UK Guidance to Be Used When Undertaking the 2019-2024 Habitats Regulations Reporting of UK Habitats

Guidance for the 2019–2024 Habitats Regulations reporting

For use by Statutory Nature Conservation Body staff undertaking the UK Terrestrial and Marine Habitats Regulations Reporting

Photo: Upwood meadows (Anna Robinson)

HABITAT TYPES

Habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC; as retained in UK law)

JNCC

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x. Introduction

x1. Background

Every six years, statutory reports on the condition of nationally important habitats and species are produced under the Habitats Regulations (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (UK Offshore). This reporting remains closely aligned to the content of the previous EU Article 17 (Habitats and Non-bird Species) and Article 12 (Birds) reports (previous reports available here: 2019 Article 17 Article 12, older). However, this will be the first report where the four countries of the United Kingdom (UK) are reporting on the status of habitats and species independently under the Habitat Regulations.

This document provides information and guidance on how to fill the different data fields of the Habitat data capture pro-forma (provided by JNCC). It mainly consists of descriptions of the information to be reported in each field, and the basic requirements to be met by reported information. Information will be provided by JNCC, and the Country Nature Conservation Bodies (CNCBs) in England (Natural England), Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Environment Agency), Scotland (Scottish Natural Heritage), Wales (Natural Resources Wales) – referred to as the CNCBs hereafter. This country level information will then feed into the composite UK level report published by 2028.

x2. Guidance documents

The UK will be submitting a report to the Bern convention, which is following the EU Article 17 guidance, and therefore our approach is to also closely follow the Bern and EU 2019–2024 guidance. This document is based on a combination of Bern/EU guidance and previous UK level reporting (see Table 1). As the Bern guidance is currently only available in draft form *[at the time of sharing with CNCBs]*, this document will signpost to the relevant sections of these EU guidance documents when necessary. Please note that EU and UK guidance may differ in certain fields. In these circumstances, follow the guidance in this document above all others.

Supplementary (EU) guidance documents can be found on the EU reference portal for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (EIONET portal). A description of these supplementary documents can be found in Table 1. However, JNCC is aware that the EU may make some minor changes to their member state guidance for completing Article 17 (EU) reporting in future, and as a result, the versions of guidance documents available to download from the EIONET portal may alter. Therefore, to maintain consistency in guidance provided to the UK CNCBs, JNCC provided downloaded versions of the relevant supplementary guidance documents as of August 2023.

Table 1. Supplementary guidance information. Downloaded versions of these documents will be provided by JNCC, and references to when they should be used are highlighted in blue text (not hyperlinks) throughout this document.

Document	Description	Provider	Date Downloaded by JNCC
EU Article 17 Explanatory Note*	Supporting material on reporting format	EU	08/2023
EU Article 17 guidelines*	Supporting material on concepts and definitions	EU	
UK Approach Document 2019	Various methods used for the UK level assessment in 2019 for the 2013-2018 reporting round.	UK	
Pressures*	List of pressures to be reported under section	EU	
Conservation Measures*	List of conservation measures to be reported under section	EU	

*All EU guidance documents can be accessed through the EIONET portal here: https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/habitats_art17

x3. Using the reporting documents

x3.1 UK Guidelines (this document)

The habitat guidance table is colour coded to represent the completion requirements of each field, i.e., if the field is compulsory or optional, and whether the information is to be provided by the CNCBs or JNCC. Each colour also has a corresponding label (e.g., optional fields are light blue and are labelled 'Optional'). A description of this coding is outlined in Table 2. The same coding is applied to the Habitat pro-forma spreadsheet. High-value fields which are used to help derive the UK conclusion in Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A) contain text highlighted in yellow.

Table 2. Key to Annex D field completion requirements.

Colour	Code	Label
	Compulsory field, to be completed by CNCBs	Compulsory
	Optional field, to be completed by CNCBs	Optional
	Optional, provided by JNCC	Optional, Provided by JNCC
	Prefilled / not required	Prefilled / not required

x3.2 Habitat data capture pro-forma

The Habitat data capture pro-forma (Excel) contains different tabs for completing. Guidance of what tab to use is provided at the beginning of each section. Extra tabs for tracking, auditing, and source information are also present in the pro-forma. These are:

- **habitat_audit tab:** This should be used to provide all relevant audit trail information (e.g., commentary on approach/method used etc.). Normal auditing standards should be applied here, as determined by each CNCB. The commentary should be the basis for each field entry, where necessary.
- **habitat_progress_check tab:** This allows each CNCB to keep track of and record when each of the relevant sections in the assessment of Conservation Status required for each habitat has been completed. Please indicate completed habitat assessments which are ready for UK aggregation by JNCC in this tab.
- **habitat_sources tab:** All sources of information, both published and unpublished, should be identified and referenced in field 3.2 of this tab. This should be provided in sufficient detail such that the information could be tracked down by someone external to the process (guidance in field 3.2). Any interpretation of information should be explained. Give full details of any web links. Note that, in due course, both the reporting and audit information supplied by the CNCBs will be published and made public via the JNCC website.

x3.3 Additional information

Additional information fields are present throughout the reporting pro-formas. Any additional information that cannot be put in the reporting Excel spreadsheets (e.g., in a different format) should be sent in a separate Word document to JNCC with the completed Excel data capture pro-forma. In some cases, this can be avoided by referencing relevant tables or diagrams in section 3.2 (sources) e.g., "*see Figure 42 in Adams (1979)*".

The additional information document should also include any additional comments/advice for JNCC, in particular any recommendations on the UK-level report. This includes the use of UK-level information sources, as this sort of advice is inappropriate to include in the habitat_audit tab (which should be constrained to auditing of country-level or UK-level information/conclusions, as appropriate).

x4. Key points

x4.1 CNCB responsibilities

- Complete the Habitat data capture pro-forma as accurately as possible for each habitat required.
- Provide JNCC with mapping data required by JNCC to provide Range and Favourable reference figures. This should be done via:
  - Terrestrial features: completing the Habitat mapping reporting pro-forma.
  - Marine features: providing shapefiles.
  - see the Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6] for further detail.
- Undertake Favourable conservation assessments for habitats at the country level.

x4.2 Information provided by JNCC

- Distribution maps (as shapefiles and PNG images, see Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6])
- Range surface Area value (field 4.1)
- Favourable Reference Values (FRV)
  - Favourable Reference Range (FRR) and audit
  - Favourable Reference Area (FRA) and audit
- Offshore (beyond 12 nautical miles) data will be provided by JNCC for these habitats to support country assessments:
  - H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
  - H1170 Reefs
  - H1180 Submarine structures made by leaking gases

x4.3 Reporting Periods

A summary of the different reporting periods used throughout this report. Further guidance is provided in individual fields where necessary.

- General reporting period: 2019–2024 (one reporting cycle)
- Trends:
  - Short-term trends: 2013-2024 (two reporting cycles)
  - Long-term trends: 2001-2024 (four reporting cycles)
- Other:
  - Pressures: 2019–2024 (one reporting cycle)
  - Threats: 2024-2035 (future two reporting cycles)
  - Future Prospects: 2024-2035 (future two reporting cycles)

x4.4 Favourable conservation status (FCS)

The aim of the Habitats Regulations reporting is to assess the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of habitats and species listed in the Habitats directive annexes. For habitats, this assessment is based on the parameters:

- Range (fields 4)
- Area (fields 5)
- Structure and function (fields 6)
- Future Prospects (fields 9)

The conservation status of a habitat will be assessed using the Habitat Evaluation Matrices (Appendix 1 and 2). These define a habitat as ‘favourable’ when:

- The habitat’s natural **Range**, and **Areas** it covers within that Range are stable or increasing, and neither is smaller than their corresponding Favourable Reference Value.
- The specific **Structure and functions** which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist, are in good condition, and are likely to continue to exist in good condition for the foreseeable future (i.e., no significant deteriorations and/or pressures).
- The **future prospects** of the habitat is excellent or good, with no significant impact from threats, and it’s long term viability assured.

