

2022



Folkestone and Hythe Lepidoptera Report



Orache Moth at Folkestone Warren (Brian Harper)

Review of Lepidoptera (Butterfly and Moth) Sightings 2022



January

The first ten days of the month were unsettled, and after a very mild start, it became rather cold with some overnight frosts. High pressure developed towards mid-month, so the remainder of the month was mostly dry, whilst the last few days of the month were again rather mild. It was a notably sunny month, with rainfall totals well below average.

The year got off to a blistering start when the second area (and first modern) record of the rare immigrant *Euchromius ocella* (Necklace Veneer) was trapped at Saltwood on the 1st. The previous area record related to a male found at rest on a grass stem in Folkestone Warren on the 4th August 1879.

The mild conditions on the 1st also produced the first records for the year of *Bedellia somnulentella* (Bindweed Bent-wing), *Acleris sparsana* (Ashy Button) and *Acleris hastiana* (Sallow Button) at Saltwood, *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla* (Beautiful Plume) at Hythe and *Emmelina monodactyla* (Common Plume) at Seabrook, whilst all three sites produced *Epiphyas postvittana* (Light Brown Apple Moth). On the 2nd an adult *Mompha subbistrigella* (Garden Cosmet) was found indoors at Saltwood and a larval case of *Tinea pellionella* (Case-bearing Clothes Moth) was also noted. The only other micro moths noted in January involved tenanted leaf-mines of *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Firethorn Leaf-miner) and *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* (Pellitory Cosmet) located at Folkestone on the 9th.



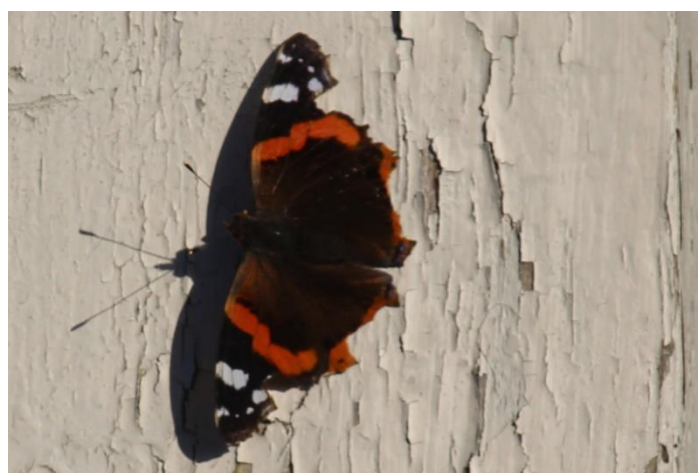
Pale-brindled Beauty at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Spring Usher at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Double-striped Pug at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Red Admiral at Cheriton (Tony Poole)

An early migrant Silver Y and a Double-striped Pug were trapped at Saltwood on the 3rd, and a further five macro moth species were recorded during the month, with Mottled Umber at Hythe and Seabrook on the 3rd, Pale Brindled Beauty and Winter Moth at Seabrook on the 11th, the Chestnut at Seabrook on the 28th and Spring Usher at Seabrook on the 29th.

The mild weather on the 1st also encouraged the first butterflies of the year to make an appearance, with a Peacock at Donkey Street and a Small Tortoiseshell near Round Hill. Later in the month the first Red Admirals were noted at Cheriton and Folkestone on the 17th.

February

The first ten days or so of the month were relatively settled at times but then rain became more frequent. It was particularly stormy between the 16th and 21st, with winds approaching hurricane-force along the south coast on the 18th. The unsettled weather persisted until the month's end, but it remained reasonably mild.

Three species of micro moth were added to the year list, with *Psychoides filicivora* (Fern Smut) trapped at Seabrook on the 8th, *Duirnea fagella* (March Tubic) there on the 25th and *Agonopterix heracliiana* (Common Flat-body) there on the 28th.

There were five additions to the macro year list, with Bloxworth Snout found by day at Hythe on the 1st, whilst Early Moth was trapped at Seabrook on the 9th, with Oak Beauty there on the 21st, Small Quaker there on the 22nd and Common Quaker there on the 25th.



Duirnea fagella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Early Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Just one species of butterfly was added to the list, with a Comma found at Folkestone on the 1st.

March

The first few days of the month were rather cold, and the first half was generally unsettled, but it became milder as high pressure built from mid-month with plentiful sunshine, although clear skies kept overnight temperatures in single figures. The end of the month was less settled and much colder, with even a covering of snow on the 31st.

There were several notable highlights in March. The eighth area record of **Dotted Chestnut** was trapped at Spring Lane Cemetery (Paraker Wood) on the 24th, the same site that produced the first record on the same date in 2017. This was followed by four records in 2020 (three in April and one in October) and two in March 2021. Four have been recorded in the Saltwood area, with singles at the Aldergate Bridge and Seabrook. Randle *et al.* (2019) noted that this species has been expanding its range considerably and it now appears to be colonising the local area.

A specimen of another apparent colonist, the **Pale-shouldered Cloud**, was taken at Hythe on the 23rd March and was the earliest British record by some margin (with the previous earliest records having occurred in May). This was the 29th area record and it has now been recorded in six consecutive years, including a total of 15 in the previous two years.



Dotted Chestnut at Paraker Wood (Brian Harper)



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

The ninth area record of **Blossom Underwing**, at Seabrook on the 24th, however seems likely to have been a primary immigrant. This species was first recorded locally in 1946 but all subsequent records have occurred since 2010. The only other migrants noted in March were single Silver Ys at Hythe on the 21st and Seabrook on the 28th and 29th.



Blossom Underwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Silver Y at at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

A total of 11 species were added to the micro moth year list, including the earliest ever records of *Eudonia angustea* (Narrow-winged Grey), trapped at Seabrook on the 2nd (the previous earliest was trapped there on the 12th March 2018), *Caloptilia falconipennella* (Scarce Alder Slender), trapped at Seabrook on the 21st (the previous earliest was trapped there on the 1st April 2021), and *Pyrausta despicata* (Straw-barred Pearl), seen by day at Abbotscliffe on the 15th (the previous earliest was seen at Hythe Ranges on the 30th March 2019). The latter appears to be the earliest county record.

Also of note were a number of male specimens of *Dahlica inconspicuell*a (Lesser Lichen Bagworm) seen at the known colony at Abbotscliffe from the 15th, *Agonopterix alstromeriana* (Brown-spot Flat-body) trapped at Seabrook on the 12th and *Acleris kochiella* (Elm Button) trapped at Seabrook on the 26th.

A further 31 species were added to the macro moth year list and these also included a number of earliest ever records: a Chamomile Shark at Hythe on the 9th (previous earliest was at Hythe on the 26th April 2018, also appears to be the earliest county record), the Mullein at Folkestone on the 14th (previous earliest at Hythe on the 1st April 2020), the V-pug at Spring Lane Cemetery on the 24th (previous earliest at Hythe and Folkestone Warren on the 30th March 2017), Muslin Moth at Seabrook on the 25th Mar (previous earliest at Seabrook on the 31st March 2021) and Nut-tree Tussock at Seabrook on the 29th (previous earliest was Saltwood on the 30th March 2012).

Also of note were Dotted Border at Seabrook on the 2nd, Mottled Grey at Samphire Hoe on the 14th, Red Chestnut at Samphire Hoe on the 16th, Tawny Pinion at Seabrook on the 20th, Twin-spotted Quaker at Seabrook on the 21st, Shoulder Stripe and Lead-coloured Drab at Seabrook on the 22nd, Pale Pinion at Kiln Wood on the 26th, Powdered Quaker and Grey Shoulder-knot at Seabrook on the 26th, Brindled Beauty at Seabrook on the 29th and the Streamer at Hythe on the 29th.



Chamomile Shark at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



The Mullein at Folkestone (Cathy Hearsey)



Muslin Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Mottled Grey at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)

A total of seven species were added to the butterfly year list and four of these were also the earliest ever records: a Speckled Wood at Lympne on the 18th (previous earliest was at Folkestone Warren on the 28th March 2012), a Green-veined White at Cheriton on the 19th (previous earliest was at Seabrook on the 22nd March 2012), a Holly Blue at Horn Street on the 21st (previous earliest was at Abbotscliffe on the 29th March 2012) and a Small Copper at Abbotscliffe on the 23rd (previous earliest was at Cheriton on the 25th March 2021).

The other additions were a Brimstone at Cheriton on the 12th, a Large White at Seabrook on the 19th and a Small White there on the 22nd.



Shoulder Stripe at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Lead-coloured Drab at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

April

April saw predominately dry, settled weather. After a cool start it was reasonably warm, particularly around mid-month, but the last ten days or so were cooler with moderate easterly winds suppressing temperatures.

There were two additions to the area moth list in April. The first involved single examples of **Frosted Green** trapped at Folks' Wood on the 14th and on the coast at Hythe on the 21st. It is a local species in Kent, found mostly in ancient Oak woodland to the west of Ashford, with the nearest known population in the Orlestone Forest complex (Kent Moth Group 2022). The first could suggest an overlooked population or recent colonisation but the second record was more indicative of dispersal or possibly immigration.



Frosted Green at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Frosted Green at Folks' Wood (Brian Harper)

The second involved a **Pinion-spotted Pug** at Seabrook on the 29th. It is a scarce and declining species nationally that appears to have a mostly coastal distribution in Kent, where it feeds on Hawthorn (Randle *et al.* 2019; Kent Moth Group 2022). These increased the provisional macro list to 638 species.

