

**Report on the visit to the Seven Valley Country Park and Wyre Forrest on the
12th June 2004 by David Goddard**

When we meet up (Marion, Mandy and myself) the morning was warm but cloudy which was not ideal but we decided to go and see what we could find. Once we arrived at the Seven Valley Country Park we took advantage of the facilities at the reserve centre. We then walked to the ponds next to the car park where **Blue-tailed Ischnura elegans** and **Azure Damselflies** *Coenagrion puella* could be seen, we also found caterpillars for the **Mullein moth** *Shargacullia verbasci* feeding on **Water Figwort** *Scrophularia auriculata*.

We then walked down the hill towards the ponds next to the river Seven, this is where both male and female **Banded Demoiselle** *Calopteryx splendens* could be found among the bank side vegetation along with a **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* and a male **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* quartering the pond. It was as we were walking around the edge of the pond that we came across the first of the target species for the day, that being the **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* many of which were in a teneral state. We caught a male insect so that all the identification features could be pointed out and observed to everyone's satisfaction, having done so the insect was released. It was here that another new species for the day was found that being a female or immature male **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa*.

We then walked along the river looking for our next target species of **Club-tailed Dragonfly** *Gomphus vulgatissimus*. It was proving elusive so we crossed the river and walked down the other bank where in the past I had seen most of my of **Club-tailed Dragonflies** but again the lack of sun proved our undoing. We returned to the car park for a well earned lunch break along with a cup of tea and cake at the reserve centre. During the morning the following species of butterfly **Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus*, **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*, **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus*, **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* and **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*.

We left the site to look for pastures new in the Wyre Forest, we arrived having taken a small diversion of a bridge that turned out to be for pedestrians only. It was not long before we came across a **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *Boloria euphrosyne* flying along the woodland ride. It was netted and put into a clear topped pot so that all the details could be seen and identification confirmed. Thus with yet another target species found we walked further into the forest and to a large ride cutting through the forest. Here we saw several **Specked wood** *Pararge aegeria*, **Large Skipper** *Ochlodes venata*, **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* and **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* butterflies before we came across a **Dingy Skipper** *Erynnis tages*. It was by now getting a lot warmer with the clouds disappearing and lady luck shined on us as a female of **Club-tailed Dragonfly** was seen and caught (subsequently released) much to everyone's pleasure as another target species for the day had been found. We also saw **White-legged Damselfly** and an immature male **Emperor Dragonfly**, which allowed a very close examination and photography. A little further on down the ride a very tatty **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** *boloria selene* was found so that the differences between the two could be clearly seen, the last of our target species had given itself up to us on the day.

The day was very much enjoyed by everyone and had been a complete success with all three target species found along with a very good supporting cast.