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

Guidance for the 2019–2024 Habitat Regulations reporting

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

Photo: Otters, via Pixabay

NON-BIRD SPECIES
Species listed in Annexes II, IV, and V of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC; as retained in UK law)

JNCC

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Contents

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 Non-bird Species 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 a hyperlink) 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/speciess_art17

x3. Using the reporting documents

x3.1 UK Guidelines (this document)

The non-bird species reporting 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 Species 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 non-bird species reporting table 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 Species data capture pro-forma

The Species 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:

- **species_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.
- **species_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 species has been completed. Please indicate completed species assessments which are

ready for UK aggregation by JNCC in this tab.

- **species_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 species_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 Species data capture pro-forma as accurately as possible for each species required.
- Provide JNCC with mapping data required for JNCC to provide Range, and Favourable reference figures. This should be done via:
  - Terrestrial features: completing the Species 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 species 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 5.1)
- Favourable Reference Values (FRV)
  - Favourable Reference Range (FRR) and audit
  - Favourable Reference Population (FRP) and audit
- Marine mammal assessments (only assessed at UK scale)

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

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 species, this assessment is based on the parameters:

- Range (fields 5)
- Population (fields 6)
- Habitat for the species (fields 7)
- Future Prospects (fields 10)

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

- The natural **Range** of the species is stable or increasing, and not smaller than it's Favourable Reference Range.
- The **Population** dynamics data on the species concerned is not lower than the Favourable Reference Population, and (if data is available), the mortality and age structure not deviating from normal (indicate that the Population is maintaining itself).
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large **habitat** of suitable quality to maintain a species' Populations on a long-term basis.
- The **future prospects** of the species (long-term viability) is ensured as the main pressures and threats to the species are not significant.

Annex II, IV, and V (non-bird) species reporting

Report format on the "contribution of the national site network to the achievement of the objective of enabling…species…to be maintained at or, where appropriate, restored to, a Favourable conservation status in their natural Range" for Habitats Directive Annex II, IV and V species.

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information	
*Fields 1.1-1.3 can be found in relevant tabs within the species data capture pro-forma. Field 1.4 can be **found within the 'species_progress_check' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma.*	
1.1 Country Prefilled	Species type names from the species checklist are pre-filled in the species data capture pro-forma.
1.2 Species code Prefilled	Species type codes from the species checklist are pre-filled in the species data capture pro-forma.
1.3 Species scientific name Prefilled	Species names from the species checklist are pre-filled in the species data capture pro-forma – check scientific name is as you expect (if not you may wish to fill in field 1.4 (optional) below).
1.4 Alternative species scientific name Optional	If the scientific name given under field 1.3 differs from that in general national usage Optional field – complete ONLY if there is an accepted synonym used in the UK E.g., this field may be useful for noting accepted synonyms of lichens. For more information on this field, see section 1.1.1 of the EU guidelines for further information.
1.5 Common name Prefilled	Optional field – this is already pre-filled in the species data capture pro-forma.

2. Maps	
*The fields can be **found within the 'species_maps' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma. Mapping data should be supplied using the Species mapping reporting pro-forma. Further detail is provided in the Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6].*	
2.1 Sensitive species Compulsory	Enter 'Yes' if species distribution information is sensitive OR 'No' if not sensitive. YES/NO CNCBs should inform JNCC of any sensitive species as early as possible. If a species is marked as 'sensitive', JNCC will not disclose its distribution to the public (for instance, by not posting this information on a publicly available database or Internet-based site).
2.2 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.
2.3 Distribution map Compulsory	*The distribution map provides information about the actual (mapped) and presumed (modelled or extrapolated) occurrences of the species.* Please indicate (select YES) when a distribution map is provided. YES/NO Provide the distribution information using the Species mapping reporting pro-forma in .csv format. See the Technical Note on Mapping [Approach Document Appendix 6] for specific guidance on completing the Species mapping reporting pro-forma.
2.4 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 species distribution (i.e., the resulting map is incomplete in relation to the presumed species distribution).

2.5 Additional information Optional	Other relevant mapping information e.g. more detailed methodology

3. Information related to Annex V species

The fields to be completed under Section 3, Information related to Annex V species, can be found in the 'Annex_V_species' tab within the species data capture pro-forma.

NB. All CNCBs to initially only complete field 3.1 (i.e., not 3.2-3.4) for all Annex V species. Fields 3.2-3.4 will only need to be completed for species with an Unfavourable (Unfavourable-inadequate or Unfavourable-bad) overall country-level Conservation Status conclusion (when the country-level assessment has been made).

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited? Compulsory	Is the species taken in the wild/exploited? YES/NO If 'YES' see guidance below under field 3.2 below. **If 'NO', ignore the rest of Section 3.**		
3.2 Which of the measures in Art. 14 have been taken? Compulsory	General approach: CNCBs to complete this section ONLY when the overall Conservation Status conclusion is known at country-level (and is Unfavourable). NB. Fields 3.2 - 3.5 should only be completed for Annex V species taken in the wild/exploited (field 3.1= YES) in a country that are assessed as Unfavourable (Unfavourable-inadequate or Unfavourable-bad) at a country-level i.e., those species not at Favourable Conservation Status.		
	a) Regulations regarding access to property		YES /NO
	b) Temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation		YES /NO
	c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens		YES /NO
	d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such Populations		YES /NO
	e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas		YES /NO
	f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale or transport for sale of specimens		YES /NO
	g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species		YES /NO
	h) Other measures	**i) Other measures have been taken**	YES /NO
		ii) Other measures description	If 'yes, other measures' have been taken, describe those measures. Free text

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">3.3 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild regardless of conservation status- for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

Compulsory</td><td colspan="7">General approach: CNCBs to complete this section ONLY when the overall Conservation Status conclusion is known at a country level (and is Unfavourable).

