# DARTS FARM, TOPSHAM 2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

Fishing ponds and adjacent grazing marsh ditches and scrapes. Confirmed breeding of Scarce Chaser; Red-eyed Damselfly probably breeding; presence of Hairy Dragonfly.

	Last updated: 07/03/20									2025		
Site: DARTS FARM	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX973885	Bree	ding	Other			Other	Breeding		Other	er Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
Damselflies												
Beautiful Demoiselle						Α						
Banded Demoiselle						Α						Α
Emerald Damselfly												
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly						В			D		А	D
Blue-tailed Damselfly						С			С	В	В	E
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly					В	D						В
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly					D	E			+	Α	В	D
Red-eyed Damselfly											Α	D
Small Red-eyed Damselfly										Α		С
Small Red Damselfly												
Dragonflies												
Hairy Dragonfly			С			С			Α			В
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker						Α			В			+
Migrant Hawker						С			С			В
Emperor Dragonfly					В	С			В			Α
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser									В			В
Scarce Chaser									Α	Α	Α	С
Four-spotted Chaser												Α
Keeled Skimmer												
Black-tailed Skimmer						В						В
Common Darter				С	D	E			В			Α
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	0	0	0	1	4	12	0	0	10	4	4	16

#### 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** – first noted from 21/5/22 and 6/6/22, with 2+ on the first date and 2 males on 19/8/22; 21-100 on 27/5/23; 14 males on 7/6/24.

**Hairy Dragonfly** – found in 4 ditch sections and 3 at the ponds in 1995; 6 on 20/6/05; 1 on 6/6/13; 2 males on 16/6/18; singles in 2019 and 2022; at least 2 on 27/75/23; 1 male on 7/6/24. **Scarce Chaser** – singles on 27/6/10 and 12/7/17; 8 (6 males) on 16/6/18; 2 (1 egg-laying) on 15/6/19; 1 male on 9/6/21; 1 exuvia on 14/5/22 with 6-20 adults on 21/5/22; 6-20 on 27/5/23, with 1 male on 7/6/23.

#### Habitat

Three angling ponds adjacent to grazing marsh ditches, scrapes and R Clyst.

Status	Area
None?	c15 ha

Local Authority: East Devon DC

#### Owner/tenant

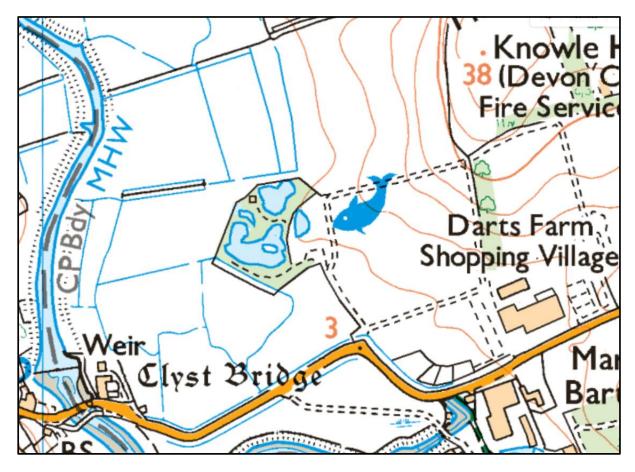
Darts Farm.

### Threats

- Over-zealous grass-cutting
- Predation by fish
- Natural succession in ponds, scrapes and ditches

#### Management suggestions

- Leave pond margins uncut where possible
- Manage ponds, ditches and scrapes on long rotation



# Southern part of Clyst Marshes (from 1995 survey)

