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:

H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

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	**6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montan**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1999-2007
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	References within - http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17Consult_20131010/H6430_SCOTLAND.pdf SNH SCM database, extract A2298772, 2017, processed and summarised in A2496658. Tall herbs (upland) feature type (JNCC, (2009), Common Standards Monitoring Guidance for Upland Habitats, Version July 2009 and previous versions) http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2237

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	Improved knowledge/more accurate data The change is mainly due to:	 Improved knowledge/more accurate data
4.12 Additional information	NB Range entries and comments are made on the basis of Distribution maps and assumptions as to how these will affect previous range maps, without having seen new range maps.1) Newly collated vegetation map information (HabMoS) has identified occurrences of this habitat which did not appear in previous Article 17 reporting distribution maps. It is considered that these occurrences are not new but the result of increased knowledge. In previous reporting it was considered that the then-recorded range was likely to match closely the	

Favourable reference range. However, some of the new occurrences are outwith the currently-mapped range, particularly in Islay and western Argyll, and in east Central Scotland. These would expand the range, and increase the surface area of the range. NB only a cursory examination of additional occurrences has been possible, and any change in range would require verification. 2) For the previously-reported occurrences of the habitat, there is no evidence of any actual change in range in Scotland in the period 2006-2017. Within this period, persistence of the habitat has been confirmed in all the upland designated sites where it is a notified feature that have been checked (SCM database, extract A2298772).

5. Area covered by habitat

5.1 Year or period	2007-007-		
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum 1.5	b) Maximum 2.5	c) Best single value 2
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	2007-2016		
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 extrapolation from a limited amount of 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 The change is mainly due to: Improved knowledge/more accurate data		
5.15 Additional information	Conclusions are based on absence of evidence of change in extent in Scotland in the period. Within this period, no losses of extent have been recorded on upland designated sites where it is a notified feature (SCM database, extract A2298772), although it is considered likely that expansion of the habitat onto suitable areas is hindered or prevented in many areas by herbivore pressure.		

6. Structure and functions

6.1 Condition of habitat	a) Area in good condition (km²)	Minimum 1.48514	Maximum 1.98412
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum 0.01485	Maximum 0.01984
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum 0	Maximum 0.49603
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate		

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6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Period	2004-2016
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	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
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	Site Condition Monitoring provides a means of assessing the structure and function of H6430 in Scotland. Assessment is based on the results of fieldwork carried out between 2004 and 2016. Results are recorded on the SNH SCM database, from which data was extracted to A2298772 on 23/05/2017. Within this period, the proportion of H6430 on SACs considered to be in Favourable condition has increased from 74% in 2012 (based on assessments carried out between 1999 and 2010) to 99% in 2016. No H6430 is assessed as recovering, a decrease from 2012, accounted for by areas now considered to be in Favourable condition. The remaining 1% of the extent is reported to be Unfavourable but recovering due to management. 2016 results for SSSI show that 13 features were Favourable, with 2 Unfavourable, but extent data is not available for these features. It must be noted that the SSSI feature Tall herb Ledge does not correspond exactly to the Annex 1 habitat H6430, as it includes both the U17 community of more base-rich soils (which corresponds to H6430), and the U16 and U19 communities of less base-rich soils. On some of these SSSIs U17, and thus H6430, is not present, and in some others it may form only part of the SSSI feature. Overall, no H6430 was assessed as declining in condition (Unfavourable declining or Favourable declining), with 26ha recovered or recovering (Favourable recovered, Unfavourable recovering, Unfavourable recovering due to management), compared to 3ha and 33ha respectively for 2012. As the proportion in Favourable condition has increased to 99%, and the remainder is reported to be recovering, overall the judgement is that condition is improving.

7. Main pressures and threats

7.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
Management of fishing stocks and game (G08)	H
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	M

Threat	Ranking
Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
Management of fishing stocks and game (G08)	H
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	M

7.2 Sources of information	
7.3 Additional information	Grazing and trampling - sheep Deer grazing and trampling Rhododendron, cotoneaster, sycamore

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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		Only inside 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		

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

Management of hunting, recreational fishing and recreational or commercial harvesting or collection of plants (CG02)

Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species (CI03)

8.6 Additional information	Conservation measures are generally implemented through designation of protected areas, voluntary and statutory procedures (Deer Act), agri-environment schemes (SRDP). Some results are achievable in the short term, and indeed have been achieved, butsome attributes will recover only over longer timescales. The current restriction of the habitat largely to ungrazed or little-grazed areas difficult of access to herbivores provides protection, but in the longer term expansion into suitable areas easier of access will enable increase in extent and increase the resilience of the habitat.

