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Dear Derys

**LICHEN SURVEY – LETTON CHURCH**

Apologies for the delay in getting to you the attached list of the lichens I found in Letton Churchyard when I surveyed it last month. The recent good weather has meant that I have been out and about and not indoors typing up reports!

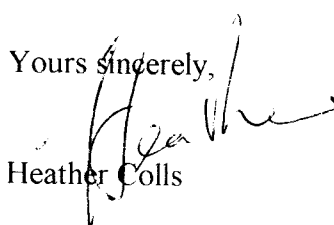
Letton generally has a lichen flora fairly typical of the sandstone churches of your area. However the lower levels of the church walls are particularly limited in their lichen cover and I was rather disappointed to find the tufa-type rock on the north wall so poor. Further up, the roof is well covered, but viewing it with binoculars I did not spy anything which I suspected would be a different species from those available to closer view lower down.

The total number of species for the church and churchyard combined is 44, not a particularly high total, this being in part due to the absence of deciduous trees in the churchyard which normally produce their own set of common lichens and thus can push the grand total up quite a bit!

The most noteworthy specimen for me was the *Xanthoparmelia mougeotii*, a small thick greenish patch, on the kerb of Harvey William Hodgkiss's grave beside the north wall of the chancel, which was fruiting. Something I did not often see in Herefordshire.

Your churchyard certainly was a picture with its lovely show of wildflowers when I visited.

Yours sincerely,

  
Heather Colls