

Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke Newsletter Number Fifteen November 2004

Work in Progress

Sheep Failing to Report for Duty, again

For hundreds of years until the 1930's, the Fleam Dyke was grazed by sheep, which were an essential part of the rural economy; and this is still the best way to maintain our surviving chalk grasslands. However, it is easier said than done. Few farmers keep sheep at all, let alone the smaller, tougher, traditional breeds suited to these sites. Bad weather may make it impossible for the grazier to get a heavy vehicle onto a site, or off it. Quantities of ragwort or burdock may need to be removed first. Gates get broken or stolen, and hedges sprout briars and brambles. This last example explains why Ted Clover has not been able to bring his flock of Norfolk Horn sheep to Mutlow Hill this autumn. He is not able to check the sheep each day and it is too much of a risk to leave them on a site where they could become entangled in briars, and die. So, for the moment it is back to brush cutting and raking off.

On 8th December, the Midweek Conservation Volunteers worked on the A11 to Bedford Gap stretch of the dyke. Iain Webb and Paul Stebbings swung brush-cutters tirelessly for several hours, and eight volunteers cut back scrub regrowth, and then raked down the newly cut banks. When I joined them at mid-morning - for the first time in ages - I was daunted by the amount of work that needed doing. When we left at 3.30pm, three quarters of the west-facing bank from the A11 to the Bedford Gap was the sort of low turf into which rock roses and thyme could spread, and where harebells, salad burnet, knapweeds and lady's bedstraw will flourish. The Midweek Conservation Volunteers have done a great deal of work on the Fleam Dyke and the Roman Road since they were set up in the early 1990's. In addition, they maintain wildlife sites all over the Cambridge Green Belt. If you feel like fresh air, exercise and good company on a Wednesday morning, do give Iain a ring. Phone numbers on the last page. They are not, of course, the first conservation groups to work on the linear sites. The photo below comes from the cover of Issue Number 3 of Nature in Cambridgeshire, published in 1960 by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists Trust, then just three years old. I wonder if anyone recognises the energetic young man swinging a pick.



Conservation Corps at Work, Roman Road, September 1959

Photo. Cambridge Daily News

The first pages of this third edition of Nature in Cambridgeshire have an unnerving déjà vu quality, or rather, déjà fait.

Mare Way. The joint working-party of the Youth Hostels Association (Cambridge Branch) took place on Sunday, 8th March. In spite of adverse weather, the team was able to clear a way through the overgrown track.

An undergraduate working-party organised by Mr Robert Prescott, meeting on a week-end at the end of May, cleared a long stretch of the right-of-way along the Fulbourn end of the Fleam Dyke.

A work-party organised by the Civic Trust:

spent a week at Burwell in August and were able to clear a six-foot track for about one and a half miles of the top of the Dyke from the Burwell Road.

In early September, the planned Conservation Corps work on the Roman Road was most successfully carried out. The stretch selected was from the north-west corner of the Wandlebury estate for about a mile towards Balsham. Along this stretch the clearance made by the Eastern Gas Board had already dealt with the south side of the Road, so the work-party cleared the grassland margin on the north side. Here the invading scrub of hawthorn and blackthorn was set back to reveal the beech hedge.

The report concludes:

These four operations represent a modest beginning to tackling an urgent problem. It is heartening to find that so much good-will and voluntary help are forthcoming for such work.

The Editorial, by P.G.Hall, is depressingly familiar.

Many people have no doubt, like ourselves, been deeply grieved by the fate of Dungeness, and perhaps some are wondering whether nature conservation is a dying cause, no longer worth their support. There is, however, reason to believe that a good many consciences have been pricked by this tragedy, and there are grounds for hoping that it will be progressively more difficult to repeat it. Our best hope is in an enlightened public opinion, and this is one of the principal aims of our own and other Naturalists' Trusts. In the meantime let us enjoy the fine facilities for nature study that we still have in Cambridgeshire.

Fortunatus et ille deos qui novit agrestis
Panaque silvanumque senem nymphasque sorores.

All too horribly familiar?

Some members of the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke have been closely involved with nature conservation for most or all of the years since P.G. Hall's editorial was written. Do they feel things have gone downhill even further? Do they view the situation with unremitting gloom? On the plus side, the Wildlife Trusts for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough have over 22,000 individual members and the Trusts own or manage over 130 nature reserves. Are there other reasons for hope? Would one of you like to comment?

Time for a Christmas Competition!

