

East Riding **Dragonflies**



2006
Report

East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report



Yellow-winged Darter at Reighton Ponds on 28th July. John Harwood.



Male Black Darter at Skipwith Common. David Maston.

East Riding Dragonflies

2006 Annual Report

Printed and edited by
Paul Ashton

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Contents

	Page
Contributors	4
Introduction	5
Vice County 61 – Southeast Yorkshire	7
Earliest and latest dates	9
Systematic list of species	10

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Apologies for any omissions.

Cover Photographs

Front –	Male Broad-bodied Chaser at Lund. David Ashton.
Back upper –	Female Red-veined Darter at Filey. John Harwood.
Back lower –	Male Small Red-eyed Damselfly at Oak Road Lake, Hull. Diane Wakelin.

Introduction

My first year as VC61 recorder for the British Dragonfly Society has certainly been an eventful one, exceeding all expectations. During the year 22 species were recorded within the East Riding, two of these for the first time. The flight seasons of thirteen were earlier than ever recorded before, conversely twelve extended their flight period beyond previous latest dates.

The highlight of the year has to be the discovery of two new species within the Riding. The first to be discovered was Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*, on the River Hertford. It was at first unclear whether these records fell within VC61, but careful study of the boundary showed that the new cut of the river was within the recording area, this following the old course of the river before it was canalised. The second species to be discovered was Small Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma viridulum*, a recent colonist in this country. It had reached as far north as South Lincolnshire during the year, so it was a surprise that it should bypass North Lincolnshire and turn up at a lake in Hull, before colonising sites in between.

This year can also go down as a Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* year. Good numbers reached the Riding in June. Many bred and there was the unprecedented emergence of a second generation later in the year, with overwhelming breeding evidence.

Other exciting finds for the year included four Yellow-winged Darters *Sympetrum flaveolum*, all of which were photographed. A further discovery of note was the presence of Red-eyed Damselflies *Erythromma najas* in the southwest of VC61, as all previous records related to sites along Pocklington Canal and the Brandesburton Ponds/Tophill Low complex.

One key project currently being undertaken by the British Dragonfly Society is the Key Site Register. A set of criteria has been drawn up to help in the identification of key sites around the country. The criteria loosely follows, number of abundant species present at a site, or number of regionally important species at a site. One of the key requirements is evidence of breeding, something which is currently lacking for many species. Confirmed breeding can only be proven by the presence of exuvia, or pre-flight emergents, proving beyond doubt that this species has emerged on site. Probable breeding at a site relates to the presence of larvae and ovipositing females, probable because the full life-cycle has not been completed and emergence has not been proven. A site can also be labelled as possible, through teneral being present, or adults being seen in tandem

East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

or the wheel position. I would urge everybody to submit as many records of breeding activity as possible, as this can boost a sites status considerably.

From 2006 I took the decision to map species distribution down to the 1km level, rather than at tetrad level as used in the 2005 report. This has meant that the maps are reproduced at a larger size than last year, to make them easier to read. It also means that some records may no longer appear, due to not being recorded at this higher level.

I would like to pass on my thanks, to all the observers who have sent in their records for 2006, and look forward to receiving many more during the 2007 season, especially of breeding activity. I would also like to thank Martin Hodges and David Ashton for their help with the report by way of suggestions, and proof reading of the text. Finally I would also like to thank Diane Wakelin, David Maston, Martin Hodges, John Harwood and David Ashton for allowing the use of their photographs to illustrate the report and bring it to life.

As with the first report, all feedback, both positive and negative is welcome, to enable improvements to be made to future publications.

Keep up to date with current activity in the East Riding by logging on to the East Riding Dragonflies website at the following address:-
www.erdragonflies.co.uk

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Useful websites:-

British Dragonfly Society: www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

Yorkshire Branch of the BDS: www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk

Vice County 61 – Southeast Yorkshire



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

To the west is the Vale of York and Humberhead Levels, 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 Allerthorpe Common. Both these sites hold Common Hawker *Aeshna juncea* and Black Darter *Sympetrum danae*, two species that are extremely scarce anywhere else in the Riding. Most streams drain into the River Derwent, which closely follows the northwestern boundary of VC61, before heading south to join the River Ouse, forming the southwestern boundary to the Vice-county. One key area is the now disused Pocklington Canal, which forms ideal habitat for Red-eyed Damselflies *E. najas* and several other species.

East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

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, garden ponds and artificial lakes can be a good source of records. Woodland edges and rides are also areas worth checking, as some hawk and darter species will feed here, even though they are many miles away from suitable breeding habitat.

To the east is the Plain of Holderness, formed from glacial deposits, mainly of boulder clay. Streams drain inland to the River Hull, the network of waterways ideal for many species of odonata. Sand and gravel extraction has resulted in the creation of many lakes and ponds, these forming a further network of suitable breeding habitat. 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.

To the north of the Wolds lies the Vale of Pickering, of which only a small area forms part of the East Riding. The canalised River Hertford flows west from Muston and is a key site in the recording area for Beautiful Demoiselle *C. virgo*, which is regionally scarce in Yorkshire. The River Hertford flows in to the River Derwent, loosely following the Vice-county boundary, which itself follows much of the old course of the river.



North Pond at Tophill Low.

East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

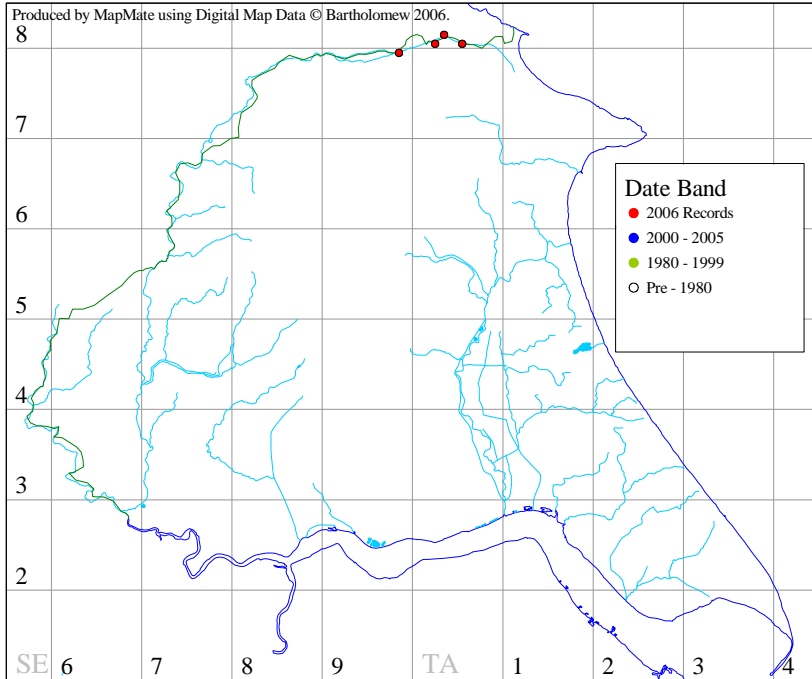
Earliest and Latest Dates

Vernacular	Taxon	Earliest Recorded Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Recorded Date	Latest 2006 Date
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	01-Jul-06	01-Jul	15-Jul-06	15-Jul
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	07-Jun-05	11-Jun	18-Aug-96	19-Jul
Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	21-May-05	17-Jun	30-Sep-06	30-Sep
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	24-Apr-04	29-Apr	01-Aug-85	04-Jul
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	15-May-04	17-May	07-Aug-04	25-Jul
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>	08-Aug-06	08-Aug	31-Aug-06	31-Aug
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	06-May-06	06-May	20-Aug-91	01-Aug
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	09-May-06	09-May	21-Sep-03	17-Sep
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	06-May-06	06-May	21-Sep-06	21-Sep
Common Hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	04-Jul-06	04-Jul	07-Sep-04	25-Aug
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	15-Jul-06	15-Jul	12-Nov-05	05-Nov
Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	11-Jun-06	11-Jun	29-Oct-06	29-Oct
Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	10-Jun-06	10-Jun	11-Sep-65	10-Sep
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	03-Jun-06	03-Jun	10-Sep-06	10-Sep
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	13-May-05	14-May	19-Aug-06	19-Aug
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	29-May-05	02-Jun	29-Jul-06	29-Jul
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	02-Jun-06	02-Jun	10-Sep-06	10-Sep
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	31-May-84	10-Jun	15-Nov-06	15-Nov
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	19-May-99	11-Jun	29-Oct-06	29-Oct
Yellow-winged Darter	<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	22-Jul-06	22-Jul	04-Sep-04	20-Aug
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	12-Jun-04	16-Jun	10-Oct-05	30-Sep
Black Darter	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	04-Jul-06	04-Jul	06-Nov-06	06-Nov

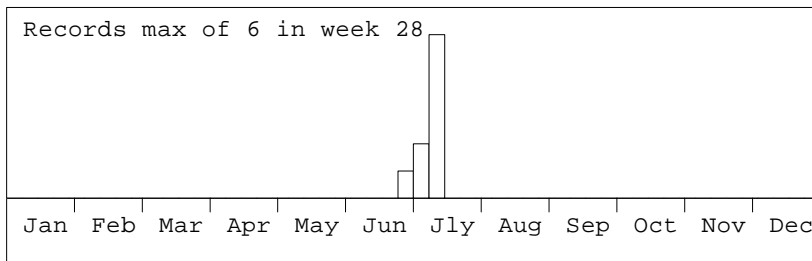
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	4	4	4



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
1-Jul-06	1-Jul	15-Jul-06	15-Jul

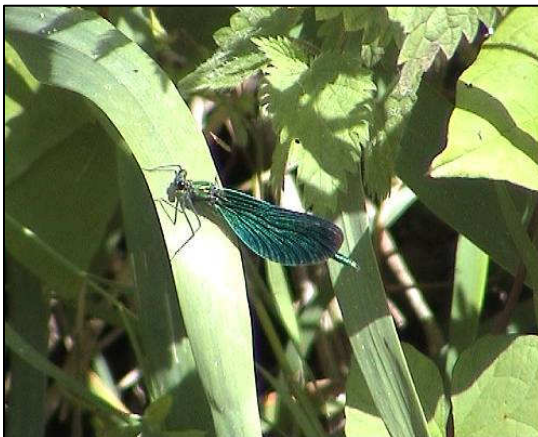
Recorded for the first time in VC61, from four 1km squares.

This species is a scarce resident in Yorkshire, being previously confined to the southeast corner of the North Yorkshire Moors in VC62.

The first record involved ten males on 1st July on the River Hertford at Folkton Bridge (JH). Initially it was not known which Vice-county the river flowed through. A review of the boundaries on the National Bio-diversity website, revealed that they follow the old course of the River Hertford, this being the old North and East Yorkshire County Boundary. The river has since been canalised, following a course south of the original. This places it firmly in VC61, with the exception of a short 1km stretch on Flixton Carrs.

The species appears to be more abundant as the river heads west to meet the River Derwent at Ganton. Twenty males were at the latter site on 4th July. Here the species can be found alongside Banded Demoiselle for a short distance, before the latter takes over along the rest of the Derwent. The following day, eight males were located at the A64 road bridge, a site located between Ganton and Folkton.

On 11th July, a survey in less than ideal conditions, found a total of 12 individuals at three points along the river. Five males were present on the section that passes under the A64, a pair at Flixton Bridge and five males at Folkton Bridge. Six males were at the latter site on 14th July. The latest record for the year involved five males at Ganton, now heavily outnumbered by Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*.

