

Report under The Conservation of Habitats and  
Species Regulations 2017 (as amended),  
Regulation 9A

**2019-2024**

Conservation status assessment for the habitat:

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

**Wales**



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**



**JNCC**

**For further information please contact:**

Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ. <https://naturalresources.wales>

JNCC, Quay House, 2 East Station Road, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8YY.  
<https://jncc.gov.uk>

This report was produced by JNCC in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales.

**This document should be cited as:**

Natural Resources Wales and JNCC. (2026). Conservation status assessment for the habitat: H6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels.

This resource and any accompanying material (e.g. maps, data, images) is published by Natural Resources Wales under the Open Government Licence (OGLv3.0 for public sector information), unless otherwise stated. Note that some images (maps, tables) may not be copyright Natural Resources Wales; please check sources for conditions of re-use.

The views and recommendations presented in this resource do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of JNCC.

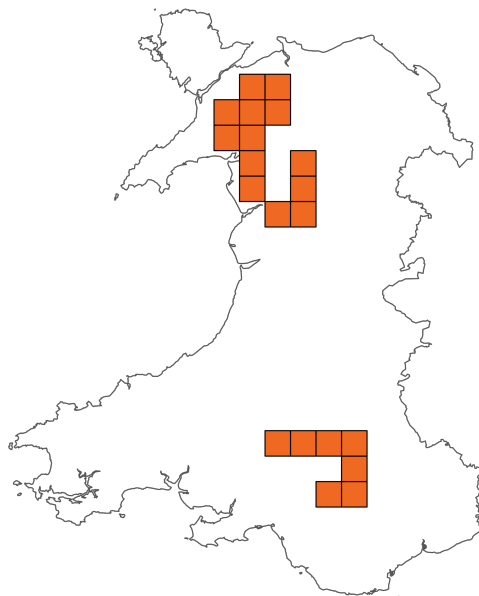
**Important note - Please read**

- The information in this document represents Wales Report under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 9A, for the period 2019-2024.
- It is based on supporting information provided by Natural Resources Wales, which is documented separately.
- The Habitats Regulations reporting 2019-2024 Approach Document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the habitat are included.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this habitat (section 11 National Site Network coverage for Annex I habitats).

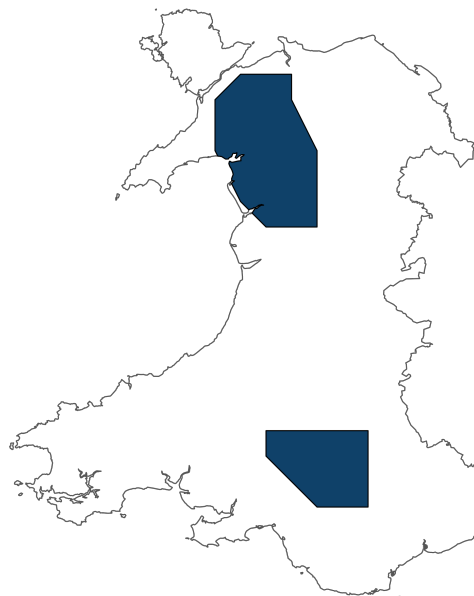
Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

# Assessment Summary: Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

## Distribution Map



## Range Map



**Figure 1:** Wales distribution and range map for H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available habitat records within the current reporting period.

**Table 1:** Table summarising the conservation status for H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels. Overall conservation status for habitat is based on assessments of range, area covered by habitat, structure and functions, and future prospects.

## Overall Conservation Status (see section 10)

**Unfavourable-bad (U2)**

## Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

**Range** (see section 4)

**Favourable (FV)**

**Area covered by habitat** (see section 5)

**Unknown (XX)**

**Structure and functions** (see section 6)

**Unfavourable-bad (U2)**

**Future prospects** (see section 9)

**Unfavourable-bad (U2)**

## List of Sections

National Level .....	5
1. General information .....	5
2. Maps .....	5
Biogeographical Level .....	5
3. Biogeographical and marine regions .....	5
4. Range .....	5
5. Area covered by habitat .....	7
6. Structure and functions .....	9
7. Main pressures .....	10
8. Conservation measures .....	10
9. Future prospects .....	11
10. Conclusions .....	12
11. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex I habitat types . .	13
12. Complementary information .....	13
13. References .....	15
Biogeographical and marine regions .....	15
Main pressures .....	16
14. Explanatory Notes .....	18

