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:

H3260 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation

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	**3260 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitant**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1970-2018
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 Mainstone C.P. (2008) The role of specially designated wildlife sites in freshwater conservation - an English perspective. Freshwater Reviews, 1, 89-98. Mainstone, C.P. and Clarke, S.J. (2008) Managing multiple stressors on sites with special protection for freshwater wildlife - the concept of Limits of Liability. Freshwater Reviews, 1, 175-187. Mainstone, C.P., Hall, R. and Diack, I. (2016) A narrative for conserving freshwater and wetland habitats in England. Natural England Research Reports, 2016, Number 064. Chris Mainstone & Alastair Burn (2011) Relationships between ecological objectives and associated decision-making under the Habitats and Water Framework Directives. Discussion paper, Natural England. Mainstone, C.P. et al. (in draft) Recommendations for a shared ecological rationale for more integrated implementation of the nature and water Directives. An output from a Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Thematic Networking Event, Sarrod, Hungary, 15-17 November 2017. Mainstone, C.P. (2016) Developing a coherent narrative for conserving freshwater and wetland habitats: experiences in the UK. WIRES Water, published Online: Nov 07 2016. DOI: 10.1002/wat2.1189. Mainstone, C.P. (2018) Analysis of Water Framework Directive data for use in Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting on Annex I river habitat (H3260) in England. Supplementary paper for the submission package to Europe, Natural England. Chris Mainstone (2012) Analysis of Water Framework Directive data for use in Habitats Directive Article 17 reporting on Annex I river habitat (H3260) in England. Supplementary paper for the submission package to Europe, Natural England. Mainstone, C.P. and Wheeldon, J. (2016) The physical restoration of English rivers with special designations for wildlife: from concepts to strategic planning and implementation. Freshwater Reviews, 8, 1, 1-25. DOI: 10.1608/FRJ-8.1.927 Natural England (2015) River restoration theme plan. Output from the EU Life project 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites' (IPENS). Natural England Report number IPENSTP023. River Restoration Centre (undated) The river SSSI restoration programme.

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Scottish Natural Heritage Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) Database. (River habitat data collected in 2013 and 2017.)
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4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)	189601.96	
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		
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)	189601.96
	b) Operator	
	c) Unknown	No
	d) Method	The FRR is approximately equal to the current range area. 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	2001-2018		
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value

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5.3 Type of estimate			
5.4 Surface area Method used	Insufficient or no data available		
5.5 Short-term trend Period	2001-2018		
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			
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 is not 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			

6. Structure and functions

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum	Maximum
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum	Maximum
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum	Maximum
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Insufficient or no data available		
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	There is insufficient information to report on the area of habitat in favourable (good) v unfavourable (not good) condition. Nevertheless, the information available clearly indicates that most of the habitat is in unfavourable condition (including >95% across England, Scotland and Wales), and that overall the condition of the habitat is potentially improving.		

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

7. Main pressures and threats

7.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (B23)	M
Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure (D02)	M
Invasive alien species of Union concern (I01)	H
Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial) (J01)	H
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Modification of hydrological flow (K04)	H
Physical alteration of water bodies (K05)	H
Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01)	H
Droughts and decreases in precipitation due to climate change (N02)	M
Increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change (N03)	M

Threat	Ranking
Forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (B23)	M
Hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure (D02)	M
Invasive alien species of Union concern (I01)	H
Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial) (J01)	H
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	M
Modification of hydrological flow (K04)	H
Physical alteration of water bodies (K05)	H
Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01)	H
Droughts and decreases in precipitation due to climate change (N02)	M
Increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change (N03)	M

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	Short-term results (within the current reporting period, 2013-2018)

8.5 List of main conservation measures

- Reduce diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters from agricultural activities (CA11)
- Reduce diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters from forestry activities (CB10)
- Reduce impact of hydropower operation and infrastructure (CC04)
- Management, control or eradication of established invasive alien species of Union concern (CI02)
- Reduce impact of mixed source pollution (CJ01)
- Restore habitats impacted by multi-purpose hydrological changes (CJ03)
- Adopt climate change mitigation measures (CN01)
- Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)

8.6 Additional information

9. Future prospects

9.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	Good
	b) Area	Poor
	c) Structure and functions	Poor
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 Positive - slight/moderate improvement	

10. Conclusions

10.1. Range	Favourable (FV)
10.2. Area	Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
10.3. Specific structure and functions (incl. typical species)	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.4. Future prospects	Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Improving (+)
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	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.