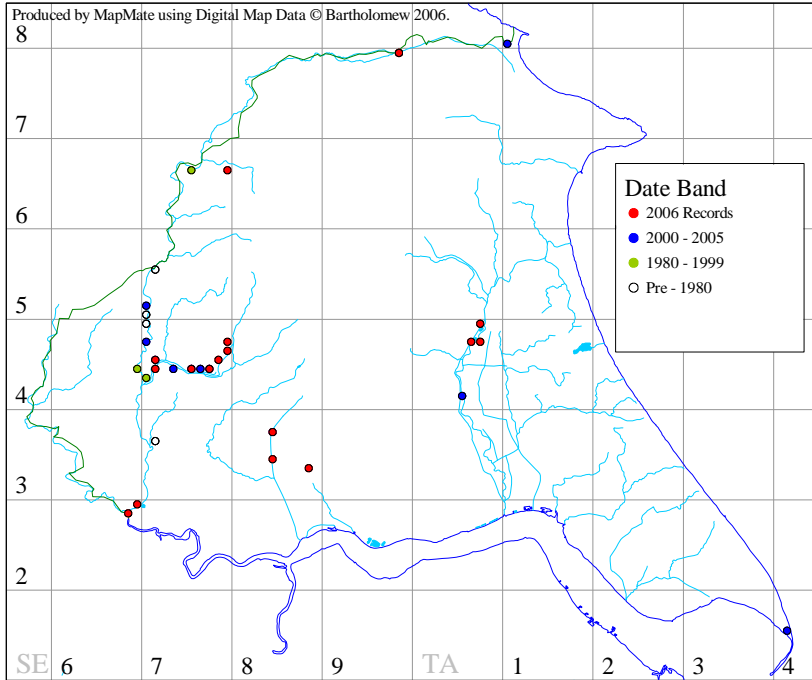


Male at Folkton Carr.
Paul Ashton.

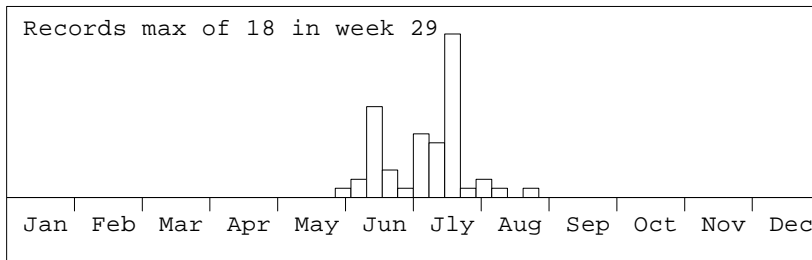
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	30	17	11



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
07-Jun-05	11-Jun	18-Aug-96	19-Jul

Recorded in 17 1km squares, 11 of which held no previous records.

The opening records of the year were of single males, at two locations in Langton on 11th June.

There were several double figure counts during the flight period, all centered around Pocklington Canal, with 66 on 13th June, 45 on 4th July, 108 on 16th and 16 on 18th. A single female at Back Delfin Carr on 19th July, proved to be the final sighting of the year.

Of interest were the records from new 1km squares. There were four new squares centered around Pocklington Canal, three of these from the stretch either side of Coat's Bridge. Two new squares at the mouth of the River Derwent, at Barmby on the Marsh and Wressle, when added to past records, indicates that this species is probably present along most stretches of the river. Sightings along Market Weighton Canal at Wholesea Grange, put together with records from Back Delfin Carr, and nearby North Cave Wetlands on 17th July, suggest that this species may also be present further south along the canal.

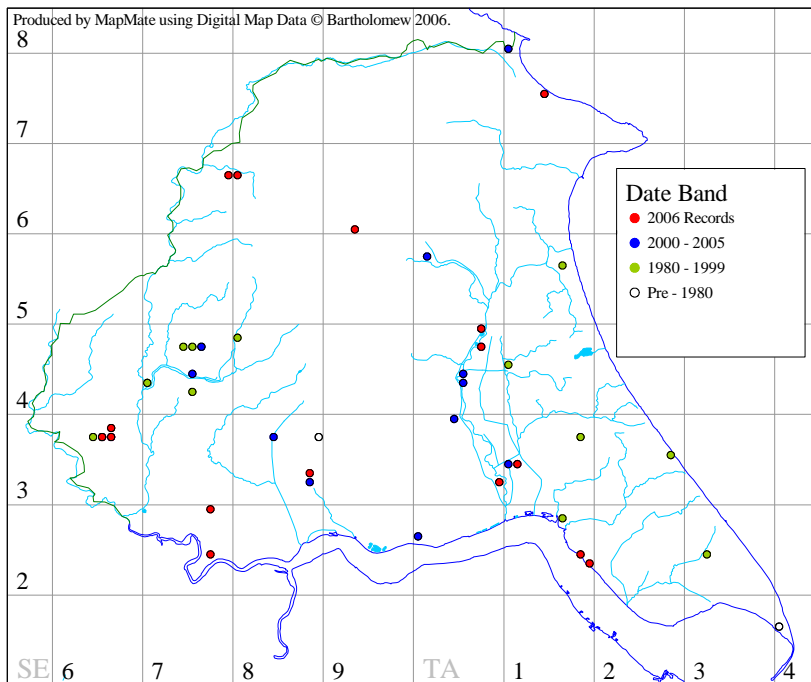
An interesting series of records came from Tophill Low, were the species was seen on five dates in three squares. Prior to these sightings, a single specimen was observed a decade ago in 1996, and in 2005 a male was seen several miles down river at Swinemoor Common. It will be interesting to see what materialises in 2007. Perhaps this species has finally managed to start colonisation of the river systems east of the Wolds.



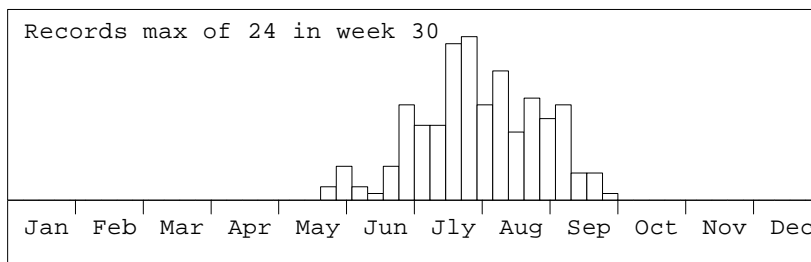
*Male at Tophill Low.
Martin Hodges.*

Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	40	16	10



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
21-May-05	17-Jun	30-Sep-06	30-Sep

Recorded in 16 1km squares, ten of which held no previous records.

Tophill Low produced the first sightings of the year, with four present on 17th June. Over the next seven days there was a rapid emergence at this site, with 134 present on 24th. Numbers continued to increase and a record 216 were logged on 1st July. Numbers remained in triple figures until at least 15th when 121 were counted. As well as the first sighting and highest count, Tophill Low also managed to record the latest ever record, a male, described as being in excellent condition, was still present on 30th September. The previous latest date was 18th September 2004.

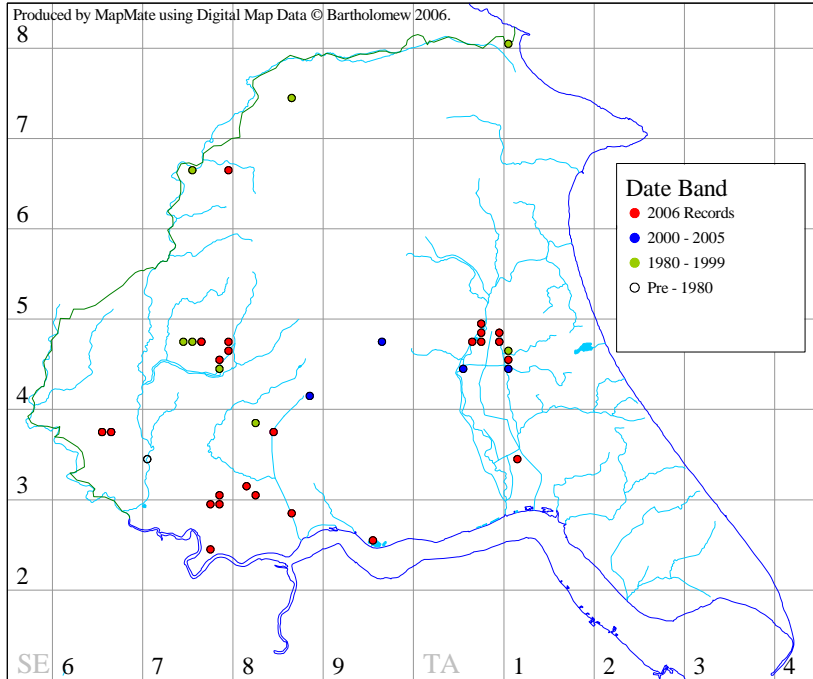
Several locations managed to record double figure counts; 88 were at Langton on 2nd July; 62 at Skipwith Common on 1st August and 12 at Bransholme Fishing Ponds on 9th August. Single figures were reported from Saltmarsh Delph, Reighton Ponds, North Cave Wetlands, Eastrington Ponds, Paul Holme Strays, Oak Road Lake, Hull, and Wetwang.



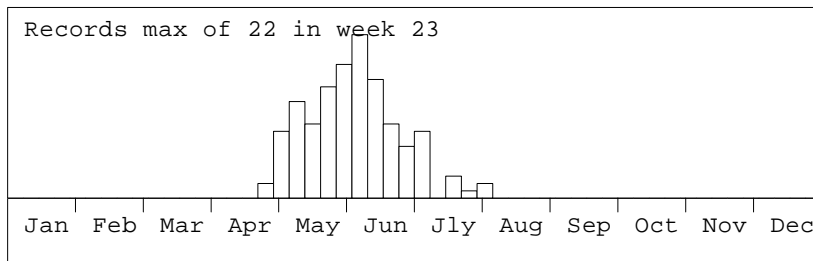
Male at Skipwith Common. David Ashton.

Large Red Damselfly *Pyrhosoma nymphula*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	37	24	18



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
24-Apr-04	29-Apr	01-Aug-85	04-Jul

Recorded in 24 1km squares, 18 of which held no previous records.

Always the first species to emerge, the opening record involved a female at East Pond, Tophill Low on 29th April, with the next individual seen at Welton Waters on 3rd May.

The peak count came from Langton, this site recording the only three figure count, with 102 present on 21st May. The only other notable numbers elsewhere involved 43 at Tophill Low on 6th May, 19 at Back Delfin, North Cliffe Carr on 16th and 22 at Easttrington Ponds on 9th June. Single figure counts were reported from Saltmarsh Delph, Broomfleet, Bransholme Fishing Ponds, Burshill, Sandholme, Allerthorpe Common, Pocklington Canal, Brandesburton, Leven Canal and Skipwith Common.

The closing record of the year involved ten at Easttrington Ponds on 4th July, with two present at Skipwith Common on the same date.

