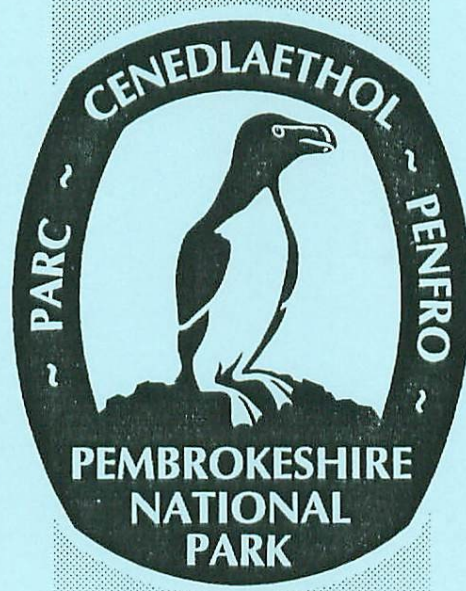


Daugleddau Estuary
and
Milford Haven Waterway
**ANNUAL SUMMER
SHELDUCK SURVEY**



Report for 1995

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PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY
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MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY
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Fig. 1: Map showing the area covered by the 1995 survey.

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SUMMARY

The Daugleddau Estuary and Milford Haven Waterway hold internationally important numbers of shelducks during the winter months. In addition, there is a small summer population which has been the subject of an annual, boat based summer survey between 1991 and 1994. The survey was repeated in mid-June and at the end of July 1995, as part of a rolling programme of environmental research and monitoring for the estuary system. Of the five consecutive breeding seasons monitored since 1991, the 1995 season was the most successful, with twice the number of broods recorded than in 1994. In addition to shelducks, the numbers of other estuary birds present were estimated, which showed that at the end of July, the numbers of curlew present were at or just below the nationally significant threshold. The results of the survey are presented in this report and factors thought to influence breeding shelducks in the estuary system are briefly summarized. The report concludes with a recommendation for the continuation of these annual summer shelduck surveys.