

SMALLERHANGER, SHAUGH MOOR

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

Confirmed breeding population of Small Red Damselfly; presence of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly.

Last updated: 23/03/2025

Site: XXX	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: XXX	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle												B
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly												
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly										B	B	C
Blue-tailed Damselfly												
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												B
Common Blue Damselfly												B
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly										A	A	C
Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red Damselfly										B	B	D
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly												
Common Hawker										A		B
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												A
Migrant Hawker												
Emperor Dragonfly												
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly										A		B
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser										A		A
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser												
Keeled Skimmer										B	A	D
Black-tailed Skimmer												A
Common Darter										B		C
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter										A		B
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:										9	4	14

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

Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly – despite apparently suitable habitat, not recorded until at least 4 males found on 12/8/24 (but none seen on 4/9/24).

Small Red Damselfly – c25 (1 pair in cop.) on 15/7/18; 3 emergents on 29/6/19; c12 (2 pairs in cop.) on 25/7/23; 16 (2 pairs in cop., 1 emergent) on 11/7/24; 25 (17 males, 3 pairs in cop., 3 pairs in tandem) on 12/8/24; just 2 males on 4/9/24.

Other species of note

Common Hawker – a territorial male and a female egg-laying on 15/7/18; present on 27/8/22.

Keeled Skimmer – c30 (including 1 emergent and 1 exuvia) on 15/7/18; 11 (5 emergents, 2 exuviae) on 11/7/24; 19 (1 pair in cop., 1 egg-laying) on 12/8/24; 6 (1 egg-laying) on 4/9/24.

Black Darter – on 4/9/24, 1 egg-laying and a separate male in area 4.

Habitat

Runnels peripheral to former operational clay working area, with some of the water emanating from the infilled Shaugh Moor pit. Set within grazed, acidic grassland with some scattered Gorse. The site's wetland components are numbered on the appended airphoto and described from north to south:

Areas 1 and 2: steep-sided drains with fast-flowing water, flanked by short, acid grassland, rushes and gorse. Beautiful Demoiselle and Golden-ringed Dragonfly present and likely to be breeding.

Area 3: 1-2 m-wide M29 runnel with Bog Pondweed, Marsh St John's-wort, Lesser Spearwort and clumps of rushes and Purple Moor-grass. Muddy livestock-crossing point at the northern end. Five Small Red Damselflies (including a mating pair) here on 11/7/24, three on 12/8/24. Large Red Damselfly, Keeled Skimmer and Golden-ringed Dragonfly present.

Area 4: c4 m-wide species-rich ditch with typical M25 vegetation (Bog Pondweed, Marsh St John's-wort, Lesser Spearwort, Cross-leaved Heath, bog-mosses, rushes, sedges and cotton-grass, with occasional willows, Round-leaved Sundew and Marsh Clubmoss. The main area for Small Red Damselfly, with 17 (of 25 in total) here on 12/8/24, when also 1 Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly. Common Hawker egg-laying in 2018, with territorial male present.

Area 5: flushed, rather bare, ground with abundant Round-leaved Sundew and (notably) Marsh Clubmoss and sparse Cross-leaved Heath, Purple Moor-grass, sedges and bog-mosses. Broad-bodied Chaser egg-laying on 11/7/24 and Keeled Skimmer and Common Darter breeding. 2+ male Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly and briefly a Black-tailed Skimmer on 12/8/24.

Area 6: M29 runnel with limited dragonfly presence, but a male Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly on 12/8/24.

Status

None.

Area

Less than 2 ha.

Local Authority: (South Hams?) DC

Owner/tenant: Sibelco.