Annex I habitat types reporting

Report format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex I habitat types.

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information	
Fields 1.1-1.4 can be found in relevant tabs within the Habitat data capture pro-forma	
1.1 Habitat name Prefilled	Habitat type names from the habitat types checklist are pre-filled in the Habitat data capture pro-forma.
1.2 Habitat code Prefilled	Habitat type codes from the habitat types checklist are pre-filled in the Habitat data capture pro-forma.
1.3 Habitat group Prefilled	Habitat type groups from the habitat types checklist are pre-filled in the Habitat data capture pro-forma.
1.4 Country/UK Prefilled	Country names (England, Scotland, Wales, or N. Ireland, UK or Offshore) are pre-filled in the Habitat data capture pro-forma.

2. Maps	
*The fields to be completed under Section 2, Maps, can be **found in the 'habitat_maps' tab** within the Habitat data capture pro-forma. Mapping data should be supplied using the Habitat mapping reporting pro-forma. Further detail is provided in the Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6].*	
2.1 Year or period Compulsory	Enter the year (e.g., 2021) or period (e.g., 2020-2024) for which the distribution data was collected. This may extend beyond the limits of the current reporting period (2019–2024) if this information is reasonably indicative of the distribution for this period.
2.2 Distribution map Compulsory	*The distribution map provides information about the actual (mapped) and presumed (modelled or extrapolated) occurrences of the habitat type.* Please indicate (select YES) when a distribution map is provided. YES/NO Provide the distribution information using the Habitat mapping reporting pro-forma in .csv format. See the Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6] for specific guidance on completing the Habitat mapping reporting pro-forma.
2.3 Distribution map Method used Compulsory	Select relevant option: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. If survey information is 'near-complete' select option a). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported distribution map obtained as a result of comprehensive mapping, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual habitat type distribution (i.e., the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat distribution).
2.4 Additional information Optional	Other relevant mapping information e.g. more detailed methodology

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

Complete for each biogeographical region or marine region concerned.

3. Biogeographical and marine regions

*The fields to be completed under Section 3, Biogeographical and marine regions, can be **found within the 'habitat_sources' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*

3.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the habitat occurs Prefilled	Pre-filled by JNCC. Will be Atlantic (ATL) or Marine Atlantic (MATL).
3.2 Sources of information Compulsory	Please select the habitat name from the drop-down list in column A. The habitat code and country (columns B and E) will then automatically populate. Please input one source per row. Please ensure the habitat name is repeated in column A as many times as a source is provided. List in full and in alphabetical order, all information sources i.e., references – both published (e.g., a scientific paper) and unpublished information related to Biogeographic Level Sections 4 - 9 and 11 -12. Provide bibliographic references or links to Internet sites. Use the order: author, year, title of publication, source, volume, number of pages, web address. All Internet addresses in the reporting fields should be given in full, including the initial 'http://' or 'https://', if applicable. NB. The sources used for National Level Section 2 Maps and Biogeographic Level Section 4 Range for the 10x10 km distribution data should also be recorded here. NB. Section 7 (Main pressures) has its own sources field (7.2). It would be better to include source information for pressures under this field (3.2) rather than 7.2, which is optional.

4. Range	
*The fields to be completed under Section 4, Range, can be **found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma. See Appendix 2 Table A for Range conclusion guidance.*	
4.1 Surface Area (in km^2) Compulsory (Provided by JNCC)	*Total surface Area of the Range (outer limits of the habitat distribution) within biogeographical/marine region concerned in km².* JNCC will undertake this task and provide CNCBs with country-level Range maps and their surface Area. CNCBs then to populate the pro-forma with provided data. NB. Terrestrial and marine mapping elements are being managed through separate internal JNCC processes. See the Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6] for more detail.
4.2 Short-term trend Period Compulsory	*The dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported.* Short-term trends relate to the period 2013-2024 (two reporting cycles, 12 years) or a period as close to this as possible – information from outside this period can be used provided it is reasonably indicative of the trend for this period.
4.3 Short-term trend Direction Compulsory	Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 4.2 was (select one option): a) Stable b) Increasing c) Decreasing d) Uncertain e) Unknown Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The Range trend shows changes in the overall extent of species distribution. Although rare for Range, a fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend. Report 'uncertain' if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' where there are no data available. The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to undertake the conservation status assessment. Any large-scale deviation from this should be explained in field 4.12 'Additional information'. If there is an apparent change in direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about species distribution, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend. This apparent change should be indicated in field 4.11a 'Change and reason for change in surface Area of Range'.

	Further guidance can be found in the EU Guidelines.	
4.4 Short-term trend Magnitude Optional	Quantify the percentage change (with Range at the beginning of the reporting period as 100%) over the period reported in field 4.2. Complete this field if short-term trend (4.3) is 'Increasing', 'Decreasing', or 'uncertain'. **This field does not need to be completed for 'stable' or 'unknown' short-term trends reported in 4.3.** 'Uncertain' short-term trends suggest that some data are available, so a trend magnitude could be estimated. This should be reported on with the 'type of estimate' field completed accordingly.	
	a) Estimated minimum	Enter value for minimum and maximum estimated percentage change (with Range at the beginning of the period reported as 100%) over the period indicated in field 4.2. **Minimum (4.4a) and Maximum (4.4b) must both be filled in.** If a precise value is known, please provide the same value under both Minimum and Maximum Where only a minimum value is known, this should be reported in Minimum (4.4a) AND Maximum (4.4b) fields and indicated as 'minimum' in Type of estimate (4.4e).
	b) Estimated maximum	Where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the Minimum (4.4a) and Maximum (4.4b) fields and indicated as 'best estimate' in the Type of estimate (4.4e) field and precising that 'maximum' is entered in 4.12 Additional information. Where a less accurate Range is available, field c) pre-defined Range can be used.
	c) Pre-defined Range	If a precise value or accurate Range is not known (and entered in fields 4.4a-b), enter interval for the magnitude of estimated percentage change over the period indicated in field 4.2 (select one option):

		a) Increasing 0 – 12% b) Increasing 13 - 25% c) Increasing 26 - 50% d) Increasing 51 – 100% e) Increasing >100% f) Decreasing 0 – 12% g) Decreasing 13 - 25% h) Decreasing 26 - 50% i) Decreasing 51 – 100% j) Decreasing >100%
	d) Unknown	YES/NO Complete 'YES' if the trend magnitude is unknown. If YES, please provide further detail in field 4.12 additional information as to why there is sufficient data to determine trend but not magnitude. Complete NO if trend magnitude is known.
	e) Type of estimate	Outline the type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 4.4a-c (select one option): **a) Best estimate** – the best available single figure which can be based on modelling or expert opinion but for which the 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or an expert opinion, it should be entered in field 4.5 **b) Multi-year mean** – average value or interval where the trend magnitude is monitored/assessed several times during the period provided in field 4.2 **c) 95 % confidence interval** – estimates derived from surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence limits could be calculated **d) Minimum** – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded estimate, but where a magnitude is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a survey or monitoring projects which probably underestimate the real magnitude

		e) Pre-defined Range – where the exact minimum and maximum values could not be estimated (fields 4.4a and b), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined Range increment provided (4.4c)
Compulsory	**f) Rate of decrease**	If short-term surface Area trend direction (4.3) is 'decreasing', if possible, estimate whether the rate of decline is probably ≤1% or >1% per year (on average) during the period specified in field 4.2. Select one option: a) Decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average b) Decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average This information can be used in Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A) for the Range parameter conclusion.
4.5 Short-term trend Method used Compulsory		Select one method in relation to assessments undertaken for field trend direction (4.3) and trend magnitude (4.4): **a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate** (e.g., comparing two Range maps based on accurate distribution data, or a dedicated monitoring of a habitats distribution with good statistical power). **b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data** (e.g., trends derived from species occurrence data collected for other purposes, or from data collected from only a part of the geographical Range of a habitat, or trends based on measuring some other predictors of habitat distribution, such as land-cover changes). **c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data** **d) Insufficient or no data available** Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.
Only complete fields 4.6-4.9, long-term Range trend information, if possible and where relevant (i.e., if long-term trends are more useful/relevant due to the individual habitats' dynamics over time) in addition to short-term Range trend information. In such cases for the UK level report, JNCC will determine what long-term trend period the UK should use, depending on what the earliest Range information is reported.		

