

**Name:****Scarce emerald damselfly***Lestes dryas***UK status:**

Rare, RDB2 (Shirt, 1987); stable. Species of Conservation Concern (formerly long-listed)

**London status:**

Rare but locally common resident (4 sites)

**Protected status:**

None

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Tidal Thames; Reedbeds; Rivers &amp; Streams

**Citation:**

This nationally rare damselfly has a stronghold in the Thames estuary and is locally abundant at several sites in the London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham and Havering. Its current UK range is confined to parts of East Anglia and North Kent. Most known London colonies occur in well-vegetated, brackish ditches in grazing-marsh sites, for example at Rainham Marshes and in the Ingrebourne Valley (both SSSI). Although there have been major habitat losses on Barking levels, the damselfly still occurs at The Ripple Local Nature Reserve. A further site is the Mudlands Nature Reserve in Hornchurch. All sites have protection as Sites of Importance for nature conservation. Managing authorities; Havering and Barking & Dagenham Borough Councils, Ford Motor Company, RSPB, London Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency



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**Conservation priorities:**

- Monitor all known populations
- Maintain populations through balanced sympathetic habitat management
- Protect any new populations emerging from further survey

**References:**

[British Dragonfly Society species account](#)

[Buglife habitat management website](#)

Shirt, D B (ed.). (1987). *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. JNCC