



White-legged Damselfly



Investigation Instructions

www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

Step 1 choose your sites

Contact the Project Coordinator to be assigned a site to survey.

Email: eleanor.colver@british-dragonflies.org.uk Tel: 07792 231 925

You can adopt as many sites to survey as you like. Sites will be assigned as 1 km OS grid squares. If you already know where you would like to survey please tell the Project Coordinator. Visit the White-legged Damselfly Investigations web page on the BDS website for maps showing the locations of priority sites for surveying.

Step 2 plan your visits

Recording should be conducted between 28th May and 19th August (the main flight period of White-legged Damselflies is between late May to mid August).

Try to conduct at least 3 visits per site and try to space them out within this date range.

Check the weather forecast before going out. Dragonfly surveys are best conducted on warm, sunny and calm days.

You will need: recording forms, a pen and a notebook/clipboard. Optional: Binoculars, ID guide, GPS or GPS app (to assist with making sure you stay within the designated grid square), and a camera (photos can assist us in verify your sightings).

Health and Safety

Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and protection from the sun e.g. sun cream. Be careful around the edge of waterbodies and watercourses. If you are visiting a remote site please let someone know where you are going and when you should be back.

Step 3 conduct your surveys

Use the **Dragonflies survey form** to help you record your findings.

You have three options when it comes to conducting this survey:

1. Simply note whether White-legged Damselflies are present or absent within your square.
2. Record the number of White-legged Damselflies within your square
3. Record the number of White-legged Damselflies within your square and how many are showing breeding behaviour (see the identification guide on the White-legged Damselfly Investigation webpage for information on breeding behaviour).

The more information you record the more valuable your records will be to the investigation.

You can also record other species of Dragonflies if you wish.

If large numbers of a species is present, and it's difficult to provide a precise number, give an estimate.

Survey all wetland areas within your square that you can access (do not put yourself at risk or trespass).

Square surveys tips

If your square contains. . .

A stretch of narrow river/stream/canal: walk along down one side and record what you see.

A stretch of broad river/canal (where you can't accurately count what is on the other side): walk down both sides and record what you see.

An area of a large lake: walk along the edge that falls within your square and record what you see.

A still waterbody that partly sits outside your square: if only a small section sits outside your square you might as well survey all of it. Use your common sense to judge what is best.

Habitat survey

You could also conduct habitat surveys.

Look out for White-legged Damselflies egg laying while you are conducting your dragonfly survey.

If you do not come across any, look again the next time you visit. If you eventually spot egg laying at your site stop to fill out the habitat survey form.

Step 4 report your results

Enter your results on the spreadsheet (available via the White-legged Damselfly Investigation web page).

Enter your site visit information even if you didn't see White-legged Damselflies or any other species.

Queries

If you have any queries or issues please get in touch with the Project Coordinator.

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Information on White-legged Damselflies and identification can be found on the BDS website.