

WIXENFORD QUARRY [PRIVATE]
2007-2016: Priority Site of National Importance
CURRENT STATUS UNCERTAIN

Breeding Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly.

Last updated: 08/01/2026

Site: WIXENFORD QUARRY Grid ref.: SX518546	1987-1996		1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026			
	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle												
Banded Demoiselle												
Emerald Damselfly									D			
<u>White-legged Damselfly</u>												
Large Red Damselfly												
Blue-tailed Damselfly							A		C			
<u>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</u>						A	B		C			
Common Blue Damselfly									B			
<u>Southern Damselfly</u>												
Azure Damselfly									C			
<u>Red-eyed Damselfly</u>												
Small Red-eyed Damselfly												
<u>Small Red Damselfly</u>												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
<u>Hairy Dragonfly</u>												
Common Hawker												
<u>Norfolk Hawker</u>												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												
Migrant Hawker							A		A			
Emperor Dragonfly							A		B			
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												
<u>Downy Emerald</u>												
Broad-bodied Chaser												
<u>Scarce Chaser</u>												
Four-spotted Chaser												
Keeled Skimmer								A	C			
Black-tailed Skimmer									B			
Common Darter							D		D			
Red-veined Darter												
<u>Ruddy Darter</u>												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	10	0	0	0

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 –1 reported on 19/6/01 and unquantified presence on 7/7/03, 26/6/05 and 7/8/05 (records from the late Andy Stevens, then with Plymouth CC) A late-season follow-up survey on 30/7/07 produced 18 (7 in the marshy area, 8 at one pool and 3 at another); of these, 12 were males, 2 of the remaining females were teneral (form *aurantiaca*) and at least 1 old, implying recent emergences and possibly the first UK evidence of a second generation; in addition 2 exuviae were found at one pond. At just 10m ASL, this site is likely to be the lowest in the UK.

Habitat

Derelict quarry, with marsh (especially at SX51885462) and pools on bare quarry floor. At the time of survey in 2007, it was believed the land would be destroyed by housing development.

Status

County Wildlife Site.

Area

1.98 ha

Local Authority: Plymouth CC

Owner/tenant

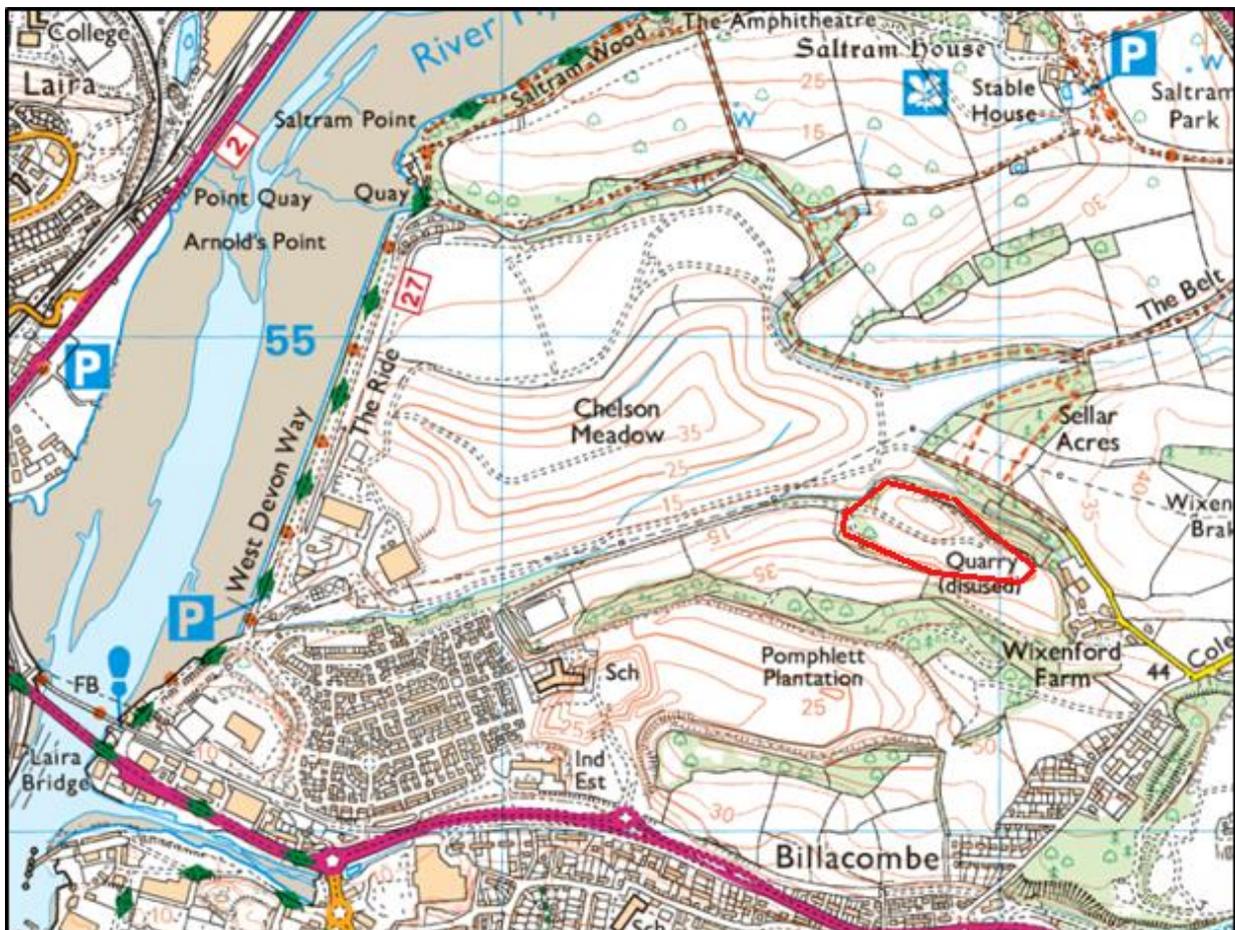
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Threats

- Housing development?

Management suggestions

- Retain areas of shallow water, relatively unvegetated.



Wixenford Quarry 'marsh' (30/7/07)



Wixenford Quarry (from Google Maps on 3/3/25)



Areas of interest: marshy area (NW) at SX51885462; pools on main open quarry floor at SX520545 and SX51825459