

# DOETOR MIRE

## 2007-2016: Confirmed Key Site of National Importance

### CURRENT STATUS UNCERTAIN

Acidic boggy flushes adjacent to the River Lyd. Former successful breeding population of Small Red Damselfly, but not recorded since 2010, and former presence of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly.

Last updated: 28/03/2025

Site: DOETOR MIRE	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX535844	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<b><u>Damselflies</u></b>												
Beautiful Demoiselle			B			C						
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly												
<b>White-legged Damselfly</b>												
Large Red Damselfly		B	C	A	C	D						
Blue-tailed Damselfly						A						
<b>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</b>			<b>B</b>			<b>B</b>						
Common Blue Damselfly			A			A						
<b>Southern Damselfly</b>												
Azure Damselfly						B						
<b>Red-eyed Damselfly</b>												
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
<b>Small Red Damselfly</b>		<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>		<b>B</b>			
<b><u>Dragonflies</u></b>												
<b>Hairy Dragonfly</b>												
Common Hawker			A									
<b>Norfolk Hawker</b>												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												
Migrant Hawker												
Emperor Dragonfly												
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly			B	B	+	C			A			
<b>Downy Emerald</b>												
Broad-bodied Chaser					+	B						
<b>Scarce Chaser</b>												
Four-spotted Chaser												
Keeled Skimmer	A	B	D	C	C	E	B		B			
Black-tailed Skimmer												
Common Darter				A	A	B						
Red-veined Darter												
<b>Ruddy Darter</b>												
Black Darter				+	+	C						
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
<b>Total species in category:</b>	1	3	8	6	7	12	2		3			

**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.

### **Key Species History**

**Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** – 2-5 noted in 1995 (probably 9/8/95) and on 18/7/98.

**Small Red Damselfly** - noted in 1977 (one only); 8 (7 males) plus two pairs *in cop.* on 9/8/95; D (21-100) on 13/7/97 and C (6-20) on 9/8/97 (including B *in cop.*); D on 18/7/98; C in 2002 and D in 2003; 40 (30 males, 8 in cop. and 3 emergent) on 22/7/05; the only record since then was in poor weather on 4/7/10 (5 adults and B exuviae).

### **Other species of note**

**Keeled Skimmer** - at least 32 (mostly territorial males) on 9/8/95.

### **Habitat**

A short stretch of the Lyd Valley with open moorland on the north bank and enclosed fields on the south bank. Both banks support boggy flushes.

**North Bank:** A mosaic of boggy flushes (one particularly large) feeding into the river at the base of a steep slope of upland grass and bracken. Between flushes is dry grassland and bracken. Some fast-flowing runnels on steep slopes plus shallower, slow-flowing runnels, shallow pools (to 0.3m deep) with deep silt, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Hypericum elodes* etc. Hence open water quite limited. Varying degrees of wetness within flushes, with patches of *Sphagnum/Drosera rotundifolia* in drier areas and *Molinia*, *Trichophorum*, rushes (*J. bulbosus*, *J. acutiflorus/articulatus*) in wetter parts and occasional tall tufts of *J. effusus*. *Rhynchospora alba* and *Drosera intermedia* also present (frequent in large flush). pH: 6.1 (25/6/95). Conductivity: 50 µS/cm (9/8/95).

River fast-flowing, heavily shaded in many places, sunny elsewhere; rocky base with much water moss.

**South Bank:** Two steep unimproved fields dominated by wet flushes with runnels, with *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and *Hypericum elodes* in the wettest parts, *Sphagnum-Drosera-Narthecium* bog, areas of short or tussocky *Molinia*, tall rush pasture with *Lotus uliginosus* and *Cirsium palustre*, and patches of *Juncus bulbosus*, *Carex* spp etc, all in a mosaic. Around the flushes are areas of dry unimproved acid grassland, bracken and scrub, the latter (gorse, willow, birch, etc) becoming quite large in places. Mature hedges and a row of trees along the river. The area is lightly cattle grazed with the sward remaining tall (>0.5m) in many places. pH readings on 17/7/95: 6.5 (runnel at base of slope), 7.7 (*Molinia* flush on main slope), 7.6 (large field), 8.6 (flush in smaller field). Target notes (refer to map):

- A. Rushy boggy flush.
  - B. Drier (acid) grassland with some bracken.
  - C. Thick trees/mature, unmanaged hedges.
  - D. Mature scrub/wood with clearings of damp grassland.
  - E. Drier unimproved acid grassland with much scrub (especially gorse).
  - F. Flush with much short (grazed?) *Molinia*.
  - G. Varied rushy flush.
  - H. Boggy flush with *Sphagnum* and abundant *Narthecium*.
  - I. Distinct runnel (*Potamogeton polygonifolius* etc.).
  - J. Area of tall *Molinia* tussocks, scrub and some short flush vegetation.
  - K. Dry acid grassland with much bracken.
  - L. Small boggy patch with *Sphagnum*, *Juncus effusus*, seasonally dry.
  - M. Large flush area - most dragonfly activity here.
- Collection of smaller flushes, the westernmost steep amongst rocky outcrop.

