

COMBESHEAD REWILDING

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

A series of ponds dug in about 2010, now holding Devon's largest population of Small Red Damselfly; presence of White-legged Damselfly..

Last updated: 07/03/2025

Site: COMBESHEAD REWILDING	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX384914	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										C	C	F
White-legged Damselfly												A
Large Red Damselfly												B
Blue-tailed Damselfly											B	D
<u>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</u>												
Common Blue Damselfly										A		D
<u>Southern Damselfly</u>												
Azure Damselfly										C	C	F
Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red Damselfly										B	D	F
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly												
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												B
Migrant Hawker												
Emperor Dragonfly										C	A	C
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												B
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser												
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser											A	C
Keeled Skimmer												C
Black-tailed Skimmer												B
Common Darter										C		C
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:										6	6	14

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

White-legged Damselfly – 1 at Woodland – West pond on 13/7/22.

Small Red Damselfly – at least 294 counted at six ponds on 13/7/22; equally amazing was an estimated 580 on 2/7/23. On both occasions, most were at Pond 7.

Habitat

Ponds in farmland and broad-leaved woodland subject to rewilding.

Status

County Wildlife Site

Area

c10 ha

Local Authority: West Devon DC

Owner/tenant

Derek Gow

Threats

- Natural succession

Management suggestions

- Clear ponds in part and in sequence over a long rotation



