

Monmouthshire dragonfly species of conservation importance

Version 3.0

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Species	Justification
Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	Scarce and localised within Monmouthshire; specialised habitat. Near-threatened on a UK scale.
Variable Damselfly	Scarce and localised within Monmouthshire; specialised habitat. Near-threatened on a UK scale.
White-legged Damselfly	Uncommon in Monmouthshire; specialised habitat; indicative of high-quality sites with the potential for colonisation by other important breeding species; on western edge of UK range
Brown Hawker	Inexplicably localised, almost all records from only one small area of Monmouthshire
Common Hawker	Scarce and localised within Monmouthshire; specialised habitat
Hairy Dragonfly	Uncommon and localised within Monmouthshire; specialised habitat
Common Clubtail	A keystone riverine species indicative of high water quality; the River Wye is one of the main UK strongholds for the species. Near-threatened on a UK scale.
Keeled Skimmer	Scarce and localised within Monmouthshire; specialised habitat
Black Darter	Scarce and localised within Monmouthshire; specialised habitat

The other species on the Monmouthshire list are excluded for one of three reasons:

i) they are common and widespread in the county (16 species)

ii) they have occurred only as vagrants (5 species)

iii) one species, Small Red-eyed Damselfly, is a recent colonist and is expanding its range

iv) one species, Red-eyed Damselfly, although uncommon in the county, it is not on its own indicative of very high-quality sites, its scarcity is likely an effect of being on the edge of its range

Amendment history

Version 1.0

First version

Version 2.0

Reviewed for consistency with UK national criteria; Red-eyed Damselfly removed

Version 3.0

Small Red Damselfly removed: no evidence this was ever reliably recorded in Monmouthshire