

**Name:****Grey partridge***Perdix perdix***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red List.**London status:**

Rare breeding resident. Has declined substantially.

**Protected status:**

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.

‘Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England’ (CRoW Act, 2000)

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Farmland; Open landscapes with ancient trees; Floodplain grassland; Meadows and Pastures; Rivers and Streams; Wasteland

**Citation:**

The UK grey partridge population crashed by over 50% during the period 1970-90, mainly due to indiscriminate farm intensification; especially habitat destruction and mismanagement, and increased use of pesticides and herbicides reducing food availability at critical times for chick survival. This decline has been mirrored in London, where our Green Belt farmland populations have suffered in parallel. The bird had another stronghold in the urban environment on brownfield land, but here the problem is regeneration where typically low populations are quickly squeezed out (as has happened for example at Barking Reach, LB Barking & Dagenham). There are early signs of a population recovery in the countryside beyond London’s boundaries, perhaps in response to farmland bird conservation programmes led by agencies such as the Game Conservancy.



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**Conservation priorities:**

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

**References:**

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