

NETHEREXE POND (site of old Key Transport)

1997-2006: Priority Site of Local Importance

CURRENT STATUS UNCERTAIN

A Bovey Basin clay pond on the site of what was an exceptionally rich clay pit ('Key Transport') until the 1980s, formerly with successful breeding populations of Red-eyed Damselfly and Hairy Dragonfly. Access limited to anglers, which hampers recording.

Last updated: 20/03/2025

Site: Netherexe Pond	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX862741	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle			C			B						
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly												
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly	B	C	D	C	C	D						
Blue-tailed Damselfly	B	B	D	A	A	D						
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly	B	C	D	B	C	D						D
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly		B	D	C	B	C						D
Red-eyed Damselfly	B	B	D	B	C	D						
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												B
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly	A		B									
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker						B						
Migrant Hawker						A						
Emperor Dragonfly			B	A		B						A
Lesser Emperor												A
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser												
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser												
Keeled Skimmer												
Black-tailed Skimmer			A			A						
Common Darter			C			B						
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	5	5	10	5	5	11				0	0	5

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 – [Known at the old Key Transport Pond in 1978.] 15 (one ovipositing) on 22/5/92; C adults (B *in cop.* and B ovipositing) on 7/6/93; 30 (two ovipositing) on 23/5/95; D (21-100) on 2 & 5/6/06.

Hairy Dragonfly – [recorded on 27/5 & 10/6/78 at the old Key Transport Pond]; at least two adults on 7/6/93; one territorial male plus a female ovipositing on 23/5/95.

[Downy Emerald – recorded at the old Key Transport Pond on 27/5 & 10/6/78].

[Ruddy Darter – recorded at the old Key Transport Pond in 1978-79].

Other species of note

Lesser Emperor – a male on 22/7/18.

[Common Hawker – 1 in 1978 at the old Key Transport Pond cannot be validated.]

[Black Darter – 1 on 12/9/78 at the old Key Transport Pond.]

Habitat (from 1995 survey)

Pond reported to be about 4.5m (14 feet) deep. Bottom apparently shallowly sloping. The old Key Transport Pond on this site was reworked for clay in the mid-1980's, leaving the smaller present pond now called Netherexe. There are extensive, dense rafts of *Nymphoides peltata* mixed with other exotic pondweeds. Emergents such as *Juncus effusus* are fairly frequent, especially at anglers' 'swims'. There is a large area of *Typha latifolia* at the inaccessible western end. About 50% of the bank is lined with young alders and other scrub (little overhanging). *Crassula helmsii* present around wooden fishing platforms. Inflow at west, outflow at south. Canada geese breeding in 1995. Fish present include Perch, Tench, Bream and Crucian Carp, but not Pike (according to a local angler). Water fairly cloudy. pH: 8.2 (22/5/92 and 12/7/95). Conductivity: 320-330 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (4/8/95).

Status

None.

Area

ca. 0.5 ha

Local Authority: Teignbridge DC

Owner/tenant

Sibelco

Threats

- Dominance by exotic aquatic plants.
- Competition from fish.
- Turbidity caused by bottom-feeding fish.
- Excessive clearance of pondweed by anglers.
- Shading by marginal trees.

Management suggestions

- Do not introduce predatory or silt-stirring fish eg carp.
- Remove only small amounts of vegetation to facilitate angling (especially *Nymphoides* rafts).
- Control, and if possible eradicate, New Zealand Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*.
- Occasional coppicing of alder in future years should prove beneficial.

