



Invertebrates

Fairy shrimp *Chirocephalus diaphanous* is an IUCN red data book species. It inhabits temporary pools and requires active management in the form of cattle trampling and grazing to prevent these pools becoming dominated by scrub. In Herefordshire there is a known population at Hergest ridge and a new population has recently been identified in Peterchurch.

Minutest Diving Beetle *Bidessus minutissimus* requires a specific pond environment, which mirrors river shingle (gravels).

Downy emerald dragonfly *Cordulia aenea* A pond with leaf litter is required for optimal breeding conditions; therefore, this dragonfly favours ponds near deciduous woodland or with scattered bankside trees. It needs to be established if this species is still present in Herefordshire.

Pond mud snail *Omphiscola glabra* is threatened by habitat loss, particularly due to land drainage and intensive farming. Freshwater Habitat Trust have established monitoring and recording methodology at Sturts SSSI and Lower House Orchard.

Water beetle *Helochares obscurus* is classified by the IUCN as vulnerable. It is a scavenging beetle associated with glacial kettlehole ponds. It is thought that it could occur in other Letton Lakes ponds and further work needs to be done to establish their range.

Amphibians & reptiles

Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* is the UK largest newt, and a European Protected Species. Herefordshire is a stronghold for the species.

Palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus* males are identified by webbed feet and a filament- like tail. They are of importance in the county and work needs to be done to continue to monitor their populations.

Common Toad *Bufo bufo* is nationally declining. Bodenham Lake is a large breeding lake for toads and work is being done to prevent road fatalities and improve the Lake habitat suitability.

Grass snake *Natrix natrix* favour rough and wet grassland. Work needs to be done to continue recording their presence in the county and to protect egg laying sites where possible.

Flora

Tubular Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa* is mainly present in the margins of kettlehole ponds; it also occurs in wet meadows. Herefordshire is a stronghold and this species is no longer present in Worcestershire.

Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* is only known at two sites in county, both on common land: Vagar hill and Little Mountain common. Freshwater Habitats Trust established long term monitoring on sites and developed methodology for recording.