

Emberiza cirlus (Cirl Bunting)

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1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	576	Breeding pairs/units	2002	Partial or sample survey	Simon Wotton, RSPB Research Dept, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds (unpublished)
E	576	Breeding pairs/units	2002	Partial or sample survey	Simon Wotton, RSPB Research Dept, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds (unpublished)
NI					
S					
W					

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Increasing	Partial or sample survey	As before
E	Increasing	Partial or sample survey	As before
NI	Not applicable (does not occur in this country)		
S	Not applicable (does not occur in this country)		
W	Not applicable (does not occur in this country)		

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge sufficient to effectively deliver the plan targets. ▼
Notes:	Full survey planned for 2003. Also planning to survey other bird species. Need to improve know ledge of captive breeding of ciril bunting.

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: In the short term, maintain the upward trend in numbers (within the current range) of the ciril bunting population in the UK.

Target start date: 1998

Target end date: ongoing

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="Some progress (ahead of schedule)"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text" value="Some progress (ahead of schedule)"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T2: In the short term, reduce fragmentation (within the current range) of the cirl bunting population in the UK.

Target start date: 1998

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/> ▼
E	Some progress (behind schedule) ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/> ▼
NI	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/> ▼
S	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/> ▼
W	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> ▼	<input type="text"/> ▼

T3: Increase the UK population to 550 territories by the year 2003.

Target start date:

1998

Target end date:

2003

Target units:

Breeding pairs/units ▼

Progress

Target

Current

Accuracy

Monitoring

UK	Target exceeded (plan progress) ▼	550	576	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
E	Target exceeded (plan progress) ▼	550	576	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
NI	▼			▼	▼
S	▼			▼	▼
W	▼			▼	▼

T4: In the long term, ensure a wider geographical spread of the cirl bunting by re-establishing populations outside the current (1997) range.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	No progress ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼
E	No progress ▼	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Partial or sample survey ▼	Yes ▼

NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

- 2.1 Loss of winter food. A marked reduction in cereal stubbles and other wildflower-rich fields, and the loss of stockyards and threshing yards, have greatly reduced winter food availability. The indirect effects of pesticides may have been a contributory factor at the start of the curl bunting decline and could hinder future range expansion.
- 2.2 Loss of food for chicks. Chicks are predominantly fed on large insects, especially grasshoppers and crickets, which have declined due to intensive grassland management (fertilising, re-seeding, close-grazing etc) associated with dairying and livestock rearing in the south-west. This results in poor

productivity due to the starvation of chicks, and it is likely that poorly-fed broods are more easily found by corvids and other predators.

2.3 Habitat loss. Built developments, removal of hedges and, in the long term, abandonment of arable land have all resulted in the loss of ciril bunting breeding and wintering sites.

2.4 Disturbance. Ciril buntings are especially prone to disturbance from birdwatchers, walkers and other visitors during the breeding season and the post-fledging period.

2.5 Weather. Ciril buntings are especially vulnerable to hard winter weather, particularly when snow cover makes food in stubble fields unavailable. This is of particular concern because the species is found in only one small area of the country. Cool, wet conditions in the breeding season result in poor breeding success although, since the ciril bunting has a protracted breeding season, it is possible for good numbers of young to be reared even when the early season weather is poor.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Abandonment of marginal land
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Conversion to pasture
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Intensive crop regimes
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Intensive grassland management
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Loss of hedgerows

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Loss of mixed farming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Overgrazing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Re-seeding of pastures / grassland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Housing infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | Human disturbance Interference / displacement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | Intrinsic Factors Limited dispersal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | Natural disasters Temperature extremes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | Pollution - land Agricultural (nutrient enrichment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | Pollution - land Agricultural (other agro-chemicals) |

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:

Constraint keyword:

Funding and incentives | Agricultural schemes - changes needed to structure / payments

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Demonstrate that the CSS arable options adequately replace the cirl bunting special project before withdrawing this successful option. Make either the special project or arable options more widely available and more attractive to farmers on more productive land to encourage the natural re-colonisation of cirl bunting outside their current range.

Solution type:

Funding and incentive schemes

Able to resolve:

Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Species and habitat management | Habitat fragmentation increasing or too great

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Solution type:

The species has shown limited dispersal (there need to be an existing population within 2km for a site to be colonised). Need to continue to link ideal habitat to aid recolonisation. Plans are in progress for translocating a population to a new area.

Legislation and policies

Able to resolve:

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Policy, legislation and designation | Poor legal protection for species

Country:

- UK E NI S
- W

Solution:

Stronger statutory protection is required to ensure nationally important populations remain intact and are protected from built development/inappropriate management.

Solution type:

Other

Able to resolve:

7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<input type="checkbox"/>	English Nature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
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- Dartmoor National Park Authority
- Devon Biodiversity Partnership
- Devon Bird-watching and Preservation Society
- Devon County Council
- Devon Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Exeter City Council
- Game Conservancy Trust
- National Trust
- Paignton Zoo
- South Hams District Council
- Teignbridge District Council
- Torbay Borough Council

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust

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9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Generic advice to LBAPs on species/habitat needs or appropriate local actions produced/distributed.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

By Both

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Slightly important

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)

Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)

Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)

Reciprocal attendance at meetings

Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Country:

The implementation of the curlew special project within DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship Scheme has been demonstrated to deliver curlew. Research showed that curlew increased by 83% on CSS land compared with increases of just 2% on adjacent land outside CSS.

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Funding and incentives | Agricultural schemes - beneficial changes to structure / payments

Success 2:

Description:

Country:

The Species Recovery Programme has targeted farmers with curlew this has resulted in over 200 management agreements (mainly CSS), with 95% of the population within 2km of an agreement and over 50% actually using agreement land. As well as delivering curlew (see above) farmers also like being involved with the project with 94% in a recent survey being very happy they joined CSS and many have further developed their conservation plans.

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Funding and incentives | Species recovery programme - delivering wildlife gains

Success 3:

Description:

The Cirl bunting Project has become a flagship project linking agri-environment schemes to the delivery of biodiversity targets and has been used to drive forward further beneficial changes in agri-environment schemes and increases in available funding.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Funding and incentives | Agricultural schemes - beneficial changes to structure / payments

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point: English Nature **email:** phil.grice@enc

Your name:	Phil Grice
Date:	06/01/03
