



Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority

Daugleddau Estuary
and
Milford Haven Waterway
ANNUAL
SHELDUCK SURVEY

Report for 2001

**DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND
MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY:
ANNUAL SUMMER SHELDUCK
SURVEY**

REPORT FOR 2001

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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 2000. The summer boat based survey was repeated in 2001, in June and late July, as part of a co-ordinated programme of environmental surveillance in the estuary system.

The methods used and results obtained during the survey are described in this report. The results indicate that, in terms of numbers of shelduck broods seen on the water, 2001 was perhaps slightly less successful than 2000, although average brood sizes were significantly larger than in 2000. Predation by ground predators and localised disturbance are thought to be contributory factors to brood numbers, sizes and survival of ducklings to fledging. Data collected for other wetland bird species in late July once again confirmed the importance of the estuary system, especially for species such as curlew. The report concludes with a recommendation for the continuation of the annual summer shelduck surveys, as part of the MHWESG and PORC surveillance programmes.