

DRAGONFLIES AROUND THE HUMBER

DICK SHILLAKER YORKSHIRE DRAGONFLY GROUP

Number of species of Odonata

- Worldwide: c. 6000 (mostly tropical)
- Continental Europe: 114
- Britain/Ireland, resident/migrant: 46
- Yorkshire, resident/migrant: 27
- Around Humber : resident/migrant: 24

Anisoptera – “unequal winged” – True Dragonflies



Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

Keith Gittens

Zygoptera – “equal winged” – Damselflies



Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) male

Keith Gittens



Habitat

Shelter

Marginal Vegetation

Unpolluted Water

Floating and Submergent Vegetation

Sata Pond, The Arboretum, Castle Howard

Keith Gittens

Key Odonata Sites (BDS): National or Local importance

- Nationally or locally important species
- Species diversity over last 10 years
(Yorks 8; Lincs 11)
- Proof of breeding
- Abundance

Nationally & locally important species (BDS)

Species	Yorkshire	Lincolnshire
* Variable Damselfly	✓	✓
Beautiful Demoiselle	✓	
* Red Eyed Damselfly	✓	
* Small Red-eyed Damselfly	✓	
* Hairy Dragonfly	✓	✓
* Migrant Hawker	✓	
* Emperor	✓	
* Black-tailed Skimmer	✓	
Golden-ringed Dragonfly	✓	
* Common Hawker		✓
* Black Darter		✓

* = Present around Humber

Azure vs Variable Damselfly (males)

Paul Ashton



Variable Damselfly (male)

Paul Ashton



BDS proof of breeding (Taylor 2003)

- **Probable** successful breeding
 - Copulation
- **Confirmed** successful breeding
 - Oviposition
 - Larvae
 - Exuviae
 - Pre-flight emergent

Copulation



Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

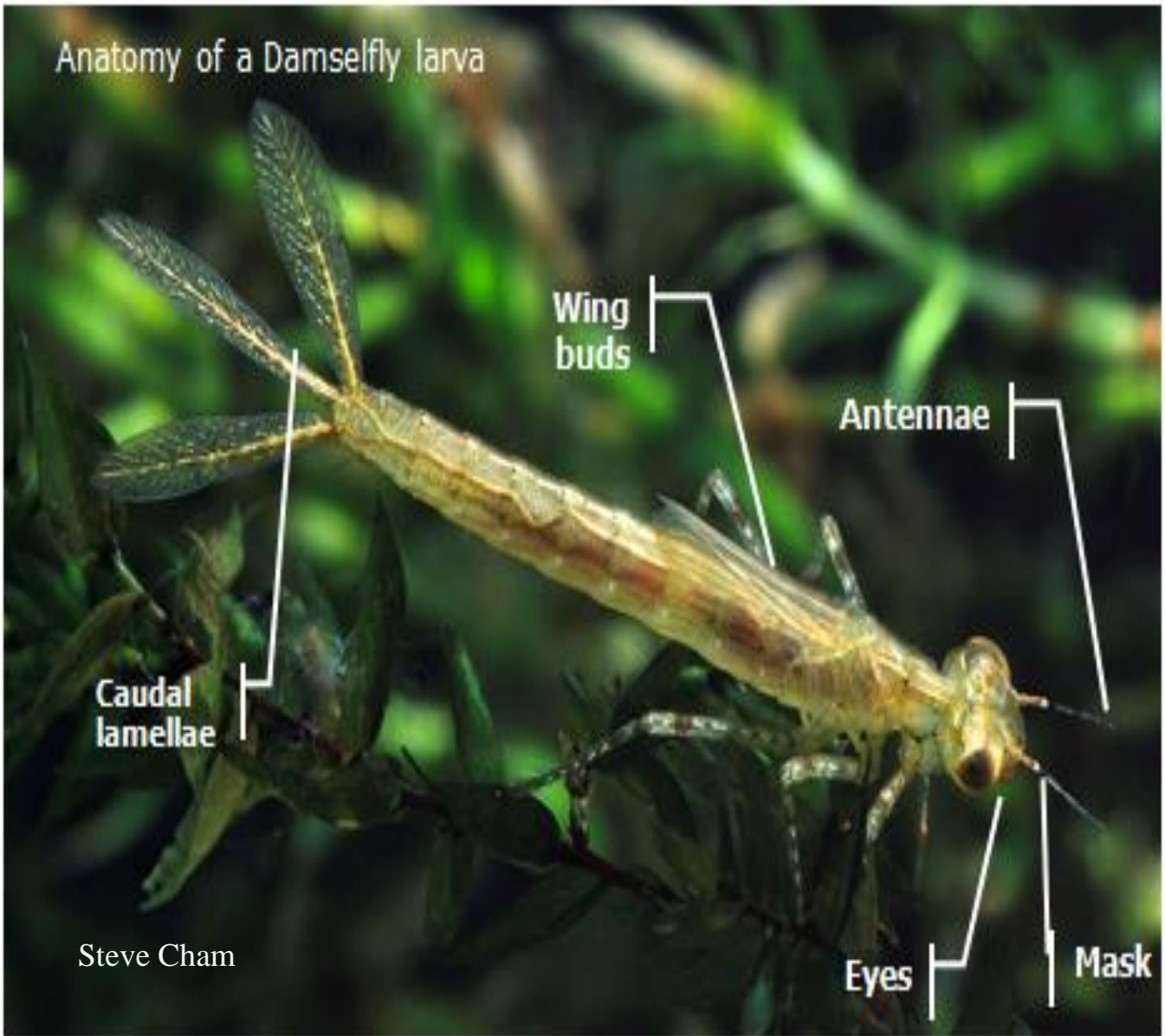
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Azures egg laying

