

MATFORD POOLS RSPB

2017-2026: Possible Priority Site of National Importance

Presence of Scarce Chaser in at least 2019. Formerly, breeding Hairy Dragonfly (larva found in 2009) and presence of White-legged Damselfly and Red-eyed Damselfly.

Last updated: 23/7/24

Site: MATFORD POOLS RSPB	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX936893	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle						C			A	A		B
Banded Demoiselle						C			B			
Emerald Damselfly									A			+
White-legged Damselfly						B						
Large Red Damselfly												
Blue-tailed Damselfly					D	D						+
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly						D			+			
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly				C	D	D						+
Red-eyed Damselfly						A						
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly				A		B						
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												
Migrant Hawker												+
Emperor Dragonfly						C			A			+
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly						B			A			
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser						B						
Scarce Chaser												A
Four-spotted Chaser						C			+			
Keeled Skimmer												
Black-tailed Skimmer				B	B	C						+
Common Darter						C			A			
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	0	0	0	3	3	14	0	0	8	1	0	7

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

Red-eyed Damselfly – one on 04/08/2005.

Hairy Dragonfly – up to 5 seen, including a pair in cop., during May-July 2005; a larva was found on 27/8/09 in the “seasonal” pool (SX 93798915, immediately NW of the A379) – found amongst dense stands of emergent vegetation in the old part of the pond.

Scarce Chaser – reported on 4/7/19; a record from 14/6/23 at ‘Matford Marsh’ could refer to this site.

Habitat

An area of semi-improved, lightly cattle-grazed grassland with recently dug pools, ditches and scrapes. The Matford Brook runs eastwards through the middle of the site alongside a mature hedgerow and then through a mature hedge with trees. This is a clear fast-flowing stream over a gravelly substrate, with emergent and aquatic vegetation. The western section is sheltered by the hedgebank to the north. The largest permanent pool has fingers of rushes, spike-rush, Reed and bulrushes growing into the centre, affording shelter and seclusion for wildlife. The damp ‘ridge and furrow’ area dries out during the year, as does the seasonal pool, leaving wide muddy margins. The ditches are mostly dominated by bur-reed but with some lengths of open water some 15-20cm deep. The northern stream is 10-15cm deep with abundant to locally dominant emergent vegetation, and occasional to locally frequent floating and submerged vegetation and open water. The northern field has less cattle grazing and by mid-summer 2005 had a tall sward composed mainly of Tufted Hair-grass, thistles, Hemlock Water-dropwort, Nettle and some Reed. To the southeast there is an area of pond sedge with bulrush surrounded by willows.

2009 addition: A large new section of the “seasonal” pond was excavated and further work on the northernmost pool was undertaken.

An area to the north-west, known as Mutton Marsh, was created in 2017 by RSPB, but the wet features have not yet been surveyed; it is soon to become part of the RSPB reserve (July 2024).

Status

RSPB reserve.

Area

c15 ha.

Local Authority:

Exeter City Council.

