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

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the habitat:

H7150 - Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

Wales

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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: Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

Distribution Map

Range Map

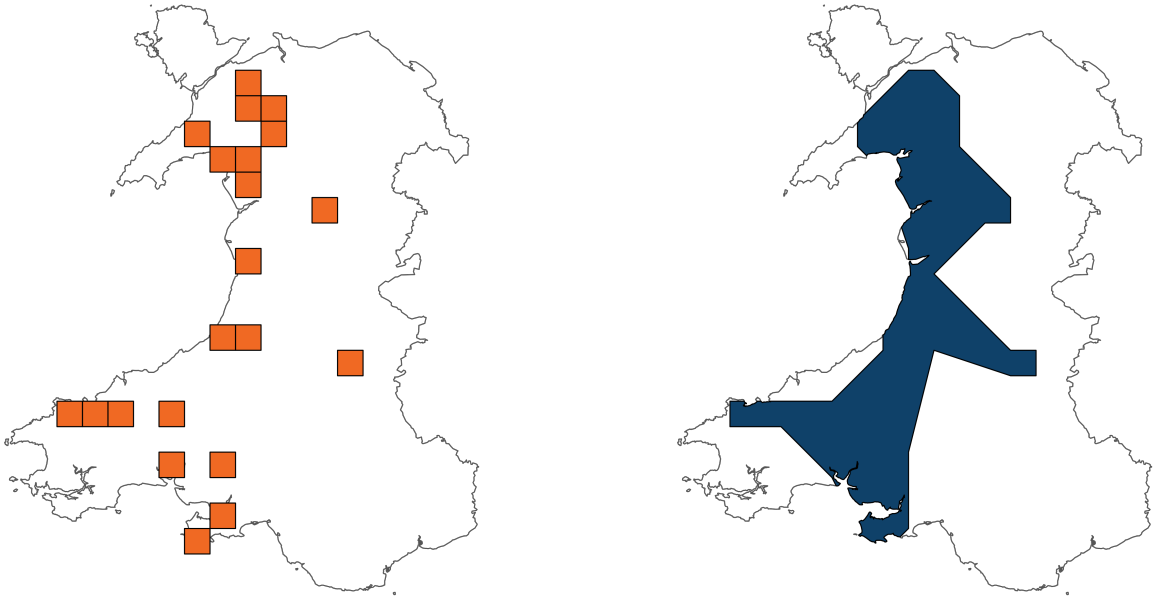

Figure 1: Wales distribution and range map for H7150 - Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*. Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and 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 H7150 - Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*. 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-inadequate (U1)**
Future prospects (see section 9)	**Unfavourable-bad (U2)**

List of Sections

National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	Wales
1.2 Habitat code	H7150 - Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1993-2012
2.2 Distribution map	Yes
2.3 Distribution map; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

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 (km²)	6,094.64
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	
4.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
4.6 Long-term trend; Period	
4.7 Long-term trend; Direction	Unknown
4.8 Long-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Rate of decrease	
4.9 Long-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

4.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

a) Area (km²)	
b) Pre-defined increment	Current range is less than 2% smaller than the FRR
c) Unknown	No
d) Method used	Reference-based approach
e) Quality of information	moderate

4.11 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	

4.12 Additional information

No additional information

5. Area covered by habitat

5.1 Year or period	1993-2012
5.2 Surface area (km²)	
a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Best single value	0.175
5.3 Type of estimate	Minimum
5.4 Surface area; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
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	2000-2024
5.10 Long-term trend; Direction	Uncertain
5.11 Long-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Confidence interval	
d) Rate of decrease	
5.12 Long-term trend; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
5.13 Favourable Reference Area (FRA)	
a) Area (km²)	
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 (km²)	
Area in good condition	
ai) Minimum	0
aii) Maximum	0
Area not in good condition	
bi) Minimum	0.134
bii) Maximum	0.134
Area where condition is unknown	
ci) Minimum	0.041
cii) Maximum	0.041
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
PA05: Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agroforestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PA08: Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PA22: Drainage for use as agricultural land	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PF05: Sports, tourism and leisure activities	Only in future	Medium (M)
PF14: Modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for built-up areas	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
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)
PJ03: Changes in precipitation regimes due to climate change	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PJ04: Sea-level rise due to climate change	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)

