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:

H4020 - Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*

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	**4020 - Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	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	BSBI. Online Atlas of British and Irish Flora. https://www.brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/plant/erica-ciliaris [accessed 07/03/2018] CHAPMAN, S. B., & ROSE, R. J. (1994). Changes in the distribution of erica ciliaris L. and E. X watsonii benth. in dorset, 1963-1987. Watsonia, 20(2), 89-95. Retrieved from www.scopus.com HOCKING, S. & STEWART, J. 2000. English Nature Research Report 353 - The status of Dorset heath (Erica ciliaris) in Cornwall English Nature, Peterborough.TURAL ENGLAND's Designated Sites database. Accessed Feb-mar 2018. Habitat condition, threats and pressures. https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ ROSE, R. J., BANNISTER, P., & CHAPMAN, S. B. (1996). Erica ciliaris L. Journal of Ecology, 84(4), 617-628. Retrieved from www.scopus.com STROH, P.A., LEACH, S.J., AUGUST, T.A., WALKER, K.J., PEARMAN, D.A., RUMSEY,F.J., HARROWER, C.A., FAY, M.F., MARTIN, J.P., PANKHURST, T., PRESTON, C.D., TAYLOR, I. 2014. A Vascular Plant Red List for England. Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, Bristol. Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory

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	

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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	2018-018-		
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value 26.61
5.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate		
5.4 Surface area Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate		
5.5 Short-term trend Period	2012-2018		
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	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate		
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		
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 19.05		Maximum 19.05	
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum 7.56		Maximum 7.56	
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum 0		Maximum 0	
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate				
6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Period	2012-2018				
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					

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6.8 Additional information

In 2012 there was a 34% in unfavourable condition. Currently the figure (for designated sites only) is about 18%.

7. Main pressures and threats

7.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland) (A07)	M
Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10)	H
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	M
Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage) (B01)	H
Abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water (K01)	M
Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)	M
Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07)	H
Vandalism or arson (H04)	H
Problematic native species (I04)	H
Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01)	M

Threat	Ranking
Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland) (A07)	M
Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10)	H
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	M
Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage) (B01)	H
Abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water (K01)	H
Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)	M
Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07)	H
Vandalism or arson (H04)	M
Problematic native species (I04)	M
Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01)	H

7.2 Sources of information

7.3 Additional information

8. Conservation measures

8.1 Status of measures

a) Are measures needed? Yes

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	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	

Prevent conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats, and habitats of species into agricultural land (CA01)

Reinstate appropriate agricultural practices to address abandonment, including mowing, grazing, burning or equivalent measures (CA04)

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

Recreate Annex I agricultural habitats (CA07)

Reduce/eliminate air pollution from agricultural activities (CA12)

Reduce impact of outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities (CF03)

Manage water abstraction for public supply and for industrial and commercial use (CF11)

Management of problematic native species (CI05)

Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes (CL01)

Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)

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:

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10.8 Additional information	

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 26.61
11.2 Type of estimate	95% confidence interval
11.3 Surface area of the habitat type inside the network Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network Direction	Increasing (+)
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 H4020 - Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *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 H4020 - Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *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.

Explanatory Notes

Habitat code: 4020 Region code: ATL

Field label	Note
5.2 Surface area	Max value equals to unit area for 2013 report (ie not the whole unit will contain the feature)
5.2c Surface area (in km²) - Best single value	The habitat area figures are based on information from the Lowland Heathland Priority Habitat Inventory - whilst these represent the best available estimate of the habitat area within SSSIs, it is likely that they are an over-estimate of the actual extent
5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area	2013 report figures for whole unit.
8.4 Response to the measures	27% of the area in UFR and >40 ha in UNC, so reponses expected in a longer term.
11.1c Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (in km² in biogeographical/ marine region) - Best single value	The habitat area figures are based on information from the Lowland Heathland Priority Habitat Inventory - whilst these represent the best available estimate of the habitat area within SSSIs, it is likely that they are an over-estimate of the actual extent