9. Future prospects

9.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range b) Area c) Structure and functions	
9.2 Additional information		Range is considered likely to remain stable. Area is considered likely to remain stable. An increase in area would improve the resilience of the habitat. The significant improvements shown for Structure and function should continue. Although pressures remain, and the application of conservation measures is patchy, the improvements are very positive.

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:	

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b) Overall trend in conservation status

No change

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 b) Maximum c) Best single value 2.1
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	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	Site Condition Monitoring provides a means of assessing the structure and function of H6430 on SACs in Scotland. Assessment is based on the results of fieldwork carried out between 2004 and 2016. Results are recorded on the SNH SCM database, from which data was extracted to A2298772 on 23/05/2017. Within this period, the proportion of H6430 on SACs considered to be in Favourable condition has increased from 74% in 2012 (based on assessments carried out between 1999 and 2010) to 99% in 2016. No H6430 is assessed as recovering, a decrease from 2012, accounted for by areas now considered to be in Favourable condition. The remaining 1% of the extent is reported to be Unfavourable but recovering due to management. Overall, no H6430 was assessed as declining in condition (Unfavourable declining or Favourable declining), with 26ha recovered or recovering (Favourable recovered, Unfavourable recovering, Unfavourable recovering due to management), compared to 3ha and 33ha respectively for 2012. As the proportion in Favourable condition has increased to 99%, and the remainder is reported to be recovering, overall the judgement is that condition is improving.

12. Complementary information

12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends	
12.2 Other relevant information	

