

GALLOWS CROSS SUDS PONDS, KINGSTEIGNTON

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of Local Importance

Confirmed breeding by Red-eyed Damselfly, but apparently lost due to successional change. Presence of Hairy Dragonfly.

Last updated: 29/03/2025

Site: GALLOWS CROSS SUDS PONDS	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX86127355	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										A		C
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly												B
Blue-tailed Damselfly										B	B	D
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly												D
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly										C	B	D
Red-eyed Damselfly										A		C
Small Red-eyed Damselfly										B	A	D
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly												B
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												A
Migrant Hawker												C
Emperor Dragonfly										A		B
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser												A
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser										B	A	B
Keeled Skimmer												A
Black-tailed Skimmer											A	B
Common Darter										B	A	C
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:										8	6	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 – 18 (1 egg-laying) at western pond on 27/5/20; 12 (8 at western pond (1 egg-laying) and 4+ at eastern pond) on 13/6/21; none since (open water lost).

Hairy Dragonfly – A male at each pond on 13/6/21; 1 male at eastern pond on 3/6/22; a male at each pond on 17/5/24.

Habitat

Two permanently wet SuDS (Sustainable Drainage System) ponds created to collect rainwater and sediment from adjacent housing estate (on site of former New Cross Pond DWT Reserve), situated either side of diverted Broadway Road. Their close proximity to several old and new ponds related to ball clay extraction ensured rapid colonisation of dragonflies. Access impossible in early years until 2017. Peripheral growth of planted shrubs hampered observations considerably by 2024.

Western Pond: quickly established fringing emergents (*Phragmites* and *Typha*) and submerged aquatics, with almost total cover of *Myriophyllum spicatum* by 2024; some turbidity caused by introduced carp.

Eastern Pond: dominated by *Phragmites* and *Typha*, with essentially no open water by 2024, despite removal of some sediment (winter 2021/22?).

Status

None

Area

2 ha.

Local Authority: Teignbridge DC

Owner/tenant

(Managed by a management company.)

Threats

- Successional development, causing loss of open water.
- Predation and turbidity from introduced carp.

Management suggestions

- Maintain areas of open water by periodic dredging.
- Create/maintain observation viewpoints.

Gallows Cross SUDS Ponds (Google Earth 22/06/2022)

