

Report under The Conservation of Habitats and
Species Regulations 2017 (as amended),
Regulation 9A

2019-2024

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1044 - Southern damselfly

(Coenagrion mercuriale)

England



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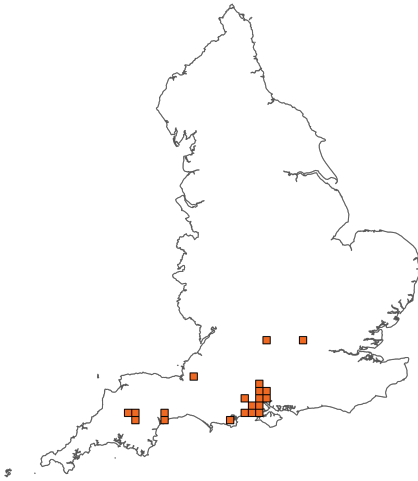
Important note - Please read

- The information in this document represents the England Report under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), Regulation 9A, for the period 2019-2024.
- It is based on supporting information provided by Natural England, which is documented separately.
- The Habitats Regulations reporting 2019-2024 Approach Document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 National Site Network coverage for Annex II species).

Further details on the approach to the Habitats Regulations Reporting 2019-2024 are available on the [JNCC website](#).

Assessment Summary: Southern damselfly

Distribution Map



Range Map

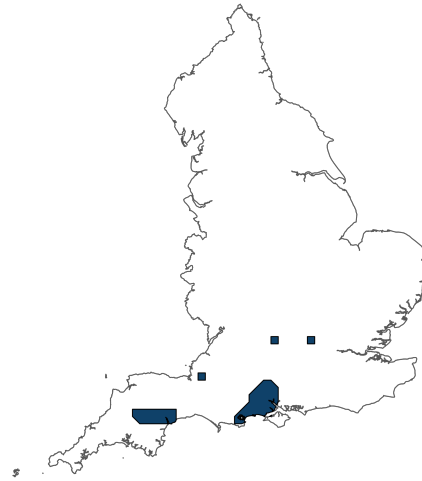


Figure 1: England distribution and range map for S1044 - Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority. The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period.

Table 1: Table summarising the conservation status for S1044 - Southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*). Overall conservation status for species is based on assessments of range, population, habitat for the species, and future prospects.

Overall Conservation Status (see section 11)

Unfavourable-bad (U2)

Breakdown of Overall Conservation Status

Range (see section 5)	Favourable (FV)
Population (see section 6)	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
Habitat for the species (see section 7)	Favourable (FV)
Future prospects (see section 10)	Unknown (XX)

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National Level

1. General information

1.1 Country	England
1.2 Species code	S1044
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name	Southern damselfly
Annex(es)	II

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2019-2024
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

2.5 Additional information

No additional information

3. Information related to Annex V Species

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild / exploited?

3.2 What measures have been taken?

a) Regulations regarding access to property

b) Temporary or local prohibition on the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation

c) Regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens

d) Application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations

e) Establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas

f) Regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale, or transport for sale of specimens

g) Breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species

Other measures

Other measures description

3.3: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

Table 2: Quantity taken from the wild during the reporting period (see 3.3a for units). For species with defined hunting seasons, Season 1 refers to 2018/2019 (autumn 2018 to spring 2019), and Season 6 to 2023/2024. For species without hunting seasons, data are reported by calendar year: Year 1 is 2019, and Year 6 is 2024.

