

Bryophyte report of visit to Chedington Woods 19th May 2023

I first walked through Home Wood and the newly planted areas to the east of the lake. These contained some excellent signs of colonisation by epiphytes such as *Plenogemma phyllantha* and *Lewinskya affinis*, *Orthotricum pulchellum* and *Cryphaea heteromalla*. The recent minute liverwort colonist *Myriocoleopsis minutissima* was present on several trees. On some of the older ash trees there was a more established flora including *Neckera pumila*, *N. complanata* and *Radula complanata*. The sides of the stream running east from the lake had some typical plants of shaded wet clay such as *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Pohlia melanodon* and *Plagiochila asplenioides*, as well as the thallose liverworts *Conocephalum conicum* and *Pellia endiviifolia*.

I then walked along the eastern spine of the woods from Riscombe and Ashland Coppice, through Coal Pit Coppice to Plantation Coppice. From a bryophyte point of view the most striking aspect of this part of the wood were the banks above the ditches by the main rides. The underlying geology is a mixture of Frome Clay Formation, which is a calcareous mudstone, and Wattonensis Beds Member, which is a Jurassic limestone. This results in a calcareous plant community, with species such as *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Hylocomiadelphus triquetrus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata* and the diminutive *Dicranella howei*, a species only recently recognised as British. Unfortunately, you have to check this last species' leaf section microscopically (it looks like the underside of the leaf has extra clusters of cells) in order to confirm the identification. This community in Dorset is more usually found on humid chalk downland slopes, rather than woodland rides.



The golden branches of *Ctenidium molluscum* (Comb-moss) with their tightly curled leaves.

Further south in Plantation Coppice I looked at another of the woods' deep gullies (goyles). The section I looked at was interesting in that the edges of the gully had a number of elms, including the

broad species Small-leaved Elm (*Ulmus minor* agg.) and Wych Elm (*U. glabra*) and probably hybrids as well. Also, Ash and Hazel, but interestingly some large specimens of lime. I first thought these might be Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) as the base of the trunks did not have the epicormic shoots usually associated with the hybrid lime (*Tilia x europaea*) but on looking more closely at the vein axils on the underside of the leaves I think this is probably what it is. Small-leaved Lime has chestnut hairs on the undersides of the leaves and the leaves I checked had white hairs, which in Dorset indicates they are the hybrid lime. Perhaps to be sure they should be checked later in the season when in fruit. Still, these are fine trees and unusual to find this species in a woodland setting such as this.



Lime trees in the gully at Plantation Coppice.

The bryophytes along the stream were good, with several species again typical of wet, shaded damp calcareous clay, such as *Fissidens taxifolius*, *F. viridulus*, *Pellia endiviifolia* and *Oxyrrhynchium hians*. On the harder rock in the stream itself were lots of the local (and very boring looking) *Rhynchostegiella teneriffae* (Teesdale Feather-moss, which is a bit of a misnomer as it is more commonly found in streams in western England and Wales), including some patches in fruit, and the common *Rhynchostegium riparioides*. Of more interest was a large patch *Mesoptychia turbinata* (Top Notchwort) in deep shade above a bend of the stream. This is a tiny mat-forming liverwort that grows in humid situations on calcareous soils. It is more commonly found in Dorset in shaded quarries and sheltered banks in chalk grassland. It has been recorded at nearby Bracketts Coppice Nature Reserve in a similar situation.



***Mesoptychia turbinata* (Top Notchwort) in deep shade at Plantation Coppice.**

Species list for Home Wood and new woods by lake

Taxon	Vernacular	Site	Gridref	Date	Recorder
<i>Oxyrrhynchium hians</i>	Swartz's Feathermoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Pohlia melanodon</i>	Pink-fruited Threadmoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>	Fox-tail Feathermoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	Common Tamarisk-moss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Ulota bruchii</i>	Bruch's Pincushion	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Plenogemma phyllantha</i>	Frizzled Pincushion	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Myriocoleopsis minutissima</i>	Minute Pouncewort	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Conocephalum conicum sens. str.</i>	Great Scented Liverwort	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	Dilated Scalewort	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Forked Veilwort	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	Endive Pellia	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Plagiochila asplenioides</i>	Greater Featherwort	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Radula complanata</i>	Even Scalewort	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough-stalked Feathermoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Silver-moss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Bryum dichotomum</i>	Bicoloured Bryum	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Cryphaea heteromalla</i>	Lateral Cryphaea	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P

