

**European Community Directive  
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats  
and of Wild Fauna and Flora  
(92/43/EEC)**

Supporting documentation for the  
Third Report by the United Kingdom under  
Article 17

on the implementation of the Directive  
from January 2007 to December 2012  
Conservation status assessment for

Species:

S1026 - Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*)

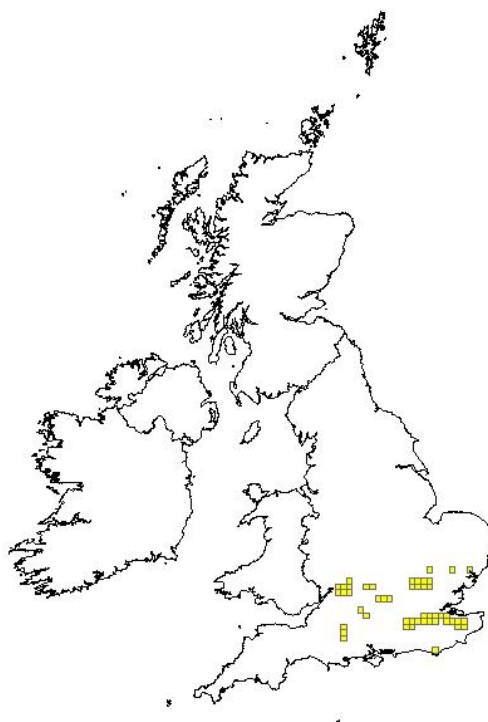
**IMPORTANT NOTE – PLEASE READ**

- The country-level reporting information contained in this document is a contribution to the Article 17 UK report for the habitat/species concerned.
- It has been provided by **Natural England** and refers only to the state of the habitat/species in **England** - it does not constitute an assessment for the whole of the UK.
- The Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this information has been used and, combined with information supplied by other Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
- The format of the document is closely aligned to that set out by the European Commission for Member State reporting – as a result, some of the fields are not applicable at a country-level and have deliberately been left blank – in addition, the content of most fields is constrained by the EC reporting categories.

## Reporting format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex II, IV & V species

<i>Field name</i>	<i>Brief explanations</i>	
<b>0.2 Species</b>	<b>0.2.1 Species code</b>	<b>S1026</b>
	<b>0.2.2 Species scientific name</b>	<b><i>Helix pomatia</i></b>
	<b>0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name</b> Optional	
	<b>0.2.4 Common name</b> Optional	<b>Roman snail</b>

<b>1.1 Maps</b>		
<b>1.1.1 Distribution map</b>		<b>Sensitive True</b>



<b>1.1.2 Method used - map</b>	<b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b>
<b>1.1.3 Year or period</b>	<b>2007-2012</b>
<b>1.1.4 Additional distribution map</b>	<b>False</b>
<b>1.1.5 Range map</b>	

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<b>2.1 Biogeographical region &amp; marine regions</b>	<b>ATL</b>
<b>2.2 Published sources</b>	<p>"<a href="http://roman-snail.co.uk/">http://roman-snail.co.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.idox.cotswold.gov.uk/WAM14/doc/Report-270808.pdf?extension=.pdf&amp;id=270808&amp;appid=&amp;location=volume1&amp;contentType=application/pdf&amp;pageCount=1">http://www.idox.cotswold.gov.uk/WAM14/doc/Report-270808.pdf?extension=.pdf&amp;id=270808&amp;appid=&amp;location=volume1&amp;contentType=application/pdf&amp;pageCount=1</a></p> <p><b>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: <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17">www.jncc.gov.uk/article17</a></b></p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-18608746">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-18608746</a></p> <p><b>State of the Natural Environment Report (2008), Ch3. Biodiversity, p.48. NE85, Natural England.</b></p> <p><b>Bullock, JM. et al (2011) National Ecosystem Assessment, Chapter 6, semi-natural grasslands</b></p> <p><b>Hinton.G. Priority BAP NUTS3 SSSI ERDP Analyser v1, unpublished spreadsheet, Natural England"</b></p>

<b>2.3 Range</b>			
<b>2.3.1 Surface area Range</b>			
<b>2.3.2 Method used Surface area of Range</b>	<b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b>		
<b>2.3.3 Short-term trend Period</b>	<b>2001-2012</b>		
<b>2.3.4 Short term trend Trend direction</b>	<p><b>decrease</b></p> <p>Some 71 10km sqs have not had post 1990 records made, though this recording has been ad hoc and not systematic. This does suggest a range contraction, even given the ad hoc nature of the recording. However, it also demonstrates population persistence, since the first records in some of the squares were early: 1915 then the last in 1987; 1905, then 1984. A proportion of that 71 are therefore likely just not to have had records made on them for this species, leading to an uncertainty over the magnitude of the perceived range contraction.</p>		
<b>2.3.5 Short-term trend Magnitude</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>a) Minimum</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
<b>a) Minimum</b>			

