

## Review of 2012 non-avian records



### Moths

The clear highlight of the non-avian year was the capture of a ***Pyrausta aerealis*** at the disused sandstone quarry at Dibgate on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June – a new species for Britain. The discovery was made during a National Moth Night survey, the theme of which was brownfield sites.

The origin of this specimen is open to speculation. There was no immigrant activity at the time and catches elsewhere that night were disappointing. Arrival via the Channel Tunnel terminus is a possibility, as is the existence of an over-looked resident colony and return visits will be carried out in 2013 to search for the species. A full account of the find is given in *Atropos* 47: 62-63.

Other highlights amongst the micro moths included an ***Anarsia lineatella*** (Peach Twig Borer) at Saltwood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and a series of records of ***Metalampra italica*** there.

*Anarsia lineatella* is considered a pest species on the continent due to the larval habit of feeding on such fruit as plums and peaches, and in the British Isles it has generally been encountered when it has been reared from imported fruit, although there have been several records attracted to light in the south of England, and it now appears to be breeding in the wild in Sussex. Around the time of the Saltwood individual there were several recorded on Thanet and it is quite possible it was an immigrant.

A total of 17 *Metalampra italica* were taken at Saltwood between the 10<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and the insect appears to be established there following the records last year.

Other highlights included notable influxes of ***Cydia amplana*** and ***Yponomeuta rorella*** (Willow Ermine). A total of 23 ***Cydia amplana*** were trapped between the 8<sup>th</sup> August and the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with the majority (22) at Saltwood and just one at Hythe, and a peak of six on the 17<sup>th</sup> August.

The influx of ***Yponomeuta rorella*** (Willow Ermine) between the 24<sup>th</sup> July and the 23<sup>rd</sup> August was more evenly spread, with 27 at Saltwood and 19 at Hythe. The bulk of the records were in late July, including a peak of 15 (10 at Hythe and 5 at Saltwood) on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

There was an exceptional total of 8 ***Evergestis limbata***, 5 at Saltwood and 3 at Hythe, between the 7<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August, an indication perhaps that it might be becoming locally established.



*Pyrausta aerealis* at Dibgate Quarry (Tony Steele)



*Metalampra italica* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



*Cydia amplana* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



*Yponomeuta rorella* at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



*Evergestis limbata* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A summary of the regular migrant moths recorded in 2012 is provided as figure 1:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>P. xylostella</i>					41	6	78	73	16	8	10		222
<i>U. ferrugalis</i>			1					1	6	1			9
<i>N. noctuella</i>					4		3	57	19	10			93
<i>P. vitrealis</i>									2	1			3
Vestal									1				1
Humming-bird H-m.			2				2		3				7
Dark Sword-grass			1				1	2	2	6	1		12
Pearly Underwing										2			2
Delicate									1	1			2
Scarce Bord. Straw										2			2
Bordered Straw							1						1
Silver Y					9	24	84	88	109	24	4		338
Total			4		54	30	169	221	159	55	14		692

Figure 1: regular migrant moths at Folkestone and Hythe in 2012

The total of three *Palpita vitrealis* was notable – singles at Hythe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Saltwood on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and Hythe again on the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

A notably early *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) was at Folkestone Warren on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, but there were only another 8 records (all in the autumn, between the 21<sup>st</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> October, with 7 at Saltwood) which was well down on last year's total of 111.

In contrast the totals of 93 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer) and 221 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) were a significant improvement on the 6 and 41 recorded in 2011.

The first *Nomophila noctuella* was at Samphire Hoe on the 1<sup>st</sup> May with a further 4 in May, and later in the year it was recorded between the 15<sup>th</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> October, with the bulk in August, including a peak of 11 at Saltwood on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The vast majority (89%) were at Saltwood, with a few scattered records from Abbotscliffe, Hythe, Samphire Hoe and Seabrook.



*Palpita vitrealis* Hythe (Ian Roberts)



The first *Plutella xylostella* was at Saltwood on the 19<sup>th</sup> May and it was noted daily until the end of the month, including a total of 11 (10 at Saltwood and 1 at Hythe) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but there were very few in June.