## National Level

### 1. General information

1.1 Country	Wales
1.2 Habitat code	H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

### 2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1979-2017
2.2 Distribution map	Yes
2.3 Distribution map; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

#### 2.4 Additional information

No additional information

## Biogeographical Level

### 3. Biogeographical and marine regions

3.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the habitat occurs	ATL
---	-----

#### 3.2 Sources of information

See section 13 References

### 4. Range

4.1 Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	2,860.64
4.2 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
4.3 Short-term trend; Direction	Stable
4.4 Short-term trend; Magnitude	

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

<b>4.5 Short-term trend; Method used</b>	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
--	---

**4.6 Long-term trend; Period**

<b>4.7 Long-term trend; Direction</b>	Stable
---------------------------------------	--------

**4.8 Long-term trend; Magnitude**

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

**4.9 Long-term trend; Method used**

**4.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)**

a) Area (km<sup>2</sup>)

<b>b) Pre-defined increment</b>	Current range is less than 2% smaller than the FRR
---------------------------------	--

<b>c) Unknown</b>	No
-------------------	----

<b>d) Method used</b>	Reference-based approach
-----------------------	--------------------------

<b>e) Quality of information</b>	moderate
----------------------------------	----------

**4.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range**

<b>a) Change</b>	No
------------------	----

**b) Genuine change**

---

c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data

---

d) Different method

---

e) No information

---

f) Other reason

---

g) Main reason

#### 4.12 Additional information

No additional information

### 5. Area covered by habitat

---

5.1 Year or period 1979-2012

---

5.2 Surface area (km<sup>2</sup>)

---

a) Minimum

---

b) Maximum

---

c) Best single value 0.65

---

5.3 Type of estimate Best estimate

---

5.4 Surface area; Method used Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

---

5.5 Short-term trend; Period

---

5.6 Short-term trend; Direction Unknown

---

5.7 Short-term trend; Magnitude

---

a) Estimated minimum

---

b) Estimated maximum

---

c) Pre-defined range

---

d) Unknown

---

e) Type of estimate

---

f) Rate of decrease

---

5.8 Short-term trend; Method used Insufficient or no data available

### 5.9 Long-term trend; Period

#### 5.10 Long-term trend; Direction

#### 5.11 Long-term trend; Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Confidence interval

d) Rate of decrease

#### 5.12 Long-term trend; Method used

#### 5.13 Favourable Reference Area (FRA)

a) Area (km<sup>2</sup>)

b) Pre-defined increment

c) Unknown Yes

d) Method used

e) Quality of information

#### 5.14 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

a) Change No

b) Genuine change

c) Improved knowledge or  
more accurate data

d) Different method

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason

#### 5.15 Additional information

No additional information

## 6. Structure and functions

### 6.1 Condition of habitat (km<sup>2</sup>)

#### Area in good condition

ai) Minimum	0.014
-------------	-------

aii) Maximum	0.014
--------------	-------

#### Area not in good condition

bi) Minimum	0.32
-------------	------

bii) Maximum	0.32
--------------	------

#### Area where condition is unknown

ci) Minimum	0.33
-------------	------

cii) Maximum	0.33
--------------	------

6.2 Condition of habitat; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
--	---

### 6.3 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition; Period

6.4 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition; Direction	Unknown
--	---------

6.5 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
--	-----------------------------------

### 6.6 Typical species

Has the list of typical species changed in comparison to the previous reporting period?	No
---	----

### 6.7 Typical species; Method used

### 6.8 Additional information

Typical species were not used directly in the assessment of conservation status for habitat structure and function as a comprehensive list of typical species for each habitat was not available. However, the status of typical species was considered when the

condition of individual sites was assessed using Common Standards Monitoring Guidance. Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) data was used to assess the area of habitat in 'good' and 'not good' condition (field 6.1). Species were a component of the attributes assessed under CSM. Therefore, an assessment of species is considered to have formed part of the reporting under field 6.1 which supported the Habitats Structure and Function assessment (field 10.3).

