



DUDDON VALLEY SSSI



The Duddon Valley Woodlands SSSI consists of 27 individual units scattered along the length of the valley. For JK 2015 we have been allowed access to 5 of these areas for the Day 2 races. Three of the areas form a significant part of most courses and the remaining two are small, but allow access between the main areas.

The Duddon Valley Woodlands are one of the largest series of woodlands in the Lake District and the underlying geology and terrain leads to a wide range of different woodland communities forming a mosaic of differing habitats. In issuing a permit for the event to go ahead Natural England have required certain actions needed to mitigate the possibility of damage to the sensitive areas. These actions are to limit damage to the ground flora and prevent the spread of *Phytophthora austrocedrae*, a fungus-like pathogen which poses a threat to juniper trees.



The picture on the left shows an infected Juniper with typical dieback which eventually kills the bush. To prevent the spread of *Phytophthora austrocedrae* disinfectant footbaths will be placed at crossing points between affected units. The baths will be supervised to maintain the level of disinfectant and ensure compliance by competitors. Courses have been planned so that the optimum route is via the footbaths and **any competitor who tries to avoid passing through them will have their number recorded and will be disqualified from the competition.**

The main distinguishing feature of the ground flora is the abundant variety of bryophytes, especially on the boulders, rock ledges, walls, fallen branches and tree boles. Many of these grow on individual boulders but can also blanket an area. Courses have been planned to avoid the blanket areas but competitors are asked to avoid disturbing bryophytes growing on individual boulders and trees as shown on the right as it is an impossible task for them all to be mapped and shown as out of bounds.

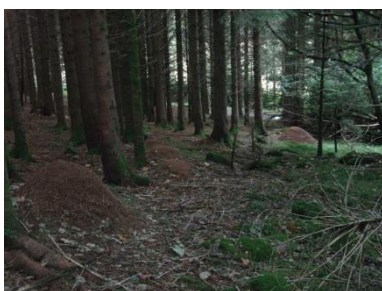


There is a wide variety of bryophytes including Springy Turf Moss, Mouse-tail Moss, White Cushion Moss and Autumn Flapwort, as well as the more familiar Sphagnum and Star Moss.



In addition to the bryophytes, there are areas of spring flowers that could be in bloom and we have been asked not to trample these areas.

These include Wood Sorrel, Dog's Mercury, Primroses and Yellow Pimpernel.



Finally there are Wood Ant colonies in one of the areas, some of which have been predated over autumn/winter and it is important that they don't suffer any further damage through trampling.

Further details of the SSSI can be found at

http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1006835.pdf