



Hotspot Report, Brampton, Huntingdonshire VC 31 River Lane Pits LAA TL217702

Brampton Biodiversity Project

[Dr J Patrick Doody June 2016, email jp.doody@ntlworld.com]

The pits form part of a complex of gravel workings dating back to the early 1940s (see photo from Google Earth, dated 1945). Since the late 1940s, they have remained largely undisturbed and as the more recent image from 2010 shows, they have a dense scrub with willows and other native species. Some of the trees are tall enough to provide habitat for a small population of breeding herons. Today the London Anglers Association (LAA) owns the lakes. The lakes are surrounded by deciduous woodland / scrub with dirt tracks around them. Some of the lake edges have steep, but not very high, banks.



Location map also showing other nearby 'Hot Spots'

Photograph: Aerial imagery shows the area in 1941 (RAF photograph) before gravel extraction took place.



Photographs: The other aerial views are from Google Earth (1945), when gravel extraction was in progress and 2010, showing the substantial development of scrub and woodland around the margins of the ponds more than 60 years on.



Bird records CPERC to 2011

The site has a reasonable bird fauna and the Cambridge Bird Club have a list of some 62 species up to 2011.

Accipiter nisus, Eurasian Sparrow Hawk
Aegithalos caudatus Long-tailed Tit
Alcedo atthis Common Kingfisher
Anas clypeata Northern Shoveler
Anas crecca Eurasian Teal
Anas penelope Eurasian Wigeon
Anas platyrhynchos Mallard
Anas strepera Gadwall
Anser anser Greylag Goose
Ardea cinerea Grey Heron
Aythya ferina Common Pochard
Aythya fuligula Tufted Duck
Branta canadensis Greater Canada Goose
Branta leucopsis Barnacle Goose
Buteo buteo Common Buzzard
Carduelis carduelis European Goldfinch
Carduelis chloris European Greenfinch
Certhia familiaris Eurasian Tree Creeper
Chroicocephalus ridibundus Black-headed Gull
Columba oenas Stock Pigeon
Columba palumbus Common Wood Pigeon
Corvus corone Carrion Crow
Corvus monedula Eurasian Jackdaw
Cyanistes caeruleus Blue Tit
Cygnus olor Mute Swan
Dendrocopos major Great Spotted Woodpecker
Egretta garzetta Little Egret
Erithacus rubecula European Robin
Falco tinnunculus Common Kestrel
Fringilla coelebs Chaffinch
Fulica atra Common Coot
Gallinula chloropus Common Moorhen
Garrulus glandarius Eurasian Jay
Hirundo rustica Barn Swallow
Larus argentatus Herring Gull
Larus canus Mew Gull
Larus fuscus Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus marinus Great Black-backed Gull
Mergellus albellus Smew
Motacilla cinerea Grey Wagtail
Muscicapa striata Spotted Flycatcher
Parus major Great Tit
Phalacrocorax carbo Great Cormorant
Phasianus colchicus Common Pheasant
Phylloscopus collybita Common Chiffchaff
Phylloscopus trochilus Willow Warbler

Pica pica Black-billed Magpie
Picus viridis Green Woodpecker
Prunella modularis Hedge Accentor
Pyrrhula pyrrhula Common Bullfinch
Regulus regulus Goldcrest
Sterna hirundo Common Tern
Streptopelia decaocto Eurasian Collared Dove



Sylvia atricapilla Blackcap
Sylvia borin Garden Warbler
Sylvia communis Common Whitethroat
Tachybaptus ruficollis Little Grebe
Troglodytes troglodytes Winter Wren
Turdus iliacus Redwing
Turdus merula Common Blackbird
Turdus philomelos Song Thrush
Turdus viscivorus Mistle Thrush

Photograph: *Ardea cinerea* Grey Heron

Note during 2013/14 all the above species were seen in or around the gravel pits except *Mergellus albellus* Smew. There is also a small heronry.

Diptera recorded by Jonathan Cole

Jon Cole who made two visits in 2013 recording **eighty-nine species**, the first on the 8th July (42 species). One month later than the first visit on the 6th August (57 species), only ten species were the same. In 2014 he made a further visit when 57 species were recorded of which 20 had not been recorded in previous visits. *Rhamphomyia caliginosa* is a new record for Huntingdonshire, and although widespread in southern England it is scarce. *Poecilobothrus chrysozygos* appears to be only the second record in the Vice County (the first was 1971, then in *Hercostomus*), as is the muscid *Coenosia stigmatica*, which is widely distributed but rarely recorded.

