

Fleam Dyke species list – Notes

Compiled by David J. Barden
Covering up to the end of 2009
Last updated 9 December 2012

Section codes - Sections 1, 2 and 3 are the SSSI units, here subdivided to provide a more useful record, primarily for the vascular plants.

Section	Start GR	Description	End GR
1a	TL5370.5561	Bottom of steps leading up to the NW end - Mid-point of the old railway	TL5439.5459
1b	TL5439.5459	Mid-point of the old railway - NW entrance gate to Mutlow Hill	TL5461.5439
1c	TL5461.5439	NW entrance gate to Mutlow Hill - Tarmac of private road to Beech Tree Cottages	TL5482.5415
2a	TL5488.5413	End of tarmac path at entrance gate to A11 section - Gate on NW side of Bedford Gap	TL5535.5363
2b	TL5536.5363	Gate on SE side of Bedford Gap - Main track to Dungate Farm	TL5612.5300
3	TL5612.5300	Main track to Dungate Farm - Point due E of The Ambush where the field boundary reaches its northernmost part of a curve and the bank of the dyke becomes indistinct	TL5755.5237

Coverage

With the exception of birds (where records often include birds flying over or on adjacent land), I have aimed in these records to apply fairly strict criteria for inclusion of records, as follows:

Included: Hedges (including underneath them); adjacent strips of woodland/plantations; soil "barriers"; waste material; the top of the bank leading across the old railway; the whole enclosure of Mutlow Hill.

Not included: Adjacent farmland; the old railway; the grassy areas by the track to Beech Tree Cottages; the tarmacked path leading to the footbridge, and the verges of it (on both sides of the A11); the "juniper triangle" just SE of the A11; the flat area between the gates at Bedford Gap; Dungate Farm itself; the woodland away from the line of the ditch and vallum to the W of Beech Tree Cottages; the woodland away from the ditch and vallum at The Ambush.

Status codes (for vascular plants)

Code	Definition
P	Present (within the date category indicated)
D	Dominant
A	Abundant
F	Frequent
O	Occasional
R	Rare
L	Locally (as modifier)
E	Extinct or strongly suspected to be so
?	Insufficient information
*	An asterisk against the scientific name indicates arable species included on the basis of an unlocalised "Fleam Dyke" record from the 1800s or early 1900s - they might perhaps have referred to adjacent arable land rather than the dyke itself.

Nomenclature

Scientific names for vascular plants follow the *New Flora of the British Isles* (Third Edition) by C. Stace (CUP, 2010); for convenience, the names used in the second edition are added in curly brackets where they are different. Common names for mosses and liverworts follow *Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland: A field guide* by I. Atherton, S. Bosquanet and M. Lawley (British Bryological Society, 2010); scientific names differing from those provided in the records are indicated in curly brackets. Names for birds broadly follow those in *Birds of Britain and Europe* by R. Hume (Dorling Kindersley, 2006). Names for other taxa generally follow that provided in the source document, with some superficial changes to avoid duplication and correct typographical errors, etc. Entries given in *italics* are those for which the accepted scientific names are likely to have been changed since the record was made, and where no attempt has been made to correct them.

Reference codes

ACL	Personal observations made during the period 2000-2009 by A.C. Leslie.
BC	Personal observations made on 17 June 2003 by B. Clark on a walk from the Fulbourn end to the A11 (list reproduced in NL10 and in BRC).
BFC	C.C. Babington, <i>Babington's Flora of Cambridgeshire</i> (1860), John Van Voorst, London.
BoC	R. Field, V. Perrin, L. Bacon and N. Greatorex-Davies, <i>The Butterflies of Cambridgeshire</i> (2006), Butterfly Conservation.
BRC	Biological Records Centre records. Birds - records made between 2001 and 2007; Butterflies - records made between 2001 and 2009, with a focus in 2006 and 2007; Moths - records made in 1969 and 1970 and earlier decades (unique records indicated), and again in 2003, 2005 and 2006. Other records are from 2003 and 2004.
BSBI	Records held by the vc29 BSBI recorder for vascular plants. Data refer primarily to records from surveys undertaken in 1967, 1991 and 1995 (the latter on a Cambridge Flora Group excursion), and in some cases duplicates that in CFR.
BV	E.S. Gregory, <i>British Violets</i> (1910). In this book, the Fleam Dyke is noted as being a site for several taxa infraspecific to <i>Viola hirta</i> ; only the type species is now generally recognised, although I consider f. <i>rosea</i> sufficiently distinct to warrant mention.
BWA	G.M. Spooner, <i>The Bees, Wasps and Ants of Cambridgeshire</i> (c. 1928), Cambridge Natural History Society. On page 4, the Fleam Dyke is mentioned as having been "worked very little".
CBR	Records extracted from a database kept by the vc29 bryophyte recorder.
CFR	G. Crompton, <i>Cambridgeshire Flora Records since 1538</i> , http://www.cambridgeshireflora.com/index2.html (accessed October 2009).
DJB	Personal observations made in the period 2000-2009 by D.J. Barden.

