



*East Riding*  
**Dragonflies**

**2005**  
**Report**

# ***East Riding Dragonflies***

## ***2005 Annual Report***

**Printed and edited by**  
**Paul Ashton**

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Cover Photographs

Front – Southern Hawker, male, Tophill Low

Back upper – Common Hawker, male, Skipwith Common

Back lower – Broad-bodied Chaser, male, Allerthorpe Common

All photographs taken by Paul Ashton

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## Contributors

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Apologies for any omissions.

BDS – British Dragonfly Society

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## **Introduction**

This is the first of what is hoped to be an annual report on the dragonflies and damselflies of the East Riding. Although by no means a complete record of what has been observed in 2005, it is hoped that by producing this report, more records will be forthcoming to be able to show the bigger picture.

Over the last three or four years, my interest in odonata has increased. One thing I'd noticed whilst trying to find out more about local species, was the lack of information available. Whilst working on a website for the Hull Valley Wildlife Group, I had also considered starting up a website on the dragonflies of East Yorkshire. As it happened, Geoff Tulloch had already had the same thoughts and set up a website. This ran for a year or so, however in April 2005 Geoff e-mailed me to say that he would no longer be running the website due to ill health. After finding myself with some free time, I offered to take on the site and move it forward. By late April the East Riding Dragonflies website was up and running, mainly due to support from Geoff, by allowing me to use most of his original material. This meant I was able to have the site up and running very quickly, enabling me to concentrate on the 2005 season.

One of the main reasons for setting up the website, was to improve the distribution knowledge of odonata within the area. Other counties are well represented, so why not the East Riding? As mentioned earlier, my interest was growing, however information on what species were present in the area was poor. Some of the most up to date information is now over fifteen years old. In 1996, Merritt, Moore and Eversham published the Atlas of the Dragonflies of Britain and Ireland. Most of the data for this publication was collected prior to 1988, though some records up to 1992 were included. Most of our current understanding is based on this set of data, along with annually published reports in well watched areas such as Spurn, Tophill Low and Filey. Even distribution maps in up to date field guides, are not always accurate. Several species are exceptionally localised, meaning it is not possible to give accurate mapping. Others have considerably increased their range, even within the last two years, so many maps are out of date.

Over the year, many people have contributed records (See list of Contributors). I would like to thank everybody who has done so, as this has enabled a weekly update to be posted on the website. By using MapMate to log all records, distribution maps could be updated regularly throughout the season. MapMate also produces a phenology graph, which has been updated monthly. Even during the first year, the phenology graphs have become more accurate, filling in some of the gaps in recording and smoothing out the data. Hopefully these will become more meaningful as time goes by. All records are welcome, including historical. Details of where to submit your records can be found at the end of this introduction.

During the year twenty species have been recorded within the area. The most interesting events have been the recent colonisers. Though some may have been recorded prior to the year 2000, the following species now certainly appear to becoming regular breeders:- Southern Hawker, Emperor Dragonfly, Four-spotted Chaser, Broad-bodied Chaser and Ruddy Darter.

## *East Riding Dragonflies 2005 Annual Report*

Southern Hawker really exploded on to the scene in 2005, even to the point of being commoner than Migrant Hawker, until their numbers were boosted by immigrants in mid-September. The surprise increase in Southern Hawker numbers caught several observers out, many early dates claimed for Migrant Hawker were probably the former species, an easy mistake to make, when Migrant Hawker had normally been the only species to look out for.

The highlight for me however, was the discovery of a male Lesser Emperor Dragonfly at Brandesburton. Unfortunately the specimen was on a private site, so details could not be released. This was only the second documented record for the East Riding, a nice find and good omen for the year ahead.

So how did the publication of this report come about? As 2005 progressed, the distribution maps on the website clearly showed were the current years sightings had occurred. When 2005 came to an end it was obvious that the 2006 records would supercede those of the previous year. With the number of reports received, I realised that there would be enough information to publish an annual summary, along with distribution maps. This would mean that the 2005 season would still be available for people to browse, rather than being lost in the overall mapping for the last five years. As a way of generating interest, I have produced the report as an Adobe PDF file for free download from the website. If you know anybody else that may be interested in this report, but doesn't have access to the internet, then why not print them a copy.

As this is the first report, there are bound to be things that I've missed, not included, or could have done better. Any feedback would be most welcome, to enable improvements to be made to future reports.

From the start of 2006 I have taken on the role of VC61 Recorder for the British Dragonfly Society, so look forward to receiving all your records. There is also an ongoing project to produce an Atlas for the whole of Yorkshire. All records received will help towards the goal of completing this project, of which the East Riding is only a small part.

I would like to pass on my thanks to Martin Hodges, for help with the report in the way of suggestions, and proof reading of the text.

### **Paul Ashton**

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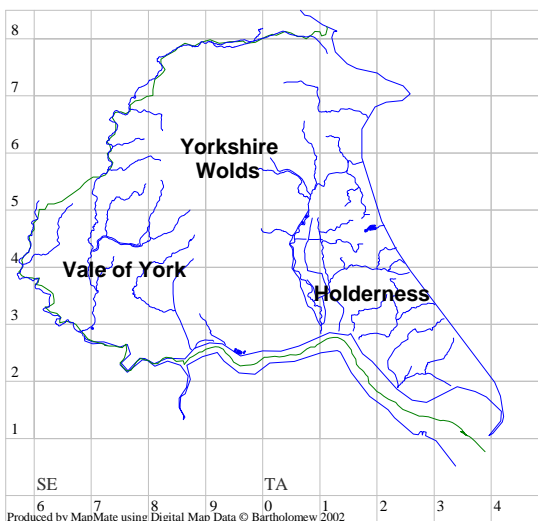
Website: [www.erdragonflies.co.uk](http://www.erdragonflies.co.uk)

Useful websites:-

British Dragonfly Society: [www.dragonflysoc.org.uk](http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk)

Yorkshire Branch of the British Dragonfly Society: [www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk)

## Vice County 61 – South-east Yorkshire



The East Riding is divided into three, key, distinct geographical areas, each containing different habitats.

To the west is the Vale of York, a low lying alluvial basin with underlying glacial deposits. Mainly turned over to arable farming, there are still some important areas of remnant heath at Skipwith Common, and to a lesser extent, at Allertorpe Common. Both these sites hold Common Hawker and Black Darter, two species that are extremely scarce anywhere else in the riding. Most streams drain into the River Derwent which closely follows the north-western boundary of VC61 before heading south to join the River Ouse, forming the south-western boundary to the vice-county. One key area is the now disused Pocklington Canal, which forms ideal habitat for Red-eyed Damselflies and several other species.

