



Scientific name	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> – <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. scrub
Common name	Bracken – Bramble scrub
Community code	SC1C

Vegetation

This community is typically dominated by a mixture of the broad fronds of *Pteridium aquilinum* and the thorny stems of *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Other common components are tall tussocks of *Arrhenatherum elatius*, some spiny growth of *Ulex europaeus*, and, beneath, some patchy cover of *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Ranunculus repens*. Frequently, one will find some *Dactylis glomerata*, *Galium aparine*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Teucrium scorodonia* or *Viola riviniana/reichenbachiana*.

Ecology

Most records of this community currently come from hedgebanks and field boundaries in the lowlands, but also included here are other types of bracken-dominated vegetation in the lowlands.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

This community is rather closely aligned with the SC1D *Ulex europaeus* – *Rubus fruticosus* agg. scrub. Whilst still a constant there, *Pteridium* is much less abundant and clearly subordinate to *Ulex*. Upland stands of dense bracken are poorly accommodated by the SC1C community; further work and data are required to describe these stands.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	42
Transitional:	12
Total:	54

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2018:	9
1986-2000:	38
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	48

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2018:	6
1986-2000:	8
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	15

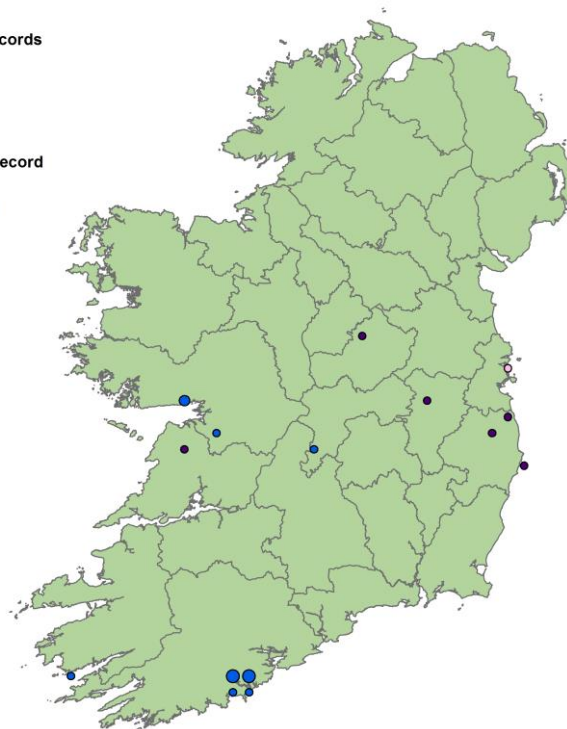
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2018:	6
1986-2000:	8
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 30)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	V	3-(7)-9	<i>Plantago major</i>	II	2-(2)-3
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	V	2-(7)-9	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	II	2-(2)-3
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II	+-(2)-5
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	IV	2-(5)-8	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	II	2-(2)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV	2-(3)-7	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	II	2-(2)-3
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	II	2-(2)-2
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Galium aparine</i>	III	2-(3)-7	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	III	3-(3)-8	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	I	3-(3)-5
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Viola riviniana/reichenbachiana</i>	III	2-(3)-3	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	II	2-(3)-7	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	I	3-(3)-5
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	II	3-(4)-8	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	2-(3)-3
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Hedera helix</i>	II	5-(5)-8	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	I	2-(2)-3
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	II	2-(3)-5	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	I	2-(2)-2

Affinities

GHI: WL1 Hedgerows / HD1 Dense bracken

ZM: CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (70.0%)

EUNIS: E5.31 Sub-Atlantic *Pteridium aquilinum* fields

NVC: MG1c *Arrhenatherum elatius* coarse grassland *Filipendula ulmaria* sub-community (50.0%) but also, W25b *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* underscrub *Teucrium scorodonia* sub-community (45.6%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.2 Reaction: 5.2 Wetness: 5.4 Fertility: 4.9 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

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

Management

Field boundaries may be lost due to enlargement of fields, agricultural improvement and urban developments. Where spread of bracken is an issue, it may be controlled by cutting, rolling or spraying.

Key references

Browne, A. (1998) Vegetation-environment interactions in the vicinity of a pharmaceutical plant near Kinsale, Co.Cork. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: November 2019

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

