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

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1849 - Butcher's broom

(*Ruscus aculeatus*)

Wales

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Important note - Please read

- The information in this document represents the 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 species 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 species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the JNCC website.

Assessment Summary: Butcher's broom

Distribution Map

Range Map

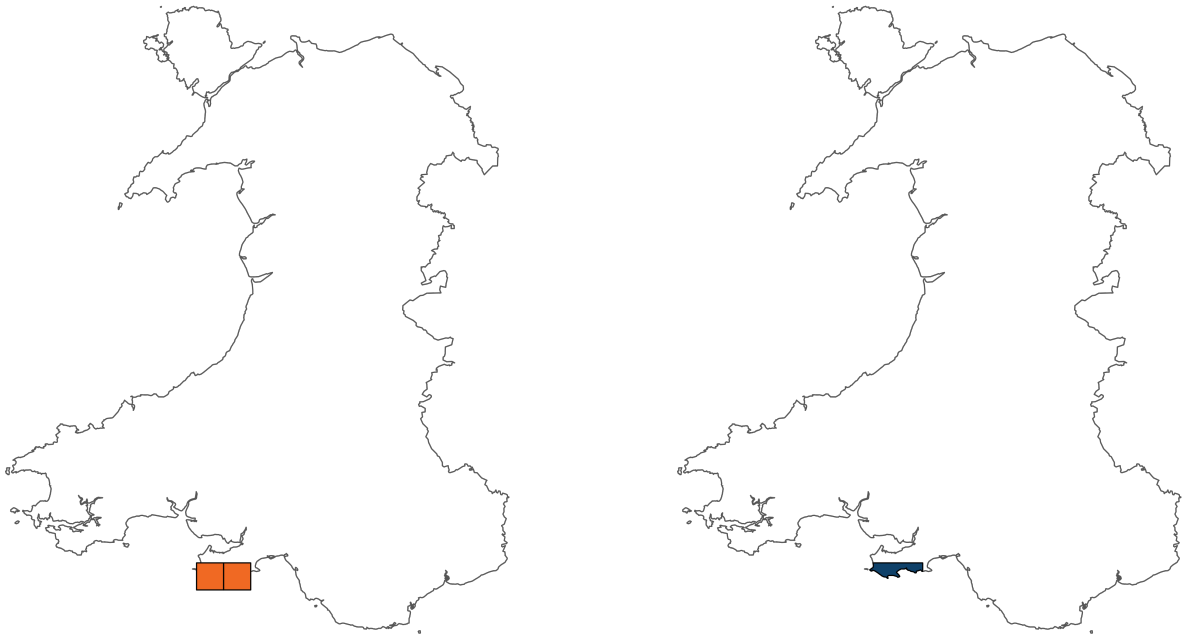

Figure 1: Wales distribution and range map for S1849 - Butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S1849 - Butcher's broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

Favourable (FV)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 5)	**Favourable (FV)**
Population (see section 6)	**Favourable (FV)**
Habitat for the species (see section 7)	**Favourable (FV)**
Future prospects (see section 10)	**Favourable (FV)**

List of Sections

National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	Wales
1.2 Species code	S1849
1.3 Species scientific name	*Ruscus aculeatus*
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Butcher’s broom
Annex(es)	V

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2013-2024
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

2.5 Additional information

No additional information

3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited?	No

3.2 What measures have been taken?

a) Regulations regarding access to property	No
b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation	No
c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens	No
d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations	No

e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas	No
f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens	No
g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species	No
Other measures	No
Other measures description	

3.3: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit No unit - not reported

Table 2: Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
b) Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Maximum	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	No

3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used

3.5: Additional information

No additional information

Biogeographical Level

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs ATL

4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²)	67.57
5.2 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
5.3 Short-term trend; Direction	Stable
5.4 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	No
e) Type of estimate	Best estimate
f) Rate of decrease	
5.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
5.6 Long-term trend; Period	2000-2024
5.7 Long-term trend; Direction	Stable
5.8 Long-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Rate of decrease	

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

5.10 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

5.11 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	

5.12 Additional information

No additional information

6. Population

6.1 Year or period	2013-2024

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

a) Unit	number of map 10x10 km grid cells
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	

d) Best single value	2
6.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate
6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit	moderate