In the centre of the Riding are the Yorkshire Wolds, formed mainly of Chalk. This area is the least productive for odonata due to the lack of water. However, gardens ponds and artificial lakes can be a good source of records. Woodland edges and rides are also areas worth checking, as hawk species will feed in these areas, even though they are many miles away from suitable breeding habitat.

To the East is Holderness, formed from glacial deposits, mainly of boulder clay. Streams drain mainly inland to the River Hull, the network of waterways ideal for many species of odonata. Sand and gravel extraction here has resulted in the creation of many lakes and ponds, these forming a further network of suitable breeding habitats. Two key sites in the area are Tophill Low Nature Reserve, containing many suitable ponds and marshes, and Leven Canal, a disused waterway similar in nature to Pocklington Canal.

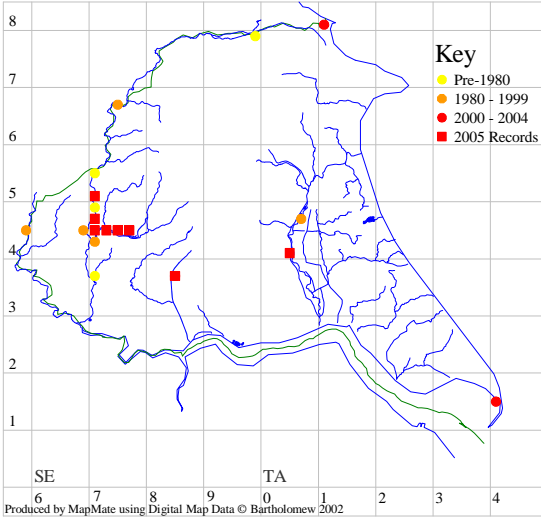
## Earliest and latest dates at a Glance

Vernacular	Taxon	Earliest Recorded Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Recorded Date	Latest 2005 Date
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	01-Jun-22	07-Jun	18-Aug-96	26-Jul
Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	21-May-05	21-May	18-Sep-04	02-Sep
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	24-Apr-04	01-May	01-Aug-85	11-Jul
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	15-May-04	21-May	07-Aug-04	02-Aug
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	07-May-05	07-May	20-Aug-91	02-Aug
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	15-May-05	15-May	21-Sep-03	20-Sep
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	07-May-05	07-May	15-Sep-03	02-Sep
Common Hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	14-Jul-03	26-Jul	07-Sep-04	02-Sep
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	17-Jul-05	17-Jul	12-Nov-05	12-Nov
Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	08-Jul-05	08-Jul	08-Oct-05	08-Oct
Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	19-Jun-05	19-Jun	11-Sep-65	06-Sep
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	04-Jun-05	04-Jun	28-Aug-04	23-Aug
Lesser Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	03-Jul-05	03-Jul	30-Jul-00	03-Jul
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	13-May-05	13-May	07-Aug-04	06-Aug
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	29-May-05	29-May	02-Jul-05	02-Jul
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	10-Jun-05	10-Jan	04-Sep-05	4-Sep
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	31-May-84	24-Jun	17-Nov-04	12-Nov
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	19-May-99	18-Jun	27-Aug-00	13-Jul
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	12-Jun-04	09-Jul	10-Oct-05	10-Oct
Black Darter	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	08-Jul-90	10-Jul	28-Oct-04	10-Oct



## Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
01-Jun-22	<b>07-Jun</b>	18-Aug-96	<b>26-Jul</b>



Records received from eight tetrads, six of which held no previous records.

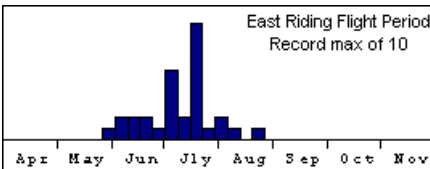
The first of the year were a single male and female at Back Delfin Stream (North Cliffe Carrs) on 7th June. The maximum at this site was ten on 26th June, with the last four males there on 26th July. This species was first discovered here in 2003 and has been recorded annually since. No doubt this population is present along the stream further south, and possibly on into Market Weighton Canal. Further visits are

needed to confirm this.

Along the River Derwent, a brief stop at Kexby Bridge on 10th July, revealed 45 viewable from the bridge. A further visit the following day gave a total of 130 within 100 metres of either side of the bridge. An unusual number of these, around 40%, were females.

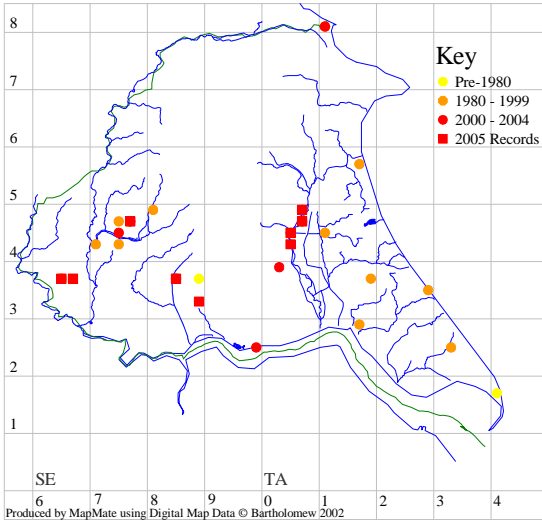
A survey along Pocklington Canal on 11th July, revealed the presence of this species as far east as Walbut Lock with five there. Numbers increased to the western end with 15 at Hagg Bridge. A short distance away 30 were on the River Derwent at Sutton Bridge.

As well as the four at Back Delfin, the last of the year was a male at Swinemoor (Beverley) on 26th July. This individual some distance away from its usual haunts.



## Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
21-May-05	<b>21-May</b>	18-Sep-04	<b>02-Sep</b>

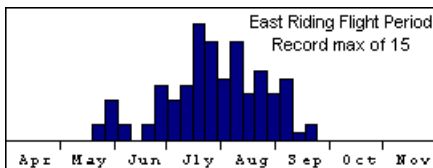


Records received from nine tetrads, six of which held no previous records.

Pulfin and High Eske Nature Reserve held the honours for the first of the year for the first of the year on 21st May, with up to three noted by the month end. By far the best location for this species was Tophill Low, with the first on 1st June, peaking at 32 on 16th July, and the last three noted on 23rd August. During July, up to five pairs were seen copulating on a number of dates.