<table>
<tr><td>4.6 Long-term trend Period

Optional</td><td colspan="2">Give the dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported.
Long-term trends relate to 2000-2024 (a rolling 24-year time window, four reporting cycles) or a period as close to this as possible.</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.7 Long-term trend Direction

Optional</td><td colspan="2">Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 4.6 was (select one option):

a) Stable
b) Increasing
c) Decreasing
d) Uncertain
e) Unknown
Report ‘uncertain’ if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use ‘unknown’ where there are no data available.

Further guidance can be found in the EU Guidelines.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">4.8 Long-term trend Magnitude

Optional</td><td>a) Minimum</td><td rowspan="2">Enter value for minimum and maximum estimated percentage change over the period indicated in field 4.6. Minimum and Maximum must both be filled in.
If a precise value is known, please provide the same value under both minimum and maximum.</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) Maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) Rate of decrease</td><td>If long-term trend direction is ‘decreasing’, if possible, estimate whether the rate of decline is probably ≤1% or >1% per year (on average) during the period specified in field 4.6.

Select one option:
c) Decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average
d) Decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average</td></tr>
</table>

4.9 Long-term trend Method used. Optional	Select one of the following methods: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. Only complete long-term Range trend information if possible and if relevant (see guidance for field 4.6).	

4.10 Favourable reference Range (FRR) Compulsory (Provided by JNCC)	Please always complete field c (Unknown), then complete either Field a or Field b(both are not required). **This information will be provided by JNCC and sent to CNCBs. CNCBs are to populate the pro-forma with provided data.** Complete option 'Method used' (d) whenever possible. At the UK level, The UK FRR used in 2019 will be re-used unless an alternative approach can be justified. Where the reference value has changed in comparison to the previous reporting period, this should be explained in field 4.12 'Additional Information'. This information can be used in Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A).	
	a) km²	If a precise Favourable Reference Range (FRR) is known, input in km². If the FRR is smaller than the actual Range, the FRR is expected to be provided in a precise number, and if possible provide an explanation in the field 4.12 'Additional information' on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the EU Guidelines

	b) Pre-defined FRV increment	If a precise Favourable reference Range is unknown indicate if the Range is: a) less than 2% smaller than the FRR b) between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR

		c) between 11% and 50% smaller than the FRR d) between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRR The use of these Range increments should help to reduce the use of 'unknown' to a minimum.
	c) Unknown	YES/NO **Please do not leave this field blank.** Complete 'YES' if Favourable Reference Range is unknown. Complete 'NO' if Favourable Reference Range is known.
	d) Method used	Indicate method used to set reference value (select one option): a) Model-based approach b) Reference-based approach c) Expert opinion d) Other If the 'Model-based approach' or the 'Reference-based approach' are selected then the quality of the available information (4.10e) should be indicated as high, moderate or low. If 'other' method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 4.12 'Additional Information'. If more than one approach was used, this should be explained in field 12 'Additional Information'. Further information on these methods can be found in section 1.3 of the EU Guidelines
	e) Quality of information	Complete if 4.10d is 'Model-based approach' or the 'Reference-based approach'. Indicate the quality of available information used when setting the reference value (select one option): a) **High**: good data on actual distribution and ecological requirements/features; good historical data and trend information b) **Moderate**: good data on actual distribution and ecological requirements/features; limited historical distribution data (only trend data available) c) **Low**: data on actual distribution and ecological requirements/features are

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td colspan="2">sparse and/or unreliable; hardly any historical data available and no trend information</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="9">4.11 Change and reason for change in surface Area of Range

Compulsory</td><td colspan="3">4.11a) Is there a change in the surface Area of Range for this species since the previous reporting period (2013-2018).
YES/NO

CNCBs should answer the questions in this field relating to changes in distribution information (akin to the Range surface Area reported under field 4.1).

If yes, please provide the nature of that change by completing the fields 4.11b-g. Multiple options can be answered ‘YES’.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="8">Only complete if answered ‘YES’ to 4.11a.</td><td colspan="2">Is the change in reported in 4.2 a result of:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">b) Genuine change
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">c) Improved knowledge/ more accurate data
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">d) Different method
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">e) Nature of change is unknown i.e. no information?
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">f) Due to other reasons?
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">g) Main reason?
If more than one field a-d is answered YES, which is the main reason for change?
Options:
a) Genuine change
b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data
c) Use of different method
d) Unknown
e) Other reasons</td></tr>
<tr><td>4.12 Additional information
Optional</td><td colspan="3">Additional information to help understand the information given on Range can be reported here (for example, details on the use of old distribution data, use of data from the previous reporting period, use of different gap distance or Range calculation method than that recommended, changes in Favourable reference value).</td></tr>
</table>

5. Area covered by habitat

Area covered by the habitat type within the Range in the biogeographical/marine region concerned. The fields to be completed under Section 5, Area covered by habitat, can be ***found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs' tab*** *of the Habitat data capture pro-forma. See Appendix 2 Table B for Area conclusion guidance.*

5.1 Year or period Compulsory	Enter relevant year (e.g. 2021) or period (e.g. 2019-2023) for which the surface Area of the habitat reported in 5.2 is recorded. This may extend beyond the limits of the current reporting period (2019–2024) if this information is indicative of the habitat in 2013-2018. In some cases, the Area covered by habitat will be estimated based on comprehensive habitat mapping which took place during the previous reporting period, or even before, which has been updated with the results of regular monitoring. The year or period reported should be the period for which the estimated Area covered by the habitat relates to.	
5.2 Surface Area (in km^2) Compulsory	*The total Area (in km^2) currently occupied by the habitat*. Enter Best single value (5.2 c) where possible (this is the preferred UK approach agreed by the RMG to assist with UK aggregation). If best single value is not available provide interval (min, max, 5.2 a- b). Both intervals (a-b) and a best single value (c) can be provided together if: - the interval coming from modelling is quite large (e.g. minimum and maximum values) and an expert evaluation of the actual surface Area of habitat is also available. - the point estimate (best single value) with confidence intervals. The confidence interval can be entered in the minimum and maximum fields. If both interval and best single values are provided, this should be explained in field 5.15 'Additional information'. The numbers reported should not be rounded. Decimals are allowed when reporting the Area covered by the habitat, as the surface Area of some habitats can be very small. For overlapping habitats see the EU Guidelines.	
	a) Minimum	Minimum and maximum should always be entered together, i.e., not as only the minimum /only the maximum.
	b) Maximum	
	c) Best single value	a single value (a precise value or an estimate).

5.3 Type of estimate Compulsory	*The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 5.2(a) and (b) or the best single value in field 5.2(c) should be outlined here.* Options: a) **Best estimate:** the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the Area covered by habitat is available) or interval, derived from e.g., a survey or a model, a compilation of figures from localities or expert opinion, but for which 95% confidence limits could not be calculated. b) **95% confidence interval**: estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95% confidence interval could be calculated. c) **Minimum**: where insufficient data exist to provide even a loose surface Area estimate, but where a surface Area is known to be above certain value, or where the reported interval comes from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real habitat Area. If both interval (field 5.2(a) 'Minimum' and field 5.2(b) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 5.2(c) 'Best single value') are provided, field 5.3 'Type of estimate' should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 5.15 'Additional information'.
5.4 Surface Area Method used Compulsory	*Detail on the methodology used for calculating habitat Area in field 5.2.* Select one of the following methods: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. If survey information is 'near complete' select option a). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported Area covered by habitat obtained as a result of comprehensive mapping, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual habitat type distribution (i.e., the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat type distribution).
5.5 Short-term trend Period Compulsory	*The dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported.* Short-term trends relate to the period 2013-2024 (two reporting cycles, 12 years) or a period as close to this as possible – information from outside this period can be used provided it is reasonably indicative of the trend for this period.