PK04: Atmospheric N-deposition	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)
PL02: Drainage (mixed or unknown drivers)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	High (H)

7.2 Sources of information

See section 13 References

7.3 Additional information

No additional information

8. Conservation measures

8.1: Status of measures

a) Are measures needed?	Yes
b) Indicate the status of measures	Measures identified and taken
8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	Restore the structure and functions, including the status of typical species (related to 'Specific structure and functions')
8.3 Location of the measures taken	Both inside and outside National Site Network
8.4 Response to measures	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2025–2036)

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
MA03: Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	High (H)
MA05: Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	High (H)

MK03: Restoration of habitats impacted by multi-purpose hydrological changes	High (H)
MA13: Manage agricultural drainage and water abstraction (incl. the restoration of drained or hydrologically altered habitats)	High (H)
MK01: Reduce impact of mixed source pollution	High (H)
MA11: Reduce/eliminate air pollution from agricultural activities	High (H)
MM01: Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes that occur without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Medium (M)
MI04: Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Medium (M)
MA10: Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities	Medium (M)
MF03: Reduce impact of outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities (incl. restoration of habitats)	Medium (M)
MC09: Manage/reduce/eliminate air pollution from resource exploitation and energy production	High (H)

8.6 Additional information

Only part of the measures identified have been taken.

9. Future prospects

9.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Overall stable
bi) Area	Overall stable
ci) Structure and functions	Very negative - important deterioration

9.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range	Good
bii) Area	Unknown
cii) Structure and functions	Bad

9.2 Additional information

No additional information

10. Conclusions

10.1 Range	Favourable (FV)
10.2 Area	Unknown (XX)
10.3 Specific structure and functions (incl. typical species)	Unfavourable-inadequate (U1)
10.4 Future prospects	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	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^2)

a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Best single value	0.153
11.2 Type of estimate	Best estimate
11.3 Habitat area inside the network; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
11.4 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Direction	Unknown
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

Birch, K.S. (in prep.). Lowland Peat Survey Site Report for SH64/27P Llyn Hafod-y-llyn. Natural Resources Wales, Bangor

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NRW (2018a). SAC and SPA Monitoring Programme Results 2013-2018. Internal NRW Dataset (Excel spreadsheet).

NRW (2018b). SAC & SPA Monitoring Programme planning spreadsheet 2013 - 2018. Internal NRW Dataset (Excel spreadsheet).

NRW (2018c). Actions Database. Internal NRW Database.

Prosser, M.V. and Wallace, H.L. (1995). Gwynedd Lowland Heathland Survey 1994. CCW science report no. 113.

Prosser, M.V. and Wallace, H.L. 1998. Lowland Heathland Survey of Wales: The Gower Commons 1997. CCW science report no. 310.

Robinson, F. (2010). Cors Fochno SAC Monitoring Report: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion. Monitoring Round 2 (2007-2012). CCW Report, February 2010.

Schulz, J. (2004). Late-Holocene mire development of the lowland raised bogs Cors Caron and Cors Fochno: a palaeoecological approach using high resolution macrofossil analysis. Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Southampton.

Stevens, J. (2012a). GIS layer - data processing notes - A17 reporting 2012 H7150. Internal file note, Countryside Council for Wales.

Stevens, J. (2012b). Art17 2012 H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion.lyr. ARC GIS Data layer.

Turner, A., 1996-1998. Unpublished NVC survey of Glyder for CCW.

UK Government (2010). The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/contents

Wales Audit Office, 2012. Annual Improvement Report. Snowdonia National Park Authority.

Welsh Government (2017). Welsh Statutory Instruments 2017 No. 565 (W. 134) Agriculture Wales: The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017. (https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/565/contents - accessed 19 June 2018).