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Conclusion on Area covered by habitat reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Area is stable; 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 poor.
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 - stable, and Structure and functions - increasing.

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
11.2 Type of estimate	
11.3 Surface area of the habitat type inside the network Method used	Insufficient or no data available
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 expert opinion with very limited data
11.6 Additional information	

12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
12.2 Other relevant information	

Distribution Map

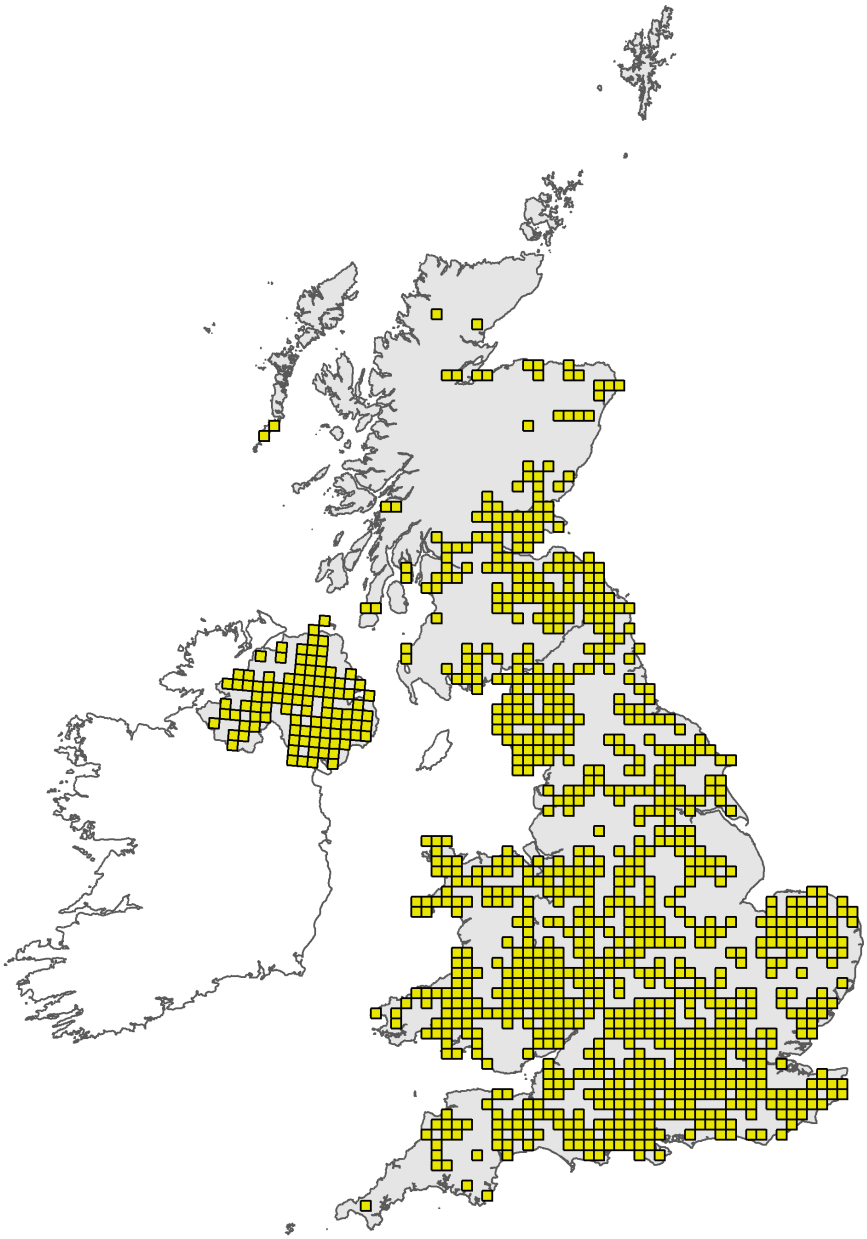

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H3260 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government 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 H3260 - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. 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.