

OFFWELL

Former Priority Site of Local Importance

CURRENT STATUS UNCERTAIN

A variety of artificial pools in a warm, sheltered, wooded valley, the largest of which has held Ruddy Darter, though no recent records.

Last updated: 20/03/2025

| Site: OFFWELL | 1987-1996 | | | 1997-2006 | | | 2007-2016 | | | 2017-2026 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|
| Grid ref.: SY189993 | 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 | | | A? | | | A | | | | | | |
| Emerald Damselfly | | | C | | | A | | | | | | |
| <u>White-legged Damselfly</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Red Damselfly | C | B | D | A | A | C | | | A | | | B |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly | | | D | | | E | | | | | | |
| <u>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Blue Damselfly | C | C | D | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Southern Damselfly</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Azure Damselfly | C | D | E | D | D | E | | | | | | |
| <u>Red-eyed Damselfly</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Red-eyed Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Small Red Damselfly</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Dragonflies</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Hairy Dragonfly</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Hawker | | | A? | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Norfolk Hawker</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brown Hawker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Hawker | | | B | A | | C | | | | | | |
| Migrant Hawker | | | A? | | | | | | | | | |
| Emperor Dragonfly | | | B | A | | B | | | | | | |
| Lesser Emperor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vagrant Emperor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly | | | C | | | B | | | | | | |
| <u>Downy Emerald</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broad-bodied Chaser | | | A | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Scarce Chaser</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Four-spotted Chaser | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Keeled Skimmer | | | A? | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-tailed Skimmer | | | A | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Darter | B | A | D | | A | B | | | | | | |
| Red-veined Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Ruddy Darter</u> | B | A | B | | A | B | | | | | | |
| Black Darter | | | A? | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-winged Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total species in category: | 5 | 5 | 13 (+5?) | 4 | 4 | 11 | | | 1 | | | 1 |

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

Ruddy Darter – ‘good numbers’ reported prior to 1995, often more than Common Darter: 20+ territorial males in 1994; three males and one pair *in cop.* (and probably some of eight Darters taking maiden flights) on 14/8/95. Said to have been recorded annually up to 2005, in the same areas, sometimes outnumbering Common Darters (but no more than 5 reported).

Other species of note

Keeled Skimmer – reported in 1995 as breeding ‘in recent years’.

Habitat

Five pools (two very new in 1995) in a sheltered, wooded valley. pH: 6.4-7.3 (6.9 in Ruddy Darter lake) on 29/7/95; conductivity: 90-120 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (20/7/95). All ponds dredged out since 1991, with major machine dredging of main lake and Kingfisher Pond. Leat also renovated; pH 7.2 and 7.7 (29.7.95) and conductivity 100 and 130 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (20/7/95). Major *Rhododendron* clearance programme and selective tree thinning has also opened up wetlands since 1991. Submerged species: *Potamogeton natans*, *Callitriche* sp.. Emergents: *Sparganium erectum*, *Iris psuedacorus*, *Butomus umbellatus*, *Mimulus* sp., *Ranunculus lingua*. Small acidic marginal flushes: *Sphagnum* (rare), *Carex paniculata* (occasional). Also stream to north and south (pH 7.8 and conductivity 100 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in the latter) and mire (‘The Wetland’). ca. 50 Rudd in the main lake.

No major changes apparent since 1995.

Status

Private Trust Reserve.

Area

3.5 ha

Owner/tenant

Owned by Cmdr. Tuke, leased to Offwell Woodland and Wildlife Trust.