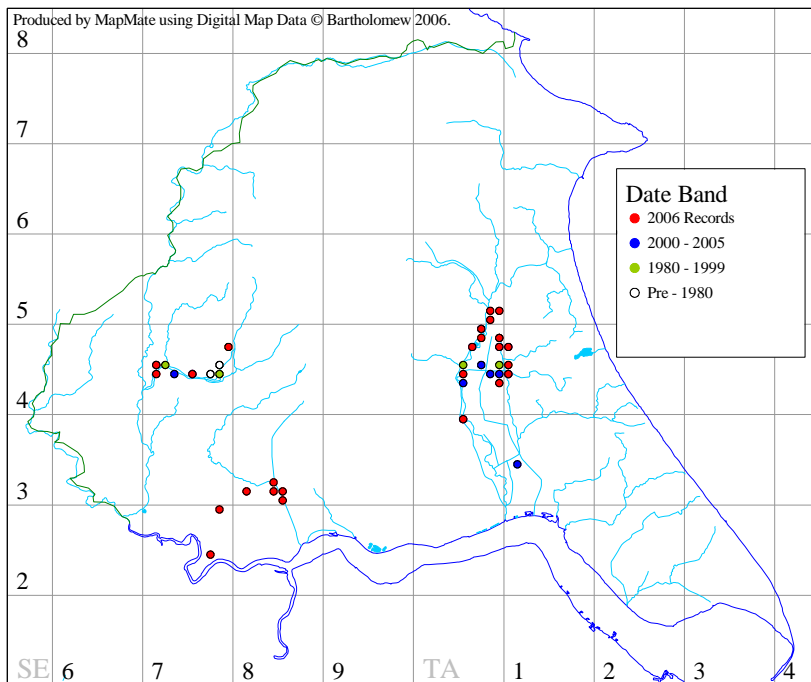
This species is far from abundant in the Vice-county. There are only four sites which meet the British Dragonfly Society's abundance threshold of 21 or more individuals. These being Langton, Tophill Low, Easttrington Ponds and Pocklington Canal at Bielby.



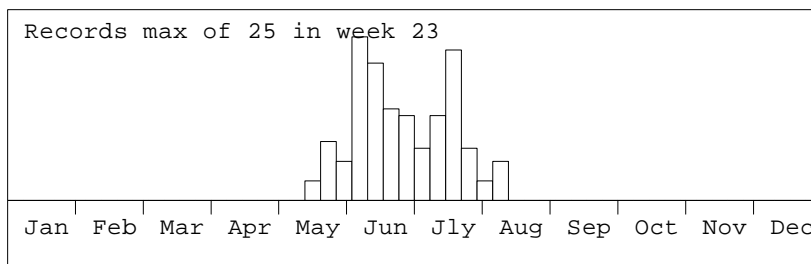
*Male at Brandesburton.
Diane Wakelin.*

Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	37	25	13



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
15-May-04	17-May	07-Aug-04	25-Jul

Recorded in 25 1km squares, 13 of which held no previous records.

The first record of the year was a count of 45 teneral at Tophill Low on 17th May, on the 'O' Reservoir banking along the sheltered southwestern edge. A pattern has emerged at the site, were this species is regularly found during the teneral stage at this specific location. It appears that this area is ideal for this species to mature in, with 141 tenerals present there on 27th May. The first three weeks are the best time to see this species at Tophill, as after the teneral stage, they are usually only found in single figures, and once mature, they become less conspicuous as they disperse on to the nearby marshes.

One surprise of the 2006 season was the discovery of a cluster of sites holding this species in the southwest of the Vice-county. This area alone resulted in seven 1km squares being added to their known distribution. Sites where it has been newly discovered are Saltmarshes Delph, Eastrington Ponds, Newport Ponds and the adjacent Market Weighton Canal. There are undoubtedly more sites to uncover in this area.

The best count came from Pocklington Canal, where a walk along the Hagg Bridge to Storwood section gave a count of c.300 on 4th July. The section of canal around Hagg Bridge is one the best locations in the Vice-county to see this species in large numbers.

The latest date this year involved a single at Pulfin and High Eske Nature Reserve on 25th July.

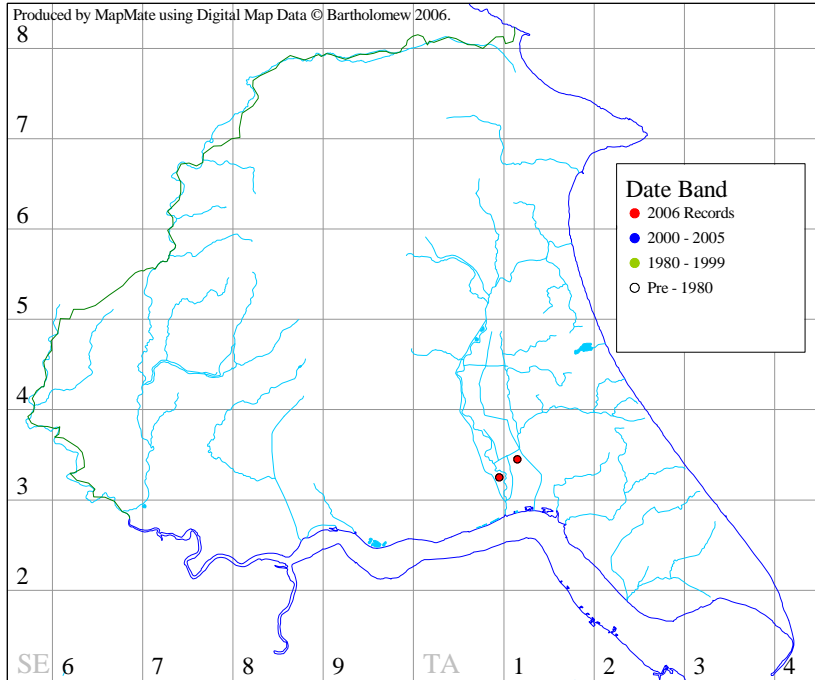
*Female at Brandesburton Ponds
showing unusually strong
antehumeral stripes.
Diane Wakelin.*



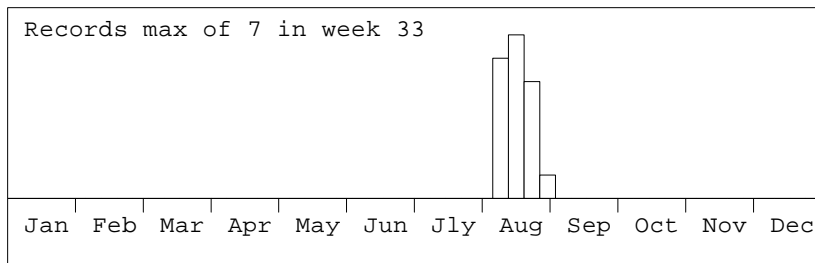
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Small Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma viridulum*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	2	2	2



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
08-Aug-06	08-Aug	31-Aug-06	31-Aug

By far the biggest surprise of the year, was the addition of this species to the Vice-county list. Since being recorded in the UK for the first time in Essex in 1999, the species has started to colonise areas further north. Prior to 2006 the closest known colonies were in Norfolk.

It therefore came as a shock to the finder, that this species should appear on a lake in Hull. On 8th August, three males and two females were observed at Oak Road Lake, a mating pair seen in the wheel position, and also ovipositing in tandem (AA). The maximum count was 14 males on 9th. Thereafter, single figure counts were noted to the months end, with ovipositing recorded on several dates. Not far away, a second site was also confirmed as holding this species. A photograph was taken of a male at Bransholme Fishing Ponds on 9th August (MLA). The only other sighting from this location was a single on 23rd.

Oak Road Lake appears to be ideal for this species. It is particularly associated with water bodies containing floating vegetation such as Water Milfoil *Myriophyllum*, which is abundant at this site. Hornwort *Ceratophyllum* and Water-thyme *Elodea* are other favoured vegetation.

The flight season of the more familiar Red-eyed Damselfly *E. najas* is over as Small Red-eyed Damselfly *E. viridulum* begins. However, if the latter becomes established, it is likely that there will be some overlap of flight periods, so learning the key identification features is vital.

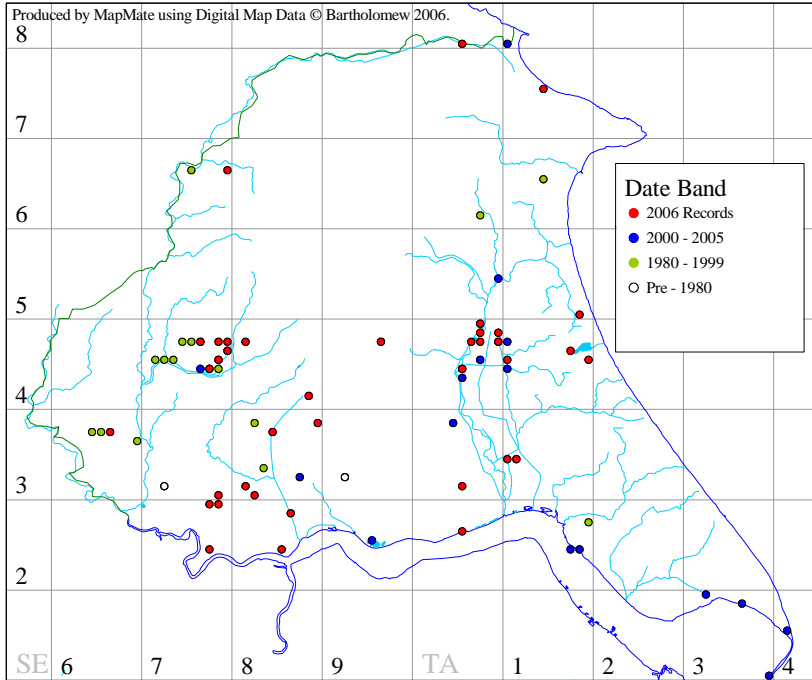


*Male at Oak Road Lake, Hull.
Diane Wakelin.*

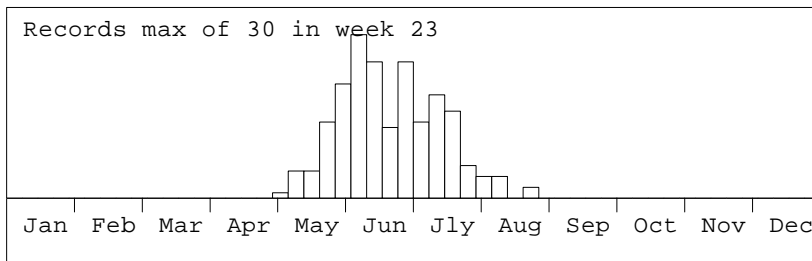
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	71	38	25



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
06-May-06	06-May	20-Aug-91	01-Aug

Recorded in 38 1km squares, 25 of which held no previous records.

The first of the year was a teneral at East Pond, Tophill Low on 6th May, occurring one day earlier than any previous records. There was a steady emergence of this species at the site, building to a peak of 322 by 3rd June. This was however considerably lower than the peak of 530 counted on 4th June last year.

The only other site to record a three figure count was a pond at Langton, where 300 were present on 21st May. Double figure counts were received from North Cliffe Carr, Eastrington Ponds, Sandholme and Pocklington Canal.

After a count of 150 at Tophill Low on 15th June, this species was only recorded in single figures around the Vice-county. The last of the season managed to survive until August, with a single male present at Skipwith Common on 1st.