The raw data should be provided for the hunting bag or quantity taken and where a precise number is known this should be filled in both the ‘Min.’ and ‘Max.’ fields. If only minimum or only maximum numbers are available these should be reported in respective fields ‘Min.’ and ‘Max.’ Where the hunting bag is unknown this should be indicated in a separate field.

Season 1 is 2018/2019 (starting in autumn 2018 and ending in spring 2019); Season 6 is 2023/2024.
For species with defined hunting seasons, report per season (if national counts are also done per season).
For species which do not have hunting seasons or where national counts are elaborated per year (e.g., sturgeons), provide counts per calendar year; year 1 is 2019 and year 6 is 2024.</td></tr>
<tr><td>a) Unit</td><td colspan="6">This is the Population size (in reporting unit).
See section 1.6 of the EU Guidelines for further guidance.

Use reporting unit as in field 6.2 a). These are prepopulated with the JNCC recommended unit in the blank reporting pro-formas.

Options:
a) number of adults
b) area covered by Population in m²
c) number of breeding females
d) number of calling males
e) number of colonies
f) number of flowering stems
g) number of map 10x10 km grid cells
h) number of map 1x1 km grid cells
i) number of map 5x5 km grid cells
j) number of individuals
k) length of inhabited feature in km
l) number of localities
m) number of inhabited logs
n) number of males
o) number of pairs
p) number of shoots
q) number of inhabited stones/boulders
r) number of subadults
s) number of inhabited trees
t) number of tufts</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) Statistics/ quantity taken</td><td colspan="6">Provide statistics/quantity taken per hunting season or per year (where season is not used) over the reporting period</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Season/ year 1</td><td>Season/ year 2</td><td>Season/ year 3</td><td>Season/ year 4</td><td>Season/ year 5</td><td>Season/ year 6</td></tr>
<tr><td>i) Min. (raw, i.e., not rounded)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

	ii) Max. (raw, i.e., not rounded)						
	iii) Unknown	YES/ NO	YES/ NO	YES/ NO	YES/ NO	YES/ NO	YES/ NO
3.4 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild Method used Compulsory	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.						
3.5 Additional information Optional	Other relevant information, complementary to the data requested under fields 3.1– 3.4. Free text						

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL
Complete for each biogeographical region or marine region concerned.

4. Biogeographical and marine regions	
The fields under Section 4, Biogeographical and marine regions. This field can ***be found within the 'species_sources' tab*** *of the species data capture pro-forma.*	
4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs Prefilled	Pre-filled by JNCC. Will be Atlantic (ATL) or Marine Atlantic (MATL)
4.2 Sources of information Compulsory	Please select the species scientific name from the drop-down list in column A. The columns B-L will then automatically populate. Please input one source per row. Please ensure the species 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 5 Range for the 10x10 km distribution data should also be recorded here. NB. Section 8 (Main pressures) has its own sources field (8.2). It would be better to include source information for pressures under this field (4.2) rather than 8.2, which is optional.

5. Range	
*Range within the biogeographical/marine region concerned. The fields to be completed under Section 5, Range, can be **found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma. See Appendix 2 Table A for Range conclusion guidance.*	
5.1 Surface area (in km^2) Compulsory (Provided by JNCC)	*Total surface area of the Range (outer limits of the species distribution) within biogeographical/marine region concerned in km^2.* 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.
5.2 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.
5.3 Short-term trend Direction Compulsory	Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 5.2 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 5.12 '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 5.11a 'Change and reason for change in surface area of Range'.

	Further guidance can be found in the EU Guidelines.

5.4 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 5.2. Complete this field if short-term trend (5.3) is 'Increasing', 'Decreasing', or 'uncertain'. **This field does not need to be completed for 'stable' or 'unknown' short-term trends reported in 5.3.** '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 5.2. **Minimum (5.4a) and Maximum (5.4b) 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 (5.4a) AND Maximum (5.4b) fields, and indicated as 'minimum' in Type of estimate (5.4e).
	b) Estimated maximum	Where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the Minimum (5.4a) and Maximum (5.4b) fields, and indicated as 'best estimate' in the Type of estimate (5.4e) field and precising that 'maximum' is entered in 5.12 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 5.4a-b), enter interval for the magnitude of estimated percentage change over the period indicated in field 5.2 (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 5.12 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 5.4a-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 5.5 **b) Multi-year mean** – average value or interval where the trend magnitude is monitored/assessed several times during the period provided in field 5.2 **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 5.4a and b), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined Range increment provided (5.4c)

Compulsory	**f) Rate of decrease**	If short-term surface area trend direction (5.3) 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 5.2. 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.
5.5 Short-term trend Method used Compulsory	Select one method in relation to assessments undertaken for field trend direction (5.3) and trend magnitude (5.4): **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 species' 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 species, or trends based on measuring some other predictors of species distribution, such as land-cover changes or prey availability) **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.	

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Only complete fields 5.6-5.9, long-term Range trend information, if possible and where relevant (i.e., if long-term trends are more useful/relevant due to the individual species 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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.6 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>5.7 Long-term trend Direction
Optional</td><td colspan="2">Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 5.6 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">5.8 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 5.6. 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 5.6.

