

Boundary Features – Associated Species

A full Species Action Plan has been prepared for Western Ramping-fumitory, which is associated with hedgebanks where it occurs on the network. The Species Action Plan for this species is colour-coded with the Boundary Features Action Plan.

The following represent other important species associated with boundary feature habitats on the Highways Agency soft estate, but for which a full Species Action Plan has not been produced at this stage.

Orange-fruited elm-lichen

Orange-fruited elm-lichen (*Calaoplaca luteoalba*) used to be relatively widespread in the UK, with a distributional bias towards eastern, lowland Britain. A severe decline over the 20th century largely confined the species to dry bark of mature elm trees in parkland, old pasture or roadside locations. This species is listed as *Vulnerable* on the GB Red List and is protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments). It is a priority species on the UKBAP and on the Suffolk LBAP.

Linnet

The linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) is a common and widespread species across the UK, which regularly forages and breeds in dense scrub on road verges. Like other seed eating farmland birds, numbers have declined in recent years. The decline in number is due to a loss of foraging and breeding habitat. The linnet is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the EC Birds Directive and listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention. Its occurrence on the network should be recorded in the Environmental Database.

Song thrush

The song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) is a common and widespread species that has declined in number in recent years. It breeds in woodland and scrub. The reasons for decline are poorly understood, but may be due to changes in farming practices that have affected food supplies.

The song thrush is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the EC Birds Directive, and is a Regional Biodiversity Indicator in the North West. It is also a Priority Species in the UKBAP. Its occurrence on the network should be recorded in the Environmental Database.

Great Green Bush Cricket

The great green bush cricket (*Tettigonia viridissima*) is a large bright green insect, with an extremely loud and far-carrying song. This species requires hedgerows for singing and as an over-wintering habitat, but feeds amongst grass on a wide variety of herbage and other insects. Although it is found amongst coarse, rough vegetation, it is always in warm sunny places, and is therefore commonly found on roadside verges. The species has experienced a marked contraction in range over the last 50 years, and has also declined in number. However, it is still relatively common in the warm southern counties of England, to which it is confined (approximately south of a line drawn between the Wash and the Bristol Channel – network areas 1-6 and 8). It is most common along the Channel coast and is only found locally inland. The species has been recorded on the verges of the A303 near Sparkford in Somerset.

The great green bush cricket is not protected by UK legislation and nor is it a Priority Species included in the UKBAP. A Species Action Plan has been prepared for it in the Devon LBAP. Records of the species should be recorded in the Environmental Database. Road verges where the species is known to occur should be managed by infrequent cutting to avoid destruction of the rank vegetation which the species favours.

This leaflet is to be read in conjunction with the species Action Plan on:



Western Ramping fumitory