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

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the habitat:

H8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)

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: Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)

Distribution Map

Range Map

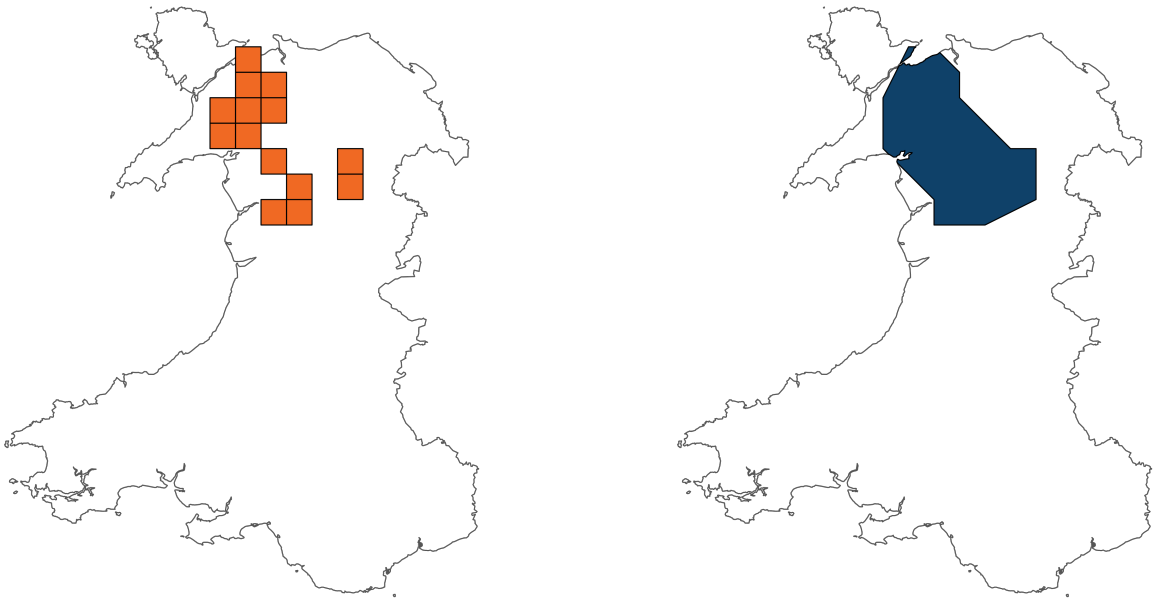

Figure 1: Wales distribution and range map for H8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government 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 H8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*). 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)

Unknown (XX)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 4)	**Unknown (XX)**
Area covered by habitat (see section 5)	**Unknown (XX)**
Structure and functions (see section 6)	**Unknown (XX)**
Future prospects (see section 9)	**Unknown (XX)**

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National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	Wales
1.2 Habitat code	H8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)

2. Maps

2.1 Year or period	1979-2012
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)	2,475.26

4.2 Short-term trend; Period

4.3 Short-term trend; Direction	Unknown

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	Insufficient or no data available
4.6 Long-term trend; Period	
4.7 Long-term trend; Direction	
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 (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	1979-2012
5.2 Surface area (km²)	
a) Minimum	
b) Maximum	
c) Best single value	3.17
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	
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 (km²)	
b) Pre-defined increment	Current area is less than 2% smaller than the FRA
c) Unknown	No
d) Method used	Reference-based approach
e) Quality of information	moderate

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
bii) Maximum	0
Area where condition is unknown	
ci) Minimum	3.17
cii) Maximum	3.17
6.2 Condition of habitat; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
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	High (H)
PI03: Problematic native species	Only in 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)
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

a) Are measures needed?	Yes
b) Indicate the status of measures	Measures identified, but none yet taken

8.2 Main purpose of the measures taken

8.3 Location of the measures taken

8.4 Response to measures

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
MA05: Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	High (H)
MF03: Reduce impact of outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities (incl. restoration of habitats)	High (H)
MK01: Reduce impact of mixed source pollution	High (H)
MI04: Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Medium (M)

8.6 Additional information

No additional information

9. Future prospects

9.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Overall stable
bi) Area	Unknown

ci) Structure and functions	Unknown

9.1b Future prospects of parameters

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

9.2 Additional information

No additional information

10. Conclusions

10.1 Range	Unknown (XX)
10.2 Area	Unknown (XX)
10.3 Specific structure and functions (incl. typical species)	Unknown (XX)
10.4 Future prospects	Unknown (XX)
10.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unknown (XX)
10.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	

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 (km²)

a) Minimum	2.02
b) Maximum	2.18
c) Best single value	2.1
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	Stable
11.5 Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
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

NRW, 2013. Supporting documentation for the Third Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17 for Wales; H8110 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani). JNCC. Available from: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20180804112442mp_/http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17Consult_20131010/H8110_WALES.pdf

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Stevens, C.J., Smart, S.M., Henrys, P., Maskell, L.C., Walker, K.J., Preston, C.D., Crowe, A., Rowe, E., Gowing, D.J. and Emmett, B.A. 2011 Collation of evidence of nitrogen impacts on vegetation in relation to UK biodiversity objectives. JNCC Report 447.