There were regular records again from the 5<sup>th</sup> July, with the bulk occurring in July and August, including an impressive peak of 44 at Saltwood on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. Occurrences continued until the 20<sup>th</sup> November, including one of the melanic form at Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Singles of *Crociosema plebejana* at Saltwood on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and the 8<sup>th</sup> November were possibly immigrants, and occurred on nights of migrant activity.

Amongst the resident species there were a number of interesting and notable records. Single *Stigmella aurella* were at Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August and two *Incurvaria oehlmanniella* were trapped there on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, with an *Adela rufimitrella* at Seabrook on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

A *Morophaga choragella* was at Saltwood on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, with a *Psychoides filicivora* there on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, singles of *Nemapogon clematella* there on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and on two dates in August, and a *Triaxomera parasitella* on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. A *Monopis laevigella* (Skin Moth) was at Saltwood on the 31<sup>st</sup> July and a *Tinea pellionella* (Case-bearing Clothes Moth) was at Hythe on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, whilst a single *Bedellia somnulentella* was trapped at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The *Caloptilia* species were represented at Saltwood by a *robustella* on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, 3 *falconipennella* on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, *betulicola* on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March (2) and the 1<sup>st</sup> September, singles of *alchimiella* on four dates, *azaleella* (Azalea Leaf Miner) and *elongella* on five dates, *semifascia* on six dates, and regular *syringella*.

Other *Gracillariidae*, also at Saltwood, included singles of *Aspilapteryx tringipennella* on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, *Parornix anglicella* on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, and *Parornix finitimella* on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, and single *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Firethorn Leaf Miner) on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, *Phyllonorycter trifasciella* on 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, and *Cameraria ohridella* (Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner) on the 7<sup>th</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> September, with one of the latter species at Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> August.

A single *Choreutis pariana* (Apple Leaf Skeletonizer) at Saltwood on the 25<sup>th</sup> July was also of note. Nine species of *Argyresthia* were recorded, with an *albistria* at Saltwood on the 28<sup>th</sup> August and singles of *semifusca* there on the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> May probably the most noteworthy.



*Nomophila noctuella* at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)



*Nemapogon clematella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



*Choreutis pariana* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

*Yponomeuta malinellus* (Apple Ermine) was regularly trapped at Saltwood and there were singles there of *Y. sedella* on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, *Y. padella* (Orchard Ermine) on the 27<sup>th</sup> July and *Y. cagnagella* (Spindle Ermine) on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.



*Yponomeuta sedella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

Single *Zelleria hepariella* at Saltwood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the 28<sup>th</sup> July were notable, as were *Ypsolopha ustella* there on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January, *Y. sequella* on the 19<sup>th</sup> August and *Plutella porrectella* on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. An *Acrolepiopsis assectella* (Leek Moth) was at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> August and mines of *Acrolepia autumnitella* were found there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Single *Epermenia chaerophyllella* were at Hythe on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> July and Hythe again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, whilst the *Coleophoridae* were represented by individuals of *Coleophora albitarsella* and *C. striatipennella* both at Saltwood on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. There were two *Elachista canapennella* at this latter site on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and a moth of this genus there on the 25<sup>th</sup> May was considered to be an *E. freyerella*.



*Bisigna procerella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

Five specimens of the stunning and rather localised *Bisigna procerella* were trapped at Saltwood between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July.

There were single *Borkhausenia fuscescens* at Saltwood on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and Hythe on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, and eight *Esperia sulphurella* trapped between the 7<sup>th</sup> May and the 5<sup>th</sup> June, the majority at the former locality.

Two *Tachystola acroxantha* were taken at Hythe on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, with further captures there on three dates in July and on the 27<sup>th</sup> August and the 4<sup>th</sup> September, and it appears that this adventive, probably antipodean species is locally established.



*Esperia sulphurella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A *Diurnea lipsiella* at Saltwood on the 13<sup>th</sup> November was a notable record, and a *Depressaria pastinacella* (Parsnip Moth) was trapped there at Saltwood on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, with a *D. daucella* on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

The *Agonopterix* species were represented by single *A. purpurea* at Saltwood on the 10<sup>th</sup> May and *A. nervosa* there on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, three *A. yeatiana* at the same site (on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, the 19<sup>th</sup> June and the 25<sup>th</sup> July), and more regular *A. arenella* and *A. heracliana*.

