

# 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-scared 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			
	Breeding		Other		Breeding		Other		Breeding	
	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss	Succ	Poss
<b>Damselflies</b>										
Beautiful Demoiselle										
Banded Demoiselle									B	
Emerald Damselfly										
<b>White-legged Damselfly</b>										A
Large Red Damselfly									A	
Blue-tailed Damselfly									C	A C
<b>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</b>										
Common Blue Damselfly							C	E		B
<b>Southern Damselfly</b>										
Azure Damselfly									B	
<b>Red-eyed Damselfly</b>						A			C	B B D
Small Red-eyed Damselfly							A			
<b>Small Red Damselfly</b>										
<b>Dragonflies</b>										
<b>Hairy Dragonfly</b>								A		
Common Hawker										
<b>Norfolk Hawker</b>										
Brown Hawker										
Southern Hawker										
Migrant Hawker										
Emperor Dragonfly						A		B	A	B
Lesser Emperor										
Vagrant Emperor										
Golden-ringed Dragonfly										A
<b>Downy Emerald</b>										
Broad-bodied Chaser							A			
<b>Scarce Chaser</b>										B
Four-spotted Chaser										
Keeled Skimmer										
Black-tailed Skimmer							B			B
Common Darter										
Red-veined Darter							A			
<b>Ruddy Darter</b>										
Black Darter										
Yellow-winged Darter										
Scarlet Darter										
<b>Total species in category:</b>						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.

