

Scientific name	<i>Holcus lanatus</i> – <i>Lolium perenne</i> grassland
Common name	Yorkshire-fog – Perennial Rye-grass grassland
Community code	GL2C

Vegetation

This is a very species-poor grassland assemblage and there are only a few constant species. *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Lolium perenne* form the bulk of the medium-height sward alongside *Ranunculus repens* and *Trifolium repens* (mean graminoid height = 26.7 cm, $n = 149$; mean forb height = 19.1 cm, $n = 149$). *Cerastium fontanum* is frequent and, together with *Lolium perenne* and *Trifolium repens*, is indicative of the agriculturally-improved nature of the community. *Poa trivialis* would have been frequent in this community in the past as it was included in old seed mixes; it is probably less frequent now.

Ecology

The *Holcus lanatus* – *Lolium perenne* grassland is a variable semi-improved community of wet pastures and meadows found commonly across the lowlands of the country (mean altitude = 83 m, $n = 149$; mean slope = 3.5°, $n = 149$). It occurs on gleyed or drained mineral soils (mean organic content = 17.1%, $n = 125$) that are fairly acidic and, despite the agricultural improvement, the vegetation suggests that they are only mildly fertile

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

Juncus spp. are not as frequent as they are in communities GL2B and GL2D and should not dominate. The semi-improved grasslands of GL3B *Lolium perenne* – *Trifolium repens* grassland are better drained and typically, with the exception of sub-community GL3Biii, more species-rich.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	391
Transitional:	87
Total:	478

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	248
1986-2000:	52
1971-1985:	76
Pre-1971:	61
Total:	437

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	144
1986-2000:	11
1971-1985:	22
Pre-1971:	18
Total:	195

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

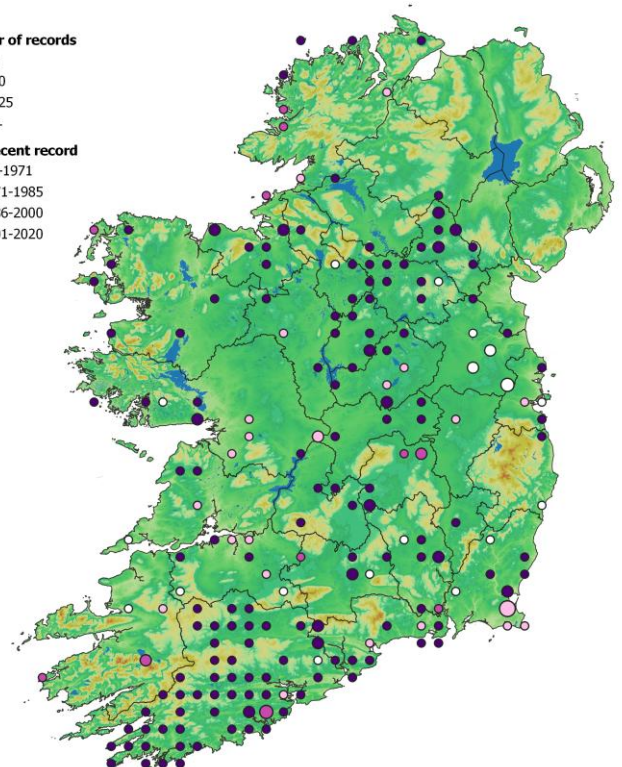
2001-2020:	144
1986-2000:	15
1971-1985:	30
Pre-1971:	28

Number of records

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

Most recent record

- pre-1971
- 1971-1985
- 1986-2000
- 2001-2020



Synoptic table (n = 297)

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	V		2-	(5)-9	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	I		+-	(2)-4
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	V		1-	(6)-10	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	I		1-	(3)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	V		2-	(5)-8	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	I		+-	(3)-7
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	IV		+-	(3)-9	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	I		2-	(3)-8
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	IV		1-	(3)-7	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	I		1-	(3)-5
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	III		+-	(2)-5	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	I		+-	(2)-5
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	III		1-	(4)-8	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	I		1-	(3)-6
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	II		+-	(3)-6	<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	I		+-	(1)-7
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	II		1-	(3)-8	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	I		+-	(3)-6
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	II		+-	(3)-7	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	I		+-	(2)-3
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II		+-	(2)-6	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	I		2-	(3)-8
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	II		+-	(2)-7	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I		+-	(2)-5
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	II		+-	(3)-6	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	I		2-	(3)-6
<i>Poa annua</i>	II		+-	(3)-5	<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	I		+-	(2)-7
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	II		+-	(3)-6	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	I		1-	(2)-5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I		+-	(2)-6	<i>Plantago major</i>	I		+-	(2)-2
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	I		+-	(4)-8	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	I		+-	(2)-4
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	I		+-	(2)-5	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	I		+-	(2)-5
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	I		1-	(3)-5	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	I		+-	(2)-2
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	I		2-	(4)-8	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	I		+-	(2)-3

Affinities

GHI: GA1 Improved agricultural grassland / GS4 Wet grassland

ZM: CM05B Calthion palustris Tx. 1937

EUNIS: E2.111 Ryegrass pastures / E2.62 Wet agriculturally-improved grassland, often with drainage ditches

NVC: MG11a *Festuca rubra*-*Agrostis stolonifera*-*Potentilla anserina* grassland *Lolium perenne* sub-community (70.7%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.2 Reaction: 6.2 Wetness: 5.6 Fertility: 5.7 Salinity: 0.2

Conservation value

This is a species-poor grassland community (species/4 m² = 12.2, n = 246) of relatively low conservation value.

Management

These swards are managed as improved grazing land (typically for cattle) and/or for silage. Fertiliser application and reseedling will typically occur periodically. The main threats to these grasslands include further improvement and abandonment.

Key references

O'Neill, F.H., Martin, J.R., Devaney, F.M., Perrin, P.M. (2013) The Irish Semi-natural Grasslands Survey 2007-2012. *Irish Wildlife Manuals* No. 78. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

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Smith, G.F., Gittings, T., Wilson, M., Oxbrough, A., Iremonger, S., O'Donoghue, S., McKee, A.-M., O'Halloran, J., Kelly, D.L., Pithon, J., O'Sullivan, A., Neville, P., Mitchell, F.J.G., Giller, P., O'Donnell, V., Kelly, T. (2006) Biodiversity assessment of afforestation sites. BIOFOREST Project 3.1.1. Final report. (unpublished). Department of Botany, TCD, Department of Zoology, Ecology and Plant Science, UCC, and Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, UCC.

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Photo 1. GL2C *Holcus lanatus* – *Lolium perenne* grassland, Shanganagh Park, Dublin (E. Cole/J. Martin, June 2010)



Photo 2. GL2C *Holcus lanatus* – *Lolium perenne* grassland, Carrickmoyragh, Longford (F. O'Neill/E. Reeves, May 2009)