	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
b) Minimum	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Maximum	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.4: Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild; Method used

3.5: Additional information

No additional information

Biogeographical Level

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs ATL

4.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²) 3,277.66

5.2 Short-term trend; Period 2013-2024

5.3 Short-term trend; Direction Increasing

5.4 Short-term trend;
Magnitude

a) Estimated minimum

b) Estimated maximum

c) Pre-defined range

d) Unknown

e) Type of estimate

f) Rate of decrease

5.5 Short-term trend; Method used Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate used

5.6 Long-term trend; Period

5.7 Long-term trend; Direction

5.8 Long-term trend;
Magnitude

a) Minimum

b) Maximum

c) Rate of decrease

5.9 Long-term trend; Method used

5.10 Favourable Reference Range (FRR)

a) Area (km²)

b) Pre-defined increment Current range is between 2% and 10% smaller than the FRR

c) Unknown No

d) Method used Expert opinion

e) Quality of information

5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range

a) Change Yes

b) Genuine change No

c) Improved knowledge or more accurate data No

d) Different method No

e) No information Yes

f) Other reason No

g) Main reason Unknown

5.12 Additional information

Information as to the nature of the increase is unavailable.

6. Population

6.1 Year or period 2019-2024

6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)

a) Unit number of map 1x1 km grid cells

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value	70
6.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate
6.4 Quality of extrapolation to reporting unit	
6.5 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	
a) Unit	
b) Minimum	
c) Maximum	
d) Best single value	
e) Type of estimate	
6.6 Population size; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
6.7 Short-term trend; Period	2013-2024
6.8 Short-term trend; Direction	Uncertain
6.9 Short-term trend; Magnitude	
a) Estimated minimum	
b) Estimated maximum	
c) Pre-defined range	
d) Unknown	Yes
e) Type of estimate	Best estimate
f) Rate of decrease	
6.10 Short-term trend; Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
6.11 Long-term trend; Period	
6.12 Long-term trend; Direction	
6.13 Long-term trend; Magnitude	

Biodiversity Action Plan for Southern Damselfly in 1995, but there is no information on how it was set. Please note that overall trends are uncertain.

6.18 Age structure, mortality and reproduction deviation No deviation from normal

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat (for long-term survival)

a) Is area of occupied habitat sufficient?	Yes
b) Is quality of occupied habitat sufficient?	Unknown
c) If No or Unknown, is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality?	Unknown

7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat; Method used

a) Sufficiency of area of occupied habitat; Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data
b) Sufficiency of quality of occupied habitat; Method used	Insufficient or no data available

7.3 Short-term trend; Period

7.4 Short-term trend; Direction Unknown

7.5 Short-term trend; Method used Insufficient or no data available

7.6 Long-term trend; Period

7.7 Long-term trend; Direction

7.8 Long-term trend; Method used

7.9 Additional information

We do not have any data on the trends of habitat for Southern Damselfly.

8. Main pressures

8.1 Characterisation of pressures

Table 3: Pressures affecting the species, including timing and importance/impact ranking. Pressures are defined as factors acting currently and/or during the reporting period (2019–2024). Rankings are: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Pressure	Timing	Ranking
PA17: Agricultural activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PA21: Active abstraction of water for agriculture	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PJ01: Temperature changes and extremes due to climate change	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PK01: Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)
PM07: Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Ongoing and likely to be in the future	Medium (M)

8.2 Sources of information

See section 14 References

8.3 Additional information

PA17: Some Southern Damselfly populations are in areas of agriculture. It is likely that the species is negatively affected by agricultural pollution entering breeding streams and runnels.

PA21: In the draft Red List of 2023 over abstraction is cited as a reason for decrease of this species.

PJ01: In the draft Red List of 2023 affects of climate change are cited as reasons for decrease of this species. Hotter summers are likely to decrease flow in breeding streams with resulting effects of de-oxygenation and decrease in physical breeding areas for nymphs. Higher incidences of heavier rain are likely to negatively affect nymphs through being washed away.

PK01: Some Southern Damselfly populations are in areas of agriculture. It is likely that the species is negatively affected by agricultural pollution entering breeding streams and runnels.

PM07: In the draft Red List of 2023 lack of management of overshadowing vegetation is cited as a reason for decrease of this species. This will vary from site to site, but is likely to cause decreases in population in some areas as they become unsuitable for Southern Damselfly due to over shading.