5.6 Short-term trend Direction Compulsory	Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 5.5 was (select one option): a) Stable b) Increasing c) Decreasing d) Uncertain e) Unknown Report 'uncertain' (d) if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' (e) where there are no data available. Further guidance can be found in the EU Guidelines.	
5.7 Short-term trend Magnitude Compulsory	Quantify the percentage change (with Area at the beginning of the reporting period as 100%) over the period reported in field 5.5. Complete this field if short-term trend (5.6) is 'Increasing', 'Decreasing', or 'uncertain'. **This field does not need to be completed for 'stable' or 'unknown' short-term trends reported in 5.6**. 'Uncertain' short-term trends suggest that some data are available, so a trend magnitude could be estimated. This should be reported on with the 'type of estimate' field completed accordingly.	
	a) Estimated minimum	Enter value for minimum and maximum estimated percentage change (with Range at the beginning of the period reported as 100 %) over the period indicated in field 5.5.
	b) Estimated maximum	**If either Minimum (5.7a) and Maximum (5.7b) are reported, they must both be filled in.** If a precise value is known, please provide the same value under both Minimum and Maximum Where only a minimum value is known, this should be reported in Minimum (5.7a) AND Maximum (5.7b) fields, and indicated as 'minimum' in Type of estimate (5.7e). Where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the Minimum (5.7a) and Maximum (5.7b) fields, and indicated as 'best estimate' in the Type of estimate (5.7e) field and precising that 'maximum' is entered in 5.15 Additional information. Where a less accurate Range is available, field c) pre-defined Range can be used.

		This field does not need to be completed for 'stable' or 'unknown' trends reported in 6.8. However, if 'Uncertain' trend is reported, this suggests that some data are available and that a trend magnitude could be estimated. This should be reported on with the 'type of estimate' field completed accordingly
	c) Pre-defined Range	Enter value for the magnitude of estimated percentage change over the period indicated in field 5.5 (select one option): a) Increasing 0 – 12% b) Increasing 13 - 25% c) Increasing 26 - 50% d) Increasing 51 – 100% e) Increasing >100% f) Decreasing 0 – 12% g) Decreasing 13 - 25% h) Decreasing 26 - 50% i) Decreasing 51 – 100% j) Decreasing >100%
	d) Unknown	YES/NO Complete 'YES' if the trend magnitude is unknown. If YES, please provide further detail in field 5.15 additional information as to why there is sufficient data to determine trend but not magnitude. Complete NO if trend magnitude is known.

	e) Type of estimate	Outline the type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 5.7a-c (select one option): **a) Best estimate** – the best available single figure which can be based on modelling or expert opinion but for which the 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling or an expert opinion, it should be entered in field 4.5 **b) Multi-year mean** – average value or interval where the trend magnitude is monitored/assessed several times during the period provided in field 4.2 **c) 95 % confidence interval** – estimates derived from surveys or a model in which 95 % confidence limits could be calculated **d) Minimum** – where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded estimate, but where a magnitude is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a survey or monitoring projects which probably underestimate the real magnitude **e) Pre-defined Range** – where the exact minimum and maximum values could not be estimated (fields 4.4a and b), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined Range increment provided (4.4c)
	f) Rate of decrease	If short-term trend direction (5.6) is 'decreasing', if possible, estimate whether the rate of decline is probably ≤1% or >1% per year (on average) during the period specified in field 5.5. Select one option: a) Decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average b) Decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average This information can be used in Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A) for the Population parameter conclusion.

5.8 Short-term trend Method used Compulsory	Select one method in relation to assessments undertaken for field trend direction (5.6) and trend magnitude (5.7): a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. If survey information is 'near complete' select option a). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported estimate obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual habitat type distribution (i.e., the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat type distribution).
Only complete fields 5.9-5.12 if long-term trend information is available at country/offshore/UK-level (i.e., if long-term trends are more useful/relevant in addition to short-term Area covered by the habitat trend information).	
5.9 Long-term trend Period Optional	*The dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported.* Long-term trends relate to 2000-2024 (a rolling 24-year time window, four reporting cycles) or a period as close to this as possible.
5.10 Long-term trend Direction Optional	Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 5.9 was (select one option): a) Stable b) Increasing c) Decreasing d) Uncertain e) Unknown Report 'uncertain' if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' where there are no data available. If the long-term trend direction is due to a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the Area covered by the habitat, it should not be considered a trend. This should be reported as 'unknown' unless other information also clearly shows a trend. Further guidance can be found in the EU Guidelines.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">5.11 Long-term trend
Magnitude

Optional</td><td colspan="2">Quantify the percentage change (with Area at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 5.9.

Although this is an optional field, complete if information is available.</td></tr>
<tr><td>a) Estimated minimum</td><td rowspan="2">Percentage change over the period indicated in the field 5.9.
Enter value for minimum and maximum estimated percentage change (do not divide by number of years) – Minimum and Maximum must both be filled in.
If a precise value is known, please provide the same value under both minimum and maximum.</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) Estimated maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) Confidence interval</td><td>Where a statistically robust method has been used for fields Estimated minimum (5.11a) and Maximum (5.11b), provide the confidence interval as a percentage (e.g., 95 %) i.e., if precise value is not reported.</td></tr>
<tr><td>d) Rate of decrease</td><td>If long-term trend direction is ‘decreasing’, if possible, estimate whether the rate of decline is probably ≤1% or >1% per year (on average) during the period specified in field 5.9.

Select one option:
a) Decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average
b) Decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.12 Long-term trend
Method used

Optional</td><td colspan="2">Select one of the following methods:
a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
d) Insufficient or no data available

Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data.

If survey information is ‘near complete’ select option a).

Record ‘(d) Insufficient or no data available’ if the reported estimate obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual habitat type distribution (i.e., the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat type distribution).</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">5.13 Favourable Reference Area (FRA)

Compulsory (Provided by JNCC)</td><td colspan="2">Please always complete field c (Unknown), then complete either Field a or Field b (both are not required).

This information will be provided by JNCC and sent to CNCBs. CNCBs are to populate the pro-forma with provided data.

Complete option ‘Method used’ (d) whenever possible.

At the UK level, The UK FRA used in 2019 will be re-used unless an alternative approach can be justified.

Where the reference value has changed in comparison to the previous reporting period, this should be explained in field 5.15 ‘Additional Information’.

This information can be used in Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A).</td></tr>
<tr><td>a) km²</td><td>If a precise Favourable Reference Area is known, input in km².

