

BIODIVERSITY AT ANLABY SCHEME

Our Anlaby and East Ella Flood Alleviation Scheme (AEEFAS) to the west of Hull, has become a Biodiversity site with local resident and entomologist, Barry Warrington, a specialist in the dipterous (flies) family Agromyzidae, discovering a rare species in the area, which is completely new to Western Europe.

Having conducted some initial research in the area, Mr Warrington approached our UK Projects team requesting permission to continue collecting along the boundary of the site, as his preliminary findings had suggested huge value for local and national biodiversity. In fact, he had found some extremely rare species of insect, two of which are not found anywhere else in the UK, and one is found nowhere else in Western Europe. The discovery of these species, along with all the other invertebrates present, highlighted just how valuable this site could be for biodiversity.

However, due to a contractual agreement, the site had recently had all its vegetation removed, so Mr Warrington wrote to both ourselves and our client East Riding Yorkshire Council (ERYC). In his correspondence Mr Warrington stated: "It would be absolutely amazing if Colas and ERYC were to allow any contract in place to be amended so that the current management regime for the site is amended to help preserve the huge amount of biodiversity present." He continued, "We are living in a climate which is seeing insects and their habitats decline in catastrophic numbers and we need to do all we can to help populations and habitats. If a



plan could be made between all parties involved, this would be a superb result and I truly hope that we can achieve something. A simple decision such as cutting the grass just once a year, in the late summer, would allow all species present to complete their life cycle and help preserve the rich biodiversity present, making a highly significant impact."

Following further discussions between all parties involved, the maintenance scheme on the parcel of land on the AEEFAS Ph2 scheme south of Marr Bridge has now been amended, with immediate effect. Mr Warrington is continuing to study the species present, monitoring population and phenology trends, which is very important in terms of protection and preservation.