9. Conservation measures

9.1: Status of measures

a) Are measures needed?	Yes
b) Indicate the status of measures	Measures identified and taken
9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken	Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species
9.3 Location of the measures taken	Both inside and outside National Site Network
9.4 Response to measures	Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2025–2036)

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Table 4: Key conservation measures addressing current pressures and/or anticipated threats during the next two reporting periods (2025–2036). Measures are ranked by importance/impact: High (direct/immediate influence and/or large spatial extent) and Medium (moderate direct/immediate influence, mainly indirect and/or regional extent).

Conservation measure	Ranking
MA13: Manage agricultural drainage and water abstraction (incl. the restoration of drained or hydrologically altered habitats)	Medium (M)
MJ01: Implement climate change mitigation measures	Medium (M)
MA09: Manage the use of natural and synthetic fertilisers as well as chemicals in agricultural for plant and animal production	Medium (M)
MM01: Management of habitats (others than agriculture and forest) to slow, stop or reverse natural processes that occur without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Medium (M)

9.6 Additional information

The draft Red List produced by British Dragonfly Society states that the number of occupied hectads has decreased due to effects of climate change, lack of habitat management and water resource management such as over-abstraction. The extent to which action is being taken on these measures is likely to vary from area to area but information on this is not available.

10. Future prospects

10.1a Future trends of parameters

ai) Range	Unknown
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bi) Population	Unknown
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ci) Habitat for the species	Unknown
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10.1b Future prospects of parameters

aii) Range	Unknown
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bii) Population	Unknown
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cii) Habitat for the species	Unknown
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10.2 Additional information

Too little information is available to make judgements on future prospects.

11. Conclusions

11.1 Range	Favourable (FV)
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11.2 Population	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
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11.3 Habitat for the species	Favourable (FV)
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11.4 Future prospects	Unknown (XX)
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11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unfavourable-bad (U2)
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11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Unknown
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11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

11.7 Change and reason for change in conservation status trend

This field is not reported as the period 2019-2024 marks the first instance in which conservation status has been assessed at the national level, meaning no comparisons to previous reports can be drawn.

11.8 Additional information

No additional information

12. UK National Site Network (pSCIs, SCIs, SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network

a) Unit	number of map 1x1 km grid cells
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b) Minimum	
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c) Maximum	
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d) Best single value	20
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12.2 Type of estimate	Best estimate
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12.3 Population size inside the network; Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
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12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Direction	Uncertain
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12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network; Method used	Insufficient or no data available
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12.6 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Direction

Unknown

12.7 Short-term trend of habitat for the species inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network; Method used

Insufficient or no data available

12.8 Additional information

Data is unavailable to assess short term trend in SACs in England. Data is unavailable to assess short term habitat data within SACs.

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of percentage thresholds for trends

No justification information

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

No trans-boundary assessment information

13.2 Other relevant information

No other relevant information

14. References

Biogeographical and marine regions

4.2 Sources of information

NBN Atlas - https://records.nbnatlas.org/occurrences/search?q=lsid:NBNSYS0000005603&fq=occurrence_status:present&nbn_loading=true

tab_mapView

British Dragonfly Society web page for Southern Damselfly - <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/species-map/southern-damselfly/>

British Dragonfly Society data (unpublished)

British Dragonfly Society- 2023 - Odonata Red List draft

Main pressures

8.2 Sources of information

No sources of information

15. Explanatory Notes

Field label	Note
6.2: Population size	We do not have data from the relevant time period. The figure of 56 is an estimate from the number of 1x1km squares from BDS data of New Forest VC11 with an additional 9 (the number of extra hectads outside of the BDS data, assuming that it is rare in those and only occurs in 1km square within each). The survey conducted for the previous round (2019) was carried out at known sites for Southern Damselfly and so can not be regarded as comprehensive coverage of the potential habitat available. Therefore we should not draw conclusions of trends by directly comparing monad data this round with monad data from the previous round. E.g. the previous round recorded a total of 35. BDS data over the last 5 years show records for 48 monads just in Hampshire.
6.15: Favourable Reference Population (FRP)	An FRP has not been devised for Southern Damselfly as we do not have an FCS for that species.