The attractive and localised *Ethmia bipunctella* was trapped at Hythe on the 19<sup>th</sup> May and Saltwood on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and the 18<sup>th</sup> August. *Metzneria lappella* at Hythe on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and Saltwood on the 19<sup>th</sup> July were notable as were singles of *Recurvaria leucatella* at the latter site on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The *Bryotropha* were represented by singles of *B. senectella* at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and at Saltwood on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, single *B. desertella* at the latter site on three dates in late July, and three *B. affinis* and 7 *B. terrella* all in late July or early August at Saltwood.





*Agonopterix yeatiana* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



*Tachystola acroxantha* at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

A single example of the Red Data Book species *Neofriseria peliella* was taken at Saltwood on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, whilst a total of 17 of the localised *Pexicopia malvella* (Hollyhock Seed Moth) were trapped at Hythe on 11 dates in July.



*Ethmia bipunctella* at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



*Dichomeris marginella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

*Dichomeris marginella* (Juniper Webber) was trapped at Saltwood on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> July, and single *Helcystogramma rufescens* were at Hythe on the 27<sup>th</sup> July and Saltwood on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. A *Mompha ochracella* was trapped at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and a *Limnaecia phragmitella* was at Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> August.

At Saltwood there were singles of *Gynnidomorpha alismiana* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, *Cochylimorpha straminea* on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, *Aethes cnicana* on the 24<sup>th</sup> July and *Aethes rubigana* the following night.

Other notable *Tortricidae* included single records at Saltwood of *Acleris notana* on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, *Syndemis musculana* on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, *Gypsonoma sociana* on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, *Ancylis achatana* on the 15<sup>th</sup> July, *Spilonota laricana* on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, *Dichrorampha petiverella* on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, *Epagoge grotiana* on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, *Pammene aurita* on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, *Epinotia solandriana* on the 13<sup>th</sup> August, *Ptycholomoides aeriferanus* on the 18<sup>th</sup> August and *Cydia ulicetana* on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Elsewhere there were singles of *Epinotia bilunana*, *Epinotia demarniana*, *Notocelia roborana* and *Cydia fagiglandana* at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, whilst at Hythe a *Notocelia rosaecolana* on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, a *Rhyacionia buoliana* (Pine Shoot Moth) on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, an *Epinotia brunnichana* on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, a *Celypha cespitana* on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and an *Acleris laterana* on the 14<sup>th</sup> September were of note.

Also of note were single *Acleris kochiella* at Saltwood in January and July, two *Eucosma hohenwartiana* there on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, two *Eucosma conterminana* there in July and single *Pandemis cinnamomeana* there in July and August. There were three records each at Saltwood of *Cnephasia longana* (Hawthorn Moth) in July and August, *Acleris holmiana* in July and August, *Zeiraphera isertana* in July and August, *Acleris aspersana* in August, *Acleris ferrugana* (one in July and two in November) and *Acleris emargana* in September.

There were four *Acleris comariana* (Strawberry Tortrix) at Saltwood in late July and early August, four records of *Cochylis molliculana* (two at Saltwood in July and two at Hythe in August) and four *Epinotia ramella* at the former site in August and September.

Totals of five *Dichrorampha acuminatana* at Saltwood (3 in May, 2 in September), seven *Acleris literana* (5 in January to March, and 3 in August; 2 of which were at Hythe and 5 at Saltwood), and eight *Acleris cristana* at Saltwood in late February and March were also noteworthy.

The most common moth recorded in 2012 was the tortrix *Epiphyas postvittana* (Light Brown Apple Moth), with a total of 3,035 recorded.

Records of most note within the *Pyrilidae* included a *Calamotropha paludella* at Saltwood on the 7<sup>th</sup> August, a *Platytes alpinella* there on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, singles of *P. cerussella* there on the 19<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and two *Catoptria pinella* at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June with another at Saltwood on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

An example of *Scoparia basistrigalis* was trapped at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June with an *S. subfusca* Saltwood on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, and the latter site also produced three *S. pyralella* between late May and early July, a *Eudonia pallida* on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, a *Dipleurina lacustrata* on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and two *Eudonia truncicolella* in late July.