## 7. Main pressures

### 7.1 Characterisation of pressures

**Table 2:** Pressures affecting the habitat, including timing and importance/impact ranking. Pressures are defined as factors acting currently and/or during the reporting period (2019–2024). Rankings are: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Pressure	Timing	Ranking
PA07: Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PF05: Sports, tourism and leisure activities	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PI02: Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PI03: Problematic native species	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PK03: Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PJ10: Change of habitat location, size, and / or quality due to climate change	Only in future	Medium (M)

### 7.2 Sources of information

See section 13 References

### 7.3 Additional information

No additional information

## 8. Conservation measures

### 8.1: Status of measures

<b>a) Are measures needed?</b>	Yes
<b>b) Indicate the status of measures</b>	Measures identified and taken
<b>8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken</b>	Maintain the current range, surface area or structure and functions of the habitat type
<b>8.3 Location of the measures taken</b>	Both inside and outside National Site Network
<b>8.4 Response to measures</b>	Short-term results (within the current reporting period, 2019–2024)

## 8.5 List of main conservation measures

**Table 3:** Key conservation measures addressing current pressures and/or anticipated threats during the next two reporting periods (2025–2036). Measures are ranked by importance/impact: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Conservation measure	Ranking
MA06: Stop mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities e.g. burning (incl. restore or improve habitats)	High (H)
MF03: Reduce impact of outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities (incl. restoration of habitats)	Medium (M)
MI03: Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species	Medium (M)
MI05: Management of problematic native species	Medium (M)
MK01: Reduce impact of mixed source pollution	High (H)

## 8.6 Additional information

Only part of the measures identified have been taken.

# 9. Future prospects

## 9.1a Future trends of parameters

<b>ai) Range</b>	Overall stable
<b>bi) Area</b>	

	Negative - decreasing $\leq 1\%$ (one percent or less) per year on average
<b>ci) Structure and functions</b>	Negative - slight/moderate deterioration

### 9.1b Future prospects of parameters

<b>aii) Range</b>	Good
<b>bii) Area</b>	Poor
<b>cii) Structure and functions</b>	Bad

### 9.2 Additional information

No additional information

## 10. Conclusions

<b>10.1 Range</b>	Favourable (FV)
<b>10.2 Area</b>	Unknown (XX)
<b>10.3 Specific structure and functions (incl. typical species)</b>	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
<b>10.4 Future prospects</b>	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
<b>10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status</b>	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
<b>10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status</b>	Unknown

### 10.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

### 10.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status trend

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

## 10.8 Additional information

No additional information

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

### 11.1 Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (km<sup>2</sup>)

a) Minimum 0.25

b) Maximum 0.25

c) Best single value

11.2 Type of estimate Best estimate

11.3 Habitat area inside the network; Method used Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Direction Uncertain

11.5 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Method used Insufficient or no data available

11.6 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network; Direction Unknown

11.7 Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition within the network; Method used Insufficient or no data available

### 11.8 Additional information

No additional information

## 12. Complementary information

### 12.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

## **12.2 Other relevant information**

No other relevant information

## 13. References

### Biogeographical and marine regions

#### 3.2 Sources of information

- Alex Turner 1996-1998 NVC Survey Glyders (no report).
- Averis, A., 2002. Vegetation survey of the eastern part of the Carneddau SSSI and cSAC, Conwy, Summer 2001. CCW Science Report 535.
- Averis A. and Averis, B, 2004. Vegetation survey of Rhinog Site of Special Scientific Interest, 2003. CCW Science Report 654.
- Averis, B and Averis, A., 2005. Vegetation survey of land to the north and south of Rhinog Site of Special Scientific Interest, north Wales May 2004. CCW Science Report 654.
- Hyder Environmental, 1997. Craig Cerrig Gleisiad a Fan Frynych NNR baseline Phase II vegetation survey 1996.
- Gray, D.A., 2003. NVC Survey of Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangynidr. CCW Contract Science Report 605.
- Gray, D.A., 2004. A National Vegetation Survey (NVC) of the Brecon Beacons SSSI. CCW Science Report 667.
- Gray, D.A., 2002. NVC Survey of proposed extensions to Eryri cSAC (Glydeiriau and Y Wyddfa). CCW Contract Science Report 517.
- Burn A.M. 1982. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.5: NE Carneddau.
- Burn A.M. 1983. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.14: Moel Hebog.
- Burn A.M. 1989. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.23: Eryri (Glydeiriau, Carneddau, Y Wyddfa & Cwm Dwythch).
- Burn A.M. 1987. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.35: Llantysilio Mountain.
- Burn A.M. 1983. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.15: Pen y Fan & Fforest Fawr.
- Day P. & Burn A.M. 1983. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.12: Mynydd Du (Black Mountain).
- Heaver D.J. & Burn A.M. 1988. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.26: Arenig Fawr.