If the FRA is smaller than the actual Area, the FRA is expected to be provided in a precise number, if possible provide an explanation in the field 5.15 ‘Additional information’ on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the EU Guidelines</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) pre-defined FRV increment</td><td>If a precise Favourable Reference Area is unknown Indicate if the Area is:
a) less than 2% smaller than the FRA
b) between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRA
c) between 11% and 25% smaller than the FRA
d) between 26% and 50% smaller than the FRA
e) between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRA

The use of these Range increments should help to reduce the use of ‘unknown’ to a minimum.</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) Unknown</td><td>YES/NO Please do not leave this field blank.
Complete ‘YES’ if Favourable Reference Area is unknown.
Complete ‘NO’ if Favourable Reference Area is known.</td></tr>
</table>

	d) Method used	Indicate method used to set reference value (select one option): a) Model-based approach b) Reference-based approach c) Expert opinion d) Other If the 'Model-based approach' or the 'Reference-based approach' are selected then the quality of the available information (5.13e) should be indicated as high, moderate, or low. If 'other' method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 5.15 'Additional Information'. If more than one approach was used, this should be explained in field 5.15 'Additional Information'. Further information on these methods can be found in section 1.3 of the EU Guidelines
	e) Quality of information	Complete if 5.13d is 'Model-based approach' or the 'Reference-based approach'. Indicate the quality of available information used when setting the reference value (select one option): **a) High**: good data on actual distribution and ecological requirements/features; good historical data and trend information **b) Moderate**: good data on actual distribution and ecological requirements/features; limited historical distribution data (only trend data available) **c) Low**: data on actual distribution and ecological requirements/features are sparse and/or unreliable; hardly any historical data available and no trend information
5.14 Change and reason for change in surface Area Compulsory	**5.14a)** Is there a change in the surface Area for this habitat since the previous reporting period (2013-2018). YES/NO If yes, please provide the nature of that change by completing the fields 5.14b-g. Multiple options can be answered 'YES'.	
	Only complete if answered 'YES' to 5.14a.	**b) Genuine change** YES/NO
		c) Improved knowledge/ more accurate data YES/NO

		d) Different method YES/NO
		e) Nature of change is unknown i.e. no information? YES/NO
		f) Due to other reasons? YES/NO
		g) Main reason? If more than one field a-d is answered YES, which is the main reason for change? Options: f) Genuine change g) Improved knowledge/more accurate data h) Use of different method i) Unknown j) Other reasons
5.15 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand the information given on habitat Area can be reported here as free text (for example, information on the need to reflect fragmentation in setting Favourable Reference Area, large-scale deviations in trend direction or magnitude).	

6. Structure and functions

All CNCBs to complete fields 6.1 – 6.5 and 6.7- 6.8 under Section 6, structures and functions. The fields can be ***found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs'*** *tab of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*

Assessment of habitat condition (structures and functions) should use relevant monitoring data/information from inside and outside of protected sites e.g., Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) data for terrestrial and freshwater habitats; marine monitoring data from inshore and offshore surveys (e.g., via the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS)); and other monitoring data including for wider countryside and wider sea. See Appendix 2 Table C for Structure and function conclusion guidance.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="7">6.1 Condition of habitat

Compulsory</td><td colspan="3">Provide the Area (km²) of habitat with ‘good’, ‘not-good’ and ‘unknown’ condition. The Area is reported in km² and can be reported as a Range (minimum and maximum); if a precise value is known, this value should be reported for both the ‘minimum’ and ‘maximum’ fields. The latter is the UK preferred option to assist with UK aggregation.

Results from UK monitoring schemes should be used to complete fields 6.1 a), b) and c). In the previous reporting round, the Reporting Management Group agreed that condition assessment results in Favourable condition categories should equate to ‘Area in good condition’ and those in Unfavourable condition categories to ‘Area in not good condition’. Other monitoring schemes (e.g., OSPAR, Water Framework Directive) can also provide information to complete this field where Common Standards Monitoring assessments are not available. In these circumstances, a consistent approach should be agreed through the Reporting Management Group.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">a) Area in good condition</td><td>i) Minimum</td><td rowspan="6">In km²</td></tr>
<tr><td>ii) Maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">b) Area in not-good condition</td><td>i) Minimum</td></tr>
<tr><td>ii) Maximum</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">c) Area where condition is not known</td><td>i) Minimum</td></tr>
<tr><td>ii) Maximum</td></tr>
</table>

6.2 Condition of habitat Method used Compulsory	Select relevant option for method used in assessing habitat condition (6.1). Options: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. If survey information is 'near complete' select option a).
6.3 Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition Period Compulsory	The dates for the beginning and end of the period for which the trend has been reported for **habitats in good condition.** Short-term trends relate to the period 2013-2024 (two reporting cycles, 12 years) or a period as close to this as possible – information from outside this period can be used provided it is reasonably indicative of the trend for this period.
6.4 Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition Direction Compulsory	Indicate if the habitat trend over the reported period in field 6.3 was (select one option): a) Stable b) Increasing c) Decreasing d) Uncertain e) Unknown NB. This is asking for the trend direction of only the habitat Area that is in good condition. Report 'uncertain' if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' where there are no data available. NB. The short-term trend information is used in the evaluation matrix to assess the Conservation Status. If the short-term trend direction is due to a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the habitat condition, it should not be considered a trend. This should be reported as 'unknown' unless other information also clearly shows a trend.

6.5 Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition Method used Compulsory	Select (one) relevant option: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. If survey information is 'near complete' select option a).
6.6a Typical species Prefilled/ not required	Has the list of typical species changed in comparison to the previous reporting period? YES/NO This is pre-filled as 'NO' for all UK habitats, (as an agreed UK approach by the Reporting Management Group in the previous reporting round). Further guidance on typical species will be provided separately See section 2.6 of the EU Guidelines for further information. If yes, provide the updated list in typical_species' tab, and fill field 6.7.
6.6b Typical species Species Scientific name Optional	*Fields 6.6b and 6.7 can be found in the typical species tab of the habitat data capture pro forma* Scientific name of typical species
6.7a Typical species Method used Optional	*Fields 6.6b and 6.7 can be found in the typical species tab of the habitat data capture pro forma* If the list or the methodology has changed, describe method(s) used to assess the status of typical species as part of the overall assessment of Structure and functions
6.7b Typical species Additional notes Optional	*Fields 6.6b and 6.7 can be found in the typical species tab of the habitat data capture pro forma* Additional information relating to 6.6-6.7 a)
6.8 Additional information Optional	Additional information can be provided as free text to help understand the information given on the condition of the habitat or typical species.

7. Main pressures

*Fields under Section 7, Main pressures can be **found within the 'pressures' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*

A detailed list of Pressures has been shared with the CNCBs in September 2023.

7.1 Identification of pressures Compulsory	Appendix 3 summarises the categories on the pressures list. A detailed list of pressures has been shared with the CNCBs in September 2023. Pressures are defined as factors acting now and/or during (any part of or all of) the current reporting period (2019–2024). **Up to 20 pressures can be recorded.** Refer to pressures and threats reported in the last reporting rounds for reference, as required. Threats are no longer recorded independently. Threats are any factor expected to act in the future two reporting periods i.e. within 12 years following the end of the current reporting period. Therefore, threats can be identified with a timing (7.1bi) of '*ongoing and likely to be in the future*' or '*only in the future'*. Threats are used in the assessment of Future prospects (section 9). If there is uncertainty about which code to pick for a particular pressure, CNCBs should liaise on this amongst themselves		
	a) Pressure	**i) Code** Prefilled	Pressure codes will automatically populate once field 7.1(aii) is filled
		ii) Name	Choose name of pressure from drop down list (see guidance in the first box in 7.1). Where Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is selected among pressures, please provide the names of the IAS in field 7.3 'Additional information'.
	b) Timing & Ranking	**i) Timing**	For each pressure, indicate the timing which is the time frame it is acting in. Options: a) In the past but now suspended due to measures b) Ongoing c) Ongoing and likely to be in the future d) Only in future
		ii) Pressure ranking	Select ranking for pressure. Options: a) **High (H)** (importance/impact): High importance, direct or immediate influence and/or acting over large Area

			b) **Medium (M)** (importance/impact): Medium direct or immediate influence, mainly indirect influence and/or acting over moderate part of the Area/acting only regionally
7.2 Sources of information Optional	If available, provide sources of information (URL, metadata) supporting evidence of pressures. NB. The preferred option is to provide relevant source information for pressures (listed in field 7.1 a) in field 3.2 (Sources of information) rather than this field (7.2) which is optional.		
7.3 Additional information Optional	Additional information on the nature of a certain pressure or methodology can be provided in this field.		

8. Conservation measures

*The fields 8.1 – 8.4 & 8.6 can be **found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma. Field 8.5 can **be found within the 'conservation_measures' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*

A detailed list of Conservation measures has been shared with the CNCBs in September 2023.