Local Authority: East Devon DC

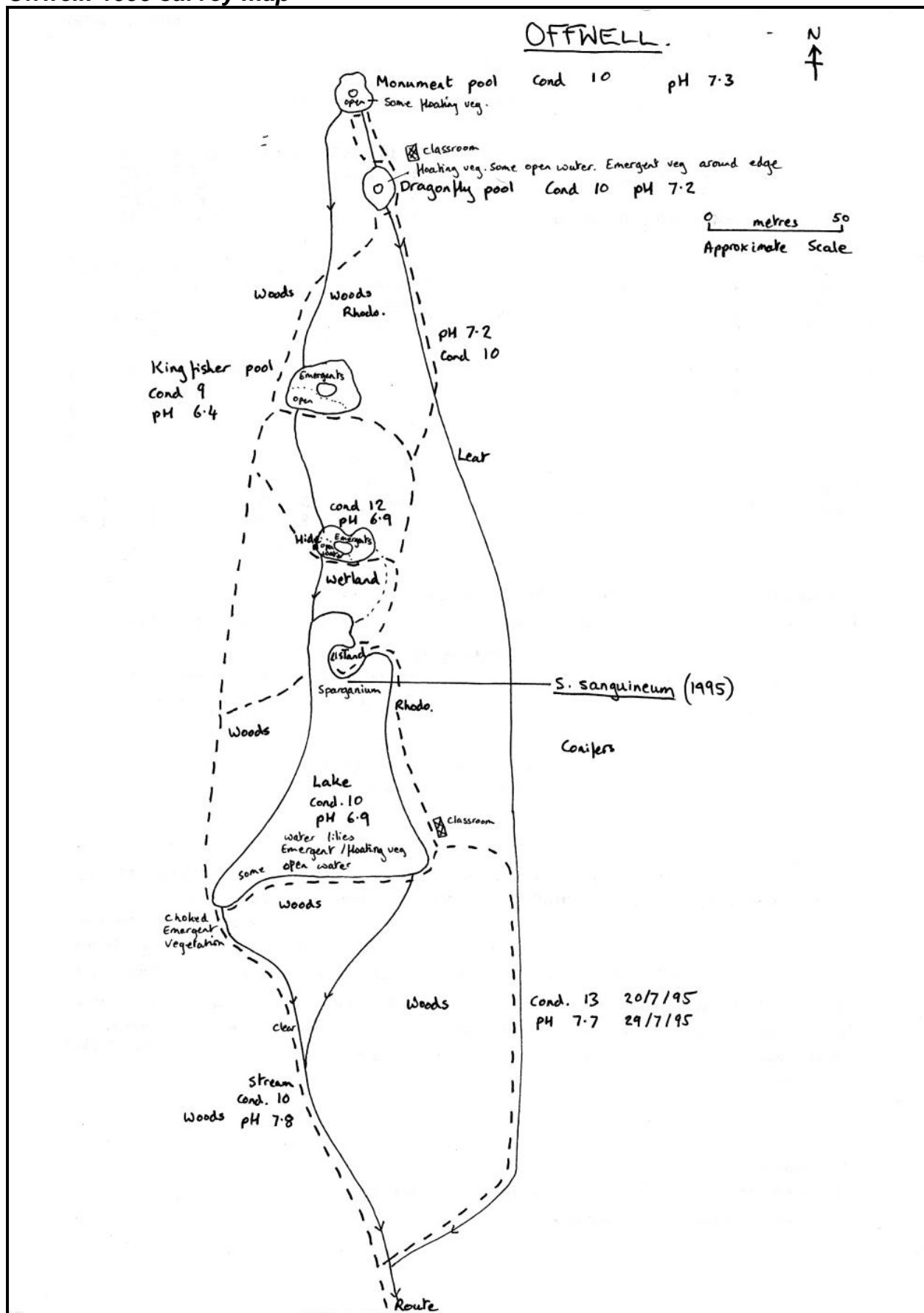
Threats

- Siltation.
- Shading by encroaching scrub, woodland and *Rhododendron*.

Management suggestions

- Occasional, small-scale desilting of ponds, on long rotation.
- Continued rotational thinning of marginal woodland to create sunny margins.
- Continued *Rhododendron* clearance.

Offwell: 1995 survey map



Offwell: 2005 survey map

