

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

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

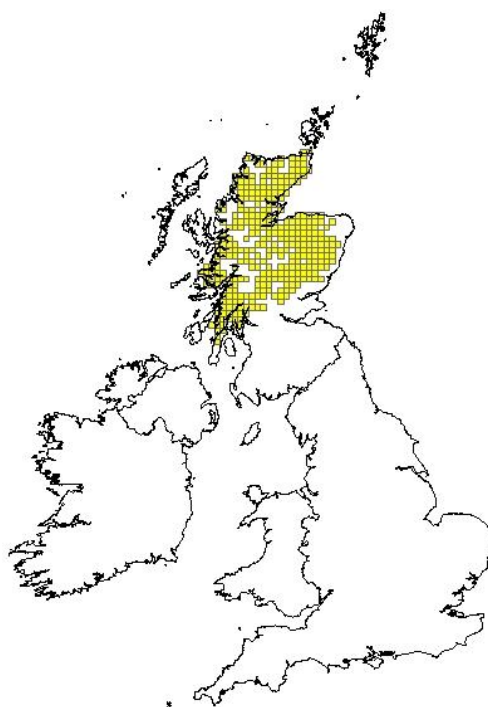
Species:

S1363 - Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*)

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

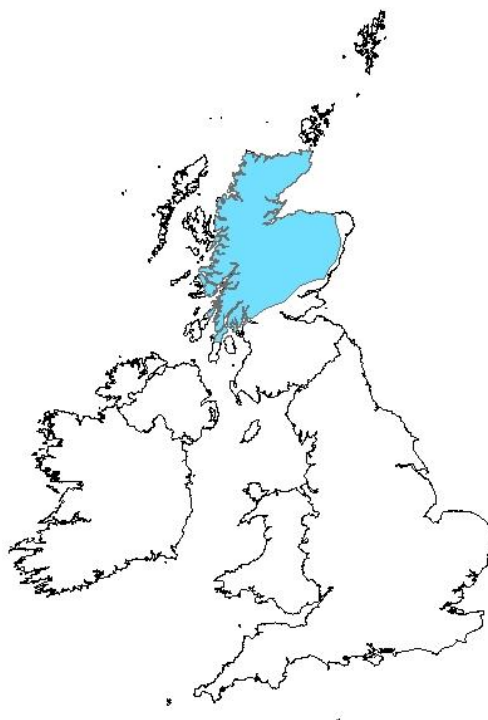
<i>Field name</i>	<i>Brief explanations</i>	
<b>0.2 Species</b>	<b>0.2.1 Species code</b>	<b>S1363</b>
	<b>0.2.2 Species scientific name</b>	<b><i>Felis silvestris</i></b>
	<b>0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name</b> Optional	
	<b>0.2.4 Common name</b> Optional	

<b>1.1 Maps</b>			
<b>1.1.1 Distribution map</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>Sensitive</b>	<b>False</b>
	The distribution map is based on species records which are considered to be representative of the range within the current reporting period. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.		



<b>1.1.2 Method used - map</b>	<b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b>
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
<b>1.1.3 Year or period</b>	<b>1980-2011</b>
	The distribution map is based on species records which are considered to be representative of the range within the current reporting period. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.

<b>1.1.4 Additional distribution map</b> Optional	<b>False</b>
<b>1.1.5 Range map</b>	<b>True</b> The range map was produced by applying the UK range mapping tool to the distribution map presented in 1.1.4. The alpha value for this species was 45km. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.



<b>2.1 Biogeographical region &amp; marine regions</b>	<b>ATL</b>
<b>2.2 Published sources</b>	<p><b>BALHARRY, E.M. and DANIELS, M. 1998. Wild living cats in Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage, Research, Survey and Monitoring Report No. 23.</b></p> <p><b>DANIELS M.J., BALHARRY D., HIRST D., KITCHENER A.C. and ASPINALL R.J. 1998. Morphological and pelage characteristics of wild living cats in Scotland: implications for defining the 'wildcat'. Journal of Zoology 244, 231-247.</b></p> <p><b>DAVIS, A.R., &amp; GRAY, D. 2010. The distribution of Scottish wildcats (<i>Felis silvestris</i>) in Scotland (2006-2008). Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 360.</b></p> <p><b>EASTERBEE, N., HEPBURN, L.V. and JEFFERIES, D.J. 1991. Survey of the status and distribution of the wildcat in Scotland, 1983-1987. Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, Edinburgh.</b></p> <p><b>HARRIS, S., MORRIS, P., WRAY, S. and YALDEN, D. 1995. A review of British Mammals: population estimates and</b></p>

conservation status of British mammals other than cetaceans. JNCC, Peterborough.