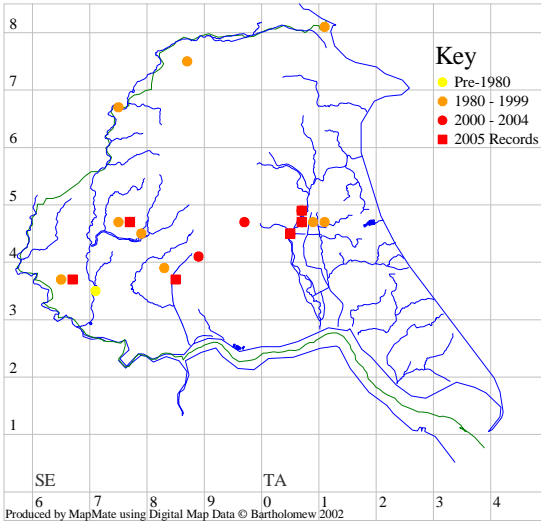
Elsewhere, Skipwith Common obtained several double

figure counts, with a peak of 20 on 19th July. This is undoubtedly an under-recorded figure for the site, as only a small area was covered. Similar habitat at Allerthorpe Common produced single males on 26th June and 2nd September, the later being the final sighting of the year for the Riding. At North Cave Wetlands two adults were found along the eastern edge of Carp Lake on 19th July.



## Large Red Damselfly *Pyrhosoma nymphula*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
24-Apr-04	<b>01-May</b>	01-Aug-85	<b>11-Jul</b>

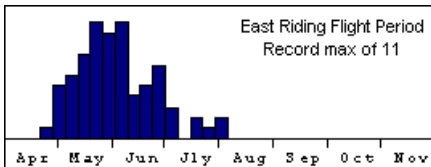


Records received from six tetrads, six of which held no previous records.

There were no April records this year, the first appearing on 1st May at Tophill Low. Numbers peaked at 30 on 28th May, with double figure counts being encountered until 7th June. After this date numbers dwindled, with only two records for July being a single on 11th, and two on 15th, the last for the Riding.

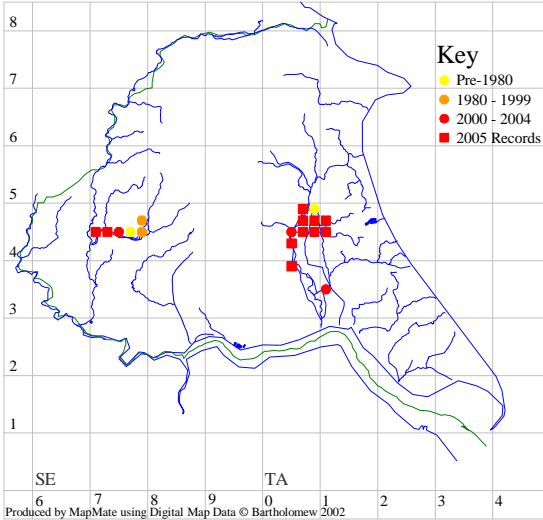
Elsewhere, 12 were at Back Delfin Stream (North Cliffe Carr) on 15th May, the last there a single on 26th June.

Single figures were reported from the following sites; one at Pulfin and High Eske Nature Reserve on 21st May; a single at Allerthorpe Common NR on 29th May and five on 26th June; three at Skipwith Common on 7th June and two at Pocklington Canal on 27th June.



## Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
15-May-04	<b>21-May</b>	07-Aug-04	<b>02-Aug</b>



Records received from eleven tetrads, four of which held no previous records.

In the East Riding, this species is at the northern edge of its range in England. There are two population centres based around Pocklington Canal and also the Tophill Low, Brandesburton Ponds and Leven Canal complex.

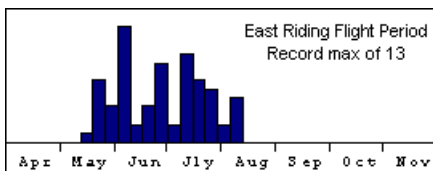
The first appeared at Tophill Low on 21st May with single adults both at the northern and southern end of the site. By 4th June numbers had peaked here at 15.

Double figure counts also came from Pulfin and High Eske NR

with 23 on 26th June; Brandesburton Ponds with 18 on 3rd July and Pocklington Canal with 40 on 11th July, of which 30 were at Hagg Bridge.

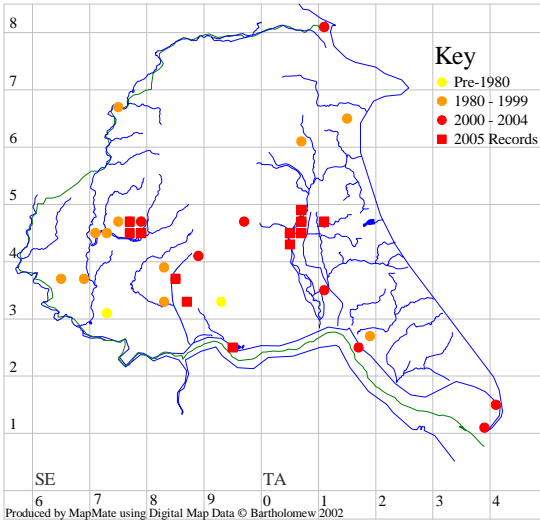
The last of the year were on 2nd August, with a single at Brandesburton Ponds and a total of nine, from various points, along Leven Canal.

An interesting record was received regarding four found on Beverley Beck (date unspecified). These were further south than the usual East Riding population. Individuals have been watched floating downstream along Barmston Drain, on all manner of floating debris, which seems to be the most likely route taken in extending their range. It will be interesting to watch and see if this colony continues.



## Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
07-May-05	<b>07-May</b>	20-Aug-91	<b>02-Aug</b>



Records received from twelve tetrads, six of which held no previous records.

Although not uncommon, care needs to be taken when recording this species. It usually emerges before the Common Blue Damselfly, but soon becomes harder to find once the later species becomes more abundant. Its flight period also ends many weeks earlier than Common Blue.

Azure can be quite localised within larger sites and easily overlooked.

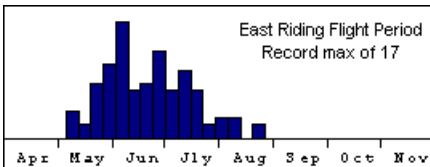
The first on the wing were eight at Tophill Low on 7th May. Numbers built to 154 by 28th May,

peaking at 530 on 4th June.

The only other notable count came from Back Delfin Stream (North Cliffe Carr), with 100 there on 7th June.