	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.3.6 Long-term trend Period</b>	<b>1991-2012</b>	
<b>2.3.7 Long-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>decrease</b>	
<b>2.3.8 Long-term trend Magnitude</b>	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
Optional		
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
	55 ten km sqs in the period. Equates to some 173 one km sqs. Equates to roughly a 64% decline from the number of one km sqs currently recorded, or 110 one ten squares with no recent records.	
<b>2.3.9 Favourable reference range</b>	<b>a) Value in km<sup>2</sup></b>	
	<b>b) Operator for FRR</b>	
	<b>c) FRR is unknown (indicated by "true")</b>	<b>False</b>
	<b>d) Method used to set FRR</b>	
<b>2.3.10 Reason for change</b>	<b>a) Genuine change?</b>	<b>True</b>
Is the difference between the reported value in 2.3.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to...		
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	<b>False</b>
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	<b>False</b>

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<b>2.4 Population</b>		
<b>2.4.1 Population size estimation</b> (using individuals or agreed exceptions where possible)	<b>a) Unit</b>	
	<b>b) Minimum</b>	
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.4.2 Population size estimation</b> (using population unit other than individuals) Optional ( <i>if 2.4.1 filled in</i> )	<b>a) Unit</b>	<b>number of map 10x10 km grid cells</b>
		Has some 63 1km squares between 2007-12, pointing to at least that number of colonies and possibly more. The data collection is ad hoc though and there is little certainty over the overlap between the sites between assessments. This is no more, probably, than noise in the ad hoc gathering of records, though the localised impacts from illegal poaching will have impacted some populations.
	<b>b) Minimum</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>2.4.3 Additional information on population estimates / conversion</b> Optional	<b>a) Definition of "locality"</b>	<b>equates to 63 one km sqs.</b>
	<b>b) Method to convert data</b>	
	<b>c) Problems encountered to provide population size estimation</b>	<b>no systematic survey has been arranged for this species. The scale of resolution can easily hide smaller scale population losses. Even so, and with ad hoc record gathering, the declines in records must point to a decline beyond that as a artifact of recorder effort, especially as there has been no recording push in terms of a popular citizen science initiative.</b>
<b>2.4.4 Year or period</b>	<b>1999-2011</b>	
<b>2.4.5 Method used Population size</b>	<b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b>	
<b>2.4.6 Short-term trend Period</b>	<b>2001-2012</b>	
<b>2.4.7 Short-term trend</b>	<b>decrease 1% or less/year</b>	

<b>Trend direction</b>		
<b>2.4.8 Short-term trend Magnitude</b>	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
	33 ten km sqs in the period. Equates to some 97 one km sqs.	
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
	33 ten km sqs in the period. Equates to some 97 one km sqs.	
	<b>c) Confidence interval</b>	
<b>2.4.9 Short-term trend Method used</b>	<b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b>	
<b>2.4.10 Long-term trend – Period</b>	<b>1989-2012</b>	
<b>2.4.11 Long-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>decrease 1% or less/year</b>	
<b>2.4.12 Long-term trend Magnitude</b> Optional	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
	equates to 55 ten km sqs in the period	
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
	<b>c) Confidence interval</b>	
<b>2.4.13 Long term trend Method used</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>2.4.14 Favourable reference population</b>	<b>a) Number of individuals/agreed exceptions/other units</b>	<b>55</b>
	<b>b) Operator</b>	<b>approximately equal to</b>

	<b>c) FRP is unknown indicated by "true"</b>	<b>False</b>
	<b>d) Method used to set FRP</b>	<b>The number of 10 km sqs at the start of the long term trend period.</b>
<b>2.4.15 Reason for change</b> Is the difference between the value reported at 2.4.1 or 2.4.2 and the previous reporting round mainly due to:	<b>a) Genuine change?</b>	<b>False</b>
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	<b>False</b>
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	<b>False</b>

<b>2.5 Habitat for the species</b>									
<b>2.5.1 Area estimation</b>	<b>509</b>								
<b>2.5.2 Year or period</b>	<b>2007-2012</b>								
<b>2.5.3 Method used Habitat for the species</b>	<b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b>								
<b>2.5.4 Quality of the habitat</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>a) Habitat quality</b></td> <td><b>Moderate</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Some 10,300 ha of the 50,979 ha of lowland calcareous grassland is in favourable condition, making up to 34,187 ha when the unfavourable recovering swards are included (Hinton). This is a good match between the grassland inventory sites and the 1 km sq records for the species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>b) Assessment method</b></td> <td><b>There is habitat quality monitoring on only a fraction of resource used by this widespread species. Common standards monitoring of the resource for a partial picture of quality.</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>a) Habitat quality</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	Some 10,300 ha of the 50,979 ha of lowland calcareous grassland is in favourable condition, making up to 34,187 ha when the unfavourable recovering swards are included (Hinton). This is a good match between the grassland inventory sites and the 1 km sq records for the species.		<b>b) Assessment method</b>	<b>There is habitat quality monitoring on only a fraction of resource used by this widespread species. Common standards monitoring of the resource for a partial picture of quality.</b>		
<b>a) Habitat quality</b>	<b>Moderate</b>								
Some 10,300 ha of the 50,979 ha of lowland calcareous grassland is in favourable condition, making up to 34,187 ha when the unfavourable recovering swards are included (Hinton). This is a good match between the grassland inventory sites and the 1 km sq records for the species.									
<b>b) Assessment method</b>	<b>There is habitat quality monitoring on only a fraction of resource used by this widespread species. Common standards monitoring of the resource for a partial picture of quality.</b>								
<b>2.5.5 Short-term trend Period</b>	<b>2001-2012</b>								
<b>2.5.6 Short-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>stable</b>								
	follows the "no significant change in area" statistics as reported in								

