# 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:

## H4040 - Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with *Erica vagans*

# 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 | **4040 - Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans** |
| **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 | FARRELL, L. 1993. Lowland heathland: the extent of habitat change. Peterborough, English Nature Science No. 12. http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/2271780 HOPKINS, J. J. 1980. The Lizard Peninsula. Nature Conservancy Council internal report. Peterborough.TURAL ENGLAND's Designated Sites database. Accessed Feb-mar 2018. Habitat condition, threats and pressures. https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ PEARMAN, D.A. 2017. The population dynamics of rare annual plants on the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall, UK, 2009-2016. New Journal of Botany, 7(1): 11-24. 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 | |
| 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- |

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| 5.2 Surface area (in km²) | a) Minimum | b) Maximum | c) Best single value | 22.12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 21.64 | Maximum 21.64 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | b) Area in not-good condition (km²) | Minimum 0.48 | Maximum 0.48 |
| | 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 | Stable (0) | | |
| 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

| Pressure | Ranking |
|---|---|
| Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning) (A01) | M |

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| Threat | Ranking |
|---|---|
| Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland) (A07) | H |
| Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10) | M |
| Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27) | M |
| Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (E01) | 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) | M |
| Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) (L02) | M |
| Problematic native species (I04) | H |
| Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01) | M |

| Threat | Ranking |
|---|---|
| Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning) (A01) | M |
| Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland) (A07) | H |
| Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10) | M |
| Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27) | M |
| Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (E01) | H |
| Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01) | H |
| Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07) | M |
| Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) (L02) | M |
| Problematic native species (I04) | H |
| Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change (N01) | H |

7.2 Sources of information

7.3 Additional information — Most H4040 heathlands in England are now notified and protected under national and internaltional legislation, so further losses are unlikely. However, the long-term management depends on resources being available (grazing, cutting, burning, invasive species control, etc). The recreation pressure is already high (with locally negative impacts of trampling) and expected to increase further. Higher temperatures as a result of climate change may have a negative impact on specialised flora and fauna in this habitat.

## 8. Conservation measures

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| 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 | 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)

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

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 transport operation and infrastructure (CE01)

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

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 |

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

The change is mainly due to:

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<br>b) Maximum<br>c) Best single value | 22.12 |
|---|---|---|
| 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 H4040 - Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with *Erica vagans*. 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 H4040 - Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with *Erica vagans*. 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: 4040 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 | Most of the feature in FC (Favourable);<50 ha in URC (Unfav. Recovering), so I'd expect changes in short term; |
| 9.1 Future prospects of parameters | Future trend for S&F set as positive because N CL exceedance in the SSSIs which form part of The Lizard SAC show that 53% of the habitat area is just above the minimum N CL range, more than a third is below, and only 0.33% has high N deposition |
| 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 |