

# SITE PROTOCOL FOR WATERBIRD COUNTS: HUNTLEY DAMS

1. **Name of the Site: HUNTLEY DAMS**

2. **Coordinates:**

Huntley Points	Latitude	Longitude
Entrance	-15.006028	28.153849
Gate	-15.015724	28.150811
Point 1	-15.015724	28.146296
Point 3	-15.020943	28.141838
Point 6	-15.009714	28.146704

3. **Brief Description of the site:** See Google map attached

The site consists of two dams on the Zambeef Huntley Farms in the Chisamba area. Access is gained through the main gate on the Great North Road. Permission to carry out the counts should be obtained in advance from the farm Office.

The small dam has a small reed bed on the eastern edge and a larger reed bed stretching along the western edge with clumps to the north. The rest is open water with gently sloping grass edges with some open mud on the northern boundary, dependent on the water levels.

The large, southern, dam has reed beds and scrub on the northern end with some scattered clumps of reed on the western edge. The rest is gently sloping grass verges around the dam with some stony mud on the eastern edge adjacent to the dam wall.

The amount of grass or mud is dependent on the water levels in the dam. The grass is normally kept relatively short by the grazing cattle.

The dam walls are comparatively high and give good views over the dams.

**Note:** There is a very good image of this site on Google earth.

4. **Count.** The count is a Total or Complete Count of all waterbirds visible on the two dams. See attached map for suggested counting points. Please keep separate counts for the 2 dams.

The count normally starts at point 1 (coordinates Lat. -15.015727: Long. 28.146358) travelling counter clockwise around the dams in a figure of 8 and driving between count points.

The sometimes swampy ground at Point 2 should be checked before moving on.

Point 3 is close to the cattle grid on the Large Dam. If the water levels are low it is possible to walk down to the water's edge from the road and count from there. Points 4 and 5 are on the dam wall of the Large Dam giving good visibility of the eastern and western edges respectively.

From there go on to point 6 at the northern edge of the small dam from where it is possible to get a view of the small dam looking back at the wall. Birds hidden by the reed beds may be counted from this position but care should be taken not to recount birds seen from the points 1 & 2.

**Note:** Other birds may be visible on the open grass areas from the car while travelling between the points.

5. **Reports:** Please keep the reports for the two dams separate and make a note of weather conditions and the start and end times.
6. **Time.** The counts should start around 8 am and should take 3 – 4 hours
7. **Tools.** Binoculars are usually sufficient but a telescope assists greatly in identifying smaller species.
8. **Additional Information:** It may be possible to carry out a rope dragging survey at certain places around the dam, particularly at point 3. If this is carried out please note it and include the count as a separate list and give the length of the rope used.

#### GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE OF THE SITE