One change is rather striking. Mr Hall could count on the fact that the Trust's 15 Life members and 167 Ordinary members would not blink when confronted by Latin verse. Moreover, they probably knew who the author was. The remnants of my Latin A level suggest that the lines are something to do with the pleasures a countryman can enjoy when renewing acquaintance with Pan and sisterly woodland nymphs. Perhaps some Friends in idle or convivial mood over Christmas would like to offer a more accurate translation, preferably in verse.

Plus ça change

The 1959 treasurer comments on 'a slight drop in income from £106.6.8. to £99.13.0which indicates that several subscriptions remain outstanding'.

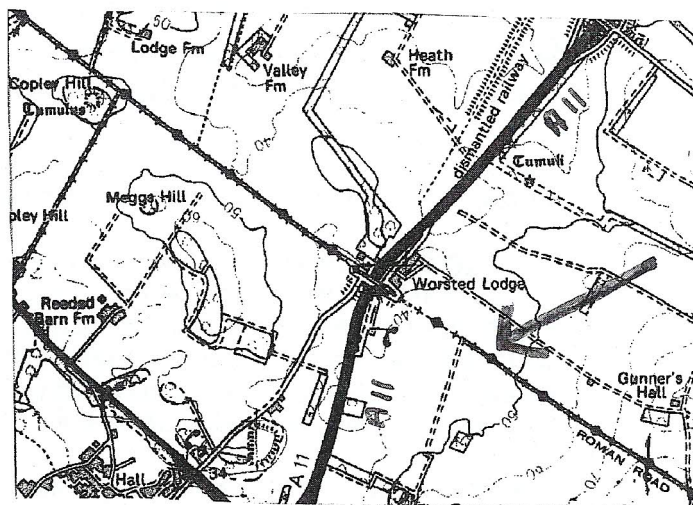
You know who you are!

£ £ £ £ £

Other Work in Progress

Scrub clearance on the Roman Road - again!

In 2005, the second year of work paid for by the Lottery Heritage Initiative, Iain Hysom will continue cutting back scrub on the Balsham end of the Roman Road. The aim is to cut the overgrowth back in stages, allowing the narrow band of flora to spread into newly cleared areas. He will be continuing from the point where he stopped last winter and working up to the top of the rise where there is a large sycamore tree. This year's scrub regrowth on the Roman Road is being dealt with by cutting and pulling of brambles.



Coppicing a better solution

It has been clear for many years that the beech trees along the Roman Road between Wandlebury and Worsted Lodge were in danger. They have begun to die back, and are vulnerable to gales. John Hellingsworth, the Tree Officer for South Cambs advised that a few of the endangered beeches should be coppiced as a trial. It is now thought that taking crowns out is more risky. This work will be done by the Head Ranger of Wandlebury Ring Nature Reserve, Jon Gibbs, who has already done some crown reduction on this part of the Road. So far they look healthy, but apparently the shock to the tree's system is not always manifested at once. Coppicing, which looks so much more drastic, is apparently the best way to keep trees like this alive.

Information Boards

During 2005, we hope to see four information boards installed at entry points along the Roman Road and four erected on the Fleam Dyke. These are being prepared in conjunction with the Archaeology Service, the Green Belt Project, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke, with money coming from various sources including our LHI grant and a generous grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Leaflets

A leaflet giving information about the history and wildlife to be found along the Roman Road is well advanced, and we hope to follow it with an updated leaflet on the Fleam Dyke.

Juniper News

There are no dramatic changes, we are glad to say. The nine remaining junipers, 3 female and 6 male, look healthy. Of the 3 Millennium Juniper seedlings found by Iain Webb, two survive. Of the 8 found by Iain in 2002, six have dwined and died, as juniper seedlings tend to do. Even so, the existence of 4 seedlings is very good news. Only a few juniper sites in lowland Britain have any recent evidence of natural regeneration. Miles King, the expert at Plantlife, was very impressed. In the two small plantations beside the A11, the junipers which were grown from cuttings are now five foot high and more. About thirty of the original fifty cuttings survive. Their plastic rabbit guards were removed last year in order to allow the lower branches to spread out from the base; but two have died completely since the summer, possibly from bark damage.





Too much clearance?

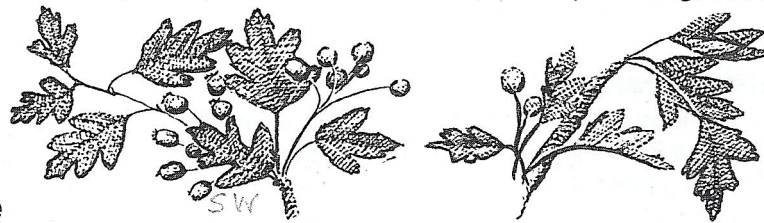
by Alex Sadler, a well known former local councillor and wildlife lover

These thoughts occurred to me, reading the 14th Newsletter. May I be a little controversial and provocative in my concern about the urban influence upon our countryside?

