



Breeding Wader Survey Method

Information Needed:

Curlew:	Mean number of birds
Lapwing:	Peak number of birds
Snipe:	Peak number of drumming birds
Redshank:	Mean number of birds

Visit Information:

Three visits should be undertaken within three hours of dawn. The dates for the visits should be 15 – 30th April (visit 1), 1 – 21st May (visit 2) and 22nd May – 18th June (visit 3).

Known breeding sites should be targeted; areas of wet grassland which may potentially hold breeding waders should also be investigated and monitored. Avoid Cold, wet and windy conditions

Methods:

- Number all fields in the survey area. Collect information on a field by field basis
- Walk a fixed route through each field ensuring all points are covered to a 100m distance (route should be recorded on map)
- Record number of birds and where possible the behaviour exhibited and assign each bird to a field.
- Conspicuous waders should be recorded by scanning with binoculars 200 – 400m ahead of the observer.

What to record:

Curlew: Record total number of individuals (excluding flocks) in each field for each visit. Use the formula of $(0.71 \times \text{mean count}) + 0.10$ to give an estimate of number of pairs per site.

Lapwing: Record total number of birds seen in each field. Report the maximum number of birds on site between mid-April and mid-May and divide this by two for total number of pairs.

Snipe: Record total number of drumming birds across the site. This correlates to the number of pairs present. If no drumming was heard in May the number of pairs should be recorded as zero.

Redshank: Record total number of birds seen in each field on each visit. The mean number of birds should be recorded across the visits and the taken as the number of pairs.