



Hotspot Report, A1 Pits (Lenton's Lakes) TL199701

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Location

History

These disused gravel pits were excavated along with many others in the Parish during the early 1940s. A second pit was dug sometime in the 1980s, which today has a higher proportion of open water. The photographs below show the two parts of the site; on the left the older of the two pits and the one on the right the more recent.



The site is a fishing lake. It has a reasonable flora with a mixture of wetland and scrub taxa listed below. Associated with this vegetation the site also has a typical selection of Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies, also listed below and a small bird population, which includes Kingfisher.

Plant records

Taxa recorded below are from BSBI data recorded in 2013 - 108 species including 9 varieties/crosses/sub-species:

Acer pseudoplatanus, Sycamore
Agrostis capillaris, Common Bent
Agrostis stolonifera, Creeping Bent
Alisma plantago-aquatica, Water-plantain
Alnus glutinosa, Alder
Angelica sylvestris, Wild Angelica
Anisantha diandra, Great Brome*
Arrhenatherum elatius, False Oat-grass
Artemisia vulgaris, Mugwort
Bellis perennis, Daisy
Berula erecta, Lesser Water-parsnip
Brachypodium sylvaticum, False Brome
Calamagrostis epigejos
Carex otrubae, Wood Small-reed
Carex remota, Remote Sedge
Centaurea nigra s.l., Common Knapweed
Centaureum erythraea var. erythraea, Centaury
Chenopodium album, Fat-hen
Cirsium arvense, Creeping Thistle
Cirsium vulgare, Spear Thistle
Cochlearia danica, Danish Scurvy-grass
Conium maculatum, Hemlock
Conyza Canadensis, Canadian fleabane*
Corylus avellana, Hazel
Crataegus monogyna, Hawthorn
Crepis capillaris, Smooth Hawk's-beard
Dactylis glomerata, Cock's-foot
Daucus carota, Wild Carrot
Dryopteris dilatata, Broad Buckler-fern

Equisetum arvense, Field Horsetail
Filipendula ulmaria, Meadowsweet
Fragaria vesca, Wild Strawberry
Fraxinus excelsior, Ash
Galium album, Hedge Bedstraw
Galium aparine, Cleavers
Geranium robertianum, Herb-Robert
Geum urbanum, Wood Avens
Glechoma hederacea, Ground-ivy
Helminthotheca echinoides, Bristly Oxtongue
Heracleum mantegazzianum, Giant Hogweed*
Heracleum sphondylium, Hogweed
Hypericum androsaemum, Tutsan or Sweet Amber*
Hypericum hirsutum, Hairy St John's-wort
Hypericum perforatum, Perforate St John's-wort
Ilex aquifolium, Holly
Inula conyzae, Ploughman's-spikenard
Iris pseudacorus, Yellow Iris
Juncus inflexus, Hard Rush
Lathyrus pratensis, Meadow Vetchling
Lemna minor, Common Duckweed
Lemna trisulca, Ivy-leaved Duckweed
Leucanthemum vulgare, Oxeye Daisy
Ligustrum vulgare, Wild Privet
Lolium perenne, Perennial Rye-grass
Lonicera periclymenum, Honeysuckle
Lycopus europaeus, Gypsywort
Mentha aquatica, Water Mint

Mentha arvensis, Corn Mint
Persicaria amphibia, Amphibious Bistort
Phragmites australis, Common Reed
Plantago lanceolata, Ribwort Plantain
Plantago major, Greater Plantain
Poa annua, Annual Meadow-grass
Polygonum aviculare agg., Common Knotgrass
Populus deltoides x *nigra* = *P. x Canadensis*,
 Hybrid Black-poplar
Prunella vulgaris, Selfheal
Prunus spinosa, Blackthorn
Puccinellia distans subsp. *distans*, Reflexed
 Saltmarsh-grass
Quercus robur, Pedunculate Oak
Ranunculus repens, Creeping Buttercup
Ribes rubrum, Red Currant*
Rosa canina agg., Dog-rose agg.
Rubus ulmifolius, Blackberry
Rumex obtusifolius, Broad-leaved Dock
Rumex sanguineus, Wood Dock
Salix alba, White Willow
Salix alba x euxina = *S. x fragilis*
Salix caprea, Goat Willow
Salix cinerea, Grey Willow
Salix cinerea subsp. *oleifolia*