One of the key problems encountered when trying to map the distribution of this species, is misidentification. It is important that the whisky tumbler mark on segment two is not used exclusively to separate this species from Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*. There can be considerable variation in this mark, it is therefore important to pick up on one of the following additional identification features:-

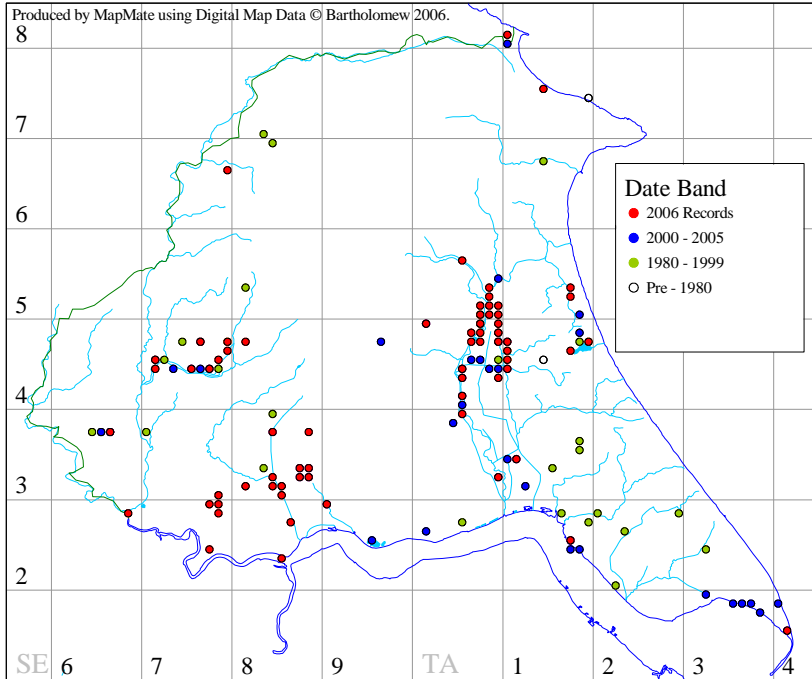
- a). Antehumeral stripes narrower than the adjacent black band, applicable to both sexes, (opposite in Common Blue).
- b). Black spurs on the side of the thorax in both male and females, (absent on Common Blue).
- c). Black crown marking on segment nine on the male, (all blue in Common Blue).

*Male at Brandesburton.
Diane Wakelin.*

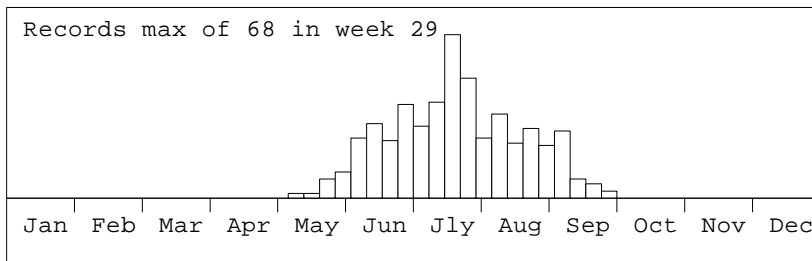


Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	119	68	38



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
09-May-06	09-May	21-Sep-03	17-Sep

Recorded in 68 1km squares, 38 of which held no previous records.

The first of the year were a teneral male and female at Tophill Low on 9th May. These were six days before the previous earliest of 15th May in 2005.

North Cave Wetlands again proved to be the stronghold for this species. Several four figure counts were made during July, the best being 1500 on the 17th and 1421 on the 24th.

Elsewhere in the Vice-county, the best three figure counts were also obtained in July over a six day period, with 400 at Saltmarshe Delph on 12th, 350 on the River Hull on 16th, plus 200 at Scurf Dyke on the same date, and 483 at Strick Pond, Hempholme on the 18th.

The latest record for the year was two males at Langton on 17th September.

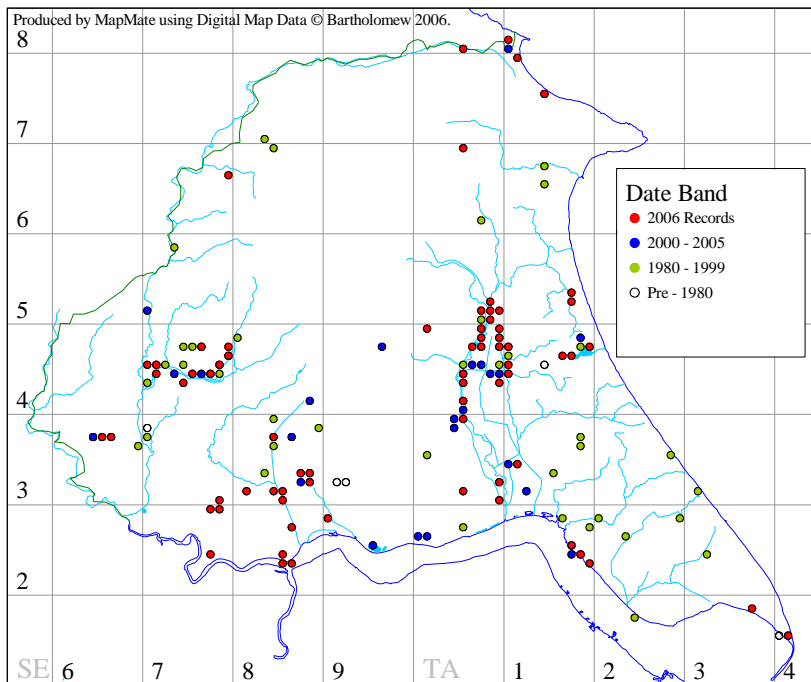
As mentioned under the previous species, care should be taken when confirming identification, ensuring that at least two of the key differences are noted.



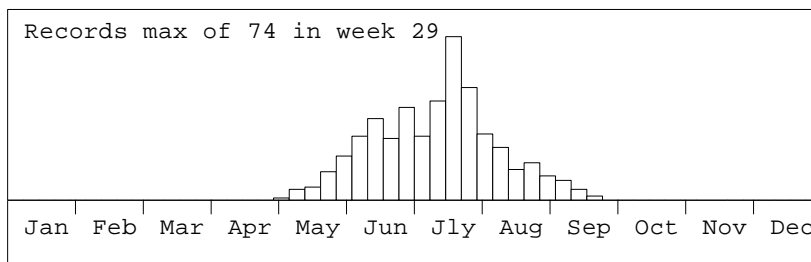
Male at Skipwith Common. David Maston.

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	136	70	40



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
06-May-06	06-May	21-Sep-06	21-Sep

Recorded in 70 1km squares, 40 of which held no previous records.

Though rarely numerous, *Ischnura elegans* is the most widespread of all the species recorded in the East Riding, and is the most likely damselfly to visit garden ponds.

The first of the flight period was a teneral at Tophill Low on 6th May, improving on the previous earliest by one day. Numbers remained low, until seven were present on 16th, building to 26 by 18th.

Reported from a good spread of locations, Filey Golf Course Ponds holding the highest number with 150 on 13th June. The only other location to report a three figure count was Baswick Landing, with 100 on 17th June.

Sites reporting double figure counts elsewhere included Beverley Beck, Brandesburton Ponds, Bransholme Fishing Ponds, Burshill, Eastrington Ponds, Emmotland, Far Grange Country Park, Faxfleet Pond, Filey Dams, Hornsea Mere, Langton, Leven Canal, Market Weighton Canal, Newport Ponds, Paull Holme Strays, Pocklington Canal, Oak Road Lake, Hull, and Spurn.

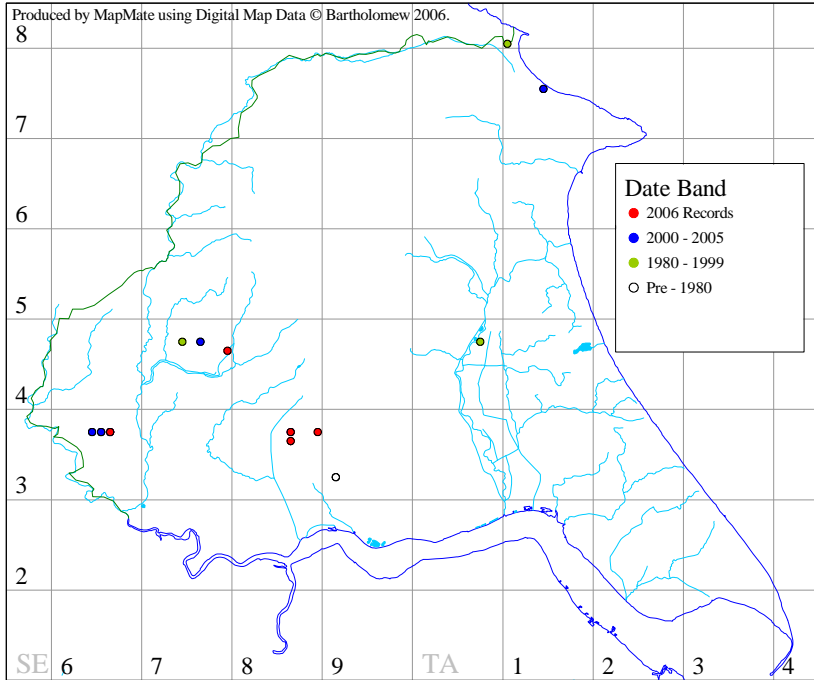
Late sightings included at least ten at East Lea Pool, Filey on 13th September and a male at Bransholme Fishing Ponds on 21st, extending the flight period beyond the previous latest by six days.

*Male at Oak Road Lake, Hull.
David Ashton.*

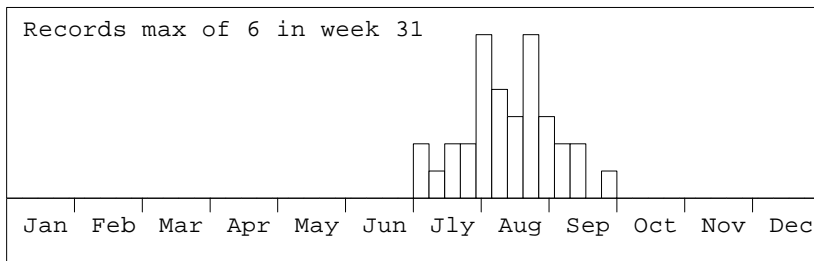


Common Hawker *Aeshna juncea*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	13	5	3



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
04-Jul-06	04-Jul	07-Sep-04	25-Aug

Recorded in five 1km squares, three of which held no previous records.

