

HARPERS PONDS, DOUBLE LOCKS

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of Local Importance

Fishing ponds no doubt influenced by the close proximity of Exeter Canal, Alphin Brook and the River Exe. Confirmed breeding by Red-eyed Damselfly, presence of Scarce Chaser (mating-scarred territorial males suggest breeding is likely) and Hairy Dragonfly.

Last updated: 10/11/2025

Site: HARPERS POOLS, DOUBLE LOCKS	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SX930902	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle												
Banded Demoiselle									B			
Emerald Damselfly												
White-legged Damselfly												A
Large Red Damselfly									A			+
Blue-tailed Damselfly									C		A	C
Scarce Blue-t Damselfly												
Common Blue Damselfly								C	E			B
Southern Damselfly												
Azure Damselfly									B			C
Red-eyed Damselfly							A		C	B	B	D
Small Red-eyed Damselfly									A			
Small Red Damselfly												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
Hairy Dragonfly									A			
Common Hawker												
Norfolk Hawker												
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker												
Migrant Hawker												
Emperor Dragonfly							A		B	A		B
Lesser Emperor												
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly												A
Downy Emerald												
Broad-bodied Chaser									A			
Scarce Chaser												B
Four-spotted Chaser												
Keeled Skimmer												
Black-tailed Skimmer									B			B
Common Darter												
Red-veined Darter									A			
Ruddy Darter												
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:							2	1	12	2	2	10

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 (1 egg-laying) on 15/6/14; 3 males on 3/8/15; 41 (2 in cop., 2 egg-laying) on 6/6/24.

Hairy Dragonfly – 1 male on 15/6/14.

Scarce Chaser – 4+ males on 14/6/18; 5 males on 6/6/24.

Other species of note

Red-veined Darter – 1 male on 15/6/14.

Habitat

Two angling pools between Exeter Canal, near the Double Locks, and Alphin Brook. Created in 2010 and opened for fishing in 2011. Stocked with Rudd, Roach, Bream, Tench, Carp, Crucian and Perch.

Status

None.

Area

1 ha.

Local Authority: Exeter City Council.

Owner/tenant

Environment Agency/Exeter and District Angling Association.

Threats

- Overstocking with fish.
- Over-zealous clearance of marginal and aquatic vegetation.

Management suggestions

- Avoid over-zealous removal of pondweed.

