

Gamekeeper Wader Transects: Field instructions



LAPWING, BY MOSS TAYLOR / BTO

WHEN TO VISIT

Three core survey visits (don't worry if you miss one, your data will still be valuable) and one additional extra visit if possible:

1. One mid-April
2. One mid-May
3. One mid-June (try to visit in early June if you intend to complete a fourth visit)
4. Possible extra survey visit late-June

Aim to do the surveys in fair weather (no rain, still, mild) **between 0830 and 1800**. Try not to survey on windy or rainy days, or when visibility is poor.

COMPLETING YOUR VISITS

Take a printed paper map of the transect area and one *Survey Cover Sheet*.

Walk your transect route and record all waders you see or hear on your printed map.

Walk at a steady pace, only stopping to record birds (or work duties). Each visit should take roughly the same amount of time to complete.

Only record waders detected between the survey start and end time (even if you suspect others are present).

Wader species most likely encountered are Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Dunlin, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Redshank and Snipe. Record other waders if you observe them.

RECORDING ON THE SURVEY SHEETS

Use the same route each visit (draw a dashed line with direction arrows on your survey map). Use the standard bird symbols in **Table 1** (below) on your survey map (see Example Sheet, Page 2). See **BTO Wader Survey Behaviour Guide** for guidance on recognising display and repeated alarm/agitation.

Do your best to avoid double-recording the same birds on your maps and summary counts. At the end of each visit, summarise the following for each species observed on your *Survey Cover Sheet*:

1. **Total Adult Count:** total number of adults observed.
2. **Adults Displaying:** total number of adults observed displaying.
3. **Adults Alarm-Calling/With Young:** total number of adults repeatedly alarm-calling, 'mobbing' and/or seen with young.
4. **Chicks:** total number of chicks observed during the survey.

TABLE 1: SPECIES CODES AND BEHAVIOUR SYMBOLOGY FOR USE ON 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					

HABITAT DATA

Each year, please estimate % cover for five habitat categories and enter on *Survey Cover Sheet*:

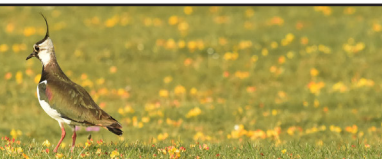
1. **% Heather** – dry/wet heather of any kind (please tick box if recent burns).
2. **% Tussocky white ground** – rough, unenclosed grassland of any kind.
3. **% Improved grassland** – enclosed grassland for livestock grazing. Please include unenclosed 'grazing greens' (naturally nutrient rich) in this.
4. **% Woodland** – woodland of any kind.
5. **% Other** – anything that does not fall within the four categories above.

MAPS AND RETURN OF DATA

Please return paper survey sheets to your Transect Coordinator. If possible, photograph your completed survey sheets in case paper copies are lost or damaged (these can also be emailed/texted to your transect coordinator). You can do this using a smartphone with a PDF scanning app (e.g. Adobe Scan). Check your symbols/notes are clear in the photo/scan.

Please contact your Transect Coordinator with any questions or feedback.

EXAMPLE OF SURVEY COVER SHEET AND MAP



Gamekeeper Wader Transects Survey Visit Cover Sheet

Observer name: Joe Bloggs		Transect name: Upper Gill		Transect ref: LEI-UPG	
Date (dd/mm/yy): 10/06/2022		Visit no.: 1		Start time (24-hr): 08:00	
End time (24-hr): 08:45		Cloud: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – Mainly clear (0–33%) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – Partly cloudy (34–66%) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Mainly cloudy (67–100%)		Wind: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – Calm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 – Light <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Breezy	
Rain: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – None <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – Drizzle <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Showers		Visibility: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – Good <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Poor			
Habitat: (only needed once per year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [30] % Heather (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recent burns) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [50] % Tussocky white ground <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [15] % Improved grassland <input type="checkbox"/> [5] % Woodland <input type="checkbox"/> [] % Other ()					
Waders observed (name of species)	Total Adult Count	Adults Displaying	Adult Alarm-Calling/With Young	Chicks	Notes: Two small chicks seen with Oystercatcher pair - no alarm or agitation
Species 1 (Lapwing)	7	4	4	0	
Species 2 (Curlew)	1	1	0	0	
Species 3 (Oystercatcher)	2	1	1	0	
Species 4 (Golden Plover)	1	0	0	0	
Species 5 ()					
Species 6 ()					
Wader two-letter codes and symbols: CU – Curlew DN – Dunlin GP – Golden Plover OC – Oystercatcher RK – Redshank SN – Snipe					
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		
CU	Repeatedly alarm-calling (agitated) and/or 'mobbing' Curlew	CU + juv(3)	Adult with three chicks (juv)		
If multiple adults are observed in one location, write the number before the two-letter code (e.g. 7L – 7 Lapwing in a noted above (e.g. 3RK – 3 Redshank repeatedly alarm-calling)					
Draw the route walked with a dashed line and arrows to indicate direction ----->					

Don't forget to attach your survey map with the date and your name on it