Family	Species	08/07/2013	06/08/2013	21/05/2014
Tipulidae (Crane flies)	<i>Tipula fascipennis</i>			✓
	<i>Tipula oleracea</i>	✓		✓
	<i>Tipula lateralis</i>		✓	
Limoniidae (Crane flies)	<i>Austrolimnophila ochracea</i>		✓	✓
	<i>Dicranophragma nemoralis</i>			✓
	<i>Epiphragma ocellare</i>			✓
	<i>Limonia nubeculosa</i>	✓		
	<i>Limonia phragmitidis</i>			✓
	<i>Molophilus griseus</i>		✓	
	<i>Neolimonia dumetorum</i>	✓		✓
	<i>Pilaria discicollis</i>	✓	✓	
Bibionidae (March flies and Lovebugs)	<i>Dilophus femoratus</i>			✓
Sciaridae (Dark-winged fungus gnats)	<i>Trichosia morio</i>			✓
Ditomyiidae (Fungus gnats)	<i>Symmerus annulata</i>			✓
Keroplatidae (Fungus gnats)	<i>Macrorrhyncha flava</i>	✓		
Mycetophilidae (Fungus gnats)	<i>Docosia pallipes</i>	✓		
	<i>Leptomorphus walkeri</i>	✓		
Psychodidae (Moth or Drain flies)	<i>Pericoma nubila</i>	✓		
	<i>Peripsychoda fusca</i>			✓
Chaoboridae (Phantom midges)	<i>Chaoborus crystalinus</i>			✓
Ptychopteridae (Phantom crane fly)	<i>Ptychoptera contaminata</i>	✓	✓	✓
Ceratopogonidae (Biting midges)	<i>Sphaeromyia sp.</i>	✓		
	<i>Palpomyia flavipes</i>		✓	
	<i>Chrysopilus asiliformis</i>	✓		
Rhagionidae (Snipe flies)	<i>Ocydromia glabricula</i>	✓	✓	
Hybotidae (Dance flies)	<i>Oedalea flavipes</i>	✓		
	<i>Platypalpus annulipes</i>		✓	✓
	<i>Platypalpus cothurnatus</i>		✓	✓
	<i>Platypalpus longicornis</i>			✓
	<i>Platypalpus longisetus</i>	✓		
	<i>Trichinomyia flavipes</i>			✓
	<i>Dolichocephala oblongoguttata</i>			✓
	<i>Empis aestiva</i>	✓		
Empididae (Dagger flies)	<i>Empis caudatula</i>			✓
	<i>Empis lutea</i>	✓		
	<i>Empis nuntia</i>			✓
	<i>Empis livida</i>	✓		
	<i>Empis trigramma</i>			✓
	<i>Hilara fuscipes</i>	✓		
	<i>Hilara longifurca</i>	✓		✓

	<i>Hilara lurida</i>	✓		
	<i>Hilara maura</i>			✓
	<i>Hilara nigrina</i>	✓		
	<i>Hilara quadrifasciata</i>			✓
	<i>Hydrodromia stagnalis</i>	✓		
	<i>Rhamphomyia caliginosa*</i>		✓	
	<i>Rhamphomyia nigripennis</i>	✓		✓
	<i>Rhamphomyia tarsata</i>			✓
Microphoridae	<i>Microphor holocericeus</i>			✓
Dolichopodidae (Long-legged flies)	<i>Campsicnemus curvipes</i>	✓	✓	
	<i>Campsicnemus scambus</i>	✓		
	<i>Dolichopus festivus</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Dolichopus griseipennis</i>		✓	
	<i>Dolichopus plumipes</i>	✓		✓
	<i>Dolichopus unguulatus</i>	✓		
	<i>Gymnopternus metallicus</i>			✓
	<i>Hercostomus nanus</i>		✓	
	<i>Poecilobothrus chrysozygos*</i>		✓	
	<i>Poecilobothrus nobilitatus</i>	✓		
	<i>Scellus notatus</i>	✓		
	<i>Sciapus platypterus</i>	✓	✓	
Lonchopteridae (Spear-winged flies)	<i>Lonchoptera lutea</i>	✓	✓	✓
Syrphidae (Hoverflies)	<i>Baccha elongata</i>		✓	
	<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>		✓	
	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>		✓	
	<i>Eupeodes corollae</i>		✓	
	<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>		✓	
Lonchaeidae (Lance flies)	<i>Protearomyia nigra</i>		✓	
Pipunculidae (Big-headed flies)	<i>Pipunculus thompsoni</i>	✓		
Pallopteridae (Flutter-wing flies)	<i>Palloptera trimacula</i>	✓		
Psilidae (Rust flies)	<i>Chamaepsila rosae</i>			✓
Lauxaniidae	<i>Meiosimyza decipiens</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Meiosimyza rorida</i>	✓	✓	✓
	<i>Minettia longipennis</i>		✓	
	<i>Tricholauxania praeusta</i>			✓
Sciomyzidae (Marsh flies)	<i>Elgiva sollicita</i>	✓		
	<i>Sepedon sphegea</i>		✓	
	<i>Tetanocera ferruginea</i>		✓	
Sepsidae (Black scavenger flies)	<i>Nemopoda nitidula</i>	✓		
	<i>Themira superba</i>	✓		
Clusiidae (Druid flies)	<i>Clusiodes albimana</i>	✓	✓	
Agromyzidae (Leaf-miner flies)	<i>Agromyza idaeiana</i>			✓
	<i>Agromyza pseudoreptans</i>	✓		✓
	<i>Cerodontha luctuosa</i>		✓	
	<i>Metopomyza flavonotata</i>			✓
	<i>Phytomyza chaerophylli</i>			✓
Opomyzidae	<i>Opomyza florum</i>		✓	
Chloropidae (Frit flies)	<i>Cetema neglectum</i>	✓		
	<i>Chlorops hypostigma</i>			✓
Anthomyzidae	<i>Anthomyza collini</i>		✓	
Chloropidae (Frit flies)	<i>Elachiptera cornuta</i>		✓	

