

# SITE PROTOCOL FOR WATERBIRD COUNTS: NSOBE FARM

1. **Name of Site:** NSOBE PONDS

2. **Coordinates:**

<b>Nsobe Points</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Restaurant	-13.376243	28.751363
Point 1	-13.377820	28.751863
Point 3	-13.371437	28.746759

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

The site consists of a dam and a number of fish ponds on Nsobe Farm, a private farm. Please ask permission to carry out the counts.

The dam has a wooded eastern margin along the campsite. The western bank has more reeds along the margin

There are 30+ fish ponds, some of which may be dry or nearly dry at any time. These consist of two groups, the first group of 18 ponds, point 2 on the map, lie on the western edge of the main dam, while the remainder are to the north of the dam wall, point 3 on the map.

4. **Count:** The count is a total count. The Count may be done by either walking or driving along the route marked in red on the map. The fish pond count usually begins at point 1 and continues past the first group of ponds and through the piggery to point 3. Point 3 gives a good viewpoint over the ponds and the suggested route gives a good view of all the ponds.

The dam is usually counted from the lawn in front of the restaurant and by walking along the lake edge, marked in yellow on the map, through the campsite. It should also be searched from the dam wall, point 3.

5. **Reports:** Please keep the counts for the main dam and the fish ponds separate from each other and please note the start and end time of each as well as weather conditions and, if possible how many ponds were full or empty. Usually fewer are empty so note those.

6. **Time:** The area is quite a small one and many of the birds only fly in after dawn. A dawn start is therefore not necessary, but the dam from the yellow route and restaurant lawn is usually done before breakfast and the red route through the fishponds shortly after breakfast.

- 7. Tools:** Binoculars are usually sufficient but a telescope is useful to help identify the smaller waders in the fishponds.

### GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE OF NSOBE PONDS

