

From: [Arden, Rob \(NE\)](#)
To: [Alonso, Isabel \(NE\)](#);
Subject: RE: Sound Common
Date: 18 October 2012 08:56:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Isabel

Yes, that's the impression that I got from comparing the two lists. The good news is that Mike agreed that the willow(s) with that particular liverwort growing on it could come down, as it was bang in the middle of the area to be restored.

Hopefully it will quieten down now – felling due to start next week. It feels like it has been a long time coming.....

Cheers

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From: Alonso, Isabel (NE)
Sent: 16 October 2012 16:09
To: Arden, Rob (NE)
Subject: RE: Sound Common

Thanks Rob

I feel a bit lost, as I am not familiar with these mosses, but it seems to me that

there were a few more “open habitat / heathy / bare ground” mosses in 1995 than now, reflecting that the heathland is becoming a woodland. Although there seems to be almost a species by species replacement as there were 57 species in 1995 and 58 now... So no loss of biodiversity, but loss of species of open habitats...

Let me know how you get on...

Cheers
Isabel

From: Arden, Rob (NE)
Sent: 12 October 2012 11:50
To: Alonso, Isabel (NE)
Subject: RE: Sound Common

Hi Isabel

I've had a chat with Mike and we've agreed that the tree with the *Coloejeunea minutissima* on it can be felled, but the felled material is to be moved to one of the areas of woodland to be retained. This was hopefully satisfy [REDACTED] that we have taken due notice of the bryophyte survey.

Cheers

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From: Sutcliffe, Mike (NE)
Sent: 12 October 2012 11:26
To: Arden, Rob (NE); Alonso, Isabel (NE)
Subject: RE: Sound Common

Hi Rob, Isabel.

Regarding the list of species recorded up to 1995:
There are 30 species or varieties listed which do not occur in the 2012 survey.
Of these 5 are not lost, they simply have new names;
Amblystegium riparium is now Leptodictyum riparium.
Calliergon stramineum (miss-spelt as straminium) is now Straminergon stramineum.
Isopterigium elegans is now Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans.
Eurhynchium praelongum (both varieties) is now Kindbergia praelonga.

Of the other species Pohlia lescuriana is Nationally Scarce but Least Concern.
All the rest are just Least Concern.

Habitat preferences are as follows:

Brachythecium albicans: open habitats.

Brachythecium velutinum: On wood, branches, roots, stones, soil.

Bryum pallens: Moist bare soil.

Bryum rubens: Bare soil.

Calliergon cordifolium: Marshes and wet woods.

Dichodontium pellucidum: Wet habitats - usually near streams and lakes.

Dicranoweisia cirrata: On trees, fence posts, thatch and other organic substrates.

Funaria hygrometrica: Bare, disturbed, nutrient-rich habitats including old bonfire sites.

Leucobryum juniperoideum: Soil, tree bases and rocks in woodland.

Plagiothecium curvifolium: Soil, leaf litter, tree bases, tree stumps, rocks. Mainly in woodland.

Plagiothecium succulentum: Soil, rocks, tree bases. Mainly in woodland.

Pleurozium schreberi: Heaths, bogs and open heathy woods.

Pohlia lescuriana: Habitat not stated in the field guide but probably bare soil in open habitats.

Polytrichum commune: Heaths, bogs and open heathy woods.

Polytrichum juniperinum: Dry, exposed, acidic habitats such as disturbed or burnt soils.

Rhizomnium punctatum: Damp soil, rock, rotting wood.

Sphagnum auriculatum – now Sphagnum denticulatum: Bog pools, acidic flushes, springs and ditches.

Sphagnum fimbriatum: Bogs and wet heaths in open and shaded situations.

Sphagnum squarrosum: Swampy ground, wet woodland, moorland.

Tetraphis pellucida: Dry, humid, acidic substrates, rotting wood, rock, alder trees.

Ulota crispa: Twigs, branches and trunks elder, hazel, willow etc.

Cheers
Mike

From: Arden, Rob (NE)
Sent: 03 October 2012 12:19
To: Alonso, Isabel (NE); Sutcliffe, Mike (NE)
Subject: RE: Sound Common

Hello

Attached is a list of bryophytes recorded at Sound up to 1995 – though I don't know where on the site they were recorded. Would be interesting to know if any of those not found in 2012 are heathland specialists lost from the site.