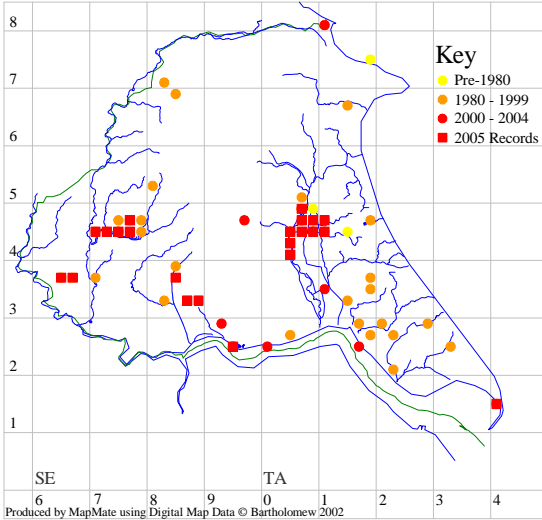
Records were received from the following locations in low numbers:- Pocklington Canal, Pulfin and High Eske NR, Allerthorpe Common NR, Welton Waters, North Cave Wetlands, Brandesburton Ponds and Leven Canal.

The last was a single male found on 2nd August whilst conducting a survey of Leven Canal. It was found at the western end of the canal, and was nearly three weeks later than the preceding record of six at North Cave Wetlands on 14th July.



## Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
15-May-05	<b>15-May</b>	21-Sep-03	<b>20-Sep</b>



Records received from twenty-two tetrads, seven of which held no previous records.

The second most widespread species after the Blue-tailed Damselfly.

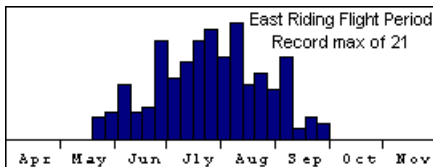
The first two were at Back Delfin Stream (North Cliffe Carrs) on 15th May, followed by four at Tophill Low NR on 17th.

Low double figure counts were then the norm around the area, until 500 were present at North Cave Wetlands on 17th June. Numbers remained strong at this site peaking at 1151 on 5th July. High numbers continued with 750 on 4th August and 500 on 20th. There were still

115 present till 2nd September when numbers then dropped, the final ten being recorded on 20th, these being the last of the season for the East Riding.

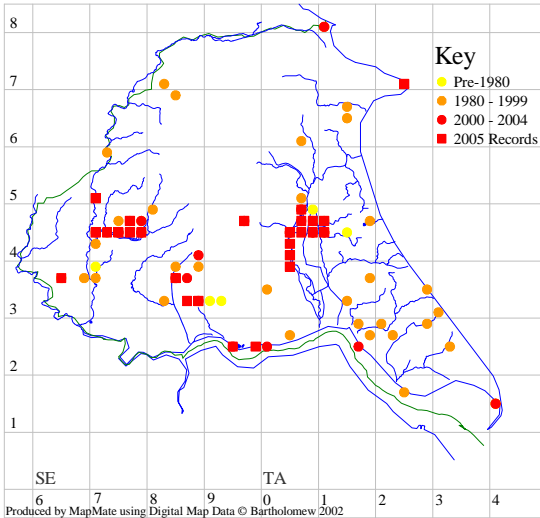
Elsewhere, other sites reporting good numbers included:- Welton Waters with 170 on 23rd June; Pocklington Canal with 750 on 27th June; Brandesburton Ponds with 100 on 3rd July and Spurn Point with 800 on 10th July.

Records of lower numbers were also received from Allerthorpe Common NR, Pulfin and High Eske NR, Skipwith Common, Swinemoor and Leven Canal.



## Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
07-May-05	<b>07-May</b>	15-Sep-03	<b>02-Sep</b>



Records received from twenty-six tetrads, nine of which held no previous records.

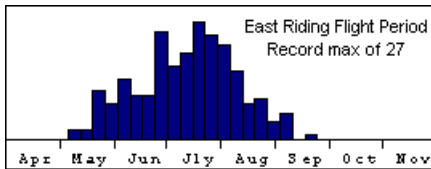
The most widespread of all species in the East Riding and the most likely to be found around garden ponds.

The first appeared on 7th May at Tophill Low, with four there on 14th. The following day a single male was at Back Delfin Stream on 15th.

Reported from a good spread of locations, Welton Waters holding the highest numbers with 140 on 17th June, and 100 on 23rd. Elsewhere, notable counts were 80 at Back

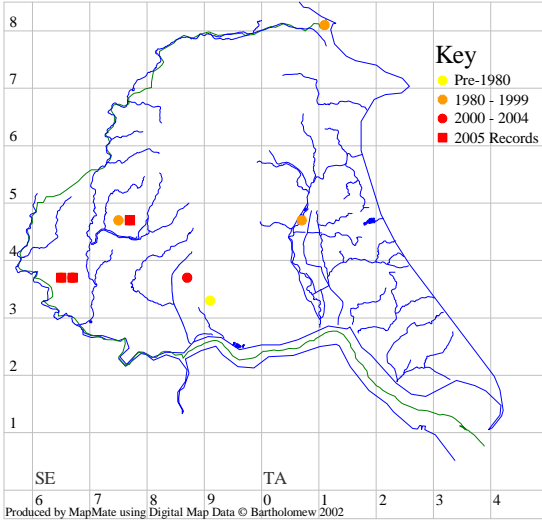
Delfin Stream on 29th May; 61 at Tophill Low on 25th June and 50 at Hagg Bridge, Pocklington Canal on 11th July.

The last of the year were singles at both Allerthorpe Common NR and North Cave Wetlands on 2nd September.



## Common Hawker *Aeshna juncea*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
14-Jul-03	<b>26-Jul</b>	07-Sep-04	<b>02-Sep</b>

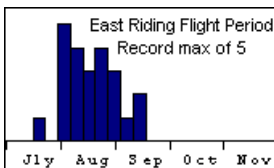


Records received from three tetrads, all of which held previous records.

This species is scarce in the East Riding, on current confirmed knowledge it is only guaranteed at two locations. However, a recently viewed report that has not been made public, would indicate that there is still some work to be done with regards to understanding this species distribution. Confirmation could see the number of tetrads increase by 100%. Watch this space!