A ***Gravitarmata margarotana*** (Pine Cone Moth) at Seabrook on the 23rd was only the third area record, following two in 2018. It was first recorded in Britain in 2011 in Kent and it remains a rare species in the county, with this appearing to be the ninth record.

Also of significant note were the second records of the year of **Blossom Underwing** at Seabrook on the 4th and **Pale-shouldered Cloud** at Cheriton on the 29th, and the 10th and 11th area records of ***Caloptilia honoratella*** (Pale Maple Slender), which now seems certain to be locally established, at Seabrook on the 11th and 16th April.



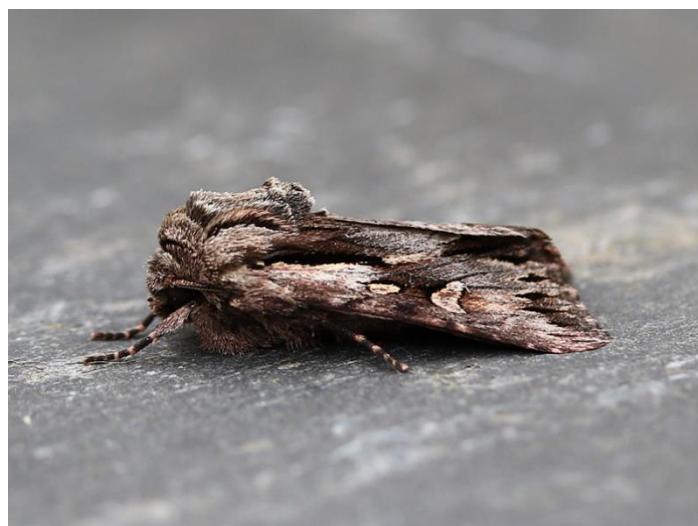
Pinion-spotted Pug at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Gravitarmata margarotana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Blossom Underwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

The regular migrants were limited to a single *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) at Hythe on the 23rd, single Silver Ys at Cheriton on the 24th and Hythe on the 25th, and three *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl): at Seabrook on the 12th and 14th, and Samphire Hoe on the 17th.

A further 24 species were added to the micro moth year list, including the earliest ever records of *Phtheochroa rugosana* (Rough-winged Conch) at Seabrook on the 16th, *Cochylis atricapitana* (Black-headed Conch) and *Ethmia bipunctella* (Bordered Ermel) at Samphire Hoe on the 17th, *Elachista freyerella* (Broken-barred Dwarf) at Seabrook on the 21st, *Coleophora albicosta* (Gorse Case-bearer) at Samphire Hoe on the 26th and *Notocelia cynosbatella* (Yellow-faced Bell) at Hythe on the 28th.

Also of note were *Caloptilia elongella* (Pale Red Slender) at Seabrook on the 10th, *Elachista canapennella* (Little Dwarf) there on the 14th, *Agonopterix rotundella* (Rolling Carrot Flat-body) at Samphire Hoe on the 17th and *Acrolepia autumnella* (Bittersweet Smudge) at Seabrook on the 22nd.

A further 64 species were added to the macro moth year list, including the earliest ever records of Bright-line Brown-eye at Seabrook on the 10th, the Nutmeg there on the 12th, Grey Pug there on the 14th, Sharp-angled Peacock and Coxcomb Prominent at Folks' Wood on the 14th, Pale Tussock at Cheriton on the 15th, White Spot at Samphire Hoe, Light Feathered Rustic at Hythe and Green Carpet at Seabrook on the 17th, Dark/Grey Dagger at Cheriton on the 18th, White-point at Seabrook on the 19th, Toadflax Brocade at Hythe and Maiden's Blush at Seabrook on the 20th, Mottled Rustic at Seabrook on the 23rd, the Cinnabar at Cheriton on the 24th and the Shears at Seabrook on the 28th.



Phtheochroa rugosana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



The Nutmeg at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

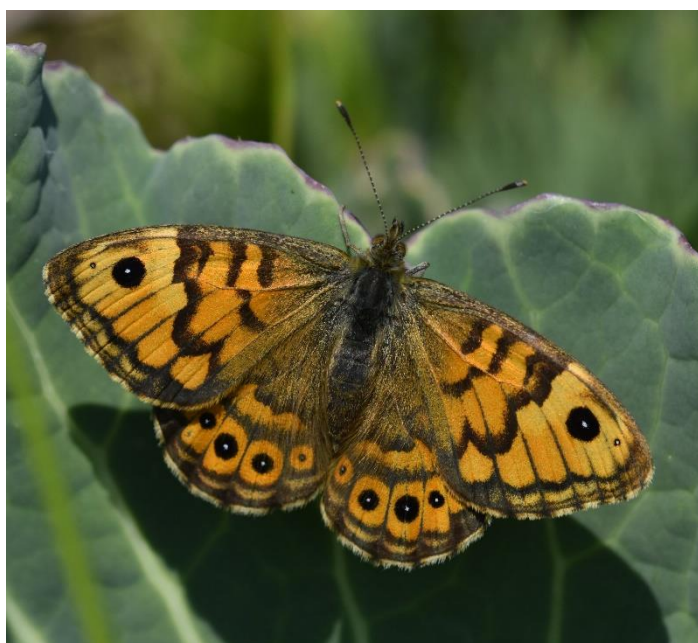
Also of note were Water Carpet at Seabrook on the 4th, Early Tooth-striped and Lunar Marbled Brown at Folks' Wood on the 14th, Small Purple-barred at Folkestone Downs on the 17th, Pine Beauty at Seabrook on the 23rd and Channel Islands Pug there on the 29th.

Single Clouded Yellow butterflies were seen at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 5th, Samphire Hoe on the 9th, Folkestone Warren on the 10th and Seabrook on the 19th.

There were also three earliest ever butterfly sightings: Wall at Samphire Hoe on the 9th, Small Blue at Samphire Hoe on the 19th and Adonis Blue at Capel-le-Ferne on the 24th. Other additions to the year list comprised Orange-tip at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd, Dingy Skipper there on the 9th, Small Heath at Folkestone Downs on the 15th and Common Blue at Samphire Hoe on the 26th.



Clouded Yellow at Folkestone Downs (Tony Poole)



Wall at Samphire Hoe (Ross Newham)



Small Blue at Samphire Hoe (Brian Jones)



Adonis Blue at Samphire Hoe (Ross Newham)

May

The weather in May was generally rather quiet and mostly reasonably warm and settled, although not as dry as April, with some showery rain at times and thunderstorms on occasion.

May produced three new micro moth species for the area: *Pammene argyrana* (Black-bordered Piercer) at Spring Lane on the 2nd, *Pammene ignorata* (Devon Piercer) and *Agonopterix curvipunctosa* (Powdered Flat-body) at Saltwood at Seabrook on the 17th. *Pammene argyrana* is a localised species in Kent, that has perhaps gone unrecorded locally due to its early flight period, as two further records at Heane Wood on the 6th May would attest. *Pammene ignorata* is a rare species in Britain, with very few records and this was the first to be recorded in Kent. *Agonopterix curvipunctosa* is a scarce and local species that has been recorded only infrequently in Britain in recent years and appears to be about the eighth county record. These increased the provisional area micro list to 815 species.



Pammene argyrana at Spring Lane (Brian Harper)



Pammene ignorata at Seabrook (Ian Roberts)

Other highlights included the third area (and 17th national) record of **Banded Pine Carpet** at Kiln Wood on the 26th, with the fifth to seventh area records of *Eulia ministrana* (Brassy Tortrix) there the same night and the ninth and tenth area records of **Dewick's Plusia** at Seabrook on the 3rd and Hythe on the 9th.

The third **Pale-shouldered Cloud** of the year was trapped at Cheriton on the 7th, with four further *Caloptilia honoratella* (Pale Maple Slender) trapped at Seabrook and six **Portland Ribbon Waves** (the 21st to 26th records): one at Cheriton, two at Saltwood and three at Seabrook.

Migrants involved a *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer) at Hythe on the 22nd, single Pearly Underwings at Hythe on the 27th and 28th, Bordered Straws at Hythe on the 22nd, 27th and 29th (two) and totals of 12 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl), 20 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) and 21 Silver Ys.



Banded Pine Carpet at Kiln Wood (Ian Roberts)



Eulia ministrana at Kiln Wood (Brian Harper)



Dewick's Plusia at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

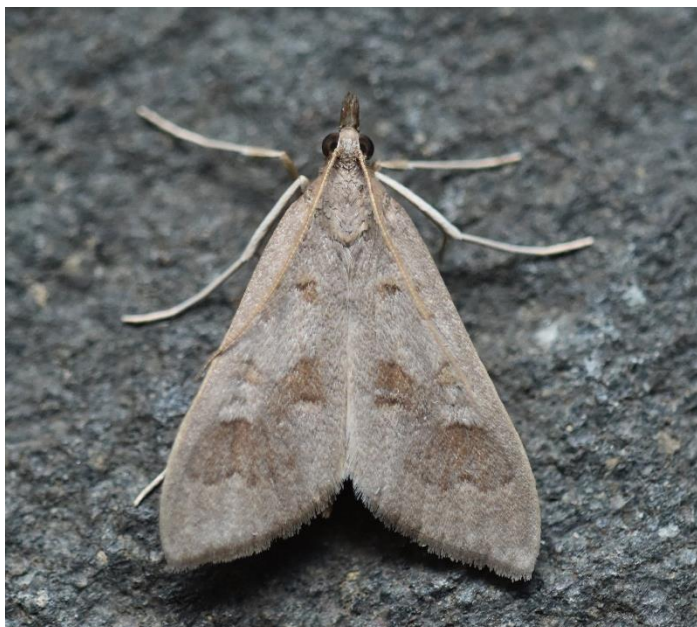


Portland Ribbon Wave at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

A further 91 species were added to the micro moth year list and the trend for early emergences continued, with earliest ever records for 25 of these species. The most notable micros involved *Callisto denticulella* Garden Apple Slender at Cheriton on the 1st, *Agonopterix yeatiana* (Coastal Flat-body) and *Acleris literana* (Lichen Button) at Spring Lane on the 2nd, *Elachista subocellea* (Brown-barred Dwarf) at Abbotscliffe on the 5th, *Cryptoblabes bistriga* (Double-striped Knot-horn) at Heane Wood and Seabrook, and *Lobesia reliquana* (Oak Marble) at the latter site on the 6th, and *Nemapogon cloacella* (Cork Moth), *Argyresthia semifusca* (Brown Rowan Argent), *Epinotia tedella* (Common Spruce Bell) and *Dichrorampha plumbana* (Lead-coloured Drill) at Seabrook and *Ethmia quadrillella* (Comfrey Ermel) at Etchinghill on the 15th.