The origin of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke was not in a plan to enhance the countryside, but only to improve communication and defence. One can imagine the rape of the countryside involved in the development of these roads and ditches. When they were no longer useful to the towns, they were neglected, and reverted to scrub. Coming to the present day, we seem to see another urban influence leading to a policy of cleaning up the countryside in order to protect and to increase the natural life of our birds, insects, mammals, hedgerows and trees.

This clean-up policy really worries me. To manage, yes, but we need the untidy areas; and that should be the part of the management policy. To illustrate, I know of areas of thick scrub in which large numbers of wild life: birds, insects and mammals can procreate, hide and feed naturally. For example, Fleam Dyke is being cleaned up in order to regain a limited number of rare flowers and insects at the expense of a wider revival of insects, plants, shrubs, birds and mammals. After such clearance, the cuckoo has no small bird nests which it can use. How many warbler and dunnock nests are there on Fleam Dyke? Is the historic value of Fleam Dyke enhanced by having a white mole across the countryside to the detriment of natural values such as the wider pleasures of walking amongst managed hedges, shrubs and wildlife in the rural lanes?

I put forward these thoughts in the full knowledge of the work being done by volunteers. I am very appreciative of the time which has been given up for this work and I hope it will produce good results in the future.



An initial response

I am glad Alec Sadler took the trouble to write this letter, as I know quite a few people are worried when they see scrub disappearing. I hope to get a full reply from one of the naturalists working on these projects, but for the moment, a few words of reassurance.

- Good hedges are an essential part of the management programme for the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke, and areas with thick scrub and trees are part of the plan. It is neither desirable or possible to clear the sites from end to end.
- Recently cleared banks of the Fleam Dyke do look rather naked for a season after clearance, but they are quickly covered by an abundance of grasses and flowering plants: creeping thistles, burdock, musk thistles, ploughman's spikenard, wild catmint, upright hedge parsley, herb Robert, St John's wort, mullein and rough grasses. Regular mowing and raking gradually turns this into grassland with an increasing number of perennials such as harebell, knapweed, and lady's bedstraw.
- As to loss of bird habitat - when I first walked along the narrow path through the scrub at that end of the dyke, there did not seem to be very much bird life at all. I understand that the scrub had become too leggy to provide good bird nesting cover. Since the top of the bank has been cleared, I cannot say whether there have been more nests, but I do not think I have seen or heard fewer birds. Certainly when David Seilly and I walked there on 5th December, there was a lovely mixed flock of field fares, bull finches and gold finches calling to each other as they moved along the tall boundary 'hedge' of blackthorn, buckthorn, hawthorn and privet.

The same arguments apply to the scrub clearance on the Roman Road. I wonder if any of our members can comment on an increase or decrease in bird life. One last point. The clearance work on the Fleam Dyke has made it a much more popular place for a walk, as was demonstrated by the newly formed Abington Rambling Group, who launched their programme on 5th December with a walk from Fulbourn to Mutlow Hill.

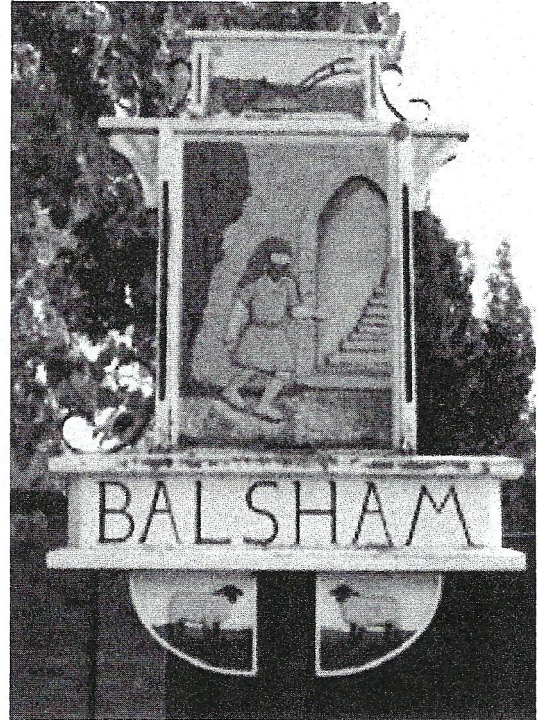
Julia Napier

Balsham and the Fleam Dyke

by Anthea Robinson, a Local Historian

The village sign depicts an episode from a massacre, which began on the southernmost part of the Fleam Dyke.