All records received are listed here in full. Unless otherwise

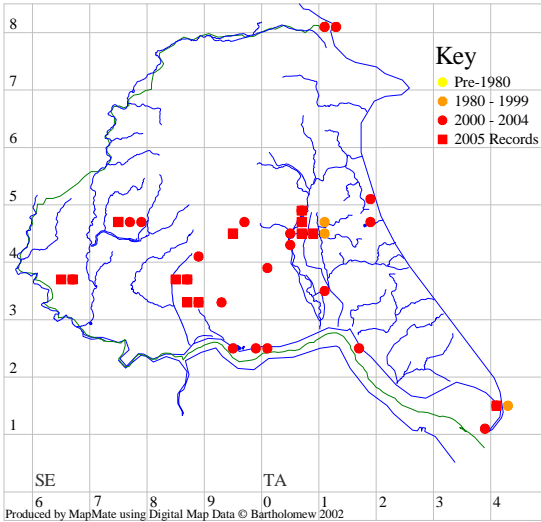
stated, all relate to Skipwith Common which is the best location to encounter this species. The first appeared on 26th July; two on 2nd August, three on 3rd, two on 7th and 11 on 18th. The last of the year were two males at Allerthorpe Common NR on 2nd September.





## Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
17-Jul-05	<b>17-Jul</b>	12-Nov-05	<b>12-Nov</b>



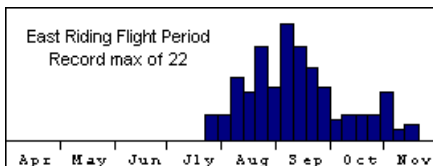
Records received from thirteen tetrads, seven of which held no previous records.

Although there is evidence of a breeding population, this species is chiefly an immigrant. Over the last few years it has certainly become the commonest hawkler to be found around the area. However, 2005 seems to have been a quiet year for this species. Right up until September it was out numbered by Southern Hawker, and this seems to have caught some observers by surprise.

The first appeared at Spurn Point on 17th July, with single

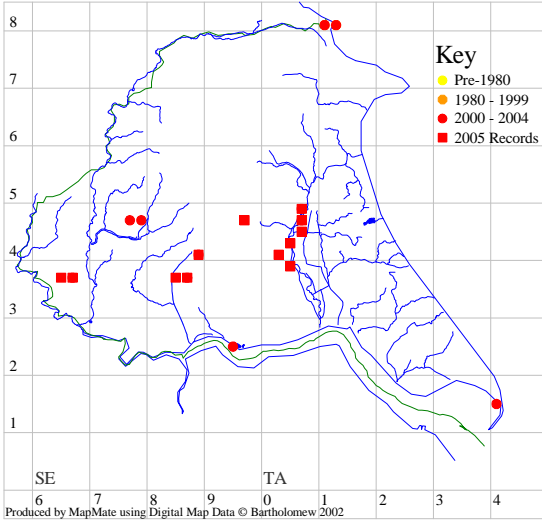
figure counts being the norm around the area until September. From 3rd September there were signs of immigration, with 31 present at Tophill Low, followed by 25 at Back Delfin Stream (North Cliffe Carr) on 6th. The peak count occurred at Tophill Low with 36 present on 14th September. The last were two at Tophill Low on 12th November, after this date the weather then turned frosty, drawing a close to the season.

From a speculative point of view, based on the slow start to the season, and on recent years figures, it would seem to indicate that the breeding population represents less than 10% of the population. In fact a search for exuvia at Tophill Low failed to find any for this species during the season!



## Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
08-Jul-05	<b>08-Jul</b>	08-Oct-05	<b>08-Oct</b>



Records received from twelve tetrads, seven of which held no previous records.

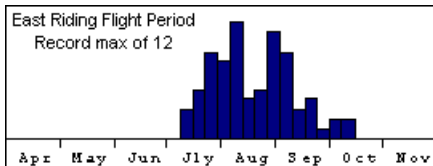
A good year for this species, certainly more abundant than Migrant Hawker during July and August, however it still appears to be chiefly confined to the southern half of the East Riding.

The first two were at Tophill Low on 8th July, with six there by 9th, this figure equaling the site record. Numbers however continued to build, finally setting a new site record of 23 on 20th August. At least 15 were still present on 23rd.

Elsewhere, single figure counts were the order of the day, however the number of new tetrads shows that this species is certainly expanding.

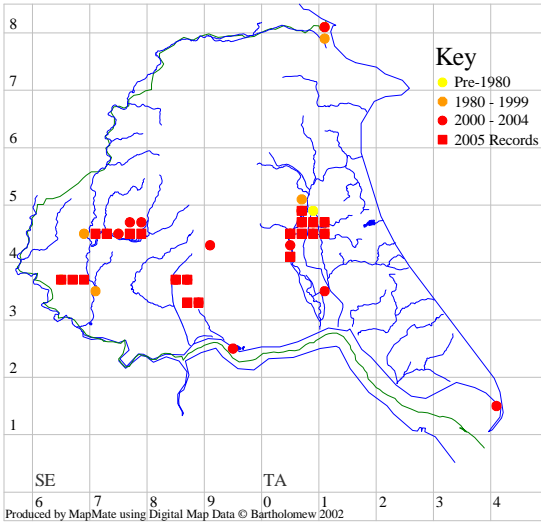
Proof of breeding was obtained from Market Weighton, where an emergent female was still with its exuvia on 26th July, with a second exuvia found close by. Ovipositing females were seen at Tophill Low on 26th July, and also at Market Weighton on 25th August.

The last of the year was a single male at Tophill Low on 8th October.



## Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
19-Jun-05	<b>19-Jun</b>	11-Sep-65	<b>06-Sep</b>



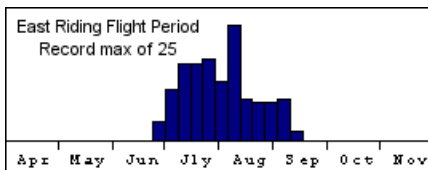
Records received from twenty tetrads, eight of which held no previous records.

The first was a single at Tophill Low on 19th June, with five present by the 28th June. Collection of exuvia prior to the later date however, showed the true scale of emergence, with 37 collected by 25th June. It appears that most of the emergence occurred during this period, as only five more exuvia were found up to the 9th July. The peak count for Tophill Low was 26 on 16th July.

It seemed a good year for this species with several sites recording

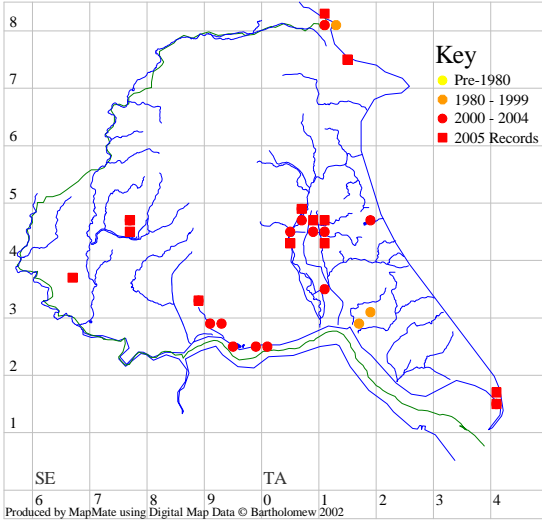
double figures as follows:- Pocklington Canal, Back Delfin Stream, Swinemoor and Leven Canal.