In the latter half of the month *Dichrorampha sedatana* (Dingy Drill) at Peene Quarry and *Swammerdamia pyrella* (Little Ermine) and *Epinotia bilunana* (Crescent Bell) at Saltwood on the 17th, *Mecyna asinalis* (Madder Pearl) at Samphire Hoe on the 19th, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* (Beet Moth) at Abbotscliffe on the 22nd, *Taleporia tubulosa* (Brown Bagworm), *Elegia similella* (White-barred Knot-horn) and *Agrotera nemoralis* (Beautiful Pearl) at Kiln Wood at 26th and *Alabonia geofrella* (Common Tubic) along the Aldington Road on the 28th were particularly noteworthy.

Tenanted leaf-mines of *Mompha miscella* (Brown Cosmet) at Abbotscliffe on the 5th and *Paracrania chrysolepidella* (Small Hazel Purple) at Garden House Orchards on the 8th were also of note.



Mecyna asinalis at Folkestone Warren
(Ross Newham)



Paracrania chrysolepidella at Garden House Orchards
(Ian Roberts)

A further 118 species were added to the macro moth year list, including the earliest ever records for 36 of these species. The most notable macros involved the Mocha at Spring Lane on the 2nd, Cream-spot Tiger and Yellow Belle at Samphire Hoe on the 5th, the Seraphim, Tawny-barred Angle, Dingy Shell, Lunar Thorn, Grey Birch and Brindled White-spot at Heane Wood on the 6th, Cryptic Fern at Folkestone Warren on the 7th, Lace Border at Folkestone Warren on the 8th, Lobster Moth at Seabrook on the 9th, Hoary Footman at Saltwood and Seabrook on the 17th, Fox Moth at Samphire Hoe on the 18th and Lesser Cream Wave there on the 19th.

Many additions occurred in the last week of the month, including Small Yellow Wave, Barred Red, Marbled Brown, Olive Crescent and Green Silver-lines at Kiln Wood and Large Nutmeg at Hythe on the 26th, Grey Arches at Folkestone Warren on the 27th, Latticed Heath and the Four-spotted at Hythe Roughs on the 28th, Small Yellow Underwing near Paraker Wood and Clouded Buff at Cheriton on the 29th and Sussex Emerald (larva) at Hythe Ranges on the 31st.

Good numbers of Dusky Hook-tip were logged, with a total of 45 noted across three sites.

There were three additions to the butterfly year list, with Large Skipper at Samphire Hoe and Brown Argus at Folkestone Downs on the 14th, and single Painted Ladies at Abbotscliffe, Castle Hill and Peene Quarry on the 17th, with at least six further Painted Ladies noted later in the month.



Lace Border at Folkestone Warren (Alfie Gay)



Hoary Footman at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Olive Crescent at Kiln Wood (Brian Harper)



Large Nutmeg at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Cream-spot Tiger at Folkestone Warren (Ross Newham)



Clouded Buff at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

June

June saw mostly fine and settled weather after some showers during the first week. There was a warm spell in mid-month which peaked on the 17th, giving the warmest day (and night) of the year so far (26°C locally, with an overnight minimum of 17°C). The final week of June again saw a few showers, but overall the month was warmer, drier and sunnier than average.

The warmest night of the year produced the first area record of **Alder Kitten** at Hythe. This species mainly frequents wet woodland and wooded heaths in the west of England and Wales, with isolated populations in East Anglia and south-east England (where it occurs in Sussex, Surrey and West Kent, with very few modern records in East Kent). It is also widespread on the continent, from where this individual may have originated. This increased the provisional area macro list to 639 species.

There was also an addition to the area micro list in June, when an example of *Gelechia muscosella* (Grey Sallow Groundling) was trapped at Spring Lane Cemetery on the 23rd (and later confirmed by genitalia determination), which increased the provisional area micro list to 816 species.

Other records of particular significance included the first modern records of *Narycia duplicella* (White-speckled Bagworm) at Seabrook on the 2nd (with a further example at West Hythe on the 13th) and *Ancylis obtusana* (Small Buckthorn Roller) at Folks' Wood on the 9th (both having only been recorded on a single occasion prior to 1950).



Alder Kitten at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Gelechia muscosella at Spring Lane (Ian Roberts)

A **Dark Tussock** at Samphire Hoe on the 25th was only the third area record (and the first since one at Seabrook in 2016), whilst a **Banded Pine Carpet** at Smallpox Hill on the 17th was the fourth area record (but the second this year). The same night also produced the fourth record of **Brussels Lace** (following an historic record and singles in 2019 and 2020) and about the sixth record of **Rannoch Looper** (and the first since 2011) at Folkestone Warren, and about the eighth area record (and only the fourth since 2000) of **Silver Barred** at Smallpox Hill. The sixth area record of **Splendid Brocade** was taken at Gibbin's Brook on the 28th.



Narycia duplicella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Banded Pine Carpet at Smallpox Hill (Ian Roberts)

The fourth and fifth **Pale-shouldered Clouds** of the year were trapped at Cheriton on the 4th and 15th, whilst notable migrants included a **Striped Hawk-moth** at Hythe on the 9th and a **Golden Twin-spot** there on the 25th. A further four **Portland Ribbon Waves** were also logged.

More regular migrants included a Dark Sword-grass at Folks' Wood on the 9th, a Gem at Cheriton on the 14th, a Delicate there on the 24th, a *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl) at Seabrook on the 22nd, Pearly Underwings at Hythe on the 4th and Seabrook on the 22nd, and single Vestals at Smallpox Hill on the 17th, Hythe Ranges on the 18th and Hythe on the 22nd and 23rd.

There were also totals of six *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneers), six *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearls), nine Bordered Straws, ten Hummingbird Hawk-moths, 46 Silver Ys and 53 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths).



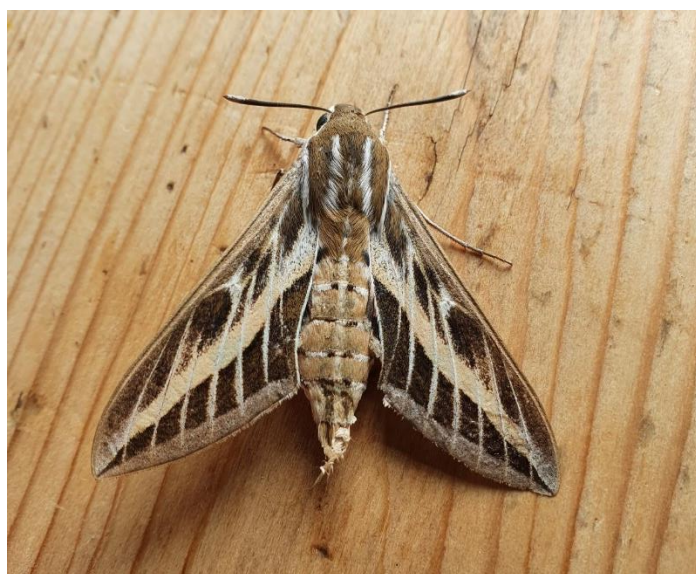
Ancylis obtusana at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)



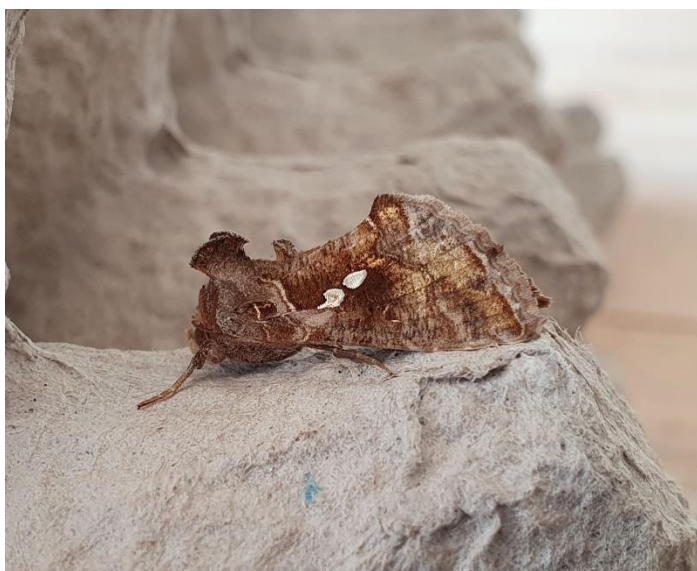
Dark Tussock at Samphire Hoe (Seb Buckton)



Silver Barred at Smallpox Hill (Brian Harper)



Striped Hawk-moth at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Golden Twin-spot at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



The Delicate at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

A remarkable influx of *Tortrix viridana* (Green Oak Tortrix) was one of the notable events of the month, with large numbers reported from sites along the south and east coasts of Britain and particularly high numbers locally, with 33 at Hythe and 274 at Seabrook on the 3rd, and peaks of 160 at Hythe and 622 at Seabrook on the following night.

