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

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1213 - Common frog

(*Rana temporaria*)

Wales

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
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JNCC

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This report was produced by JNCC in collaboration with Natural Resources 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: Common frog

Distribution Map

Range Map

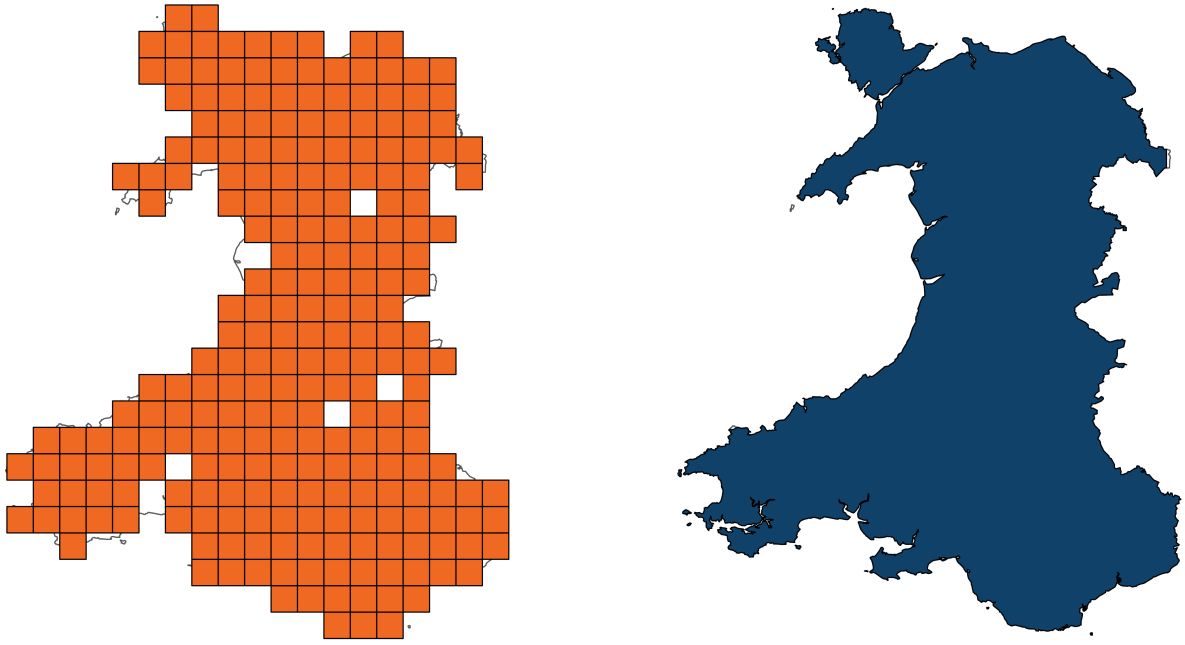

Figure 1: Wales distribution and range map for S1213 - Common frog (*Rana temporaria*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S1213 - Common frog (*Rana temporaria*). 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)**

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National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	Wales
1.2 Species code	S1213
1.3 Species scientific name	*Rana temporaria*
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Common frog
Annex(es)	V

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	1976-2024
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	Yes
f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens	Yes
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)	20,810.92
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	
e) Type of 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	
5.7 Long-term trend; Direction	
5.8 Long-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Rate of decrease	

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used	

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	Yes
b) Genuine change	No
c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data	Yes
d) Different method	No
e) No information	No
f) Other reason	No
g) Main reason	Improved knowledge/more accurate data

5.12 Additional information

No additional information

6. Population

6.1 Year or period	2007-2024

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

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

d) Best single value	244
6.3 Type of estimate	Minimum
6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit	

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

a) Unit	No unit - not reported
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
e) Type of estimate	
6.6 Population size; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.7 Short-term trend; Period	2007-2024
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	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.11 Long-term trend; Period	
6.12 Long-term trend; Direction	
6.13 Long-term trend; Magnitude	

a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Confidence interval	
d) Rate of decrease	
6.14 Long-term trend; Method used	

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	Yes
b) Genuine change	No
c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data	Yes
d) Different method	No
e) No information	No
f) Other reason	No
g) Main reason	Improved knowledge/more accurate data

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

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	2007-2018
7.4 Short-term trend; Direction	Unknown
7.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

7.6 Long-term trend; Period	
7.7 Long-term trend; Direction	
7.8 Long-term trend; Method used	

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
PA02: Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PA04: Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PE01: Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure	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)
PM07: Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)

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

Aderyn, LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database. Data downloads under NRW licence 2024.

ARC DATA. Occupancy data for herpetofauna is based on data held internally by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, combining a variety of data sources.

BAKER, J., BEEBEE, T., BUCKLEY, J., GENT, T. & ORCHARD, D. 2011. Amphibian habitat management handbook. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth.

COOKE, A.S. & SCORGIE, H.R.A. 1983. The status of the commoner amphibians and reptiles in Britain. Huntingdon: Nature Conservancy Council.

