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:

H6210 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)

SCOTLAND

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 (Scotland information only)**
1.2 Habitat code	**6210 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substra**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1986-2011
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	basic data sources used for 2007, 2013 and 2018 reporting : SNH Lowland Grassland Database, containing data collected during NCC and SNH grassland surveys, 1986 - 2000, MacKintosh, J. 2005. Distribution and Extent of Unimproved Lowland Grassland National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Types in Scotland. Bot. J. Scotl. 56(2) 119-146, Dadds, N.J. and Averis, A.B.G. In press. Review of the extent and condiition of lowland grassland Priority BAP habitats and Annex 1 habitats. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report. SCM data. 2019 areas based on HABMoS measurements with some additional expert interpretation

4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)		
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) b) Operator c) Unknown: No d) Method	
4.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Improved knowledge/more accurate data Use of different method The change is mainly due to: Improved knowledge/more accurate data	
4.12 Additional information	No reported loss of sites since 2013 when habitat was last reported on. New potential sites have however been identified through the HABMoS project and whilst not ground truthed for the purpose of this reporting they have been included.	

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5. Area covered by habitat

5.1 Year or period	1983-2017		
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value 6.74
5.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate		
5.4 Surface area Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data		
5.5 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018		
5.6 Short-term trend Direction	Decreasing (-)		
5.7 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum 0	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 c) Unknown No d) Method		
5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Improved knowledge/more accurate data Use of different method The change is mainly due to: Improved knowledge/more accurate data		
5.15 Additional information	There has been no loss of extent of H6210 in upland sites, as reported in the SCM database. The extent of this habitat is limited. Continued relatively high levels of grazing by sheep and deer over much of the uplands, combined with the attractiveness of the habitat for grazers, mean that the extent of the feature is unlikely to have declined in any significant way, although over-grazing can also have negative impacts.It is judged that the extent remains the same as in the previous reporting round. It should be borne in mind that this is based on the absence of evidence of loss rather than complete re-survey and vegetation mapping. Lowlands: A loss of 2% was found by the sample survey of 2010-11 (Dadds & Averis, in press) covering the period 1983 to 2011, ie 18 years. Assuming a constant rate of change throughout this period, the short-term trend is estimated to be a loss of 1.3% over the past 12 years. The total loss of habitat, upland and lowland, is therefore 0.05%, which is considered to be insignificant		

6. Structure and functions

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum 0.09	Maximum 0.9
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum 0.1	Maximum 0.1
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum 6.55	Maximum 6.55
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data		

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6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Period	2002-2018	
6.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Direction	Unknown (x)	
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
Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)	H
Problematic native species (I04)	H
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	M

Threat	Ranking
Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)	H
Problematic native species (I04)	H
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	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	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)	
8.5 List of main conservation measures		

Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features (CA03)
Reinstate appropriate agricultural practices to address abandonment, including mowing, grazing, burning or equivalent measures (CA04)
DO NOT USE Management, control or eradication of other alien species (CI04)
Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (CA05)

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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	A loss of 0.015ha/yr was reported by the sample survey of 2010-11 for the previous 28 years. 21% of features were grassland samples were found to be in unfavourable condition when SCM targets were applied, agricultural neglect being the main cause.

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	The conclusion is based on the poor structure and function assessment of the habitat.

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 2.59
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	SAC only, Beinn a'Ghlo, Cairngorms, Morrone and Tulach Hill and Glen Fender

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12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