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Welsh Government (2024b). The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024. Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2024/2/contents

Williams, P., Evans, F. & Lewis, H. (2008). Core Management Plan Including Conservation Objectives for Rhinog Special Area of Conservation. Natural Resources Wales.

Main pressures

7.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

14. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
2.1: Year or period	New survey evidence since 2018 not incorporated.
2.3: Distribution map; Method used	The distribution map provided for this habitat is the same as that used for the 2013 Article 17 reporting round (Stevens, 2012a) – this was a new map prepared for the 2013 Article 17 reporting round. No new survey evidence since 2013 has been incorporated. There are 21 hectad records for this habitat based on the 2013 assessment and this is very likely to be an under-representation of the distribution of this habitat in Wales. Inclusion of data collected since 2013 has not been possible for this round, but these data include important Welsh sites for H7150, including Cors Gregennen & Llynnau Cregennen (SH61, Bosanquet [2013,2015]) and Llyn Hafod-y-llyn (SH64, Birch in prep.) which represent new hectad records for this habitat. The distribution map is based on GIS analysis of Phase 2 (plant community level) data. Phase 1 data is of limited use for this habitat because its recognition relies on specific floristic information which unless covered by a target note would not be reflected in the habitat mapping categories employed by Phase 1. Phase 2 mapping yields polygon records assigned to NVC communities/sub-communities and non-NVC units mapped to 1:2500 and transferred to a Mapinfo and then subsequently an ArcGIS platform. Polygons (whether relating to individual vegetation types or mosaics) and some point records for plant communities/ sub-communities judged as conforming to this habitat have been selected and used to create a GIS inventory for this habitat. A total of 399 polygon records for this habitat have been used to create the distribution map, with 201 records coming from the Lowland Peatland Survey of Wales (2004 to current) and 184 from the Preseli survey undertaken by the Lowland Peatland Survey team between 2004 and 2005: these surveys together account for 96.5% of the

	polygon records and thus most records are no older than 2004. The remainder of polygon records come from the Lowland Heathland Survey of Wales (Prosser & Wallace, 1995; 1998) and the Phase 2 survey of Glyderiau (Eryri) undertaken by Alex Turner. A total of 22 point records for this habitat are also included in the distribution map; these include two key sites for this habitat in Wales, namely the large raised bogs of Cors Caron and Cors Fochno.
3.2: Sources of information	This section has not been updated and is based on the 2012 and 2018 information.
4.3: Short-term trend; Direction	Changes in range considered unlikely during reporting period.
4.11: Change and reason for change in surface area of range	The distribution data submitted in 2013 has not been updated. Changes in surface area or range may actually have occurred since the last reporting period, but NRW has no system in place for monitoring or recording such changes.
5.1: Year or period	The extent estimate for H7150 is based on the GIS inventory developed by Stevens (2012b) and described under section 4 above. All data were collected between 1993 and 2012 and re-interpreted in 2012 to produce a GIS Inventory. Some 96.5% of the polygon records date from 2004 onwards. No formal condition monitoring of SAC's supporting H7150 as a habitat feature has been undertaken since 2012 (NRW, 2018b), thus the continued presence of the habitat has not been assessed formally. No update has been provided for 2025.
5.2: Surface area	Inevitable uncertainty surrounds the extent estimate of 0.175 km2 -this is due to the following issues: 1. Extent data for 4 of the 6 SAC sites supporting this habitat as a C/D graded feature have not been included – these include the Cors Caron and Cors Fochno SACs where the habitat has a significant presence. The distribution map records for H7150 for these sites is based on point data only. Robinson (2010) estimates that H7150

occurs over 166 ha of the main central expanse of H7110 at Cors Fochno, but this is not wholly H7150. The extent of this habitat on Rhinog is estimated at 1 ha (Williams et al., 2008) based on survey undertaken by Alex Turner in 2006 – this is very much less than the N2K Standard Data Form value of 78.6 ha. There is, therefore, an urgent need to obtain accurate extent figures for this habitat on the SACs where it occurs as a feature (and on other priority sites for the habitat), not least because of the significant disparity between the sum total of the N2K form estimates for H7150 area (223.7 ha) – which are known to be inaccurate - and the area estimate given above of 17.5 ha.