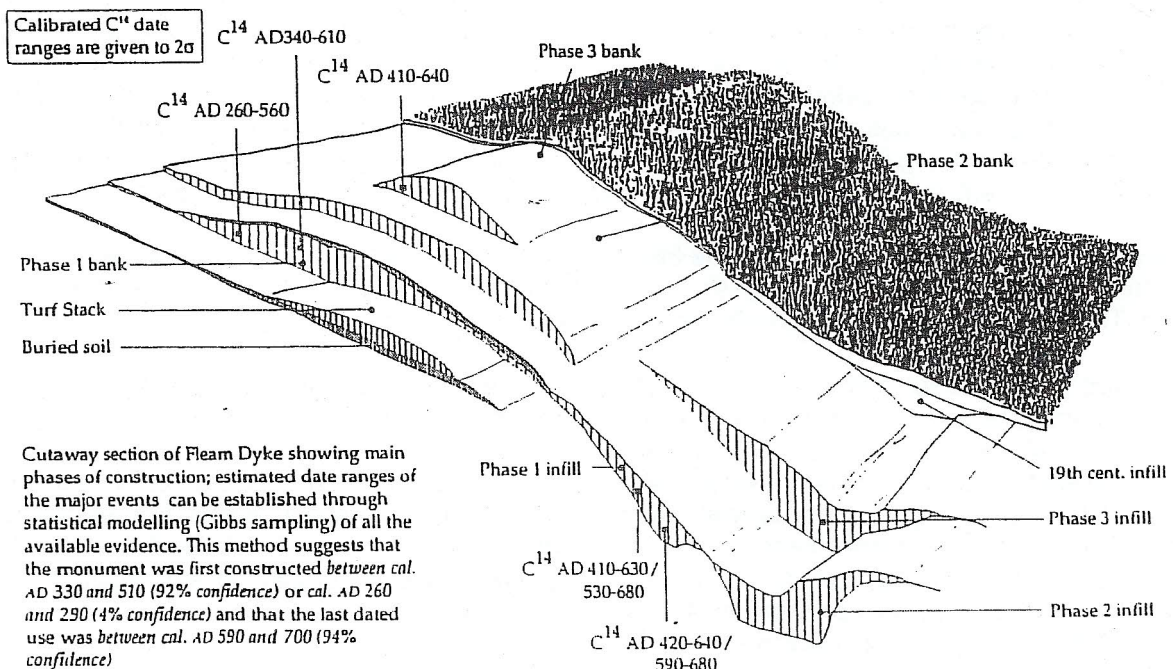
In 1009 AD, Sweyn Forkbeard, king of Denmark, had descended on England 'with his three wonted companions, fire, famine, and slaughter' The author of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle wrote: 'What they could lift, that took they; what they might not carry, that burned they; and so marched they up and down the land.' At Balsham in 1010, Henry of Huntingdon records in his Chronicle a conflict between Danes and Saxons. 'The Danes', he writes, 'massacred all whom they found in that place, tossing the children on the points of their spears. One man mounted the steps to the top of a church tower, which is still standing there and ... he defended himself single handed against the enemy.' The Danes retired leaving him alone, but by 1013, Sweyn was king of England. His son, Cnut or Canute transformed himself from a bloodthirsty Norse warrior into a model Anglo-Saxon king; a law giver who was also the most powerful king in Europe.



The Fleam Dyke

The name is based on old English *Fleama* meaning flight. The dyke is an impressive bank and ditch which stretches 3 miles from a spur of the forest ridge north-west of Balsham to Fulbourn Fen and a further 1.5 miles from the northern end of the fen to the bank of the river Cam at Fen Ditton. The Balsham sector is a magnificent earthwork, which was originally built as a fortification between the 4th and 7th centuries A.D, in order to protect the Icknield Way from invading forces from the south and west. The dyke's breadth near Fulbourn Fen is 28 yards wide and 11 feet deep. It was constructed by digging a trench and building a wall of chalk and clay. Stakes were laid into the trench bottom and along the top of the wall to make palisade fences. These fences were used as a defence from enemy arrows. The water in the ditch, which came from the fens at the southern end and from the springs at the northern end were used as part of the defence mechanism.

A cross section of the Fleam Dyke at the A11, produced by the archaeologists working on the 1991 excavation at the time of the widening of the A11. Drawing supplied by Tim Malim, Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Field Unit.