12.2 Other relevant information

Distribution Map

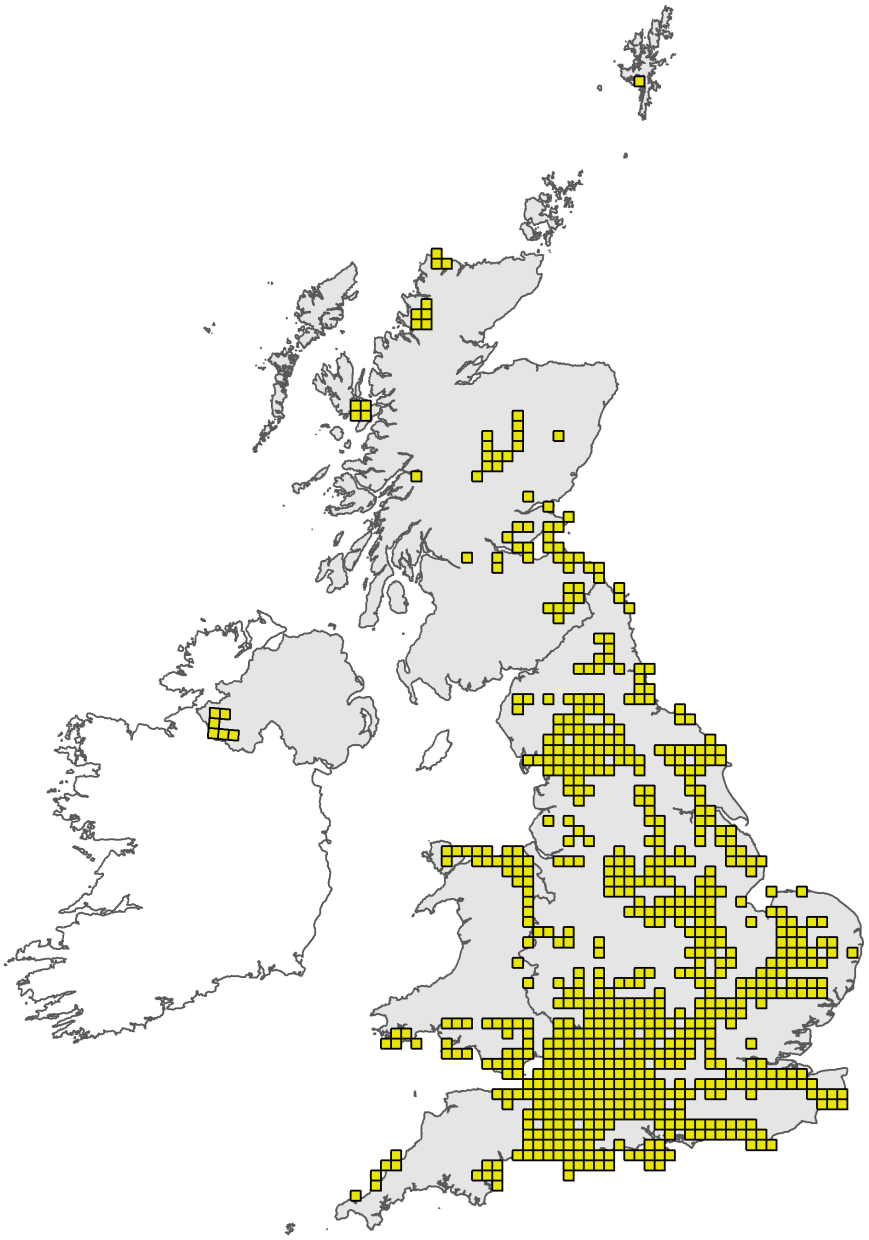

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H6210 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). 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

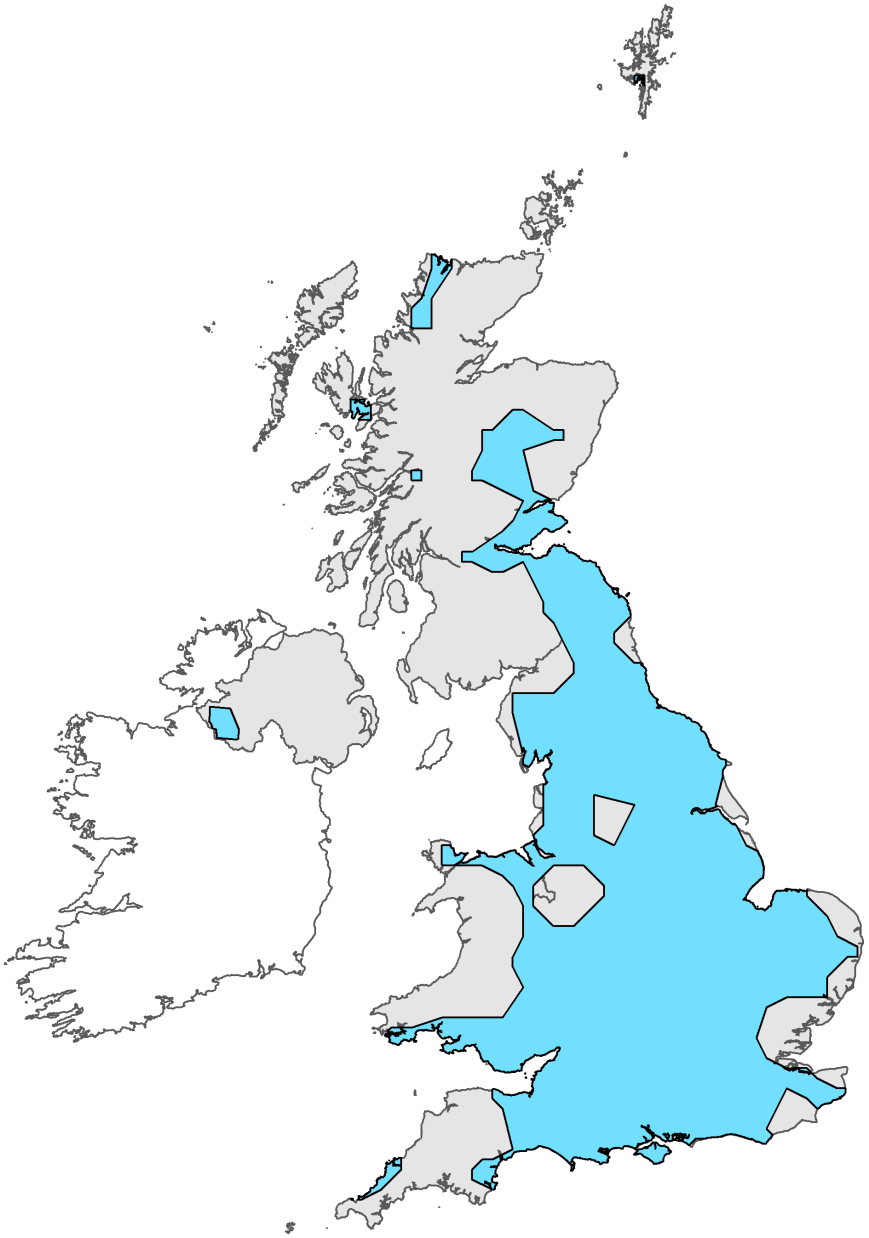

Figure 2: UK range map for H6210 - Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains 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.