

**mp places**

the tributary of the River Nene – the Brampton  
ows for much of its length. The damper areas  
pecies of willow, and wildflowers such as marsh

colourful dragonflies and damselflies can be seen  
ch of their insect prey.



**Ancient meadow**

The triangular meadow between Kelmarsh tunnels and Great Oxendon is part of an ancient meadow which became isolated when the railway cut through the original landscape.

It contains some old meadow species including saw-wort and adder's tongue fern and is managed in a traditional way to promote wildflowers and butterflies. It is grazed in the autumn and spring and mown for hay in late summer after the flowers have set seed.



**National Cycle Route**

The Brampton Valley Way is provides a direct cycling link between Cottesbrooke and Oxton. It has been constructed by the County Council in partnership with support from National Cycle Route 16. The cycle route continues south to Oxton. A sculptured milepost has been erected at Oxton. The sculptures proposed by the year

sh on the sunny embankments including the sky blue harebell, lace-like wild carrot and scabious. The plants are progressively reclaiming the former trackbed  
delighting in June and the yellow St. John's wort and purple heads of knapweeds succeeding them.

provides a continual nectar supply over the summer months for butterfly species such as wall and hedge browns as well as skippers and blues.

ets as they come down to feed on ants and other insects along these rich grassy habitats.

**Woodlands, spinneys and shady areas**

Wooded areas are home to small mammals and birds year round – the greater spotted woodpecker confines itself to woodland for its entire livelihood but the lesser spotted woodpecker may be seen exploring the hedgerows and smaller trees.

The caterpillar of the grizzled skipper butterfly feeds on the low growing herbs of wild strawberry and tormentil plants which thrive in the shady habitats – also a favoured haunt of the speckled wood butterfly.



**Hedgerows**

Hedges are a familiar sight along roads and nesting sites, but insects and animals also use them. Hedgerow species include field mice, voles, shrews, and badgers. The traditional skill of hedgelaying is still practiced in many areas. The hedgelaying process involves cutting and laying the hedge in a specific way to create a strong and durable structure.