A further 172 species were added to the micro moth year list, including *Telechrysis tripuncta* (Treble-spot Tubic) at Seabrook on the 1st, *Teleiodes luculella* (Crescent Groundling), *Pammene germana* (Black Piercer) *Epinotia subocellana* (White Sallow Bell), *Eana incanana* (Bluebell Shade), *Spatalistis bifasciana* (Small Purple Button), *Ancylis dimuntana* (Small Festooned Roller) and *Assara terebrella* (Dark Spruce Knot-horn) at Folks' Wood on the 9th, *Capperia britanniodactylus* (Wood Sage Plume) at Hythe on the 12th, *Argyresthia ablistria* (Purple Argent) at Bargrove on the 13th and tenanted leaf-mines of *Eriocrania sparmannella* (Mottled Purple) and *Phyllonorycter viminiella* (Willow Midget) at Gibbin's Brook on the 14th.

In the latter half of the month, *Celypha rufana* (Lakes Marble) at Hythe on the 16th, *Brachmia inornatella* (Fen Crest) at Willop Basin on the 16th, *Carpatolechia fugitevella* (Elm Groundling) at Seabrook and *Parachronistis albiceps* (Wood Groundling) and *Hedya salicella* (White-backed Marble) at Gibbin's Brook on the 22nd, *Anarsia spartiella* (Small Sober), *Piniphila bifasciana* (Pine Marble) and *Gillmeria pallidactyla* (Yarrow Plume) at Seabrook and *Acleris umbrana* (Dark-streaked Button), *Gypsonoma oppressana* (Poplar Shoot) and *Nymphula nitidulata* (Beautiful China-mark) at Spring Lane on the 23rd, *Selania leplastriana* (Cabbage Piercer) at Samphire Hoe on the 25th, and *Dichrorampha petiverella* (Common Drill) at Creteway Down, *Acleris logiana* (Grey Birch Button) at Gibbin's Brook and *Gypsonoma aceriana* (Rosy Cloaked Shoot) at Saltwood on the 28th were particularly noteworthy.



Acleris umbrana at Spring Lane (Brian Harper)



Nymphula nitidulata at Spring Lane (Brian Harper)

A further 108 species were added to the macro moth year list, including Broken-barred Carpet at Seabrook on the 8th, Red-necked Footman at Folks' Wood on the 9th, Rest Harrow and Buttoned Snout at Seabrook on the 10th, Galium Carpet at Hythe on the 10th, Small Ranunculus there on the 11th and Hornet Moth at Cinderella Farm (Palmarsh) on the 15th.



Hornet Moth at Cinderella Farm (Ian Roberts)



Currant Clearwing at Sellindge (Derek Smith)

The second half of the month produced Fiery Clearwing at Abbotscliffe on the 16th, Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet at Abbotscliffe, Currant Clearwing at Sellindge and Sub-angled Wave, Ruddy Carpet, Orange Moth and Reddish Light Arches at Smallpox Hill on the 17th, Four-dotted Footman, the Suspected and Scarce Silver-lines at Gibbin's Brook and Striped Wainscot at Seabrook on the 22nd, Red-tipped Clearwing at Seabrook and Small Scallop and Small Seraphim at Hythe on the 23rd, Grass Emerald at Hythe on the 26th and Yellow-legged Clearwing at Sellindge on the 28th.



Ruddy Carpet at Smallpox Hill (Brian Harper)



Red-tipped Clearwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Migrant butterflies were limited to a few Painted Ladies, with a peak of six at Seabrook on the 20th, but additions to the year list comprised Meadow Brown at Folkestone Downs on the 2nd, Small Skipper and Marbled White there on the 11th, the Ringlet there on the 13th, Essex Skipper at Pond Hill Road on the 25th and Gatekeeper at Folkestone Warren on the 27th.



Essex Skipper at Pond Hill Road (Brian Harper)



Gatekeeper at Folkestone Warren (Tony Poole)

July

There was a fairly cool start to the month but within a few days it became increasingly warm and daytime temperatures exceeded 25°C on several days from the 11th. However, it was a spell just after mid-month that broke records, with Britain's first ever readings above 40°C and temperatures locally exceeded 38°C, with an overnight low of 22°C on the 18th. It remained settled for the remainder of the month, with daytime temperatures in excess of 20°C and overnight minima generally above 15°C. It was provisionally the fourth warmest July for England (in a series from 1884) and there was very little rain (with less than a fifth of average).

There was a wealth of highlights to report, including the first area (and about the 10th county and 18th British) record of *Sciota rhenella* (New Poplar Knot-horn) at Gibbin's Brook on the 18th. This sciotid is being recorded with increased regularity in the country (with a peak of five individuals in 2021) and is resident widely on the near continent, with potential for future colonisation (Atropos 2022).

The warm weather produced a significant arrival of **Orache Moths** into the country, including the first area records at Hythe on the 18th and at Samphire Hoe and Folkestone Warren (2) on the 19th. The Orache is a rare but regular vagrant to Britain, with around 150 records to 2021 (Atropos 2022).

Further additions to the area list involved an *Eudemis porphyra* (Apple Marble) at Folkestone Warren on the 6th, an *Elachista maculicerusella* (Triple-spot Dwarf) at Seabrook on the 12th and a *Scrobipalpa salicorniae* (Sea-aster Groundling) at Samphire Hoe on the 30th. Subsequent records of *Eudemis porphyra* at Cherry Garden Hill on the 17th July and Gibbin's Brook on the 3rd August, and *Scrobipalpa salicorniae* at Seabrook on the 14th and 18th August, and 6th October suggest dispersal events (or immigration), whilst *Elachista maculicerusella* is probably a previously unrecorded resident. These additions increased the provisional micro list to 820 species and the macro list to 640 species.

Also of considerable note were the first modern records of *Hellinsia lienigianus* (Mugwort Plume) at Seabrook on the 9th, *Endothenia ericetana* (Heath Marble) at Saltwood on the 11th and **Clouded Magpie** at Saltwood on the 23rd, the second area records of *Grapholita lobarzewskii* (Kent Fruit Piercer) at Cheriton on the 5th, **Brown Scallop** at Hythe on the 6th, *Caloptilia hemidactylella* (Sycamore Slender) at Seabrook on the 12th, *Pempelia palumbella* (Heather Knot-horn) at Cheriton on the 13th and *Lyonetia prunifoliella* (Striped Bent-wing) at Gibbin's Brook on the 20th, and the second and third area (and first outdoor) records of *Duponchelia fovealis* (Dark Marbled Tabby) at Hythe on the 2nd and 30th.



Sciota rhenella at Gibbin's Brook (Ian Roberts)



Eudemis porphyra at Folk. Warren (Brian Harper)



Orache Moth at Folkestone Warren (Brian Harper)



Orache Moth at Folkestone Warren (Rob Lee)



Pempelia palumbella at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Duponchelia fovealis at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

The second modern area records of **Scarce Chocolate-tip** at Seabrook on the 14th and **Marbled Clover** at Samphire Hoe on the 19th, the third area (but only about the 26th British record) of **Three-humped Prominent** at Saltwood on the 23rd and the fourth area (and county) record of **Zelleria oleastrella** (Olive Ermel) at Samphire Hoe on the 19th provided further excitement.

The fifth area records of **Acleris permutana** (Buff Button) at Seabrook on the 3rd and (following one in June) **Brussels Lace** at West Hythe on the 8th, sixth record of **Mere Wainscot** at Saltwood on the 2nd and seventh record (following one in June) of **Splendid Brocade** at Peene on the 7th were additional highlights.



Scarce Chocolate-tip at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



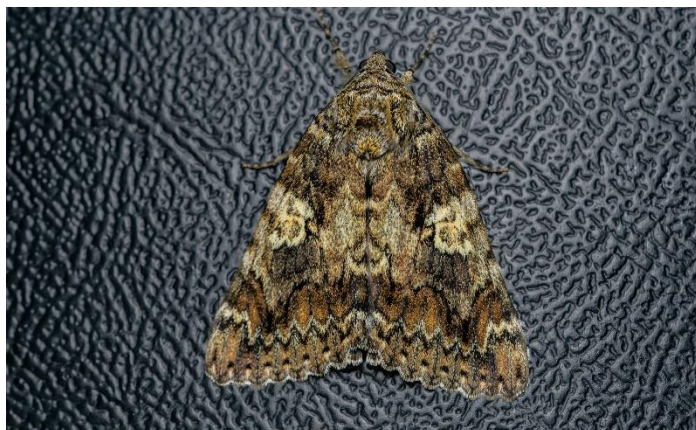
Marbled Clover at Samphire Hoe (Kevin Button)

Also of particular interest were single **Dewick's Plusia** at Seabrook on the 18th and Hythe on the 21st, four **Dark Crimson Underwings** at Folkestone Warren on the 19th (with one at Seabrook on the 29th), **Acrobasis tumidana** (Scarce Oak Knot-horn) at Seabrook and Folks' Wood (2) on the 22nd and **Oak Processionary** at Seabrook on the 30th.