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>
</table>

5.9 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 5.6).	
5.10 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 5.12 '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, if possible provide an explanation in the field 5.14 '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 (5.10e) should be indicated as high, moderate or low. If 'other' method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 5.12 'Additional Information'. If more than one approach was used, this should be explained in field 5.12 'Additional Information'. Further information on these methods can be found in section 1.3 of the EU Guidelines

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>e) Quality of information</td><td>Complete if 5.10d 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 sparse and/or unreliable; hardly any historical data available and no trend information</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of Range

Compulsory</td><td colspan="2">5.11a) 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 ‘surface area’ reported under field 5.1). Further information (e.g. cases where Range surface area does not change, but its borders are shifting), can be provided in field 5.12 ‘Additional information’.

If yes, please provide the nature of that change by completing the fields 5.11b-g. Multiple options can be answered ‘YES’.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td rowspan="6">Only complete if answered ‘YES’ to 5.11a.</td><td>Is the change in reported in 5.2 a result of:</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) Genuine change
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) Improved knowledge/ more accurate data
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>d) Different method
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>e) Nature of change is unknown i.e. no information?
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>f) Due to other reasons?
YES/NO</td></tr>
</table>

		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
5.12 Additional information Optional	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).	

6. Population

*Fields under Section 6, Population, can be **found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma. See Appendix 2 Table B for Population conclusion guidance.*

6.1 Year or period Compulsory	Enter relevant year/period – this should be the date or overall date Range when the Population reported in 6.2 was recorded. This information should relate to the reporting period 2019–2024. Records from before 2019 can be included if these are still representative of the Population in 2019–2024.	
6.2 Population size (in reporting unit) Compulsory	The total Population in the countries biogeographical/marine region. Enter Best single value (6.2 d) where possible (this was the preferred UK approach agreed by the Reporting Management Group (RMG) in the 2019 reporting round). If Best single value is not available provide interval (min, max e.g., from repeated census [6.2 b-c]). If the Population size reported in field 6.2 was estimated by converting the information reported in field 6.5, information on the conversion should be given in field 6.17 'Additional information'. Audit: Include approach used to determine Population size in the **species_audit tab**.	
	a) Unit (agreed UK unit)	*UK agreed unit* The agreed unit to be used in UK level reporting (i.e., consistent across all countries for each species). In the blank reporting pro-formas, this field is pre-populated with the UK agreed units, as agreed through the Report Management Group June 2024. CNCBs are welcome to also report in another unit for the purposes of their country-level report in addition to the agreed UK unit. If this is the case, please populate field 6.2 with values related to UK reporting, and field 6.5 with a country-level unit and values.
	b) Minimum	Number (raw, i.e., not rounded). Provide either interval (b and c) and/or Best single value (d). Enter Best single value (6.2 d) where possible. If Best single value is not available provide interval (min, max [6.2 b-c]). NB. Interval (Minimum and Maximum) and best single value can be provided together e.g., if the interval derived from survey data is quite large but where an expert evaluation of the actual Population size is available OR where best
	c) Maximum	

	d) Best single value	single value is available and there is a confidence interval that can be entered in the Minimum and Maximum fields. Under such circumstances, the approach can be explained/ should be noted in field 6.17 'Additional information'.
6.3 Type of estimate Compulsory	The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 6.2(b) and (c) or the best single value in field 6.2(d) should be outlined here. Options: a) **Best estimate:** the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the Population size is available) or interval, derived from e.g., a Population census, a compilation of figures from localities, modelled Population size based on Population densities and distribution data or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated. Whether a best estimate comes from the monitoring data, modelling, or an expert opinion should be entered in field 6.6. b) **Multi-year mean:** average value or interval where Population size is monitored several times during the period provided in field 6.1. c) **95 % confidence interval:** estimates derived from sample 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 Population size is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real Population size. If both interval (field 6.2b 'Minimum' and field 6.2c 'Maximum') and a single value (field 6.2d 'Best single value') are provided, field 6.3 'Type of estimate' should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 6.17 'Additional information'.	
6.4 Quality of extrapolation Optional	**Compulsory if information provided in field 6.2 on Population size has been converted from a different unit to the reporting unit.** If the information provided in field 6.2 has been converted from a different unit, outline the quality of extrapolation via the following options: • High (conversion is associated with a small margin of error) • Moderate (conversion is associated with a medium margin of error) • Low (conversion is associated with a high margin of error)	

	This can refer to the unit reported in field 6.5 Additional Population size if converted to the data in field 6.2. If more information is available on the margin of errors, this can be indicated in field 6.17 Additional information.	
6.5 Additional Population size Optional	*Country-level reporting Population unit.* Complete where the country-level unit differs from the agreed UK-level reporting Population unit (6.2a).	
	a) Unit	This is the Population size (in reporting unit) i.e., individuals or 1 x 1 km grids. See section 1.6 of the EU Guidelines for further guidance. Options: a) number of adults b) area covered by Population in m² c) number of breeding females d) number of calling males e) number of colonies f) number of flowering stems g) number of map 10x10 km grid cells h) number of map 1x1 km grid cells i) number of map 5x5 km grid cells j) number of individuals k) length of inhabited feature in km l) number of localities m) number of inhabited logs n) number of males o) number of pairs p) number of shoots q) number of inhabited stones/boulders r) number of subadults s) number of inhabited trees t) number of tufts
	b) Minimum **c) Maximum** **d) Best single value**	Number (raw, i.e., not rounded). Provide either interval (b and c) and/or best single value(d). NB. Interval (Minimum and Maximum) and best single value can be provided together e.g., if the interval derived from survey data is quite large but where an expert evaluation of the actual Population size is available OR where best single value is available and there is a confidence interval that can be entered in the Minimum and Maximum fields. Under such circumstances, the approach can be explained/ should be noted in field 6.17 'Additional information'. Please ensure it is clear you are referring to field 6.5 if this is required.

