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:

H9120 - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*)

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	**9120 - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus**

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1985-2013
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 Natural England's SSSI series review (unpublished) Wales Blackstock T. H., Howe E. A., Stevens J. P., Burrows C. R. & Jones P. S. 2010. Habitats of Wales. A comprehensive field survey 1979-1997. University of Wales Press, Cardiff. Forestry Commission 2003. The Management of Native Woodlands. 2. Lowland Beech-Ash woodlands. Practice Guide. Forestry Commission, Edinburgh. Forestry Commission 2011. National Forest Inventory Woodland Area Statistics: Wales: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/INFD-8EYJWF Forestry Commission 2018. Top tree diseases: Phytophthora ramorum. https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorum [Accessed 21/06/18] Guest, D. 2012. Assessing pressures and threats for Article 17 reporting based on information in CCW's Actions Database. CCW Staff Guidance Note. JNCC 2017. Habitat account - Forests. 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion). http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/habitat.asp?featureintcode=h9120 [Accessed 21/06/18] Latham, J. 2000. Estimates of areas of woodland HSP types and HSD Annex 1 habitats in Wales. Unpublished CCW staff report. Latham, J. 2001. National Vegetation Classification of woodland in Wales: a summary of survey results 1985-2000. CCW Natural Science Report, 01/7/1, CCW, Bangor. Latham, J. 2003. Woodlands. In: Priority habitats of Wales: a technical guide. Jones, P.S., Blackstock, T.H., Burrows, C.R. and Howe, E.A. (Eds). Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor. Latham, J., Sherry, J. & Rothwell, J. 2013. Ecological connectivity and biodiversity prioritisation in the terrestrial environment of Wales. CCW Staff Science Report No. 13/3/3. Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor. Latham, J. & Rothwell, J. 2012. Estimates of the area and distribution of woodland Annex 1 types in Wales, based on GIS analyses: an assessment for Article 17 Reporting, 2012. CCW Staff Report, Bangor. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 2013. Supporting documentation for the Third

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

Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 on the implementation of the Directive from January 2007 to December 2012 Conservation status assessment for Habitat: H9120 - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion roboripetraeae or Ilici-Fagenion) Available from:
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17Consult_20131010/H9120_WALES.pdf [accessed 21/06/18]
Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 2018. SAC and SPA Monitoring Programme Results 2013-2018. Available from:
http://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/SACSPAMonitoringProgrammeResults/?lang=en[Accessed 19/0618)]
Packham, J.R., Thomas, P.A., Atkinson, M.D & Degen, T. 2012. Biological Flora of the British Isles: Fagus sylvatica. Journal of Ecology 2012, 100, 1557-1608.
Watts, K., Griffiths, M., Quine, C., Ray, D. & Humphrey, J.W. 2005. Towards a Woodland Habitat Network for Wales. CCW Science Report 686, CCW Bangor.
Wesche, S., Kirby, K. & Ghazhoul, J. 2006. Plant assemblages in British beech woodlands within and beyond native range: implications of future climate change for their conservation. Forest Ecology and Management 236, 385-392.

4. Range

4.1 Surface area (in km²)	26267.72		
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)	26267.72	
	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	1985-2018			
5.2 Surface area (in km²)	a) Minimum	b) Maximum	c) Best single value	81
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			

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

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)	89.1	
	b) Operator		
	c) Unknown	No	
	d) Method	The FRA is not more than 10% above the current area. 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	24.34	Maximum	24.34
	b) Area in not-good condition (km²)	Minimum	17.8	Maximum	17.8
	c) Area where condition is not known (km²)	Minimum	38.86	Maximum	38.86
6.2 Condition of habitat Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data				
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	Stable (0)				
6.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited 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
Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.) (A05)	M
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	M

Replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and GMOs) (B03)	M
Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris (B07)	H
Management of fishing stocks and game (G08)	H
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	H
Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests (I05)	M
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	H
Interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens) (L06)	M

Threat	Ranking
Agricultural activities generating air pollution (A27)	M
Replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and GMOs) (B03)	M
Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris (B07)	M
Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)	H
Management of fishing stocks and game (G08)	M
Other invasive alien species (other then species of Union concern) (I02)	H
Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests (I05)	M
Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants (J03)	H
Interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens) (L06)	H
Droughts and decreases in precipitation due to climate change (N02)	H

7.2 Sources of information	
7.3 Additional information	J03: Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants is ranked as a High ranked pressure and threat, due to the nutrient N critical load for the habitat being exceeded across >25% of the habitat area

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		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		Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)
8.5 List of main conservation measures		

Restore small landscape features on agricultural land (CA02)
Reduce/eliminate air pollution from agricultural activities (CA12)

