



Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows (BWWM) Survey 2021

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Letter of Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), in collaboration with the Royal Society of Protection of Birds (RSPB), is coordinating a survey of waders in England and Wales, commissioned by Natural England, as part of a study to monitor changes in our lowland breeding waders of wet meadows and associated farmland habitats.

This project will assess the importance of both existing and new wet grassland, and also other lowland breeding wader habitats (including arable Lapwing Plots) in England (as provided by agri-environment schemes), for declining breeding birds such as Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe.

This survey requires the surveyor to make up to four visits to a pre-determined area of interest, between 1st April and 30th June 2021. The survey will start no earlier than one hour after sunrise and finish no later than dusk. During each visit, the surveyor will walk systematically over a specific area of grassland/farmland habitat to record the presence of waders. All observations of waders will be recorded and mapped along with details of ground conditions. The surveyor will need access to these areas by foot and is expected to take no longer than 2–3 hours for each visit. This survey is unrelated to any AES compliance assessment by Defra.

Any help you can give the bearer of this letter in allowing access to privately owned land would be very much appreciated. The surveyor is required to make contact with you to request permission to access your land before fieldwork begins.

This survey is just one of the many short-term and on-going projects on birds carried out by BTO volunteers. Please do not hesitate to telephone or email if you would like more information about the survey, or the work of the BTO.

Many thanks for your help.

David Norfolk & Greg Conway
BWWM Survey organisers (BTO)