



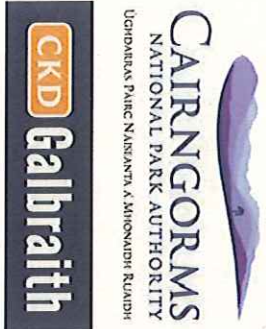
The Strathspey wader population declined by more than 40% between 2000 and 2010. The SWWI is trying to halt wader declines in Strathspey through working with land managers across a broad range of issues, including creating the best possible habitat for waders and protecting them from predation.

Further Information

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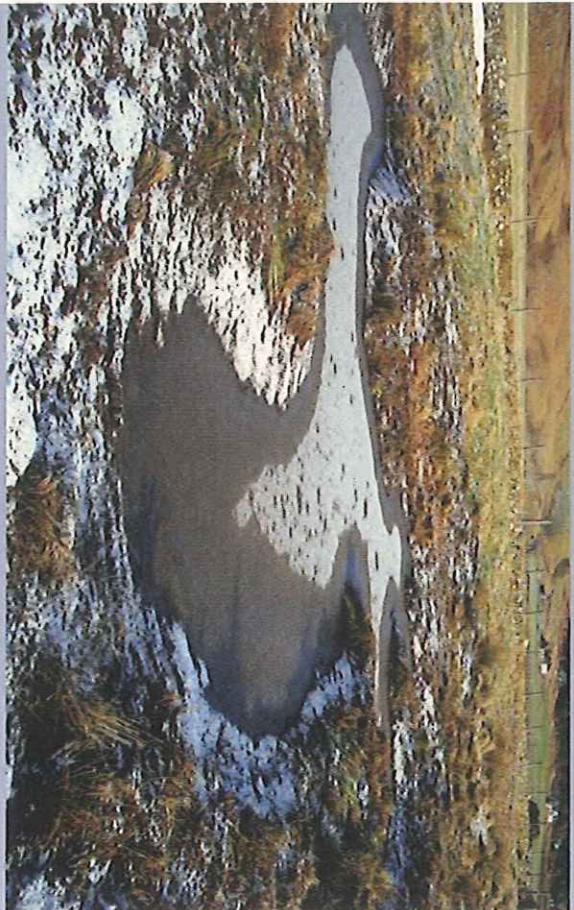
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The Strathspey Wetlands and Waders Initiative is a partnership of the following organisations:



Creating Scrapes

Providing wet feeding areas for breeding waders



The Strathspey Wetlands and Waders Initiative is a partnership project working to safeguard wetland habitats and wading birds.



Creating scrapes

Providing wet feeding areas for breeding waders

Protecting species and habitats

Strathspey arable, wetland and mown and wet grassland habitats support one of the most important populations of breeding waders in the UK.

A key requirement of breeding waders is that they have access to areas of wet mud in which they and their chicks can forage for insects and earthworms. A small scrape in an otherwise dry field could provide a significant amount of food and increase chick survival rates on your farm.

What is a scrape?

A scrape is a shallow depression, which should hold water from March to late June. It should be in an open location and have gently sloping edges to provide muddy feeding sites for waders and their chicks.

Scrape Creation Guidelines

- Choose an open location well away from trees or other features that might harbor predators.
- Choose a low, naturally damp section of the field where the water table is not too far below ground level.



- Do not select floristically diverse habitat to dig up.
- Cut back vegetation in the selected area so that there will be a margin of short vegetation around the scrape. The margin should be at least 10m wide.

- Design a scrape that is at least 0.002 ha (20 m²) in size. This equates to 4 m x 5 m. However, the scrape should be linear and irregular in shape to maximize the area of wet, muddy edge.



- Keep the edges shallow and do not dig deeper than 45 cm in the centre of the scrape.
- Keep the scrape at least 5 m away from ditches and water courses.
- Spread the scrape spoil thinly on adjacent ground.
- In subsequent years, cut back long vegetation that has developed around the edge of the scrape.

Complying with regulations

You do not need a license from SEPA to create a small scrape. However, it is wise to inform SEPA and SGRPID that you are planning to create scrapes to ensure that you don't fall foul of regulations. If you are on a designated site, you **must** discuss your intentions with SNH.

Contact Bridget England (07826894870) if you would like help with mapping scrape locations and submitting a plan of works to government bodies. It is a simple task for which there is no charge.

SFP and SRDP returns

Although the size of a scrape is very small (0.002 ha) you should still note them on your SAF returns in May. For each scrape, declare 0.002 ha in the 'Other Land' column with the code PRSL. The small size involved means this will have little or no effect on your SFP.

