



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Stellaria media</i> – <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> weed community
<b>Common name</b>	Common Chickweed – Groundsel weed community
<b>Community code</b>	WE1A

### Vegetation

In this rather sparse community, the bright green leaves and weak, straggling stems of *Stellaria media* form most of the weed cover. Tufts of *Poa annua* and the tatty stems of *Senecio vulgaris* are also constant features but seldom contribute much in the way of foliage. Frequent companions comprise *Capella bursa-pastoris*, *Ranunculus repens* and *Sonchus oleraceus*. A number of other ruderal or annual species are occasional.

### Ecology

This is a common weed community of fairly fertile, disturbed soils and is found growing amongst crops in arable fields, flower beds, and market and kitchen gardens.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

From other weed communities, WE1A is distinguished mainly by the frequency and abundance of *Stellaria media*.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	53
Transitional:	3
Total:	56

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2018:	1
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	10
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	15

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

2001-2018:	1
1986-2000:	1
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	5

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

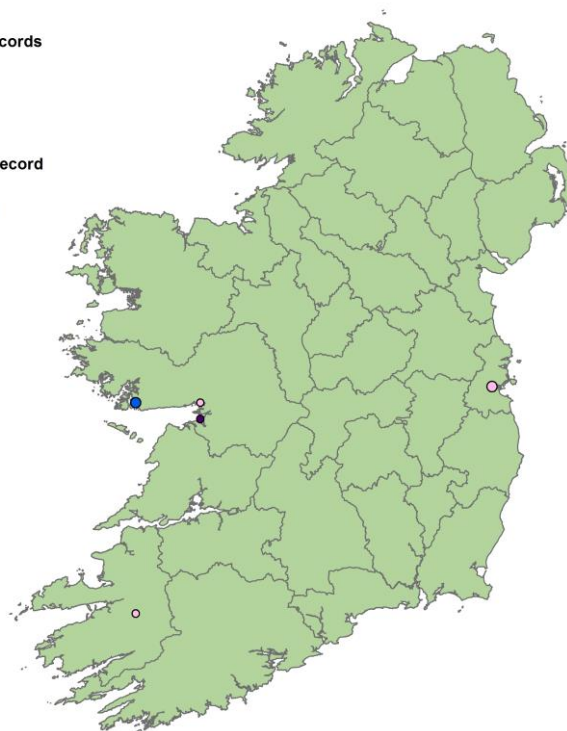
2001-2018:	1
1986-2000:	1
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	0

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2018
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



### Synoptic table (n = 53)

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Stellaria media</i>	V		5	(6)-9	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	II		+-	(3)-5
<i>Poa annua</i>	IV		2	(3)-7	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	II		2	(2)-3
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	IV		2	(3)-5	<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	III		2	(3)-3	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	I		2	(2)-5
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	III		2	(3)-5	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	III		2	(3)-7	<i>Urtica urens</i>	I		2	(3)-8
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	II		2	(3)-7	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	I		2	(3)-3
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	II		+	(3)-8	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I		2	(3)-5
<i>Veronica persica</i>	II		2	(3)-7	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	II		2	(3)-3	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	II		2	(3)-3	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	II		2	(3)-9	<i>Fumaria bastardii</i>	I		2	(3)-3
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	II		2	(3)-5	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Galium aparine</i>	II		2	(2)-3	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	I		2	(3)-3
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	II		2	(3)-3	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	I		2	(5)-7
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	II		2	(3)-3	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	I		2	(2)-3
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	II		2	(3)-3	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	I		2	(3)-3
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II		2	(2)-3	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	I		2	(3)-3
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	II		2	(2)-3	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	I		2	(3)-3
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	II		2	(3)-3	<i>Papaver dubium</i>	I		3	(3)-3

#### Affinities

GHI: BC1 Arable crops / BC2 Horticultural land

ZM: QA Papaveretea rhoeadis (66.0%) / QB Sisymbrietea (24.5%)

EUNIS: I1 Arable land and market gardens

NVC: OV13a *Stellaria media* – *Capsella bursa-pastoris* community typical sub-community (65.2%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.0    Reaction: 6.2    Wetness: 5.1    Fertility: 6.9    Salinity: 0.1

#### Conservation value

Vegetation corresponding to this community is typically of relatively low conservation value. Segetal assemblages can contain archaeophytes such as *Centaurea cyanus* and *Agrostemma githago* which were once common sights of arable fields, but are now very rare.

#### Management

The persistence of this community is dependent on the regular disturbance that comes with arable farming and gardening practices. Rarer archaeophytes have declined due to modernisation of these practices.

#### Key references

Lambe, E. (1971) A phytosociological and ecological analysis of Irish weed communities. (Ph.D. thesis). National University of Ireland, Galway.

Brun-Hool, J., Wilmanns, O. (1982) Plant communities of human-settlements in Ireland. 2. Gardens, parks and roads. *Journal of Life Sciences Royal Dublin Society* 3(1), 91-103.

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