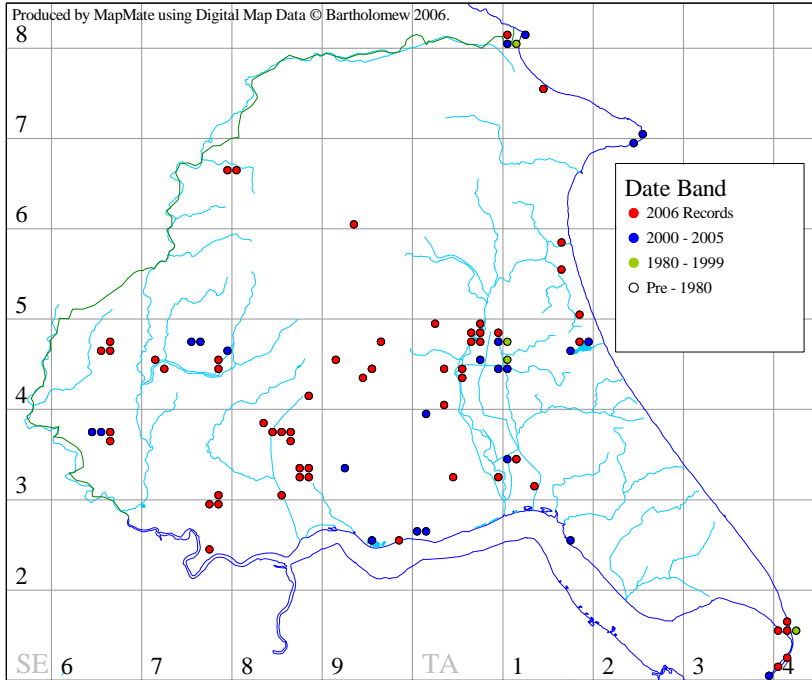
The distribution of this scarce species is not yet fully understood, there being two areas of the Riding that produce records, though only one of these on an regular basis. The key area is the Humberhead Levels in the southwest of the recording area. The peaty acidic soil in certain areas of the levels creates suitable breeding habitat for this species. Skipwith Common is the key site, and a visit at the right time of year will certainly find this species on the wing. Allertorpe Common is another area where this species can be found with some regularity, though not as easily as at Skipwith. There are other areas of heathland in the area, which may also hold this species. North Cliffe Wood has held single individuals in recent years, though not annually. There have also been records from Pocklington Canal, though none documented until this year. It would seem that if peaty acidic conditions exist, then it is possible that this species may occur there. The other source of records comes from the northeast of the Riding. The irregular nature of sightings here due to it being a visitor from the nearby North Yorkshire Moors to the northwest, rather than being a resident.

The first of the year were an unexpected five at Skipwith Common on the early date of the 4th July, this being 22 days earlier than previously recorded. It is possible that these individuals had been on the wing for a few weeks prior to this date, as a mature female was observed ovipositing. This illustrates how under recorded this species has been in the past. As mentioned earlier, Skipwith is the key site for this species, and it is therefore of no surprise that the peak count of 12 occurred there on 26th July.

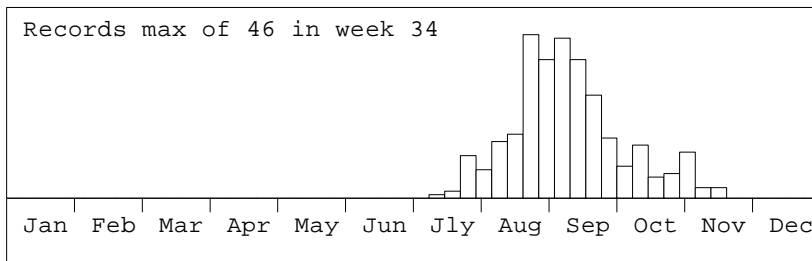
Elsewhere, a teneral was found at Houghton Wood on 12th July, not far from North Cliffe Wood. A single was seen by several observers at Pocklington Canal on 16th, confirming that this species can be found along the waterway. The final record for the year was on 25th August, when two males were present at North Cliffe Wood. Observation of these two males highlighted different flight characteristics compared to the Migrant Hawkers in the vicinity, which made picking them out fairly easy. The Common Hawkers were noticeably larger and were hawking along the edge of the woodland in long stretches, 100 metres or so, rather than in small areas. They were also less sociable, challenging other hawkers they came across during their hunting sorties.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	85	58	39



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
15-Jul-06	15-Jul	12-Nov-05	05-Nov

Recorded in 58 1km squares, 39 of which held no previous records.

This species is the most abundant of the hawkers in the Riding. It can be found almost anywhere, ranging far away from suitable breeding habitat. Breeding however has only been confirmed at one location, through collection of exuvia, and presence of a pre-flight emergent. Probable breeding, in the form of ovipositing females, has been recorded at many sites, though no exuvia have been discovered. It would therefore imply that the abundance of this species is chiefly due to incoming migrants.

The first of the year was found at Tophill Low on 15th July, this preceding the earliest record by two days. For the next four weeks numbers remained in single figures throughout the Riding, most of these could possibly be local emergers, though as mentioned, it is difficult to confirm this. However on 29th July, a pre-flight emergent was found at Reighton Ponds, along with its exuvia. Two further exuvia were found at this location, making it the only site in the Riding where breeding has been confirmed. From late August numbers began to rise, suggesting arrival of fresh migrants. Thirty-four were at Tophill Low on 19th, with numbers eventually peaking at 190 on 9th September. Away from Tophill Low, few sites managed to record more than single figures, those that did are Bransholme Fishing Ponds, Langton, North Cave Wetlands, North Cliffe Wood and Wheldrake Wood.

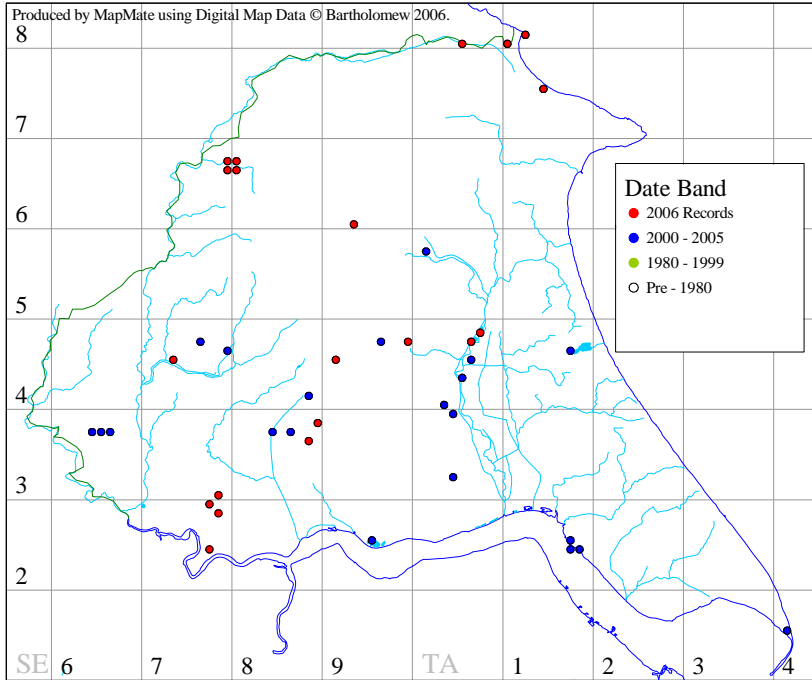
Finally, this species remained on the wing into November, when one was still to be found at Tophill Low on 5th.



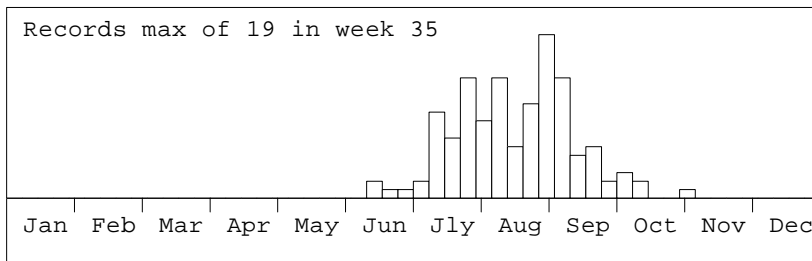
*Male at North Cave Wetlands.
Paul Ashton.*

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	41	20	15



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
11-Jun-06	11-Jun	29-Oct-06	29-Oct

Recorded in 20 1km squares, 15 of which held no previous records.

After record numbers in 2005, no location reported this species in double figures. Records however were broken in other ways. The first, a teneral male, was found at Tophill Low on the early date of 11th June, this almost a month ahead of any earlier records. It was followed soon after by a second individual on 14th June, when four exuvia were also found from recent emergers. A further exuvia was found on 1st July, after which date adults were only noted in single figures.

This species was recorded from a range of locations right across the Riding. The only other notable records involved an exuvia found at a Lockington garden pond on 15th July, and an ovipositing female recorded at Saltmarshe Delph on 4th October.

Finally, another record was set for this species when the latest recorded date was extended by some three weeks, as two males were present at Langton on 29th October.

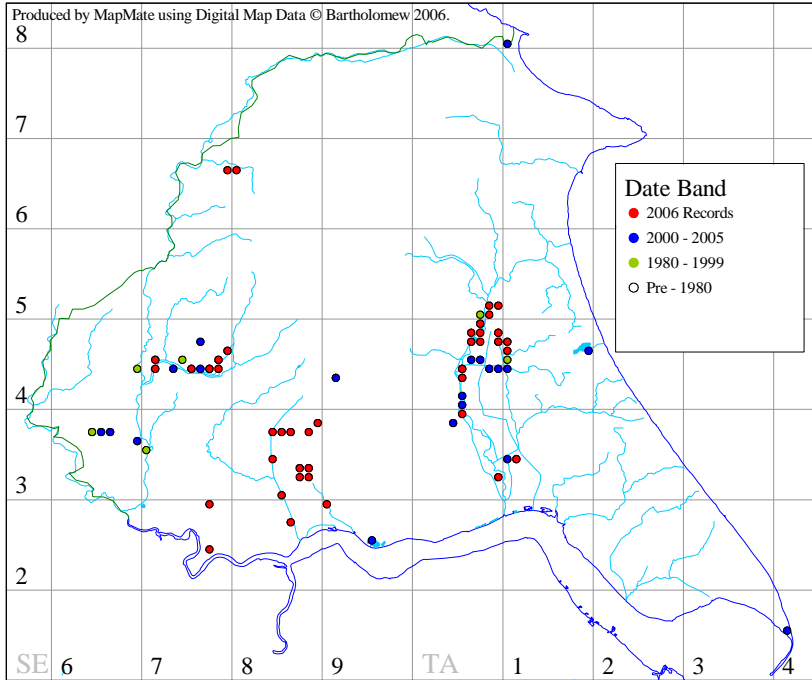


Teneral male at Tophill Low. Martin Hodges.

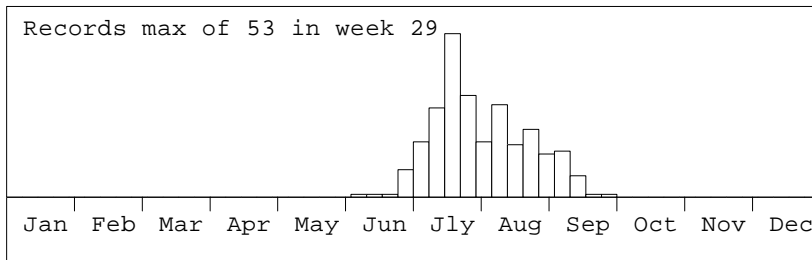
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	67	41	21



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
10-Jun-06	10-Jun	11-Sep-65	10-Sep

Recorded in 41 1km squares, 21 of which held no previous records.

The first of the season was an early female found at North Cave Wetlands on 10th June, this being nine days earlier than previous records. Possibly the same female was also present on 12th.

It was not until 1st July that this species started to make a general appearance around the Riding, with individuals found at Burshill, Tophill Low, Pulfin and High Eske NR.

During the flight season, double figure counts were few and far between, with 20 at Burshill on 16th July, 21 at Pocklington Canal on the same date being the peak for the Riding, 17 at Brandesburton Ponds on 18th and 12 at Tophill Low on 19th August, being the only ones of note.

Only two records were received of breeding activity, these being ovipositing females at Hagg Bridge, Pocklington Canal on 16th July, and the newly created Lilly Pond at North Cave Wetlands on 16th August.

