

BOVEY HEATHFIELD DWT

2017-2026: Possible Priority Site of Local Importance

Ponds set in lowland heath. 'Main' pond in centre with 3 peripheral ponds, 2 ephemeral to some degree. Presence of Red-eyed Damselfly; former presence of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, Hairy Dragonfly and Ruddy Darter. Of special note: breeding attempt by Vagrant Emperor.

Last updated: 26/01/2025

Site: BOVEY HEATHFIELD DWT	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX821767	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle			+			A						
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly				B	C	D	C	B	D			B
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly				C		B	B		C	A	B	C
Blue-tailed Damselfly				A	A	C	A	A	C		A	B
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly						B						
Common Blue Damselfly						B	A	A	C	B	B	C
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly				A	B	C	B	B	D	C	B	D
Red-eyed Damselfly									C			A
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly									A			
Common Hawker			+				B		B			B
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker				A		C	B	A	C	A	A	C
Migrant Hawker									C			B
Emperor Dragonfly			+	C		B	B		C	B	B	C
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor								A	B			
Golden-ringed Dragonfly			+	A		B			A			B
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser				C		C	B		C	B	B	C
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser						B	A		C	A		C
Keeled Skimmer			+			B						B
Black-tailed Skimmer						A	A		B			C
Common Darter			+	D	+	C	B	A	C	C	B	C
Red-veined Darter												A
Ruddy Darter						B						
Black Darter						A						A
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	0	0	6	9	4	16	12	7	17	8	8	18

Bold underlined = nationally important species **Bold black** = important species

Succ = Successful breeding (exuvia(e) and/or larva(e) and/or pre-flight emergent and/or oviposition);

Poss = Possible breeding (copulating pair); Other = Adult(s) or unspecified.

Abundance codes: A=1; B=2-5; C=6-20; D=21-100; E=101-500; F=>500; + = no count.

Priority Species History

Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly – small numbers noted at temporary pools in July 2005 (2-5) and June 2006 (male and female on 10th, 2 males on 17th); no evidence of breeding – probably dispersal from Bovey Basin claypit(s) within 2-3 km.

Red-eyed Damselfly – 1 on 24/8/09; 6-20 reported on 14/6/12; 1 male on 2/6/22.

Ruddy Darter – 2-5 reported on 17+28/8/05 [possibly input or identification error].

Other notable records

Hairy Dragonfly – a territorial male on 14/5/14.

Common Hawker – small numbers (2-5) reported during 2008-12, with at least two egg-laying in 2009 and an exuvia found in 2010; none until a report of one on 16/7/17; a territorial male on 27/7/19; 1 on 21/9/21 and at least 2 on 17/10/21.

Vagrant Emperor – the only breeding attempt in Devon came in 2013: two were first seen on 8/10/13, at least one of which was a male; a male remained to 2/11/13; a female was seen egg-laying (alone) on 18+26/10/13, the first such record in Britain since one in 2011 in Cornwall; finally, a female was seen on 12 November. Despite checks the following year, only Emperor Dragonflies were found to emerge.

Red-veined Darter – singles on 5/7/17, 28/9/19, and 6-18/9/20.

Black Darter – 1 on 5/10/05 and a male on 3/10/17.

Habitat

Ponds, some temporary, in lowland heath (H4 NVC community).

Status

Devon Wildlife Trust Reserve.