Sightings of species that appear to have recently become established included two further **Pale-shouldered Cloud** (singles at Cheriton on the 8th and Hythe on the 9th), eight further **Caloptilia honoratella** (Pale Maple Slender) (including four at Cherry Garden Hill on the 17th), three **Raspberry Clearwings** (one at Sellindge on the 23rd and two at Seabrook on the 28th) and a peak of 19 **Blastobasis rebeli** (Marsh Dowd) at Folkestone Warren on the 19th.



Three-humped Prominent at Saltwood (Sean Clancy)



Dark Crimson Underwing at Folkestone Warren (Rob Lee)



Acrobasis tumidana at Folks' Wood (Rob Lee)



Raspberry Clearwing at Sellindge (Derek Smith)

More regular migrants included the first two Scarce Bordered Straws of the year (at Folkestone Warren on the 19th and Hythe on the 20th), five Bordered Straws (singles at Cheriton and Seabrook on the 2nd, Hythe on the 3rd and 19th, and Samphire Hoe on the 20th) and the first five Gypsy Moths of the year (with the first at Seabrook on the 17th). Two Delicate, three *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl), four Pearly Underwing, 11 Dark Sword-grass, 38 Silver Y, 54 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneers), 68 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) and 94 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) were also logged.

Following a series of late summer records in 2020 and 2021, three *Lobesia reliquana* (Oak Marble) were noted in July (singles at Hythe on the 27th and 30th, and at Seabrook on the 31st). This species is considered as being univoltine in Britain (flying in May to June), so perhaps these originated from a second brood further south in Europe.

A further 156 species were added to the micro moth year list, including *Pseudatemelia josephinae* (Orange-headed Tubic), *Approaerema larseniella* (White-strap Sober) and *Apotomis capreana* (Sallow Marble) at Kiln Wood and *Thiodia citrana* (Lemon Bell) at Seabrook on the 3rd, *Gypsonoma minutana* (Brindled Shoot) and *Ypsolopha dentella* (Honeysuckle Moth) at Cheriton on the 5th, *Agonopterix liturosa* (Large Purple Flat-body), *Ethmia dodecea* (Dotted Ermel), *Acompsia schmidtellus* (Marjoram Crest), *Phalonidia manniana* (Water-mint Conch), *Eupoecilia ambiguella* (Vine Moth) and *Pempeliella ornatella* (Ornate Knot-horn) at Folkestone Warren on the 6th, *Orthothelia sparganella* (Reed Fanner), *Eulamprotes wilkella* (Painted Neb) and *Apotomis lineana* (Willow Marble) at West Hythe Dam and *Aristotelia brizella* (Thrift Neb) at Hythe on the 8th, *Spilonota laricana* (Larch-bud Moth) at Cheriton on the 9th, *Ectoedemia intimella* (Black-spot Sallow Pigmy) at Seabrook and *Apodia bifractella* (Dark Fleabane Neb) at Hythe on the 10th, a tenanted leaf-mine of *Etainia sericopeza* (Norway-maple Pigmy) at Brockhill Country Park on the 11th, *Sciota adelphella* (Willow Knot-horn) at Seabrook on the 12th, *Teleiodes sequax* (Barred Groundling) at Pent Downs on the 13th, and *Epinotia solandriana* (Variable Bell) at Cheriton and *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* (Rose Plume) at Peene on the 14th.



Apotomis lineana at West Hythe Dam (Ian Roberts)



Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla at Peene (Brian Harper)

In the latter half of the month, *Yponomeuta sedella* (Grey Ermine) at Seabrook on the 16th, *Monochroa cystisella* (Bracken Neb) and *Anerastia lotella* (Sandhill Knot-horn) at Seabrook and *Calybites phasianipennella* (Little Slender) at Cherry Garden Hill on the 17th, *Eucosma conterminana* (Pale Lettuce Bell) at Cheriton, *Gelechia sororculella* (Dark-striped Groundling) at Gibbin's Brook, *Rhyacionia buoliana* (Pine Shoot Moth) at Hythe, *Gymnancyla canella* (Hoary Knot-horn) at Seabrook and *Yponomeuta irrorella* (Scarce Ermine) and *Caryocolum marmorea* (Beautiful Groundling) at Saltwood on the 18th, *Choreutis pariana* (Apple Leaf Skeletonizer) at Hythe, *Elachista biatomella* (Two-dotted Dwarf), *Ancylosis oblitella* (Saltmarsh Knot-horn) and *Pyrausta nigrata* (Wavy-barred Sable) at Folkestone Warren and *Agdistis bennetii* (Saltmarsh Plume) and *Aphomia zelleri* (Twin-spot Honey Moth) at Samphire Hoe on the 19th, *Monochroa lucidella* (Buff-marked Neb) at Hythe on the 20th, *Ptocheuusa paupella* (Light Fleabane Neb) at Seabrook on the 21st and *Clavigesta purdeyi* (Pine Leaf-mining Moth) at Seabrook and *Caloptilia populetorum* (Clouded Slender), *Agonopterix ocellana* (Red-letter Flat-body), *Hypatima rhomboidella* (Square-spot Sober), *Dichomeris alacella* (Lichen Crest) and *Ancylis laetana* (Aspen Roller) at Folks' Wood on the 22nd were particularly noteworthy.

A further 65 species were added to the macro moth year list, including Pigmy Footman at Hythe and Seabrook on the 2nd, Lunar Hornet Moth and Juniper Pug at Seabrook and Lilac Beauty and Large Emerald at Kiln Wood on the 3rd, Dark Umber at Peene and Toadflax Pug at Cheriton on the 4th, the Olive at Folkestone Warren on the 6th, the Festoon, the Magpie, Silky Wainscot and Brown-veined Wainscot at West Hythe Dam and Satin Beauty at Hythe on the 8th, Red-belted Clearwing at Sellindge on the 10th, Yarrow Pug at Seabrook on the 11th and the Blackneck at Pent Downs and Chalk Carpet at Cheriton on the 13th.



Ancylosis oblitella at Folkestone Warren (Rob Lee)



Caloptilia populetorum at Folks' Wood (Rob Lee)

The second half of the month produced Small Dotted Buff at Seabrook on the 17th, White-banded Carpet, the Wormwood and Dotted Clay at Folkestone Warren on the 19th, Little Emerald at Folks' Wood on the 22nd, Dog's Tooth at Cheriton on the 30th and Barred Rivulet there on the 31st.



The Festoon at West Hythe (Brian Harper)



Little Emerald at Folks' Wood (Rob Lee)



Silver-washed Fritillary at Folks' Wood (Tony Poole)



White Admiral at Folks' Wood (Tony Poole)

Migrant butterflies were limited to a Clouded Yellow at Pent Downs on the 29th and two at Nickolls Quarry on the 31st, but additions to the year list comprised Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral at Folks' Wood on the 3rd, Purple Hairstreak at Gibbin's Brook on the 15th and Chalk Hill Blue at Sugarloaf Hill on the 29th.

August

It remained largely warm and dry during August. Nationally it was the third warmest August for England (in a series from 1884), with southern areas furthest above average, and rainfall was again well below average, although there was a thundery breakdown mid-month after a particularly hot spell (when daytime highs locally had exceeded 30°C for several days). Overnight temperatures typically remained above 15°C and exceeded 20°C on several nights just before mid-month.

August produced another addition to the micro moth area list, when a *Pammene populana* (Pigmy Y Piercer) was trapped at Gibbin's Brook on the 3rd (and later confirmed by genitalia determination). This increased the provisional area micro list to 821 species.

Other highlights included the third area record of **Waved Black** at Gibbin's Brook on the 3rd, the fourth area record (following two in July) of *Duponchelia fovealis* (Dark Marbled Tabby) taken at light at Hythe on the 24th, the fourth area record of *Matilella fusca* (Brown Knot-horn) at Cheriton on the 12th and the sixth area (and only the third modern) record of **Star-wort** at Hythe on the 28th. The first record of **Golden-rod Pug** away from Folkestone Warren (where it is a scarce resident), taken at Cheriton on the 13th August, was also a significant sighting.



Pammene populana at Gibbin's Brook (Ian Roberts)



Waved Black at Gibbin's Brook (Ian Roberts)



Matilella fusca at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Star-wort at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Notable migrants included the tenth area record of **Porter's Rustic** at Samphire Hoe on the 15th, the second and third **Striped Hawk-moths** of the year at Hythe on the 3rd and Cheriton on the 19th, the only ***Cydia amplana*** (Vagrant Piercer) of the year at Gibbin's Brook on the 3rd, a **Dark Crimson Underwing** at Seabrook on the 8th and single ***Acrobasis tumidana*** (Scarce Oak Knot-horn) there on the 8th, 9th and 12th.

Sightings of species that appear to have recently become established included **Raspberry Clearwings** at Seabrook on the 6th (two) and at Saltwood and at Sellindge on the 7th (two) and at least 21 **Portland Ribbon Waves**, including an exceptional 12+ at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd.

More regular migrants included a Vestal at Cheriton on the 1st, single ***Palpita vitrealis*** (Olive-tree Pearl) at Hythe on the 22nd and Seabrook on the 23rd, single Delicates at Hythe on the 25th, 27th and 29th, Scarce Bordered Straws at Samphire Hoe on the 15th, Seabrook on the 18th and 19th, and Hythe on the 31st, Bordered Straws at Seabrook on the 16th and 23rd, and at Hythe on the 22nd, 23rd and 31st, and a total of nine Pearly Underwings.