	e) Type of estimate	*The type of estimate for the reported interval in fields 6.5(b) and (c) or the best single value in field 6.5(d) should be outlined here.* Options: a) **Best estimate:** the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the Population size 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 loosely bounded Population size estimate, but where a Population size 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 Population size. If both interval (field 6.5b 'Minimum' and field 6.5(c) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 6.5d 'Best single value') are provided, field 6.5 'Type of estimate' should correspond to the more accurate estimate.
6.6 Population size Method used Compulsory	*Detail on the methodology used to calculate Population estimate in field 6.2 (the UK agreed Population reporting unit).* 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 Population obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual Population (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed Population).	

	If both interval (field 6.4b 'Minimum' and field 6.4(c) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 6.4d 'Best single value') are provided, field 6.6 'Method used' should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 6.17 'Additional information'. Countries should keep their own records of this information relevant to field 6.5 (the country-level Population unit).
6.7 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. NB. The Population units that the trend information is based on should be based on the best measures of Population change in your country. This potentially could therefore be derived using units which do not relate to either of those reported under fields 6.2. For example, the freshwater pearl mussel had a 2013 FRP unit as number of localities, the EU reporting unit was 1x1 km grid cells, but the trend estimate could be based on the number of adults. Further information on Trends can be found in the relevant sections of EU's Explanatory Notes and EU Guidelines.
6.8 Short-term trend Direction Compulsory	Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 6.7 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. It may be appropriate to base this on an existing UK Population estimate e.g., for bats, but this must be agreed in advance by all relevant CNCBs. Further guidance can be found in the EU Guidelines.
6.9 Short-term trend Magnitude Compulsory	Quantify the percentage change (with Population at the beginning of the reporting period as 100%) over the period reported in field 6.8. Complete this field if short-term trend (5.3) is 'Increasing', 'Decreasing', or 'uncertain'. **This field does not need to be completed for 'stable' or 'unknown' short-term trends reported in 5.3.** '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 6.7. **If either Minimum (6.9a) and Maximum (6.9b) 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 (6.9a) AND Maximum (6.9b) fields, and indicated as 'minimum' in Type of estimate (6.9e).
	b) Estimated Maximum	Where only the maximum value is available, this should also be entered into both the Minimum (6.9a) and Maximum (6.9b) fields, and indicated as 'best estimate' in the Type of estimate (6.9e) field and precising that 'maximum' is entered in 6.17 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 6.7 (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 6.17 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 6.9a-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 6.10 **b) Multi-year mean** – average value or interval where the trend magnitude is monitored/assessed several times during the period provided in field 6.7 **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 6.9a and b), but where a reliable estimate can be made within the pre-defined Range increment provided (6.9c)
	f) Rate of decrease	If short-term trend direction (6.8) 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 6.7. 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.

6.10 Short-term trend Method used Compulsory	Select one method in relation to assessments undertaken for field trend direction (6.8) and trend magnitude (6.9): 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 Population obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual Population (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed Population).

Only complete fields 6.11-6.14 if long-term trend information is available and relevant at country-level (terrestrial species) / UK-level (marine species) (i.e., if long-term trends are more useful/relevant due to the individual species' Population dynamics over time) in addition to short-term Population trend information.	
6.11 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. Note that the 2007, 2013 and 2019 audit trails give trend information that might be useful when determining the long-term trend.
6.12 Long-term trend Direction Optional	Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 6.11 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 Population 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.

6.13 Long-term trend Magnitude Optional	Quantify the percentage change (with Population at the beginning of the reporting period as 100 %) over the period reported in field 6.11. Although this is an optional field, complete if information is available.	
	a) Estimated minimum	Percentage change over the period indicated in the field 6.11. 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.
	b) Estimated maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	Where a statistically robust method has been used for fields Estimated minimum (5.1a) and Maximum (5.1b), provide the confidence interval as a percentage (e.g., 95 %) i.e., if precise value is not reported.

Optional	**d) Rate of decrease**	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 6.11. 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
6.14 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. If survey information is 'near complete' select option a). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported Population obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual Population (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed Population).	

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

Compulsory (Provided by JNCC)</td><td colspan="2">Favourable Reference Population (FRP) should be given in the same units as that used for ‘Population’ (field 6.2)

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 FRP 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 6.17 Additional Information.

This information can be used in Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A).</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">a) Population size (with unit)</td><td>i) Population size
Precise FRP size (if known).

