

# Wren

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Category A

Breeding resident and passage migrant.

Breeds across most of Europe east to south-east Russia. Many in the southern parts of the range are sedentary but more northern populations are migratory, either on a north-south axis or altitudinally (Snow & Perrins, 1998).

In Kent it is an abundant resident and a passage migrant in small numbers (KOS, 2020).



Wren at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

## Breeding distribution

Figure 1 shows the breeding distribution by tetrad based on the results of the 2007-13 BTO/KOS atlas fieldwork.

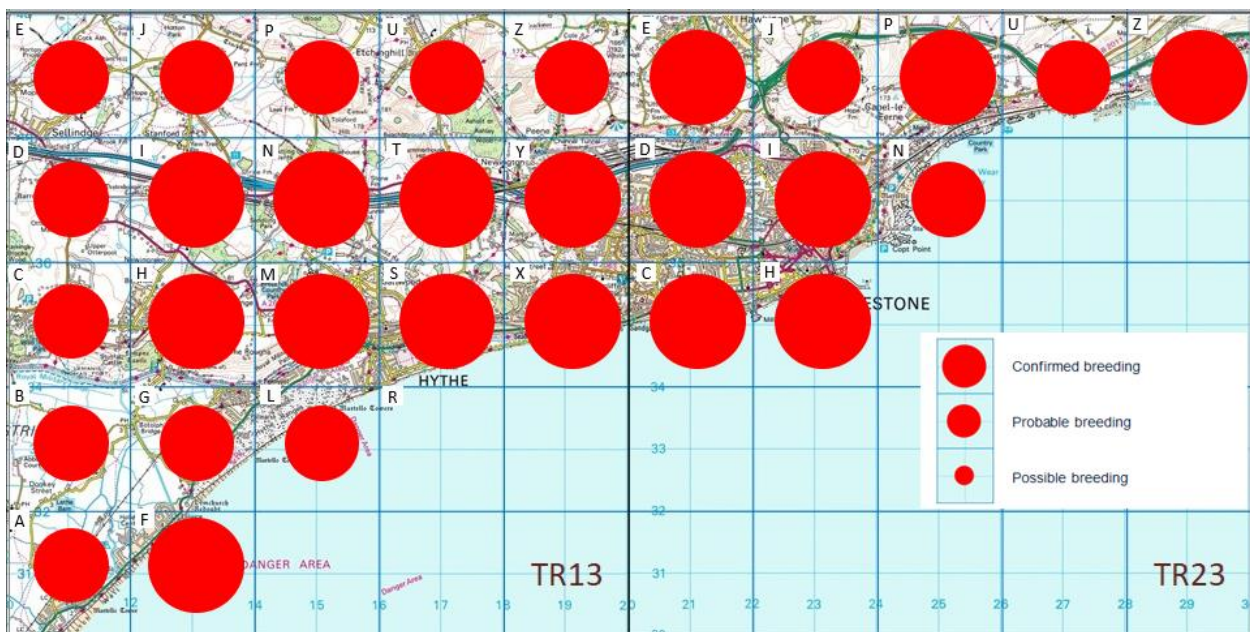


Figure 1: Breeding distribution of Wren at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad (2007-13 BTO/KOS Atlas)

Breeding was confirmed in 16 tetrads, with probable breeding in 14 more. The table below shows how this compares to previous atlases (Taylor *et al* 1981, Henderson & Hodge 1998). The confirmed and probable breeding categories have been combined to account for differing definitions of these in the first atlas.

Breeding atlases	1967 - 1973		1988 - 1994		2007 - 2013	
Possible	0	(0%)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)
Probable/Confirmed	28	(90%)	30	(97%)	30	(97%)
Total	28	(90%)	30	(97%)	30	(97%)

The Wren is probably the most numerous species in Britain and Clements *et al* (2015) considered it was also the most likely candidate for that title in Kent. It is able to find nest-sites in most habitats. Severe winters have caused dramatic crashes in some years, but producing two broods a year allows the population to recover rapidly. The long sequence of mild winters over the last 25 years may have allowed numbers to stabilise.

## Non-breeding distribution

Figure 2 shows the distribution of all records of Wren by tetrad, with records in 30 tetrads (97%).

