

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

# Daugleddau Estuary and Milford Haven Waterway

# Annual Surveillance of Summer Shelduck Populations



Report for 2009



Parc Cenedlaethol  
Arfordir Penfro  
Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park

**DAUGLEDDAU ESTUARY AND**  
**MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY:**  
**ANNUAL SURVEILLANCE OF**  
**SUMMER SHELDUCK**  
**POPULATIONS**

**REPORT FOR 2009**

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*PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL*

*PARK AUTHORITY*

## 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 had been the subject of annual summer boat surveys carried out between 1991 and 2008. The summer boat surveys were repeated in June and July 2009, as part of a co-ordinated programme of environmental surveillance in the estuary system. The aims, objectives and methods used, together with the data obtained, are described and presented in this report.

The results indicate that, in terms of the numbers of broods recorded, 2009 was another relatively poor year for breeding shelducks in the estuary system. The very wet weather in late June and July is thought to have been a contributing factor in poor breeding success and survival to fledging. Disturbance and predation may also have contributed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> poor year for shelducks in succession. Data collected for other wetland birds once again underlined the importance of the estuary system during the autumn migration period, especially for species such as curlew.

The report concludes with a recommendation for the continuation of the annual surveillance of summer shelduck populations in the estuary system, as part of the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group's annual work programme.