6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)

a) Unit	
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
e) Type of estimate	
6.6 Population size; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
6.7 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
6.8 Short-term trend; Direction	Stable
6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	
e) Type of estimate	
f) Rate of decrease	
6.10 Short-term trend; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
6.11 Long-term trend; Period	2000-2024
6.12 Long-term trend; Direction	Stable
6.13 Long-term trend; Magnitude	

a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Confidence interval	
d) Rate of decrease	
6.14 Long-term trend; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

ai) Population size	
aii) Unit	
b) Pre-defined increment	Current population is less than 5% smaller than the FRP
c) Unknown	No
d) Method used	Reference-based approach
e) Quality of information	moderate

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size

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	

6.17 Additional information

No additional information

6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation	No deviation from normal

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)

a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient?	Yes
b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient?	Yes
c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality?	

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used

a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
7.3 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
7.4 Short-term trend; Direction	Stable
7.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
7.6 Long-term trend; Period	2000-2024
7.7 Long-term trend; Direction	Stable
7.8 Long-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

7.9 Additional information

No additional information

8. Main pressures

8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Table 3: Pressures affecting the species, 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
PX04: No pressures or threats		

8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

8.3 Additional information

No additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1: Status of measures

a) Are measures needed?	No
b) Indicate the status of measures	
9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	
9.3 Location of the measures taken	
9.4 Response to measures	

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Table 4: 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
No conservation measures	

9.6 Additional information

No additional information

10. Future prospects

10.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Overall stable
bi) Population	Overall stable
ci) Habitat for the species	Overall stable

10.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range	Good
bii) Population	Good
cii) Habitat for the species	Good

10.2 Additional information

No additional information

11. Conclusions

11.1 Range	Favourable (FV)
11.2 Population	Favourable (FV)
11.3 Habitat for the species	Favourable (FV)
11.4 Future prospects	Favourable (FV)
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Favourable (FV)
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Stable

11.7 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.

11.7 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.

11.8 Additional information

No additional information

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

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network

a) Unit	
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
12.2 Type of estimate	
12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used	
12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction	
12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used	
12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction	
12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used	

12.8 Additional information

No additional information

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

No trans-boundary assessment information

13.2 Other relevant information

No other relevant information

14. References

Biogeographical and marine regions

4.2 Sources of information

Wade, A.E., Kay, Q.O.N. & Ellis, R.G. 1994. Flora of Glamorgan. H.M.S.O.

Stewart, B., Woodman, J.P. 2017. Glamorgan Rare Plant Register, Unpublished. BSBI

Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland distribution database, https://database.bsbi.org/

Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2007. Second Report by the UK under Article 17 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive from January 2001 to December 2006. Peterborough: JNCC. Available from: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20180804091020/http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4060

NRW, 2013. Supporting documentation for the Third Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 for Wales. JNCC. Available from: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20180804120037mp_/http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17Consult_20131010/S1849_WALES.pdf

NRW, 2019. Supporting documentation for the Fourth Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 for Wales: JNCC. Available from: https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/Art17/S1849-WA-Habitats-Directive-Art17-2019.pdf

Stroh, P.A., Walker, K.J., Humphrey, T.A., Pescott, O.L & Burkmar, R.J. eds (2023). Plant Atlas 2020. Mapping Changes in the Distribution of the British and Irish Flora. 2 Volumes. Princeton: Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland & Princeton University Press.https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv2x6f08m

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
2.4: Distribution map; Method used	There is some uncertainty over the exact native range of Ruscus aculeatus in Wales. Preston et al., 2002 only allow 2 native 10 km sq localities in Wales (SS48 & SS58).
5.3: Short-term trend; Direction	See 5.11
5.11: Change and reason for change in surface area of range	There has been no change in the reported native distribution of Ruscus in Wales between 2013 – 2018 and 2019 - 2024 reporting periods.
6.2: Population size	The minimum population size in 10 km squares is 2 units, reflecting the distribution of this species in native sites in south Wales. There are no other unambiguously native sites for Ruscus aculeatus elsewhere in Wales, although the species is very widely naturalised outside this range.
6.8: Short-term trend; Direction	There is no evidence of decline in the native Ruscus aculeatus populations of South Gower. The species is a long-lived component of steep, unmanaged coastal woodland, kept naturally open by drought and wind-pruning and protected by several site designations. In other situations, the cultivated plant can spread into suitable habitat and the native population is under no significant threat.
6.10: Short-term trend; Method used	The record of population size is based on independent botanical survey data from 10 km squares collected and validated by the Botanical Society of the British Isles. This represents a relatively thorough or complete survey of Ruscus aculeatus in the localities and habitat where it is known to be native.
6.11: Long-term trend; Period	There are good, reliable data from 2000 within the native range for Ruscus aculeatus in Wales.
6.12: Long-term trend; Direction	The long-term trend in Ruscus populations, as measured by 10 km sq occupancy is stable.
6.14: Long-term trend; Method used	The record of population size is based on independent botanical survey data from 10 km squares collected and