As August came to an end only single figure counts were noted, so it came as a surprise to find that the last record of the year involved 20 at Back Delfin Stream on 6th September. Notoriously difficult to approach, an early morning visit was made at 8:00am to try and photograph this species, before they had warmed up in the sun. Amazingly this high number were flushed from the long grass within 30 minutes of arrival. Unfortunately, on this occasion, no photographs were obtained.



## Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
04-Jun-05	<b>04-Jun</b>	28-Aug-04	<b>23-Aug</b>



Records received from thirteen tetrads, nine of which held no previous records.

This species is now starting to make its presence felt throughout the East Riding, as can be seen by the number of new tetrads confirmed.

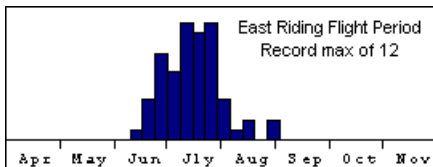
The first indication that this species had emerged were five exuvia found at Tophill Low on 4th and 5th June. However it was not until 18th that the first adult male made an appearance, followed by a female the following day.

No location reached double figure status, seven at Clubley's

Scrape, Spurn Point being the best count on 10th July.

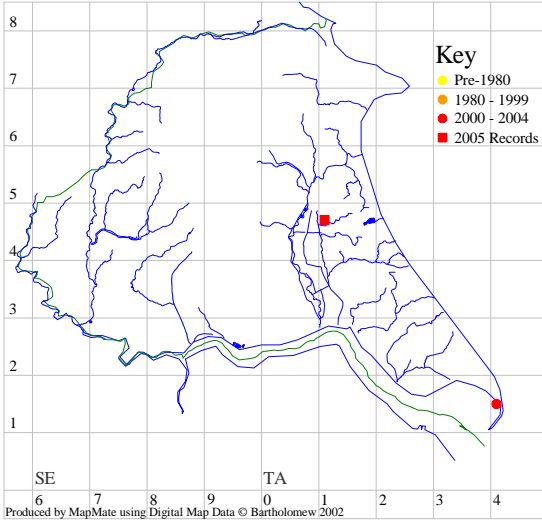
Elsewhere, the species was recorded at North Cave Wetlands, Filey, Allerthorpe Common NR, Speeton Ponds, Brandesburton Ponds, Pulfin and High Eske NR, Skipwith Common, Pocklington Canal and Leven.

The last of the year were three at Clubley's Scrape, Spurn Point on 23rd August.



## Lesser Emperor Dragonfly *Anax parthenope*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
03-Jul-05	<b>03-Jul</b>	30-Jul-00	<b>03-Jul</b>



One record, representing only the second sighting in the East Riding.

On 3rd July, a guided dragonfly walk organised by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at Brandesburton Ponds, turned up a stunning male.

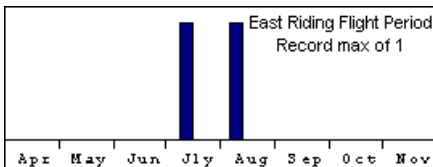
The walk had literally just finished when a hawk type dragonfly was seen flying towards the group. This insect passed the group at a distance of around four metres and was then watched for at least fifteen minutes, sometimes coming as close as two metres on several occasions. (P.Ashton, A.Ashworth *et al.*)

*al.*)

Unfortunately the individual was on private land, permission was not forthcoming to publicise the news and allow access to the site. However, several follow up visits were made, there being no further observations of this individual.

As already mentioned, this is the second record for the East Riding, the first occurring at Spurn Point on 30th July 2000.

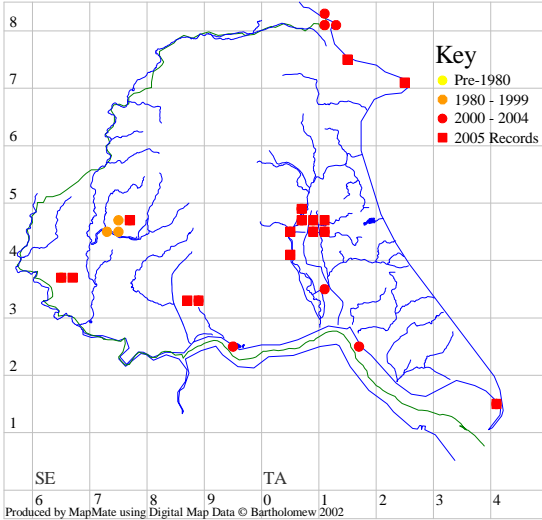
This species has occurred in Yorkshire annually since 2003. In 2005 a pair were observed ovipositing at Farnham Gravel Pits in North Yorkshire. Overall the British Dragonfly Society had received up to 30 records for 2005 by late summer.



The first record for Great Britain was in 1996 in Gloucestershire. With the increase in numbers and breeding activity recorded in some locations, it appears that this species is in the process of colonising Britain.

## Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
13-May-05	<b>13-May</b>	07-Aug-04	<b>06-Aug</b>



Records received from sixteen tetrads, six of which held no previous records.

Chiefly confined to the southern half of the East Riding, however it is making inroads into the north-eastern quarter.

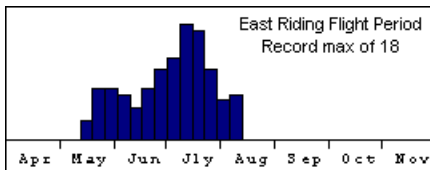
The first appeared on 13th May at Tophill Low, numbers building to 27 by 21st. The peak here was 50 which occurred on 11th July. By the 5th June 115 exuvia had been collected, giving a better idea of the true scale of emergence at the site.

Elsewhere, double figure counts were received as follows:- 15 at

Skipwith Common on 7th June; 15 at Allertorpe Common NR on 26th June; 40 at Brandesburton Ponds on 3rd July; ten at Swinemoor on 26th July.