Heaver D.J. & Burn A.M. 1989. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.39: Moel Siabod, Cnicht & the Moelwyns.

Jackson P.K. 1987. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.37: Moel-y-Ci.

Jackson P.K. 1988. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.45: Cefn Du.

Jackson P.K. 1987. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.29: Nantlle Ridge.

Jackson P.K. & Yeo M. 1991. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.38: Cadair Idris.

Prosser M.V. & Wallace H.L. 1996. Cwm Idwal NNR : NVC Survey 1995.

Turner J.E.C. & Burn A.M. 1987. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.34: Ruabon Mountain & Eglwyseg Rocks.

Turner J.C. & Burn A.M. 1986. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.24: The Berwyn NCR Site.

Turner J.E.C. 1986. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.25: Mynydd Mawr.

Yeo M. 1988. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.30: The Arans.

Yeo M. 1988. Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.43: Mynydd Ceiswyn-Craig Portas-Craig Maesglase area. Other SSSI citation in ISIS Craig-y-Llyn.

Guest D. 2012. Assessing pressures and threats for article 17 reporting based on information in CCW's Actions Database. CCW HQ internal document.

Natural Resources Wales. 2013. Supporting documentation for the Third Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 for Wales; H6430 - Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels JNCC.

Natural England, RSPB. 2014. Climate Change Adaptation Manual.

Natural Resources Wales. 2024. SAFLE: NRW statutory sites actions database. Internal data source.

Staddon, P.L., Thompson, P & Short, C. 2023. Re-evaluating the sensitivity of habitats to climate change. NECR478. Natural England.

Stevens J., Sherry, J. and A. Turner. 2012. H6430 Hydrophilous Tall Herb Fringe Communities of Plains and of the Montane to Alpine Levels Inventory.

Turner A. 2012. Llyn Cowlyd – personal observation.

## **Main pressures**

### **7.2 Sources of information**

No sources of information

## 14. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
2.1: Year or period	<p>There has been no survey work covering areas of hydrophilous tall herb fringe vegetation since 2007. All data were collected between 1979-2004 and re-interpreted in 2012 to produce a GIS Inventory (Stevens, Sherry &amp; Turner, 2012). All the field data sources pre-date 2007. The continued presence of the habitat has only been formally confirmed on those sites which have been visited as part of SAC monitoring in the 2007-2012 monitoring cycle. A small area of this community in the Brecon Beacons SAC was monitored in 2017, but no sites have been monitored in their entirety within the 2013-18 period and there has been no monitoring in the current reporting round.</p>
2.3: Distribution map; Method used	<p>H6430 has been mapped based on National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and Phase 1 records for species-rich tall herb vegetation or on the presence of <i>Sedum rosea</i> within tall herb vegetation as described below.</p> <p>A range of data sources were used to determine the distribution of H6430. For those upland SSSIs with an NVC survey (see sources of information) the following data were collated: areas of U17 <i>Luzula sylvatica</i>-<i>Geum rivale</i> tall-herb community; uncategorised tall herb fringe communities with target notes which matched the Annex 1 description; uncategorised tall herb fringe communities with <i>Sedum rosea</i>. An additional SSSI Craig-y-Llyn was added following a review of SSSI citations.</p> <p>For non-designated sites and sites without NVC survey the Wales Field Unit Upland Vegetation Surveys 1979-89 (see sources of information) were used to collate the following records: D1 <i>Sedum rosea</i>-<i>Alchemilla glabra</i> communities; records for <i>Sedum rosea</i>; uncategorised communities with species-rich vegetation on old red sandstone cliff in Mynydd Ddu. The data collated are a mixture of polygon and point records. A revised GIS-based inventory for the</p>

