

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

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1026 - Roman snail

(Helix pomatia)

England



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This report was produced by JNCC in collaboration with Natural England.

This document should be cited as:

Natural England and JNCC. (2026). Conservation status assessment for the species: S1026 Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*).

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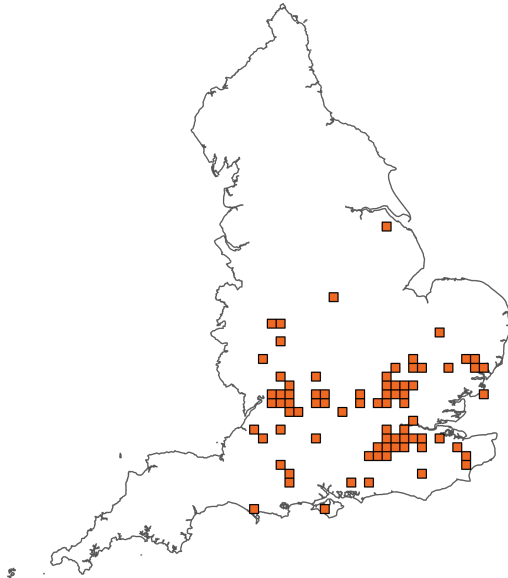
Important note - Please read

- The information in this document represents the England 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 England, 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 species 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 species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

Assessment Summary: Roman snail

Distribution Map



Range Map

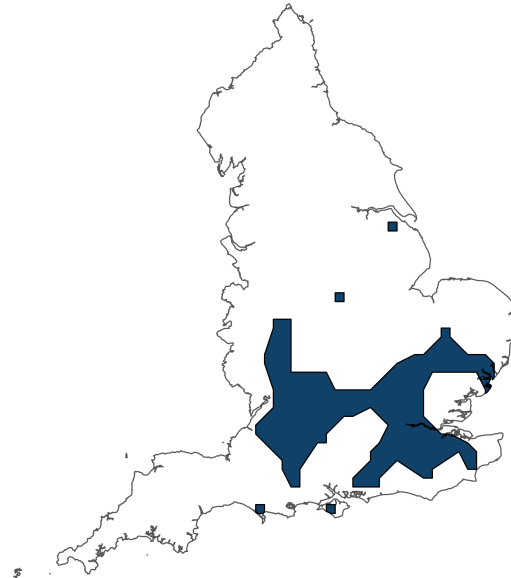


Figure 1: England distribution and range map for S1026 - Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S1026 - Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

Favourable (FV)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 5)	Favourable (FV)
Population (see section 6)	Favourable (FV)
Habitat for the species (see section 7)	Favourable (FV)
Future prospects (see section 10)	Favourable (FV)

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National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	England
1.2 Species code	S1026
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Helix pomatia</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Roman snail
Annex(es)	V

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	1994-2024
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data

2.5 Additional information

The species mapping data are mainly derived from unsystematic occurrence recording. Occurrence is likely to have increased relative to 2013-2018 due to better reporting via 'Citizen Science' apps, where photographs can be reliably identified.

3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited? No

3.2 What measures have been taken?

a) Regulations regarding access to property

b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation

c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens

d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations

e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas

f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens

g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species

Other measures

Other measures description

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

a) Unit

Table 2: Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
b) Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Maximum	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used

3.5: Additional information

Roman Snail is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and protected under Section 9 with respect to 9.1 - Killing, injuring, or taking; 9.2 -

Possessing, alive or dead; and 9.5 - Selling. Therefore it is generally not exploited, although this may occur illegally (for which there are no data).

Biogeographical Level

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs ATL

4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km ²)	22,004
5.2 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
5.3 Short-term trend; Direction	Increasing
5.4 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	
e) Type of estimate	
f) Rate of decrease	
5.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
5.6 Long-term trend; Period	
5.7 Long-term trend; Direction	
5.8 Long-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Minimum	

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used

5.10 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

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

a) Change Yes

b) Genuine change No

c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data

d) Different method Yes

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason Use of different method

5.12 Additional information

Roman Snail's range data are mainly derived from unsystematic occurrence recording. Occurrence is likely to have increased relative to 2013-2018 due to better reporting via 'Citizen Science' apps, where photographs can be reliably identified.

6. Population

6.1 Year or period 2019-2024

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

a) Unit	number of map 1x1 km grid cells
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	213
6.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate
6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit	
6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	
a) Unit	
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
e) Type of estimate	
6.6 Population size; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.7 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
6.8 Short-term trend; Direction	Increasing
6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	Yes
e) Type of estimate	
f) Rate of decrease	
6.10 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
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

d) Rate of decrease

**6.14 Long-term trend; Method
used**

6.15 Favourable Reference Population (FRP)

ai) Population size

aii) Unit

b) Pre-defined increment Current population is between 5% and 25%
smaller than the FRP

c) Unknown No

d) Method used Reference-based approach

e) Quality of information moderate

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size

a) Change Yes

b) Genuine change No

**c) Improved knowledge or
more accurate data** Yes

d) Different method Yes

e) No information

f) Other reason

g) Main reason Use of different method

6.17 Additional information

The short-term population trend (213 monads, or 1x1 km squares, between 2013-24) has been assessed as increasing, compared to 43 monads reported in 2019 (period 2005-2018). However, there is uncertainty in estimating population size from occurrence data because survey effort is not standardised: genuine change in population size can't be distinguished from change in recording effort. Recording became more intensive during the 2nd period, presumably due to the growth of Citizen Science recording. The number of NBN Atlas records (filtered by Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland - CSGBI, with records only to 2022 due to reporting lag) was 283 for 2005-18 and 500 for 2013-2024 - an increase of 77%. It is likely that recording peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-21), when 'lock-downs' on movement likely led to increased observations close to where people lived. Roman Snail is often associated with private gardens and readily verified from photos.