Only two *Evergestis extimalis* were recorded in 2012, singles at Saltwood on the 18<sup>th</sup> August and Hythe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, with the same total of *Ostrinia nubilalis* (European Corn Borer), singles at Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August.

There were three *Synaphe punctalis* noted, two at Hythe in July and one at Saltwood in August. Six *Pyrallis farinalis* (Meal Moth) were trapped between mid-June and mid-October, with two at Hythe and four at Saltwood, whilst there was a good total of 32 *Aglossa pinguinalis* (Large Tabby) at the latter site between 7<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August. Four *Galleria mellonella* (Wax Moth) at Saltwood in August and early September were also of note.



*Dichrorampha acuminatana* at Saltwood  
(Paul Howe)



*Acleris cristana* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



*Dioryctria sylvestrella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



A *Cryptoblabes bistriga* at Saltwood on the 4<sup>th</sup> September was a noteworthy record as was a *Acrobasis consociella* on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, with three further occurrences in August. There were five *Oncocera semirubella* recorded between the 10<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2 at Hythe and 3 at Saltwood.

Single *Dioryctria abietella* were taken at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, with a total of 8 *D. sylvestrella* there between late July and mid-August. A single *Assara terebrella* was trapped at Saltwood on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, with a *Nephopterix angustella* there on the 9<sup>th</sup> September and a *Homoeosoma nebulella* on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.



*Dioryctria abietella* at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

An *Agdistis bennetii* (Saltmarsh Plume) at Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> July was an interesting record, as was an *Amblyptilia punctidactyla* (Brindled Plume) there on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

A total of 10,878 micro moths of 252 species were identified in 2012 (which was an increase in both numbers and species from the previous year, when 7,544 micro moths of 224 species were recorded).

The macro moth highlights of the year were a **Dusky Hook-tip** at Saltwood on the 20<sup>th</sup> August (of which there have been less than 20 previous county records), a **Blair's Mocha** there on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, and a **Pale-lemon Sallow** there on the 8<sup>th</sup> October (the second record at this site in last two years, following one on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011).

There was a series of records of **Jersey Tiger** in August (which suggests that it might be locally established) with one at Saltwood on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 at Samphire Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup>, one at the latter site on the 13<sup>th</sup>, another at Saltwood on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and singles at Seabrook on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Folkestone Warren in late August. **Bloxworth Snout** was again recorded in the Hythe area (one found in the Butt of Sherry public house in the High Street on the 18<sup>th</sup> June), which follows three records last year (two at Hythe and one at Saltwood) and suggests it too might now be locally established. A single **Tree-lichen Beauty** at Hythe on the 25<sup>th</sup> July was a new record for the site.

There were a total of 8 Clancy's Rustics (all at Saltwood between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October), 6 Langmaid's Yellow Underwings (4 at Saltwood and 2 at Hythe, all between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August) and 5 Cypress Carpets (singles at Saltwood on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, Saltwood on 8<sup>th</sup> July, and Saltwood on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November). These species appear to be established in the county but some records might still relate to immigrants.



Pale-lemon Sallow at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Jersey Tiger at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Tree-lichen Beauty at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Cypress Carpet at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Totals of the regular migrant moths recorded in 2012 are provided in figure 1 (above). There was only one record of **Vestal** (at Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, a new record for the site), whilst the single **Bordered Straw** was at Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. There were two records each of **Scarce Bordered Straw** (at Hythe on the 8<sup>th</sup> October and Saltwood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October), **Delicate** (at Saltwood on the 29<sup>th</sup> September and the 3<sup>rd</sup> October) and **Pearly Underwing** (singles at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October).

There were two early records of Humming-bird Hawk-moth (at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and Capel-le-Ferne on the 29<sup>th</sup> March), followed by two at Samphire Hoe in July (on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>), and singles in September at Seabrook on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saltwood on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Seabrook again on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There was also an early record of Dark Sword-grass (at Saltwood on the 18<sup>th</sup> March), with another ten there between the 17<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> October, but just one at Hythe (on the 4<sup>th</sup> September).