Adapt/manage reforestation and forest regeneration (CB04)	
Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices (CB05)	
Manage conversion of land for construction and development of infrastructure (CF01)	
Reducing the impact of (re-) stocking for fishing and hunting, of artificial feeding and predator control (CG03)	
Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species (CI03)	
Management of problematic native species (CI05)	
Reduce impact of mixed source pollution (CJ01)	
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	Bad
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 Very negative - important deterioration. The Future prospects for Structure and functions takes into account that at least 25% of the habitat area is expected to be in unfavourable (not good) condition in c.2030 due to nutrient N critical load exceedance, unless measures are taken to reduce N deposition impacts.	

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 - Bad (U2)
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Stable (=)
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. 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.

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

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 bad.
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 - stable. If the very negative future trend in Structure and functions is also taken into account, the Overall trend would be deteriorating.

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 56.073
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	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

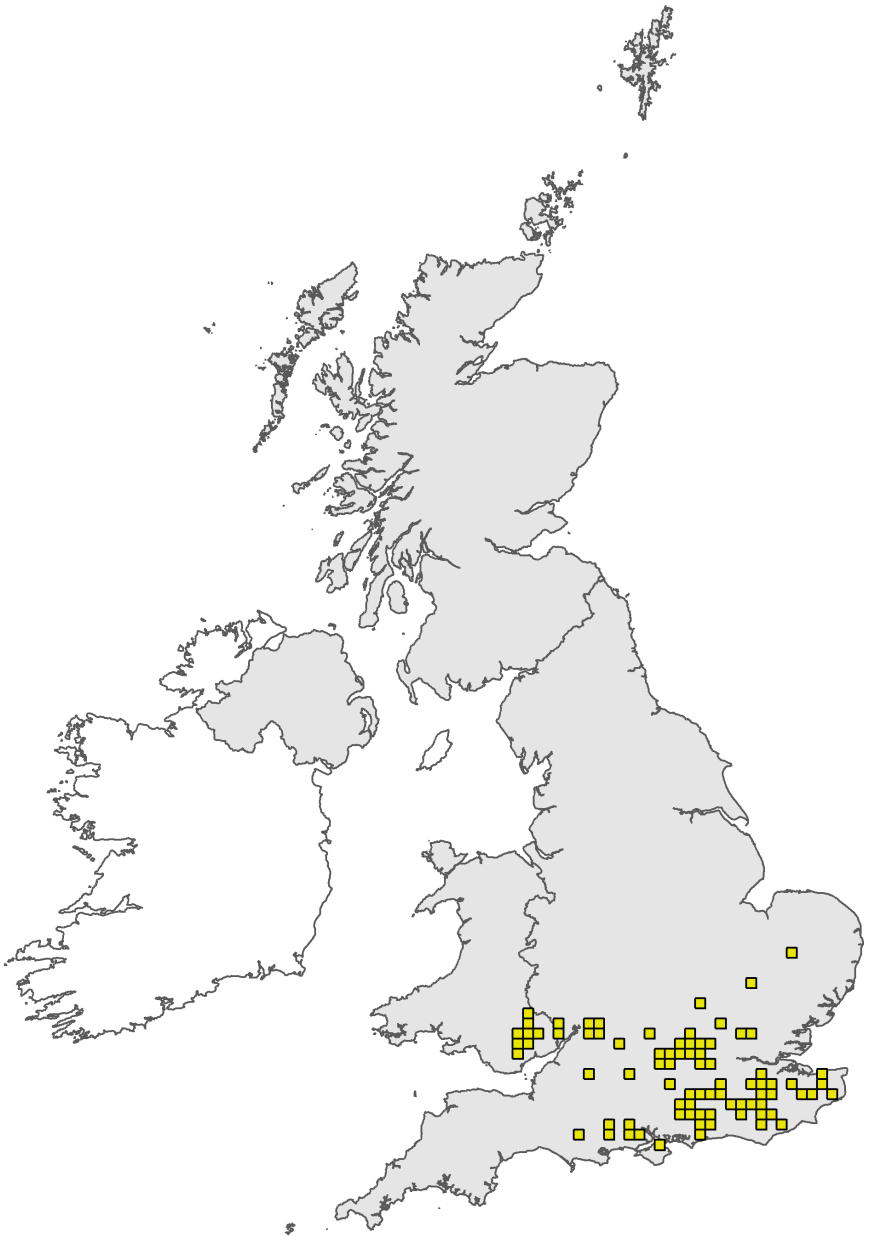

Figure 1: UK distribution map for H9120 - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open 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 H9120 - Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*). 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.