

Second interview with Doug Atkins in Garboldisham on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Broomscot Common: in late 1950's and early 1960's it was reasonably open at southern end for football pitch. There was some low lying heather in late 50's but gorse was not so prevalent. Rabbits caused some holes in pitch which had to be filled in but moles were more of a problem. Possibly more rabbits were shot and disease wiped out more of them than it does nowadays.

Ragwort was not remembered in late 50's and 60's and he couldn't remember the football pitch having any on it, but it has increased in the 1990's.

The common was let out as grazing after football club closed.

He wasn't interested nor had time to notice wildflowers. Main changes are increase in gorse and rabbits. No ditch work was done to his memory maybe for last 25 years before LOHP took over the lease and did the ditching.

No knowledge of birds.

Grazing sheep and cattle occasionally on common in 1970's and 80's few in number.

There were skylarks in the meadow/field he bought to north between his property and the windmill but none now.

Garboldisham Old Fen: Before the trees it was reeds and regularly cut as it was managed by the Village Charity and they had a contractor cut it as he needed it for thatching. Not ever mown as it was too wet and never grazed. It was maybe burned at some time but he had no details and suggested Mary Feakes be contacted as secretary of the Village Charity, school governor and chairman of Parish Council. He thinks it was neither wetter nor drier, not much changed. No drainage works were recalled. It was not a place children or adults ventured into as it was wet and reedy. No wildflowers remembered.

Generally around the village: he has no knowledge of acid grasslands/meadows and suggested asking local farmers. There were changes to heathland to west of village, the heath south of A1066 was removed and now is grazed by sheep regularly on improved grassland. North of A1066 it was heath and had a shooting range in the war. This is now arable land where heaths used to be.

Opposite Doug's home there used to be oak woods and nightingales sang in them in 1970s but no longer as trees were cleared when George Davy bought the land and felled it.

Wildlife: He is concerned about decline in fish stocks in river Ouse along his stretch and the increases in deer esp muntjac and roe deer as well as rabbits.