In October, I was clearing an overgrown area in my front garden. I lifted a paving stone and found what I thought was a lizard. It was about the right size and colour, but rather more tubby than the ones I used to see in the rockery of our Norfolk garden when I was a child. A female perhaps, with a bit of fat for hibernation? Wondering how it had survived from the days when the streets off the Hills Road were a large orchard, I emailed more expert friends. Tactfully, they suggested that it might, just perhaps, be a female common newt. When I looked the next day it was gone, but in its place were two large, unmistakably newt-like males, with handsome yellow underparts. A little boy of five, passing by with his mother, was invited to view. He was ecstatic. "That is the best that is the very best That is my best thing today!" However, when some other children came to see this delight, the newts had got tired of so much sudden exposure and decamped. Cue for information from a real naturalist:

LIZARDS

**by Dr Henry Arnold, Manager of the Biological Records Centre,
at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Monkswood.**

E J Rope wrote, in 1934, in a paper titled "The Reptiles of Suffolk" published in the Transactions of the Suffolk Naturalists Society, "Quite likely to occur there (Freckenham), since the north-east limit of this Lizard's British distribution is known to extend from Cambridge along the Devil's Dyke that is within a mile of Suffolk and thence into Norfolk." But he was writing of the rare Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), not the Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*). Rope seems to have been quoting from H Gadow's paper "Reptilia and Amphibia of Cambridgeshire" in "Handbook to the Natural History of Cambridgeshire", published in 1904 and edited by J E Marr and A E Shipley. Gadow writes much the same – "its occurrence near Cambridge, e.g. along the Devil's Ditch, near Newmarket, and thence into Norfolk, seems to mark the northern limit of this species." He does not quote any specific records. Gadow goes on to say "But there is no doubt that *L. agilis* is often confounded with *L. vivipara*. Jenyns, for instance, did not distinguish between them." But if the Sand Lizard ever did occur in Cambridgeshire, it is certainly no longer present.

No, unless someone releases something exotic there, the lizards that you may see on the Fleam Dyke or on the Roman Road will be the Common Lizard. Not so common now, of course, but still to be seen by the quiet and patient observer. They are elusive, though. When I lived in Norfolk, I never saw a live one in our garden, but each year, for several years, one of our cats used to catch one and bring it home, so they must have been around. It wasn't that I was bad at spotting reptiles, as I used to see Slow-worms regularly on the lawn.

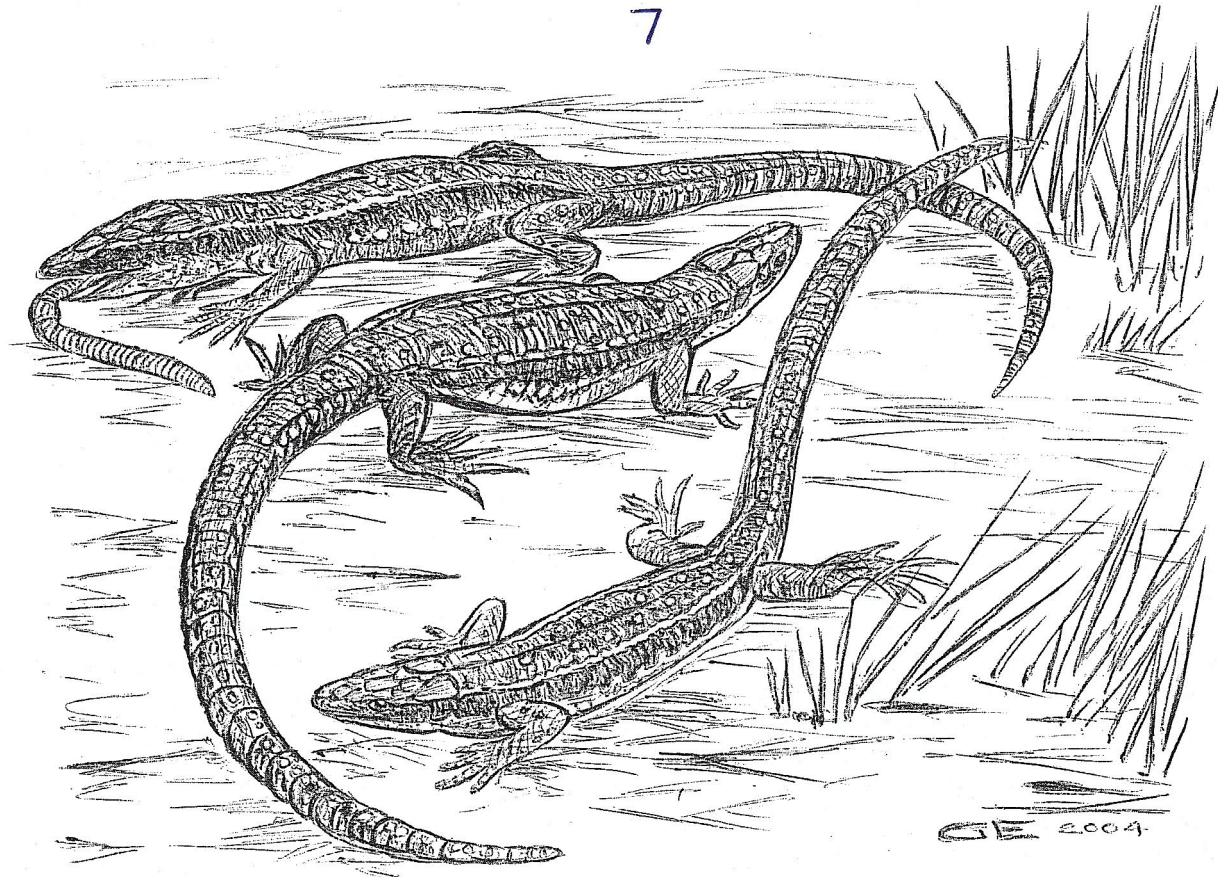
Lizards, being cold-blooded, need somewhere to bask in the sun. Piles of logs or rubble will not only provide basking sites, but crevices in which the lizards can shelter. Unfortunately, such heaps are sometimes regarded as untidy, and are cleared away. Conservationists, take note! (A nature reserve not a million miles from the Fleam Dyke lost its lizard colony because the brick pile that the lizards used was removed for 'improvements'.)

