



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Aira caryophyllea</i> – <i>Polytrichum juniperum</i> wall community
<b>Common name</b>	Silver Hair-grass – Juniper Haircap wall community
<b>Community code</b>	RH2E

### Vegetation

This low-growing community of stony substrates consists mainly of the annual grass species *Aira caryophyllea*, *Aira praecox* and *Vulpia bromoides*. These are usually accompanied by some reasonable cover of *Sedum anglicum* and patchy growth of *Festuca rubra*, *Plantago lanceolata* and *Sagina procumbens*. *Polytrichum juniperum* is a constant bryophyte whilst *Hypnum lacunosum* is frequent.

### Ecology

This community has largely been recorded from the tops of stone walls constructed from some siliceous rock, sometimes where a thin loam has developed. It has also been recorded from gritty road margins and probably occurs in a more natural setting on the tops of boulders.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

This is a straightforward community that is unlikely to cause confusion.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	8
Transitional:	0
Total:	8

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	3
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	5
Total:	8

#### Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	2
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	4

#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

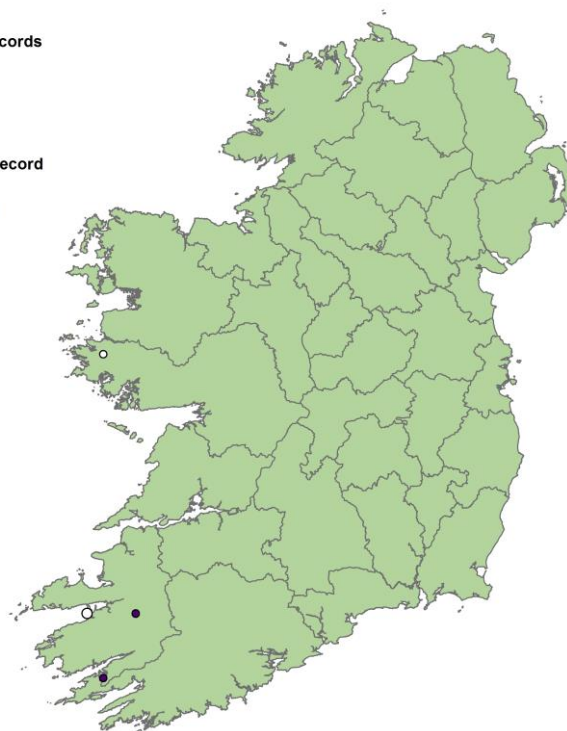
2001-2017:	2
1986-2000:	0
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	2

#### Number of records

- 1-3
- 4-10
- 11-25
- 26+

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2017
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



### Synoptic table (n = 8)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	V	2-(5)-7	<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Aira praecox</i>	V	3-(5)-7	<i>Poa annua</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	V	3-(3)-5	<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	V	5-(5)-8	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	IV	5-(6)-7	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	IV	2-(2)-3	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	IV	2-(2)-5	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	IV	2-(2)-5	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Hypnum lacunosum</i>	III	3-(7)-7	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Cladonia fimbriata</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Polytrichum piliferum</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	II	3-(3)-5	<i>Thuidium abietinum</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	II	2-(2)-2	<i>Racomitrium canescens</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	II	2-(2)-2			
<i>Timmia norvegica</i>	II	2-(4)-5			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	I	3-(3)-3			

#### Affinities

GHI: BL1 Stone walls and other stonework / ED1 Exposed sand, gravel or till

ZM: CK Sedo-Scleranthetea (62.5%) / CJ Koelerio-Coryneporetea canescentis (37.5%)

EUNIS: J1.31 Old town walls / J2.52 Field walls

NVC: U1f *Festuca ovina* – *Agrostis capillaris* – *Rumex acetosella* grassland, *Hypochoeris radicata* sub-community (38.3%), but see also account of Sedion anglici in Rodwell et al. (p. 48, 2002) listed below

Annex I: No significant correspondence

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.7    Reaction: 4.4    Wetness: 3.5    Fertility: 2.3    Salinity: 0.2

#### Conservation value

Vegetation corresponding to this community is typically of relatively low conservation value.

#### Management

This community is essentially unmanaged.

#### Key references

Braun-Blanquet, J., Tüxen, R. (1949) Irische Pflanzengesellschaften. Die Pflanzenwelt Irlands. Ergebnisse der 9. Internationalen Pflanzengeographischen Exkursion durch Irland 1949. *Veröffentlichungen des Geobotanischen Institutes Rübel in Zürich* 25, 24-415.

Rodwell, J.S., Dring, J.C., Averis, A.B.G., Proctor, M.C.F., Malloch, A.J.C., Schaminée, J.H.J., Dargie, T.C.D. (2000) Review of coverage of the National Vegetation Classification, JNCC Report 302. JNCC, Peterborough.

**Synopsis version:** V1.0

**Synopsis date:** November 2019

**Synopsis author(s):** P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. Vegetation ascribable to RH2E *Aira caryophyllea* – *Polytrichum juniperum* wall community, Bencorragh, Galway  
(R. Hodd, May 2019)

