VENN OTTERY DWT RESERVE

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

Southern Damselfly became extinct in 1990, but adults were reintroduced successfully from New Forest stock in 2007 and 2009. Also breeding Hairy Dragonfly.

Last updated: 15/12/2025

Site: VENN OTTERY DWT RESERVE	**1987-1996**			**1997-2006**			**2007-2016**			**2017-2026**		
Grid ref.: SY061921	**Breeding**		**Other**	**Breeding**		**Other**	**Breeding**		**Other**	**Breeding**		**Other**
	Succ	**Poss**		**Succ**	**Poss**		**Succ**	**Poss**		**Succ**	**Poss**	
Damselflies												
Beautiful Demoiselle												+
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly			A						+		A	B
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly	A	A	C	+	+	+	B	C	D	C		C
Blue-tailed Damselfly			B			+			+			B
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly			A						A			A
Southern Damselfly			**+**				**D**	**D**	**D**	**C**	**C**	**D**
Azure Damselfly	A		C	+	+	+			D			B
Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
Small Red Damselfly												
Dragonflies												
Hairy Dragonfly										**A**		**A**
Common Hawker			+									
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker	A		A			B				B		B
Migrant Hawker												
Emperor Dragonfly			A			B			B			B
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly			A			C			+	A		B
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser			B						B			B
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser			+						A			+
Keeled Skimmer	B	C	D		B	D	C		C	B	B	D
Black-tailed Skimmer						A			B			
Common Darter			+			B				C		C
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	4	2	14	2	3	9	3	2	12	7	3	15

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
Southern Damselfly – recorded in 1979, 1983 and up to 1990, when it became extinct. 50 translocated from New Forest in 2007 and a further 500 in 2009. Annual maxima from transect counts:

09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	0	42	2	98	17	98	42	62	27	39	38	23	?	?	14		

Small Red Damselfly – recorded in 1978 (no further details).
Hairy Dragonfly – 1 larva found on 24/7/19.

Other species of note
Common Hawker – recorded in 1979, 1983 and on 30/8/87.

Habitat
Wet lowland heath with runnels and mires.

Status
Devon Wildlife Trust Reserve; SSSI; SPA.