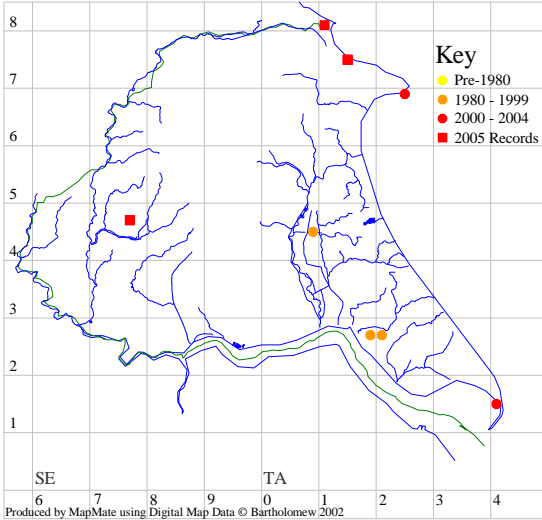
Single figure counts were received from the following locations:- Flamborough Head, North Cave Wetlands, Pulfin and High Eske NR, Pocklington Canal, Speeton Ponds and Leven Canal.

Of interest, there were several reports of the scarce *praenubila* form, with singles at Tophill Low on 18th and 28th June, and 8th July; Brandesburton Ponds on 3rd July and two at North Cave Wetlands on 9th July.



## Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
29-May-05	<b>29-May</b>	02-Jul-05	<b>02-Jul</b>



Records received from three tetrads, all of which held no previous records.

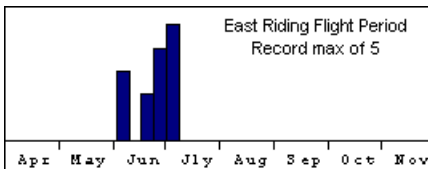
This species is scarce in the East Riding, though increasing its range. It may also be under reported, visiting garden ponds and private estate ponds not regularly watched.

Records were received from three locations with full details listed below.

A teneral male and female were at Allertorpe Common NR on 29th May, these being the first of the year. An adult male was also encountered here on 26th

### June.

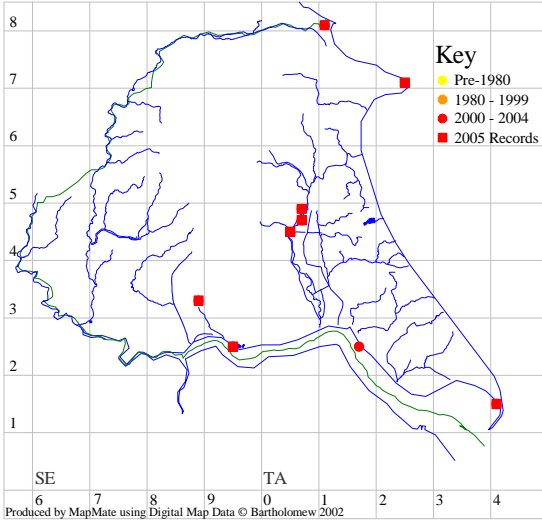
The most interesting set of records involved 25 adults on new cliff top pools at Speeton on 26th June. Seventeen still present there on 2nd July. As with all new ponds, early records may relate to species emerging, having been brought in as larvae on pond vegetation. However this species is also a migrant and could have arrived by this route. Two at Filey Dams on 18/19th June, as well as the Speeton group, appeared at the same time as a small influx of Red-veined Darter along the coast.





## Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
10-Jun-05	<b>10-Jun</b>	04-Sep-05	<b>4-Sep</b>



Records received from eight tetrads, two of which held no previous records.

As can be seen from the distribution map, this species has only recently started to make its presence felt in the East Riding.

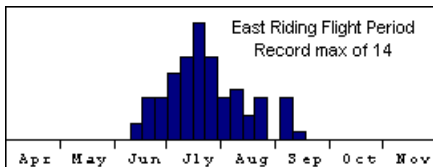
The first was a female at Tophill Low on 10th June, followed by three at North Cave Wetlands on 19th June. These two sites hold the lions share of this species in the riding. Double figure counts were the norm from these sites, with ten at Tophill Low on 3rd July; 12 at North Cave Wetlands on 5th, peaking at 40 on 9th;

then 14 at Tophill Low on 16th.

Elsewhere, a male was at Flamborough Head on 26th June, representing the second record from this location. Records were also received from Welton Waters, Spurn Point, Puffin and High Eske NR, Filey Dams NR and Watton NR.

The last of the year was a single at North Cave Wetlands on 4th September.

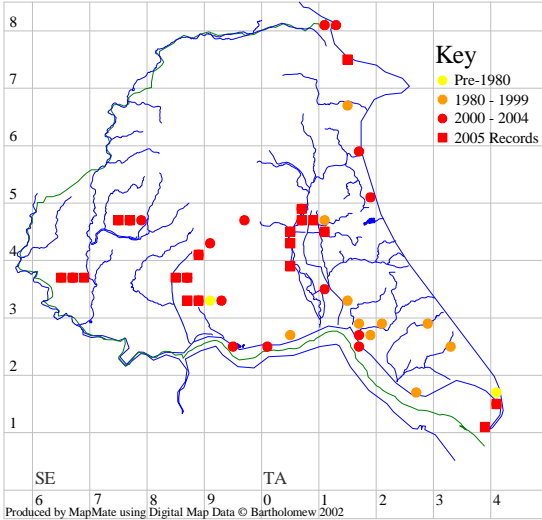
Anybody wanting to see this species well should visit North Cave Wetlands on a good sunny day. With careful approach, good close views can be had of this species along the footpath bordering the maize field, in the north-east corner of the reserve.





## Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
31-May-84	<b>24-Jun</b>	17-Nov-04	<b>12-Nov</b>



Records received from twenty tetrads, eight of which held no previous records.

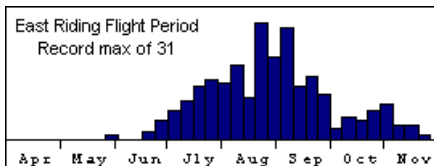
This species is pretty widespread in the East Riding. Of all the darter species, this is the most likely to appear first at new locations due to its migratory habits.

The first of the year were two teneral at Tophill Low on 24th June, followed by two at North Cave Wetlands the following day. Double figure counts were not noted until 13th July, when ten were at Tophill Low. The peak here was 145, though this was not reached until 14th

September, no doubt the result of immigration.

