

Damselflies and Dragonflies commonly seen in Surrey



Common Blue Damselfly
Male



Common Blue Damselfly
Female



Large Red Damselfly
Male



Large Red Damselfly
Female



Blue-tailed Damselfly
Male



Blue-tailed Damselfly
Female



Emerald Damselfly
Male



Emerald Damselfly
Female



Beautiful Demoiselle
Damselfly Male



Beautiful Demoiselle
Damselfly Female



Small Red Damselfly
Male



Small Red Damselfly
Female

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Emperor Dragonfly Male



Emperor Dragonfly Female



Southern Hawker Male



Southern Hawker Female



Four Spotted Chaser Male



Four Spotted Chaser Female



Black Darter Male



Black Darter Female



Common Darter Male



Common Darter Female



Keeled Skimmer Male



Keeled Skimmer Female

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Black-tailed Skimmer Male



Black-tailed Skimmer Female



Broad Bodied Chaser Male



Broad Bodied Chaser Female



Downy Emerald Male



Downy Emerald Female

Dragonflies in context:

Dragonflies and damselflies belong to the order of insects called Odonata (meaning 'toothed jaw' in ancient Greek). All Odonata have two pairs of densely veined wings and long, ten-segmented bodies which are often brightly coloured. The adults are day-flying and are usually seen close to freshwater, amongst the bank-side reeds of rivers, streams, ponds or lakes. This is because the larval stage is aquatic. Larvae and adults are carnivorous. Odonata are divided into two sub-orders: dragonflies or Anisoptera (which in Greek means 'dissimilar wings'); and damselflies or Zygoptera (meaning 'similar wings'). There are about 5,500 Odonata species known in the world today, of which 52 have been recorded from the British Isles. Dragonflies were amongst the first flying insects to appear on Earth and fossils of dragonfly-like insects are known from Carboniferous rocks 350 million years ago.

Adult dragonflies are large insects, the biggest British species has a wing span of about 10cm and a body length of about 8cm. They hold their wings open when at rest and it is then that you will notice their huge eyes which occupy most of the globular head. In contrast, damselflies are much smaller and have a relatively weak fluttering flight. They settle more frequently than dragonflies and usually hold their wings shut over the top of their body. The eyes of damselflies are also smaller and are positioned at each end of the oblong head.

This photo spotting guide to dragonflies and damselflies commonly seen around Churt will help you to identify them. You may need extra help if you see one that isn't here and a very useful websites to help you identify these is at:

<https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/odonata/species-and-identification/>