	validated by the Botanical Society of the British Isles. This represents a relatively thorough or complete survey of Ruscus aculeatus in the localities and habitat where it is known to be native (BSBI database. Stewart. B 2017).
6.16: Change and reason for change in population size	There has been no change in the 10 km square population count for Ruscus aculeatus in Wales between the two reports. The apparently significant drop in both distribution/range and population between the 2007 report (JNCC 2007) and the 2013 reports (NRW 2013) reflected a change in the methodology used to assess the two parameters rather than an actual change in either. The change stems from a decision in 2013 (and repeated in the 2019 report and here) to only include confirmed native sites for the species and exclude garden escapes and plants found naturalised or deliberately introduced into the wider countryside.
7.1: Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	Native populations of Ruscus aculeatus in Wales are confined to two areas of coastal woodland in Gower at Nicholaston and Oxwich and cover approximately 0.5 km sq in extent. The quality of habitat has not been assessed in detail, although the plant is known to be widespread (although localised) within the defined woodland blocks. This indicates a good habitat for the species.
7.2: Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Methods used	The typical Woodland / woodland edge habitat on limestone for Ruscus aculeatus has been fully surveyed for this species and the extents of its boundaries delineated as management units in the process of notifying Oxwich and Nicholaston Woods as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Ruscus aculeatus is known to be widespread, fruiting and locally abundant in its native sites. Taking the species as an indicator of habitat, then the habitat condition is judged to be 'Good'.
7.3: Short-term trend; Period	There is no evidence of decline in the native Ruscus aculeatus populations of South Gower (BSBI database, Stewart. B 2017). The species is a long-lived component of steep, unmanaged coastal woodland, kept naturally open

	by drought and wind-pruning and protected by several site designations. In other situations, the cultivated plant can spread into suitable habitat and the native population is under no significant threat.
8.1: Characterisation of pressures	PX04. The population of Ruscus aculeatus appears to be locally abundant and regenerating naturally in its native south Wales sites. There is no commercial collecting. The species is widespread as a garden escape elsewhere in Wales and on Gower. There are situations where it is difficult to ascertain the origins of the population, native, accidental colonisation or deliberate introduction. PJ09: As most of the native locations are situated on wooded cliffs, there is a chance that increased storminess due to climate change could lead to increased cliff erosion (pressure ranked as low). The population of Ruscus aculeatus appears to be locally abundant and regenerating naturally in its native south Wales sites.
10.1: Future trends and prospects of parameters	Future prospect of population Ruscus appears to be secure at its native sites in South Wales, Are located with SSSI, and in the absence of significant threats there is no reason to suspect that its populations will not remain so in the medium-term. Future prospect of habitat for species The native sites for Ruscus are almost entirely confined to the protected sites series in south Wales, where the habitat for the species is considered to be secure. In the absence of significant threats there is no reason to suspect that the habitat will not remain in a suitable condition for the species for at least the medium-term.
11.1: 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.

11.2: Population	Conclusion on Population reached because:(i) the short-term trend direction in Population size is stable; (ii) the current Population size is approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Population; and iii) reproduction, mortality and age structure not deviating from normal.
11.3: Habitat for the species	Conclusion on Habitat for the species reached because: i) the area of occupied habitat is sufficiently large for the long-term survival of the species (ii) the quality of occupied habitat is suitable for the long-term survival of the species; and (iii) the short-term trend in area of habitat is stable
11.4: Future prospects	Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are good; (ii) the Future prospects for Population are good; and (iii) the Future prospects for Habitat for the species are good.
11.5: Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Favourable because all of the conclusions are Favourable.
6.15: Favourable Reference Population (FRP)	The UK-level FRV for population 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 population trends and abundance. An FRP of two 10x10 km squares is appropriate for Wales and underlies the 'less than 5% smaller than the FRP' pre-defined range selected.
5.10: 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.