8.1 Status of measures Compulsory	**a) Needed**	Are measures needed to maintain or to restore the habitat at Favourable Conservation Status in your country/offshore/UK? Interpret the question at country/offshore/UK-level. YES/NO NB. It is expected that conservation measures are needed for all habitats with high or medium ranked pressures. This relates to whether the measures required to address the key pressures have been identified and implemented in your country/offshore/UK. If NO, a justification must be provided in field 8.6 'Additional information'.
	b) Status	If YES to 8.1a, indicate the status of measures (select only one option): a) **Measures identified, but none yet taken:** the majority of the most important measures needed to maintain or to restore the habitat at Favourable Conservation Status have been identified but not yet taken b) **Measures identified and taken:** the majority* of the most important measures needed to maintain or to restore the habitat at Favourable Conservation Status have been identified and have been / are being implemented c) **Measures needed but cannot be identified**: measures are required but the majority of most important ones cannot be identified (at least yet) * If part/some of the measures identified have been taken, but not all, please answer b) 'Measures identified and taken', but specify that only part of measures identified have been taken in field 8.6 Additional information.

8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken Compulsory	Only complete if the answer to 8.1a is YES, AND 8.1b) is 'Measures identified and taken' Indicate the main purpose(s) of measures taken: a) Maintain the current Range, surface Area or Structure and functions of the habitat type b) Expand the current Range of the habitat type (related to 'Range') c) Increase the surface Area of the habitat type (related to 'Area covered by habitat') d) Restore the Structure and functions, including the status of typical species (related to 'Specific Structure and functions') Even if several purposes can be identified, only indicate the main one in terms of implementing the measures.
8.3 Location of the measures taken Compulsory	Only complete if the answer to 8.1a is YES, AND 8.1b) is 'Measures identified and taken' Indicate the location of measures taken (Select one option): Options: a) Only inside UK National Site Network b) Both inside and outside UK National Site Network c) Only outside UK National Site Network
8.4 Response to the measures Compulsory	Only complete if the answer to 8.1a is YES, AND 8.1b) is 'Measures identified and taken' Provide an estimate of when the measures taken will start, or are expected to start, to neutralise the pressure and to produce positive effects (with regard to the main purpose of the measures indicated in field 8.2). Indicate only one option. Options: a) **Short-term results** (within the current reporting period, 2019 - 2024) b) **Medium-term results** (within the next two reporting periods, 2025 - 2036) c) **Long-term results** (after 2036) Different measures may start to neutralise the pressures in different timeframes. Even if several timeframes can be identified, only indicate the main timeframe due to the key measure(s).

<table>
<tr><td>8.5 List of main conservation measures

Compulsory</td><td colspan="3">Field 8.5 can be found within the ‘conservation_measures’ tab of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.

Each CNCB to provide a list of up to 20 conservation measures which are already being implemented to address current pressures and/or will be implemented during the next two reporting periods (2024-2035) to address (and likely to have a positive impact on) anticipated threats.

A list of conservation measures will be provided by JNCC in line with EU reporting (as of 08/2023).

This list should be used in conjunction with the Pressures list to consider which Main pressures are currently being addressed.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">a) Measures</td><td>i) Code

Prefilled</td><td>Conservation Measure codes will automatically populate once field 8.5(aii) is filled.</td></tr>
<tr><td>ii) Name</td><td>Choose name of conservation measure from drop down list (see guidance in the first box in 8.5).</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) Measure ranking</td><td colspan="2">Categorise each conservation measures:
Options:
a) High (H) = High importance/impact. Important direct or immediate influence (including in the next two reporting periods 2024-2035) and/or acting over large Area.
b) Medium (M) = Medium importance/impact. Medium direct or immediate influence (including in the next two reporting periods 2024-2035), mainly indirect influence and/or acting over moderate part of the Area/acting only regionally.</td></tr>
<tr><td>8.6 Additional information

Optional</td><td colspan="3">8.6 can be found within the ‘habitat_parameters_CMs’ tab of the habitat data capture pro-forma.

Ancillary UK-relevant information related to fields 8.1-8.5 may be recorded here.
E.g. it may be useful to record for internal CNCB purposes which conservation measures i) are operating now, ii) will be starting to operate during the next reporting period, and iii) are operating now and will continue to operate during the next reporting period etc.
Free text</td></tr>
</table>

9. Future prospects

*The fields to be completed under Section 9, Future prospects, can be **found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*

Future prospects indicate the direction of expected change in Conservation Status in the near future, interpreted as meaning the two future reporting periods i.e., over the next 12 years in 2035 (though there is flexibility to assess Future prospects over longer time periods for well-studied threats such as climate change, with reasonably robust predictive models).

Future prospects for the three other parameters (Range, Area covered by habitat, and Structure & functions) should be evaluated by individually assessing the current Conservation Status of the parameter (as concluded using the Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A) in conjunction with the expected future trends (reflecting the balance between the threats and the conservation measures being taken or planned in the next 12 years (to 2035) relating to that parameter). The method relies to some extent on expert judgement.

See Appendix 2 Table D for Future Prospects trend and conclusion guidance.

9.1 Future prospects of parameters Compulsory	**a) Range**	i) Future trend	CNCBs to report future trend (of the reporting period 2019–2024) as either: **a) Negative** - decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average **b) Very Negative** - decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average **c) Overall stable** **d) Positive** - increasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average **e) Very Positive** - increasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average **f) Unknown** Take into consideration current trend (which accounts for current pressures and conservation measures in place), anticipated threats, and conservation measures (acting in the next 12 years) to predict future trend at country-level.
		ii) Future prospects conclusion	CNCBs to report future prospects conclusion (of the reporting period 2019–2024) as either: a) Good b) Poor c) Bad d) Unknown

	b) Area	i) Future trend	CNCBs to report future trend (of the reporting period 2019–2024) as either: **a) Negative** - decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average **b) Very Negative** - decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average **c) Overall stable** **d) Positive** - increasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average **e) Very Positive** - increasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average **f) Unknown**
		ii) Future prospects conclusion	CNCBs to report future prospects conclusion (of the reporting period 2019–2024) as either: a) Good b) Poor c) Bad d) Unknown
	c) Structure and functions	i) Future trend	CNCBs to report future trend (of the reporting period 2019–2024) as either: **a) Negative** - decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average **b) Very Negative** - decreasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average **c) Overall stable** **d) Positive** - increasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average **e) Very Positive** - increasing >1% (more than one percent) per year on average **f) Unknown**

		ii) Future prospects conclusion	CNCBs to report future prospects conclusion (of the reporting period 2019–2024) as either: Options: a) Good b) Poor c) Bad d) Unknown NB. The future trend result for Structure and functions should also consider the **impacts of nitrogen deposition** for those habitat types where this is an important consideration: • where the estimated Area of habitat N CL exceedance was >25%, report future prospects as Unfavourable-bad • where N CL exceedance was between 5-25%, report future prospects as at least Unfavourable-inadequate. Nitrogen deposition values have been agreed between country specialists.
9.2 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand how Future prospects were assessed can be reported here.		

