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:

H3170 - Mediterranean temporary ponds

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	**3170 - Mediterranean temporary ponds**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	2001-2007
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	Wheeler, B.R. & Byfield, A. 2005. The Lizard Trackways Project 2002-2005. Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, English Nature and Plantlife. Natural England CMSi condition data

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 d) Method	 No
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	2001-2007			
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value	0.1
5.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate			
5.4 Surface area Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data			

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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 expert opinion with very limited data		
5.9 Long-term trend Period	1989-2018		
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	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data		
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 0.1	Maximum 0.1
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum 0	Maximum 0
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum 0	Maximum 0
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	Increasing (+)		
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

Threat	Ranking
Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)	H
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Droughts and decreases in precipitation due to climate change (N02)	M

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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: Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species

8.3 Location of the measures taken: Only inside 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

Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features (CA03)

Reduce impact of mixed source pollution (CJ01)

Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)

Restore small landscape features on agricultural land (CA02)

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

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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 0.1
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	Stable (0)
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 H3170 - Mediterranean temporary ponds. 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 H3170 - Mediterranean temporary ponds. 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: 3170

Field label	Note
2.1 Year or period	The distribution map is the same as that provided in previous Article 17 reports on the basis that the distribution has not changed sinece then

Habitat code: 3170 Region code: ATL

Field label	Note
4.3 Short term trend; Direction	This habitat has a restricted distribution within the UK and is at the edge of its European range. There has been some debate about whether or not there are examples in the New Forest. The current view is that, although temporary ponds in the New Forest have similarities to H3170, the only UK examples of H3170 are found on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall. The distribution map provided therefore provides a good representation of the actual distribution of the habitat in England, which appears to be limited by biogeography and coincides with the distribution of its characteristic species (many of which are at the edge of their range in the UK). The range is considered to have been historically very limited and the 1994 range occupies most or all of its potential natural range. The current range is considered to be equal to the favourable reference range.
5.1 Year or period	The area estimate is the same as that provided in previous Article 17 reports on the basis that there is no better judgement available
5.2 Surface area	It is likely that some examples of H3170 have been lost over time through conversion of historic track ways to surfaced roads and through drainage of track ways. Additionally, the area of heath on the Lizard has been reduced by the encroachment of settlements and various developments although losses have been less than in other areas of heathland in the UK. This heath would have supported further examples of Mediterranean temporary ponds. However, the area is considered to have remained broadly stable since 1994.
5.4 Surface area; Method used	The ephemeral and transitory nature of this habitat makes estimates of area difficult. Potential area is related to the extent of heathland and the presence of topographical features within this matrix. Historically there would have been more examples of this habitat type associated with track ways across the Lizard peninsula but there is still a significant network of track ways and the area occupied by this habitat is thought to have been relatively stable since 1989.
6.2 Condition of habitat; Method used	All SSSI units containing Mediteranean Temporary Ponds are now reported as favourable.
6.4 Short term trend of habitat area in good condition; Direction	All SSSI units containing Mediteranean Temporary Ponds being reported as favourable is an improvement on the last reporting round. A relatively large population of Juncus pygmaeus a typical species for this habitat has reappeared at Goonhilly Downs.
8.5 List of main conservation measures	New ponds and trackways where this habitat occurs have been created on The Lizard NNR.

9.1 Future prospects of parameters	The functions associated with the maintenance of H3170 and associated species are generally the result of historic landuse practices. It is important that trackways continue to be maintained in their current form, that the wider network of ephemeral ponds is retained, and that there are sufficient metapopulations of the key species. Present management is thought to be appropriate to ensure that these functions persist, and SAC designation covers the entire H3170 resource to ensure that this management continues. New ponds and trackways are being created to create a greater area of this habitat to improve the resilience of the H3170 resource. However, management regimes are experimental in nature and lack of autecological knowledge means that outcomes cannot be assured. Monitoring and adaptive management are important elements.