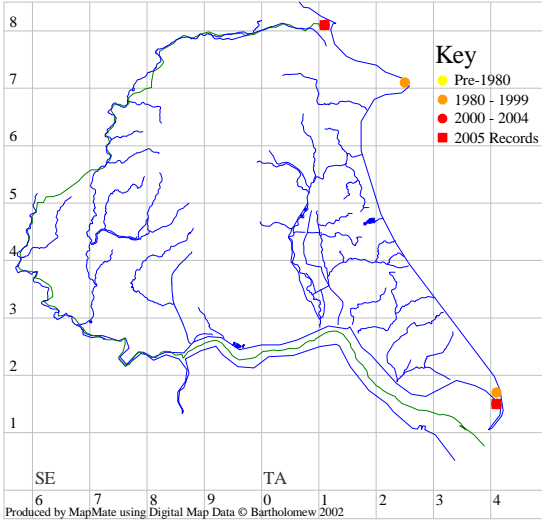
The last records for the year were well into November, with two at Tophill Low on 12th. After this date, hard frosts brought a final closure to the season.

This darter is widespread throughout the East Riding with records received from:- Beverley, Skipwith Common NR, Allerthorpe Common NR, Speeton Ponds, Brandesburton Ponds, Pulfin and High Eske NR, Leven Canal, North Duffield Carrs, North Cliffe Wood, Back Delfin Stream, Spurn Point and Market Weighton.



## Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
19-May-99	<b>18-Jun</b>	27-Aug-00	<b>13-Jul</b>



Records received from four locations, two of which could not be mapped to tetrad level, of which at least one is a new location.

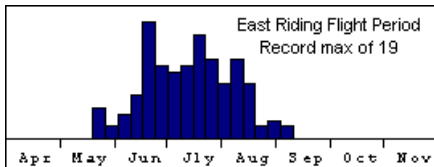
This is a scarce migrant species, which occasionally forms temporary colonies. However, most colonies are usually short lived.

The key location for this species over recent years, has been Clubley's Scrape at Spurn Point. After an influx in 1997, proof of breeding was confirmed in 1998. The species appears to have bred here annually until at least 2004. However conditions at this location

have deteriorated due to plant succession. It is quite possible that this species no longer breeds at the site, records received from this location during 2005 could simply be immigrants, with dates fitting in with others recorded along the coast.

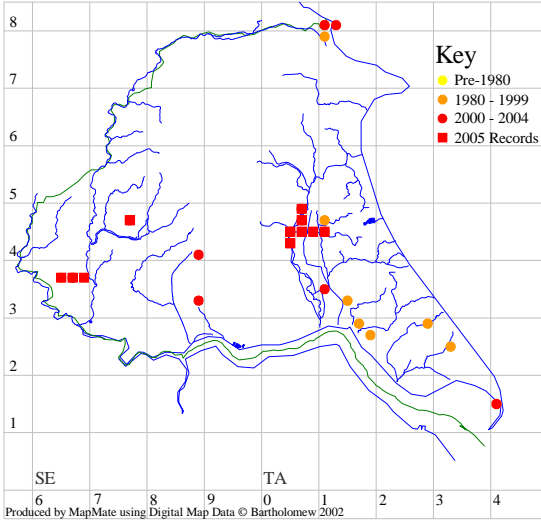
The first records for 2005 were three males at Filey Dams on 18th June (J.Harwood). At Spurn Point a female was logged on 22nd June (B.Spence) followed by a male on 27th (B.Spence). A single male was also present there on 5th July

(B.Spence) with another at nearby Kilnsea on 10th (B.Spence). The highest count came from a pond near Hunmanby with five males present on 3rd July (J.Harwood, F.X.Moffatt), all still present there on 13th July.



## Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
12-Jun-04	<b>09-Jul</b>	10-Oct-05	<b>10-Oct</b>



Records received from eleven tetrads, four of which held no previous records.

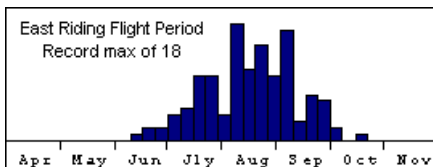
Although fairly well spread over the southern half of the East Riding, it can be absent from areas where it might be expected to be found.

The first of the season were recorded at Tophill Low, with 11 present on 9th July. The following day three males were at Skipwith Common NR. The above two locations appear to be the key sites in the East Riding for this species, both noting double figure counts on several occasions.

The peak count for the area occurred at Skipwith Common NR, with 70 noted on both the 2nd and 18th August. The only other site into double figures was Allerthorpe Common NR, with 15 on 2nd September.

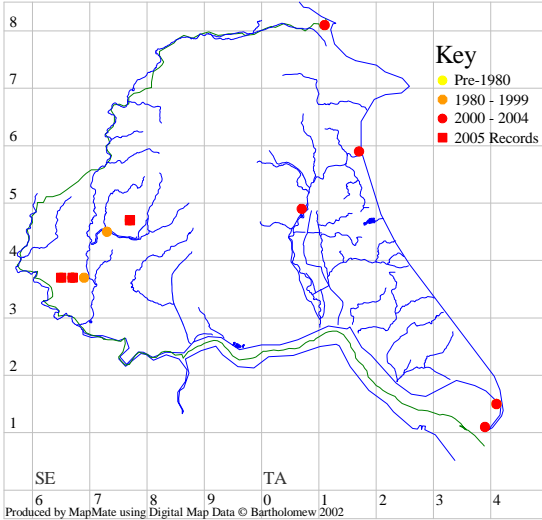
Elsewhere single figure counts were received from Pulfin and High Eske NR, Leven Canal and North Duffield Carrs.

The last of the year was a single at Skipwith Common NR on 10th October, the only other October records being five at Tophill Low on 1st.



## Black Darter *Sympetrum danae*

Earliest Date	Earliest 2005 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2005 Date
08-Jul-90	<b>10-Jul</b>	28-Oct-04	<b>10-Oct</b>



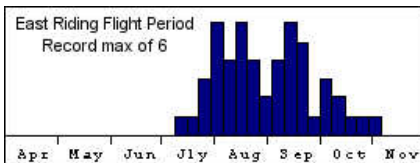
Records received from three tetrads, all of which held previous records.

This species is restricted by its habitat preference and is therefore restricted to a handful of sites. It can turn up at locations away from its key habitat, however it is not clear if these are migratory movements from elsewhere, or dispersal from breeding sites within the East Riding and beyond.

The key site in the East Riding is Skipwith Common, where it appears to be the most numerous species present. The first of the year were 200

recorded on 10th July, judging by the number and maturity of some of the males, they had been on the wing for at least a couple of weeks. Of nine visits logged for this location, it was impossible to miss, being constantly flushed as observers walked the paths. On 18th August at least 500 were counted on a linear walk. With the size of the site, the actual numbers must easily be into four figures. The last of the season were 40 on 10th October, no doubt they were present for several more weeks.

The only other location to record this species was Allerthorpe Common NR. Four males were present on the 2nd September, around the pond in the centre of the reserve.



**Notes**



