



Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority

Daugleddau Estuary
and
Milford Haven Waterway

**ANNUAL
SHELDUCK SURVEY**

Report for 2000

DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND
MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY:
ANNUAL SUMMER SHELDUCK
SURVEY

REPORT FOR 2000

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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 summer population which has been the subject of annual boat-based surveys between 1991 and 1999. The summer boat survey was repeated in 2000, in June and August, as part of a programme of environmental monitoring and surveillance in the estuary system.

The methods used and results obtained during this survey are described in this report. The results indicate that, in terms of numbers of shelduck broods seen in the estuary system, 2000 was better than 1999, although predation by ground predators such as foxes, continues to be a significant factor affecting survival of young ducklings from hatching to fledging. Data collected for other wetland birds once again confirmed the importance of the estuary system in August, especially for curlew. The report concludes with a recommendation for the continuation of the annual summer shelduck surveys, as part of the MHWESG's surveillance programme.