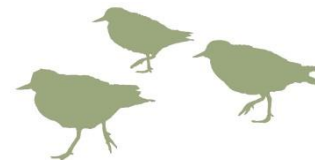


NEWS

Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey

COUNT FORM



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2025/26 NON-ESTUARINE COUNTS RECORDING FORM

This form is for recording numbers of Waterbirds (i.e. Waders and Wildfowl) at LOW TIDE on open non-estuarine coasts, inland fields and adjacent areas of sea. Numbered sections below refer to those on the following pages. It is very important that you make counts within Coast Sections provided by your Regional Organiser so that direct comparisons can be made with the previous NEWS Surveys. Please make all counts at any time WITHIN A 6 HOUR PERIOD COMMENCING 3 HOURS BEFORE THE LOCAL ADVERTISED TIME OF LOW WATER AND FINISHING 3 HOURS AFTER LOW WATER (www.tidetimes.org.uk). The survey runs from 1st December 2025 to 31st January 2026.

SAFETY – coasts can be dangerous. Take great care. Please inform someone of when and where you are counting and your expected time home. Counts along the base of cliffs must be made on a FALLING TIDE.

BEFORE commencing any counts, please ensure that you have read our guidance for volunteer fieldworkers on our website at www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/resources/guidance-for-volunteer-fieldworkers.

- 1 COUNTER DETAILS:** Please provide all details requested.
- 2 SECTOR DETAILS – START AND END GRID REFERENCES:** Please enter the start and end grid references for your sector, these can be found printed on the map supplied with this form. If you are unsure or have any questions please ask your Regional Organiser.
- 3 DATE AND TIME:** Please enter the date and approximate start and finish times of the count for each sector (e.g. 0900/1300).
- 4 TIDE STATE:** Please tick the appropriate box to indicate the state of the tide.
- 5 DEAD/SICK BIRDS SEEN:** Please tick whether any dead or sick birds were seen and record any details. Please report to Defra.

6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please provide any other additional information you feel is relevant.

- 7 LANDWARD HABITAT DETAILS:** Please choose one option that best describes the general character of the inland habitat
- 8 INTERTIDAL HABITAT DETAILS:** Please choose the option that best describes the primary substrate and secondary substrate (if any) of the intertidal habitat. Please also indicate the amount of weed cover present and give an indication of the profile of the intertidal area.
- 9 STRANDLINE (WRACK):** Please indicate the % of your sector with light, medium, heavy wrack deposits (see additional instruction form and photos for guidance).
- 10 SEAWARD HABITAT DETAILS:** Please choose one option that best describes the general character of the seaward habitat and please choose one option that best describes the sea state during your visit.

11 DISTURBANCE: Please indicate which activities took place during your visit and whether they were causing a disturbance.

- 12 BIRD COUNTS:** Please enter the number of each species on INLAND habitats which are visible from the shore (within 100m of high water mark) in the Inland box. Please enter the numbers of each species counted BETWEEN THE HIGH AND LOW WATER MARK in the Intertidal box. Please tick the box if any birds were using the strandline during your visit. Please enter the numbers of wildfowl and seabirds which are visible ON THE SEA in the Sea box. Please record additional species observed in the blank lines provided.
- Movements of birds might occur as you survey the Coast Section. Count only those birds which you walk past, or which fly behind you or fly inland. Birds which fly FROM BEHIND you should be ignored if there is a possibility they have been counted already. The exceptions to this are species not previously recorded during the count.
 - Birds flying overhead should be excluded unless obviously using your count area.
 - Please indicate at the top of each section if you have not counted the birds present in that particular species group.
 - Please indicate at the top of the section if you have or have not surveyed a particular habitat.

13 MAMMALS: Please enter the number of each mammal present on each of the three habitats. Please indicate whether you have or have not surveyed a particular habitat.

Please only use this form for ONE section as specified on the accompanying map.