2. The extent figure above excludes a number of known locations for H7150 surveyed since the last reporting round. Among the more significant of these are Cors Gregennen with 1.4 ha (Bosanquet, 2013), Llynnau Cregennen with 0.125 ha (Bosanquet, 2015) and Llyn Hafod-y-Llyn with 0.7 ha (Birch, in prep.).

3. There are likely to be sites which still support H7150 which remain un-surveyed.

4. Some of the extent data for this habitat date from surveys undertaken over 20 years ago. Revisits to these sites are required to determine any changes in extent and their causation.

For these reasons the extent estimate of 0.175 km2 has to be regarded as a minimum figure.

H7150 has been recognised from the following community contexts in Wales: M15b & M15d 0.235 ha, M29 0.31 ha, M18b, 0.46, M2a & b 0.65 ha, M16 0.77, M21 1.22 ha, M18a & a/b 1.67 ha, M15a 5.5ha and as a mosaic component with other communities 6.47 ha; H7150 also occurs in small amounts as an element of M30, M1 and the non-NVC types 'short-sedge vegetation' and 'Juncus acutiflorus over short-sedge vegetation'.

	This account is based on that used in 2018 which was largely/wholly based on 2012 evidence.
5.6: Short-term trend; Direction	There is no quantitative evidence on which to assess changes in range or surface area over the short or long term. Modest increases in extent can be expected to occur during the next two-three reporting cycles as a result of work taken to improve the condition of H7110 by the New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project and work to rewet eroded blanket peatlands (H7130) by the National Peatland Action Programme.
5.14: Change and reason for change in surface area	The assessment of 'no' is based on use of the 2012 data with no inclusion of recent survey data coupled with lack of evidence of genuine change due to lack of a system for monitoring and recording changes in the extent of Annex 1 habitats.
6.1: Condition of habitat	This figure has not been updated from previous reporting rounds. In 2025 it is considered likely that areas of this habitat do occur which are in good condition. The figure of not good is the total extent of this habitat on the two SACs for which reliable extent data are available from the GIS inventory described above (namely Mynydd Preseli – 13.15 ha and Eryri [Glyderiau section only] – 0.23 ha) and for which SAC monitoring for the2013 reporting round returned a judgement of 'Unfavourable – Declining'. For the purpose of this assessment it is assumed that this condition judgement relates to the whole resource on each site. The area assessed as 'unknown' is the difference between the total area noted under 5 above and the area assessed as in 'Not Good' condition. The feature on the Rhinog SAC was assessed as Favourable – Maintained in August 2010, but as reliable extent data are unavailable for the SAC no entry has been given under the 'Good' category above.
6.2: Condition of habitat; Method used	This assessment has not been updated for 2025. Assessment of structure and function within SACs is based

	on the results of common standards monitoring visits undertaken between 2009 and 2012 (NRW, 2018a). The spreadsheet cited as NRW (2018a) has been analysed to extract monitoring data for SAC sites for the Rhynchosporion feature (global grades A-C). The related spreadsheet NRW (2018b) has then been checked to see if any monitoring results have been reported which do not figure in NRW (2018a). No new SAC monitoring data has been collected since the last reporting round for this feature (NRW, 2018b). Data up until 2012 indicated the feature was only Favourable (Favourable Maintained) on one SAC (Rhinog), with judgements of Unfavourable – Declining for three others (Cors Caron, Eryri and Preseli) and Unfavourable – Recovering for Cors Fochno: the feature on Migneint (D grade) was not assessed.
6.5: Short-term trend of habitat area in good condition; Method used	This assessment has not been updated for 2025. The five SACs supporting H7150 as a C feature have all received two rounds of monitoring (the first and second rounds), but none were monitored during the third round running up to the current reporting exercise – hence the assessment of 'insufficient or no data available'. However, between the first and second reporting rounds, the status of this feature deteriorated at three sites (Cors Caron, Eryri and Preseli), changing from favourable to unfavourable at two. The condition of the feature at the other two sites with a qualifying presence of H7150 showed no change, remaining at favourable maintained at one (Rhinog). No information on the condition of this feature outside the N2K series has been collated and we are uncertain as to whether any information is available.
7.1: Characterisation of pressures	Overview The narrative provided here has not been updated since the 2013-2018 reporting round.

