

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: 07/03/2025

| Site: DARTS FARM | 1987-1996 | | | 1997-2006 | | | 2007-2016 | | | 2017-2026 | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|
| Grid ref.: SX973885 | Breeding | | Other | Breeding | | Other | Breeding | | Other | Breeding | | Other |
| | Succ | Poss | | Succ | Poss | | Succ | Poss | | Succ | Poss | |
| <u>Damselflies</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beautiful Demoiselle | | | | | | A | | | | | | |
| Banded Demoiselle | | | | | | A | | | | | | A |
| Emerald Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White-legged Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Red Damselfly | | | | | | B | | | D | | A | D |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly | | | | | | C | | | C | B | B | E |
| Scarce Blue-t Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Blue Damselfly | | | | | B | D | | | | | | B |
| Southern Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Azure Damselfly | | | | | D | E | | | + | A | B | D |
| Red-eyed Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | A | D |
| Small Red-eyed Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | A | | C |
| Small Red Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Dragonflies</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hairy Dragonfly | | | C | | | C | | | A | | | B |
| Common Hawker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Norfolk Hawker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brown Hawker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Hawker | | | | | | A | | | B | | | + |
| Migrant Hawker | | | | | | C | | | C | | | B |
| Emperor Dragonfly | | | | | B | C | | | B | | | A |
| Lesser Emperor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vagrant Emperor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Downy Emerald | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broad-bodied Chaser | | | | | | | | | B | | | B |
| Scarce Chaser | | | | | | | | | A | A | A | C |
| Four-spotted Chaser | | | | | | | | | | | | A |
| Keeled Skimmer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-tailed Skimmer | | | | | | B | | | | | | B |
| Common Darter | | | | C | D | E | | | B | | | A |
| 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 27/7/23; 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

None?

Area

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)

