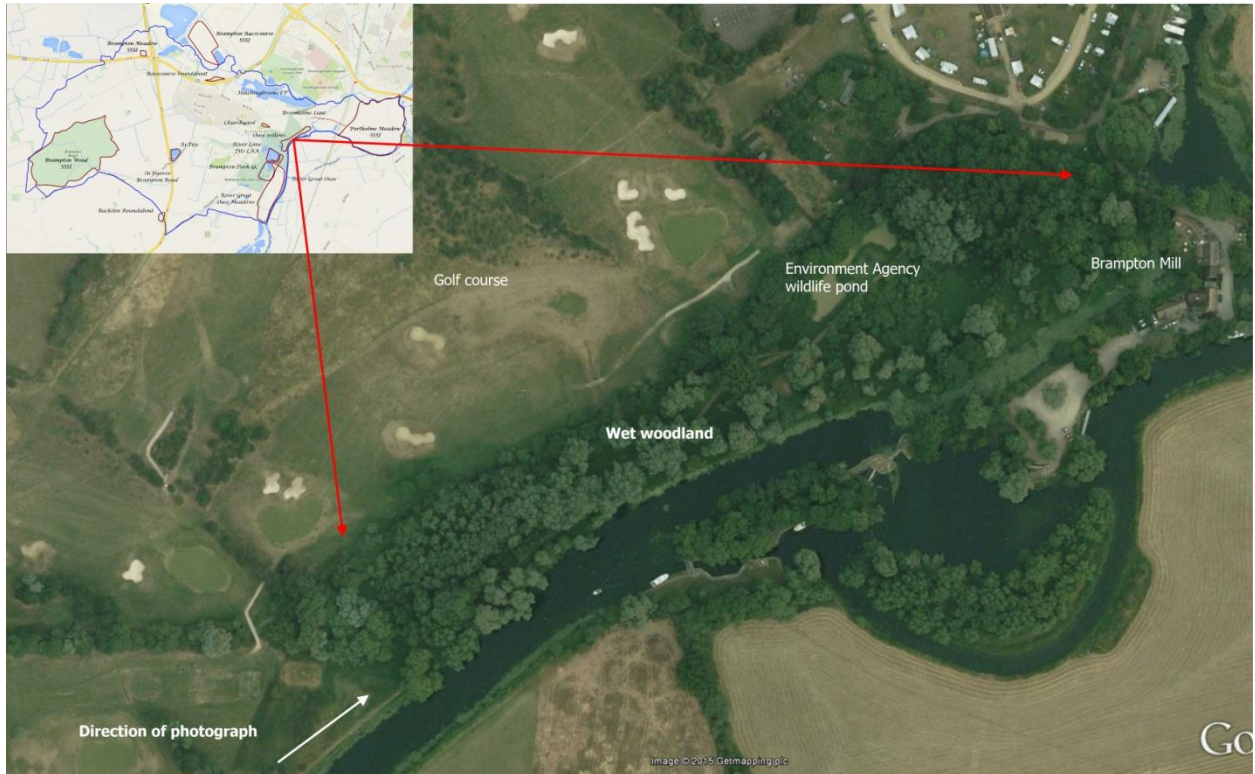




Hotspot Report, 'Ouse Willows', River Great Ouse wet woodland TL 223707

[Dr J Patrick Doody, December 2015]

Brampton Biodiversity Project



Location map

Photograph: Great Ouse looking towards Brampton lock

Photograph taken from the footpath looking north east. The woodland formerly dominated by *Salix* spp. has invading hybrid Black Poplar *Populus x canadensis*. Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* is also much in evidence. This is an unusual woodland type which occurs intermittently along the River Great Ouse. A Community recording day in June 2013 produced a list of 42 plant species list (see below).

In addition, the site includes a small pond, which supports breeding moorhen, mallard and several dragonflies and damselflies.



Plant species recorded on community recording day 01/06/2013 collated by Peter Walker

Alliaria petiolata Garlic Mustard
Angelica sylvestris Wild Angelica
Anthriscus sylvestris Cow Parsley
Arctium lappa Greater Burdock
Arctium minus Lesser Burdock
Artemisia vulgaris Mugwort
Arum maculatum Lords-and-Ladies
Bromus sterilis Barren Brome
Calystegia silvatica Large Bindweed
Cardamine pratensis Cuckooflower
Carex acutiformis Lesser Pond-sedge
Carex riparia Greater Pond-sedge
Cirsium arvense Creeping Thistle
Cirsium vulgare Spear Thistle
Dipsacus fullonum Wild Teasel
Epilobium hirsutum Great Willowherb
Equisetum arvense Field Horsetail
Galium aparine Cleavers
Geranium robertianum Herb-Robert
Glechoma hederacea Ground-ivy
Glyceria maxima Reed Sweet-grass