Don't expect to see lizards when it's very hot, as they can get over-heated just as we can. Early in the morning would be a good time to look for them. They are likely to be warming up after the night, and if you are really early you'll get to see them before everyone else has scared them back into shelter. They can hear, see and smell you, so approach quietly from downwind of sites you think might harbour basking lizards. I have seen Common Lizards basking on a large clod of earth, and on piles of dry grass, but large stones or rocks, that retain the sun's heat, are ideal. If such sites are sheltered from the wind, so much the better.

Please pass details of any sightings (on the Fleam Dyke, Roman Road, or indeed anywhere else in Cambridgeshire) to the new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre, The Wildlife Trust, The Manor House, Greater Cambourne, Cambridge, CB3 6DH

Rope also wrote (and remember, this was in 1934) "The face of our county is undergoing such abominably radical changes, at first by a "high" system of farming that entails razing of bushes and felling of shade-trees, enclosure of wastes with stubbing of their broomy and furzy cover; later drainage of wild marshlands; and now utter rural sophistication to the ridiculous adulation of motor traffic, that most of its features have become so modified as to be unfitted for these specialised creatures' natural environment. Against this we can set little beyond the precarious shelter afforded by rail-road cuttings and bankments which may, despite their barbarous periodic burnings, help to retard though they cannot avert the ultimate extermination of these and too many other persecuted representatives of the British fauna."

Guided Bus supporters, take note!



Any other sightings?

Iain Webb reports seeing the Common Lizard on the cross bars of the fences near the Fleam Dyke on the A11. David Seilly saw one during a Ragwort pulling session on the Fleam Dyke in May 2003. Ann Waldock found two small lizards among tufts of grass on the Roman Road near Worsted Lodge during the Friends' Work Party on 10th October. If anyone else can supply a sighting with a grid reference from the Ordnance Survey and an approximate date, I will send them on to the new Biological Records Centre. email and address at the end of this newsletter.

As to the Guided Bus, I feel readers would like to know what provision Cambridgeshire County Council has made for the welfare of reptiles living on the disused railway line.

Construction activities have the potential to cause direct adverse effects on individual reptiles. Reptile habitat would also be removed by construction. These represent potential significant effects on reptiles and require mitigation.

A series of measures that have been agreed with English Nature would be implemented during construction to protect individual reptiles. These include destructive searches of vegetation and removal of individual animals to safety, as well as the presence of an ecologist on site throughout construction activities and the inclusion of a series of measures within a Code of Construction Practice.

No dedicated translocation receptor areas would be provided for reptiles, although land acquired for ecological enhancement would include specific measures designed to promote reptiles and increase the provision of potentially suitable habitat for reptiles.

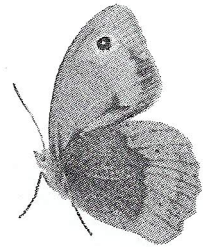
Cambridgeshire County Council, Guided Busway, Reptile Report July 2004.