Vestal at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Delicate at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Scarce Bordered Straw at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Silver Y was recorded between the 17<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> November, with good numbers in late August and early September, including totals of 20 (with 18 of those at Hythe) on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and 34 (18 at Hythe and 16 at Saltwood) on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

There were no records this year of Convolvulus Hawk-moth, Gem, Small Mottled Willow or Small Ranunculus.

A **Clouded Buff** was seen near Castle Hill, Folkestone on the 20<sup>th</sup> June (at the same site that produced a single last year) so it appears that it is established here, whilst the colony of **Four-spotted** were again present at Hythe Roughs where there was a peak count of 9 on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. A **Rest Harrow** was trapped at Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.



Clouded Buff at Castle Hill (Ian Roberts)



Four-spotted at Hythe Roughs (Ian Roberts)

Of note amongst the more regular residents were a Ghost Moth at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, a Map-winged Swift at Saltwood on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 4 Leopard Moths at the latter site in late July and August, 9 December Moths there from late October and 2 Lackeys there in early August. Single Oak Eggars were at Seabrook and Hythe in late July, with Drinkers at Samphire Hoe in July and Saltwood in July and August (following the finding of a larva at Abbotscliffe in April). There were totals of 6 Oak Hook-tips and 9 Pebble Hook-tips at Saltwood, but just 3 Chinese Characters there.

Four Figure of Eighty moths were trapped at Saltwood between May and July, with one at Dibgate Quarry in June, and there were 2 Common Lutestrings at the latter site on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with one at Saltwood on the 9<sup>th</sup> July and two Yellow Horned at Saltwood in late March. Three Clay Triple-lines were caught at Saltwood in July and August, and single Mullein Waves were at Seabrook and Hythe in June, and Saltwood in August, whilst a Satin Wave was at the latter site on the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

A total of 8 Flame Carpets were taken at Saltwood between mid-August and early September and there were 4 Large Twin-spot Carpets there in July. A Wood Carpet was at Seabrook on the 27<sup>th</sup> May and a Galium Carpet was at Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. A Shoulder-stripe was trapped in Folkestone Warren on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, three Streamers were at Saltwood in April and May and a Water Carpet was taken at Seabrook on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Two Dark Marbled Carpets were at Saltwood on the 28<sup>th</sup> July and 4 Mottled Greys were trapped in Folkestone Warren on the 10<sup>th</sup> March (the latter species was only recorded once in Kent in 2009 and 2010 though is probably not rare where Bedstraw is present).



Yellow Horned at Saltwood  
(Paul Howe)



Mottled Grey at Folkestone Warren  
(Ian Roberts)

There were 6 Pretty Chalk Carpets trapped between the 9<sup>th</sup> May and the 7<sup>th</sup> September, 5 at Saltwood and 1 at Hythe, and single Scallop Shells were at Hythe on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> July, with another at Saltwood on the latter date. Two Autumnal Moths were identified amongst the more numerous November Moths at Saltwood in late October and Winter Moths were trapped in January and from late October to December. Two Sandy Carpets were at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, with one at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Some 23 species of Pug were recorded at Saltwood, some of the more notable of which included single Slender Pug on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, Triple-spotted Pug on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August and Currant Pug on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, two each of Foxglove Pug, White-spotted Pug, Bordered Pug, and both forms of Angle-barred Pug (Angle-barred and Ash). Three Maple Pug and Shaded Pug, 4 Haworth's Pug, 7 Tawny-speckled Pug and 10 Oak-tree Pug were also of note.



Scallop Shell at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

A Dingy Shell was at Saltwood on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and a Small Yellow Wave was trapped there on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, whilst the only Magpie Moth of the year was at Seabrook on the 13<sup>th</sup> August. A Tawny-barred Angle was at Saltwood on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and a Scorched Wing was at Hythe on the 13<sup>th</sup> June. A Lunar Thorn was trapped at Saltwood on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August and there were 2 Purple Thorns there and 1 at Hythe in late July, with 7 Canary-shouldered Thorns at Saltwood in August and 9 Dusky Thorns between late August and early October.