Hedera helix s.l. Ivy
Humulus lupulus Hop
Iris pseudacorus Yellow Iris
Lamium album White Dead-nettle
Lycopus europaeus Gypsywort
Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain
Plantago major Greater Plantain
Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass
Poa nemoralis Wood Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis Rough Meadow-grass
Potentilla anserina Silverweed
Potentilla sterilis Barren Strawberry
Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus ficaria Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup
Rumex crispus Curled Dock
Rumex sanguineus Wood Dock
Taraxacum officinale agg. Dandelion
Trifolium pratense Red Clover
Urtica dioica Common Nettle
Veronica chamaedrys Germander Speedwell

Diptera recorded by Jonathan Cole, recording day 01/06/2013

Empididae (Flies)

Hilara maura (Fabricius)
Empis caudatula Loew
Empis femorata Fabricius
Empis stercorea L.

Syrphidae (Hoverflies)

Helophylus pendulus (L.)

Lauxaniidae (Acalyprate flies)

Tricholauxania praeusta (Fallén)

Sciomyzidae (Marsh flies)

Pherbellia dubia (Fall)

Muscidae (House flies)

Phaonia fuscata (Fallén)

Photographs: top muscid

Mesembrina meridiana L. sometimes known as the Noon Fly, and bottom a Flesh-fly *Sarcophaga* possibly *carnaria*

(Photographed 25th and 11th October 2015 respectively by JPD)

Pentatoma rufipes Red-legged Shieldbug

(Photographed 25th September 2010 by JPD)



Fungi

Arthopyrenia punctiformis
Rhodotus palmatus Wrinkled Peach

Birds

Alcedo atthis Common Kingfisher
Certhia familiaris Eurasian Tree Creeper
Chroicocephalus ridibundus Black-headed Gull
Columba palumbus Woodpigeon
Cyanistes caeruleus Blue Tit
Dendrocopos major Great Spotted Woodpecker
Erithacus rubecula Robin
Gallinula chloropus Moorhen

Lichens recorded by Mark Powell 03/01/2013

Amandinea punctata
Arthopyrenia punctiformis
Caloplaca obscurella
Candelariella reflexa
Candelariella vitellina forma vitellina
Cladonia chlorophaea s. lat.
Lecania cyrtella
Lecanora chlarotera
Lecanora expallens
Lecanora saligna
Lecidella elaeochroma forma elaeochroma
Lepraria incana s. str.
Melanelia subaurifera
Micarea denigrata

Butterflies

Anthocharis cardamines Orange-tip
Inachis io Peacock

Muscicapa striata Spotted Flycatcher (breeding
18/06/2015)
Phylloscopus collybita Common Chiffchaff
Pica pica Magpie
Sylvia atricapilla Eurasian Blackcap
Troglodytes troglodytes Wren
Turdus merula Blackbird

Parmelia sulcata
Parmotrema perlatum
Phaeophyscia orbicularis
Physcia adscendens nom. cons.
Physcia aipolia
Physcia tenella
Physconia grisea
Placynthiella icmalea
Punctelia jeckeri
Punctelia subrudecta s. lat.
Scoliciosporum chlorococcum
Trapeliopsis flexuosa
Xanthoria parietina
Xanthoria polycarpa

Note the lichen records are from "Brampton Conservation Pond and surrounds".

Note this site was included in the Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire "Wet Woodland Survey" in 2004. It was Site 25 Bromholme Lane wet woodland Grid Reference TL 2227 7061 visited 06/10/2004 by Martin Baker (area 2.5ha) "**The Willows**"

The dominant NVC community type for the Wet Woodland in the Ouse Valley is W6 *Alnus glutinosa* - *Urtica dioica* woodland present along rivers and streams. In the NVC (Rodwell 1991) this is a rather ill-defined community of eutrophic moist soils, especially where there has been substantial deposition of mineral matter, such as here with enriched water flooding from the Great Ouse. Although Alder is usually the most common tree, this is mostly restricted to the area around the Conservation Pond. In fact, the woodland here was dominated by Willows, hence the name of the site. However, in recent years these have become old and gradually cut back, no doubt on safety grounds as the Ouse Valley Way runs through the site. Today hybrid Poplar has begun to replace the willows and is regenerating freely.

References:

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough, December 2005. *Ouse Valley Wet Meadows & Wet Woodlands Project Report*. Report Prepared for Huntingdonshire District Council.
Rodwell, J.S. ed., 1991. *British Plant Communities. Volume 1. Woodlands and scrub*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.