

The British Dragonfly Society

What we do

www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

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Society



Who are we?

We are small charity, which was set up in 1983 by a group of dedicated volunteers who loved Dragonflies and Damselflies. Since then, we have gone from strength to strength since then and now employ 5 staff and have over 1800 members. We work across the whole of England, Scotland and Wales to conserve Dragonflies and the habitats they rely upon.

Why conserve Dragonflies?

Over the last 60 years we have witnessed the extinction of two species of Dragonfly in the British Isles. At least a third of the remainder are considered to be rare, localised and have specialised habitat requirements. Thus, we need to act now to conserve what we have left and to stop other species from disappearing too. Dragonflies are used as 'Indicator' species, meaning that if they are doing well it is an indication that the wider ecosystem also likely to be doing well. On the other hand, if they are declining then we know there must be wider problems within the ecosystem. They are also an important food source for many species, and in turn they eat many 'pest' species such as midges and mosquitos. Dragonflies are amazingly beautiful insects that have been around for millions of years and we have a duty to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy them too.

How do you save species?

Working with scientists, we conduct research to better our understanding of the habitat and environmental requirements of different species of Dragonflies. We then work with landowners, nature reserve managers and volunteers to put our scientific findings into practice. This includes creating new habitats that Dragonflies will love, managing existing habitats to make them more suitable, and restoring habitats so we can reintroduce previously lost species. We also like to keep a close eye on where and when species turn up each year, which is why we have a network of dedicated volunteer Dragonfly recorders who assist with this part of our work. You can help us by sending in your sightings each year too!