### **Status**

None.

### **Area**

10 ha

### **Owner/tenant**

North: Duchy of Cornwall; South: MOD?

**Local Authority:** Dartmoor NPA

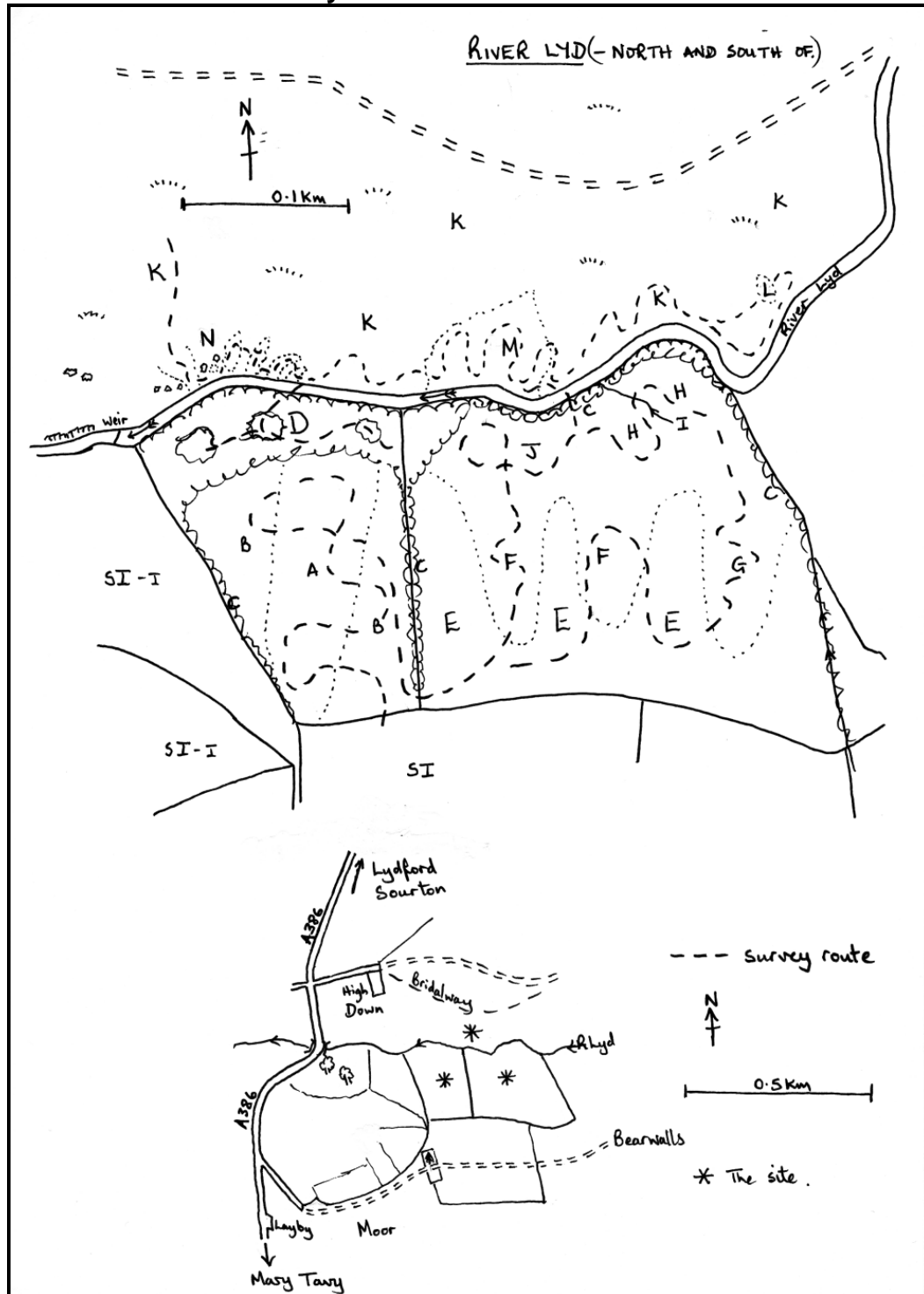
### Threats

- Scrub encroachment on south bank.
- Poaching, especially by cattle in winter.

### Management suggestions

- Maintain present grazing regime.
- Avoid agricultural improvement or drainage.
- Reduce scrub cover on south bank: eliminate 50-75% of present scrub, maintain one-third by coppicing on short cycle.

### Doetor Mire: 1995 survey area



# Doetor Mire/River Lyd: 1998 and 2005 survey map

