

Gamekeeper Wader Transects: Data entry guidance



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This guidance is aimed at coordinators responsible for collating and entering data collected by gamekeepers for the *Gamekeeper Wader Transect* survey. If you are looking for guidance for gamekeepers completing the fieldwork please see *Gamekeeper Wader Transects – Field Instructions*.

1. DATA STORAGE

Gamekeepers will record their data on their *Survey Cover Sheet* and printed map. If possible, these survey sheets should be photographed or scanned by gamekeepers soon after surveying; this can be done with a smartphone using photos or a PDF scanning app (e.g. Adobe Scan). This means that if paperwork is lost, there is a copy of the raw data. These photos or scans can be messaged or emailed to you (the relevant coordinator collecting the *Gamekeeper Wader Transect* data). Check whether photos or scans are clear (not blurry) and save these photos and/or scans in a secure location. Once you receive the original paper maps, keep them in a safe and retrievable place, at least until the data have been submitted and checked.

2. DATA ENTRY

A template *Gamekeeper Wader Transect Data Spreadsheet* can be downloaded from www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gamekeeperwadertransects. This will allow you to enter and store the data collected on the survey visits provided. There are four tabs for data entry (explained below), as well as an *Instructions* tab, within the spreadsheet.

2.1. SITES

Transect Ref: unique six-digit reference identifying that individual Transect. Use the first three letters to denote the estate (or, if not applicable, general area), e.g. Leighford could be LEI, and the final three to denote the Transect Name, e.g. Upper Gill could be UPG, making the full, unique Transect Ref LEI-UPG. It is important that the same codes are used each year for the same Transect, and that each Transect in the same estate/area share the same first three letters.

Estate: the name of the estate (or, if not applicable, general area) in which the Transect is situated.

Transect Name: a unique and meaningful name for the survey route – preferably one referred to on an Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

Approx. 1 km Square: enter the four-figure grid reference (two letters and four numbers, referring to a 1 km square on an OS map) that best describes the Transect location (if the route crosses several squares, pick the one that is the most central). If you are unsure about grid references, the OS have a Beginner's Guide at www.getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/beginners-guide-to-grid-references/, and www.gridreferencefinder.com is a useful online tool for finding grid references.

Transect Length (km): the overall length of the Transect route walked in kilometres.

% Habitat: if this was reported by the observer, enter this here. If not, please enter 'NA'.

2.2. VISITS

Transect Ref same as above.

Year: calendar year in which the visit took place.

Visit Number: visit number of that calendar year (e.g. for the second visit you are aware of, enter '2').

Visit Date: record visit date in the format dd/mm/yyyy.

Start Time: record start time for the survey visit.

Finish Time: record finish time for the survey visit.

Observer: enter the first and last names of the observer.

Weather: enter using BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) weather codes (below) (surveys should not be carried out in heavy rain, very poor visibility or strong wind).

Cloud Cover		Rain		Wind		Visibility	
0-33%	1	None	1	Calm	1	Good	1
33-66%	2	Drizzle	2	Light	2	Moderate	2
66-100%	3	Showers	3	Breezy	3	Poor	3

2.3. BIRDS (PER VISIT)

Each row in this tab represents information on one wader species in one survey visit. If no waders were observed in a survey visit, there is no need to enter a row in the Birds tab. If waders were observed in a survey visit, enter a row for each species observed in that visit.

Transect Ref, Year and Visit Number same as above.

Species: please use British List English Vernacular Species names (www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/british-list). Commonly recorded waders' names are Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Dunlin, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Redshank and Snipe.

Total Adult Count: total number of adults observed.

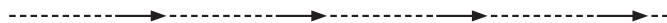
Adults Displaying: total number of adults observed displaying.

Adults Alarm Calling/With Young: total number of adults repeatedly alarm-calling, 'mobbing' and/or seen with young.

Chicks: total number of chicks observed.

These values should be on surveyors' *Survey Cover Sheets* but double-check their values match what is on their survey map. They have been asked to record behaviours using the symbols in Table 1 (below). If there are discrepancies, contact the surveyor to clarify which is correct. If you do not hear back from the surveyor by 30th November, just submit with inconsistencies flagged in *Notes* column.

TABLE 1: SPECIES CODES AND BEHAVIOUR SYMBOLS FOR USE ON THE RECORDING FORMS AND MAPS

Wader two-letter codes and symbols:		CU – Curlew	DN – Dunlin	GP – Golden Plover	L. – Lapwing
		OC – Oystercatcher	RK – Redshank	SN – Snipe	CS – Common Sandpiper
Note: CU (Curlew) used as examples below, but symbols apply to all species above					
CU	Curlew recorded not displaying, repeatedly alarm-calling or with young	(CU)	Displaying/'singing' Curlew		
<u>CU</u>	Repeatedly alarm-calling (agitated) and/or 'mobbing' Curlew	CU + juv(3)	Adult with three chicks (juveniles)		
If multiple adults are observed in one location, write the number before the two-letter code (e.g. 7L. – 7 Lapwing in a field) – this can be used with any of the symbols noted above (e.g. 3RK – 3 Redshank repeatedly alarm-calling)					
Draw the route walked with a dashed line and arrows to indicate direction 					

2.4. SUMMARY (FOR THE YEAR)

Transect Ref, Year and **Species** same as above.

Peak Adult Count: peak count of adults observed on any one survey visit that year.

Peak Territorial Adults: peak count of territorial adults (Adults Displaying + Adults Alarm-Calling/With Young) from any one survey visit that year

Peak Territorial Adults/km: peak count of territorial adults (Adults Displaying + Adults Alarm-Calling/With Young) from any one survey visit that year divided by the length (km) of the Transect

Adults Alarm Calling/With Young on Late Visit: Adults Alarm Calling/With Young from the June visit completed that year (use highest count if two June visits completed)

Relative Productivity Index: *Adults Alarm Calling/With Young* on Late Visit divided by Peak Territorial Adults for the year (from any one visit)

Absolute Productivity Index: *Adults Alarm Calling/With Young* on Late Visit divided by the length (km) of the Transect

Chicks: peak count of Chicks observed on any one survey visit that year

In most cases it should be straightforward to calculate these summary values but contact waders@bto.org for advice and guidance if needed. Equally, if you cannot calculate summary statistics, sending your spreadsheet containing the other tabs filled in will still be useful.

3. RETURN OF DATA

Please send copies of your updated spreadsheet (Excel file) each year to waders@bto.org **before the 30th November.**