

# *Streptopelia turtur* (Turtle Dove)

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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	75000	Displaying males ▼	1990	Informed guess ▼	Gibbons, Reid & Chapman: The New Atlas
E		▼		▼	No data available
NI		▼		▼	No data available
S		▼		▼	No data available
W		▼		▼	No data available

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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	Declining (continuing/accelerating) ▼	Partial or sample survey ▼	<a href="http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrturdo.htm">http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrturdo.htm</a> (data for 1994-2000)
E	Declining (continuing/accelerating) ▼	Partial or sample survey ▼	<a href="http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrturdo.htm">http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/wcrturdo.htm</a> (data for 1994-2000)
NI	Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼	▼	
S	Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼	▼	
W	Lost (pre BAP publication) ▼	▼	

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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.

<b>Status of knowledge:</b>	Know ledge sufficient to make some impact, but more research needed. ▼
<b>Notes:</b>	Need to know more about relative importance of hunting on migration and habitat change on the African w intering grounds ▲ ▼ ◀ ▶

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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, halt or reverse the decline in numbers of the turtle dove by the year 2003 so that the Breeding Bird Survey index is at least at 1996 levels.**

**Target start date:** 1998

**Target end date:** 2003

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="No progress"/>	<input type="text" value="100"/>	<input type="text" value="76"/>	<input type="text" value="Partial or sample survey"/>	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
E	<input type="text" value="No progress"/>	<input type="text" value="100"/>	<input type="text" value="77"/>	<input type="text" value="Partial or sample survey"/>	<input type="text" value="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"/>

**T2: In the long term, see a sustained recovery in numbers so that the BBS index is at least 50% higher than 1996 levels by 2008.**

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	No progress	150	76	Partial or sample survey	Yes
E	No progress	150	77	Partial or sample survey	Yes
NI					
S					
W					

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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 The decline of the turtle dove has occurred at the same time as decreases in the numbers and/or range of other farmland birds which share its diet of grass and weed seeds. It is therefore likely that its decline may be due, at least in part, to changes in agricultural practice such as the increased use of herbicides and fertilisers, which have reduced the quantity and variety of wildflowers on arable land.
- 2.2 Turtle doves nest in large hedges and mature scrub, and also retreat to the safety of this dense vegetation when disturbed. The loss of features such as overgrown hedgerows and hawthorn thickets on farmland is likely to have had an adverse effect on the population.
- 2.3 As a long-distance migrant, the turtle dove faces threats, particularly from hunting, outside the UK. It is heavily shot in France and the Iberian peninsula. Tens of thousands of birds are also shot in their wintering areas, mainly Senegal, and many more are killed on migration through Morocco.
- 2.4 In the UK, turtle doves are associated with light soils in the drier parts of the country and the decrease in range of the species has been most marked in the north and west. It is therefore possible that some climatic factor may be operating.
- 2.5 Little is known of the effects of habitat or climatic changes in the wintering grounds of the species. Turtle doves spend part of the year, particularly February and March, in acacia scrub in the Sahel region, and recent drought conditions and habitat destruction there have coincided with a steep decline in numbers.

## 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"/>	1	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture   Loss of hedgerows
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Habitat loss / degradation - woodlands/forestry   Felling / loss of trees (general)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Harvesting   Hunting (outside UK)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	Pollution - atmospheric   Global warming / sea-level rise
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	Pollution - land   Agricultural (nutrient enrichment)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	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.

<b>Constraint 1:</b>	
<b>Constraint keyword:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
Research, survey and information   Impacts/ threats - little understanding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Solution:</b>	<b>Solution type:</b>
Commission further research on factors operating outside the UK	Research

**Able to resolve:**

## Constraint 2:

**Constraint keyword:**

Policy, legislation and designation | Agriculture (incl. Common Agricultural Policy)

**Country:**

UK  E  NI  S  
 W

**Solution:**

Persuade EU to implement appropriate changes at mid-term review

**Solution type:**

Legislation and policies

**Able to resolve:**

## Constraint 3:

**Constraint keyword:**

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

**Country:**

UK  E  NI  S  
 W

**Solution:**

UK Govts to make more money available through further modulation

**Solution type:**

Funding and incentive schemes

**Able to resolve:**



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## 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:**

- British Trust for Ornithology
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland
- Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
- English Nature

- Environment and Heritage Service
- Game Conservancy Trust
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department
- Pesticides Safety Directorate
- Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Division
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Syngenta

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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.

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## 9. Linkages to LBAPs

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

Little or no contact with LBAPs.

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

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:

Unimportant

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:

Partnership between DEFRA, SCAs, NGOs and industry to deliver research results and policy change

Country:

UK  E  NI  S  W

Keyword:

Partnership | Government support

## Success 2:

**Description:**

Autecological study has helped identify problems in the breeding season

**Country:**

UK  E  NI  S  W

**Keyword:**

Research, survey and information | Autecology - improved know ledge

## Success 3:

**Description:**

**Country:**

UK  E  NI  S  W

**Keyword:**

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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:

<b>Contact point:</b>	Defra	<b>email:</b>	andy.evans@
<b>Your name:</b>	Andy Evans		
<b>Date:</b>	13 01 03		

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