Several pressures have been added, notably PF14 and PJ04 which relate mainly to the need to implement a long-term strategy for the protection of core supporting raised mire habitat at Cors Fochno from the uncontrolled impacts of sea level rise and coastal protection embankment failure.

Analysis of Pressures and Threats has utilised a number of data sources, with NRWs Action Database (NRW, 2018c) serving as a critical resource. This provides information on 'issues' affecting habitats and species within the protected sites series in Wales and contains a total of 54 management issue entries against the 'Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion' feature description, of which 45 management issues remain categorised as 'C' and requiring ongoing control. These apply across a total of just 13 management units (many units have more than one management issue recorded) on 5 SSSI, including all of the SACs for which this habitat has a qualifying (C grade) presence: Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt is not included, reflecting the status of H7150 as a D grade feature there.

Restricting the search term to 'Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion' means that only data for SAC SSSI are reported here. These data are thus not wholly representative of the wider resource as it is to be expected that conservation measures would better mitigate pressures and threats inside the SAC series. However, use of the more general peatland SSSI feature search terms would lead to many more records applying to peatland habitats other than H7150.

Pressures:

PA05: Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agroforestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming) & PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock .

Insufficient grazing is noted as a high priority and high urgency issue in the Rhinog SAC Prioritised Improvement Plan (PIP) (NRW, 2016); the closely related issue of grazing type and/or timing is a high priority and high urgency issue in the PIP for Preseli. Insufficient grazing is a current issue across 4 management units for both of these SACs in NRWs Actions Database (NRW,), with grazing type and/or timing issues related to under-grazing cited for 8 units on 3 SACs.

PK04: Atmospheric N-deposition and PK03 Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants

Air pollution is cited as a current issue for 8 units across 3 of the SACs supporting this habitat in NRWs Actions Database (NRW, 2018c): it is cited as a high priority issue in the PIPs for all 5 SACs supporting a qualifying presence (C grade) of H7150. The extent of the H7150 resource in Wales subject to N deposition in excess of the critical load for this habitat (5kg N/ha/yr) has been assessed using the agreed approach and using updated deposition data, but based on the original 2012 extent figure of 17.54 ha. Using a data overlay method in ARC GIS (Kay, 2018), 100% of the habitat by area (polygon data) was recorded at or above the relevant lower Critical Load limit.

PA22 Drainage for use as agricultural land & PL02 Drainage

Issues relating to drainage for agricultural activities are cited variously as 'Ditch Management', 'Water Levels' and 'Drainage in the PIPs, with at least one of these cited as a high priority and high urgency issue on both the Cors Caron and Cors Fochno SACs (NRW, 2016). This reflects the significance of ongoing drainage in reducing the area of raised bog habitat capable of supporting this feature. 'Ditch Management' is also cited as a current issue for this habitat in NRWs Actions Database for Preseli (2 units), and 'Drainage' for two units on Rhinog. Other drainage

impacts (covered as PL02) result from the ongoing effects of past (i.e. historic) peat cutting: this is a particular issue for Cors Caron and Cors Fochno.

PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)

Terrestrial non-native species are cited as an issue for two management units on two SACs supporting this habitat (NRW,) – this relates to conifer regeneration and colonisation by Rhododendron. This is cited as a medium priority high threat issue in the PIP for Rhinog (NRW, 2016).