Distribution Map

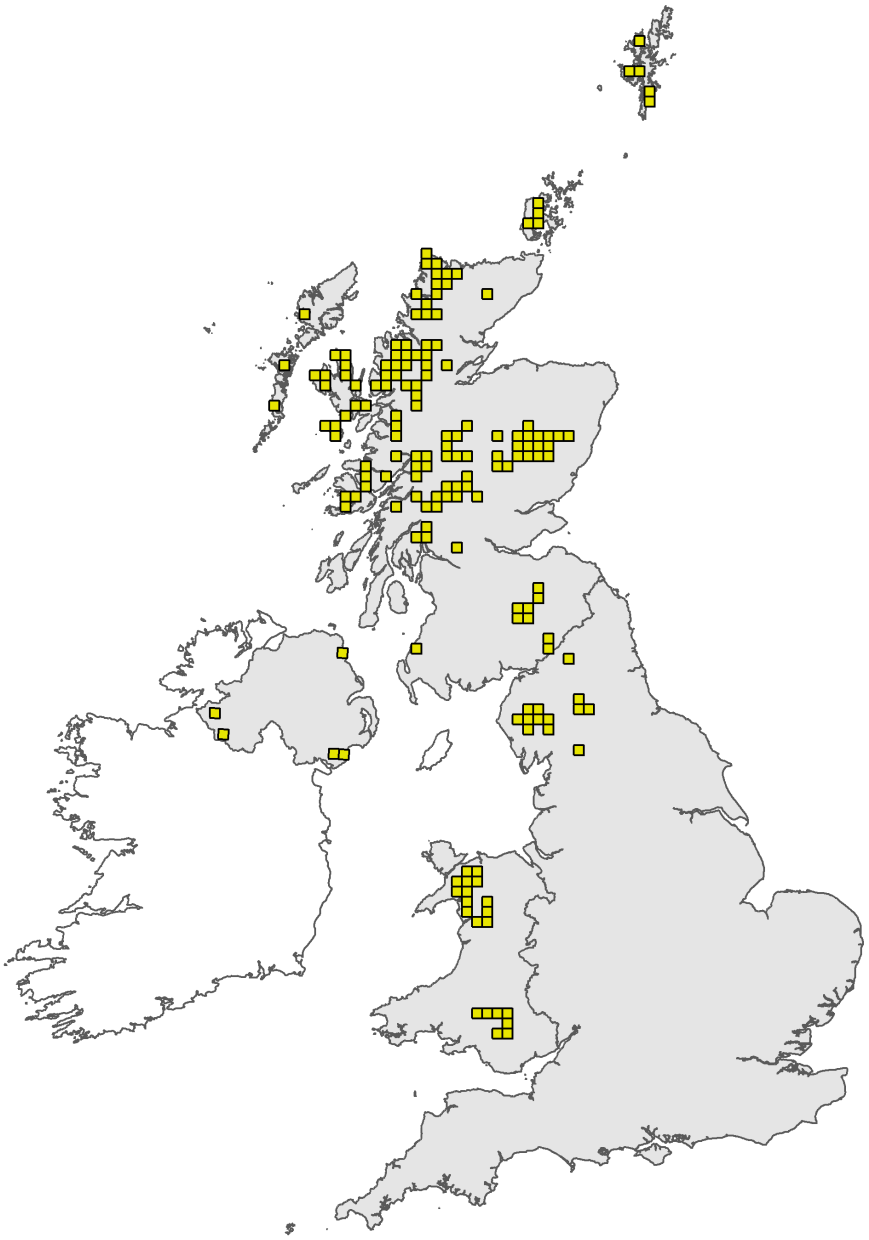

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains 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

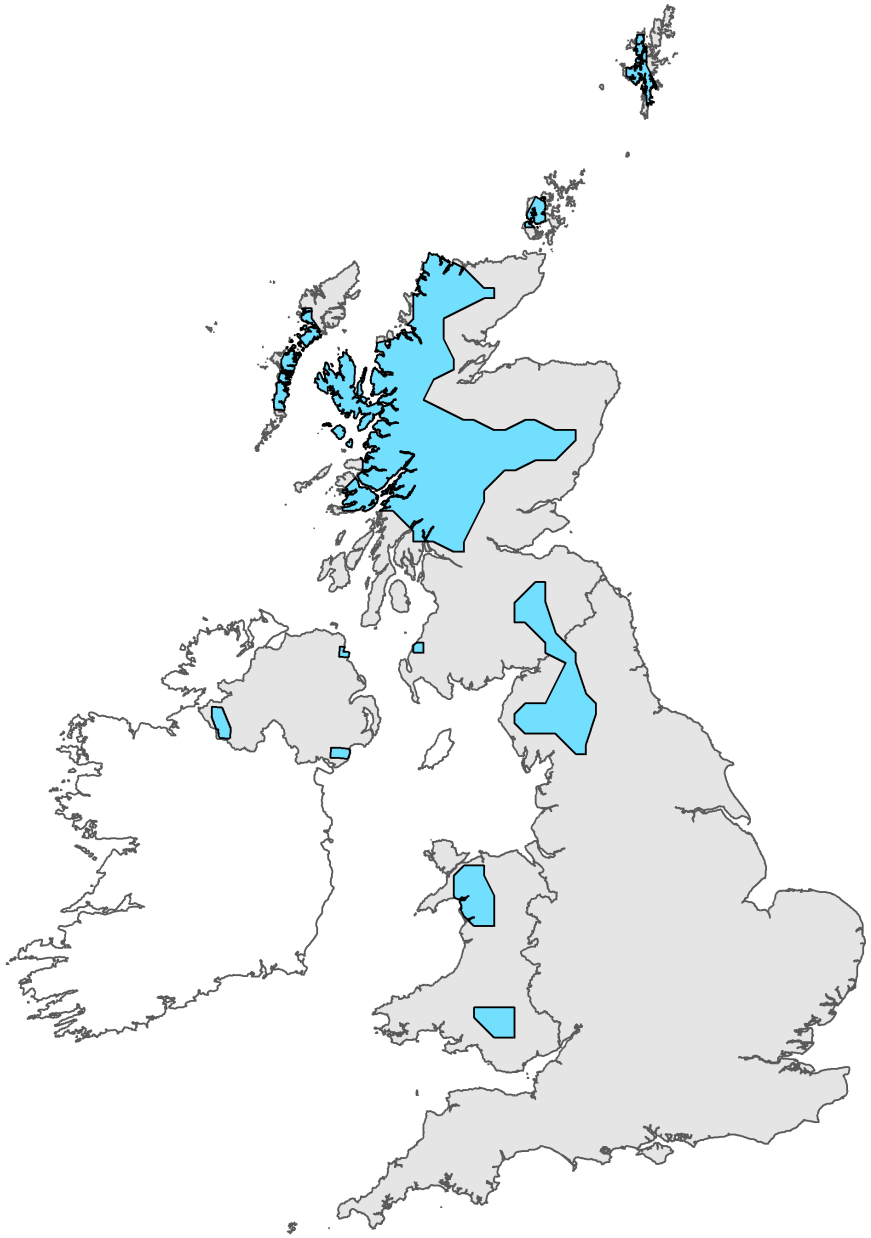

Figure 2: UK range map for H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 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.