

BRINSLEY HEADSTOCKS
Heritage & Nature Reserve.

DRAGONFLIES

2017 and 2018

By 2011, only one species of dragonfly had been recorded on site – brown hawker. With the creation of four new ponds on site during the early part of 2012, the number of species attracted to the site increased astonishingly, considering that the ponds were newly planted and taking into account the extremely wet summer.

A relatively low total of 7 species were recorded in 2017 (the same number as 2016). However, 2018 was even more disappointing, with only 6 species seen and very low numbers of each species. The very hot dry summer of 2018 was responsible, with the brook drying up completely and the water level in all of the ponds dropped to alarmingly low levels. The total species recorded on the site is now 11.

BANDED DEMOISELLE *Calopteryx splendens*

Not recorded in 2017 or 2018. Two males were seen by Brinsley brook pond on June 22nd 2014.

LARGE RED DAMSELFLY *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*

There were only single records of this species in both 2017 and 2018 (a single on 8th July 2017 and two on 1st June 2018). The first site record for this species was of a single insect seen on Brinsley brook pond on June 18th 2014.

AZURE DAMSELFLY *Coenagrion puella*

Two males were seen on Brinsley Brook Pond on 8th July 2017, but there were no records in 2018. The first site record of this species was in 2015.

COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Normally a common insect, there were only single records for both 2017 (3 on 8th July) and 2018 (2 on 1st June). This species was seen both on the dew pond and the dipping pond.

BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY *Ischnura elegans*

This species did seem to be established on the site, with three records in 2015. However, disappointingly, there were no records in 2016, 2017 or 2018.

SOUTHERN HAWKER *Aeshna claneai*

This species was observed on most visits during suitable weather in 2014, but was very thin on the ground in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Only one was seen in 2017, on 22nd June. There were two records in 2018, a single on 19th July and two on 9th September.

MIGRANT HAWKER *Aeshna mixta*

A scarce insect on the site, there was a single record in 2017 (one in the Dell on 8th July) and no sightings in 2018. The first site record for this species was in 2014.

EMPEROR *Anax imperator*

No records for 2017 or 2018. The first (and only) record for the site is September 9th 2012.

BROWN HAWKER *Aeshna grandis*

Just a single record of this species in both 2017 (one on 8th July) and 2018 (one on 19th July). This species is usually recorded on numerous occasions.

BROAD-BODIED CHASER *Libellula depressa*

This species was not recorded in 2016 or 2017. This was disappointing, as a male was present for most of the summer in 2014 and 2013. There was, however, a single record for 2018, a male holding territory on Brinsley Brook pond on 1st June

COMMON DARTER *Sympetrum striolatum*

Normally a relatively common insect on the site, records of this species were disappointingly low in 2017 and 2018. In 2017 a female was seen on 8th July, with a female and another female was seen on 17th October 2018.