10. Conclusions	
*Assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period. The fields to be completed under Section 10, Conclusions, can be **found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.* *NB. These conclusions can then be used to inform the assessment of the Overall Conservation Status of a habitat type.*	
10.1 Range Compulsory	Use Evaluation Matrices Appendix 1 Table A and Appendix 2 Table A to conclude on Range. Options: a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX)
10.2 Area Compulsory	Use Evaluation Matrices Appendix 1 Table A and Appendix 2 Table B to conclude on Area. Options: a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX)
10.3 Specific Structure and functions (incl. typical species) Compulsory	Use Evaluation Matrices Appendix 1 Table A and Appendix 2 Table C to conclude on Structure and function. Options: a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX) Section 2.4.3 of the UK Approach document describes in detail the method for completing this field used in 2019. Refer to this if needed.
10.4 Future prospects Compulsory	Use Evaluation Matrices Appendix 1 Table A and Appendix 2 Table D to conclude on Future prospects. Options: a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX)

10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status Compulsory	Refer to Appendix 1 Table A to conclude the Overall assessment of Conservation Status of the habitat type. Options: a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX)
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status Compulsory	If the overall assessment of Conservation Status reported in field 10.5 is either Favourable (FV), Unfavourable-inadequate (U1) or Unfavourable-bad (U2), use Appendix 1 Table B to indicate its trend (qualifier) as either (select one option): a) Improving b) Deteriorating c) Stable d) Unknown The qualifier should be based on trends (for Range, Area covered by the habitat, and Structure and functions) over the reporting period (2019–2024). As the trends over the reporting period are often not available, reported short-term trends can be used to assess the trend in the conservation status, unless there is evidence that the trend during the reporting period is different than a measured short-term trend (e.g., if after past decline of habitat over the reporting period 2013–2018 the trend has stabilised, the qualifier should be assessed as 'stable' even though the trend in habitat Area is 'decreasing'; this should be explained in an additional information word document (see section x3.3). The (short-term) trends for each parameter (Range, Area, Structure and function) for each habitat should be combined using Appendix 1 Table B. Overall assessment of conservation status (10.5) and Overall trend in conservation status (10.6) may be combined for reporting (see example structure Appendix 1 Table C).

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="5">10.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend

Optional</td><td colspan="2">Indicate whether there is a change from the previous reporting round and (if yes) the nature of that change. More than one option (a to f) can be chosen.

Optional for CNCBs but not for JNCC (Conservation Status at country level will not have been assessed before, so unless CNCBs wish to undertake assessments using previous reporting data, CNCBs can ignore Field 10.7).

N.B. JNCC will complete for UK level report.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Overall assessment of conservation status (10.5)</td><td>Overall trend in conservation status (10.6)</td></tr>
<tr><td>ai) Has there been a change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018)?

YES/NO</td><td>aii) Has there been a change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018)?

YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>bi) Is the change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to genuine change?

YES/NO</td><td>bii) Has there been a change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to genuine change?

YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>ci) Is the change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to improved knowledge/more accurate data?

YES/NO</td><td>cii) Has there been a change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to improved knowledge/more accurate data?

YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>di) Is the change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to the use of different method (including taxonomical change or use of different thresholds)?

YES/NO</td><td>dii) Has there been a change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to the use of different method (including taxonomical change or use of different thresholds)?

YES/NO</td></tr>
</table>

	ei) Is there a change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018), but the nature of the change is unknown (i.e. there is no information on the nature of the change?) YES/NO	**eii)** Has there been a change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) but the nature of the change is unknown (i.e. there is no information on the nature of the change?) YES/NO
	fi) Is there a change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018), but the change is due to other reasons not listed in fields 10.7b-e? YES/NO	**fii)** Is there a change in overall Conservation trend since the last reporting period (2013-2018) but the change is due to other reasons not listed in fields 10.7b-e? YES/NO
	gi) What is the main reason for change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018)? a) Genuine change b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data c) Use of different method d) Unknown e) Other reasons	**gii)** What is the main reason for change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018)? a) Genuine change b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data c) Use of different method d) Unknown e) Other reasons
10.8 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand the information in fields 10.1 to 10.7.	

11. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex I habitat types

These fields can ***be found within the 'N2K_coverage_annex_I_habitat' tab*** *of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*

NB. The UK National Site Network Standard Data Forms could be one source of information to help complete Section 12.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">11.1 Surface Area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network
(in km²)

Compulsory</td><td colspan="2">The total Area (in km²) currently occupied by the habitat.
Enter Best single value (11.1 c) where possible (this is the preferred UK approach agreed by the RMG to assist with UK aggregation). If best single value is not available provide interval (min, max, 11.1 a- b).

This information should relate to the reporting period 2019–2024 records from before 2019 can be included if these are still representative of the surface Area of the habitat in 2019–2024.
In the last reporting round, the Reporting Management Group agreed that all occurrences of the habitat type located within the pSCI, SCI and SAC network should be included.

For overlapping habitats see the EU Guidelines.</td></tr>
<tr><td>a) Minimum
b) Maximum</td><td>Number (raw, i.e., not rounded). Minimum and maximum should always be entered together, i.e., not as only the minimum /only the maximum.</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) Best single value</td><td>Number (raw, i.e., not rounded). A single value (a precise value or an estimate).</td></tr>
<tr><td>11.2 Type of estimate

Compulsory</td><td colspan="2">The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 11.1(a) and (b) or the best single value in field 11.1(c) should be outlined here.
Options:
a) Best estimate: the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the Area covered by habitat is available) or interval, derived from e.g., a survey or a model, a compilation of figures from localities or expert opinion, but for which 95% confidence limits could not be calculated
b) 95% confidence interval: estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95% confidence interval could be calculated
c) Minimum: where insufficient data exist to provide even a loose surface Area estimate, but where a surface Area is known to be above certain value, or where the reported interval comes from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real habitat Area.

If both interval (field 11.1(a) 'Minimum' and field 11.1(b) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 11.1(c) 'Best single value') are provided, field 11.2 'Type of estimate' should correspond to the more accurate estimate.</td></tr>
</table>

	This should be noted in field 11.8 ‘Additional information’.
11.3 Surface Area of the habitat type inside the network **Method used** Compulsory	*Detail on the methodology used for calculating habitat Area in field 11.1.* Select one of the following methods: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available Where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. If survey information is ‘near complete’ select option a). Record ‘(d) Insufficient or no data available’ if the reported Area covered by habitat obtained as a result of comprehensive mapping, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75 % of the presumed actual habitat type distribution (i.e., the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat type distribution).
11.4 Short-term trend of habitat Area within the network Direction Compulsory	Short-term trend of habitat Area within the network over the period indicated in the field 5.6. Select one of the following: a) Stable b) Increasing c) Decreasing d) Uncertain e) Unknown Report ‘uncertain’ (d) if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use ‘unknown’ (e) where there are no data available. Note that non-directional fluctuation in Short-term trend of habitat Area within the network should be recorded as stable. If the short-term trend direction is due to a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the habitat Area within the network, it should not be considered a trend. This should be reported as ‘unknown’ unless other information also clearly shows a trend.

11.5 Short-term trend of habitat Area within the network – Method used	Select relevant option - where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. Options: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available If survey information is 'near complete' select option a).
11.6 Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition within the network **Direction** Compulsory	Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition within the network over the period indicated in the field 5.6. Select one of the following: a) Stable b) Increasing c) Decreasing d) Uncertain e) Unknown Report 'uncertain' (d) if some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. Use 'unknown' (e) where there are no data available. Note that non-directional fluctuation in Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition within the network should be recorded as stable. If the short-term trend direction is due to a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the habitat Area in good condition within the network, it should not be considered a trend. This should be reported as 'unknown' unless other information also clearly shows a trend.
11.7 Short-term trend of habitat Area in good condition within the network **Method used** Compulsory	Select relevant option - where data have been compiled from a variety of sources, choose the category for the most important source of data. Options: a) Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate b) Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data c) Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data d) Insufficient or no data available If survey information is 'near complete' select option a).
11.8 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand field 11 can be reported here.

12. Complementary information	
*The fields to be completed under Section 12, Complementary information, can be **found within the 'habitat_parameters_CMs' tab** of the Habitat data capture pro-forma.*	
12.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends Optional	Do not complete unless a justification needs to be entered here. Free text
12.2 Additional information Optional	Include any other information thought relevant to the habitat report and to assessing conservation status.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Habitat Evaluation Matrices to assess conservation status- Summary

Table A: General evaluation matrix to assess the conservation status of a habitat
This table is taken from the UK Approach Document. An identical Table Can be found in Annex E/ part E of the Reporting Format art 17 doc, and the EU explanatory note (pg. 92-98) contains the same information but separated into different tables for each field. Detailed guidance on each parameter status assessments can be found in the relevant table in Appendix 2.