CUMMINS, C.P. & ROSS, A. 1986. Effects of acidification of natural waters upon amphibians. CEC/NERC Contract EV3V.0907.UK(H). Brussels, Final Report to the Commission of the European Communities.

CUNNINGHAM, AA & MINTING, P 2008. National survey of Batrochochytridium dendrobatridis infection in UK amphibians 2008. Final report, Institute of Zoology, London.

FRESHWATER HABITATS TRUST. https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/survey-methods-hub/pondnet-spawn-survey/ Accessed 21/03/2025

GROZINGER, F., WERTZ, A., THEIN, J., FELDHAAR, H. & Rödel, M.O. 2012. Environmental factors fail to explain oviposition site use in the European common frog. Journal of Zoology, 288: 103-111.

HILTON-BROWN, D. & OLDHAM, R.S. 1991. The status of the widespread amphibians and reptiles in Britain, 1990, and changes during the 1980′s. Nature Conservancy Council Report 131. NCC, Peterborough.

LANGTON, T.E.S., BECKETT, C.L. & DUNSMORE, I. 1993. UK herpetofauna: a review of British herpetofauna populations in a wider context. Report 99F2AO69 to Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Peterborough.

MARTEL, A., SPITZEN-VAN DER SLUIJS, A, BLOOI, M, BERT, W, DUCATELLE, R, FISHER, MC, WOELTJES, A, BOSMAN, W, CHIERS, K, BOSSUYT, F & PASMANS, F 2013. Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans sp. nov. causes lethal chytridiomycosis in amphibians. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 110, p.15325-9.

NORTH, A.C., HODGSON, D.J., PRICE, S.J. & GRIFFITHS, A.G. 2015. Anthropogenic and ecological drivers of amphibian disease (ranavirosis). PloS one, 10: p.e0127037.

SWAN, M.J.S. & OLDHAM, R.S. 1989. Amphibian communities final report. Unpublished report. Peterborough: Nature Conservancy Council.

SWAN, M.J.S. & OLDHAM, R.S. 1993. Herptile sites volume 1: national amphibian survey final report. English Nature Research Report No. 38. Peterborough: English Nature.

TEACHER, A.G.F., CUNNINGHAM, A.A. & GARNER, T.W.J. 2010. Assessing the long-term impact of ranavirus infection in wild common frog populations. Animal Conservation, 13: 514-522.

WILKINSON, J.W. & ARNELL, A.P.2011. NARRS Report 2007 - 2009: Interim results of the UK National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme widespread species surveys. ARC Research Report 11/01.

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
2.4: Distribution map; Method used	The data for this map comes from a very long-time span and is based on the assumption that the species is still present in previously recorded localities in many cases. Some Welsh data comes from the National Amphibian Survey (Swan & Oldham, 1989 and 1993) which relied on observers sending in records and from the more recent sample survey, the National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS, see Wilkinson & Arnell, 2011). There is no blanket survey data for Wales. Incidental records of frogspawn, tadpoles and adults are captured by Local Record Centres. The data sets held by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC, formerly Herpetological Conservation Trust, HCT) have been used to construct the distribution map.
3.2: Which of the measures in Art. 9a have been taken?	The common frog is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, under the provisions of Schedule 9(5). This prohibits selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale or publishing advertisements to buy or sell a protected species. Licenses can be issued to allow these activities to be carried out lawfully, but there have been no such licences issued in Wales for at least 2 reporting periods.
5.3: Short-term trend; Direction	Whilst local loss and gain may take place the overall short term trend in range is assumed to be stable.
5.11: Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Data points come from the records held by ARC and reflect the current known range of the common frog. Gaps in the distribution are not necessarily a true reflection of the distribution of this species, merely a lack of records, and there is no reason to believe that there has been any significant change in it's distribution in Wales.
6.2: Population size	This figure was derived by mapping the 1km square records and is considered a minimum.
6.8: Short-term trend; Direction	No evidence of any major change in population

6.16: Change and reason for change in population size	Note there is no comprehensive survey of this widespread amphibian- most data is derived from opportunistic or incidental records with very few coming from NARRS (Wilkinson & Arnell, 2011) the stratified long-term monitoring scheme which is no longer centrally funded. Other data from previous surveys (e.g Swann & Oldham, 1993) is now getting old.
7.1: Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	There is no evaluation of the quality of frog habitat on which to base an assessment, however it appears that the area of habitat is sufficient.
7.4: Short-term trend; Direction	Unknown, but the apparent stability of the range and population data would suggest that the trend is stable.
8.1: Characterisation of pressures	Pressures: These pressures all relate to common frogs in Wales and can be referenced to Baker et.al., 2011. PA02: Modification of agricultural practices in the form of intensification and grassland removal causes terrestrial habitat loss and degradation and also impacts on aquatic habitats through loss and damage. PA05: Restructuring farmland includes the removal of field boundaries, scrub, draining ponds and culverting open ditches. All of these impact on frog habitat causing direct losses and also impacting on connectivity of breeding and non-breeding habitats. PM07: Succession of breeding ponds reduces habitat quality and availability. It generally relates to cessation of active pond management for agricultural purposes, or overgrowth of peri-urban sites. This leads to siltation and drying out and ultimately loss of the pond. PM07: Relates to direct predation of eggs and larvae by invertebrates and fish. It also applies to animal diseases which could impact on frogs. The presence of Chytrid fungus has been confirmed at Welsh natterjack sites (Cunningham & Minting, 2008) and it has been found in common frogs. Ranavirus infects common frogs, leading to

