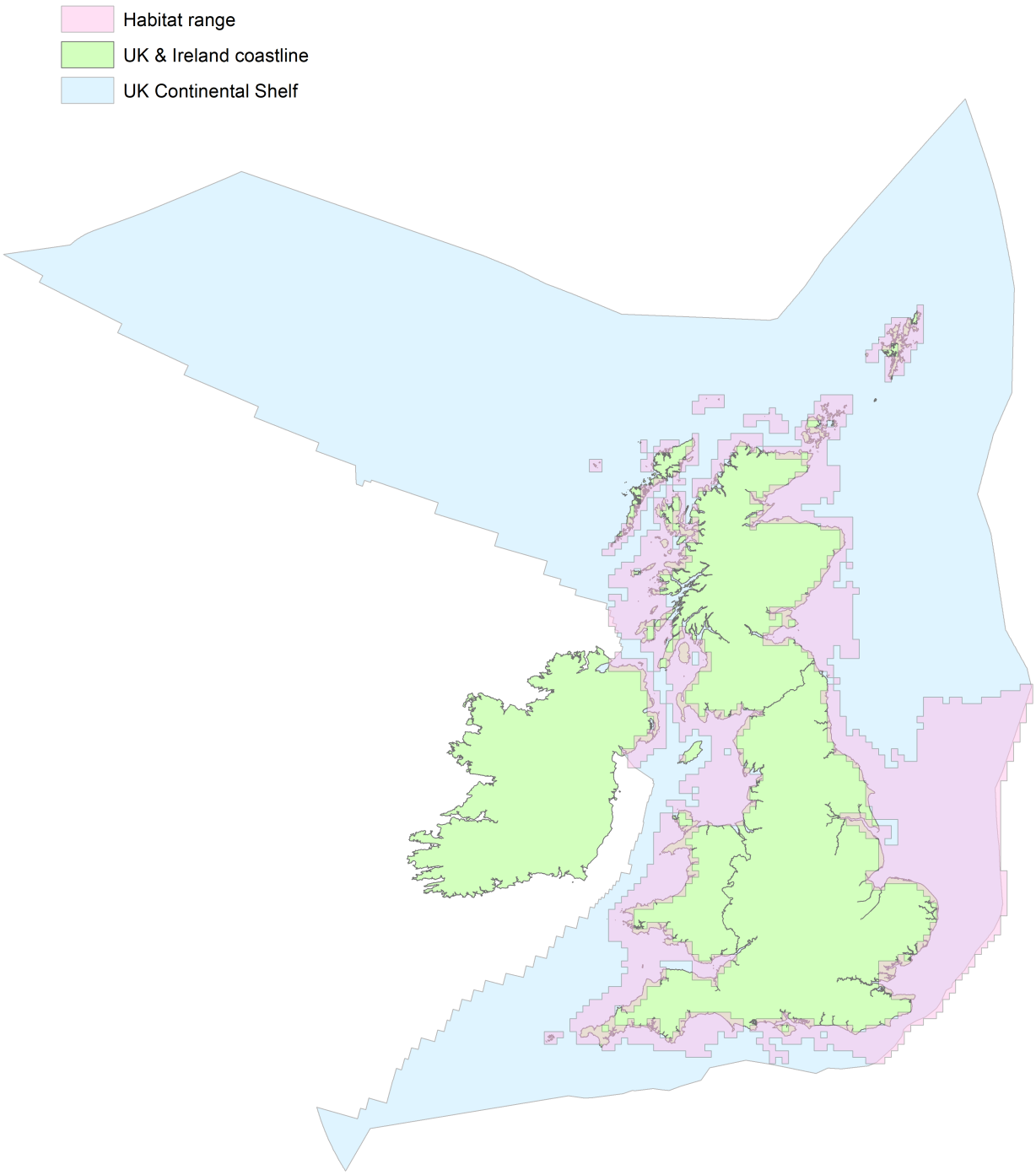

Figure 2: UK range map for H1110 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.

Range was calculated by JNCC using mapped surface area of the habitat in addition to the area of sloping sandy sediment habitat down to 60m and connected to a sandbank in less than 20m of water. The 60m limit is equivalent to the deepest known sandbank contour (found at Dogger Bank SAC). Mapped data of the habitat has been created by combining existing data (i.e. sandbanks already mapped within SACs) with an analysis of bathymetric depth, slope and aspect and sediment data across UK waters' and is based on current best available evidence (JNCC, 2018a).

Explanatory Notes

Habitat code: 1110

Field label	Note
2.1 Year or period	The data sources used to produce this map ranged from 1995 to 2016.
2.3 Distribution map; Method used	The sandbank surface area map was gridded to create the distribution map. The 2013 UK Article 17 area data for Annex I sandbanks was revised at a UK level by the JNCC following updates submitted by the UK Country Agencies. For further details see JNCC website (JNCC 2018a).

