

Oceanic ravine bryophyte community

Areas and status: The Atlantic woodlands in Britain and Ireland host some of the richest bryophyte communities in the world, and ravines provide an important element in those communities. In Scotland five bryophyte species listed on the UK BAP have nearly all of their populations in ravines. The oceanic climate, woodland canopy cover, and physical and hydrological characteristics of ravines provide humid and relatively stable conditions. Some species are highly range restricted and found on a handful of sites. Some of these species and the bryophyte community are notified SSSI and SAC features. The community is largely restricted to western parts of Britain and Ireland.

Woodland type: Atlantic woodland stands affected by the oceanic climates, largely restricted to the west of Britain and Ireland.

Preferred habitat niches:

- On rocks in and alongside streams. Different species can be found depending on the type of rock (whether acidic or base-rich), how shaded the spot is, whether the location is fully above the water, in the splash zone, or periodically irrigated.
- In and around ravines the lower parts of trees can host similar species to the rocks.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Inappropriate habitat management resulting in removal of canopy cover leading to disturbance of microclimate
- Pollution, either airborne or in the water in the river channel can impact on the community
- Removal of water from the river channel can impact on humidity levels
- INNS such as *Rhododendron ponticum* can dominate ravines causing heavy shading and affecting microclimates

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Eradicate <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> where possible.	Need to use appropriate methods for the site.
Avoid heavy levels of management close to ravines	If commercial woodland management is underway or being considered, create a buffer zone between those areas affected and the ravine.
Avoid connecting ditches into the ravine/watercourse	This will help to limit pollution risks, or affect water levels.



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