Far be it for me, with my recent assumption that a newt was a lizard, to comment on the expertise of the ecologists working on this project; but will the lizards and snakes wait to be picked up as they hear the 'destructive thrashes' approaching? Might they not disappear swiftly into the nearest hidey-hole and be squashed by the approaching JCB. Did I say squashed? I meant 'suffer direct adverse effects'. And will the ones that are removed to safety, wherever that is in the surrounding intensively farmed fields, be warmly welcomed by the reptiles there? Ants, like human beings, tend to reject, kill or enslave alien individuals. Perhaps reptiles are nicer. The disused railway line will be cleared of vegetation in Month 2 of Operations. The 'ecological enhancement' sites will not be ready for several years. Will there be a later survey of reptiles in the area to see how they are doing? Will anyone be fined or lose their jobs if it is established that the lizard and grass snake population has crashed? Have a guess.

Julia Napier

Survey of Butterflies on Fleam Dyke, 2004

by Roger Lemon



Methods

Fleam Dyke, from the NW end near Fulbourn to Bedford Gap, a distance of approximately 2.7 km, was surveyed five times between May and September 2004. On two occasions the survey was extended a further 0.5km to Newheath Plantation. In addition, to the SE of the A11, a count was made along the lower path on the NE side of the bank between a point about 100m from the road and Bedford Gap, a distance of approximately 0.7km.

Numbers of each butterfly species sighted within about 5m of the path were recorded in each NGR 1km square. A GPS device was used to determine divisions between 1km squares. In some cases a square was broken down into smaller sections as shown in Tables 1 to 5. The method used had the disadvantage of recording unequal lengths of the Dyke, ranging from approximately 0.1km to 1.1km, but was used because the data obtained were then compatible with the Butterfly Conservation method of recording by tetrad. A brief description of the habitat in each section is given in Appendix 1.

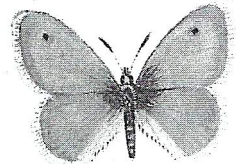
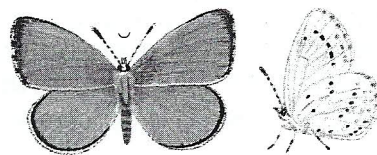
Inevitably, when using a simple counting method, an individual butterfly may have been recorded more than once and although efforts were made to avoid this, numbers cannot be regarded as absolute and are therefore recorded as sightings.

Those small skippers and Essex skippers, which were seen only in flight and could not be accurately identified, are recorded in Tables 1 to 5 as Skipper (not id.). In Table 6, total sightings, these have been allocated on a proportionate basis (figures in brackets) to each of the two species.

Results

An overall summary giving the total number of sightings for each count, together with the total number of sightings for the season is given in Table 6. (We are unable to include Tables 1 - 5 for lack of space, but if anyone would like to see these records, please let me know. Julia)

Twenty-four species were recorded, the most abundant with a total of 397 sightings, being the meadow brown, followed by the small white with 327 sightings, the gatekeeper with 241 and the green-veined white with 158. Only four other species exceeded 50 sightings and these were the small skipper, Essex skipper, brimstone and small tortoiseshell. The large skipper, large white, orange tip, brown argus, common blue, holly blue, speckled wood, ringlet and small heath were sighted 10 or more times but for the remainder, total sightings were in single figures with just one clouded yellow.



Discussion

Most species recorded can be regarded as common or fairly common butterflies in the area. Although some such as the common blue, brown argus and small heath are characteristic of chalk grassland, they are not confined to that habitat and can be found in a range of grassland types. The most interesting species recorded was the green hairstreak, three individuals having been seen between the Pumping station and the old railway crossing. Other recorders have found them at Mutlow Hill.

In 2002 and 2003 two sections of the Roman Road were surveyed and 20 species recorded. All of these were seen on Fleam Dyke this year, the additions being the green hairstreak discussed above, the small copper, the small heath and a single clouded yellow. Generally butterfly numbers were higher on Fleam Dyke than on the Roman Road but one species, the speckled wood, was much less frequent, presumably because there is less of the partly shaded habitat, which it prefers.

Some species were seen in surprisingly low numbers, including most of the vanessids, which, with the exception of the small tortoiseshell, were recorded in single figures. The numbers of small tortoiseshells, many of which were seen on a single patch of thistles in late June, hopefully reflects a general improvement in the fortunes of this species after some decline in recent years.

Like the Roman Road, conservation work on Fleam Dyke is aimed primarily at enhancing the chalk grassland flora and it will be interesting to see what effect this work will have on butterfly species and numbers. Specific measures to conserve the green hairstreak should be considered. Although it has a wide range of food plants, the adults prefer to bask on shrubs rather than on low-growing plants.