An excellent total of ten Convolvulus Hawk-moths included nine at Seabrook (with the other at Cheriton), 13 Hummingbird Hawk-moths, 15 Dark Sword-grass, 41 Silver Y, 63 ***Udea ferrugalis*** (Rusty-dot Pearl), 73 ***Plutella xylostella*** (Diamond-back Moths) and 183 ***Nomophila noctuella*** (Rush Veneer) were also logged.



Porter's Rustic at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Bordered Straw at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Striped Hawk-moth at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Striped Hawk-moth at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Following the three records in late July, a further seven *Lobesia reliquana* (Oak Marble) were noted in August, including two at Seabrook on the 14th.

A further 21 species were added to the micro moth year list, including *Crociosema plebejana* (Southern Bell) at Seabrook and *Pammene corylana* (Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix) at Gibbin's Brook on the 3rd, *Eudonia truncicolella* (Ground-moss Grey) at Seabrook on the 11th, *Ancylis badiana* (Common Roller) at Cheriton on the 12th and *Plutella porrectella* (Grey-streaked Diamond-back Moth) at Saltwood on the 13th. In the latter half of the month, *Epinotia ramella* (Small Birch Bell) at Seabrook on the 19th, *Mompha propinquella* (Marbled Cosmet) at Seabrook and *Delplanqueia dilutella* (Powdered Knot-horn) at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd, *Elachista rufocinerea* (Red-brindled Dwarf) at Seabrook on the 25th, *Agriphila latistria* (White-streak Grass-veneer) at Seabrook on the 26th, *Stenoptilia zophodactylus* (Dowdy Plume) and *Plodia interpunctella* (Indian Meal Moth) at Saltwood on the 29th and mines of *Phyllocnistis saligna* (Willow Bent-wing) at Hythe on the 30th were particularly noteworthy.

A further 12 species were added to the macro moth year list: Twin-spotted Wainscot at Hythe on the 1st, Straw Underwing at Hythe on the 2nd, Orange Swift at Cheriton, Bulrush Wainscot at Gibbin's Brook and Triple-spotted Pug at Folkestone Warren on the 3rd, Cypress Pug at Cheriton on the 5th Aug, Red Underwing at Seabrook on the 16th, Six-striped Rustic and Frosted Orange at Seabrook on the 19th, Feathered Gothic there on the 25th, and Large Thorn and Centre-barred Sallow there on the 26th.

Migrant butterflies were limited to a few Painted Ladies but a Chalk Hill Blue at Folkestone Downs on the 3rd was noteworthy.

September

The first couple of days of September were fine and warm, but it soon became more unsettled and showery. By the middle of the month it was becoming cooler and, although it became drier for a few days, the latter part of the month was much more autumnal with lower temperatures and further rain. After several dry months rainfall was well above average in September.

September produced some very significant records, including the first and second area records of ***Paracorsia repandalis*** (Scarce Straw Pearl) at Samphire Hoe on the 7th and Cheriton on the 14th. *Paracorsia repandalis* is a very rare immigrant to the south coast of England from southern Europe, with around 11 previous British records and one previous county record (at Lydd-on-Sea in 2018). This increased the provisional area micro list to 822 species.



Paracorsia repandalis at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Paracorsia repandalis at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

The second area record of ***Hellula undalis*** (Old World Webworm) was trapped at Seabrook on the 8th (the previous area record occurred at Saltwood on the 27th October 2011, whilst the second area record of **Shore Wainscot** was trapped at Seabrook on the 4th (the previous area record occurred at West Hythe on the 21st July 2017).



Hellula undalis at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Shore Wainscot at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

The second to fourth area records of **the Passenger** were taken at Seabrook on the 7th and 11th, and at Hythe on the 12th (the previous area record occurred at Hythe on the 14th August 2018).



The Passenger at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

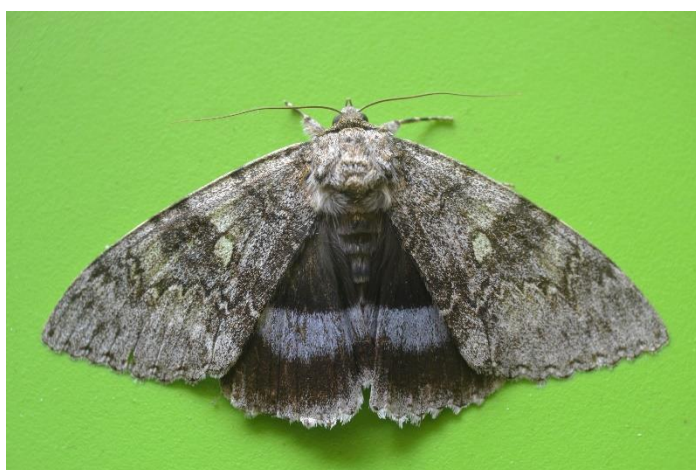


The Passenger at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

The third area record (following the second in July) of *Caloptilia hemidactylella* (Sycamore Slender) was trapped at Seabrook on the 15th, whilst the fifth area record of **Archer's Dart** was trapped at Hythe on the 13th. A **Clifden Nonpareil** taken at light at Seabrook on the 21st was only the sixth modern area record but this species has now been recorded in five consecutive years and appears to be locally established. Another moth that may also be established locally is **Porter's Rustic** as, following the sighting at Samphire Hoe in August, a total of six were trapped there on the 15th.



Archer's Dart at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Clifden Nonpareil at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Also of particular note in September were a **Beautiful Marbled** at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd, four further **Dewick's Plusias** (one at Cheriton and three at Hythe) and five more **Portland Ribbon Waves** (two at Folkestone Warren and three at Samphire Hoe).

More regular migrants included two Bordered Straw, four Vestal, four Dark Sword-grass, six Latticed Heath, seven Hummingbird Hawk-moth, nine *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl), ten Convolvulus Hawk-moth, 11 Scarce Bordered Straw, 23 Pearly Underwing, 27 Delicate, 34 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth), 50 Silver Y and very good totals of 243 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer) and 273 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl).

Scrobipalpa ocellatella (Beet Moth) is thought to be a rather localised species occurring mainly in coastal areas, and locally it has been noted at sites where its food-plant Sea Beet (*Beta maritima*) occurs, with a few records that were suspected to be migrants. There was an unprecedented influx into Britain in 2022 (with identification supported by a sample that underwent determination by genitalia examination), with many hundreds recorded in southern and western localities. Locally a few singles had been noted in July and August, but much larger numbers were logged in September, with a total of 19 across the area on the 3rd (including the first local double-figure count of 12 at Folkestone Warren) and an exceptional 47 (10 at Hythe and 37 at Seabrook) on the 15th.

There was also a significant influx of *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box-tree Moth). This species was first recorded locally in 2014, with a further single in 2015, then annual records from 2017, with steadily increasing frequency, leading to the first double-figure count in October last year (when 22 were noted at Saltwood on the 21st). Single figures had been noted locally from mid-June, with a count of ten at Hythe on the 28th August, but September saw unprecedented numbers, increasing to a peak of 94 across the area (12 at Seabrook and 82 at Hythe) on the 13th.



Porter's Rustics at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Beautiful Marbled at Samphire Hoe (James Hunter)



Scrobipalpa ocellatella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Cydalima perspectalis at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

Following the records in late July and August, a further two single *Lobesia reliquana* (Oak Marble) were noted at Hythe in early September.

A further 20 species were added to the micro moth year list, including *Agonopterix pallorella* (Pale Flat-body) and *Endothenia marginana* (Bordered Marble) at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd, *Mirificarma mulinella* (Gorse Groundling) at Hythe on the 10th and *Amblyptilia punctidactyla* (Brindled Plume) at Samphire Hoe on the 11th. All the other additions related to leaf miners, with *Bucculatrix cidarella* (Alder Bent-wing) and *Heliozela resplendella* (Alder Lift) at Cock Ash Lake on the 16th, *Bucculatrix albedinella* (Elm Bent-wing) at Hythe on the 19th, *Ectoedemia occultella* (Large Birch Pigmy) at Folks' Wood on the 25th, five species of *Phyllonorycter* and seven species of *Stigmella*.

A further 17 species were added to the macro moth year list, including the Annulet and Hedge Rustic at Samphire Hoe on the 2nd, Brown-spot Pinion there on the 11th, Brindled Green at Cheriton on the 14th, Feathered Brindle at Hythe on the 19th, Orange Sallow at Seabrook and Deep-brown Dart at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd and Dusky-lemon Sallow at Cheriton on the 23rd.

Migrant butterflies included a total of five Clouded Yellows, with two at Hythe Ranges on the 3rd, singles at Folkestone and Seabrook on the 11th, and one at Samphire Hoe on the 21st.



Bucculatrix albedinella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Ectoedemia occultella at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)



Phyllonorycter froelichiella at Cock Ash Lake (Ian Roberts)



Stigmella continuella at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)

October

The first week of the month was warm, but rather unsettled at times. Temperatures were lower during the second week, especially by night, with a few drier days. The second half of the October became increasingly unsettled, but it remained very mild, with a mix of sunny periods and rain. There was a particularly productive spell in the last week of the month when winds from North Africa raised overnight temperatures to over 15°C. It was provisionally England's equal fourth warmest October (in a series from 1884), with maximum temperatures for the month nearly 3°C above average in parts of the south-east.

There were two additions to area list in October, with both being noted on the 20th. During the day examination of a fig tree at Mill Point revealed feeding signs of *Choreutis nemorana* (Fig-leaf Skeletonizer) at Mill Point, whilst a **Flame Brocade** was attracted to light that evening at Samphire Hoe.