Stevens, J., Sherry J. and A Turner. 2012. H8110 Siliceous Scree of the Montane to Snow Levels Inventory.

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

Burn A.M. (1983) Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.14: Moel Hebog.

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

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/20180804113449mp_/http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Article17/FCS2007-H8110-audit-Final.pdf

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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. & Yeo M. (1991) Upland Vegetation Survey, Site Report No.38: Cadair Idris.

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

Main pressures

7.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

14. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
2.1: Year or period	In 2013 NRW reported: 'There has been no survey work covering areas of H8110 since 2007. All data were collected between 1979 and 2002 and re-interpreted in 2012 to produce a GIS Inventory. All the field data sources pre-date 2007. The continued presence of habitat has only been formally reconfirmed on those sites which have been visited as part of the 2007-2012 SAC monitoring cycle.'
2.3: Distribution map; Method used	H8110 habitat has been mapped where Cryptogramma crispa vegetation is found within siliceous scree above the limit of agricultural enclosure. Its distribution has been derived from two data sources; the Wales Field Unit Upland Vegetation Surveys between 1979 and 1989 (see published sources) and a series of Upland NVC surveys between 1996 and 2002 (see published sources). The Birks and Ratcliffe D2a Cryptogramma crispa community was selected from the Wales Field Unit Survey and the U21 Cryptogramma crispa - Deschampsia flexuosa community was selected from the NVC surveys. The data collated are a mixture of polygon and point records. A revised GIS-based inventory for the habitat was produced using both of these data sources (Stevens, Sherry and Turner 2012). This is considered only a partial data set and further work is required to confirm the location and extent of the habitat. The methodology used may exclude some lichen/bryophyte rich scree which corresponds with the Annex 1 habitat, but there is insufficient data to locate such screes.
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	All data were collected between 1979 and 2002 and re-interpreted in 2012 to produce a GIS Inventory. All the field data sources pre-date 2007. The continued presence of habitat has only been formally reconfirmed on those sites

	which have been visited as part of the 2007-2012 SAC monitoring cycle.
5.2: Surface area	A figure of 291.09ha has been calculated from polygon data. A further 41 points are recorded covering an estimated 25.42ha based on mean patch size (0.62ha) giving a total of 316.51ha. The methodology used may exclude some lichen/bryophyte rich scree which corresponds with the Annex 1 habitat. An estimate of 3,000ha of scree was given in 2007, this was calculated from the total figure for acid/neutral scree in Phase 1(Blackstock et al 2010 but the habitat definition includes a wider range of scree and rock communities than that of the Annex 1 habitat). It is therefore estimated that there is a minimum of 316.51ha with a potential upper limit of 3,000ha. Note all measurements are made from vertical projections which will underestimate area.
5.4: Surface area; Method used	See narrative supplied in section 2.3
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.
6.2: Condition of habitat; Method used	The assessment of structure and function for the previous reporting round (NRW, 2019) was based on the results of common standards monitoring visits undertaken between 2007 and 2012. These data are now considered too old to be confident about condition.
7.1: Characterisation of pressures	Pressures: Four pressures were identified as have a high impact; • PA07 Over-grazing – high grazing levels identified in units with siliceous scree, sheep may avoid scree but some grazing of Cryptogramma occurs on more accessible scree. Goat grazing is identified as a pressure on a number of units and they are more likely to access scree areas. Goats were recorded on the scree in Eryri during SAC monitoring.

• PF05 Outdoor sports and leisure activities – localised erosion on footpaths crossing scree (noted in SAC monitoring).

• PK03 & PK04 Air Pollution – siliceous scree supports a range of fern, bryophytes and lichens. Whilst Cryptogramma crispa has been shown not to be particularly sensitive to N deposition, many upland lichens and bryophytes show either positive or negative response to increased nitrogen (Stevens et al 2011).

PI03 problematic native species is assessed as a low pressure and refers to the spread of bracken.

