

VENTIFORD PONDS [PRIVATE]

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of Local Importance

Ponds with a strong population of Red-eyed Damselfly; Hairy Dragonfly breeds; presence of Downy Emerald.

Last updated: 26/03/2025

Site: VENTIFORD PONDS	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX842748	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle			C	B	A	B			C			C
Banded Demoiselle												A
Emerald Damselfly			B			C			C	C	C	E
White-legged Damselfly												
Large Red Damselfly	C	B	D		A	C	B		C	A	B	C
Blue-tailed Damselfly	B		D			C			D	B	C	F
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly	C		D					A	E	D	C	E
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly	B	B	E	D	B	E	D	C	E	E	C	F
Red-eyed Damselfly	B		C				A	A	C	D	C	E
Small Red-eyed Damselfly										C	B	E
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly			+						A	B		C
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker			+	B		B			A			B
Migrant Hawker										B	B	C
Emperor Dragonfly	A		C	A		A	B		C	D		D
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly			B			A				A		B
Downy Emerald												C
Broad-bodied Chaser			A						A	A		C
Scarce Chaser												
Four-spotted Chaser						A			C	D	B	D
Keeled Skimmer			A									C
Black-tailed Skimmer			A				C	B	E	D	C	D
Common Darter			B			B	C		C	D	B	D
Red-veined Darter												
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	6	2	15	4	3	10	6	4	14	15	11	20

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 – C (6-20) in 1995, 1 on 16/6/13 and annually from 2015, with peaks of 5 in 2015, 12 in 2016, rising to D (21-100) in 2017, 49 in 2020 (all ponds), 93 in 2021 and 125 (24 egg-laying) on 27/5/22.

Hairy Dragonfly – recorded in 1991 and 2014; 1 egg-laying on 27/5/18; annual from 2020, with a maximum of 6 territorial males on 25/5/20; 1 egg-laying on 27/5/22 (Pond 5) and 2 egg-laying on 25/5/23 (Ponds 1 and 4); 11 males (all ponds) and 1 female egg-laying on 20/5/24.

Downy Emerald – first noted was a territorial male on 24/5/18, then up to 4 (2022) territorial males in 2021-23, with a female on 7/6/21, and 8 territorial males (1-2 at all ponds) on 20/5/24.

Habitat

Formerly a wildlife area reserved for employees of Watts, Blake & Bearne (now Sibelco) and known as Alder Park, with small fishing/wildlife ponds in the south-east of the site. A series of five ponds, three north of Ventiford Brook and two to the south, were created in 2009 as mitigation for off-site clay works. They were subsequently used to receive Great Crested Newts as part of a Bovey Basin translocation, with suitable aquatic plants introduced to the ponds and their surrounds. Pond 2 was divided and deepened in 2018, to improve conditions for the newts. Fish in the 'new' ponds were introduced without permission. Pond 3 was drained and electro-fished in 2021. Formerly rather species-poor and rank, the surrounding dry areas are now species-rich grassland grazed with cattle in summer.

Status

None

Area

ca. 3.5 ha

Local Authority: Teignbridge DC

Owner/tenant

Sibelco

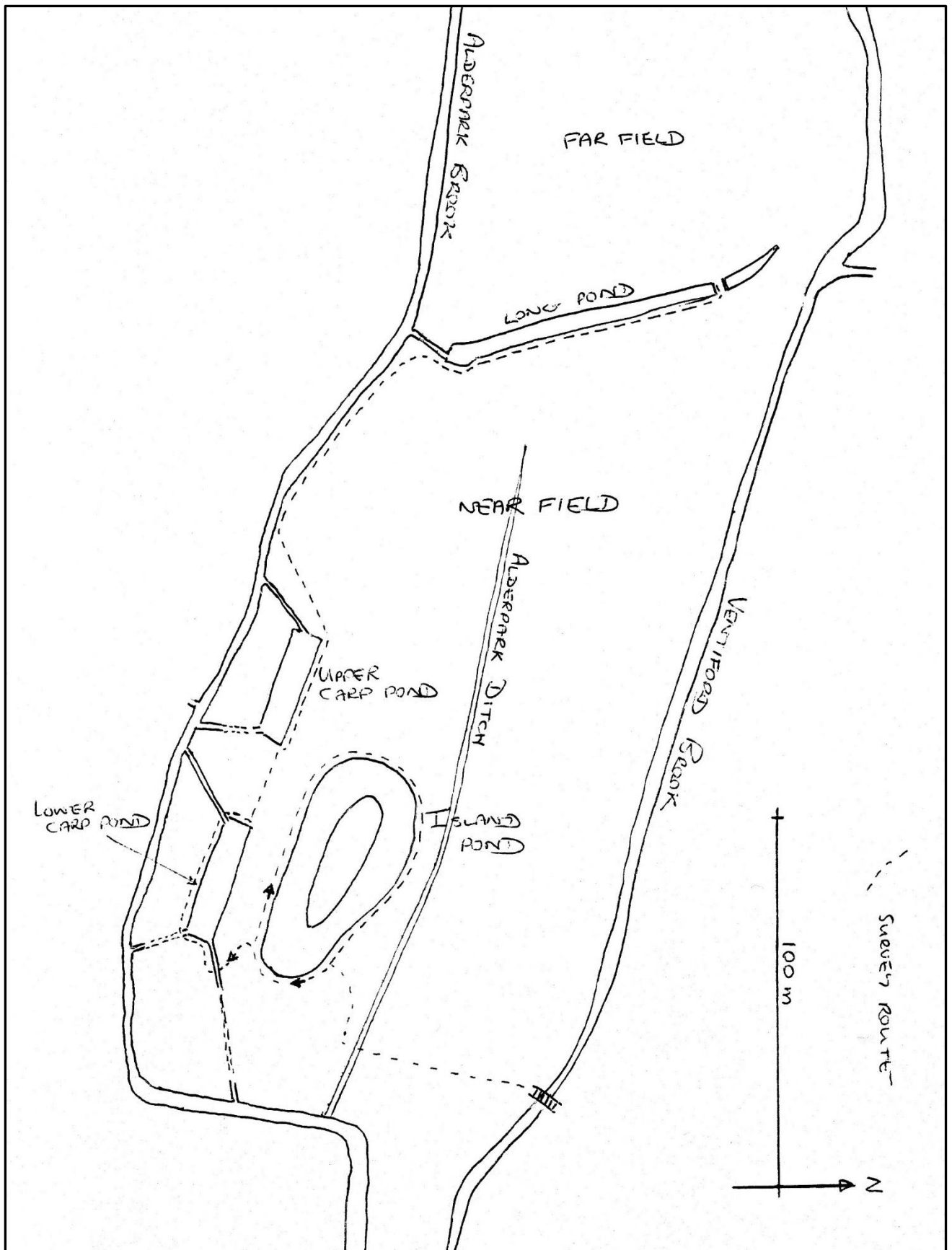
Threats

- Increasing fish populations

Management suggestions

- Ideally reduce fish density, especially in Pond 5.

‘Alder Park’ (1995 survey map)



Ventiford Ponds