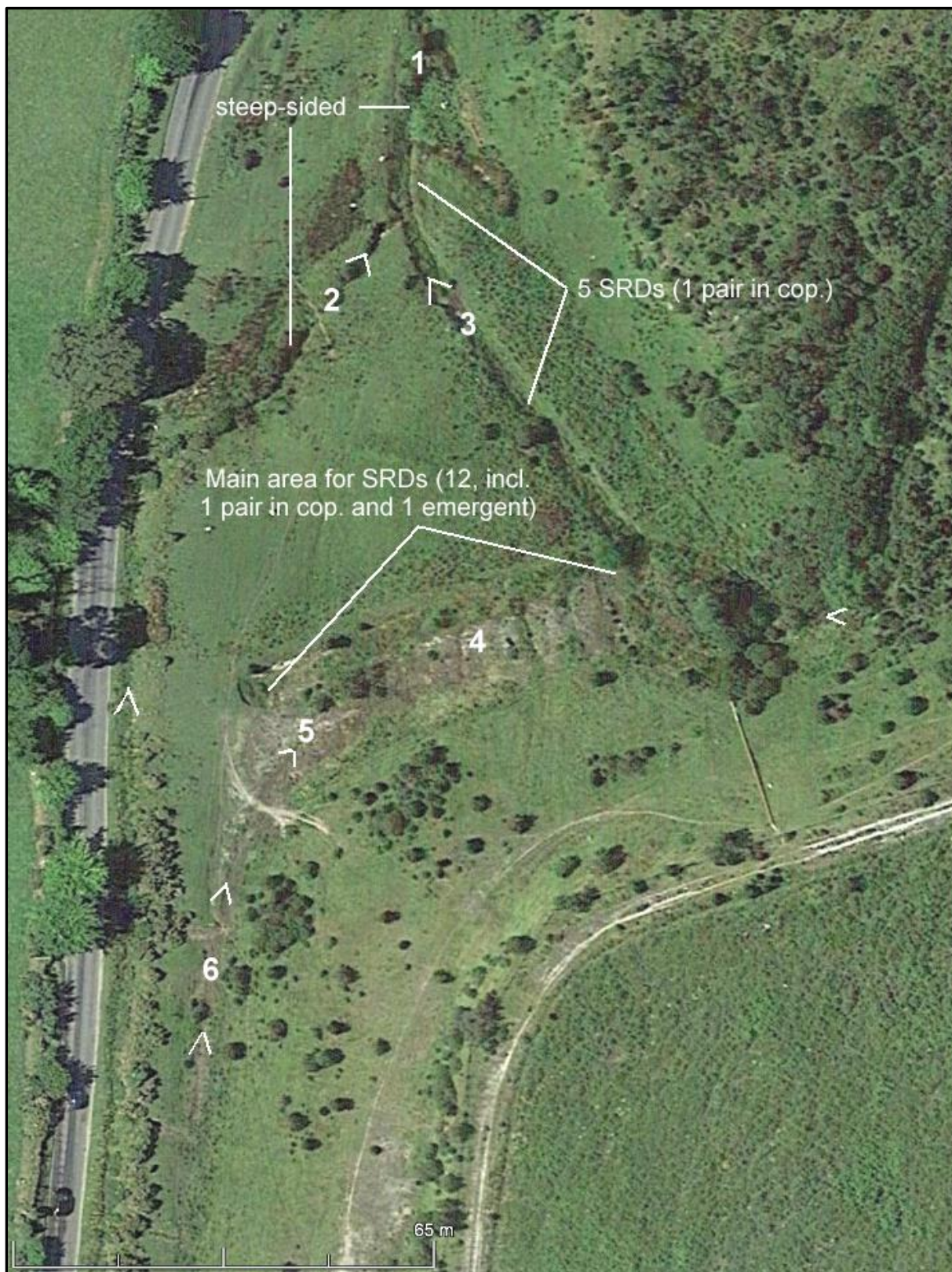
Threats

- Interruption of water supply.
- Loss of mire habitat to willow growth.

Management suggestions

- Maintain water flow.
- Prevent excessive tree growth by occasional coppicing of willows.

Smallerhanger (2024 Google Earth image): sub-sites and records from 11/7/24





Smallerhanger (the site is denoted by the red line)

