

LOWER BRUCKLAND PONDS

2017-2026: Confirmed Priority Site of National Importance

Artificial ponds dug originally for angling. Breeding Scarce Chaser and presumably still Red-eyed Damselfly. Red-veined Darter has bred, one of very few such occurrences in Devon. Presence of White-legged Damselfly, Norfolk Hawker and Ruddy Darter.

Last updated: 15/12/2025

Site: LOWER BRUCKLAND PONDS	1987-1996			1997-2006			2007-2016			2017-2026		
Grid ref.: SY270930	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other	Breeding		Other
	Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss		Succ	Poss	
<u>Damselflies</u>												
Beautiful Demoiselle						C	A		C			C
Banded Demoiselle						B			B			
Emerald Damselfly									A			A
<u>White-legged Damselfly</u>												B
Large Red Damselfly							A		C			
Blue-tailed Damselfly				B		D			B		B	D
<u>Scarce Blue-t Damselfly</u>												
Common Blue Damselfly				B	C	E	E	E	F	E		E
<u>Southern Damselfly</u>												
Azure Damselfly						B	C	B	D	C		D
<u>Red-eyed Damselfly</u>						C	B	A	C			C
Small Red-eyed Damselfly				B		D	C	A	D			E
<u>Small Red Damselfly</u>												
<u>Dragonflies</u>												
<u>Hairy Dragonfly</u>												B
Common Hawker												
<u>Norfolk Hawker</u>												A
Brown Hawker												
Southern Hawker									A			
Migrant Hawker					A	C		A	C			
Emperor Dragonfly				D		D	C		C			C
Lesser Emperor						A			A			A
Vagrant Emperor												
Golden-ringed Dragonfly						B			B			B
<u>Downy Emerald</u>												
Broad-bodied Chaser												
<u>Scarce Chaser</u>					A	B			B		A	D
Four-spotted Chaser						B			B			C
Keeled Skimmer						A			A			
Black-tailed Skimmer				B	B	E	C	B	D	B		C
Common Darter				B		C	D		D	C		C
Red-veined Darter				A	A	C	A		C			
<u>Ruddy Darter</u>						A			A			B
Black Darter												
Yellow-winged Darter												
Scarlet Darter												
Total species in category:				7	5	18	10	6	21	4	2	17

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 – up to C (6-20) in July 2006, then small numbers (maximum C) thereafter.

Hairy Dragonfly – 2 males on 2/5/25 and 15/5/25.

Norfolk Hawker – Singles on 16-17/6/23, 21/7/24 and 4/7/25.

Scarce Chaser – singles during 5/6/07-7/7/07, with B (2-5) next day; B during 25/5-23/6/08 and on 7 & 21/6/09; 2 males on 3/6/11; 1 male on 29/6/14; 10 (1 pair mating) on 27/5/17; B in 2018; at least C (6-20, 1 pair mating) in 2019 and at least 35 (1 teneral) on 2/6/24 and the same (including 'several' mating pairs) on 15/5/25.

Ruddy Darter – 1 on 25/7/06; a male on 24/7/07; and B (2-5) on 20/7/18.

Other notable species

Lesser Emperor – single males during 16-21/7/06 and on 10/8/12, 28/6/21 and 21-22/7/21.

Red-veined Darter – B adults and 1 egg-laying in June 2006 (undated) and up to 7 during 1-26/7/06, with a mating pair on 8th and egg-laying on 6 dates. Up to 6 mature adults were seen during 4-21/6/07 and singles on 24/7/07 (male), 16/9/07 and 6/10/07 (fresh female), with 1 egg-laying on 8/6/07 and an exuvia found on 16/9/07. An immature male was seen on 7/6/08 and a female or immature male on 15/6/08. 4 males were seen on 7/6/09, with 1 on 21/6/09.

Habitat

A series of four large and several small ponds (with a further, inaccessible pond to the SE). Originally created in 1999 for angling, now run as a private nature reserve.

Status

Private nature reserve (paid access, apart from public footpath).

Area

c3.5 ha.

Local Authority: East Devon DC

Owner/tenant

Lower Bruckland Farm.

Threats

- ?

Management suggestions

- ?



