

SAWMILLS POND

1997-2006: Possible Key Site

CURRENT STATUS UNCERTAIN

A turbid, flooded, Bovey Basin clay pit, with a few Red-eyed Damselfly present; presumed to be breeding, though in less than ideal conditions.

Last updated: 11/04/2025

| Site: SAWMILLS POND | 1987-1996 | | | 1997-2006 | | | 2007-2016 | | | 2017-2026 | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|
| Grid ref.: SX861745 | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emerald Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White-legged Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Large Red Damselfly | A | | C | | | B | | | | | | |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly | B | | D | A | B | D | | | | | | |
| Scarce Blue-t Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Blue Damselfly | A | A | D | | | C | | | | | | |
| Southern Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Azure Damselfly | B | | C | | | B | | | | | | |
| Red-eyed Damselfly | | | C | | | B | | | | | | |
| Small Red-eyed Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Red Damselfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Dragonflies</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hairy Dragonfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Hawker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Norfolk Hawker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brown Hawker | | | A | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Hawker | | | | | | B | | | | | | |
| Migrant Hawker | | | A | | | | | | | | | |
| Emperor Dragonfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lesser Emperor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vagrant Emperor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Downy Emerald | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broad-bodied Chaser | A | | B | | | B | | | | | | |
| Scarce Chaser | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Four-spotted Chaser | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Keeled Skimmer | | | | | | A | | | | | | |
| Black-tailed Skimmer | | | A | | | B | | | | | | |
| Common Darter | | | B | | | A | | | | | | |
| Red-veined Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruddy Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-winged Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Darter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total species in category: | 5 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 11 | | | | | | |

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 - 10 on 28/5/90; C adults on 25/5/92; no more than three in 1995. All records have referred to the water lilies in the south-east corner of the pond, where breeding has yet to be confirmed.

Ruddy Darter - noted in late 1980s, but not considered to be a breeding species.

Habitat

Ex clay workings pond, now angling lake. Used as a sediment settlement lagoon: water very cloudy with suspended clay particles, obscuring much detail. pH 8.2 (25/5/92); 7.9-8.0 (23/5/95). Conductivity 260 μ S/cm (4/8/95). Largely fringed by broad-leaved trees, but some bare clay banks at swims and one stretch of sparse tall herb/short scrub. Aquatic vegetation very sparse: some tiny patches of water lily plus infrequent marginals (mostly *Juncus effusus*) although the south/south-east corner is more diverse with partly submerged (still living) willows plus some *Typha latifolia*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica* and *Eleocharis palustris* between wooden angling platforms. The steep surrounding banks suggest that the bed of the pond itself may also slope steeply, thus the only shallows may be at the (possibly recently flooded) S/SE end.

Status

None.

Area

1.5 ha

Owner/tenant

WBB Minerals/NAFA.

Local Authority: Teignbridge DC

Threats

- Suspended clay.

Management suggestions

- If the suspended clay could be settled the pond is likely to improve.
- Predatory and silt-stirring fish species should not be introduced.
- Local aquatic plants, especially water-lilies (for Red-eyed Damselfly) could be introduced to speed up recolonisation if the water has cleared.

