

Take Action for Dragonflies

Dragonflies and damselflies are in trouble! In the UK freshwater ecosystems are disappearing due to both drainage of wetlands and a lack of habitat management. Also, a lot of freshwater is now affected by pollution from agriculture, human effluent and industry. Combined with the past conversion of rivers to canals and the destruction of peatland, these factors continue to reduce available habitat for dragonflies. Dragonflies are also affected by our changing climate. Increasing temperatures affect water levels and are driving changes in distribution with many species moving northwards. Our more northern species, those that require more specialised habitats, are being squeezed by these same factors.

Create habitat

There are ways in which we can all help dragonflies! If you can dig a pond, or adapt an existing pond, for dragonflies, you will be creating vital habitat. Large or small, your pond can support dragonflies; 17 species of dragonflies are known to breed regularly in garden ponds. Building a new pond is very exciting, and with the right planning, it can be a haven for wildlife and a great place to watch dragonflies in your own local area.



Record

If you are watching dragonflies in your garden or local green space, take a closer look at their colours and patterns. Using resources on the British Dragonfly Society website (british-dragonflies.org.uk) you can start to identify the species you are finding! You can share your sightings with us using iRecord (irecord.org.uk), and contribute to datasets that help inform our conservation work.

Support our work

Take a look at our website for more information and lots of helpful resources. Follow us on social media and tag us in to your dragonfly photos. If you would like to get involved in our work, get in touch to find out about our volunteering opportunities from recording to helping at events. You can also support us by becoming a BDS member which will enable us to undertake and deliver more conservation, education and recording projects to benefit our dragonflies and damselflies.

