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

Fourth Report by the United Kingdom
under Article 17
on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2013 to December 2018

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1044 - Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*)

UNITED KINGDOM
IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ

• The information in this document represents the UK Report on the conservation status of this species, submitted to the European Commission as part of the 2019 UK Reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.

• It is based on supporting information provided by the geographically-relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, which is documented separately.

• The 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.

• The reporting fields and options used are aligned to those set out in the European Commission guidance.

• Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included (where available).

• Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the UK assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country-level 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 Natura 2000 coverage for Annex II species).

• The UK-level reporting information for all habitats and species is also available in spreadsheet format.

Visit the JNCC website, https://jncc.gov.uk/article17, for further information on UK Article 17 reporting.
# Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

## NATIONAL LEVEL

### 1. General information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1 Member State</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Species code</td>
<td>1044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Species scientific name</td>
<td><em>Coenagrion mercuriale</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Alternative species scientific name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Common name (in national language)</td>
<td>Southern damselfly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Maps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1 Sensitive species</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Year or period</td>
<td>2008-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Distribution map</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Distribution map Method used</td>
<td>Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Additional maps</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Information related to Annex V Species (Art. 14)

| 3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited? | No |
| 3.2 Which of the measures in Art. 14 have been taken? | |
| a) regulations regarding access to property | No |
| b) temporary or local prohibition of 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 |
| h) other measures | No |
Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Unit</th>
<th>b) Statistics/quantity taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min. (raw, ie. not rounded)</td>
<td>Provide statistics/quantity per hunting season or per year (where season is not used) over the reporting period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. (raw, ie. not rounded)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>No No No No No No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4. Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild Method used

3.5. Additional information

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs

Atlantic (ATL)

England

Wales
Boyce, D. 2004. Condition assessment for the southern damselfly Coenagrion
Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

mercuriale on candidate Special Areas of Conservation in Pembrokeshire (Gweunydd Blaencleddau & Preseli (part 1)). CCW Contract Science No. 622. Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.
Conservation status assessment for Species: S1044 - Southern Damselfly (Coenagrion mercuriale).

5. Range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.1 Surface area (km²)</th>
<th>3423.9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Short-term trend Period</td>
<td>2007-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Short-term trend Direction</td>
<td>Stable (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 Short-term trend Magnitude</td>
<td>a) Minimum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 6. Population

### 6.1 Year or period

2008-2017

### 6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Unit</th>
<th>b) Minimum</th>
<th>c) Maximum</th>
<th>d) Best single value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>number of map 1x1 km grid cells (grids1x1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6.3 Type of estimate

Best estimate

### 6.4 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Unit</th>
<th>b) Minimum</th>
<th>c) Maximum</th>
<th>d) Best single value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6.5 Type of estimate

### 6.6 Population size Method used

Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

### 6.7 Short-term trend Period

2004-2017
Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

6.8 Short-term trend Direction
Decreasing (-)

6.9 Short-term trend Magnitude
a) Minimum
b) Maximum
c) Confidence interval

6.10 Short-term trend Method used
Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

6.11 Long-term trend Period

6.12 Long-term trend Direction
a) Minimum
b) Maximum
c) Confidence interval

6.13 Long-term trend Magnitude

6.14 Long-term trend Method used

6.15 Favourable reference population (using the unit in 6.2 or 6.4)
a) Population size
b) Operator
The FRP has changed since 2013. An FRP operator has been used because it has not been possible to calculate the exact FRP. The FRP is considered to be large enough to maintain a viable population and is no less that when the Habitats Directive came into force in the UK. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.
c) Unknown
b) Operator

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size
Genuine change
Improved knowledge/more accurate data
The change is mainly due to: Genuine change

6.17 Additional information
The short term trend direction is considered to be 'decreasing ≤1% (one percent or less) per year on average'. This relates to declines in Wales within all four SACs and the loss of the population at Sluxton Farm, Whitemoor. Remedial works have been initiated on three of the SACs to address these declines but may not be on the necessary scale to reverse current trends.

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat
a) Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?
No
b) Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?
No

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used
Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

7.3 Short-term trend Period
2004-2017

7.4 Short-term trend Direction
Decreasing (-)

7.5 Short-term trend Method used
Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

7.6 Long-term trend Period

7.7 Long-term trend Direction
Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

7.8 Long-term trend Method used
7.9 Additional information

The sufficiency of the quantity and quality of habitat for the species varies across the distribution of the species, with insufficiency reported in Wales.

8. Main pressures and threats

8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pressure</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland) (A07)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock (A10)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization) (L01)</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) (L02)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2 Sources of information
8.3 Additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1 Status of measures

a) Are measures needed? Yes
b) Indicate the status of measures Measures identified and taken

9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken

Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species

9.3 Location of the measures taken

Both inside and outside Natura 2000

9.4 Response to the measures

Short-term results (within the current reporting period, 2013-2018)

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Reinstate appropriate agricultural practices to address abandonment, including mowing, grazing, burning or equivalent
Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

measures (CA04)
Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (CA05)
Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes (CL01)
Other measures related to natural processes (CL04)
Improvement of habitat of species from the directives (CS03)

9.6 Additional information

10. Future prospects

10.1 Future prospects of parameters

a) Range Poor
b) Population Poor
c) Habitat of the species Poor

10.2 Additional information

Future trend of Range is Negative - decreasing <=1% (one percent or less) per year on average; Future trend of Population is Negative - decreasing <=1% (one percent or less) per year on average; and Future trend of Habitat for the species is Negative - slight/moderate deterioration. For further information on how future trends inform the Future Prospects conclusion see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.

11. Conclusions

11.1. Range Favourable (FV)
11.2. Population Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
11.3. Habitat for the species Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
11.4. Future prospects Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status Deteriorating (-)
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status No change
The change is mainly due to:

11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend

11.8 Additional information

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.
Conclusion on Population reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Population size is decreasing by 1% per year or less; and (ii) the current Population size is not more than 25% below the Favourable Reference Population.
Conclusion on Habitat for the species reached because: (i) the area of occupied and unoccupied habitat is not sufficiently large and (ii) the habitat quality is not adequate for the long-term survival of the species; and (iii) the short-term trend
in area and quality of occupied habitat is decreasing. Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are poor; (ii) the Future prospects for Population are poor; and (iii) the Future prospects for Habitat for the species are poor. Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Unfavourable-inadequate because three of the conclusions are Unfavourable-inadequate. Overall trend in Conservation Status is based on the combination of the short-term trends for Range - stable, Population - decreasing, and Habitat for the species - decreasing. Overall assessment of Conservation Status has not changed since 2013. Overall trend in Conservation Status has not changed since 2013.

### 12. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Best single value</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Type of estimate**

Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

**Direction**

Decreasing (-)

**Method used**

Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

### 13. Complementary information

| 13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends |
| 13.2 Trans-boundary assessment |
| 13.3 Other relevant Information |
Figure 1: UK distribution map for S1044 - Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*). 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. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.
Figure 2: UK range map for S1044 - Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*). 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 range map has been produced by applying a bespoke range mapping tool for Article 17 reporting (produced by JNCC) to the 10km grid square distribution map presented in Figure 1. The alpha value for this species was 20km. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.