PI03 Problematic native species

Scrub invasion is cited as a high priority and high urgency issue in the PIP for Cors Caron (NRW,) and is regarded as a current issue both for this site and Cors Fochno in NRWs Actions Database (NRW, 2018c). This issue is primary a consequence of the drainage-related impacts cited above.

PA17: Agricultural activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine)Diffuse water pollution is cited as an issue for one unit on Preseli (NRW, 2018c) but is regarded as a low priority pressure/threat in this assessment given the upland and/or ombrogenous context of most examples.

'Water pollution - discharge(s)/point source (inc. thermal, radioactive and oil)' is cited as a current issue for one Eryri unit supporting this habitat.

PF05 Sports, tourism and leisure activities

The issue 'Access/Use - erosion/disturbance/damage' is identified for two units on two sites (Eryri and Cors Fochno) but is regarded as a low risk pressure currently.

PJ03 - Changes in precipitation regimes due to climate change

PJ01 - Temperature changes and extremes due to climate change There is no specific evidence indicating impacts due to these pressures at the present time, though any such effects would be similar to the widely observed consequences of dereliction.

Threats:

PA05: Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agroforestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming) & PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock .

The predicted post-Brexit decline in the economic viability of sheep production (Dwyer, 2018) suggests that the risk of under-grazing will continue and possibly intensify as a threat to H7150 if un-mitigated by future public/financial support mechansims.

PA22 Drainage for use as agricultural land & PL02 Drainage

The New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs LIFE project will achieve significant hydrological restoration benefits at Cors Fochno and Cors Caron during the forthcoming reporting period, but cannot fully restore the hydrological regimes of the sites to a point where H7150 recovers to its original natural 'footprint' – thus this threat will continue, albeit to a lesser extent than currently. Drainage is unlikely to feature as a significant threat at either Preseli or Rhinog. The extent to which drainage will continue as a threat for other sites supporting H7150 is unclear.

PF05 Sports, tourism and leisure activities

Visitor pressure has continued to rise in recent years with

	an 18% increase in the number of walkers on the footpaths of Snowdon between 2009/10 and 2010/2011 (Wales Audit Office 2012). There is some risk that the threat posed by this activity will increase during the next reporting period, chiefly affecting upland/upland fringe sites. PK04: Atmospheric N-deposition and PK03 Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants Despite modest projected reductions in the overall deposition rates for atmospheric nitrogen in the UK, air pollution is expected to remain a High pressure (threat) to the habitat in Wales. A provisional analysis using projected exceedance data for 2030 indicates that the area of SAC (on which H7150 is a feature) which falls in areas where deposition is above the relevant critical load will only fall by c. 0.2% from the 2013-2015 estimate by 2030 (JNCC, 2018). PJ03 Changes in precipitation regimes due to climate change The sensitivity to climate change of three of the habitats which commonly host H7150 in Wales (upland heathland, lowland heathland and blanket bog) has been assessed as 'Medium' by Natural England & RSPB (2014) – this source does not provide an assessment for lowland raised bog. H7150 in heathland contexts may be especially prone to climate change given its occurrence on shallow drought-prone peats.
8.5: List of main conservation measures	This section has not been updated since the 2013-2018 reporting round. Some measures are already in place against each of these activities. A significant proportion of the known resource (13.38 ha) of this habitat was included in SAC as a notified feature at the time of the 2012 reporting round and most of the raised bog resource (including Cors Caron, Cors Fochno and Cors Goch Llanllwch) is NNR. Ensuring appropriate (light) grazing of the upland and

upland margin sites (notably Rhinog and Preseli) is critical and is registered as measures CA03 and CA05 above: most actions identified against these measures remain outstanding (NRW, 2018c).

In terms of measures MK03 and MA13, significant work has already been taken to address the hydrological impacts posed by peripheral (and in some cases internal) drainage of the larger bog sites, and a major programme of work is about to commence as part of the New LIFE for Welsh raised bogs project (NRW, 2016b). This will create suitable conditions for the eventual expansion of this habitat within the other principal Annex 1 habitat which hosts it on the raised bogs sites – Active raised bog H7110. However, until the deep peripheral drainage is fully addressed on these sites, H7150 will not be restored to occupy its full natural eco-hydrological footprint.