<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Common Pocketmoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Homalothecium sericeum</i>	Silky Wall Feathermoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> var. <i>cupressiforme</i>	Cypress-leaved Plaitmoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> var. <i>resupinatum</i>	Supine Plaitmoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Isothecium myosuroides</i>	Slender Mouse-tail Moss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common Feathermoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Neckera complanata</i>	Flat Neckera	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Neckera pumila</i>	Dwarf Neckera	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Lewinskya affinis</i>	Wood Bristlemoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P
<i>Orthotrichum pulchellum</i>	Elegant Bristlemoss	Chedington - New woodland by lake	ST5007	19-May-23	Branson, A J P

Species list for walk along main forestry track through Riscombe, Ashland and Coal Pit Coppices

Taxon	Vernacular	Site	Gridref	Date	Recorder	Comment
<i>Barbula unguiculata</i>	Bird's-claw Beardmoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough-stalked Feathermoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Calliargonella cuspidata</i>	Pointed Sparmoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	Heath Star Moss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Cryphaea heteromalla</i>	Lateral Cryphaea	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Ctenidium molluscum</i>	Chalk Comb-moss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	Frequent on banks by track
<i>Dicranella howei</i>	a moss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	Occasional on banks. Confirmed by cross-section of leaf.
<i>Eurhynchium striatum</i>	Common Striated Feathermoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Common Pocketmoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Fissidens viridulus</i>	Green Pocketmoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> var. <i>resupinatum</i>	Supine Plaitmoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common Feathermoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	

<i>Lewinskya affinis</i>	Wood Bristlemoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	Hart's- tongue Thyme-moss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Pohlia melanodon</i>	Pink-fruited Threadmoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	in fruit
<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	Bank Haircap	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Pseudoscleropodium purum</i>	Neat Feathermoss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Hylocomiadelphus triquetrus</i>	Big Shaggy- moss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	Common Tamarisk- moss	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	Dilated Scalewort	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	Bifid Crestwort	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Forked Veilwort	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	Endive Pellia	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Plagiochila asplenioides</i>	Greater Featherwort	Chedington - Ashland Coppice/Coal Pit Coppice	ST4907	19-May- 23	Branson, A J P	

Species list for gulley in Plantation Coppice

Taxon	Vernacular	Site	Gridref	Date	Recorder	Comment
<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Creeping Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Brachythecium rivulare</i>	River Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough- stalked Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	Heath Star Moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Cryphaea heteromalla</i>	Lateral Cryphaea	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Ctenidium molluscum</i>	Chalk Comb- moss	Chedington - Gulley in	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	

<i>Eurhynchium striatum</i>	Common Striated Feathermoss	Plantation Coppice Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Fissidens pusillus</i>	Petty Pocketmoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	on boulder by stream
<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Common Pocketmoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Fissidens viridulus</i>	Green Pocketmoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Homalothecium sericeum</i>	Silky Wall Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Hypnum andoi</i>	Mamillate Plaitmoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Isothecium alopecuroides</i>	Larger Mouse-tail Moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Isothecium myosuroides</i>	Slender Mouse-tail Moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	Swan's-neck Thyme-moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	on old oak stump
<i>Neckera complanata</i>	Flat Neckera	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Oxyrrhynchium hians</i>	Swartz's Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	Hart's-tongue Thyme-moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Rhynchostegium riparioides</i>	Long-beaked Water Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Pohlia melanodon</i>	Pink-fruited Threadmoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	

<i>Rhynchostegiella teneriffae</i>	Teesdale Feathermoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	frequent on boulders in stream
<i>Hylocomiadelphus triquetrus</i>	Big Shaggy-moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	Common Tamarisk-moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Trichostomum crispulum</i>	Curly Crisp-moss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	on limestone chippings on forestry track
<i>Zygodon viridissimus</i>	Green Yokemoss	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	gemmae checked
<i>Conocephalum conicum s.str.</i>	Great Scented Liverwort	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Frullania dilatata</i>	Dilated Scalewort	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Mesoptychia turbinata</i>	Top Notchwort	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	Extensive population on shaded bank beneath overhang by stream. ST49560728
<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i>	Bifid Crestwort	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i>	Variable-leaved Crestwort	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Forked Veilwort	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	
<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i>	Endive Pellia	Chedington - Gulley in Plantation Coppice	ST495072	19-May-23	Branson, A J P	

Andrew Branson

4/06/2023