**HETHERINGTON, D. & CAMPBELL, R. 2012.** The Cairngorms wildcat project. Final report to CNPA, SNH, RZSS, SGA and FCS

**KILSHAW, K., DRAKE, A., MACDONALD, D.W. & KITCHENER, A.C. 2010.** The Scottish wildcat: a comparison of genetic and pelagic characteristics. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 356.

**KILSHAW, K. & MACDONALD, D.W. (2011).** The use of camera trapping as a method to survey for the Scottish wildcat. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.479.

**KITCHENER, A. C., YAMAGUCHI, N., WARD, J. M. AND MACDONALD, D. W. 2005,** A diagnosis for the Scottish wildcat (*Felis silvestris*): a tool for conservation action for a critically-endangered felid. *Animal Conservation*, 8: 223-237

**NORTON, L.R., MURPHY, J., REYNOLDS, B., MARKS, S., MACKEY, E.C. 2009.** Countryside Survey: Scotland results from 2007. Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage. Downloaded from [www.countrysidesurve.org.uk](http://www.countrysidesurve.org.uk)

**MACDONALD, D. W, DANIELS, M.J., DRISCOLL, C., KITCHENER, A. & YAMAGUCHI, N. 2004.** The Scottish wildcat: Analyses for conservation and an action plan. Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Oxford.  
UK distribution map data sources

**NBN Gateway Biological Records Centre GA000074** Extracted 21/08/2012 Mammal records from Britain from the Atlas of Mammals (1993), with some subsequent records  
**NBN Gateway Highland Biological Recording Group GA000497** Extracted 21/08/2012 HBRG Vertebrates (not Badger) Dataset  
**NBN Gateway National Trust for Scotland GA001085** Extracted 21/08/2012 Habitats Directive Article 17 records from the period 1901-2010  
**NBN Gateway North East Scotland Biological Records Centre GA000967** Extracted 21/08/2012 NE Scotland Wildcat records 1800-2011  
**NBN Gateway Scottish Natural Heritage GA001142** Extracted 21/08/2012 Distribution of Scottish wildcats (*Felis silvestris*) in Scotland (2006-2008) – database extract (breeding and non-breeding records)

UK Distribution Map data sources

**NBN Gateway Biological Records Centre GA000074** Extracted 21/08/2012 Mammal records from Britain from the Atlas of Mammals (1993), with some subsequent records  
**NBN Gateway Highland Biological Recording Group GA000497** Extracted

	<p>21/08/2012 HBRG Vertebrates (not Badger) Dataset  NBN Gateway National Trust for Scotland GA001085 Extracted  21/08/2012 Habitats Directive Article 17 records from the period 1901-2010  NBN Gateway North East Scotland Biological Records Centre GA000967 Extracted 21/08/2012 NE Scotland Wildcat records 1800-2011  NBN Gateway Scottish Natural Heritage GA001142 Extracted  21/08/2012 Distribution of Scottish wildcats (<i>Felis silvestris</i>) in Scotland (2006-2008) – database extract (breeding and non-breeding records)</p>

<b>2.3 Range</b>					
<b>2.3.1 Surface area Range</b>	<p><b>44129.85</b></p> <p>The surface area of the range was calculated from the map presented in 1.1.5. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.</p>				
<b>2.3.2 Method used Surface area of Range</b>	<p><b>Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling</b></p> <p>For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information</p>				
<b>2.3.3 Short-term trend Period</b>	<p><b>2001-2012</b></p> <p>For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information</p>				
<b>2.3.4 Short term trend Trend direction</b>	<p><b>unknown</b></p> <p>The short term trend direction was derived by comparing the range map in 1.1.5 with the range map produced in the 2007 report, by considering the range trend in the 2007 report, and by considering any further information provided by the UK country conservation agencies. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.</p>				
<b>2.3.5 Short-term trend Magnitude</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>a) Minimum</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>b) Maximum</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>a) Minimum</b>		<b>b) Maximum</b>	
<b>a) Minimum</b>					
<b>b) Maximum</b>					
<b>2.3.6 Long-term trend Period</b>	<p><b>1989-2012</b></p> <p>For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information</p>				
<b>2.3.7 Long-term trend Trend direction</b>	<p><b>unknown</b></p> <p>The long term trend direction was derived by comparing the range map in 1.1.5 with the range map produced in the 2007 report, by considering the range trend in the 2007 report, and by considering any further information provided by the UK country conservation agencies. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.</p>				

