



Scientific name	<i>Ulex europaeus</i> – <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. scrub
Common name	Gorse – Bramble scrub
Community code	SC1D

Vegetation

The tall, spiny, blue-green growth of *Ulex europaeus* dominates this species-poor scrub community. Both *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Rubus fruticosus* agg. are also constants, and whilst sometimes abundant, usually offer scant cover. No other species are more than occasional; the most likely companions to be noted here are *Arrhenatherum elatius* and *Holcus lanatus*. In spring, the blue flowers of *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* may be seen.

Ecology

This community forms scrub on abandoned land in the lowlands and may also be found along field boundaries. Due to its thorny and rather commonplace nature, it has been vastly under-recorded

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

This community is rather closely aligned with the SC1C *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* agg. scrub. Whilst still a constant there, *Ulex* is less abundant.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	8
Transitional:	0
Total:	8

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	4
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	6

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	5

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

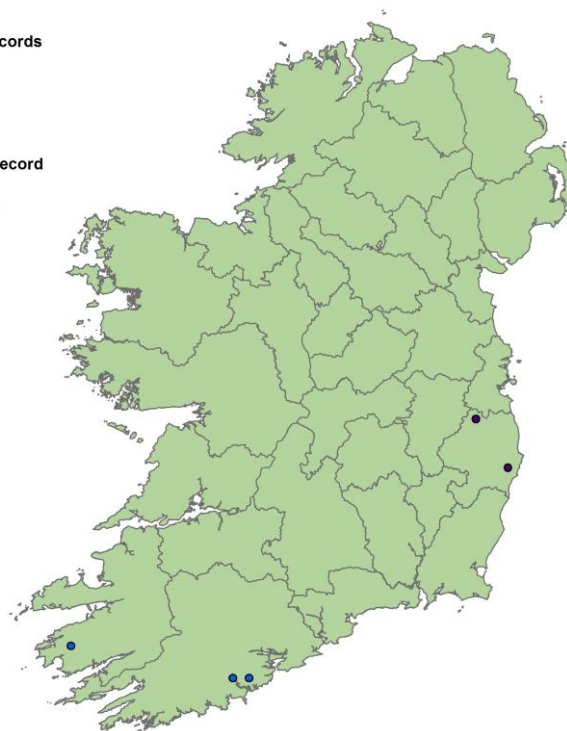
2001-2018:	2
1986-2000:	3
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 6)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	V	5-(8)-9	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	V	3-(3)-7	<i>Hedera helix</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	V	3-(3)-9	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	I	5-(5)-5
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	II	2-(2)-3	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	II	3-(4)-5	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	I	5-(5)-5
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	II	3-(4)-5	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	II	2-(3)-3	<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	I	7-(7)-7
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	II	3-(3)-3	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	II	3-(3)-3	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Salix aurita</i>	I	5-(5)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	I	2-(2)-2
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	I	3-(3)-3	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	I	3-(3)-3
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	I	+-(+)-+	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	I	5-(5)-5
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	I	3-(3)-3	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	I	2-(2)-2	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	I	+-(+)-+
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	I	2-(2)-2			
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	I	5-(5)-5			
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	I	3-(3)-3			
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	I	+-(+)-+			

Affinities

GHI: WL1 Hedgerows / WS1 Scrub

ZM: FE Cytisetea scopario-striati (50.0%) / CA Carpino-Fagetea sylvaticae (33.3%) / CH Calluno-Ulicetea (16.7%)

EUNIS: F3.15 *Ulex europaeus* thickets

NVC: W25b *Pteridium aquilinum* – *Rubus fruticosus* underscrub *Teucrium scorodonia* sub-community (58.1%), but also
W23c *Ulex europaeus* – *Rubus fruticosus* underscrub *Teucrium scorodonia* sub-community (54.7%)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 6.5 Reaction: 5.0 Wetness: 5.3 Fertility: 4.0 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

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

Management

Field boundaries and scrub may be lost due to enlargement of fields, agricultural improvement and urban developments.

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.

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin

