

# WIGFORD DOWN

## 2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

Confirmed breeding of Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly.

Last updated: 28/03/2025

Site: WIGFORD DOWN	1987-1996		1997-2006		2007-2016		2017-2026				
Grid ref.: SX537649	Breeding	Other	Breeding	Other	Breeding	Other	Breeding	Other			
	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss			
<b><u>Damselflies</u></b>											
Beautiful Demoiselle				A	C			C			
Banded Demoiselle											
Emerald Damselfly											
<b><u>White-legged Damselfly</u></b>											
Large Red Damselfly			C	+	D	C	C	D	B	C	
Blue-tailed Damselfly											
<b><u>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</u></b>					C	A		C	B	C	
Common Blue Damselfly											
<b><u>Southern Damselfly</u></b>											
Azure Damselfly							B	C			
<b><u>Red-eyed Damselfly</u></b>											
Small Red-eyed Damselfly											
<b><u>Small Red Damselfly</u></b>				[+]	[C]						
<b><u>Dragonflies</u></b>											
<b><u>Hairy Dragonfly</u></b>											
Common Hawker											
<b><u>Norfolk Hawker</u></b>											
Brown Hawker											
Southern Hawker											
Migrant Hawker											
Emperor Dragonfly						A					
Lesser Emperor											
Vagrant Emperor											
Golden-ringed Dragonfly				A	C	C		C			
<b><u>Downy Emerald</u></b>											
Broad-bodied Chaser					A			B			
<b><u>Scarce Chaser</u></b>											
Four-spotted Chaser											
Keeled Skimmer				A	D	C	C	E	A	A	C
Black-tailed Skimmer											
Common Darter					C		A	B			
Red-veined Darter											
<b><u>Ruddy Darter</u></b>											
Black Darter											
Yellow-winged Darter											
Scarlet Darter											
<b>Total species in category:</b>			1	5	8	4	4	9	2	2	3

**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**

**Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly** – discovered around SX537649 in 1995, when C (6-20) recorded; C also in 6/98 and 6 (2 pairs *in cop.*) on 11/7/24; in 2010 and 2018, also recorded about 800 m to the north at SX53806562, with C in both years and 1 egg-laying 11/7/10. (See SRD below.)

[**Small Red Damselfly** – C (including mating pair(s)) on 13/7/06, but accredited to Kath Allen, who was marking Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies then; likely to be input error and actually refer to that species.]

### **Habitat**

Open moorland with acidic grassland, bracken and runnels and stream.

### **Status**

Access land.

### **Area**

? ha

### **Owner/tenant**

Common land?

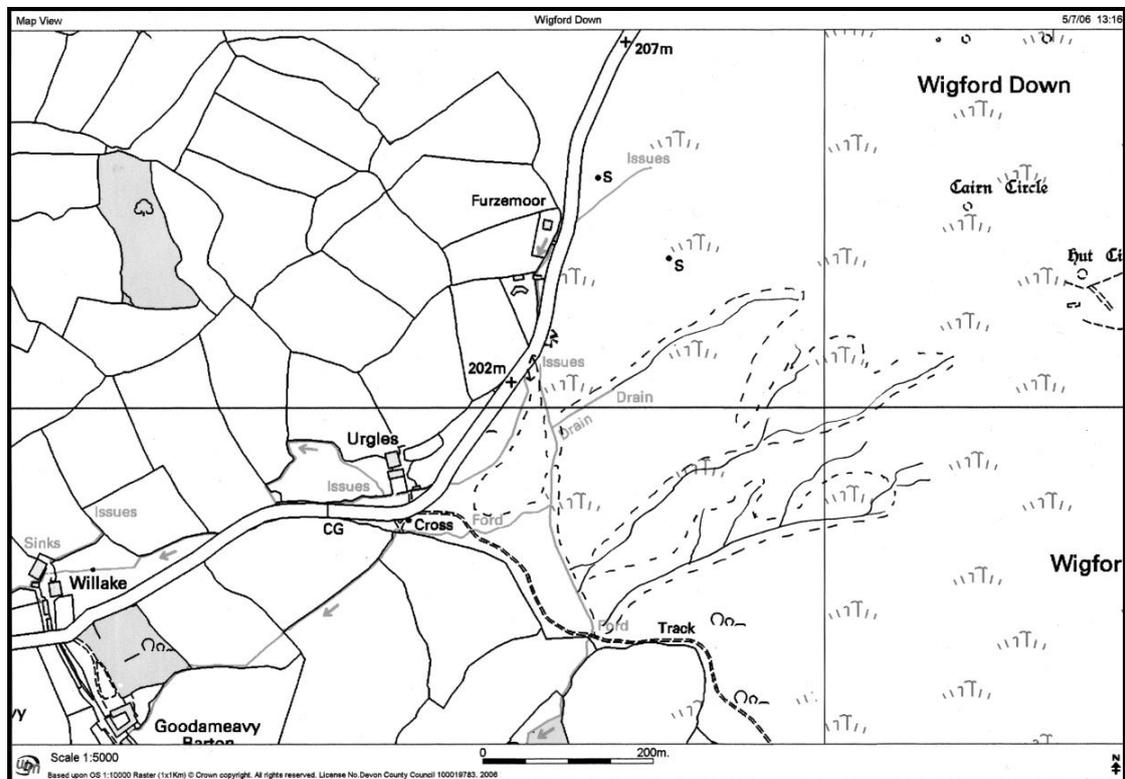
**Local Authority:** Dartmoor NP/West Devon

### **Threats**

- Inappropriate grazing levels.

### **Management suggestions**

- Maintain grazing.
- Prevent scrub encroachment.



**Map shows area where Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly discovered in 1995**  
(NB noted at runnels to the W in 2024 and at stream 800 m to N in 2010 and 2018).

