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:

H1420 - Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)

ENGLAND

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 (England information only)**
1.2 Habitat code	**1420 - Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	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	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 . Gardiner T., Pilcher R. & Wade M. 2015. Sea Wall Biodiversity Handbook. RPS, Cambridge. http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Sea+Wall+Biodiversity+Handbook Natural England. 2015. Coastal management theme plan (IPENSTP019) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6371629661683712?category=5605910663659520 Natural England. 2015. Atmospheric nitrogen theme plan: Developing a strategic approach for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENSTP013) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6140185886588928?category=5605910663659520 Natural England. 2015.Climate change theme plan: Developing a strategic approach to climate change adaptation (IPENSTP014) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4954594591375360?category=5605910663659520 Natural England. 2015. Coastal management theme plan (IPENS TP019) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6371629661683712?category=5605910663659520 Natural England. 2015. Invasive species theme plan: Strategic principles for the management of invasive species on Natura 2000 sites (IPENSTP020) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6130001713823744?category=5605910663659520 Natural England. 2015.Public access and disturbance theme plan: A strategic approach to identifying and addressing significant effects on the features of Natura 2000 sites (IPENSTP022) http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6621454219083776?category=5605910663659520 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.

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

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.
H1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)

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 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 1
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	Stable (0)		
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 c) Unknown No d) Method		

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

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 (km^2)	Minimum	0.02	Maximum 0.02
	b) Area in not-good condition (km^2)	Minimum	0.45	Maximum 0.45
	c) Area where condition is not known (km^2)	Minimum	0.53	Maximum 0.53
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited 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	Uncertain (u)			
6.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Method used	Insufficient or no data available			
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
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
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	M
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change (N04)	M

Threat	Ranking
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)	H
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	M
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change (N04)	H

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

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

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)

8.5 List of main conservation measures

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

Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)

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

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

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

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	1.55
	c) Best single value	1.275
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		Area used is taken from JNCC SAC data, derived from Standard Data Forms.

12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
12.2 Other relevant information	