If the FRP is smaller than the actual Population, the FRP is expected to be provided in a precise number and, if possible provide an explanation in the field 6.17 ‘Additional information’ on how this is in line with the principles of setting FRVs as described in the EU Guidelines.</td></tr>
<tr><td>ii) Unit
This has been prepopulated with the unit from field 6.2 in the blank reporting pro-formas</td></tr>
</table>

	b) Pre-defined FRV increment	If a precise FRP is unknown, indicate if the Population is: a) less than 5% smaller than the FRP b) between 5% and 25% smaller than the FRP c) between 26% and 50% smaller than the FRP d) between 51% and 100% smaller than the FRP The use of these Range increments should help to reduce the use of 'unknown' to a minimum. If a pre-defined interval is used to estimate a FRP, it should be used with the minimum Population size estimate. The pre-defined Range less than 5% smaller is not used in situations where the Population of the species is significantly decreasing.
	c) Unknown	YES/NO **Please do not leave this field blank.** Complete 'YES' if Favourable Reference Population is unknown. Complete 'NO' if Favourable Reference Population 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 (6.15e) should be indicated as high, moderate, or low. If 'other' method is selected, elaborate on this method in field 6.17 'Additional Information'. If more than one approach was used, this should be explained in field 6.17 'Additional Information'. Further information on these methods can be found in section 1.3 of the EU Guidelines

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>e) Quality of information</td><td>Complete if 6.15d 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</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.16 Change and reason for change Population size

Compulsory</td><td colspan="2">6.16a) Is there a change in the Population size for this species since the previous reporting period (2013-2018).
YES/NO

If yes, please provide the nature of that change by completing the fields 6.16b-g e.g., Change is due to genuine change (a). Multiple options can be answered ‘YES’.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td rowspan="6">Only complete if answered ‘YES’ to 6.16a.</td><td>b) Genuine change
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) Improved knowledge/ more accurate data
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>d) Different method
YES/NO

This option should be recorded in all cases where the Population unit has changed compared to 2019 reporting.</td></tr>
<tr><td>e) Nature of change is unknown i.e. no information?
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>f) Due to other reasons?
YES/NO</td></tr>
<tr><td>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>
</table>

6.17 Additional Information Optional	Additional information to help understand the information given on Population can be reported here.
6.18 Age structure, mortality, and reproduction deviation. (UK additional question) Compulsory	Does the Population deviate from a natural self-sustaining Population? (E.g., with no recorded or anticipated problems with recruitment). Options **a) Yes, strongly deviating from normal -** No Recruitment OR Unnaturally low recruitment AND/OR unnaturally high mortality rate for all or certain age classes AND/OR lack of young individuals **b) Yes, but not strongly deviating from normal-** Low recruitment (but not unnaturally so) AND/OR high mortality rates for all or certain age classes (but not unnaturally so) **c) No deviation from normal** - Normal recruitment AND normal mortality AND a normal number of young individuals **d) Unknown** This is a high-value field if data is available, which will help derive the UK conclusion in the Evaluation Matrix – Appendix 1 Table A). Please complete this field to the best of your ability incorporating any factors that impact the age structure, mortality, and reproduction of a species Population. If you can complete this field, your answer should feed into the conservation status assessment for Population as seen in the overall Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A).However, if you cannot complete this field, please select the "Unknown" option, but know that you will still be able to undertake a FCS assessment for Population by using short-term trend instead. Additional guidance to this field can be found in Appendix 2 Table B

7. Habitats for the species

Fields under Section 7 Habitat for the species, can ***be found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab*** *of the species data capture pro-forma. See Appendix 2 Table C for Habitat for the species conclusion guidance.*

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied species Compulsory	These questions are formulated to help answer the qualitative considerations in the Evaluation Matrix (Appendix 1 Table A); and then determine the parameter conclusion.	
	a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	Is area of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)? a) Yes b) No c) Unknown
	b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival) a) Yes b) No c) Unknown
	c) Is there a sufficiently large area of occupied and unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?	If answered NO or Unknown to 7.1a and/or 7.1b, Is there a sufficiently large **area** of occupied and unoccupied habitat of suitable **quality** (for long-term survival)? a) Yes b) No c) Unknown
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied species **Method used** Compulsory	**7.2a Sufficiency of area of habitat - Method used**	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
	7.2b - Sufficiency of habitat quality – Method used	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
When completing **7.2a** and **7.2b**, 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 habitat for the species is obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual habitat for the species (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat for the species).		

7.3 Short-term trend Period Compulsory	Short-term trends relate to the period 2013-2024 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. NB. Where any trend data has been derived from a period overlapping the two trend date Ranges but not matching either particularly well, report the short-term trend. Where a short-term trend can be inferred from a long-term trend (but has not been statistically derived), report both short- and long-term trends giving the actual date period for the long-term trend and the standard 2013-2024 period for the short-term trend. Indicate how the information has been derived in the Methods used fields (7.5 and 7.8), and provide additional information in the audit tab within the data pro-forma. Further information on Trends can be found in the relevant sections of EU's Explanatory Notes and EU Guidelines.
7.4 Short-term trend Direction Compulsory	Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The assessment of habitat for the species considers **both quality and area**. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend. Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 7.3 was: Select one of the following: a) **Stable**: Both area and quality status trends are stable b) **Increasing**: Both area and quality status trends are increasing, or one increasing and one stable **Decreasing**: One or both area and quality status trends are decreasing c) **Uncertain**: At least one area and quality status trend is unknown and non-decreasing, or there is no dominating trend. Some data are available, but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. d) **Unknown**: Both area and quality status trends are unknown. No data available.

	If there is an apparent change in the direction of the trend resulting from a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about area or quality of Habitat for species, it should not be considered a genuine change in trend.
7.5 Short-term trend Method used Compulsory	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 habitat for the species is obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual habitat for the species (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat for the species).