Choreutis nemorana was first recorded in the UK at Hyde Park in London in 2014 and has since spread to Kent and East Anglia (with the first records in 2021). Flame Brocade was formerly resident in Sussex before becoming extinct there in the late nineteenth century, since when it was only recorded as an immigrant (mainly in south-western England), but recently appears to have become established in Dorset. There are several Kent records, mainly from the Dungeness peninsula. These additions increased the provisional micro list to 823 species and the macro list to 641 species.



Choreutis nemorana feeding signs at Mill Point
(Ian Roberts)



Flame Brocade at Samphire Hoe
(Tony Rouse)

Other rarities included the second area record of the scarce migrant **Purple Marbled** at Cheriton on the 28th (following the first at Samphire Hoe in October 2006), the fourth area record of *Ocnerostoma friesei* (Grey Pine Ermel) at Seabrook on the 28th (following two at Saltwood in October 2014 and one at Seabrook in April 2017) and the fourth modern area record of **September Thorn** at Seabrook on the 12th (following one at Seabrook and two at Saltwood last year).



Purple Marbled at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



September Thorn at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

One of the highlights of year was an exceptional influx of **Crimson Speckled** in October, with singles attracted to light at Samphire Hoe on the 20th and 22nd, and at Folkestone on the 25th, and found by day at Fisherman's Beach (Hythe) and Folkestone on the 29th. This species was recorded with some regularity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, with 20 records between 1874 and 1903, but there were just three more in the rest of the twentieth century, and then singles at Samphire Hoe in 2006 and Saltwood in 2013.

A *Tebenna micalis* (Vagrant Twitcher) at Hythe on the 29th was the eighth area record (and followed three sightings last year), whilst a **Dotted Chestnut** at Samphire Hoe on the 28th was the ninth area record (and followed one in March).



Crimson Speckled at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Crimson Speckled at Folkestone (Phil Smith)

Single **Blair's Mochas** at Samphire Hoe on the 20th, 28th and 29th were the 12th to 14th area records, whilst three **Radford's Flame Shoulders** were trapped there during the month and this species now appears to be established at this site.



Tebenna micalis at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Species at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)

Also of particular note in October were two further **Dewick's Plusias** (singles at Hythe on the 12th and Seabrook on the 1st), a further **Porter's Rustic** at Samphire Hoe on the 16th and 22nd and a very late (and possibly immigrant) Miller at Samphire Hoe on the 16th.

More regular migrants included the first Small Mottled Willows of the year at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd and 29th, Convolvulus Hawk-moths at Folkestone on the 28th and Hythe on the 29th, two Hummingbird Hawk-moths and four Gems. Some species were met with in excellent numbers, with totals of 19 Vestals, 60 Scarce Bordered Straws, 77 *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl), 242 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) and 674 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneers) but others were comparatively scarce, with just four Dark Sword-grass, ten *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth), 12 Delicates and 22 Silver Ys.

Peak counts included totals of 21 *Palpita vitrealis* (one at Seabrook and 10 at both Hythe and Samphire Hoe) on the 22nd, 41 *Udea ferrugalis* (4 at Seabrook, 17 at Hythe and 20 at Samphire Hoe) on the 22nd and 212 *Nomophila noctuella* (92 at Hythe and 120 at Samphire Hoe on the 20th).

A further 8 species were added to the micro moth year list, all of which were leaf-miners, including *Stigmella trimaculella* (Black-poplar Pigmy) at Dollands Moor on the 6th, *Ectoedemia erythrogenella* (Coast Bramble Pigmy) and *Stigmella suberivora* (Holm-Oak Pigmy) at Fisherman's Beach (Hythe) on the 11th and *Phyllonorycter lantanella* (Viburnum Midget) and *Antispila petryi* (Yellow-spot Lift) at Folkestone Warren on the 12th.

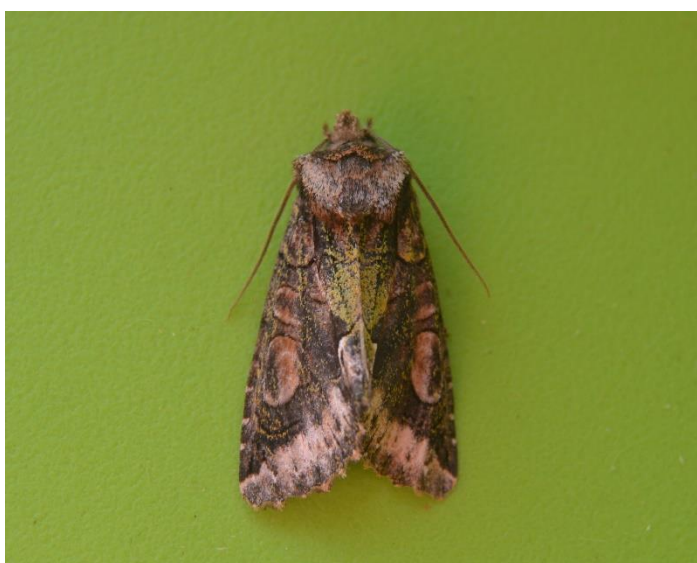
A further 14 species were added to the macro moth year list, including Large Ranunculus at Saltwood on the 1st, Pink-barred Sallow at Seabrook on the 2nd, Feathered Thorn there on the 5th, Blair's Shoulder-knot at Hythe on the 11th, Green-brindled Crescent at Samphire Hoe on the 12th, Merveille du Jour at Cheriton and Samphire Hoe on the 17th, the Mallow at Samphire Hoe on the 20th, Oak Rustic at Cheriton on the 21st, the Streak at Seabrook on the 22nd, Yellow-line Quaker at Cheriton on the 25th, December Moth at Samphire Hoe on the 28th and Scarce Umber at Seabrook on the 29th.



The Miller at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Merveille du Jour at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Green-brindled Crescent at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



The Streak at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Despite the large arrival of migrant moths, there was very little butterfly activity, with just a late Painted Lady at Abbotscliffe on the 29th being of note.

November

The first half of November was very mild and unsettled, although it did become drier for a time towards mid-month. It was unsettled again for most of the second half, with temperatures nearer normal, though it became drier and colder at the end of the month. Overall, it was provisionally England's equal fourth warmest November (in a series from 1884), with the south-east seeing the mildest temperatures, but also wet, with rainfall about twice the long-term average amount in Kent.

With mild weather in the first half of the month, a small amount of immigration continued. The highlights were single Small Mottled Willows at Hythe on the 7th, 9th and 11th, a Vestal at Seabrook and a Pearly Underwing at Saltwood on the 12th, and single Gems at Cheriton and Saltwood on the 13th and Hythe the following night.

Totals of five *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl), seven *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth), 11 Silver Ys, 19 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer) and 113 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearls) were also logged.

The only addition to the year list was a Sprawler at Seabrook on the 11th.

The only butterfly of note was a Clouded Yellow at Samphire Hoe on the 4th.



The Sprawler at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



December Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

December

The first half of the month was settled and relatively cold, with sunshine at times and little rain, and some frosts. After mid-month milder air dominated and brought more regular rainfall.

There were no additions to the moth year lists in December and very little of note was recorded. At least two Bloxworth Snouts were wintering in a garden in Hythe and the first Winter Moth of the season was attracted to a lighted window at Cheriton on the 22nd. No butterflies were noted in the month.

Year List Totals

Overall the total of 1,044 species recorded was the second highest to date (exceeded only in 2019, when 1,049 were noted), whilst the total of 493 macros is the highest ever.

Provisional Folkestone and Hythe Moth List

Additions to the provisional Folkestone and Hythe Moth List in 2022 were as follows:

Micros:

- 813. *Pammene argyrana* (Black-bordered Piercer) - Spring Lane - 2nd May
- 814. *Pammene ignorata* (Devon Piercer) - Seabrook - 17th May
- 815. *Agonopterix curvipunctosa* (Powdered Flat-body) - Saltwood - 18th May
- 816. *Gelchia muscosella* (Grey Sallow Groundling) - Spring Lane Cemetery - 23rd June
- 817. *Eudemis porphyra* (Apple Marble) - Folkestone Warren - 6th July
- 818. *Elachista maculicerusella* (Triple-spot Dwarf) - Seabrook - 12th July
- 819. *Sciota rhenella* (New Poplar Knot-horn) - Gibbin's Brook - 20th July
- 820. *Scrobipalpa salicorniae* (Sea-aster Groundling) - Samphire Hoe - 30th July
- 821. *Pammene populana* (Pigmy Y Piercer) - Gibbin's Brook - 3rd August
- 822. *Paracorsia repandalis* (Scarce Straw Pearl) - Samphire Hoe - 7th September
- 823. *Choreutis nemorana* (Fig-leaf Skeletonizer) - Mill Point - 20th October

Macros:

- 637. Frosted Green - Folks' Wood - 14th April
- 638. Pinion-spotted Pug - Seabrook - 29th April
- 639. Alder Kitten - Hythe - 17th June
- 640. Orache Moth - Hythe - 18th July
- 641. Flame Brocade - Samphire Hoe - 20th October

Ongoing research for the provisional Folkestone and Hythe Moth List in 2022 revealed an occurrence of *Phylloporia bistrigella* (Striped Leaf-cutter) in the Sellindge area (TR13 E) sometime between 1950 and 2000 (further details are awaited) and this has retrospectively been added to the micro moth list.