Please return completed forms promptly to
your NEWS Organiser

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



NEWS is funded by BTO, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales,
NatureScot, NIEA and the WeBS Partnership, supported by I-WeBS



1 NAME AND ADDRESS:		2 SECTOR DETAILS START GRID REF: END GRID REF:	
Postcode:		4 TIDE STATE (please ✓ appropriate box) LOW TIDE (+/- 3 hrs) <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH TIDE (+/- 3hrs) <input type="checkbox"/>	
3 DATE:	START TIME (24hrs):	FINISH TIME (24hrs):	

5 ANY DEAD/SICK BIRDS SEEN? (please ✓ appropriate box) Yes No
 Details (if yes ticked):

6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7 LANDWARD HABITAT DETAILS (please ✓ one box)			
Salt marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moorland – grass-dominated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maritime Grassland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suburban	<input type="checkbox"/>
Freshwater marsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arable farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pastoral farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moorland – heather-dominated	<input type="checkbox"/>		

8 INTERTIDAL HABITAT DETAILS			
SUBSTRATE - PRIMARY (please ✓ one box):			
Sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cobbles (can pick up in one hand)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mud	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boulders (too large and heavy to pick up in one hand)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock slabs/bedrock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pebbles/gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBSTRATE - SECONDARY (please ✓ one box):			
Sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cobbles (can pick up in one hand)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mud	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boulders (too large and heavy to pick up in one hand)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rock slabs/bedrock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pebbles/gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>
No secondary substrate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
WEED COVER (please ✓ one box):			
None (<1%)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium-high (26-50%)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low (1-10%)	<input type="checkbox"/>	High (>50%)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medium-low (11-25%)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
PROFILE (please ✓ one box):			
Flat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate slope	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Steep slope	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Cliff	<input type="checkbox"/>

9 STRANDLINE (WRACK) – See additional information and photos for guidance					
Please indicate the % of your sector with light, medium, heavy wrack deposits (please ✓ one box for each row)					
	<1%	1-10%	11-25%	26-50%	>50%
Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heavy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The name and contact details of NEWS observers will be kept on a computerised database for the purpose of NEWS administration, and for furthering the BTO's objectives. We will not sell your details to anyone else.

10 SEAWARD HABITAT DETAILS			
GENERAL CHARACTER (please ✓ one box):			
Open Coast	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exposed/open sea loch	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheltered/narrow sea loch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estuarine	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEA STATE (please ✓ one box):			
Sea like a mirror	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small waves becoming longer, numerous whitecaps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ripples with appearance of scales, no foam crests	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate waves, many whitecaps, some spray	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small wavelets, crests of glassy appearance, not breaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Larger waves, whitecaps everywhere, more spray	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps	<input type="checkbox"/>		

11 DISTURBANCE (please ✓ all that apply)					
Activity	Present	Causing disturbance	Activity	Present	Causing disturbance
Walkers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horse Riders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unpowered boats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anglers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Powered boats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildfowlers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jet-skis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bait-diggers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wind-surfers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shellfishers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Micro-lights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cyclists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light Aircraft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bird-watchers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military aircraft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dogs on-lead	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helicopter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dogs off-lead	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drone/Radio controlled model aircraft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joggers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bird of prey or other predator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Human presence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

12 WADERS:	INLAND	INTERTIDAL	SEA
Was each habitat surveyed? (delete as appropriate)	surveyed / not surveyed	surveyed / not surveyed	surveyed / not surveyed
Species		Any using strandline?	
Little Egret		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grey Heron		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oystercatcher		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Golden Plover		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lapwing		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ringed Plover		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Curlew		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Turnstone		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sanderling		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dunlin		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Purple Sandpiper		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Redshank		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	

WILDFOWL:	INLAND	INTERTIDAL	SEA
Was each habitat surveyed? (delete as appropriate)	surveyed / not surveyed	surveyed / not surveyed	surveyed / not surveyed
Species		Any using strandline?	
Shelduck		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tufted Duck		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eider		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Long-tailed Duck		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Common Scoter		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Goldeneye		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Red-br. Merganser		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Goosander		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Red-throated Diver		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Black-throated Diver		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Great Northern Diver		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Great Crested Grebe		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Slavonian Grebe		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	