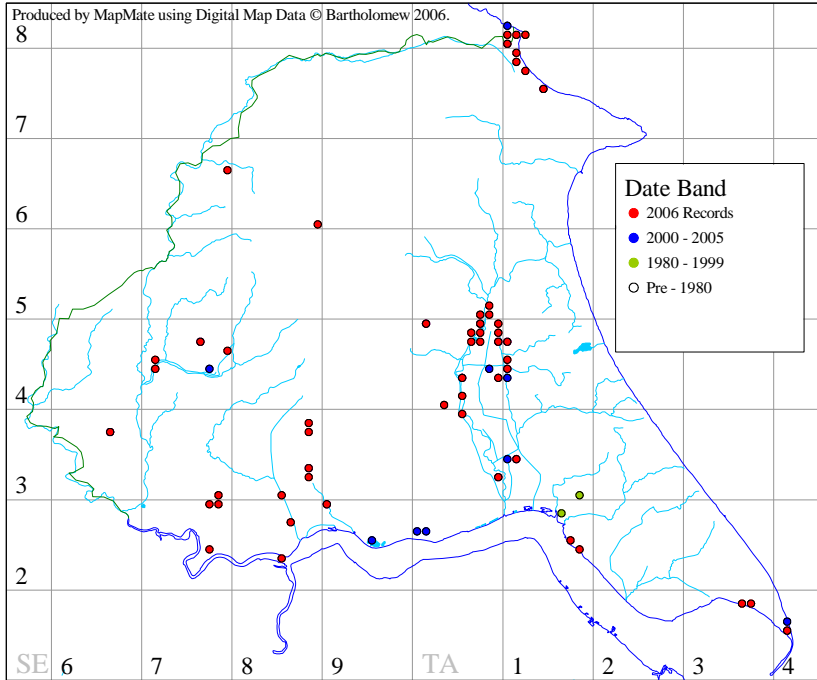
The flight season finally drew to a close, when the last two were seen at Langton on 10th September.



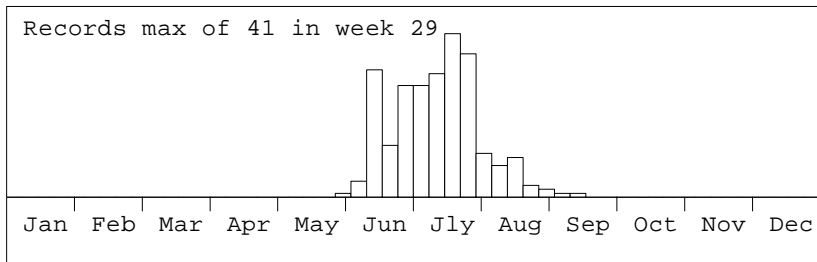
Female at Brandesburton. Diane Wakelin.

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	65	54	38



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
03-Jun-06	03-Jun	10-Sep-06	10-Sep

Recorded in 54 1km squares, 38 of which held no previous records.

This species continues to increase its foothold in the area, with over 66% of the squares this year containing new records.

The first of the flight period was a teneral at Tophill Low on 3rd June. This was followed by a series of exuvia records, with ten from Reighton Ponds on 4th, plus two from Tophill Low the same day, then 60 from Primrose Valley on 5th. Further exuvia were collected during the next few weeks, with ten found at Tophill Low and another 20 from Reighton Ponds. Adults began to become more conspicuous from 7th, and by 17th several locations around the Riding were recording double figures. The best of these were the Filey area with 27 on 17th June, and Saltmarshe Delph with 22 on 12th July.

Evidence of breeding was obtained from twelve sites. One of interest was a larvae at Paull Holme Strays on 3rd May, found during an invertebrate monitoring survey, though the first adult for this site was not recorded until 17th July when a male was present.

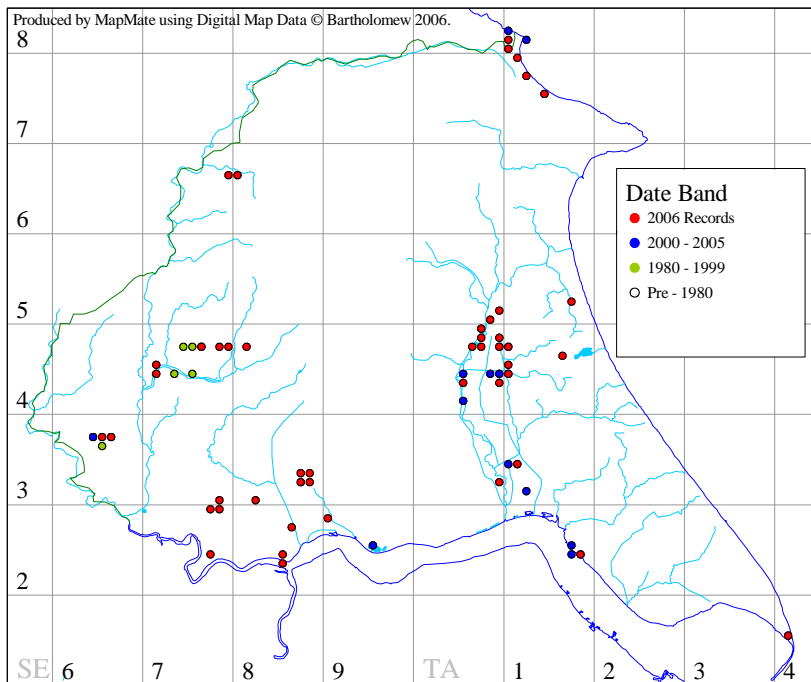
The flight season finally drew to a close on 10th September, when two were still active at North Cave Wetlands, these extending the latest date by over two weeks.



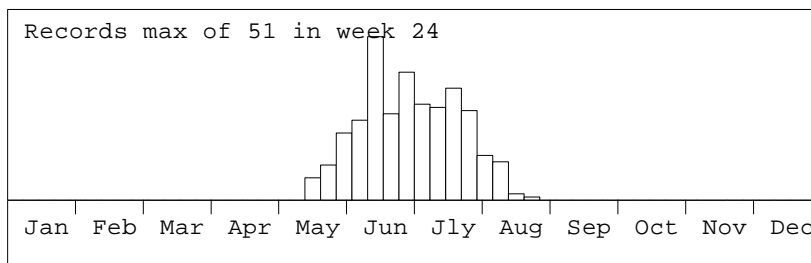
*Male at Oak Road Lake,
Hull. Diane Wakelin.*

Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	64	47	30



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
13-May-05	14-May	19-Aug-06	19-Aug

Recorded in 47 1km squares, 30 of which held no previous records.

The first of the season was a pre-flight emergent found at Tophill Low on 14th May. Individuals continued to emerge over subsequent days, with 17 present by 18th. During late May and early June, 183 exuvia were collected at this location, giving an idea of the true scale of emergence. The peak adult count occurred on 17th June when 52 were on the wing.

Double figure counts were received from Brandesburton, Bransholme Fishing Ponds, Broomfleet Ponds, Burshill, Eastrington Ponds, Filey Dams, North Cave Wetlands, Reighton Ponds, Saltmarshe Delph, Skipwith Common and Spurn.

Several records of the scarce *praenubila* form were received, with singles at Tophill Low on 14th and 17th June, the latter described as having only one pair of wings!, two at Brandesburton Ponds on 20th and two at Saltmarshe Delph on 12th July.

Breeding activity was evident at several sites around the Riding. Other than Tophill Low however, the only further location to confirm breeding was Reighton Ponds, where an exuvia was collected on 6th June.

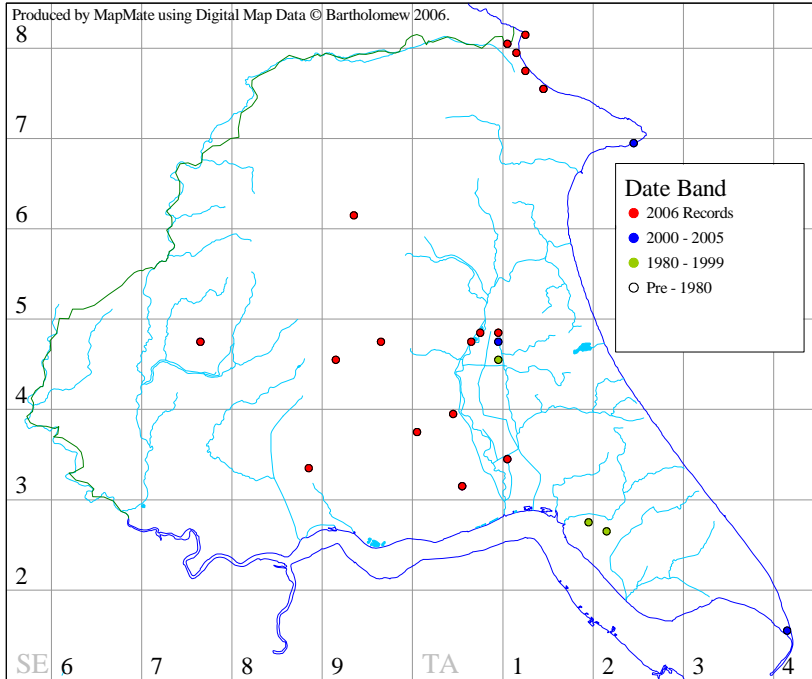
Prior to 2006, the latest date for this species was 7th August set in 2004. Three locations improved on this date during 2006, with the final record being a single at Tophill Low on 19th August.



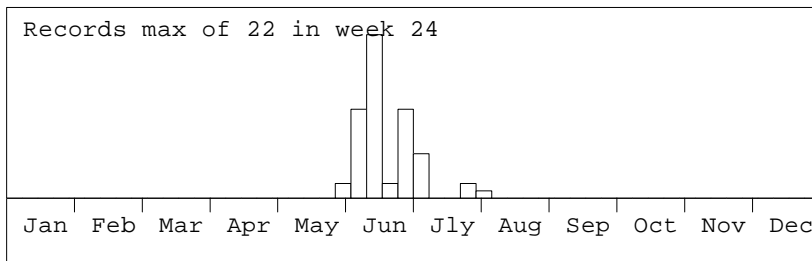
Male at Brandesburton Ponds. Diane Wakelin.

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	23	17	12



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
29-May-05	02-Jun	29-Jul-06	29-Jul

Recorded in 17 1km squares, 12 of which held no previous records.

This species continues to increase its range within the East Riding. During 2005 only three locations reported sightings, however many more sites were lucky enough to record visits this year, albeit some were only brief.

The first two of the flight season were at Foredyke Pond, Bransholme, on 2nd June, after which records were received on an almost daily basis. Reighton Ponds is a key site for this species, with ten on the wing there as early as 4th June. By 10th June, 40 were present, the peak count of 50 occurring on both 13th and 17th June, the latter date included 15 ovipositing females. Reighton Ponds are only three years old and were created to relocate Great-crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* from a nearby development. When the ponds were created, pondweed was imported from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, presumably along with the larvae, which aided by the lack of predators in the water, has resulted in the high numbers at this location.

Records in single figures were received from Filey, Sledmere, Priory Road Fields, Beverley, Tophill Low, Walkington, Lund, Amtree Ponds, Enthorpe, North Cave Wetlands, Watton Nature Reserve and Burshill.

