

DRAGONFLY AND DAMSELFLY SPOTTER SHEET

Great news - WWT Caerlaverock has been awarded status as a Dragonfly Hotspot by the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) – which means there are loads of amazing dragonflies (and damselflies) to spot at our centre. They are all listed below - can you spot them all?



○ Common hawker

- Fast and powerful in flight
- Perch on branches
- Hard to approach – they see you coming
- Emerge July to September, flight season continues until November



○ Emperor dragonfly

- Patrol ponds several metres above the water
- Agile in the air
- Emerge from water after sunset and fly just before dawn
- Flight season is May to September
- They regularly chase other males



○ Four spotted chaser

- Males fly out and return to the same perch
- There are sometimes evening swarms over water
- Dark spot on each wing – this is why it's called a four spotted chaser
- Emerge in May and June in the morning



○ Black darter

- Fly in the late summer
- Erratic flight
- Emerge late June to early October
- Black markings are a thermo-regulatory function in cold weather
- Males are not territorial



○ Common darter

- Perches on the ground and returns to same spot
- Emerge early morning during April-October



Continues on reverse...



○ Large red damselfly

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- Often have territorial disputes – males fly out to investigate other dragonflies
- Often seen in sunny woodlands
- Males emerge before females
- Emerge April to September



○ Blue tailed damselfly

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- Colonise new ponds early
- Often emerge upside down
- Emerge mid June and July/August
- Can eat spiders from webs



○ Emerald damselfly

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- Perch with wings half open
- Perch in dense vegetation by shallow pools
- Habitat - standing water, ponds and ditches
- Emerge late June



○ Common blue damselfly

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- Habitat is slow water
- Emerge April to August
- Perch on low vegetation and fly off in pursuit of passing prey
- Pounce on insects



○ Azure damselfly

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- Sensitive to pollution
- Emerge early May to mid-June
- 95% of population emerge in 3 weeks
- They fly during the day and night
- They are 'sit and wait' predators
- Females emerge before males