	Bullock (2011), Section 6.2.3.2, p169. for calcareous grassland.	
<b>2.5.7 Long-term trend Period</b>	<b>1991-2012</b>	
<b>2.5.8 Long-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>decrease</b>	
	State of Natural Environment Report (2008) cites the Countryside survey findings of a 20% decline in the stock of calcareous grassland to support this negative trend assessment.	
<b>2.5.9 Area of suitable habitat for the species</b>	<b>a) Value in km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>509.8</b>
	There is 50,979 ha of lowland calcareous grassland in England which is the closest habitat type used by this species, although <i>Helix pomatia</i> may have a preference for a more structured sward than is present on most grassland sites, which tend to be managed short. Technically, the habitat is best described as calcareous edge habitat, as they seem to favour the junction between woodland and grassland, though ascribing them to the large areas of woodland, most of which is closed and over-shaded does not seem sensible.	
<b>2.5.10 Reason for change</b> Is the difference between the value reported at 2.5.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to	<b>a) Genuine change?</b>	<b>False</b>
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	<b>True</b>
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	<b>False</b>

<b>2.6 Main pressures</b>		
<b>a) Pressure</b>	<b>b) Ranking</b>	<b>c) Pollution qualifier</b>
	H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	
F03: Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)	H	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	M	
E01: Urbanised areas, human habitation	M	
A04: grazing	L	

Illegal poaching on specific populations is causing localised declines, such as the well publicised thefts from



Banstead Woods in Surrey (BBC ref). This will continue to impact in the face of police staff cuts and the relatively low priority such cases usually receive. It is unclear what else can be done to mitigate against this pressure. Other pressures have arisen from casework over small scale developments, and road and rail works, though mitigations have been put in place as a consequence of the protection. It is likely that some sites may have become far too shaded in the absence of grazing pressure.

<b>2.6.1 Method used – Pressures</b>	<b>based exclusively or to a larger extent on real data from sites/occurrences or other data sources</b>
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## 2.7 Threats

a) Threat	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	
F03: Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)	H	
A04: grazing	M	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	L	

In the current economic circumstances it is hard to see illegal poaching as declining, especially as the species is an easy target for collection. Perhaps the dataset should be restricted, as it does provide an easy list of sites from which to collect.

<b>2.7.1 Method used – Threats</b>	<b>expert opinion</b>
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## 2.8 Complementary information

### 2.8.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

### 2.8.2 Other relevant information

**There has been no systematic survey for this species, only ad hoc record gathering over the past century. Several small scale studies have taken place, one in a garden setting and some work associated with archeological works around (appropriately enough) a Roman bath house, with some studies looking at snail movement. The garden study recorded night movements of at least 15m. Collection for sale as food continues to be reported as a criminal act, since the addition of the species to the Wildlife & Countryside Act, since it remains lucrative and relatively easy to action. This probably does cause age class impacts on the areas concerned.**

Roman snail was added to Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act in 2008, within this reporting period. This has given the requirement to consider the species in planning and will have stemmed the losses to some extent, though whether development has much of a role to play in the apparent losses is unlikely given the extent; more likely are habitat

	changes relating to cessation of habitat management, be that in woods or grasslands.
<b>2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment</b>	

### 2.9 Conclusions (*assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period*)

Please refer to the United Kingdom assessment for this species.

### 3 Natura 2000 coverage & conservation measures - Annex II species (*only applies to species listed under Annex II of the Directive*)

#### 3.1 Population

<b>3.1.1 Population size</b>  Estimation of population size included in the SAC network	<b>a) Unit</b>	
	<b>b) Minimum</b>	
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	
<b>3.1.2 Method used</b>		
<b>3.1.3 Trend of population size within the network</b> (short-term trend)		

#### 3.2 Conservation measures

Conservation measures taken (i.e. already being implemented) within the reporting period and provided information about their importance, location and evaluation.

<b>3.2.1 Measure</b>	<b>3.2.2 Type</b>	<b>3.2.3 Ranking</b>	<b>3.2.4 Location</b>	<b>3.2.5 Broad evaluation of the measure</b>
		H = high importance	where the measure is PRIMARILY applied	

	a) Legal/statutory	b) Administrative	c) Contractual	d) Recurrent	e) One-off	M = medium importance L = low importance	a) Inside	b) Outside	c) Both inside & outside	a) Maintain	b) Enhance	c) Long term	d) No effect	e) Unknown	f) Not evaluated

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