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 

Supporting documentation for the 
conservation status assessment for the species: 

S1261 - Sand lizard (Lacerta agilis) 

ENGLAND
# 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 (England information only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Species code</td>
<td>1261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Species scientific name</td>
<td><em>Lacerta agilis</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>Sand lizard</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>2013-2018</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 |
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 Provide statistics/quantity per hunting season or per year (where season is not used) over the reporting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Season/ year 1</td>
<td>Season/ year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min. (raw, ie. not rounded)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. (raw, ie. not rounded)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>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)

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²)
5.2 Short-term trend Period
5.3 Short-term trend Direction
5.4 Short-term trend Magnitude
5.5 Short-term trend Method used
5.6 Long-term trend Period
5.7 Long-term trend Direction
5.8 Long-term trend Magnitude
5.9 Long-term trend Method used
5.10 Favourable reference range

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>a) Minimum</th>
<th>b) Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-term</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increasing (+)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

Genuine change

The change is mainly due to: Genuine change

5.12 Additional information

Range has increased primarily as a result of the re-introduction programme.

6. Population

6.1 Year or period

1989-2018
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6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)
- a) Unit: number of map 1x1 km grid cells (grids1x1)
- b) Minimum
- c) Maximum
- d) Best single value: 353

6.3 Type of estimate: Best estimate

6.4 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)
- a) Unit: number of localities (localities)
- b) Minimum
- c) Maximum
- d) Best single value: 593

6.5 Type of estimate: Best estimate

6.6 Population size Method used: Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

6.7 Short-term trend Period: 2013-2018

6.8 Short-term trend Direction: Stable (0)

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

6.13 Long-term trend Magnitude
- a) Minimum
- b) Maximum
- c) Confidence interval

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
- c) Unknown
- d) Method

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size
- No change
- The change is mainly due to:

6.17 Additional information
- Although species populations and range have increased via re-introduction, 11% of sub-populations have declined due to fire, grazing, inappropriate levels or lack of habitat management. So overall population is more or less stable.

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat
- a) Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (to maintain the species at FCS)? No
- b) Is there a sufficiently large area of occupied AND unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (to maintain the species at FCS)? No
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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
2007-2018

7.4 Short-term trend Direction
Stable (0)

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

7.6 Long-term trend Period
1989-2018

7.7 Long-term trend Direction
Increasing (+)

7.8 Long-term trend Method used
Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

7.9 Additional information
From 1994-2010 management on protected sites improved, tackling tree and scrub. From 2010 onwards increasing heather age management has often impacted species habitat and populations.

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>Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism or arson (H04)</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (H08)</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>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage) (B01)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other forestry activities, excluding those relating to agro-forestry (B29)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation or development of sports, tourism and leisure infrastructure (outside the urban or recreational areas) (F05)</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2 Characterisation of threats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)</td>
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<td>Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)</td>
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</table>
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Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage) (B01)  | M  
---|---
Other forestry activities, excluding those relating to agro-forestry (B29)  | M  
Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07)  | M  
Change of habitat location, size, and/or quality due to climate change (N05)  | M  
Creation or development of sports, tourism and leisure infrastructure (outside the urban or recreational areas) (F05)  | M  

### 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

Increase the population size and/or improve population dynamics (improve reproduction success, reduce mortality, improve age/sex structure) (related to ‘Population’)

#### 9.3 Location of the measures taken

Both inside and outside Natura 2000

#### 9.4 Response to the measures

Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)

#### 9.5 List of main conservation measures

- Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (CA05)
- Manage conversion of land for construction and development of infrastructure (CF01)
- Reduce impact of other specific human actions (CH03)
- Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes (CL01)
- Prevent conversion of (semi-) natural habitats into forests and of (semi-)natural forests into intensive forest plantation (CB01)
- Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices (CB05)
- Habitat restoration of areas impacted by residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure, operations and activities (CF02)
- Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)
- Prevent conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats, and habitats of species into agricultural land (CA01)
- Reintroduce species from the directives (CS02)

### 9.6 Additional information

Re-introduction programme, habitat enhancement, protection and creation projects underway. Main purpose of measures often to exclude/reduce heather age management intensity (grazing, mowing, burning) on known sub-populations

### 10. Future prospects
Overall stable parameters are anticipated, consistent with this and previous reporting periods. Some sub-populations and habitats likely to decline due to fire and often inappropriate levels of heather management, combined with positive conservation efforts such as re-introduction and habitat restoration projects.
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13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends
13.2 Trans-boundary assessment
13.3 Other relevant Information
Distribution Map

Figure 1: UK distribution map for S1261 - Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*). 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.
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 25km. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field label</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Short term trend; Direction</td>
<td>Range has increased in the period between 2007-2018 (based mainly on an extrapolation from a limited amount of data).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Population size</td>
<td>This value is considered to be a reasonable proportion of known sand lizard occupied 1km squares surveyed during this reporting period, so is also a minimum value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8 Short term trend; Direction</td>
<td>Population is considered broadly stable, gains have been made via the reintroduction programme and number of sub-populations has increased by one since the previous report however, some losses have been identified. It is estimated that 11% of sub-populations have seen a decline in population density, largely due to inappropriate habitat management or habitat loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.10 Short term trend; Method used</td>
<td>CSM and Rapid Site Assessment combined with bespoke species surveys and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.12 Long term trend; Direction</td>
<td>Although species populations and range has increased, via re-introduction, 11% have declined due to fire, grazing, inappropriate levels or lack of habitat management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat</td>
<td>Habitat is considered sufficient for a viable population, but not enough to meet favourable conservation status in England. Large areas of potential habitat have insufficient height and structure for this species. GIS mapping of sub-populations, including common standard monitoring (CSM) and rapid site assessment (RSA) habitat assessments (ARC, 2018).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>