Only complete fields 7.6-7.8 if long-term Habitat for the species trend information is available and relevant at country- level (terrestrial species) / UK-level (marine species).	
7.6 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.
7.7 Long-term trend Direction Optional	Trend is a (measure of a) directional change of a parameter over time. The assessment of habitat for the species considers **both quality and area**. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend. Indicate if Range trend over the period reported in field 7.6 was: Select one of the following: a) **Stable**: Both area and quality status trends are stable b) **Increasing**: Both area and quality status trends are increasing, or one increasing and one stable **Decreasing**: One or both area and quality status trends are decreasing c) **Uncertain**: At least one area and quality status trend is unknown and non-decreasing, or there is no dominating trend. Some data are available but they are not enough to accurately determine direction. d) **Unknown**: Both area and quality status trends are unknown. 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.
7.8 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. If survey information is 'near complete' select option a). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported habitat for the species is obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual habitat for the species (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat for the species).
7.9 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand the information given on habitat for the species can be reported here (for example information on fragmentation). **Please record all detail on decisions based on expert opinion here.**

8. Main pressures

*Fields under Section 8, Main pressures can be **found within the 'pressures' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma.*

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

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">8.1 Identification of pressures

Compulsory</td><td colspan="3">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 (8.1bi) of 'ongoing and likely to be in the future' or 'only in the future'. Threats are used in the assessment of Future prospects (section 10).

If there is uncertainty about which code to pick for a particular pressure, CNCBs should liaise on this amongst themselves.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">a) Pressure</td><td>i) Code
Prefilled</td><td>Pressure codes will automatically populate once field 8.1(aii) is filled.</td></tr>
<tr><td>ii) Name</td><td>Choose name of pressure/ threat from drop down list (see guidance in first box of field 8.1).

Where Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is selected among pressures, please provide the names of the IAS in field 8.3 'Additional information'.</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) Timing & Ranking</td><td>i) Timing</td><td>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</td></tr>
</table>

		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
8.2 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 8.1 a) in field 4.2 (Sources of information) rather than this field (8.2) which is optional.		
8.3 Additional information Optional	Additional information on the nature of a certain pressure or methodology can be provided here.		

9. Conservation measures

*The fields 9.1 – 9.4 & 9.6 can be **found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma. Field 9.5 can **be found within the 'conservation_measures' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma.*

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

9.1 Status of measures Compulsory	**a) Needed**	Are measures needed to maintain or to restore the species at Favourable Conservation Status in your country? YES/NO NB. It is expected that conservation measures are needed for all species 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. If NO, a justification must be provided in field 9.6 'Additional information'.
	b) Status	If YES to 9.1a, 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 species 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 species 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 9.6 Additional information.

9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken Compulsory	Only complete if the answer to 9.1a is YES, AND 9.1b) is 'Measures identified and taken' Indicate the main purpose(s) of measures taken: a) Maintain the current Range, Population and/or habitat for the species b) Expand the current Range of the species (related to 'Range') c) Increase the Population size and/or improve Population dynamics (improve reproduction success, reduce mortality, improve age/sex structure) (related to 'Population') d) Restore the habitat of the species (related to 'Habitat for the species') Even if several purposes can be identified, only indicate the main one in terms of implementing the measures.
9.3 Location of the measures taken Compulsory	Only complete if the answer to 9.1a is YES, AND 9.1b) is 'Measures identified and taken' Indicate the location where measures are mostly being implemented (Select one option): a) Only inside UK National Site Network b) Both inside and outside UK National Site Network c) Only outside UK National Site Network
9.4 Response to the measures Compulsory	Only complete if the answer to 9.1a is YES, AND 9.1b) 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 9.2). 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>9.5 List of main conservation measures

Compulsory</td><td colspan="3">Field 9.5 can be found within the ‘conservation_measures’ tab of the species 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"></td><td rowspan="2">a) Measures</td><td>i) Code

Prefilled</td><td>Conservation Measure codes will automatically populate once field 9.5(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 9.5).</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><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>9.6 Additional information

Optional</td><td colspan="3">9.6 can be found within the ‘species_parameters_CMs’ tab of the species data capture pro-forma.

Ancillary UK-relevant information related to fields 9.1-9.5 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>

10. Future prospects

The fields to be completed under Section 10, Future prospects, can be ***found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab*** *of the species 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, Population, and Habitat for the species) 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.

10.1 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) Population	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) Habitat for the species	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
10.2 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand how future prospects were assessed can be reported here.		

11. Conclusions	
Assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period. The fields to be completed under Section 11, Conclusions, can be ***found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab*** *of the species data capture pro-forma.* *NB. This conclusion can then be used to inform the assessment of the Overall Conservation Status of a species, in combination with the conclusions for the other three parameters.*	
11.1 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)
11.2 Population Compulsory	Use Evaluation Matrices Appendix 1 Table A and Appendix 2 Table B to conclude on Population. Options a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX)
11.3 Habitat for the species Compulsory	Use Evaluation Matrices Appendix 1 Table A and Appendix 2 Table C to conclude on Habitat for the species. Options a) Favourable (FV) b) Inadequate (U1) c) Bad (U2) d) Unknown (XX) Please refer to the further guidance on this field shared by JNCC if required.
11.4 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)

<table>
<tr><td>11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status

Compulsory</td><td>Refer to Appendix 1 Table A to conclude the Overall assessment of Conservation Status of the species.
Options:
a) Favourable (FV)
b) Inadequate (U1)
c) Bad (U2)
d) Unknown (XX)</td></tr>
<tr><td>11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status

Compulsory</td><td>If the overall assessment of Conservation Status reported in field 11.5 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, Population, and Habitat for the species) over the reporting period (2019–2024).

