

**Name:****Linnet***Carduelis cannabina***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red List.**London status:**

Localised breeding resident and passage migrant.

**Protected status:**

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.
- Bern Convention, Appendix II  
'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Farmland; Heathland; Acid grassland; Open landscapes with ancient trees; Meadows and Pastures; Floodplain grassland; Wasteland

**Citation:**

Although the linnet is still a nationally common and widespread species of open habitats, a significant decline has been noted in the total number of breeding pairs across the UK. The reasons are likely to be similar to those behind the decline of other seed-eating farmland birds. Being almost exclusively herbivorous, the linnet suffers particularly from the over-use of herbicides and fertilisers associated with agricultural intensification. Most British-born linnets over-winter in southwest Europe where changes in farming practices have been even more acute. The linnet is still fairly widespread in London, exploiting large, mature brownfield sites as well our remaining countryside. It is from the former that the species is being lost with the current push for regeneration, especially in eastern boroughs but elsewhere too.



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**Conservation priorities:**

- Green Belt development control
- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices (headland creation etc.)  
[All address UK SAP targets **T1**, **T2**]

**References:**

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