Salix purpurea, Purple Willow
Salix viminalis, Osier
Sambucus nigra, Elder
Senecio jacobaea, Common Ragwort
Senecio vulgaris, Groundsel
Sisymbrium officinale, Hedge Mustard
Solanum dulcamara, Bittersweet
Sonchus asper, Prickly Sow-thistle
Sonchus oleraceus, Smooth Sow-thistle
Stachys sylvatica, Hedge Woundwort
Symphytum asperum x officinale = *S. x uplandicum*, Russian Comfrey*
Tamus communis, Black Bryony
Taraxacum agg., Dandelions
Taxus baccata, Yew
Torilis japonica, Upright Hedge-parsley
Trifolium repens, White Clover
Tripleurospermum inodorum, Scentless Mayweed
Tussilago farfara, Colt's-foot
Typha latifolia, Bulrush
Ulmus glabra x minor = *U. x vegeta*, Wych Elm
Urtica dioica, Common Nettle
Veronica serpyllifolia subsp. *serpyllifolia*, Thyme-leaved Speedwell

*Non Native

Bryophyte taxa from ditch outside Lenton Lakes

Mick Burton visited the verge and ditch along the south side of the road outside the lakes in 2011. Only ten species were recorded, which are shown in the Table below.

Taxon

Amblystegium serpens var. *serpens*
Brachythecium rutabulum
Ceratodon purpureus
Conocephalum conicum s.l.
Didymodon vinealis
Hypnum cupressiforme var. *cupressiforme*
Kindbergia praelonga
Syntrichia ruralis var. *ruralis*
Tortula muralis
Tortula protobryoides

These are mainly common species. *Conocephalum conicum*, Great Scented Liverwort is a liverwort of shaded ditches and riverbanks. There are in fact two very similar species of *Conocephalum* in the UK. The other is *C. salebrosum*. The “s.l.” after the name indicates that this second species was not eliminated in the identification. *Tortula protobryoides* is an ephemeral plant of soil at the edge of fields and on tracks. It is, in fact, the emblem of the British Bryological Society.

The Cambridge Bryological Group visited the lakes on 27th November 2013 and recorded 27 taxa, three of which were new to the parish. These are listed below:

Bryophytes recorded from Lenton Lakes

Taxon with comments

Amblystegium serpens, Common in woodland
Barbula unguiculata, Common at edges of paths / tracks
Brachythecium rutabulum, Common in many habitats

Bryum capillare, Common in many habitats
Bryum ruderales, Tuberous moss found on neutral to basic soils
Calliergonella cuspidata, In grass
Cratoneuron filicinum, Damp areas. Usually near water
Dicranella varia, Ditches and tracks
Didymodon fallax, On more base rich soils
Didymodon luridus, Usually on stone, but here on a footpath.
Didymodon vinealis, Soil and stone
Drepanocladus aduncus, Soil at edge of water
Fissidens taxifolius, Woodland floor and ditches
Frullania dilatata, Epiphytic liverwort
Hypnum cupressiforme var. *cupressiforme*, Common in many habitats
Kindbergia praelonga, Common in woodland and grassy areas
Leptobryum pyriforme, Only 18 prior records in Hunts. On acid/neutral soil
Leptodictyum riparium, Aquatic moss found around or below water level
Lophocolea bidentata, Liverwort often found on shady tracks in wood
Orthotrichum affine, Common epiphyte
Orthotrichum diaphanum, Common epiphyte
Oxyrrhynchium hians, Woodland floor and ditches
Oxyrrhynchium speciosum, Less common. Banks of lakes and rivers
Pellia endiviifolia, Liverwort often found on banks of lakes/ditches
Phascum cuspidatum, Most common arable moss. Ephemeral. Paths
Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, In grass
Syntrichia montana, Reasonably common in several habitats

As to be expected, a number of taxa (about 40%) were found in here and in the similar pits in River Lane. However, across the two sites the taxa recorded were a good cross section of those typical of this habitat in Huntingdonshire. Of these, *Leptobryum pyriforme*, *Bryum ruderales* and *Orthotrichum lyellii* (River Lane) are the least common, with only around 20 records in Huntingdonshire. *Leptobryum pyriforme* is generally found in farmland but has previously been recorded from gravel pits across the vice-county. *Bryum ruderales* has been recorded from woodland in addition to gravel pits in Huntingdonshire.

Ruddy Darter

Butterflies:

Aglais urticae, Small Tortoiseshell
Anthocharis cardamines, Orange-tip
Maniola jurtina, Meadow Brown
Pararge aegeria, Speckled Wood
Pieris rapae, Small White
Polygonia c-album, Comma
Polyommatus Icarus, Common Blue
Pyronia tithonus, Gatekeeper

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Red-eyed Damselfly, *Erythromma najas*
 Azure Damselfly, *Coenagrion puella*
 Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura elegans*
 Migrant Hawker, *Aeshna mixta*
 Ruddy Darter, *Sympetrum sanguineum*

Common-blue Damselfly

My Thanks to Mick Burton for his bryophyte records and Adrian Arnott for allowing access.

