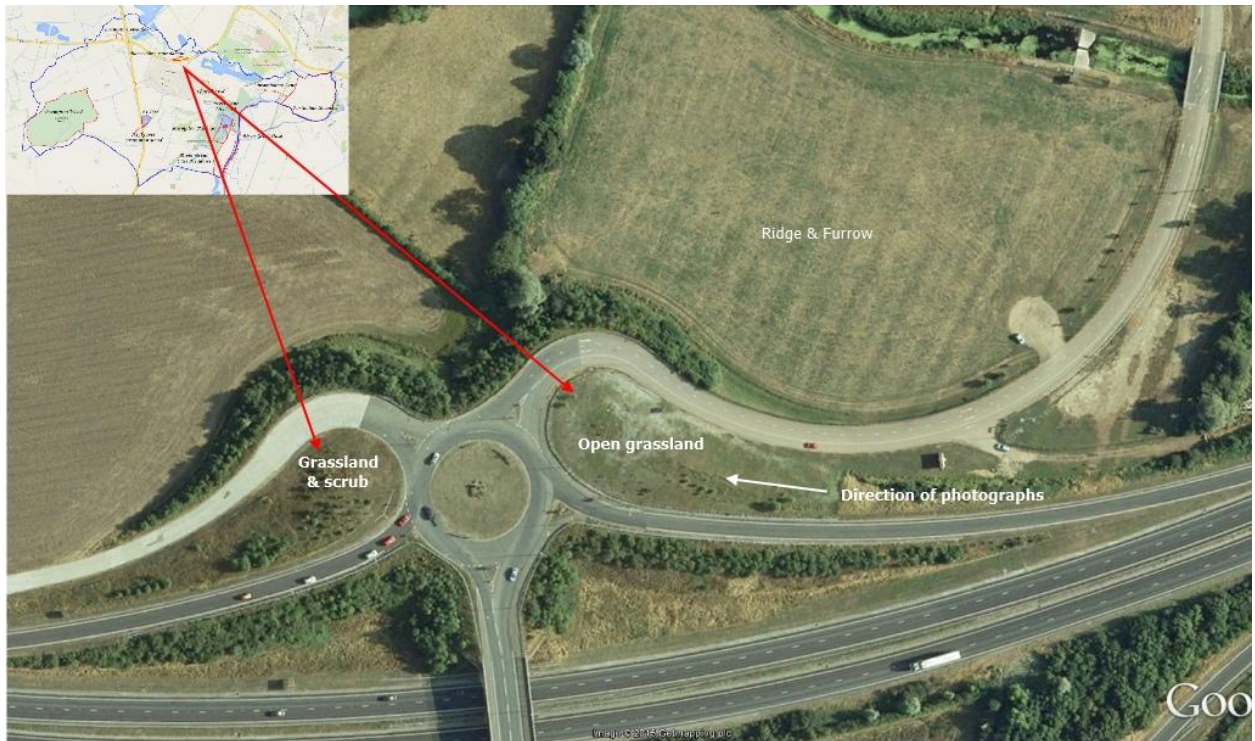




Brampton Biodiversity Project

Hotspot Report, Roundabout and A14 slip road TL 206716 'Racecourse Entrance'

[Dr J Patrick Doody October 2015, email jp.doody@ntlworld.com]



Location map:



Photographs: Grassy bank A14 slip and entrance to Racecourse, looking west 14/02/2014 and 18/06/2012.



The site forms part of a raised roadway and roundabout over the A14 constructed in 1992 and providing access from Brampton to Huntingdon Racecourse. This is thought to include Oxford clay, perhaps mixed with calcareous boulder clay excavated from the cutting made to take the A14 as it runs northeast to Spittals Interchange. The vegetation supports a number of species typical of calcareous soils including *Briza media* Quacking Grass and a recently discovered population of the rarer *Ophrys apifera* Bee Orchid.

Management by the Racecourse includes occasional mowing of the grassland to the east of the roundabout, ideal for this vegetation. The bank to the west remains largely unmown but has Bee Orchids along the road verge.

Other species:

Agrimonia eupatoria Agrimony
Alchemilla vulgaris agg. Lady's Mantle
Centaurea nigra Common Knapweed
Centaureum erythraea Common Centaury
Daucus carota Wild Carrot
Erigeron acer Blue Fleabane
Holcus lanatus Yorkshire Fog
Leucanthemum vulgare Ox-eye Daisy
Lotus corniculatus Birdsfoot Trefoil
Medicago lupulina Black Medick

Odontites vernus Red Bartsia
Plantago lanceolata Ribwort Plantain
Potentilla reptans Creeping Cinquefoil
Prunella vulgaris Self-heal
Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup
Sanguisorba minor Salad Burnet
Trifolium pratense Red Clover
Trifolium repens White Clover
Tussilago farfara Coltsfoot

Diptera recorded by Jonathan Cole, 13th July 2013 on the second Brampton Community Engagement walk. "Swept from piece of flowery dry grassland between the racecourse exit and the exit to the A14 eastbound from the racecourse roundabout."

Nephrotoma flavescens L.
Chloromyia formosa Scopoli
Pachygaster atra Panzer
Pipizella viduata L.
Acinia corniculata* Zetterstedt
Tephritis neesii Meigen
Minettia rivosa Meigen
Sapromyza quadripunctata L.
Chamaemyia aridella Fallén

Chamaemyia herbarum Robineau-Desvoidy
Pherbellia cinerella Fallén
Sepsis flavimana Meigen
Meromyza femorata Macquart
Delia platura Meigen
Hylemya variata Fallén
Pegoplata aestiva Meigen
Sarcophaga nigriventris Meigen
Siphona geniculata De Geer



****Acinia corniculata* Zetterstedt a picture-winged fly, scarce species with scattered records in southern counties; this record appears to be new to Huntingdonshire VC31.**
Distribution Scattered localities in southern England (Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Sussex, Hampshire, Surrey, Herefordshire and Somerset).
Habitat Meadows, fens and drier grassland.
Ecology The larvae have been reared in Germany from flower heads of the brown knapweed *Centaurea jacea*, a rare plant of south-east England which hybridises with the common knapweed *C. nigra*. It is unknown to which extent, if any, the fly can utilise *C. nigra*. Adults recorded from July to September.
Status Only three known post 1960 sites: Wicken Fen (exact date unknown) and Chippenham Fen NNR (1983, 1986), Cambridgeshire and Foulden Common, Norfolk (1980s). All the sites are protected. Previous records from Chippenham and Wicken fens, from Jon Cole and Ivan Perry in 1984 and 1991.
Threat Habitat loss through drainage and improvement for agriculture and afforestation. Mis-management of sites, through either overgrazing, or the cessation of grazing with subsequent scrub invasion and a loss of the host plant(s).
Management Maintain a rich and varied flora including strong populations of knapweed. Use rotational grazing regimes on larger sites to produce a mosaic of vegetation types. Do not mow or cut vegetation until the knapweed has produced seeds.
Reference: Falk, S.J. 1991, A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (Part 1). *Research and survey in nature conservation*, **39**, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Recorded by Alan Stubbs 16/08/2014

Tipula oleracea Cranefly
Eumerus strigatus Hoverfly
Pherbellia cinerella Snail-killing fly

Pipizella varipes Hoverfly
Herina lugubris Fly

Also recorded *Polyommatus icarus* Common Blue butterfly, *Zygaena filipendulae* 6-spot Burnet moth and *Enallagma cyathigerum* Common Blue Damselfly.