Method used to assess pressures:

The data held in the 'Actions Database' were used to provide a basis for quantifying pressures/threats relating to the H8110 habitat. The 'Actions Database' provides information on pressures within the protected sites series; this was then matched to an expert judgement on the severity of these pressures/threats (at a generic level) to give an overall evaluation of the pressure/threat level (for more details see Guest, 2012). The special sites (SSSI and SAC) account for 79 % of the polygons mapped and 75% of the points mapped in Wales. The potential impacts of atmospheric nitrogen on this habitat are unclear and no generic critical load range has been agreed. Assessment of the 10km data for the habitat against the 2009 CEH moorland deposition data, shows an average of 19kg/N/ha/yr with no areas receiving less than 7kg/N/ha/yr therefore there is potential for significant impacts.

Threats:

• PA07 Overgrazing – grazing agreements cover a proportion of the resource (see section 8) but large areas remain outside these agreements where there is no control of grazing. Existing agreements may not be renewed/

	replaced once they have elapsed. • PK03 Air pollution - the impacts of nitrogen on vegetation may continue even with a decline in atmospheric deposition. • PF05 Sports and leisure - 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). It is highly likely recreational pressure on scree areas will, at the least, remain the same but could continue to increase. • PI03 Problematic native species – potential increase in bracken with climate change and changing management of wider habitat. • PJ10 Climate change impacts - the potential impacts of climate change on this habitat are unclear but upland species found in Wales at the southern edge of their distribution are likely to be most sensitive. Methods used to assess threats: All of the pressures listed were considered to be current and applicable to future scenarios representing ongoing threats in the long-term.
8.1: Status of measures	While the majority of the most important measures required to restore/maintain this habitat to FCS in Wales have been identified, the bulk have not yet been fully implemented.
8.5: List of main conservation measures	MA05 Maintaining appropriate grazing through agreement. 18% siliceous scree polygons plus 15% of points within SSSIs where scree is a qualifying feature are subject to land agency agreements and 39% of polygons and 32% of points are within an agri-environment scheme (note there is overlap between these 2 figures with areas being subject to both agreements), therefore it is likely that grazing will remain a threat on much of the resource outside these

	agreements or where agreements ae not renewed. There are no specific grazing prescriptions within Glastir for siliceous scree. MF03 Management of footpaths and erosion control to protect fragile habitat e.g. work of National Trust and National Park Authorities. MK01 Emissions of airborne pollutants are controlled by a range of national and international regulations and local measures. However further measures are required if N pollution in particular is to be brought down to the levels likely to be safe for this habitat. Focussed monitoring/ research is required to understand the impacts of nitrogen deposition on the habitat and implement effective mitigation. MI04 Management of feral goat population e.g. strategic approach of the North Wales Feral Goat Group.
9.1:Future trends and prospects of parameters	NRW currently lacks a specialist covering this habitat and as such we are unable to predict the likely trend in the area of this habitat over the next twelve years. NRW currently lacks a specialist covering this habitat and as such we are unable to predict the likely trend in the structure and function of this habitat over the next twelve years.
10.1: Range	Conclusion on Range reached because:(i) the short-term trend direction in Range surface area is unknown; 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 current Area is approximately equal to the Favourable Reference Area; and iii) the change in distribution pattern is unknown.
10.3: Specific structure and functions	Conclusion on Structure and function reached because the condition of the habitat is unknown as over 75% of the habitat has 'unknown' condition.

10.4: Future prospects	Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are unknown; (ii) the Future prospects for Area covered by habitat are unknown; and (iii) the Future prospects for Structure and function are unknown.
10.5: Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Unknown because all of the conclusions are Unknown.
11.1: Surface area of the habitat type inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network	The area figure given was produced by overlaying the H8110 GIS inventory (Stevens, Sherry and Turner. 2012) with SAC boundaries. The minimum figure (201.49ha) is derived from polygon data alone, whilst the maximum includes an estimate for the extent of point records (16.12 ha). The best estimate is simply the mid-point between the min and maximum values. Note that these figures does not include all the acid/neutral scree recorded in Phase 1 and the data are taken from a vertical projection.
11.4: Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Direction	Both Welsh SACs on which H8110 is a feature have been monitored once (in 2009 & 2012 respectively) since baseline recording was undertaken in 2005 and 2006. The overall condition of the habitat at both sites has remained unchanged, although it should be noted that these broad assessments of feature condition may mask local improvements and/or declines in habitat quality. This conclusion should be considered to be of low confidence given the absence of any assessment of feature condition within the current reporting round.
11.5: Short-term trend of habitat area within the network; Method used	See narrative for section 11.4
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.