<b>2.3.8 Long-term trend Magnitude</b>  Optional	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.3.9 Favourable reference range</b>	<b>a) Value in km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>43211</b>
	The FRV reported in 2007 has been updated by running the data used for reporting in 2007 through the revised UK range mapping tool. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.	
	<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>The FRV reported in 2007 has been updated by running the data used for reporting in 2007 through the revised UK range mapping tool. The value is considered to be large enough to support a viable population and no lower than the range estimate from when the Habitats Directive came into force in the UK. For further details please see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.</b>
The FRV reported in 2007 has been updated by running the data used for reporting in 2007 through the revised UK range mapping tool. The value is considered to be large enough to support a viable population and no lower than the range estimate from when the Habitats Directive came into force in the UK. For further details please see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document.		
<b>2.3.10 Reason for change</b>  Is the difference between the reported value in 2.3.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to...	<b>a) Genuine change?</b>	<b>False</b>
	The very small difference is probably due to a change in survey method producing better data rather than a genuine change	
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	<b>True</b>
	The very small difference is probably due to a change in survey method producing better data rather than a genuine change	
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	<b>False</b>
	Use of a revised UK range mapping tool had little effect on the calculation for surface area of range.	

<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>	The population estimate for this species is unknown. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	The population estimate for this species is unknown. For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
<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>b) Minimum</b>	
	<b>c) Maximum</b>	
<b>2.4.3 Additional information on population estimates / conversion</b> Optional	<b>a) Definition of "locality"</b>	
	<b>b) Method to convert data</b>	
	<b>c) Problems encountered to provide population size estimation</b>	<b>The species is rare and cryptic so hard to record. There are difficulties in distinguishing between and verifying records of true wildcats, domestic/feral cats and hybrids.</b>
		For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
<b>2.4.4 Year or period</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
		For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
<b>2.4.5 Method used Population size</b>	<b>Absent data</b>	
		For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information
<b>2.4.6 Short-term trend Period</b>	<b>2001-2012</b>	
		For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.
<b>2.4.7 Short-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>decrease</b>	
		For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.
<b>2.4.8 Short-term trend Magnitude</b>	<b>a) Minimum</b>	

Optional		
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
	<b>c) Confidence interval</b>	
<b>2.4.9 Short-term trend Method used</b>	<b>Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling</b> For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.4.10 Long-term trend – Period</b>	<b>1989-2012</b> For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
Optional		
<b>2.4.11 Long-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>decrease</b> For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
Optional		
<b>2.4.12 Long-term trend Magnitude</b>	Optional	
	<b>a) Minimum</b>	
	<b>b) Maximum</b>	
<b>c) Confidence interval</b>		
<b>2.4.13 Long term trend Method used</b>	<b>Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling</b> For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
Optional		
<b>2.4.14 Favourable reference population</b>	<b>a) Number of individuals/agreed exceptions/other units</b>	<b>3500</b>
	The FRV for population is the same as reported in 2007.	
	<b>b) Operator</b>	
<b>c) FRP is unknown (indicated by "true")</b>	<b>False</b>	



	<b>d) Method used to set FRP</b>	<b>The FRV for population is the same as reported in 2007. The value is considered to be large enough for the population to be viable and no lower than the population estimate from when the Habitats Directive came into force in the UK. For further details please see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.</b>
	The FRV for population is the same as reported in 2007. The value is considered to be large enough for the population to be viable and no lower than the population estimate from when the Habitats Directive came into force in the UK. For further details please see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<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>
	The population size is unknown	
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	<b>False</b>
	The population size is unknown	
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	<b>False</b>
The population size is unknown		