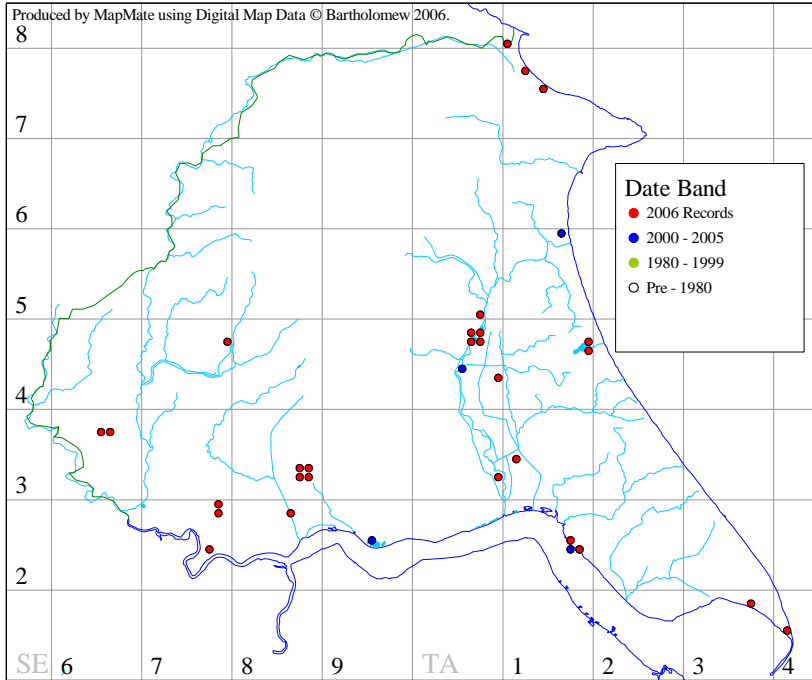
Only four records were received during July, the latest however managed to make it to the end of the month, when a male was still present at Filey Dams on 29th.

Male at a Lund garden pond. David Ashton.

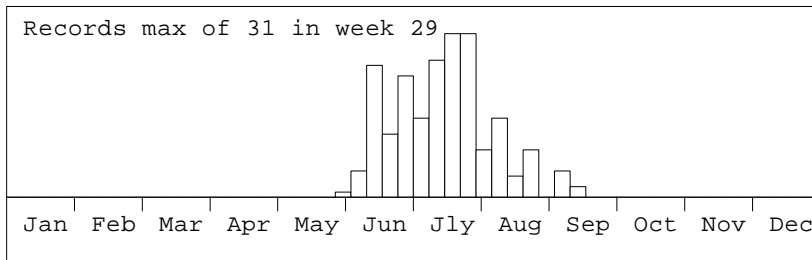


Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	34	28	20



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
02-Jun-06	02-Jun	10-Sep-06	10-Sep

Recorded in 28 1km squares, 20 of which held no previous records.

This species continues to increase its range and abundance in the East Riding. The first of the flight season was at Spurn on 2nd June, eight days earlier than any previous records. Individuals continued to emerge over the next few days, with one at Broomfleet on 4th and four at North Cave Wetlands on 6th.

During the season, several locations recorded double figure counts including Filey Dams, Spurn, Bransholme Fishing Ponds and Tophill Low. The best site by far however, was North Cave Wetlands, which managed to maintain counts of three figures during much of July, peaking at 270 on 19th. As the season stretched into August, the latter site was the only one to maintain double figure counts, though only just, with ten on 3rd.

North Cave Wetlands is by far the best site to encounter this species in VC61, it therefore comes as no surprise that the last of the season occurred here on 10th September, extending the flight period by a further six days beyond any previous records.

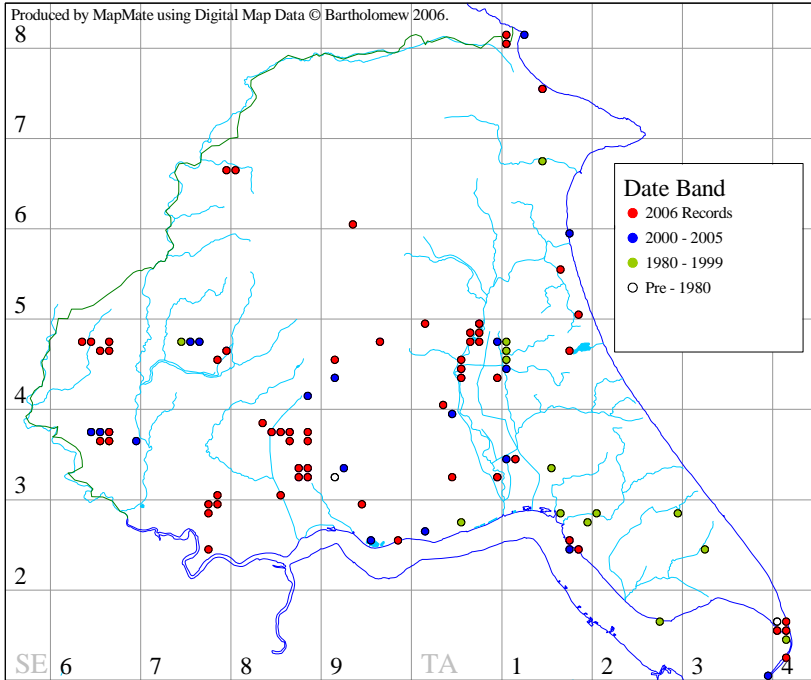
Despite this species being numerous at several locations, absolute proof of breeding has so far only been proven at one site, this being Reighton Ponds, where an exuvia was found on 13th June. Ovipositing was observed at Watton Nature Reserve, Tophill Low and North Cave Wetlands, however this only gives these sites 'Probable Breeding' status.



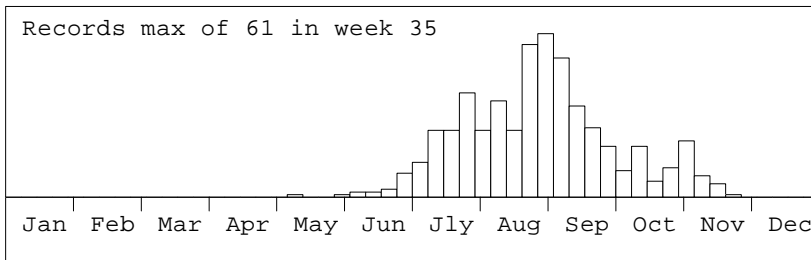
*Male at Skipwith Common.
David Maston.*

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	94	60	36



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
31-May-84	10-Jun	15-Nov-06	15-Nov

Recorded in 60 1km squares, 36 of which held no previous records.

As its name suggests, this is the commonest of the *Sympetrum* species within the recording area, though depending on location, not necessarily the most abundant. It is the most likely *Sympetrum* to appear away from water, feeding along woodland rides or hedgerows. Away from water, concentrations can be predominately of females, the males tending to stay close to water bodies to breed.

The first of the flight season was a teneral found at Tophill Low on 10th June, probably the same individual being present at the same spot the following day. The next were not evident until 17th, when three tenerals were found at Spurn. An interesting count of 32 tenerals came from the latter location as early as 1st July, most other sites only managing single figures for much of the month.

By 29th July, 51 at Reighton Ponds suggested that some migrants had arrived, and numbers continued to increase around the Riding during August. The peak count came from Tophill Low, with 124 present around the site on 1st September. This species was recorded throughout September and in to October, with 30 still on the wing at Skipwith on 29th. A visit there on 6th November however, managed to locate an impressive 62 individuals along a sheltered edge of the woodland.

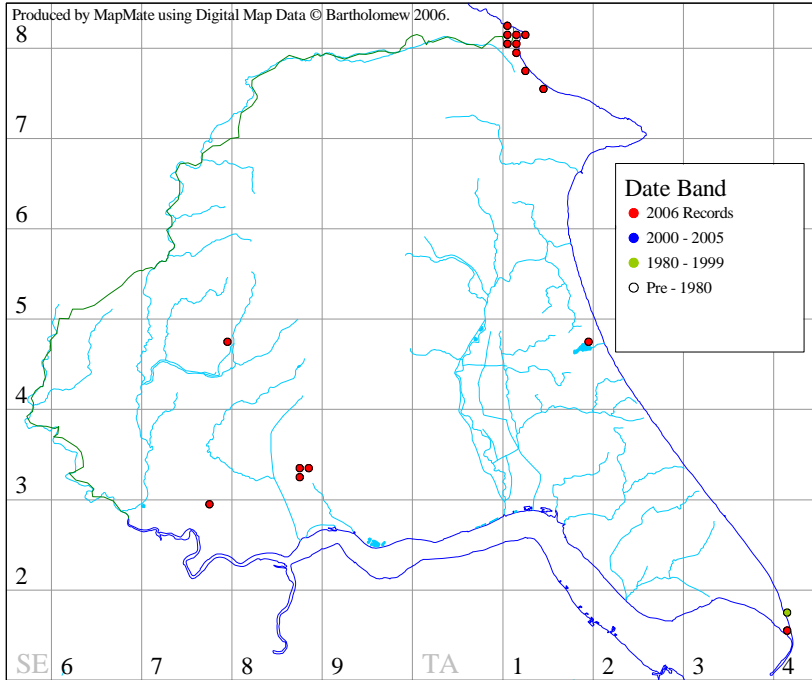
The last of the year managed to hang on until the 15th November, at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea, this specimen extending the latest date by three days.

Male at North Cliffe Wood. Paul Ashton.

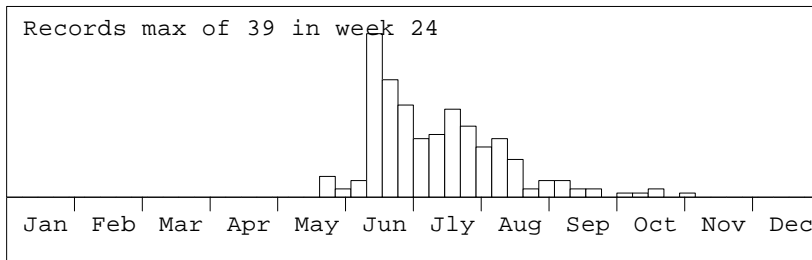


Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	17	16	14



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
19-May-99	11-Jun	29-Oct-06	29-Oct

Recorded in 16 1km squares, 14 of which held no previous records.

This species is a migratory visitor to this country, sometimes managing to temporarily colonise. In its southerly range it produces a second generation later in the year, though usually only one generation emerges in the north.

This was an unprecedented year for this species in more ways than one. Good numbers arrived in June, with at least 36 in the Filey environs on 11th. Over the next few weeks, individuals were found at several further locations, including Reighton Ponds, Spurn, Hornsea Mere, Allerthorpe and North Cave Wetlands.

During July, at least 79 were present around the Filey Dams complex on 1st, with double figures reported until mid-month. The latest migrant still present, managed to make it until 9th August, when a male was present at Eastrington Ponds.