skin lesions and secondary infection/death (Baker et al., 2011). Mass mortality can occur, with long term population impacts (Teacher et al 2010) but populations have also recovered. Ranavirus may have arrived in the UK via non-native species, notably ornamental fish (North et al 2015). This pressure best aligns to the recently established I05 category (plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests) however this category isn't currently available for internal UK reporting purposes.

PI02: Invasive non-native plants (Crassula, in particular) and animals can impact on common frog populations. Plants have contributed to the physical reduction of aquatic habitat by overgrowth, but also impact habitat management schemes, due to the biosecurity risks it raises (Baker et al., 2011). Direct predation by INNS amphibians and transmission of disease all add additional pressures on frog populations (Baker et al., 2011).

PE01: Roads and other linear infrastructure cause severance of breeding and terrestrial habitat areas and if newly located next to breeding ponds cause direct mortality during the migrating season. Additional problems can be caused by run off from road surfaces into ponds and ditches and the impact of road salt has been noted (Baker et al., 2011). Road drainage systems- gully pots- act as traps for amphibians whilst SUDS schemes can provide additional habitat (reed beds).

Threats:

These threats all relate to common frogs in Wales and can be referenced to Baker et.al., 2011.

PA02: There is a continued threat from modification of agricultural practices in the form of intensification and grassland removal which causes terrestrial habitat loss and degradation and also impacts on aquatic habitats through loss and damage.

PA05: There is an ongoing threat from changing agricultural practices in the form of intensification, habitat modification, structural change which causes terrestrial and aquatic habitat loss, degradation and connectivity loss. This could accelerate due to future demands for increased food production or other changes to the current agri-environment regime.

PM07: There is still a threat to amphibian populations from succession of breeding ponds which reduces habitat quality and availability. It generally relates to cessation of active pond management for agricultural purposes, or overgrowth of peri-urban sites. This leads to siltation and drying out and ultimately loss of the pond. Further changes to the agricultural regimes could increase abandonment.

The continued threat from invasive alien species or deliberate release of them is of particular concern with regard to disease transmission. The presence of Chytrid fungus has been confirmed at Welsh natterjack sites (Cunningham & Minting, 2008) and it has been found in common frogs. Ranavirus infects common frogs, leading to skin lesions and secondary infection/death (Teacher et al 2010, Baker et al., 2011). Novel diseases, such as the recently discovered Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans may well impact a wider range of species than currently thought (Martel et al., 2013). This pressure best aligns to the recently established I05 category (plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests) however this category isn't currently available for internal UK reporting purposes.

PI02: There is a continued threat from invasive non-natives- both plants and animals which can impact on common frog populations. Direct predation by INNS amphibians, transmission of disease or overgrowth of ponds by aquatic plant invasion all add additional pressures on frog populations (Baker et al., 2011). There are some invasive non-native plant species which are currently

	limited by winter temperatures. Climatic changes could result in an increased threat to breeding ponds from species such as Azolla and water hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes. PE01: Continued construction or modification of linear infrastructure can cause severance of breeding and terrestrial habitat areas and if newly located next to breeding ponds cause direct mortality during the migrating season. Additional problems can be caused by run off from road surfaces into ponds and ditches and the impact of road salt has been noted (Baker et al., 2011). Road drainage systems- gully pots- act as traps for amphibians whilst SUDS schemes can provide additional habitat (reed beds).
10.1: Future trends and prospects of parameters	Future prospects of range There is no reason to expect that the overall range of this widespread amphibian is likely to change in the next 12 years. Future prospects of population There is no reason to expect that the overall range of this widespread amphibian is likely to change in the next 12 years. Future prospects of habitat of the species The common frog is apparently resilient to much of human modification of habitat. While there may be uncertainty with regard to breeding habitat, this frog is considered to be secure in Wales.
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) it is unknown whether the quality of occupied habitat is suitable for the long-term survival of the species; and iii) there is a sufficiently large area of occupied and unoccupied habitat of suitable quality for long term survival (iv) the short-term trend in area of habitat is unknown; and (v) the short-term trend does not give us reason to be concerned that the current area and quality of habitat available for this species will negatively impact the long-term survival of this species.
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 three of the conclusions are Favourable and one is Unknown.
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.
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.