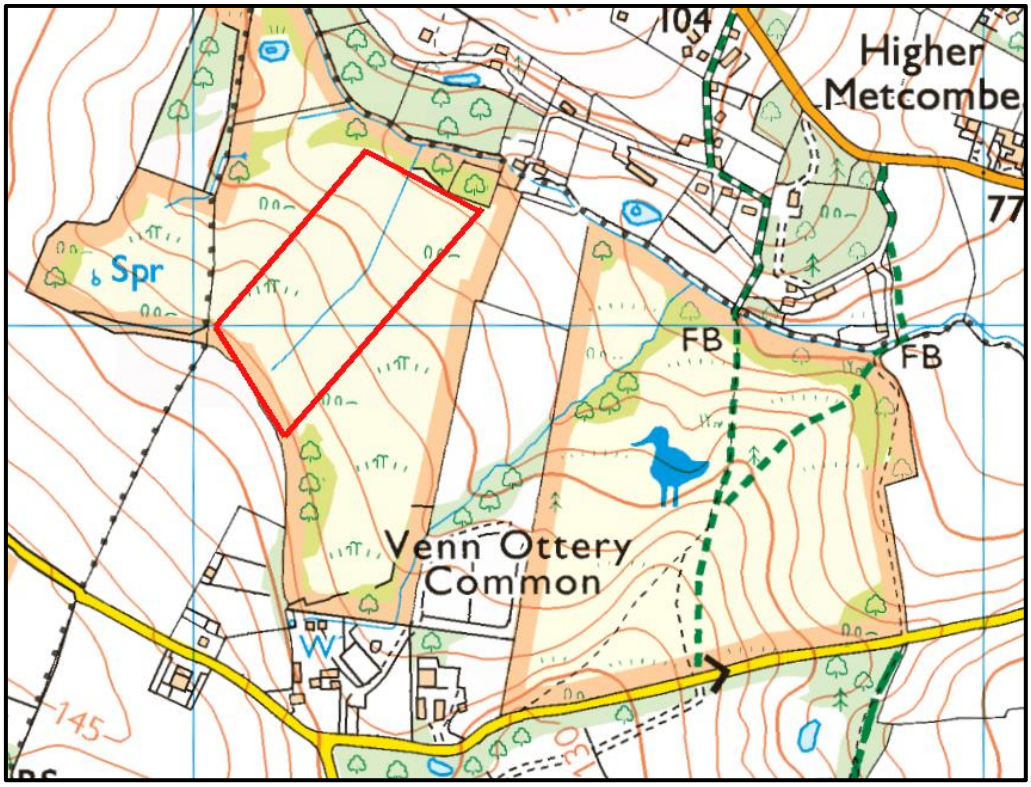
Area
c50 ha

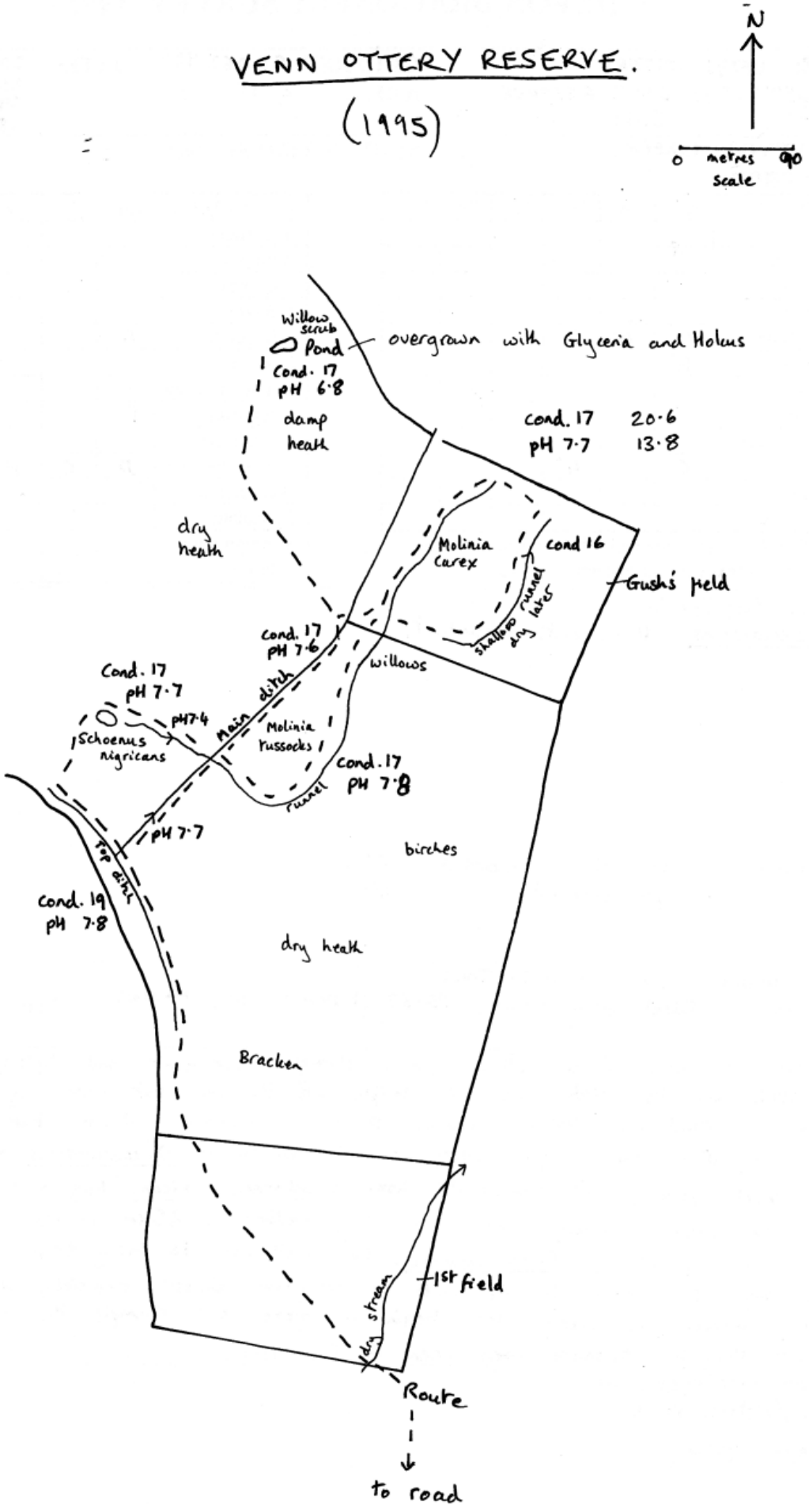
***Local Authority**:* East Devon DC

Owner/tenant
Clinton Devon Estates/DWT

Threats
- Loss of open runnels to vegetation growth.

Management suggestions
- Maintain open runnels with livestock grazing.



VENN OTTERY RESERVE.

(1995)