

# Brampton Racecourse SSSI: history and natural history intertwined

## Appendix

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### Grassland vegetation at Brampton Racecourse SSSI

The vegetation on the Racecourse includes examples of two principal National Vegetation Classification Unimproved Mesotrophic Grassland (MG) types, namely MG4 *Alopecurus pratensis*-*Sanguisorba officinalis* floodplain meadow, which has been divided into four sub-communities, and MG5 *Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland.

MG4 has the following constant species:

- Autumn Hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*
- Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*
- Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*
- Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*
- Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg.
- Great Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*
- Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*
- Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*
- Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*
- Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*
- Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*
- Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*
- Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*
- Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
- Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*
- White Clover *Trifolium repens*
- Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*

Most of the species characteristic of the two richer sub-communities, *Dactylis conglomerata* sub-community (a) and typical sub-community (b), are present, namely:

- Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*
- Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*
- Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*
- Dandelions *Taraxacum officinale* agg.
- Glaucous Sedge *Carex flacca*
- Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*
- Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*
- Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
- Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*
- White Clover *Trifolium repens*

Species preferential to sub-community (a) also present are:

- Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*
- Bulbous Buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*
- Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*
- Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*
- Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*
- Cowslip *Primula veris*
- Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*
- False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*
- Goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis*
- Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*
- Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*
- Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- Quaking-grass *Briza media*
- Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*
- Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*
- Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*

and a species preferential to sub-community (b) is:

- Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris*

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MG5, specifically *Galium verum* sub-community (MG5b), occurs on the 'ridges' and rest of the site and has dry neutral grassland developed on mildly calcareous substrates (chalky boulder clay).

Characteristic herbs of MG5 include:

- Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*
- Common Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*
- Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*
- Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*
- Cowslip *Primula veris*
- Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*
- Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*
- Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
- Yellow Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*

with characteristic grasses:

- Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*
- Quaking Grass *Briza media*
- Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*
- Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
- Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*

and uncommon and declining species for which the site is especially significant in a local county context:

- Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio*
- Sulphur Clover *Trifolium ochroleucon*