- EFC A.H. Evans, *A Flora of Cambridgeshire* (1939), Gurney and Jackson, London/Edinburgh.
- GoC T.M. Hughes and M.C. Hughes, *Geography of Cambridgeshire* (1909), p. 77; quoted in E. Conybeare, *Highways and Byways in Cambridge and Ely* (1910), MacMillan and Co., London, p. 211.
- JD Insects recorded by J. Darlington using pitfall traps laid out along the top of the dyke from a point south-east of the old railway to Bedford Gap, and covering all the major vegetation types. Nearly all records were from 2003 but some were a year or two earlier. See NL17 for further details. Some records repeated in BRC are not re-referenced.
- JDS BSBI recording sheets for sections 1, 2 and 3 completed by J.D. Shanklin following a survey in 2008. Records assigned to one of the broad sections 1a-c or 2a-c will have been made during this survey.
- IS&GJ2001 Birds seen by Ivan Scurrill and Graham Jones on a walk from Balsham church to Fulbourn Nature Reserve on 9 May 2001 (list reproduced in NL3).
- IS&GJ2002 Birds seen by Ivan Scurrill and Graham Jones in winter 2001-2 (list reproduced in NL5).
- IW Personal observations made in the period 2000-2009 by I. Webb.
- JN Personal observations made in the period 2000-2009 by J. Napier.
- KVC Sketch map of juniper made by K.V. Cramp, possibly in the 1990s. Copies held by D.J. Barden and J. Napier.
- MF Personal observations made in 2009 by M. Frisch.
- MH Email received from M. Hill, October 2010.
- MW List of records from CEH Monks Wood (the latest of which from 1992; the majority of the vascular plant records are from 1981 and 1983). There are no plant records (in alphabetical order) after *Sonchus asper*, so some records may be missing from my copy. Copies held by D.J. Barden and J. Napier.
- NHC *The Natural History of Cambridgeshire* (1904), ed. J.E. Marr and A.E. Shipley, Cambridge University Press. Page 223 contains a few general comments about the flora of the chalk area, and mentions the Fleam Dyke by name.
- NIC## *Nature in Cambridgeshire*. Issue 8 contains a report on a visit to the dyke on 2 May 1964 (pp. 19-21).
- NL## Newsletters of the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke (no. 1 appeared in 2002, then appearing mostly 3 times annually; no. 29 appeared in June 2009).
- RL Butterfly transects led by R. Lemon over the period 2006-2009; for additional butterfly data, see also results of surveys in 2002 and 2003 in NL11.
- SH Personal observations made in the period 2000-2009 by S. Hartley.
- SL Comprehensive botanical survey of Fleam Dyke (with vegetation maps and descriptions) carried out by S. Lambert on 29 July and 16 August 1998. As this falls outside the 2000-2009 time window, information has been provided in the "Notes" field where relevant or interesting, e.g. if a species has not subsequently been seen from a particular subsection, or if its abundance seems to have changed significantly since then. Copies held by D.J. Barden and J. Napier.
- SoC W.S. Bristowe, *The Spiders of Cambridgeshire* (c. 1928), Cambridge Natural History Society. On page 3, Fleam Dyke is noted as being one of the few places in the county that has received attention. Harvest Spiders and pseudoscorpions are covered in this publication, but there are no records from the Fleam Dyke.
- TBV *Types of British Vegetation* (1911), edited by A.G. Tansley. Survey carried out by the Marshall Ward Society. The list of species given are those "which occur in the chalk grassland association of the dyke"; all are included in the list here, as it provides a complete picture of the vegetation at that time, and includes information on abundance. The accompanying text states: "The south-west side of the dyke bears a typical chalk grassland association; on the north-west side a good deal of bare chalk is exposed and the vegetation is taller though composed of few individual plants. At the bottom of the ditch are numerous rabbit burrows."