Distribution Map

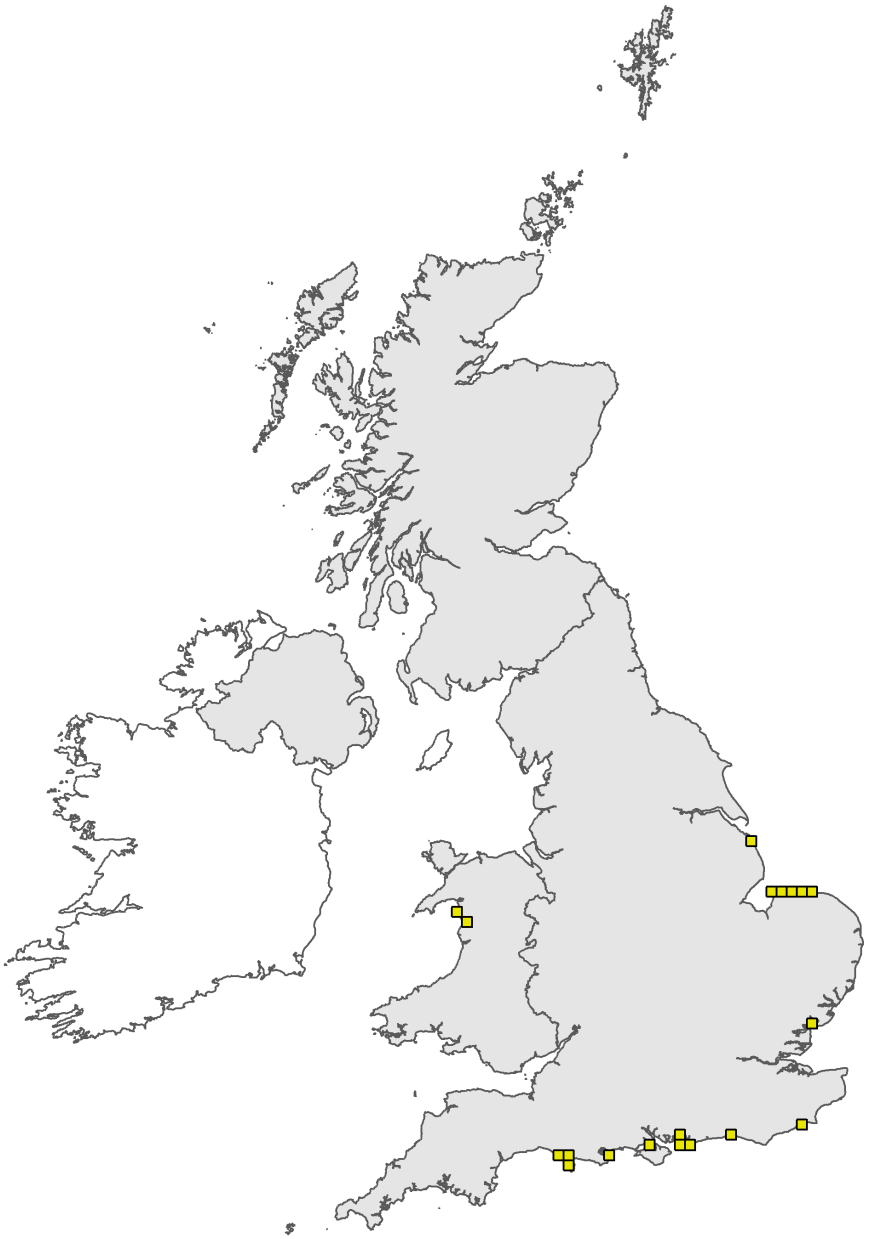

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H1420 - Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 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 H1420 - Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*). 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: 1420

Field label	Note
2.3 Distribution map; Method used	Map derived from data provided by JNCC Terrestrial Habitat 10-km Square Distribution Map Data and Sources. No new locations have been recorded since 2013.

Habitat code: 1420 Region code: ATL

Field label	Note
3.2 Sources of information	Key sources of information on Annex I habitats in relation to site issues, pressures and threats and approaches to management measures include the material collated for the IPENS programme. Key published SIPS, evidence projects and Theme Plans are referenced which provide a range of information relevant to this Annex I habitat and other habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites. Only new sources are included - for previous reports see the 2nd and 3rd Article 17 reports and audit trails.
5.6 Short term trend; Direction	Assessed as 'stable' on basis of survey reported in Garbutt et al 2015, where previous locations were visited in 2012, and it was found at all of these with no locations where the habitat was not re-located.
6.2 Condition of habitat; Method used	The available Common Standards Monitoring data does not distinguish this habitat well. of the saltmarsh units assessed with this habitat, 2% of the area was reported in Favourable condition; 45% in 'not good' condition and 53% 'not assessed'. These proportions were applied to the 1km2 estimated area of the habitat to generate the figures provided for Structure and Function
7.1 Characterisation of pressures/ threats	One issue where this habitat extends onto sea walls is the practice of cutting scrub growth. Studies reported in Gardner et al (2015) suggest that moderate cutting in order to inspect seawalls can be adapted to improve regrowth: a rotation or 3 or 4 years and leaving of debris leads to regrowth, however studies need to be continued as this work was only started in 2010. In Essex, this habitat is largley restricted to the foot of sea walls, so management of these is an important factor
7.2 Sources of information	Pressures and threats information is largely derived from a range of information produced by the IPENS programme, including SIPs, Theme Plans and the overall programme report which are available at http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/4878851540779008 or other sources listed in the 'habitat sources' tab, or expert knowledge
11.4 Short term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network; Direction	A greater area of habitat in the network has not been assessed compared to the area that has been assessed as 'recovering'. This has been indicated as a short term trend of decline as recovery appears less likely.