

LOWER AXE VALLEY

2017-2026: Possible Priority Site of National Importance

The section from Kilmington to the tidal limit near the confluence with the River Coly holds breeding White-legged Damselfly and, at least to 2008, Scarce Chaser.

Last updated: 15/03/2025

Site: LOWER AXE VALLEY	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SY29	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle									B			A
Banded Demoiselle		C	E			B	B	A	E			C
Emerald Damselfly												
White-legged Damselfly			E			D	C	B	E	A	B	E
Large Red Damselfly			B				A	A	D			B
Blue-tailed Damselfly	A	C	D					C	E			C
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly			C						D			B
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly			D					B	D	A		C
Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly												
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												
Migrant Hawker												
Emperor Dragonfly									B			
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser												
Scarce Chaser							A	A	C			B
Four-spotted Chaser												
Keeled Skimmer												
Black-tailed Skimmer									B			
Common Darter												
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	1	2	6	0	0	1	4	6	10	2	1	8

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 – known from 1981 onwards; D (21-100) at Kilminster in July 2006; on 8/6/07 there were 257 between R Coly confluence and just north of Whitford and 150+ here on 15/6/08; about 25 at Colyford Bridge 29/6/14; and several hundred at Colyford Bridge on 3/7/19.

Scarce Chaser – first recorded in June 2007, when at least 6 around Colyford Bridge, including an emergent and a mating pair, and a teneral at Whitford Bridge; similar numbers at Colyford Bridge in 2008, including an exuvia; 1-2 males recorded here in 2011, 2014 and 2019.

Habitat

Lowland river with marginal emergents (including *Phalaris arundinacea*) and buffer strips of varying width abutting grassland and arable.

Status

None.

Length

>6 km

Local Authority: East Devon DC

Owner/tenant

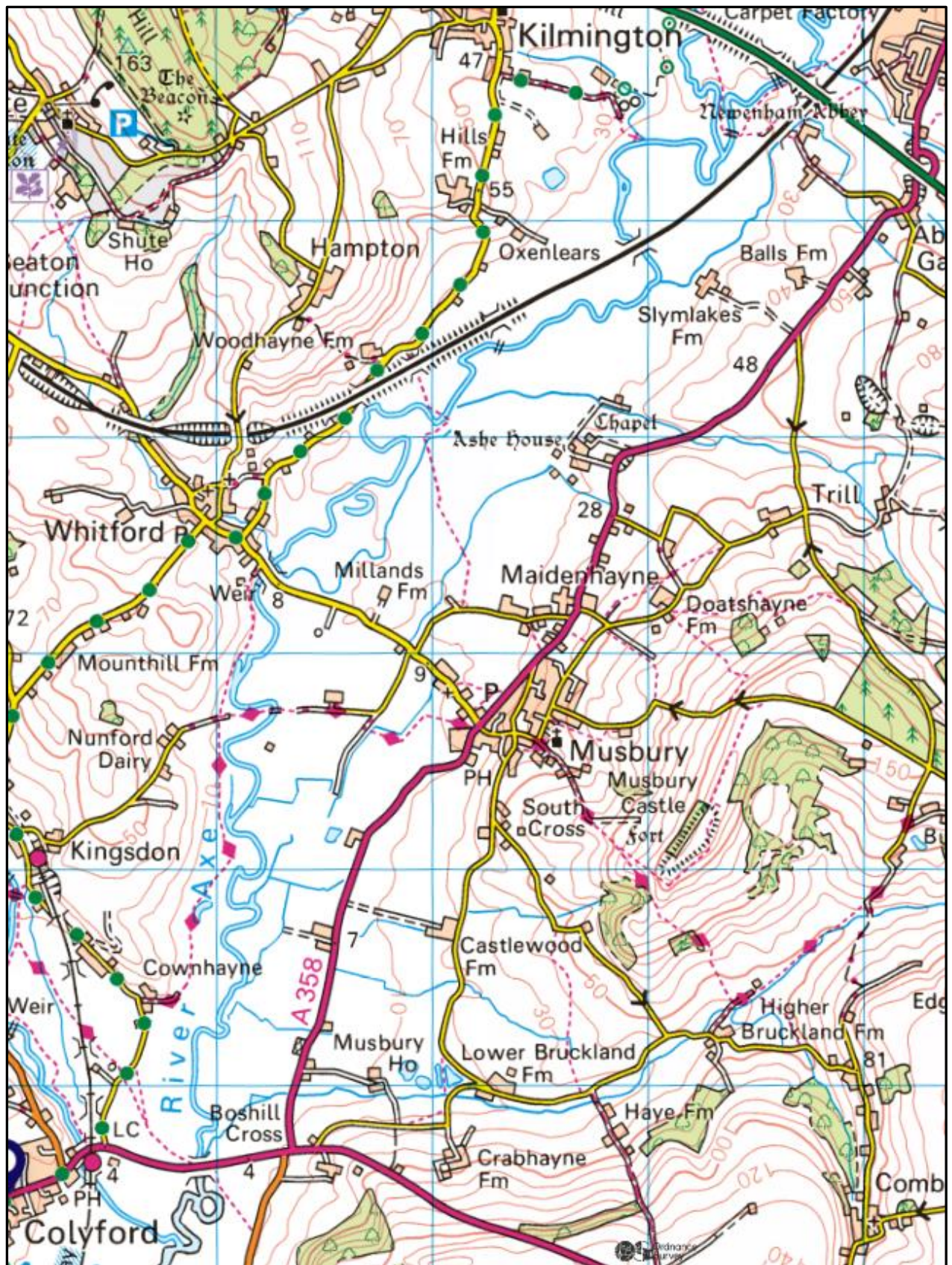
Various.

Threats

- Loss of marginal vegetation to agriculture, including livestock grazing.

Management suggestions

- Maintain marginal vegetation, ideally with wide buffer strips.



R Coly and R Axe below Colyford Bridge (from 1995 survey)

