

CLENNON VALLY LAKES

2017-2026: Possible Priority Site of Local/National Importance

Presence of (and presumably breeding) Red-eyed Damselfly and Scarce Chaser; occasional Ruddy Darter.

Last updated: 28/03/25

Site: Clennon Valley Lakes	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX885592	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle												
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly												
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly												B
Blue-tailed Damselfly	C	C	D						D	A	A	E
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly	A	B	C						B			C
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly			C				A	A	D			D
Red-eyed Damselfly												C
Small Red-eyed Damselfly										C	C	D
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly												
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker			B									B
Migrant Hawker			B						B			C
Emperor Dragonfly	A		B									C
Lesser Emperor												B
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												A
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser			B							A	A	C
Scarce Chaser												B
Four-spotted Chaser			+									A
Keeled Skimmer			B									A
Black-tailed Skimmer	A		B						+			C
Common Darter		B	C					B	C			D
Red-veined Darter										B	A	C
Ruddy Darter			A									A
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	4	3	11				1	2	6	4	4	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

Red-eyed Damselfly – c20 on 23/7/21; reported on 1/8/22.

Scarce Chaser – a male on 25/6/18; a male during 5-8/7/19 with a female on 6th; a male on 3 and 22/6/20; a male on 22/7/21; at least 2 males and a female on 14/6/22; and up to 3 during 5-16/7/23, with a later male on 20/7/23; and 1 on 20 & 27/6/24. The species is presumably breeding.

Ruddy Darter – single, probably migrant, males on 27/9/90, 24/8/91 and 25/7/19.

Other species of note

Lesser Emperor – 2 males on 8-9/9/23.

Keeled Skimmer – 3 recorded in 1993, assumed to be dispersing individuals.

Red-veined Darter – at least 6 during 6-14/7/19; 2 on 14/6/21; up to 3 during 14-15/6/23.

Habitat (from 1995 survey)

A series of four ponds flowing one into another and into a small stream, set adjacent to playing fields on a former landfill site. The ponds were created in the early 1980s.

The stream is dominated by tall emergents – *Typha*, *Mentha*, *Oenanthe*, *Epilobium hirsutum* – so there is little open water. It is surrounded by tall herb, bramble and young trees.

Ponds 1 and 2: plentiful emergents (*Typha*, *Phragmites*, *Iris*, *Juncus*) with a fair quantity of marginal trees and islands of willow. pH: 7.3-7.4 (10/11/95). Conductivity: 460-530 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (10/11/95).

Pond 3: Less tall emergents than 1 and 2, but more fringing, overhanging trees and islands of trees. pH: 6.5-7.6 (10/11/95). Conductivity: 490-510 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (10/11/95).

Pond 4: Tiny, smaller than 1 to 3. Very shallow (silted up?) and largely tree fringed with a bank of tall herbs backed by woodland. It is fed from a small, shady, marshy area (*Oenanthe crocata*). pH 7.8-8.1 (10/11/95). Conductivity: 500-520 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (10/11/95).

Very high population of waterfowl and gulls, especially at pond 1, fed by the public. All ponds are fairly shallow, although the sides appear steep in places. A little submerged weed is present in all ponds plus some floating blanketweed. Water a little cloudy. Around the north sides of 1 to 3 are fenced areas of tall, herb-rich grassland with much tree planting.

Status

County Wildlife Site.

Area

ca. 5 ha.

Local Authority: Torbay Council.

Owner/tenant

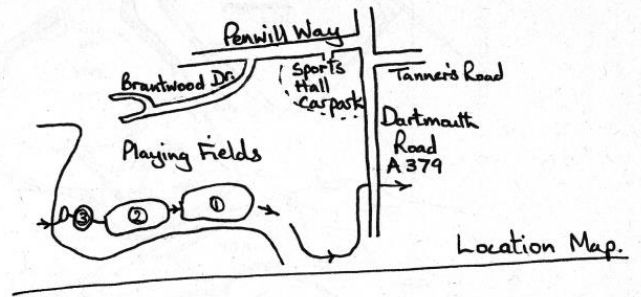
Torbay Council

Threats

- Waterfowl.
- Shading from surrounding trees.

Management suggestions

- Reduce numbers of waterfowl (though it is difficult to stop the public feeding them).
- Manage adjacent tall grassland by rotational 2-yearly cut with cuttings removed, to maintain adult dragonfly feeding ground. Selectively thin the tree plantings (drastically in the long term) to avoid losing the grassland and low bramble to young woodland.
- Consider digging a series of smaller ponds, on a long term, rolling programme, preferably in the amenity grassland immediately north of the fenced grassland.



Playing
Fields.