Area

c12 ha

Owner/tenant

Devon Wildlife Trust

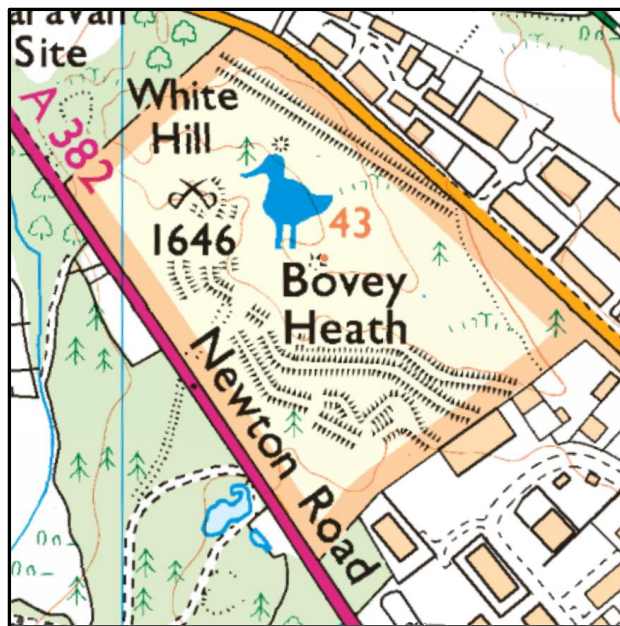
Local Authority: Teignbridge DC

Threats

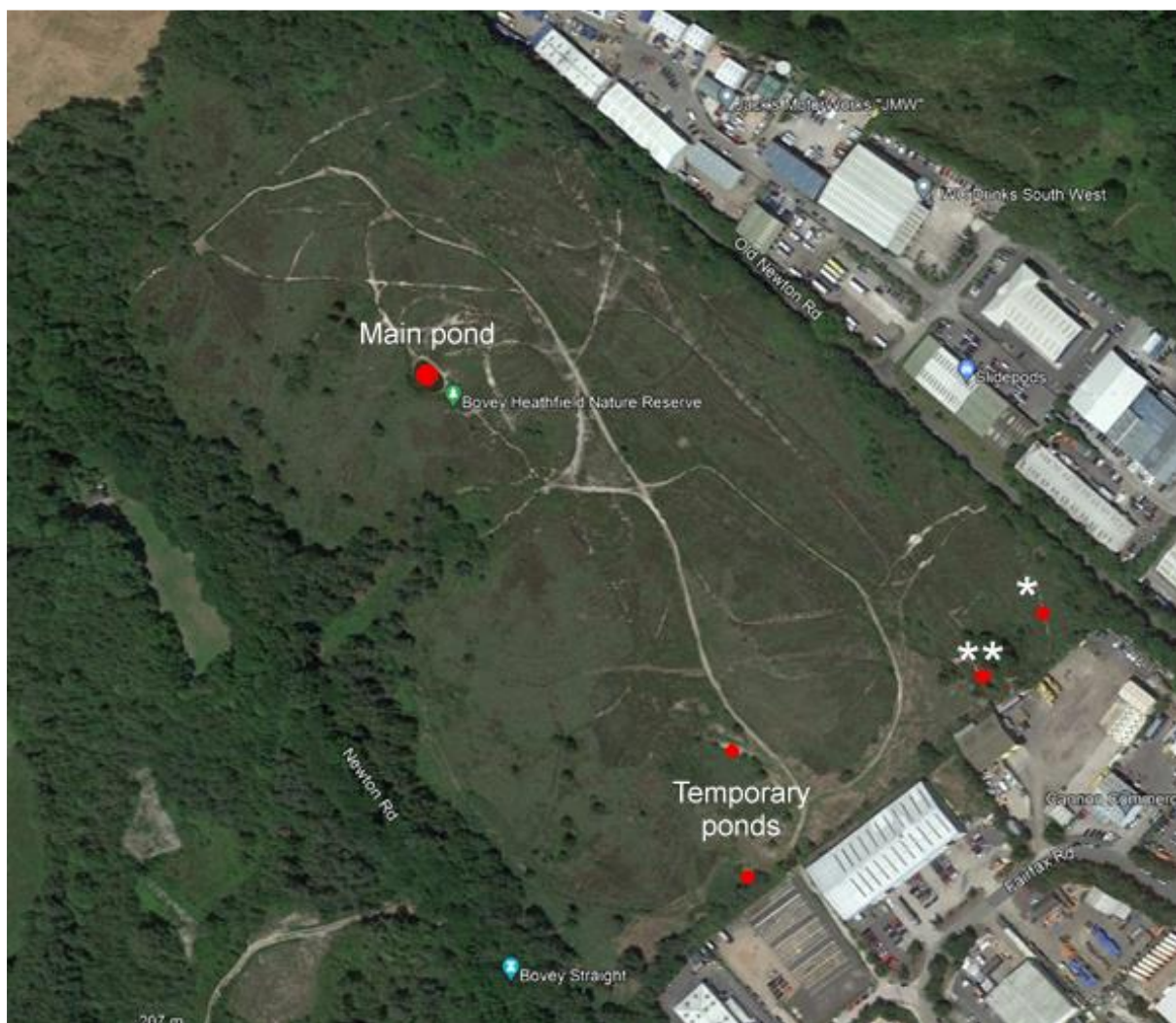
- Wildfire.
- Dogs in pools.

Management suggestions

- Consider deepening some pools.



Google Earth image



* = rainwater puddles where Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies seen in 2005-6. ** linear pond.