

# WALLA BROOK, RIDDON RIDGE

1997-2006: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

## CURRENT STATUS UNCERTAIN

Successful breeding population of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly, but not recorded since 2006.

Last updated: 26/03/2025

| Site: WALLA BROOK,<br>RIDDON RIDGE | 1987-1996 |      |       | 1997-2006 |      |       | 2007-2016 |      |       | 2017-2026 |      |       |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|
| Grid ref.: SX670772                | Breeding  |      | Other | Breeding  |      | Other | Breeding  |      | Other | Breeding  |      | Other |
|                                    | Succ      | Poss |       | Succ      | Poss |       | Succ      | Poss |       | Succ      | Poss |       |
| <b><u>Damselflies</u></b>          |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Beautiful Demoiselle               |           |      |       |           |      | D     |           |      |       |           |      | C     |
| Banded Demoiselle                  |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Emerald Damselfly                  |           |      |       |           |      | B     |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>White-legged Damselfly</b>      |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Large Red Damselfly                |           |      |       | C         | B    | E     |           |      |       | B         |      | C     |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly              |           |      |       |           |      | A     |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</b>     |           |      | C     | A         | C    | D     |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Common Blue Damselfly              |           |      |       |           |      | C     |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Southern Damselfly</b>          |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Azure Damselfly                    |           |      |       | B         |      | C     |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Red-eyed Damselfly</b>          |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Small Red-eyed Damselfly           |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Small Red Damselfly</b>         |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b><u>Dragonflies</u></b>          |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Hairy Dragonfly</b>             |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Common Hawker                      |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Norfolk Hawker</b>              |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Brown Hawker                       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Southern Hawker                    |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Migrant Hawker                     |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Emperor Dragonfly                  |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Lesser Emperor                     |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Vagrant Emperor                    |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly            |           |      |       |           | A    | D     |           |      |       |           | A    | C     |
| <b>Downy Emerald</b>               |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Broad-bodied Chaser                |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      | B     |
| <b>Scarce Chaser</b>               |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Four-spotted Chaser                |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Keeled Skimmer                     |           |      |       | B         | C    | E     |           |      |       |           |      | C     |
| Black-tailed Skimmer               |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Common Darter                      |           |      |       | C         | +    | D     |           |      |       | B         |      | B     |
| Red-veined Darter                  |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Ruddy Darter</b>                |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Black Darter                       |           |      |       | +         | +    | C     |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Yellow-winged Darter               |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| Scarlet Darter                     |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |           |      |       |
| <b>Total species in category:</b>  | 0         | 0    | 1     | 6         | 6    | 11    |           |      |       | 2         | 1    | 6     |

**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** – discovered in 1995, when C (6-20) reported; the same seen on 27/7/98, including a pair *in cop.*; a systematic search on 11/7/99 produced at least 95, including 10 *in cop.*, 1 egg-laying and 3 emergents; However, only 5 found on 16/7/05, 6 on 15/7/06 and a fairly thorough search on 29/7/24 produced none.

### **Habitat**

Open moorland with M29 runnels, flushes and *Molinia* mires on the east-facing slopes down to Walla Brook between 320 and 350 m ASL. *Molinia* abundant, with areas of *Sphagnum* and cotton-grass; *Eleocharis*, Bog Pondweed and Marsh St John's-wort frequent in runnels.

### **Status**

Common; CRoW Act Access Land.

### **Area**

c25 ha

**Local Authority:** Dartmoor National Park Authority

### **Owner/tenant**

?

### **Threats**

- Reduction in grazing pressure, causing loss of open runnels at livestock 'pinch points'.

### **Management suggestions**

- Maintain adequate grazing levels.

('x' = 1999 Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly records)

SITE: WALLA BROOK.