As the trends over the reporting period are often not available, 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 a species Population over the reporting period 2013–2018 the Population trend has stabilised, the qualifier should be assessed as ‘stable’ even though the Population trend is ‘decreasing’; this should be explained in field 11.8 Additional information .

The (short-term) trends for each parameter (Range, Population, Habitat for the species) for each species should be combined using Appendix 1 Table B.

Overall assessment of conservation status (11.5) and Overall trend in conservation status (11.6) may be combined for reporting (see example structure Appendix 1 Table C).</td></tr>
<tr><td>11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status trend

Optional</td><td>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 11.7).

Overall assessment of conservation status (11.5) | Overall trend in conservation status (11.6)</td></tr>
</table>

	ai) Has been a change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) YES/NO	**aii)** Has there been a change in the overall trend in Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) YES/NO
	bi) Is the change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to genuine change? YES/NO	**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
	ci) Is the change in overall Conservation Status since the last reporting period (2013-2018) due to improved knowledge/more accurate data? YES/NO	**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
	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	**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
	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 11.7b-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 11.7b-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
11.8 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand the information in fields 11.1 to 11.7.	

12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species

*These fields can be **found within the 'N2K_coverage_annex_II_species' tab** of the species data capture pro-forma.*
Section 12 should only be completed for Annex II species.

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

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present) Compulsory	Enter Best single value (12.1 d) where possible (this was the preferred UK approach agreed by the Reporting Management Group (RMG) in the 2019 reporting round to assist with UK aggregation). If Best single value is not available provide interval (min, max e.g., from repeated census). This information should relate to the reporting period 2019–2024 – records from before 2019 can be included if these are still representative of the Population in 2019–2024 (i.e., in field 6.7)	
	a) Unit	Use reporting unit as in field 6.2 a). This has been prepopulated with the units used in field 6.2a in the blank reporting spreadsheets
	b) Minimum	Number (raw, i.e., not rounded). Minimum and maximum should always be entered together, i.e., not as only the minimum /only the maximum.
	c) Maximum	
	d) Best single value	Number (raw, i.e., not rounded). A single value (a precise value or an estimate).

12.2 Type of estimate Compulsory	*The type of estimate for the interval reported in fields 12.1(b) and (c) or the best single value in field 12.1(d) should be outlined here:* Options: b) **Best estimate:** the best available single figure (including where only the maximum value of the Population size is available) or interval, derived from e.g. a Population census, a compilation of figures from localities, modelled Population size based on Population densities and distribution data or expert opinion, but for which 95 % confidence interval could not be calculated c) **Multi-year mean:** average value or interval where Population size is monitored several times during the period provided in field 6.1 d) **95% confidence interval**: estimates derived from sample surveys or a model in which 95% confidence interval could be calculated e) **Minimum**: where insufficient data exist to provide even a loosely bounded estimate, but where a Population size is known to be above a certain value, or where the reported interval estimates come from a sample survey or monitoring project which probably underestimates the real Population size If both interval (field 12.1(b) 'Minimum' and field 12.1(c) 'Maximum') and a single value (field 6.2(d) 'Best single value') are provided, field 12.2 'Type of estimate' should correspond to the more accurate estimate. This should be noted in field 12.8 'Additional information'.
12.3 Population size inside the network Method used Compulsory	*Detail on the methodology used for calculating Population size in field 12.1.* 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 Population obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual Population (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed Population).

12.4 Short-term trend of Population size within the network Direction Compulsory	Short-term trend of Population size within the network over the period indicated in the field 6.7. 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. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend. If the short-term trend direction is due to a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the Population size within the network, it should not be considered a trend. This should be reported as 'unknown' unless other information also clearly shows a trend.
12.5 Short-term trend of Population size 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). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported Population obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed actual Population (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed Population).

12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network Direction Compulsory	Short-term trend of habitat for the species within the network over the period indicated in the field 6.7. 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. Fluctuation (or oscillation) is not a directional change of a parameter, and therefore fluctuation is not a trend. If the short-term trend direction is due to a change in monitoring methodology or improved knowledge about the habitat for the species within the network, it should not be considered a trend. This should be reported as 'unknown' unless other information also clearly shows a trend.
12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species 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). Record '(d) Insufficient or no data available' if the reported habitat for the species obtained as a result of comprehensive survey, modelling or extrapolation or, exceptionally, expert interpretation covers less than 75% of the presumed habitat for the species (i.e., the resulting estimate is incomplete in relation to the presumed habitat for the species).
12.8 Additional information Optional	Additional information to help understand how NSN covers the species can be reported here.

13. Complementary information	
*The fields to be completed under Section 13, Complementary information, can be **found within the 'species_parameters_CMs' tab**.*	
13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends Optional	Do not complete, unless a justification needs to be entered here. Free text
13.2 Trans-boundary assessment Optional	Any additional information available relating to transboundary Conservation Status assessments of wide-ranging marine mammals in UK waters may be included here e.g., assessments made via the OSPAR Regional Sea Convention.
13.3 Other relevant information Optional	Include any other information thought relevant to the species report and to assessing conservation status.