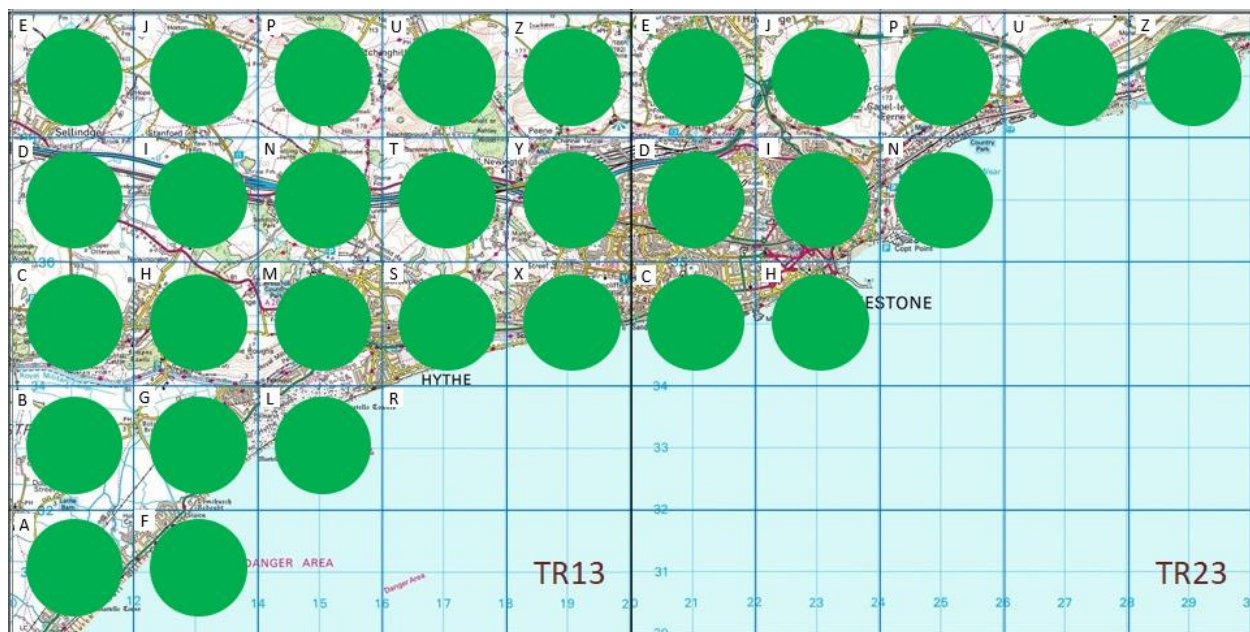


Figure 2: Distribution of all Wren records at Folkestone and Hythe by tetrad

An increase in numbers may be noted in autumn, mainly at coastal sites between September and November, with double-figure counts noted on a few occasions:

- 16 at Mill Point on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1988
- 20 at the cliffs (10 at Abbotscliffe and 10 at Capel Battery) on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1992
- 15 at Abbotscliffe on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2002
- 11 at Nickolls Quarry on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2002
- 12 at Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2003
- 10 at Nickolls Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007
- 10 at Samphire Hoe on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- 15 at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016



Wren at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



Wren at Seabrook (Brian Harper)



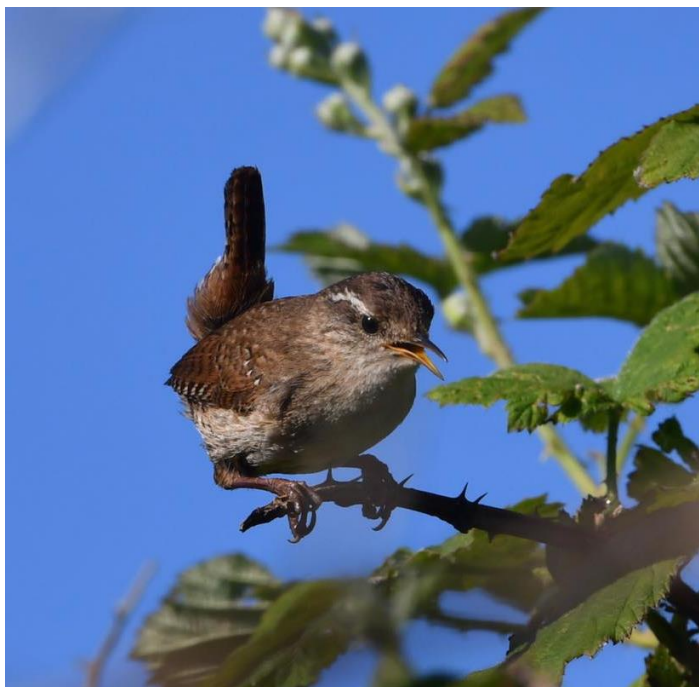
Taylor et al (1981) noted that the return spring passage is comparatively small and it is generally imperceptible locally.



Wren at West Hythe (Brian Harper)



Wren at West Hythe (Brian Harper)



Wren at Princes Parade (Nigel Webster)



Wren at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

### References

Clements, R., Orchard, M., McCanch, N. & Wood, S. 2015. *Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 2008-13*. Kent Ornithological Society

Henderson, A. & Hodge, T. 1998. The Kent Breeding Bird Atlas 1988-94. *Kent Bird Report* 1996: 134-272.

Kent Bird Reports. Kent Ornithological Society

Snow, D. & Perrins, C.M., 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Oxford University Press.

**Acknowledgements**

The tetrad map images were produced from the Ordnance Survey [Get-a-map service](#) and are reproduced with kind permission of [Ordnance Survey](#).



Wren at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Wren at Samphire Hoe (Martin Collins)



Wren at Nickolls Quarry (Brian Harper)