	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Range	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing, AND not smaller than the Favourable Reference Range	Any other combination	Large decrease, equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year, OR more than 10% below Favourable Reference Range	No or insufficient reliable information available
Area	Stable (loss and expansion in balance) or increasing, AND not smaller than the Favourable Reference Area, AND without significant changes in distribution pattern within Range	Any other combination	Large decrease in surface Area, equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year, OR with major losses in distribution pattern within Range, OR more than 10% below Favourable Reference Area	No or insufficient reliable information available
Structures and functions	Structures and functions (including typical species) in good condition and no significant deteriorations / pressures	Any other combination	More than 25% of the Area is Unfavourable as regards its specific structures and functions (including typical species)	No or insufficient reliable information available
Future prospects	Habitat prospects for its future are good, no significant impact from threats expected, long-term viability assured	Any other combination	Habitat prospects are bad, severe impact from threats expected, long-term viability not assured	No or insufficient reliable information available
Overall assessment	All Favourable OR three Favourable and one Unknown	One or more Unfavourable-inadequate, none Unfavourable-bad	One or more Unfavourable-bad	Two or more unknown combined with Favourable or all Unknown

Table B: Evaluation matrix for trend in overall conservation status
Relationship between the Overall trend in conservation status (left-hand column) and the number of short-term trends that are increasing, stable, declining, or unknown/ uncertain. The trends are considered for Range, Area, and Structure and function (therefore, each row has a maximum summed value of 3).

Overall trend in conservation status	Number of short-term trend of parameters (Range, Area, and Structure and function)			
	Increasing	**Stable**	**Decreasing**	**Unknown/ uncertain**
Improving	3	0	0	0
	2	1	0	0
	1	2	0	0
Stable * The overall trend in conservation status is stable only in cases of moderate declines (<1% per year)	0	3	0	0
	2	0	1	0
	2	0	0	1
	0	2	0	1
	1	1	1*	0
	1	1	0	1
Deteriorating ** The overall trend in conservation status is deteriorating only in cases of important declines (>1% per year)	0	0	3	0
	1	0	2	0
	0	1	2	0
	0	0	2	1
	0	2	1	0
	1	1	1**	0
	0	1	1	1
Unknown	0	0	0	3
	1	0	0	2
	0	1	0	2
	0	0	1	2
	1	0	1	1

Appendix 2: Habitat Evaluation Matrices to assess conservation status- Detail

Table A: Conservation status assessment detail- Range
Favourable Reference Range and short-term trend conclusions. Relationship between the short-term trend in Range surface Area (top rows), the current Range surface Area and Favourable Reference Range (FRR) (left-hand column), and the conclusion on conservation status of the Range of a habitat (the coloured cells indicate which conclusion should be applied).

	Short-term trend in Range surface Area 2019–2024			
	Unknown or uncertain	**Increasing or stable**	**Decline 1% or less per year**	**Decline >1% per year**
Range Area or FRR is unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Range Area > or = FRR	Unknown	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Range Area up to 10% below FRR	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Range Area >10% below FRR	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad

Table B: Conservation status assessment detail- Area
Favourable Reference Area and short-term conclusions. Relationship between the short-term trend in Area (top rows), the current Area and Favourable Reference Area (FRA) (left-hand column), and the conclusion on conservation status of the Area of a habitat (the coloured cells indicate which conclusion should be applied).

	Short-term trend in Area 2019–2024			
	Unknown or uncertain	**Increasing or stable**	**Decline 1% or less per year**	**Decline >1% per year**
Area or FRA unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Area > or = FRA	Unknown	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Area up to 10% below FRA	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Area >10% below FRA	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad

C: Conservation status assessment detail- Structure and function

Table C1:
Structure and functions conclusion summary. Relationship between the percentage of habitat in good (favourable) or not good (Unfavourable) condition and the conclusion on conservation status of the Structure and functions of a habitat (the coloured cells indicate which conclusion should be applied).

	% in Favourable condition	% in Unfavourable condition
Favourable	at least 95%	no more than 5%
Unfavourable-inadequate	75-<95%	>5-25%
See table 2	less than 75%	more than 25%
Unknown	If more than 75 % of habitat Area has 'Unknown' condition	

Percentage of unknown (6.1c) should be used in the calculations of the percentage of habitat area in Favourable and Unfavourable condition.
Expert judgement will be required if less the 75% of habitat area has 'Unknown' condition, and other thresholds are not met.

Table C2:
Matrix introducing short-term trend in Area in good condition (field 6.4) to support expert opinion in assessing a habitat with >25% not in good condition as 'Unfavourable-inadequate' or 'Unfavourable-bad'.

Short-term trend Direction (6.4)	**Habitat condition is not Favourable, but no significant issues.**	**Habitat condition is not Favourable with significant issues.**
Increasing	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Stable	Unfavourable-inadequate	
Decreasing	Unfavourable-bad	
Uncertain / Unknown	Unfavourable-inadequate/ Unfavourable-bad *	

* Expert opinion required: if the trend is uncertain/unknown expert judgment should be used to assess if the habitats should be considered Unfavourable-bad under precautionary principle, or if Unfavourable-inadequate is more appropriate considering the current status of the habitat, and any other additional information available.

D: Conservation status assessment detail- Future Prospects

Table D1: Future prospects and future trends*
Combining the Future trends with the current conservation status of each parameter to decide on the Future prospects of each parameter. The likely balance between anticipated impacts from threats and potential improvements from measures and other remediating factors (column 1) were considered and used to determine the future trend (column 2). The future trend was then combined with the current conservation status (column 3) to determine the future prospects (column 4).

Table D2: Future prospects conclusion*
Relationship between the assessment of Future prospects for Range, Area, and Structure and functions and the conclusion on conservation status of the Future prospects of a habitat (the coloured cells indicate which conclusion should be applied

i: Future prospects and Future trends

Balance between anticipated threats and improvements	Future trend	Current conservation status of parameter	Future prospects	
Threat impacts and improvements equal; threats mostly insignificant or medium-impact; status of parameter not expected to change	Overall stable	Favourable	Good	
		Unfavourable-inadequate	Poor	
		Unfavourable-bad	Bad	
		Unknown	Unknown	
Threat impacts exceed improvements irrespective of measures taken; threats mostly high- or medium-impact; status of parameter expected to decline	Negative/very negative	Favourable	Poor	Bad
		Unfavourable-inadequate	Poor	Bad
		Unfavourable-bad	Bad	
		Unknown	Poor	Bad
Improvements exceed threat impacts; threats mostly low or no impact; status of parameter expected to improve	Positive/very positive	Favourable	Good	
		Unfavourable-inadequate	Poor	Good
		Unfavourable-bad	Poor	Good
		Unknown	Poor	Good
Threats and/or measures poorly understood, not possible to predict balance between anticipated threats and improvements	Unknown	Favourable	Unknown	
		Unfavourable-inadequate		
		Unfavourable-bad		
		Unknown		

ii: Future prospects conclusion

Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad	Unknown
Future prospects for all parameters are 'good' OR Future prospects for one parameter is 'Unknown' and others are 'good'	Any other combination	Future prospects for one or more parameters are 'bad'	Future prospects for two or more parameters are 'Unknown' and none are 'bad'

*Habitats with Nitrogen Critical Load exceedance are treated slightly differently:

- where the estimated Area of habitat N CL exceedance is >25%, the future prospects for Structure and functions will always reported as Unfavourable-bad; and
- where N CL exceedance was between 5-25%, the future prospects for Structure and functions will be reported as at least Unfavourable-inadequate

Appendix 3: List of Pressures

The full list of Pressures (as of 08/2023) has been be shared by JNCC in addition to this document. The original document can be found on the EU reference portal for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (EIONET portal).

Appendix 4: List of Conservation measures

The full list of Conservation measures (as of 08/2023) has been be shared by JNCC in addition to this document. The original document can be found on the EU reference portal for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (EIONET portal)