APPENDICES

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

Table A: General Evaluation matrix to assess the conservation status of a species
This table is taken from the UK Approach Document. An identical table can be found in Annex C/ part C of the Reporting Format art 17 doc, and the EU explanatory note (pg. 53-59) 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 decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year within period specified by MS OR more than 10% below Favourable reference Range	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Population	Population(s) not lower than 'Favourable Reference Population' AND reproduction, mortality and age structure not deviating from normal (if data available)	Any other combination	Large decline: Equivalent to a loss of more than 1% per year (indicative value MS may deviate from if duly justified) within period specified by MS AND below 'Favourable Reference Population' OR More than 25% below Favourable Reference Population OR Reproduction, mortality and age structure strongly deviating from normal (if data available)	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Habitat for the species	Area of habitat is sufficiently large (and stable or increasing) AND habitat quality is suitable for the long-term survival of the species	Any other combination	Area of habitat is clearly not sufficiently large to ensure the long-term survival of the species OR Habitat quality is bad, clearly not allowing long-term survival of the species	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Future prospects	Main pressures and threats to the species not significant; species will remain viable on the long-term	Any other combination	Severe influence of pressures and threats to the species; very bad prospects for its future, long-term viability at risk.	*No or insufficient reliable information available*
Overall assessment	All Favourable OR three Favourable and one Unknown	One or more Unfavourable-inadequate but no 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, Population, and habitat for the species (therefore, each row has a maximum summed value of 3).

Overall trend in conservation status	Number of short-term trend of parameters (Range, Population, Habitat for the species)			
	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: Species 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 species (the coloured cells indicate which conclusion should be applied).

	Short-term trend in Range 2019–2024			
	Unknown or uncertain	**Increasing or stable**	**Decline 1% or less per year**	**Decline >1% per year**
Range area or FRR Unknown	Unknown	Unknown or Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Range area > or = FRR	Unknown or Favourable	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- Population
Favourable Reference Population and short-term conclusions. Relationship between the short-term trend in Population (top rows), the current Population size and the Favourable Reference Population (FRP) (left-hand column), and the conclusion on conservation status of the Population of a species (the coloured cells indicate which conclusion should be applied).

	Short-term trend in Population 2019–2024			
	Unknown or uncertain	**Increasing or stable**	**Decline 1% or less per year**	**Decline >1% per year**
Population or FRP Unknown	Unknown	Unknown or Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Population > or = FRP	Unknown or Favourable	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Population up to 25% below FRP	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-inadequate	Unfavourable-bad
Population >25% below FRP	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad

Note: To assess the overall conservation status assessment for Population, information on age structure, mortality, and reproduction deviation is directly gathered in field 6.18 but is only included in the overall evaluation matrix **if data is available**. If data is not available, Population status will be assessed by using short-term trend as a proxy for age structure, mortality, and reproduction deviation. Further detail will be shared in the Approach document.

C: Conservation status assessment detail- Habitat for the species
Matrices to evaluate contribution of habitat quantity, quality and trend to the assessment of conservation status. Please use the further guidance provided separately by JNCC if required.

Table C1:
Matrix to evaluate the contribution of area, quality, and short-term trend (blue) of occupied habitat (7.1a and 7.1b) in the Habitat for species conservation status assessment.

		Is the area of occupied habitat sufficient (7.1a)?				
		YES				NO / Unknown
		Increasing	Stable	Decreasing	Uncertain / Unknown	All trends
Is the quality of occupied habitat sufficient (7.1b)?	YES	Favourable	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate	Favourable / Unfavourable-inadequate / Unknown*	
	NO	(Table C2)				
	Unknown					

*Expert opinion required, use Table C3 as guidance, capture reasoning in field 7.9.

Table C2:
Matrix to evaluate the contribution of area, quality, and trend (blue) of occupied and unoccupied habitat (7.1c) in the Habitat for species conservation status assessment. Trend relates to the overall area and quality of the (occupied) habitat.

Short-term trend Direction (7.4)	**Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (7.1c)?**		
	Yes	No	Unknown
Increasing	Favourable	Unfavourable-inadequate/ Unfavourable-bad**	Unknown
Stable	Favourable		
Decreasing	Unfavourable-inadequate		
Uncertain	Favourable/ Unfavourable-inadequate/ Unknown*		
Unknown			

*Expert opinion required, use Table C3 as guidance, capture reasoning in field 7.9.
**Expert opinion required, use Table C4 as guidance, capture reasoning in field 7.9.

Table C3:
Matrix to evaluation contribution of uncertain or unknown short-term trends (7.4) to the Habitat for species conservation assessment, with the input of expert opinion.

Does the short-term trend give you reason to be concerned that the current area and quality of habitat available for this species will negatively impact the long-term survival of this species?		
Yes	No	Unknown/ Unsure
Unfavourable-inadequate	Favourable	Unknown

Table C4:
Matrix to evaluation the extent of insufficiency of occupied and unoccupied habitat (7.1c=NO) to the Habitat for species conservation assessment, with the input of expert opinion.
Note: If you are uncertain on the extent of insufficiency, please use the precautionary principle and class the habitat as Unfavourable-bad.

		Habitat Area of occupied and unoccupied habitat	
	Expert Opinion	Habitat area is clearly insufficient	Habitat area is insufficient, but not clearly so
Habitat Quality of occupied and unoccupied habitat	Bad quality	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-bad
	Not bad quality	Unfavourable-bad	Unfavourable-inadequate

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'

Appendix 3: List of Pressures

The full list of Pressures (as of 08/2023) has been 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).