Orthotrichum lyellii was not found in the area subject to heathland restoration. Cololejeunea minutissima was found on willows (not sure how many?) on the banks of the ditch situated between the two main areas of heath. The restoration plan involves clearing this area of trees to create a more robust unit of heathland. I would prefer therefore to clear these willows – but this is something [REDACTED] will fight against so I need to be clear that this is ecologically justified.

Mike – the SSSI files make interesting reading, documenting a 20 year debate between [REDACTED] and English Nature / Natural England. [REDACTED] disputes that the main interest features is (or ever was) heathland, despite map / photographic evidence to the contrary. He believes the true value of the site is as a wet woodland mosaic and has fought against any heathland restoration for years (successfully up till now). He has already written to Maddy Jago and Tim Hill about the plans, and it's important any decisions we make stand up to scrutiny.

Cheers

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From: Alonso, Isabel (NE)
Sent: 02 October 2012 15:43
To: Sutcliffe, Mike (NE); Arden, Rob (NE)
Subject: RE: Sound Common

Thanks Mike. Rob, I am not sure I asked before, but are there any surveys from the time of designation, perhaps showing some rarer species which may be not doing well as a result of the neglect? Could it be that more heathland-specific species being replaced by more common ones?

Cheers
Isabel

Dr. Isabel Alonso
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From: Sutcliffe, Mike (NE)
Sent: 02 October 2012 15:21
To: Arden, Rob (NE)
Cc: Alonso, Isabel (NE)
Subject: RE: Sound Common

Hi Rob

None of the species mentioned are particularly rare in fact they are all rated as Least Concern (although I can't comment on the unidentified *Ulota* sp.).

As far as adapting the restoration programme all that I would suggest is to consider not felling the trees with *Orthotrichum lyellii* (since it is a very recent discovery in Cheshire) and maybe also *Cololejeunea minutissima* and one or two trees nearby to provide humidity. Of course this will mean that there is an extra source of tree seeds available to cause trouble in future – but presumably not all the trees were going to be removed anyway.

I wonder what the reasons for the opposition are – maybe just a resistance to change?

Cheers

Mike

From: Arden, Rob (NE)
Sent: 02 October 2012 13:39
To: Sutcliffe, Mike (NE)
Cc: Alonso, Isabel (NE)
Subject: FW: Sound Common

Hello Mike

cc. Isabel

I wondered if you could provide me with some guidance on the below case? Sound Heath is a SSSI designated for lowland wet heath which is a horribly degraded state – the SSSI area is 5ha but currently there's only 0.5ha of heath and that is full of oak and birch seedlings, grass and rosebay willowherb. The site is managed by Cheshire East Council who have recently signed an HLS agreement funding some heathland restoration – on a modest scale with the works in the first four years aimed to restore to 1ha of heathland. There has been some local opposition to the heathland restoration, principally from [REDACTED], who in his role on the parish council has commissioned a bryophyte survey – attached. Would you be able to offer advice on whether the results of this survey might be justification for adapting the heathland restoration programme, which is due to start in a couple of weeks? The works programme is limited to area 3, on both sides of the ditch, and includes scrub / tree removal, turf stripping and seeding with heather seed over some of the area. Are any of the species identified particularly rare?

Thanks

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From: DORAN, Richard [mailto:richard.doran@cheshireeast.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 October 2012 09:41
To: Arden, Rob (NE)
Cc: HUGHES, Paul; ARNOLD, Mark
Subject: FW: Sound Common

Hello

Please find attached as requested by [REDACTED].

Please note the locations of these as they will be affected by this coming winters work and I'd appreciate advice as to the appropriate way forward so as not to antagonize the situation.

It might be good to know if these are rare/common/typical?

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 October 2012 10:20
To: DORAN, Richard
Subject: Sound Common

Richard

Attached is copy of the Bryophyte report I commissioned on behalf of the Parish. I would appreciate it if you could forward it to Natural England and I await your combined comments.

Holidays and technical difficulties at the library have limited my activity but my interest in the site and your proposals is unabated.

Could you confirm whether the 'liason group' is constituted or not and are there any reports for the surveys carried out on behalf of Cheshire East?