	<p>habitat was produced using all of these data sources (Stevens, Sherry and Turner, 2012).</p> <p>Although further work is required to confirm the location and extent of the habitat, particularly where species records have been used, the underpinning survey are considered to provide a complete picture of the 10km<sup>2</sup> distribution of the habitat in Wales.</p>
4.3: Short-term trend; Direction	See 4.11
4.11: Change and reason for change in surface area of range	There has been no change to the reported 10km <sup>2</sup> distribution since the 2013 report (NRW, 2013). No information to confirm whether there have been real changes in range as much of the resource has not been resurveyed.
5.4: Surface area; Method used	<p>Habitat extent was calculated using polygon and point data from the Upland NVC surveys and Upland Field Unit vegetation surveys, which are considered to provide fairly comprehensive data. GIS layers for the habitat were produced for Article 17 reporting in 2013 (Stevens, Sherry and Turner, 2012), and most of the data are from before 2000. Polygon records sum to a total area of 42 hectares, with a mean polygon size of 0.68 (range 0.001 – 10.94) hectares. In addition to these polygons the presence of H6430 was noted or inferred at 34 other locations, assuming these stands are of a similar average size to the mapped habitat areas they amount to a further 23 hectares providing an estimated total extent of 65 ha.</p> <p>As with other habitats occupying cliff and steep slopes, habitat areas estimates based on the features mapped vertical projection are problematic, tending to underestimate the total habitat area and bias against examples on the steepest slopes.</p>
5.8: Short-term trend; Method used	There is very little data since 2000.
6.2: Condition of habitat; Method used	Very limited assessment of condition within SAC and no assessments outside SAC have been undertaken since the

---

2007 – 2012 period. This assessment is based on common standards monitoring visits undertaken between the 2007 and 2012 period, with no visits in the current or previous reporting rounds. During these assessments, habitat within Cadair Idris SAC was recorded as in favourable condition; in Eryri SAC as unfavourable (recovering) and in Brecon Beacons SAC as unfavourable (unclassified). Habitat condition within Eryri SAC is likely to be continuing to improve due to management measures to reduce grazing pressure, however, based on the two most recent assessments, recovery is slow and it is unclear whether the site has achieved favourable status.

The results of common standards monitoring visits undertaken between 2007 and 2012 suggest that tall herb cover and vegetation height are the attributes most commonly failing and this is attributed to high grazing pressure. Even on Cadair Idris SAC, where the existing mapped habitat was considered to be in favourable condition, areas of potential habitat may be currently limited by grazing pressure. The presence of invasive native and non-native species such as bracken, conifer seedlings and *Epilobium brunnescens* is also recorded in a number of samples. Bare ground and lack of vegetation cover are noted in some samples as the result of access and human disturbance.

#### Other relevant information

Pressures on the habitat are considered to be the same as during the 2007 – 2012 period and some are likely to remain high. Reduction of grazing on the least accessible ledges, control of invasive species and management of recreation pressure, will aid habitat recovery but nitrogen deposition, climate change and overall grazing pressures still threaten recovery.

---

6.5: Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition; Method used

Given the lack of data since 2012, recorded as unknown

---

## 7.1: Characterisation of pressures

Assessment of pressures and threats for the 2013 Article 17 report on H6430 in Wales (NRW, 2013) was based largely on an assessment of data held in NRW's 'Actions Database' (see below for details). Resources were not available to undertake a similar but updated analysis in the last reporting round (2019) but a small amount of additional data is available in this round from SAFLE, NRW's current sites database (NRW, 2024). Therefore, the assessment of pressures has been derived from the 2013 report, supplemented by data from SAFLE during this reporting round.

NRW's 'Actions Database' provided information on pressures within the protected sites series, which, along with the small amount of data extracted from SAFLE, was then matched to expert judgement on the severity of these pressures (at a generic level) to give an overall evaluation of the pressure level (for more details see Guest, 2012). The special sites (SSSI and SAC) account for 59% of the polygons mapped for the H6430 resource and 56% of the points mapped in Wales. Additional information on pressures was collated from the SAC Monitoring Reports 2007-2012. The potential impacts of atmospheric nitrogen on this habitat are unclear and no generic critical load range has been agreed for the habitat. Assessment of the 10km data for the habitat against the 2009 CEH moorland deposition data, showed stands receive an average of 19kg/N/ha/yr, with no areas receiving less than 7kg/N/ha/yr, and therefore the potential for impacts is significant.

### Pressures:

Two pressures were considered to have high impact on the habitat:

PA07 Grazing - this is specifically the problem of heavy grazing on the more accessible, often lower ledges, and is highlighted as an issue for 65% of SSSI management units with the habitat using the SAFLE data. Grazing by feral

---

goats is noted as an issue on some sites in Snowdonia;

PK03 Air pollution – nitrogen deposition is noted as an issue on 55% of H6430 sites within SSSIs. No critical load has been established for the community; however the habitat is found within upland areas with high levels of nitrogen deposition. The sensitivity of individual species within the community is poorly known.