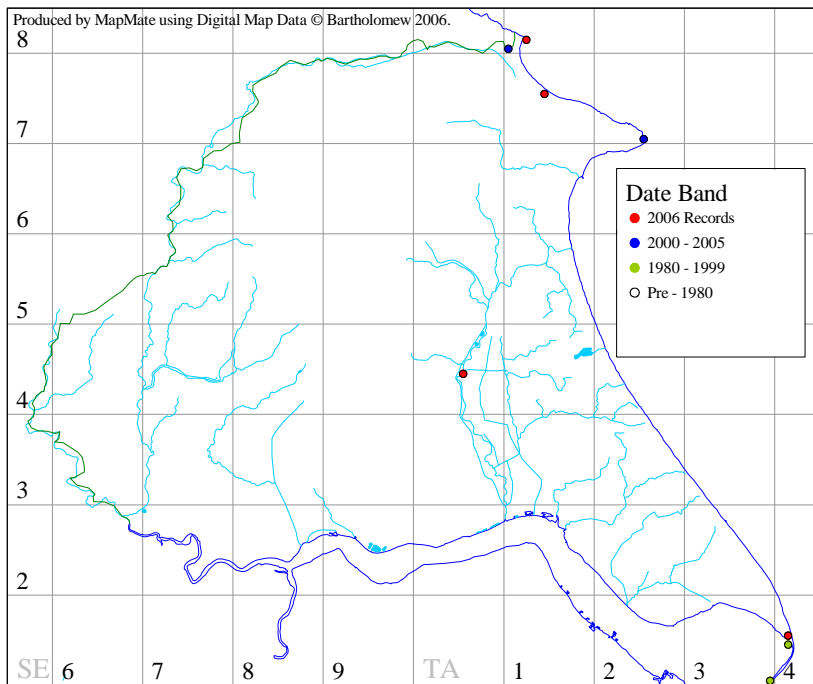
The main surprise of the year was the discovery of a teneral male at North Cave Wetlands on 30th August, this believed to be the first record of a second generation emergence in Yorkshire. This was however eclipsed, by the scale of things to come from the Filey area. On 9th September, 20 tenerals were found at the Filey Dams complex. Over the next few days, more individuals were found and it was decided that a search for exuvia would give a better idea of how many were emerging. Over the next five or six weeks, a total of 312 exuvia were collected from parts of the site. During this period no more than 20 tenerals were found at any one time. With none reaching adult colouration, it would appear that most dispersed from the site after only a few days. The last of the season here, and for the Riding, were two tenerals on 29th October. The previous latest date was 27th August 2000.



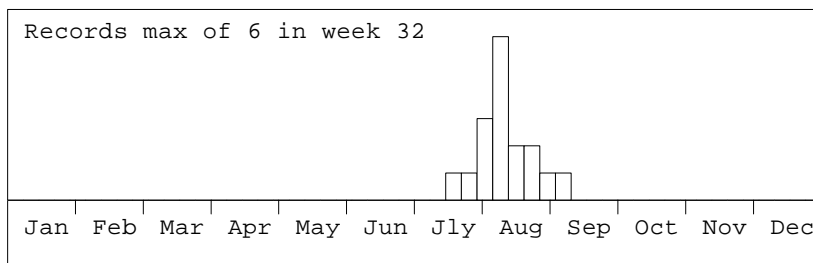
*Male at Hornsea Mere.
David Ashton.*

Yellow-winged Darter *Sympetrum flaveolum*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	8	4	3



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
22-Jul-06	22-Jul	04-Sep-04	20-Aug

Recorded in four 1km squares, three of which held no previous records.

This is a rare vagrant to the country, mainly arriving during hot spells of weather on southeasterly airflows. Due to its rarity, this species requires a description to be accepted, it was therefore fortunate that all individuals seen this year were photographed, making confirmation an easy task. The broad band of yellow colouration at the base of the wings, makes this quite a distinctive species, however at certain angles, this coloration can be easily overlooked.

All records this year involved males. The first was found at Carr Naze, Filey on 22nd July (JS). This was followed by one further south, a few days later, at Reighton Ponds on 28th (JH). There was then a gap of a couple of weeks before the next was photographed in the car park at Canal Scrape, Spurn on 13th August (JC). Finally, one was found inland at Pulfin Nature Reserve on 20th (DGH).

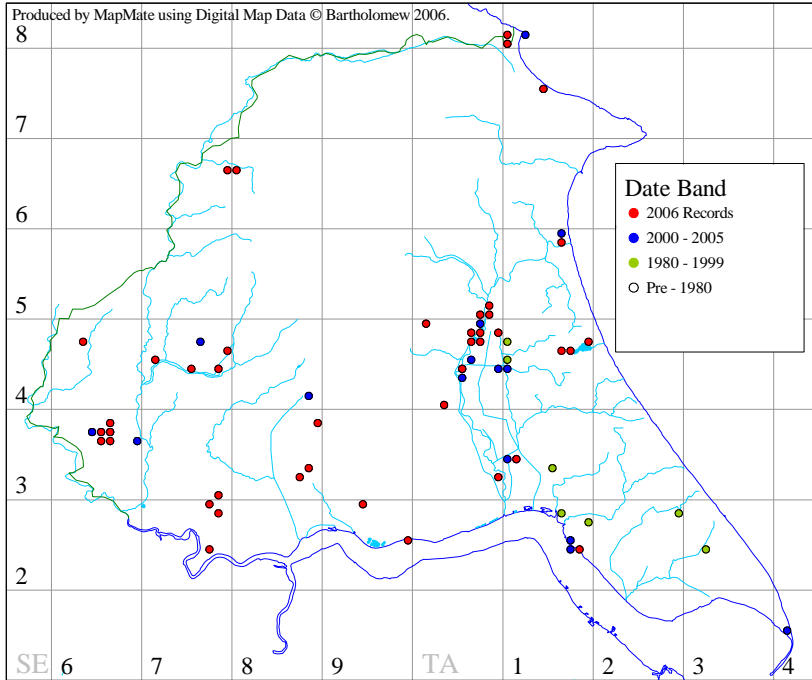


Male at Reighton Ponds. John Harewood.

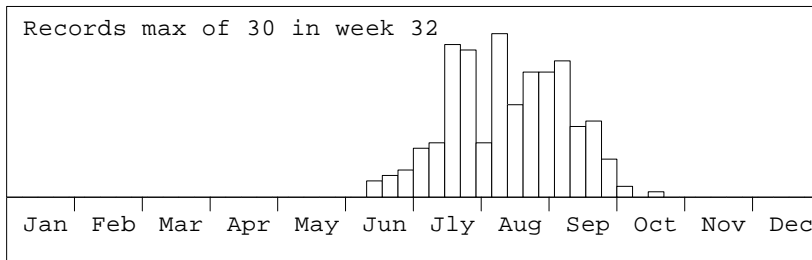
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	64	42	34



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
12-Jun-04	16-Jun	10-Oct-05	30-Sep

Recorded in 42 1km squares, 34 of which held no previous records.

This species has a widespread distribution, though is less likely to be found far away from water, compared to the similar Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*. Due to the similarity with the latter species, it is regularly misidentified, especially when it comes to mature males. Care should be taken to ensure that more than one identification feature is used, when separating these two species.

The first of the flight season was a teneral at Filey Dams on 16th June. Shortly followed by individuals at Reighton Ponds and Tophill Low on 24th. During July, several sites recorded double figures including Skipwith Common, Langton, Filey Dams and Reighton Ponds. Tophill Low however, was the only location to reach three figures, with 107 present on 29th July. Sites continued to report double figures throughout August and September, and even the final record of the year involved 11 individuals at Tophill Low on 30th September.

Surprisingly, there are no confirmed breeding sites for this species. This can only be confirmed by the presence of exuvia or pre-flight emergents, of which there are no current records for the East Riding. Something to look out for during the current season. Only one site showed evidence of probable breeding, when ovipositing was observed at Bransholme Fishing Ponds on 9th August.

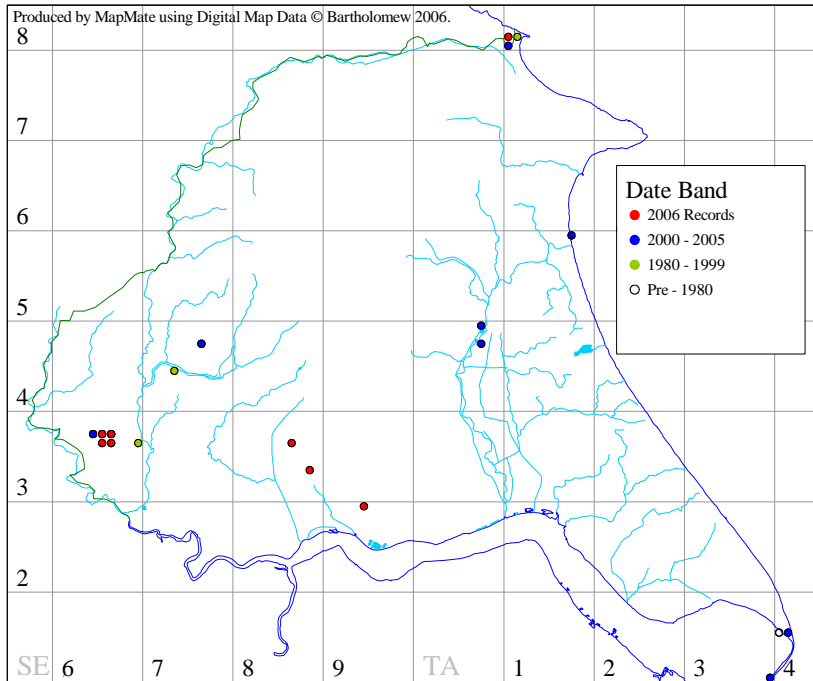
*Male at Skipwith Common.
David Maston.*



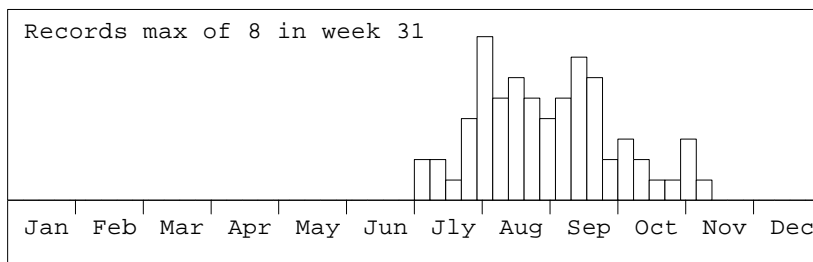
East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Black Darter *Sympetrum danae*

Total VC61 Squares	Total for Species	2006 Records	New Squares
3138	20	8	5



East Riding Flight Period



East Riding Dragonflies 2006 Annual Report

Earliest Date	Earliest 2006 Date	Latest Date	Latest 2006 Date
04-Jul-06	04-Jul	06-Nov-06	06-Nov

Recorded in eight 1km squares, five of which held no previous records.

Chiefly confined to the southwest corner of the Riding on the Humberhead Levels, though some individuals are migratory and may appear almost anywhere.

The first of the season were 70 at Skipwith Common on 4th July. This was the earliest ever recorded and judging by the number, and maturation of some males, they had been on the wing for several days. Skipwith Common is the key site for this species, as it is the only place where it is abundant in the recording area. The peak count occurred here on 1st August when 165 were present. During August and September, single individuals were noted away from their traditional habitat, most probably over mature males that could no longer breed. Locations included North Cave Wetlands on 6th August, North Cliffe Wood on 25th August and Brantingham on 3rd September.

The latest date for this species was extended by nearly a month. A pair were still present at Skipwith Common on 29th October, the female having recently emerged was small, but otherwise in excellent condition. The last survived into November, when a male was found on 6th.



Immature male at Skipwith Common. David Ashton.

Notes



Teneral male Red-veined Darter at Filey. John Harwood.



Emerging Red-veined Darter at Filey. John Harwood.

