wildfirst + waded

# Daugleddau Estuary and Milford Haven Waterway ANNUAL SHELDUCK CENSUS



Report of Survey
Summer 1993

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PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

# DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY: ANNUAL SHELDUCK CENSUS

REPORT OF SURVEY - SUMMER 1993

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### SUMMARY

The Daugleddau Estuary and Milford Haven Waterway hold nationally important numbers of shelducks during the winter months. In addition, there is a small breeding/summer population which was the subject of annual boat-based surveys in 1991 and 1992. The survey was repeated in June and August 1993 as part of a rolling programme of survey and monitoring on the estuary. The results of the 1993 survey are presented in this report. These indicated a lower success rate amongst breeding shelducks than in 1992. Predation by ground predators, possibly exacerbated by disturbance and also poor weather at critical times such as incubation, is thought to be a major factor in the relatively poor breeding success rate. The report also includes counts made of other wildfowl and waders present during the survey, and concludes with recommendations for future monitoring.