Habitat code: 1110 Region code: MATL

Field label	Note
4.1 Surface area	Range was calculated by JNCC using mapped data of the habitat in addition to the area of sloping sandy sediment habitat down to 60 m and connected to a sandbank in less than 20 m of water. The 60 m limit is equivalent to the deepest known sandbank contour (found at Dogger Bank SAC). Mapped data of the habitat has been created by combining existing data (i.e. sandbanks already mapped within SACs) with an analysis of bathymetric depth, slope and aspect and sediment data across UK waters' and is based on current best available evidence (JNCC, 2018a).
4.3 Short term trend; Direction	As this feature is defined by topography and substrate type, its range is determined by geological and/or hydrodynamic processes depending on the type of sandbank (http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1452). The nature of these processes means that the geographic range of this feature is likely to have remained the same in recent geological times. Although the surface area of this feature may have declined due to the presence of infrastructure and abrasion, there is no evidence that has significantly affected the geographic spread of this feature. Therefore, the short-term trend is thought to be stable.
4.5 Short term trend; Method used	See 4.3
4.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	The mapping of this feature has been improved and updated since the last reporting round. There is also a new definition of sandbanks for some offshore marine protected areas where troughs of the banks included in addition to the actual elevated sandbanks. As a result of improved mapping and a definition change, the surface area of range for sandbanks is larger than the figure reported in 2013.
5.1 Year or period	The data sources used to produce this map ranged from 1995 to 2016.
5.4 Surface area; Method used	Area calculated by JNCC using mapped data of the habitat. This map has been created by combining existing data (i.e. sandbanks already mapped within SACs) with an analysis of bathymetric depth, slope and aspect and sediment data across UK waters and is based on current best available evidence. The 2013 UK Article 17 area data for Annex I sandbanks was revised at a UK level by the JNCC following updates submitted by the UK Country Agencies. For further details see JNCC website (JNCC 2018a).
5.6 Short term trend; Direction	Expert judgement was used to determine the overall short-term trend at the UK-level. Area is a more specific parameter than range and we don't generally have good enough data to establish a trend. Area of sandbanks are determined by the presence of suitable substrate and the hydrological regime maintaining the sandbank and is, therefore, unlikely to change significantly overtime. However, anthropogenic activities may have caused localised losses of area.
5.8 Short term trend; Method used	See 5.6

5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area	The mapping of this feature has been improved and updated since the last reporting round. There is also a new definition of sandbanks for some offshore marine protected areas where troughs of the banks included in addition to the actual elevated sandbanks. As a result of improved mapping and a definition change, the surface area is larger than the figure reported in 2013.
6.1 Condition of habitat	The area of habitat in 'good' (favourable), 'not good' (unfavourable) and unknown condition was assessed in each of the four inshore areas and also in the offshore area and the results were summed. 47% of the habitat is thought to be in unfavourable (not good) condition, 46% of the habitat is thought to be in favourable (good condition) and 7% of the habitat is in unknown condition. The structure and functions conservation status is, therefore, unfavourable-bad. In 2013, it was unfavourable-inadequate. The result is driven by the offshore sandbank assessment because the majority of sandbanks are located in the offshore area. The change in status of this parameter, is due to a change in method with the indicator 'Extent of Physical Damage to Predominant and Special Habitats (BH3)' (OSPAR Commission, 2017) being used to assess the condition of offshore sandbanks. This indicator is adapted from the vulnerability assessment method that was used to assess offshore sandbanks in 2013. It is a more refined method and allows for updated datasets to be incorporated. It is, therefore, a more accurate assessment of condition. However, there is low confidence in the assessment. See the offshore-level reporting information for detailed methods (JNCC website).
6.4 Short term trend of habitat area in good condition; Direction	The short-term trend of habitat in good condition was assessed in each of the four inshore areas and in the offshore area and the results were aggregated (see 2019 UK Approach Document). The short -term trend is decreasing. The trend was also decreasing in 2013.
8.1 Status of measures; Status	Measures have been identified and taken in UK inshore areas. In the offshore area some measures are in place, however, a number of proposals have been recommended for the majority of offshore sites but have not been submitted yet to the European Commission (EC). Please see offshore-level reporting information (JNCC website) for more details.
9.1 Future prospects of parameters	Future trends for each parameter were selected for the four countries' inshore areas and for the offshore area. Results were then aggregated to give a future trend for the UK (see 2019 UK Approach Document). Table 32 in the EU Guidelines was used to bring the future trend and conservation status of each parameter together to conclude on future prospects.
9.1a Future prospects of parameters - Range	The Future prospects are good because the future trend for range is thought to be stable and the range conclusion is favourable. The future prospects were also good in 2013.
9.1b Future prospects of parameters - Area	The future prospects are poor because the future trend for area is thought to be negative and the area conclusion is unknown. The future prospects were unknown in 2013. The future trend has been identified as negative as a result of windfarm developments that are predicted to impact large areas of offshore sandbanks and because fisheries management measures are not currently in place. The trend could potentially be very negative, however, negative has been selected as a result of low confidence in the data.
9.1c Future prospects of parameters - Structure and functions	The future prospects are bad because the trend for structure and functions is thought to be negative and the structure and functions conclusion is unfavourable-bad. The future prospects were poor in 2013. This change was the result of improved knowledge on trends and a change in the structure and functions conclusion. The future trend has been identified as negative as a result of windfarm developments that are predicted to impact large areas of offshore sandbanks and because fisheries management measures are not currently in place. The trend could potentially be very negative, however, negative has been selected as a result of low confidence in the data.

11.3 Surface area of the habitat type inside the network; Method used	The sandbanks surface area map was intersected with all Natura 2000 sites that contain qualifying marine habitats or species (JNCC, 2018b). The cut-off used for SAC designations was Tranche 56 in November 2017.