Martin Roberts



Anatomy of a Damselfly larva



Wing buds

Antennae

Caudal lamellae

Eyes

Mask

Steve Cham

Emergent Ruddy
Darter and Exuvia

Keith Gittens



East Riding Local Wildlife Site criteria: Odonata

- 10 breeding species or a total of 15 species within 5 years
- Breeding population of a species considered to be rare in East Riding: **Small Red-eyed Damselfly**

Example of general invertebrate criteria

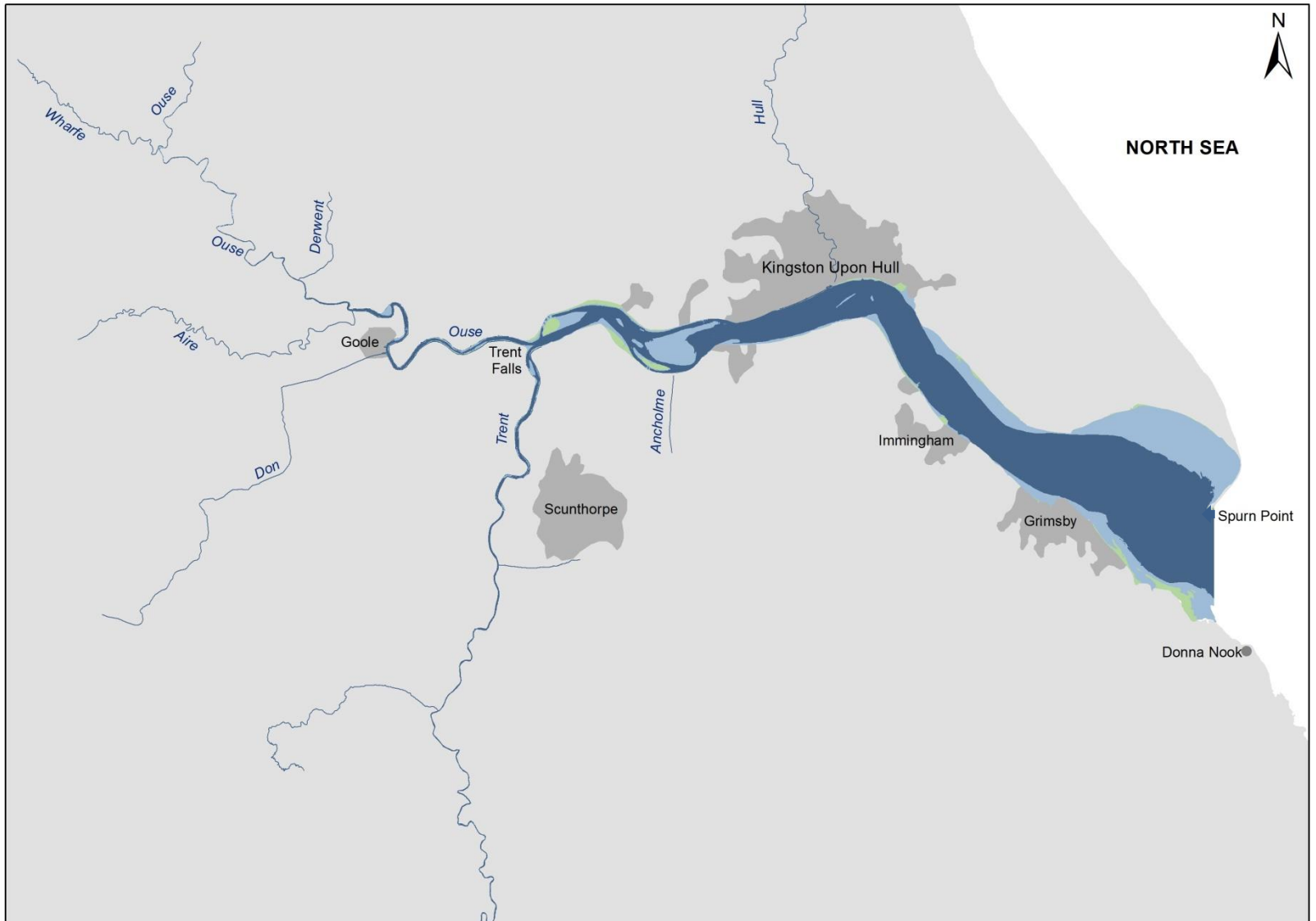
- Population of a nationally rare, threatened or a priority for conservation: **Variable Damselfly** a nationally important species (near threatened)



Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*) male

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Some Dragonfly sites around the Humber



South Bank (N. Tribe)

Location	Species	Breeding	Notable species
Alkborough Flats	12	3?	● Lesser Emperor (2017)
Far Ings/Barton Pits	17	12	● Small Red-eyed Damselfly B ● Red-veined Darter
Saltfleetby / Theddlethorpe NNR	20	16	● Variable Damselfly B ● Small Red-eyed Damselfly B ● Hairy Dragonfly B ● Yellow-winged Darter

Note added after HNF talk: Hairy Dragonfly is breeding at Far Ings (S Wellock)

B = breeding



Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*) male

Keith Gittens

North Bank

Site	Species (+ vagrants)	Notable species	Source
Spurn	17 (+5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Small Red-eyed Damselfly● Red-veined Darter● Yellow-veined Darter● Migrant Hawker	P Ashton (2013)
Paull Holme Strays	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Small Red-eyed Damselfly	P Martin (2018)
Broomfleet	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Variable Damselfly● Red-eyed Damselfly● Hairy Dragonfly	P Ashton (2013)
Oakhill	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Red-veined Darter● Hairy Dragonfly	P Hinks (2018)



Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*) male

Paul Ashton

Spurn (slide corrected after HNF talk)

YNU 1947-1953	Ashton 2013
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Yes
Common Blue Damselfly	Yes
Azure Damselfly	Yes
Emerald Damselfly	Yes
Scarce Emerald Damselfly	No
Four-spotted Chaser	Yes
Common Darter	Yes
Ruddy Darter	Yes
Red-veined Darter	Yes
	+ 9 other species
	+ 5 vagrants

Paul Holme Strays (P Martin)

Abundance	Species	Examples
Fairly common – very common	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Azure Damselfly● Common Blue Damselfly● Blue-tailed Damselfly● Four-spotted Chaser● Emperor
Odd records	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Banded Demoiselle● Large Red Damselfly● Southern Hawker● Broad-bodied Chaser
Changes over time	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Emerald Damselfly: first seen 2014 in reasonable numbers, not seen since● Brown Hawker: first seen 2015, and in every year since● Black-tailed Skimmer: numbers reduced since pond more vegetated

Oakhill, Goole (P Hinks)

Location	Species	Breeding	Notable Species
Brick pits area	21	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Small Red-eyed Damselfly B● Hairy Dragonfly B
Sidings Drain (2017)	18	11 (all ovipositing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hairy Dragonfly● Broad-bodied Chaser B
Tom Pudding Flash (2017)	16	10 (all ovipositing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Red-veined Darter B

B = breeding

Acknowledgements

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Thank you



www.british-dragonflies.org.uk
www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk

Dick Shillaker