Following a review of records, *Anarsia lineatella* (Peach-twigg Borer) has been removed from the area list. In 2017 a paper was published introducing *Anarsia innoxella* (Acer Sober) as a species new to science, separated from *A. lineatella*. Earlier local records had been attributed to *A. lineatella* but it appears that this species is generally only encountered in imported fruit, whilst specimens attracted to light since have all referred to *A. innoxella* so it would appear that earlier records had been misattributed (ukmoths no date).

The full list of species recorded at Folkestone and Hythe in 2022 and earlier years is available at:

www.folkestonebirds.com/moth-list

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Atropos 2022. Migrant Moth Totals. www.atropos.info/flight-arrivals/moth-migration/

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ukmoths no date. www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/anarsia-innoxella/ and www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/anarsia-lineatella/

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to David Shenton for undertaking the genitalia determinations of *Aproaerema larseniella*, *Gelechia muscosella*, *Scrobipalpa salicorniae*, *Dichrorampha sedatana*, *Pammene ignorata*, *Pammene populana*, the worn Banded Pine Carpet and Chamomile Shark. I am also very grateful to all the observers that have contributed records and photographs, particularly Sean Clancy, Dave Clarke, Steve Cutt, Alfie Gay, Chris Gillard, Brian Harper, Cathy Hearsey, Paul Holt, Paul Howe, Owen Leyshon, Sam & Vincent Lloyd, Jon Marshall, Nate Moss, Ross Newham, Tony Poole, Debbie Reynolds, Phil Sharp, Phil Smith and John Tomlinson.

Summary tables

Migrant micro moths	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	0	0	0	1	20	53	94	73	34	10	7	0	292	579	314	1,630	1,150	151
<i>Cydia amplana</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	78	0	17	15	2
<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	0	0	0	3	12	6	68	63	273	242	113	0	780	322	279	230	23	183
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	9	77	5	0	97	61	107	21	65	44
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	0	0	0	0	1	6	54	183	243	674	19	0	1,180	19	36	24	24	81
Total	0	0	0	4	33	66	219	322	559	1,003	144	0	2,350	1,059	776	1,943	1,304	472

Figure 1: Regular migrant micro moths in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2022

Migrant macro moths	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Convolvulus Hawk-moth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	2	0	0	22	2	4	10	5	1
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	13	7	2	0	0	32	10	44	22	5	17
The Vestal	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	4	19	1	0	29	1	4	2	7	20
The Gem	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	0	7	21	2	2	6	2
Golden Twin-spot	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	86	27	6	1
Silver Y	1	0	2	2	21	46	38	41	50	22	11	0	234	1,031	944	534	1,097	318
Bordered Straw	0	0	0	0	4	9	5	5	2	0	0	0	24	1	1	3	1	3
Scarce Bordered Straw	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	11	60	0	0	77	13	11	30	5	101
Small Mottled Willow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	5	0	0	3	3	3
The Delicate	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	27	12	0	0	45	105	36	77	59	37
White-speck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Pearly Underwing	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	9	23	1	1	0	42	2	4	6	3	20
Dark Sword-grass	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	15	4	4	0	0	35	42	41	26	76	84
Total	1	0	2	2	27	75	62	101	138	128	19	0	555	1,229	1,191	819	1,553	751

Figure 2: Regular migrant macro moths in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2022

Total species	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Total area list
Micro	551	439	519	571	480	475	325	337	309	290	256	823
Macro	493	462	459	478	461	453	399	418	388	371	338	641
Total	1,044	901	978	1,049	941	928	724	755	697	661	594	1,464

Figure 3: Total moth species recorded in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2022

First butterfly dates	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Swallowtail	-	-	30-May	-	-	-	-	-	24-Apr	-	-
Dingy Skipper	9-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	16-Apr	01-May	08-Apr	19-Apr	21-Apr	01-Apr	26-May	30-Apr
Grizzled Skipper	-	-	-	30-May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Essex Skipper	25-Jun	20-Jul	29-Jul	13-Jul	26-Jun	27-Jun	-	07-Jul	28-Jul	16-Jul	-
Small Skipper	11-Jun	24-Jun	14-Jun	11-Jul	22-Jun	17-Jun	28-Jun	25-Jun	21-Jun	22-Jul	03-Jul
Silver-spotted Skipper	-	12-Aug	-	15-Aug	06-Aug	15-Aug	15-Aug	-	-	02-Sep	17-Aug
Large Skipper	14-May	13-Jun	27-May	01-Jun	06-Jun	29-May	27-May	05-Jun	20-May	25-Jun	19-Jun
Orange Tip	03-Apr	09-Apr	26-Mar	01-Apr	16-Apr	30-Mar	02-May	13-Apr	05-Apr	28-Apr	13-May
Large White	18-Mar	18-Apr	05-Apr	27-Mar	18-Apr	05-Apr	12-Apr	13-Apr	08-Apr	03-May	22-Mar
Small White	22-Mar	30-Mar	06-Mar	23-Feb	10-Apr	24-Mar	15-Mar	17-Mar	08-Mar	03-May	24-Mar
Green-veined White	18-Mar	30-Mar	07-Apr	24-Mar	06-Apr	31-Mar	28-Apr	07-Apr	11-Apr	07-May	22-Mar
Clouded Yellow	05-Apr	24-Apr	20-Jul	18-Mar	17-Apr	19-Apr	11-Apr	28-Apr	11-Apr	25-Jun	-
Brimstone	12-Mar	26-Feb	27-Mar	23-Feb	14-Mar	25-Mar	25-Mar	17-Mar	09-Mar	14-Apr	Spring
Wall	09-Apr	24-Apr	22-Apr	16-Apr	01-May	11-Apr	28-Apr	24-Apr	17-Apr	12-May	30-Apr
Speckled Wood	18-Mar	16-Apr	06-Apr	10-Apr	20-Apr	05-Apr	08-Apr	10-Apr	01-Apr	05-May	28-Mar
Small Heath	15-Apr	27-Apr	23-Apr	03-May	15-May	07-Apr	07-May	13-May	22-Apr	26-May	12-May
Ringlet	13-Jun	17-Jun	22-Jun	11-Jul	23-Jun	17-Jun	04-Jul	29-Jun	15-Jun	06-Aug	26-Jun
Meadow Brown	02-Jun	18-May	30-May	30-May	17-Jun	10-Jun	26-May	20-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jul	20-Jun
Gatekeeper	06-Jul	16-Jul	21-Jul	11-Jul	10-Jul	04-Jul	08-Jun	07-Jul	28-Jun	15-Jul	24-Jul
Marbled White	11-Jun	23-Jun	04-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	16-Jun	03-Jul	25-Jun	06-Jun	22-Jul	26-Jun
Grayling	-	-	17-Aug	-	08-Aug	-	-	-	10-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug
Silver-washed Fritillary	03-Jul	05-Jul	24-Jun	17-Jul	22-Jun	16-Jun	20-Jul	11-Jul	-	-	-
Dark Green Fritillary	-	-	-	-	-	09-Jun	-	-	07-Jul	-	-
White Admiral	03-Jul	05-Jul	24-Jun	-	22-Jun	17-Jun	03-Jul	11-Jul	-	-	-
Red Admiral	17-Jan	07-May	04-Feb	01-Jan	25-May	11-Apr	08-May	04-Mar	16-Mar	05-May	11-Jan
Painted Lady	17-May	09-May	23-Apr	11-Jun	16-Apr	02-Apr	04-Jun	02-Apr	08-Jun	28-Apr	24-May
Peacock	01-Jan	20-Feb	08-Feb	23-Feb	11-Jan	14-Feb	13-Mar	01-Jan	04-Mar	14-Mar	24-Feb
Small Tortoiseshell	01-Jan	20-Feb	10-Jan	25-Feb	14-Mar	09-Jan	11-Mar	27-Feb	02-Jan	06-Mar	01-Mar
Comma	01-Feb	19-Mar	24-Mar	23-Feb	06-Apr	09-Mar	25-Jan	17-Mar	05-Mar	05-Mar	01-Mar
Small Copper	23-Mar	25-Mar	06-Apr	26-Mar	04-May	02-Apr	11-Apr	27-Apr	03-Jul	01-May	22-May
Purple Hairstreak	15-Jul	-	-	-	23-Jun	-	-	-	-	-	17-Aug
Green Hairstreak	24-Apr	15-Apr	11-Apr	16-Apr	19-Apr	11-Apr	28-Apr	04-May	11-Apr	16-May	29-May
White-letter Hairstreak	-	20-Jul	-	25-Jun	23-Jul	14-Jun	15-Jul	03-Jul	-	12-Aug	-
Long-tailed Blue	-	-	14-Sep	15-Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Blue	19-Apr	18-May	17-May	18-May	13-May	11-May	17-May	25-May	17-May	15-Jun	28-May
Holly Blue	21-Mar	09-May	04-Apr	18-Apr	20-Apr	30-Mar	18-Apr	09-Apr	13-Apr	03-May	29-Mar
Brown Argus	14-May	11-May	31-May	06-May	25-May	13-Jul	17-Aug	-	18-May	01-Sep	05-Jun
Common Blue	26-Apr	06-May	24-Apr	18-May	15-May	11-May	06-May	13-May	05-May	05-May	22-May
Adonis Blue	24-Apr	13-May	26-Apr	01-May	08-May	27-Apr	17-May	08-May	13-May	18-Jun	23-May
Chalk Hill Blue	29-Jul	24-Jul	29-Jul	26-Jul	23-Jul	01-Aug	01-Aug	11-Sep	-	27-Jul	09-Aug

Figure 4: First dates for butterflies at Folkestone and Hythe in 2022