<b>2.5 Habitat for the species</b>		
<b>2.5.1 Area estimation</b>	The specific area of habitat occupied by this species in the UK is unknown.	
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.  There is thought to be a sufficient amount of habitat in the UK to support a viable population of the species.	
<b>2.5.2 Year or period</b>	<b>1980-2012</b>	
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.3 Method used Habitat for the species</b>	<b>Absent data</b>	
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.4 Quality of the</b>	<b>a) Habitat quality</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

<b>habitat</b>	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
	<b>b) Assessment method</b>	<b>Wildcats are wide ranging generalist species and expert judgement suggests that habitat quality is not a limiting factor affecting wildcat distribution.</b>
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.5 Short-term trend Period</b>	<b>1998-2007</b>	
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.6 Short-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>increase</b>	
	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.7 Long-term trend Period</b>	<b>1989-2012</b>	
Optional	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.8 Long-term trend Trend direction</b>	<b>unknown</b>	
Optional	For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.	
<b>2.5.9 Area of suitable habitat for the species</b>	<b>a) Value in km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>44129.8</b>
	<b>b) Absence of data indicated as '0'</b>	
<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>
	The surface area of habitat is unknown.	
	<b>b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?</b>	<b>False</b>
	The surface area of habitat is unknown.	
	<b>c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?</b>	<b>False</b>
	The surface area of habitat is unknown.	

<b>2.6 Main pressures</b>		
<b>a) Pressure</b>	<b>b) Ranking</b>	<b>c) Pollution qualifier</b>
	H = high importance (max 5 entries) M = medium importance L = low importance	

F03: Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)	H	
I03: introduced genetic material, GMO	H	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	M	
K03: Interspecific faunal relations	M	

For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.

**2.6.1 Method used – Pressures**

**mainly based on expert judgement and other data**

For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.

<b>2.7 Threats</b>		
<b>a) Threat</b>	<b>b) Ranking</b>	<b>c) Pollution qualifier</b>
	H = high importance (max 5 entries) M = medium importance L = low importance	
F03: Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial)	H	
I03: introduced genetic material, GMO	H	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	M	
K03: Interspecific faunal relations	M	

For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.

**2.7.1 Method used – Threats**

**expert opinion**

For further details see the 2013 Article 17 UK Approach document and relevant country-level reporting information.

<b>2.8 Complementary information</b>	
<b>2.8.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends</b>	
<b>2.8.2 Other relevant information</b>	
<b>2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment</b>	

<b>2.9 Conclusions (assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</b>		
<b>2.9.1 Range</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Favourable</b>
	Range has been assessed as Favourable because current range is no less than the FRV for range. There is no evidence to suggest the range has decreased over the short term.	
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	
<b>2.9.2 Population</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Bad</b>
	Population has been assessed as Bad because the trend is declining due to hybridisation with feral cats. We don't know the exact rate of decline, but suspect this is a serious issue. The population is no better than in the last report when it was reported Bad. We don't have a current population estimate, although it is suspected that it is below the FRV.	
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	<b>declining</b>
<b>2.9.3 Habitat for the species</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Favourable</b>
	Habitat has been assessed as Favourable because there is sufficient habitat available to support a viable population and the habitat quality is moderate. The short term trend for habitat is increasing.	
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	
<b>2.9.4 Future prospects</b>	<b>a) Conclusion</b>	<b>Bad</b>
	<p>Future prospects is assessed as Bad on the basis of assessments of the future prospects of the three parameters, range, population and habitat for species:</p> <p>Range future prospects: Unknown</p> <p>Population future prospects: Bad</p> <p>Habitat future prospects: Good</p> <p>Overall future prospects: Bad</p> <p>The main threat is considered to be the threat of genetic extinction due to hybridisation with co-occurring domestic cats. Conservation efforts are continuing and being refocused and at the same time research is continuing into wildcat genetics. However, it is likely that the threat of hybridisation is ongoing.</p>	
	<b>b) Qualifier</b>	<b>declining</b>
	The qualifier is 'decreasing' because the population is likely to continue to decline in the future due to ongoing hybridisation with domestic cats.	
<b>2.9.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status</b>	<b>Bad</b>	

	The overall assessment was bad due to population and future prospects being assessed as bad.
<b>2.9.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status</b>	<b>declining</b>
	On balance, the trend is decreasing.

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

<b>3.1 Population</b>		
<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)  Optional		

<b>3.2 Conservation measures</b>				
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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