TABLE 6: BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS, FLEAM DYKE, 2004

Date	17/5	29/6	19/7	7/8	6/9	Total sightings
Small skipper			14	9		23(53*)
Essex skipper			23	18		41(95*)
Skipper (not id.)		7	44	33		84
Large skipper		7	3	1		11
Clouded yellow				1		1
Brimstone	47	7	8	16		78
Large white	3	2	17	4	4	30
Small white	5	4	42	70	206	327
Green-veined white	13		90	33	22	158
Orange tip	10					10
Green hairstreak	3					3
Small copper				4		4
Brown argus				15	1	16
Common blue				38	2	40
Holly blue	11		1	4		16
Red admiral			4			4
Painted lady		3		4	1	8
Small tortoiseshell	3	37	12		2	54
Peacock	4			2		6
Comma		4			2	6
Speckled wood	2	7		6	3	18
Gatekeeper			120	121		241
Meadow brown		67	164	165	1	397
Ringlet		11	2			13
Small heath				2	9	11

*Based on proportional allocation of unidentified skippers

A Green Hairstreak with a rock rose, its main food plant on the Fleam Dyke. However, this year Green Hairstreaks were seen on three occasions near the Pumping Station, which is over 300 yards away from the main rock rose area near Mutlow Hill. It is therefore possible that some of the Green Hairstreaks on Fleam Dyke are using buckthorn, bramble or one of its other larval food plants. I have sometimes seen them at ground level, but I usually see them at eye level or above, taking off on competitive flights, or basking on hawthorn or buckthorn.

Julia

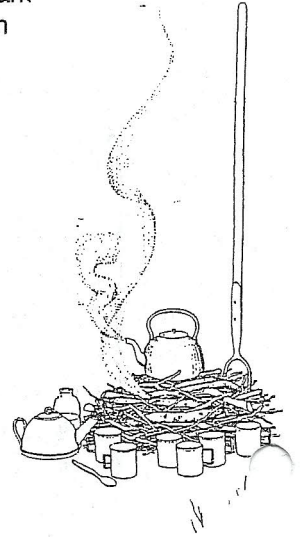


The Mid-Week Conservation Programme

The Mid-Week Conservation Volunteers will be working on the Fleam Dyke and the Roman Road this winter, as well as on other areas managed by the Green Belt Project. Good exercise in the fresh air/rain, and pleasant company over a picnic lunch. Transport from Babraham Park and Ride. Meet outside the building at 9.30am. Tasks start at 10.0 and finish by 4.0pm

Please ring Iain Webb on 01954 713500 if you intend to come, in order to check the meeting place.

Wed. 5th January	Roman Road: mowing and raking the verges
Wed. 23rd February	Fleam Dyke: mowing and raking the existing turf and also the recently cleared areas.
Wed. 16th March	Fleam Dyke: as above
Wed. 23rd March	Fleam Dyke: as above
Wed. 30th March	Fleam Dyke: as above



Work Parties and Events of interest to Friends

Sunday 9th January **Helpers Wanted for work on Fulbourn Nature Reserve**
Can you find an hour or two to help keep this beautiful reserve in good condition? Work Parties last from 10.0 am to 12.30 or so. Meet at Stonebridge Lane. Contact: Nigel Copeman, e-mail: ncopeman@tinyworld.co.uk or phone Julia Napier.

Sunday 16th January **Friends' Work party on Fleam Dyke**
Meet at Stonebridge Lane, Fulbourn, at 10.0am. Come for an hour or two, or bring a picnic and stay longer. We shall be mowing and raking the first 300 yards of the dyke and the two open areas which we cleared in the first year of our existence.



Talks Organised by the Cambridge City Group of the Wildlife Trust

These talks are held in the Gilmour Building of Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Please note that the entrance is via the drive beside 47 Bateman Street, **NOT** at the Bateman Street gate of the Botanic Garden. All talks are at 7.30pm. Entry: £1.50 for members of the Wildlife Trust, £2.50 for non-members

Thurs 27th January	British Orchids, by Brian Laney
Thurs 24th February	Trees Matter - the work of the Tree Council, by Kevin Hands
Thursday 24th March	Environmental change in Antarctica by Jon Shanklin of the British Antarctic Survey

Contacts

Naomi Brookes,
Cambridge Green Belt Project
The Manor House, Broad Street,
Great Cambourne, Cambridge, CB3 6DH
Tel: 01954 713500
e-mail: naomi.brookes@wildlifebcnp.org

Julia Napier
Secretary, Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke
30a Hinton Avenue,
Cambridge, CB1 7AS
tel: 01223 213152
JN1@napierj.freereserve.co.uk



Local Heritage *initiative*

