

**Name:****Lesser spotted woodpecker***Dendrocopos minor***UK status:**

Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red List.

**London status:**

Uncommon and declining breeding resident. Possibly under-recorded

**Protected status:**

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

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Woodland; Open landscapes with ancient trees; Rivers and Streams

**Citation:**

This small woodpecker has shown a recent population crash across the UK in line with several other resident woodland specialist birds. The reason is not at all clear, although the suspicion is that it is related to habitat neglect and mismanagement. Although still widespread in outer boroughs, London's population is showing similar signs of contraction, with many traditional nesting sites being abandoned within the last five years. Unlike its relatives, the bird is quite inconspicuous however, and may go un-noticed in parts of London.



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**Conservation priorities:**

- Undertake targeted survey in all London Boroughs
- Monitor all suspected breeding pairs
- Maintenance of standing dead wood in all habitats

**References:**

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