

Odonata at Bomere Pool, 2012

Sue McLamb, September 2012

Bomere Pool was surveyed on 28th May and 10th August, 2012 and the following species were recorded:

<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Banded Demoiselle
<i>Cordulia aenea</i>	Downy Emerald
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Common Blue Damselfly
<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Red-eyed Damselfly
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly
<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Chaser
<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Black-tailed Skimmer
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	Large Red Damselfly
<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Ruddy Darter
<i>S. striolatum</i>	Common Darter

Symphytum sanguineum and *O. cancellatum* are new to the site list. *Coenagrion pulchellum* (Variable Damselfly), *Lestes sponsa* (Emerald Damselfly) and *Anax imperator* (Emperor Dragonfly) were not recorded this year though recorded sightings within the last 10 years suggest these species are probably still present. *Coenagrion puella* (Azure Damselfly) remains unrecorded at Bomere since 1972. Future visits throughout the flight season would be useful to look for species unrecorded in 2012 and to specifically search for exuviae allowing confirmation of breeding at this site.

A good number of the Shropshire BAP species *C. aenea* were observed in May particularly at the south eastern and north western ends of the mere. Concerns that the tree felling might have a negative impact seem not to have materialized. Tree canopy is essential not only for feeding, mating and roosting sites, but also in the provision of leaf litter habitat for larvae on the pond floor.

Recommendation: Whilst excessive shading of water should be prevented, close proximity of deciduous woodland and a scattering of bankside trees are important. Bankside vegetation provides important emergence supports and if causing over shading should only be cut back after the adult emergence period (May-July). Maintenance of small bay areas along an undulating shoreline is important allowing more males to hold territory and breed successfully.

Actions for 2013:

1. Regular visits during the *C. aenea* flight season to map the bay areas where males are holding territory and where females are ovipositing.
2. To mirror the habitat conditions of bays where successful breeding activity is taking place in other areas around the shoreline.