In terms of N deposition (MC09 and MA11), national regulations are in place but have been insufficient to prevent continued high levels of N deposition nationally (MC09) and local sources (MA11).

There are various air quality strategies and initiatives in place to protect and enhance biodiversity. Air quality limit values set out in the Air Quality Strategy (AQS) are transposed into national legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. Nitrogen deposition continues to impact semi-natural habitats in Wales. These regulations are not habitat-specific, however with introduction of The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 in Wales, brings in new national targets for air quality pollutants, with the potential of directly influencing habitat protection.

This key legislative advancement requires mandatory targets for fine particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) to be established by February 2027, including new powers for Welsh Ministers to set pollutant-

	specific targets in future years (e.g., ammonia, nitrogen dioxide) linked to biodiversity outcomes, potentially enabling future habitat-sensitive thresholds. Welsh Government have also introduced The Agriculture (Wales) Act in 2023. It aims to establish a framework of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) objectives to underpin agricultural support, including the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). The Act provides Welsh Ministers with the power to provide support (financial or otherwise) for or in connection with 15 purposes, including 'Improving air quality'. Welsh Government published a consultation on the SFS which closed in March 2024. Welsh Ministers will not be making final scheme design decisions until further stakeholder work is undertaken. Focussed monitoring/research is required to understand the impacts of nitrogen deposition on the habitat and implement effective mitigation. The New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project (NRW, 2016b) will effectively tackle the spread of invasive woody species (MM01) at the two sites where this remains a current issue (NRW, 2018c), namely Cors Caron and Cors Fochno. Measures to address diffuse terrestrial pollution (MA10) could be an effective means of reducing the impact of air pollution (MK01) by reducing overall nutrient loading – this requires only localised action given the context of most stands of H7150 in Wales. Addressing the seeding in of conifers and Rhododendron (MI04) remains an outstanding issue on both of the SACs where it is cited (Cors Caron and Rhinog).
9.1:Future trends and prospects of parameters	Range: No significant change in actual range is expected in the medium term, though the discovery of new locations may

	add elements to the existing range map. Area: Future change in area difficult to assess: contraction likely on sites where major hydrological restoration has not been undertaken, but this has to be assessed against likely expansion in area on the raised bogs sites which were the focus of the New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project. Structure & function: This reflects the currently poor or unknown condition of the majority of the resource (see section 6) coupled with the very modest inclusion of this habitat in agri-environment and NRW management agreements. Glastir Advanced agreements were estimated in 2018 to only cover a maximum possible area of 0.98 ha of this habitat (Milner, 2018 – this figure assumes no overlap in prescriptions), with Glastir Entry covering a maximum possible area of 0.62 ha. The inclusion of H7150 in NRW management agreements on SSSI with blanket or raised bog as a feature and under a Land Agency agreement was estimated to extent to just 0.27 ha in 2012. This assessment also reflects the nature of the threats described under section 7. The Future prospects for Structure and functions takes into account that at least 25% of the habitat area is expected to be in unfavourable (not good) condition in c.2035 due to nutrient N critical load exceedance, unless additional measures are taken to reduce N deposition impacts.
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 and area is unknown.
10.3: Specific structure and functions	Conclusion on Structure and function reached because: i) habitat condition data indicates that more than 25% of the habitat is in unfavourable (not good) condition; and ii) expert opinion determines that Unfavourable-inadequate is the most appropriate conclusion given that the short-term trend in area of habitat in good condition is unknown.
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 unknown; 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 one or more of the conclusions are Unfavourable-bad.
11.1: Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network	This is an estimate derived in 2018 from digital comparison of the GIS habitat layer with SAC boundaries (Milner, 2018).
11.4: Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Direction	The is assessed as unknown due to the lack of third round condition data for the SAC resource. The area in good condition should increase in time as a result of the implementation of actions in the New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs Project (NRW, 2016b).
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.