It should be noted that there is a discrepancy between NBN data (CSGBI filter, Sep 2024 download) and that reported in 2019, for the 2005-2018 period: recent NBN data show 129 monads and 75 hectads, compared to 43 monads and 37 hectads in 2019. The current population trend was based on a comparison with 2019 reported values; however, if based on 2024 NBN data for the relevant periods, it would suggest the population is stable or increasing: 2013-2024 has 213 monads and 72 hectads.

6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation Unknown

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)

a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient? Yes

b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient? Yes

c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality?

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used

a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
7.3 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
7.4 Short-term trend; Direction	Stable
7.5 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
7.6 Long-term trend; Period	
7.7 Long-term trend; Direction	
7.8 Long-term trend; Method used	
7.9 Additional information	

No additional information

8. Main pressures

8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Table 3: Pressures affecting the species, 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
PA05: Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agroforestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PE01: Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)

8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

8.3 Additional information

PA05: Lowland calcareous grassland in England is the closest Priority Habitat type used by Roman Snail, though it may prefer a more structured sward than is present on most grassland sites, which tend to be managed short. The ideal habitat is best described as calcareous edge habitat, as Roman Snail favours the transition between woodland and grassland. It may be affected by scrub encroachment on chalk downland, but evidence is needed to confirm this. The regional IUCN GB Red List status of Roman Snail is Least Concern (Seddon et al, 2014).

PE01: These impacts are extremely site specific, and usually reflect the preferences this species has for the base-rich, warm, and free draining substrates that typically form the ballasts and cutting of transport infrastructure.

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	Only outside National Site Network
9.4 Response to measures	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2025–2036)

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Table 4: 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
MC06: Reduce impact of service corridors and networks	Medium (M)
ME06: Habitat restoration of areas impacted by transport	Medium (M)
MF01: Managing the impacts of converting land for construction and development of infrastructure	Medium (M)

MM01: Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes that occur without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Medium (M)
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9.6 Additional information

Roman Snail was added to Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act in 2008. This has improved the conservation status because developments now have to mitigate their impacts on populations, under new mitigation licences (Environment Act 2021). A small number of populations have been translocated under licence, but the number has not been analysed 2019-2024. Receptor sites are generally of good quality and capable of supporting the species. It remains widespread across a belt of southern England. Earlier periods reported poaching for consumption, though there is no evidence to say how much this happens currently.

10. Future prospects

10.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Overall stable
bi) Population	Overall stable
ci) Habitat for the species	Overall stable

10.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range	Good
bii) Population	Good
cii) Habitat for the species	Good

10.2 Additional information

No additional information

11. Conclusions

11.1 Range	Favourable (FV)
11.2 Population	Favourable (FV)
11.3 Habitat for the species	Favourable (FV)

11.4 Future prospects Favourable (FV)

11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status Favourable (FV)

11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status Stable

11.7 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.

11.7 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.

11.8 Additional information

Helix pomatia conservation status assessed as overall - Favourable (due to Range, Population, Habitat and Future Prospects all - Favourable; Tab. 1A), with overall conservation trend - Stable (as trends for Range, Population and Habitat all judged at least - Stable; Tab. 1B).

Range - Favourable (Tab. 1A, 2A) as current period (2019-24) not more than 2% less than favourable range (9,094km² in 2013) and short-term trend at least Stable (Tab. 1A, 2B). In fact, 2019-24 range of 22,004km² more than double that of 2013-18 (8,154km²). Range increase judged a non-genuine change due to greater survey effort, so trend retained as stable.

Population - Favourable (Tab. 1A, 2B) as now judged equal to or > Favourable Reference Population (according to logic that 2019 reported value of 43 monads was assessed as not >25% lower than FRP; while current value is 213 monads, i.e. > 4x greater than 43). However, the current value is judged not a genuine increase, rather better recording. Short-term trend judged at least Stable as increase from 43 to 213 monads is considered non-genuine.

Habitat (Tab. 1A) - status - Favourable as area and quality of habitat judged sufficient for population persistence (Tab. C1) and short-term trend stable. Although systematic survey of habitat is unavailable, it is dispersed widely across transport infrastructure,

domestic gardens and semi-natural habitat, for which there is no evidence for overriding change.

Future Prospects conclusion (Tab. D2) - Good, as Future Prospects of Range, Population and Habitat all Good (Tab. D1) because balance of pressures and conservation measures are considered stable.

12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network

a) Unit

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value

12.2 Type of estimate

12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used

12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction

12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used

12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction

12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used

12.8 Additional information

No additional information

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

No trans-boundary assessment information

13.2 Other relevant information

No other relevant information

14. References

Biogeographical and marine regions

4.2 Sources of information

Seddon MB, Killeen IJ & Fowles AP (2014) A Review of the Non-Marine Mollusca of Great Britain: Species Status No. 17. NRW Evidence Report No: 14, 84pp, Natural Resources Wales, Bangor.

Source of records for mapping: <https://nbnatlas.org/>, filtered for 'Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland: non-marine mollusc records' with manual removal of sub-fossil records and expert validation.

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label

Note

No explanatory notes