Heleomyzidae	<i>Suillia palida</i>		✓
	<i>Suillia variegata</i>	✓	
Sphaeroceridae (Small dung flies)	<i>Leptocera fontinalis</i>	✓	✓
	<i>Opacifrona coxata</i>	✓	
	<i>Pseudocollinella humida</i>	✓	
	<i>Spelobia clunipes</i>		✓
Campichoetidae	<i>Campichoeta obscuripennis</i>	✓	
	<i>Campichoeta punctum</i>		✓
Scathophagidae (Dung-flies)	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>	✓	
	<i>Scathophaga suilla</i>	✓	
Ephydriidae (Shore flies)	<i>Gymnoclasiopa plumosa</i>		✓
	<i>Hydrellia maura</i>		✓
	<i>Parydra coarctata</i>		✓
Anthomyiidae (Root-maggot flies)	<i>Anthomyia procellaris</i>		✓
	<i>Botanophila fugax</i>	✓	
	<i>Hylemya vagans</i>	✓	✓
	<i>Pegomya caesia</i>		✓
	<i>Pegoplata juvenilis</i>	✓	✓
Fanniidae	<i>Fannia lustrator</i>	✓	✓
Muscidae (House flies)	<i>Azelia nebulosa</i>	✓	
	<i>Coenosia agromyzina</i>		✓
	<i>Coenosia infantula</i>	✓	
	<i>Coenosia mollicula</i>	✓	
	<i>Coenosia stigmatica</i>		✓
	<i>Hebecnema nigra</i>	✓	
	<i>Helina depuncta</i>	✓	✓
	<i>Helina impuncta</i>	✓	✓
	<i>Hydrotaea floccosa</i>	✓	
	<i>Muscina levida</i>	✓	
	<i>Polietes lardarius</i>	✓	
Calliphoridae (Blow flies)	<i>Lucilia illustris</i>	✓	
	<i>Pollenia griseotomentosa</i>	✓	
Rhinophoridae (Woodlouse-flies)	<i>Rhinophora lepida</i>	✓	
Tachinidae	<i>Actia infantula</i>	✓	
	<i>Triarthria setipennis</i>		✓

Mosses and liverworts Cambridge Bryological Excursion to Brampton, 27th October 2013

The visit recorded a total of 30 taxa, two of which (shown in bold) were new to the parish. Of the 30 species seen, 5 were Liverworts*.

Taxon	Comments
<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Common in woodland
<i>Atrichum undulatum</i>	Woodland floor
<i>Barbula unguiculata</i>	Common at edges of paths / tracks
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Common in many habitats
<i>Bryum capillare</i>	Common in many habitats
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	In grass
<i>Dicranella heteromalla</i>	Banks in woodland
<i>Dicranoweisia cirrata</i>	Fences, dead wood, trees
<i>Didymodon insulanus</i>	Paths and shady areas
<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Woodland floor and ditches
<i>Frullania dilatata</i> *	Epiphytic liverwort

<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> var. <i>cupressiforme</i>	Common in many habitats
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common in woodland and grassy areas
<i>Leptobryum pyriforme</i>	Only 18 prior records in Hunts. On acid/neutral soil
<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>	Aquatic moss found around or below water level
<i>Leskea polycarpa</i>	Epiphyte, generally on silty trees
<i>Lophocolea bidentata</i> *	Liverwort often found on shady tracks in wood
<i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i> *	Liverwort often found on dead wood
<i>Lunularia cruciate</i> *	Liverwort found on shady banks
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Common epiphytic liverwort
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	Common on woodland floor
<i>Orthotrichum affine</i>	Common epiphyte
<i>Orthotrichum diaphanum</i>	Common epiphyte
<i>Orthotrichum lyellii</i>	Occasional epiphyte
<i>Oxyrrhynchium hians</i>	Woodland floor and ditches
<i>Oxyrrhynchium speciosum</i>	Less common. Banks of lakes and rivers
<i>Pellia endiviifolia</i> *	Liverwort often found on banks of lakes/ditches
<i>Pohlia melanodon</i>	Less common. Damp neutral/basic clayey soils
<i>Rhynchostegium confertum</i>	Common on stones and bases of trees
<i>Syntrichia montana</i>	Reasonably common in several habitats

This, and a second site (Lenton's A1 fishing lake), contained a good cross section taxa typical of this habitat in Huntingdonshire. Of these, *Leptobryum pyriforme* and *Orthotrichum lyellii* 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. *Orthotrichum lyellii* is one of the less common epiphytic mosses in the vice-county.

The pits continue to be relatively undisturbed as access is only available to members of the LAA, or by permission. My thanks to John Woods (Secretary LAA) for providing access to the pits, Jon Cole for carrying out the detailed surveys of Diptera and Mick Burton for collating Bryophyte records.