

BRINSLEY HEADSTOCKS  
Heritage & Nature Reserve.

DRAGONFLIES

2025

Following the euphoria in 2024, when two new species were added to the site list, 2025 proved to be a disaster ! There were four separate heatwaves, which resulted in most of the ponds on the site becoming completely dried up by the middle of May and shortly after the brook also dried up. Consequently, there were very few dragonflies present and there will probably be a knock-on effect in future years, as eggs and larvae will have been destroyed.

2024 was considered a relatively poor year for dragonfly records on the site, with eleven species seen, but 2025 was much worse, with only six species recorded.



Common Darter at the Dew Pond photograph by John Eyre

The site list stands at 13 species

**BANDED DEMOISELLE** *Calopteryx splendens*

No records of this species in 2025. The last record was in 2019, when a total of four were seen.

**WILLOW EMERALD DAMSELFLY** *Chalcolestes viridis*

The exciting discovery of this species on the Dipping Pond in 2024 was one of the first records for Nottinghamshire. We were hoping that it would consolidate its colonisation of the site, but the lack of any standing water on the site for virtually the whole summer put paid to this hope.

**LARGE RED DAMSELFLY** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*

Disappointingly, there were no records of this relatively common insect in 2025. We would normally expect to see two or three on most visits in June and early July.

**AZURE DAMSELFLY** *Coenagrion puella*

The only record of this species for 2025 was of four on the Dipping Pond on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This matches the 2024 records, when four were present in the same spot on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY** *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Normally a common insect, there were no records for 2025. There was only a single record in 2024, of five insects of this species on the Dew Pond on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

**BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY** *Ischnura elegans*

This species did seem to be established on the site, with three records in 2015. However, disappointingly, there have been no records since then.

**SOUTHERN HAWKER** *Aeshna claneai*

This species is often seen away from the ponds, hunting along the wooded rides. Singles were observed on July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>, both hunting near the dried-up Dipping Pond.

**MIGRANT HAWKER** *Aeshna mixta*

Normally a scarce insect on the site, there was a single record of this species in 2025, when one was hunting near the Dipping Pond on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The first site record for this species was in 2014.

**EMPEROR** *Anax imperator*

This species is a site rarity, with the only previous record being as far back as 2012. It was, therefore no great surprise that this species was not recorded in 2025.

**BROWN HAWKER** *Aeshna grandis*

No doubt the lack of coverage in 2025 was the reason that there was only one record of this species in 2025, when two were seen hunting over the Headstocks Meadow on July 24th. This species is usually recorded on numerous occasions.

**FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER** *Libellula quadrimaculata*

This is quite a common species locally, but does not seem to find the Headstocks reserve to it's liking. The first site record of this species was in 2024, but none were seen in 2025.

**BROAD-BODIED CHASER** *Libellula depressa*

In the past, this species has often spent the entire summer on territory over the Dew Pond, but disappointingly there had been no records since 2014, until a female of this species was seen on the Dew Pond on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 – an encouraging sign.

**COMMON DARTER** *Sympetrum striolatum*

Normally, this species is recorded in good numbers in late summer. 2024 was a disappointing year, with only a single record of a female on August 20<sup>th</sup>, but there was an upturn in 2025, with records of two males on two occasions ( July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> ) and a single male on August 31<sup>st</sup>.