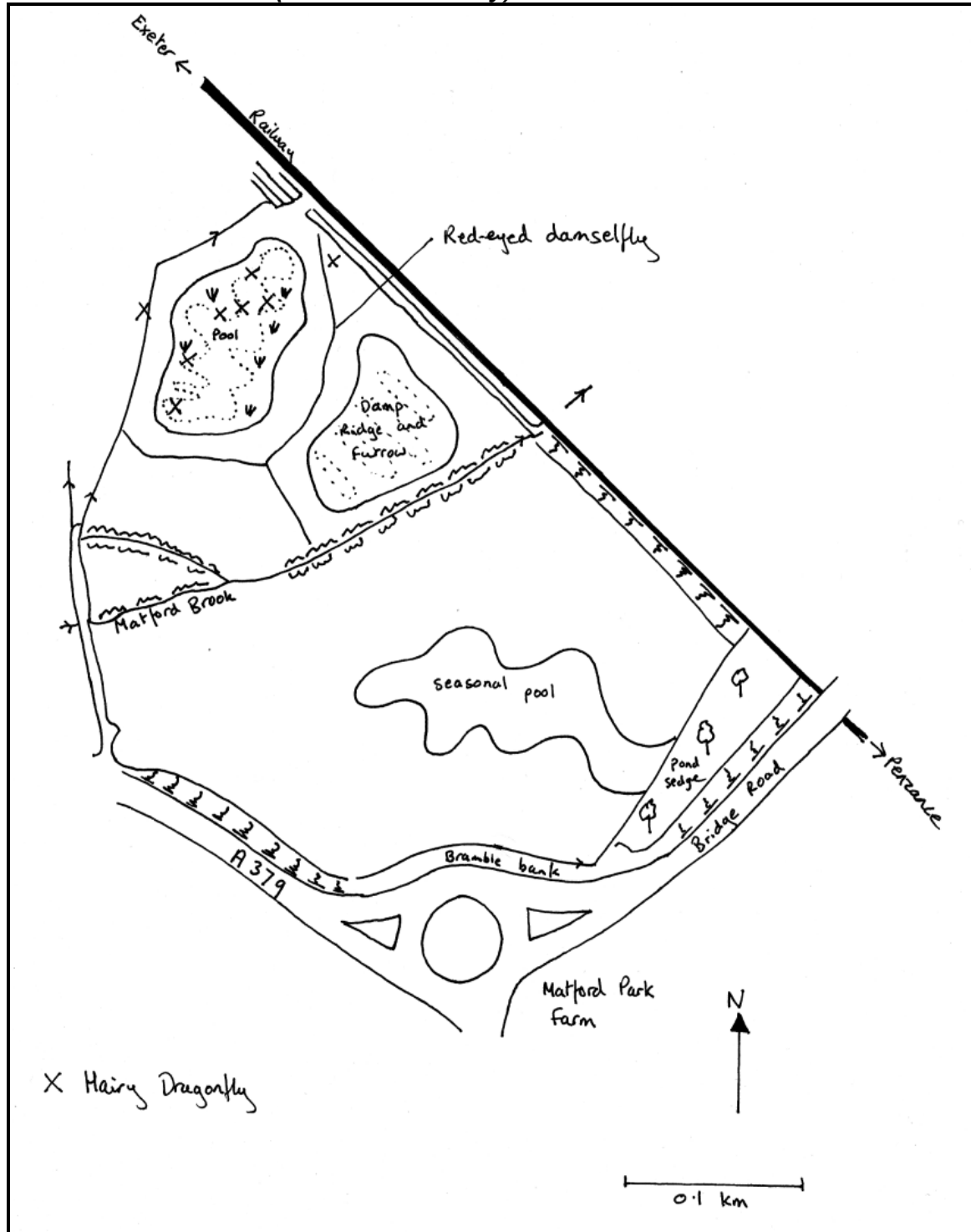
Owner/tenant

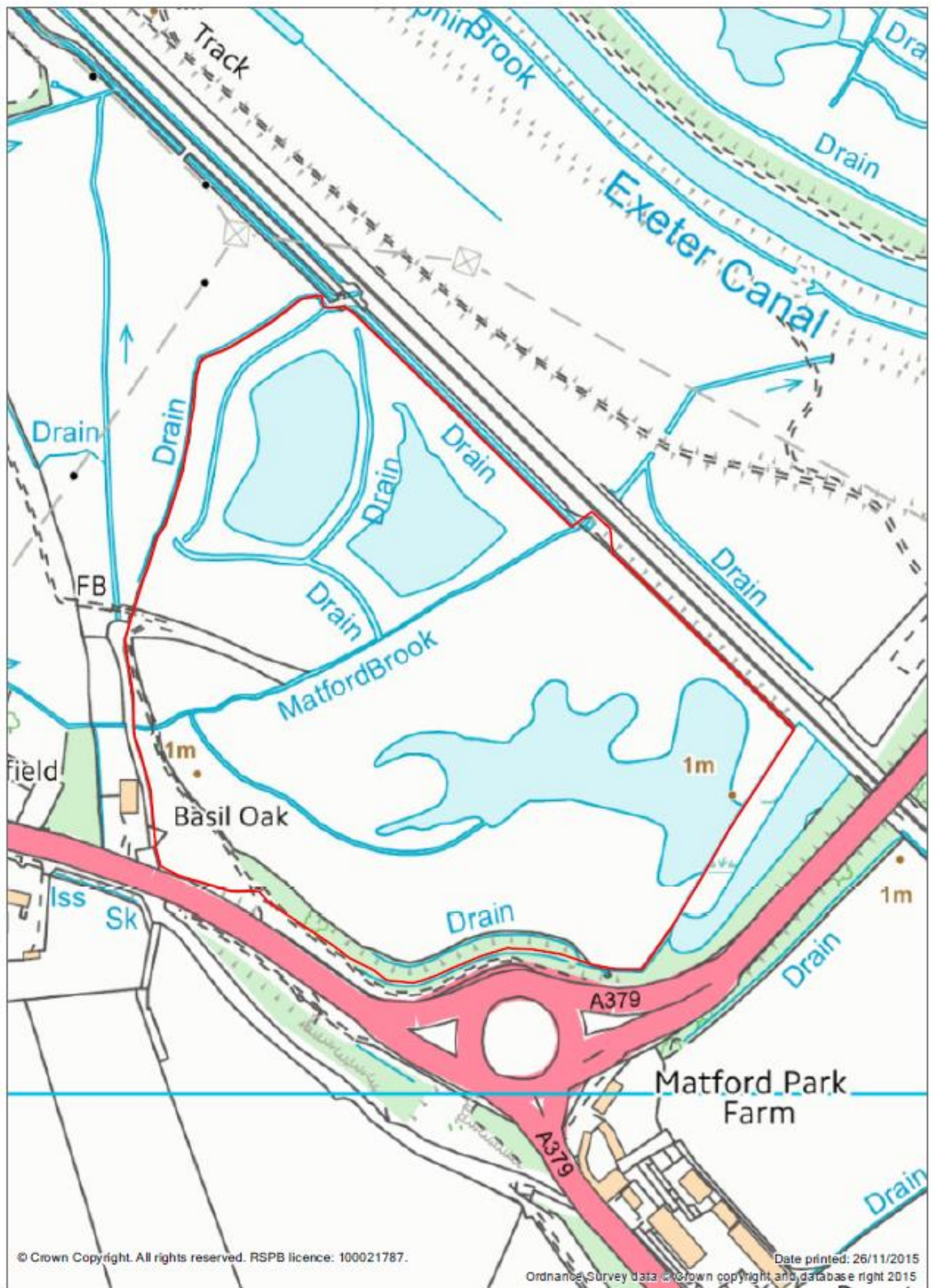
Crown Estate/RSPB

Threats

Management suggestions

Matford Pools RSPB (from 2005 survey)





Mutton Marsh (within red line)

