

Golden-ringed Dragonfly *Cordulegaster boltonii* (Donovan, 1807) at Shakenhurst, Worcestershire.

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A Golden-ringed Dragonfly *Cordulegaster boltonii* in Wissetts Wood, Shakenhurst is reported. A male was photographed on 03.08.2022 along a steep-sided bank following a small tributary of Shakenhurst Brook at SO 67794 72280.

Two years earlier on 20.06.2020 I observed what I thought was highly likely to be *C. boltonii* along the main Shakenhurst Brook nearby, but my view was from about twenty metres, fleeting, and far from perfect in dappled light. I made a note of the encounter but did not submit the record due to the inconclusive view. I have been recording in Wissetts Wood since 2015 and had not definitively found *C. boltonii* until the August 2022 encounter. The species is either very rare here or is sporadically established by wandering females from the nearby populations towards the Wyre Forest stronghold. However, it seems there is a small population present within the scattered blocks of woodland containing brooks in steep-sided valleys to the west of Wyre Forest in the vicinity of Clows Top. Nearby Worcestershire records of interest away from Wyre are two records from Marlbrook, Mable, 2.0 km to the south (25.06.2010 & 28.07.2014, both by Mike Averill), and one from Hunthouse Wood 3.7 km to the south-east on 04.08.2022 (Nate Benbow). An older record of interest is of one 11.5 km to the south-east in the Teme Valley near Shelsey Beauchamp in 1983 (Don Goddard).



01. Golden-ringed Dragonfly (male) at Wissetts Wood, Shakenhurst, on 03.08.2022. Kevin McGee.



02. Location of Golden-ringed Dragonfly at Wissetts Wood, Shakenhurst, on 03.08.2022. Kevin McGee.



03. Ideal breeding habitat for Golden-ringed Dragonfly at the small tributary of Shakenhurst Brook close to where the male was photographed. Kevin McGee.

References

NBN Atlas *Species search*. Available at: <http://www.nbnatlas.org/> [Accessed 19.09.2022]

Acknowledgments

Grateful thanks to Mike Averill for supplying the latest knowledge of the distribution of Golden-ringed Dragonfly in Worcestershire.

Images

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