Three pressures were considered to have a moderate impact;

PF05 Outdoor sports and leisure activities - erosion and disturbance can result from access to cliffs including climbing and ice climbing; it is highlighted for 13% of H6430 management units in the SAFLE data.

PI03 problematical native species – focussed on the spread of bracken on cliffs;

PI02 Invasive non-native species *Epilobium brunnescens* is recorded from a number of sites as are non-native conifer seedlings.

PJ10 The potential impacts of climate change on this habitat are unclear but upland species at the southern edge of their distribution are likely to be most sensitive to these threats, thereby affecting the habitat's quality, and this is therefore given medium ranking.

PJ01, PJ03, PJ11, PJ13 - The potential impacts of climate change on other aspects of this habitat (and causes of lower quality) are unclear and have been tentatively classed as low level. Staddon et al. (2023) do not specifically refer to H6430, but list 'inland rock' habitats as having 'low sensitivity' to climate change but 'medium sensitivity' if degraded.

---

8.5: List of main  
conservation measures

Using data from SAFLE (NRW, 2024), only 35% of SSSI management units with H6430 have 'actions' that are

---

completed or underway. Actions are identified or planned for all the additional management units however, so therefore an assessment of 'measures identified, but only part taken' is given.

However, as more than 40% of the habitat falls outside statutory sites, a fair proportion of the habitat lacks identified Conservation Measures.

MA06: Maintaining appropriate grazing through agreement. In most cases this refers to the need to reduce grazing or to remove grazing to allow vegetation to recover. In the previous reporting round, 46 % of the habitat polygons and 35 % of habitat points identified as qualifying features were under SSSI Land Agency Agreement. Agri-environment agreements covered 44% of habitat polygons and 26% of habitat points in 2019 (note there will be overlap between areas under SSSI agreements and agri-environment agreements). There are no specific prescriptions for the management of hydrophilous tall herb or ledge vegetation within agri-environment. Grazing levels are therefore dictated by other habitats such as upland grassland and heathland which occur within the same management unit. The prescribed grazing levels are likely to be too high for hydrophilous tall herb communities. In Cwm Idwal, part of the Eryri SAC grazing has been excluded, although some sheep trespass and grazing by goats occurs, and the hydrophilous vegetation has been showing signs of recovery.

MK01: Monitoring and assessing the impacts of nitrogen deposition.

MF03 Management of recreational activities including publicity/voluntary agreements to prevent damage by rock climbing and ice climbing.

MI05: Management of bracken.

	MI03: Management of problematical or invasive non-native species e.g. conifers, rhododendron and feral goat.
10.1: Range	Conclusion on Range reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Range surface area is stable; and (ii) the current Range surface area is approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Range.
10.2: Area	Conclusion on Area reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Area is unknown; (ii) the Favourable Reference Area is unknown and (iii) the change in distribution pattern is unknown.
10.3: Specific structure and functions	Conclusion on Structure and function reached using the precautionary principle because: i) habitat condition data indicates that more than 25% of the habitat is in unfavourable (not good) condition; and ii) short-term trend in area of habitat in good condition is uncertain for this habitat.
10.4: Future prospects	Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are good; (ii) the Future prospects for Area covered by habitat are poor; and (iii) the Future prospects for Structure and function are bad.
10.5: Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Unfavourable-bad because two of the conclusions are Unfavourable-bad.
5.13: Favourable Reference Area (FRA)	The UK-level FRV for surface area was developed by JNCC using an audit trail based on the year the FRV was first established and any changes made in subsequent reporting rounds. The audit may draw from any combination of the 2007, 2013, or 2019 Habitats Directive reports and reflects the full rationale used for the 2019 Article 17 reporting. This FRV was reviewed by Welsh experts and considered appropriate for use in Wales based on current habitat extent and trends.
4.10: Favourable Reference Range (FRR)	The UK-level FRV for range was developed by JNCC using an audit trail based on the year the FRV was first established and any changes made in subsequent reporting rounds. The audit may draw from any

---

combination of the 2007, 2013, or 2019 Habitats Directive reports and reflects the full rationale used for the 2019 Article 17 reporting. This FRV was reviewed by Welsh experts and considered appropriate for use in Wales based on current distribution and trends.