

HAZEL GLOVES REPORT FOR ARRAN 2024

HYPOCREOPSIS RHODODENDRI, HAZEL GLOVES

Designated as RARE, NEAR THREATENED (British Mycological Society)

PRIORITY SPECIES on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan "A rare find" (Plantlife)

KEY INDICATOR of good air quality and key indication of Temperate Rainforest habitat

GRID REFERENCE: Monad NR9722

AREA: Kilmory Water, south Arran, extending along the river both sides within the 1 km monad above. Hazel woodland in various stages in evidence all along this river in fragmented areas.

HABITAT: Ancient hazel woodland fragment in river bottom surrounded by forestry planting, mature Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). Some new Oak (*Quercus* species) planted on the north bank approximately 10 years ago.

The ancient hazel woodland is along the river valley bottom and up its steep banks. The area includes boggy areas, rich in ferns, damp loving vascular plants, bryophytes, hazel, willow, oak, and up the steep moss and mud covered sides crossed by gorges of wet woodland, mainly downy birch and ancient hazel. Saprotrophic fungi in evidence throughout including hazel glue crust fungus (*Hymenochaete corrugata*).

RECORDED:

(Date, Grid Reference, Recorder)

4/11/24 NR 97676 22599, Kate Sampson (Head Ranger NTS), one tree with one patch on it. In crook of branches. Glue crust evident. A refind of old site found by Graeme Walker (former NatureScot for Arran). On side of gorge tributary to the river, just above steep moss covered bank.

11/11/24 NR97348 22527, Sarah Cowan and Jean Fitzpatrick, 1 old decaying patch of "gloves" on heavily moss covered old hazel branch, with hazel glue crust evident. Near Kilmory Water river's edge.

15/12/24. NR97643 22641. John Fitzpatrick and 17/12/24 followed up by Jean Fitzpatrick, Sarah Cowan (retired VCR BSBI Clyde Islands) for gird ref tree and "glove" count. 3 very old hazel trees with hazel gloves on them, one has 3 patches one on a very small twig, one has 2 and one has one patch of "gloves". View from above the trees rather than on the path below it in order to see the gloves. All trees with hazel glue crust evident. Particularly sheltered site on upper edge of steep moss-covered muddy bank. Opposite side of the tributary gorge to the refind above.

18/12/24 NR97271 22558, Juliette and Bethany Walsh on the north side of Kilmory Water almost opposite the above sites which are on the south side of the river bank. One tree, moss covered with two patches on it, one on moss main branch and one on twig.

The purpose of this report is to bring this site to the attention of Nature Scotland, Forestry and Land Scotland and Plantlife in order that the habitat of ancient hazel woodland is recognised and protected for the future of this internationally rare fungal species. Care will need to be taken during future felling of the surrounding spruce to ensure no disturbance or damage is caused to the hazel woodland site.



Kate Sampson original refind



Juliette Walsh, north bank new site



John Fitzpatrick, Sarah Cowan, sample photos and habitat



Sarah Cowan

Photo shows mature spruce plantation proximity

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