Dotted Border at Saltwood  
(Paul Howe)



Aberrant Dotted Border at Saltwood  
(Paul Howe)

There were only two Brindled Beauty recorded (singles at Saltwood on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May) but good totals of Pale Brindled Beauty (16), Oak Beauty (20) and Spring Usher (24), whilst 9 Dotted Border at Saltwood between late February and late March included an aberrant individual. A single Pale Oak Beauty was at Saltwood on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, with another at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June.



Oak Beauty at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Spring Usher at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A Bordered White at Saltwood on the 31<sup>st</sup> May was a very notable record and 3 Early Moths were trapped there in February and March. Two Barred Reds were at Saltwood on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, with one there on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and one at Hythe on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. Yellow Belle was recorded on at least two occasions at Samphire Hoe.

A Pine Hawk-moth was at Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, with 3 Lime Hawk-moths there in June and July, and there were just 3 records of Privet and Eyed Hawk-moths, and 2 Small Elephant Hawk-moths – singles at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and at Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. A single Puss Moth was at Hythe on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.



Bordered White at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



There were 3 Sallow Kittens at Saltwood in May, with another 7 in July and August. Amongst the more frequent Prominent species were a single Coxcomb Prominent at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> May and 4 Maple Prominents (one at Samphire Hoe in July and 3 at Saltwood in July and August). Also of note at the latter site were 3 Lunar Marbled Brown in May.



Barred Red at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Puss Moth at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Single Chocolate-tip were trapped at Saltwood on the 26<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August, and single Vapourer were at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> August and Seabrook on the 14<sup>th</sup> October. A White Satin was at Saltwood on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and a Black Arches was at Seabrook on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, with a further 9 at Saltwood in late July and August. A total of 10 Dew Moths were recorded between Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe between the 12<sup>th</sup> April and the 19 Jun and 6 Orange Footman were trapped at Saltwood in late May and early June.



Barred Red at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



White Satin at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

There were just 5 Garden Tiger records (at Saltwood in mid-July) and Cream-spot Tigers were at Saltwood and off Dover Road (near Folkestone East station), as well as the usual haunt of Samphire Hoe. A Short-cloaked Moth was at Hythe on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and 5 Least Yellow Underwings were at Saltwood in late July and August. Five White-line Darts were at Saltwood in August, with 3 Autumnal Moths there in the first half of October, 5 Triple-spotted Clays there in July and two Six-striped Rustic there on both the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Three Red Chestnuts were trapped in Folkestone Warren on the 10<sup>th</sup> March, with three singles in Saltwood later in the month, and there were 4 Light Brocades recorded in May (one at Saltwood and 3 at Hythe), with another at the former site in July.



Cream-spot Tiger at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Three Broad-barred White were taken at Saltwood in May, with others at Dibgate Quarry in June and at Hythe in July, and there were 6 Tawny Shears in May (one at Saltwood and 5 at Hythe), with another at the latter site in late July. Single Varied Coronets were trapped at Seabrook and Saltwood in mid-July, with a Marbled Coronet at Hythe on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, and a White-spot at Seabrook on the 17<sup>h</sup> June.



Red Chestnut at Folkestone Warren (Ian Roberts)



Varied Coronet at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A total of 11 Feathered Gothics were trapped at Saltwood in the first half of September and there were six Pine Beauty there between late February and late May, with 5 Powdered Quaker at the same site in April and May. Shoulder-striped Wainscots were taken at Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and Saltwood on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

A Chamomile Shark was at Saltwood on the 1<sup>st</sup> May and a Mullein was trapped there on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. There were 4 Toadflax Brocade in late May and early June (one at Hythe and 3 at Saltwood), with another at the latter site in July. Four Feathered Brindles were recorded at Saltwood in late September and early October, with 11 Deep-brown Darts there in the first half of October. A Pale Pinion was at Saltwood on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and there were 2 Grey Shoulder-knots there in February with another 3 in late autumn.



Feathered Brindle at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Deep-brown Dart at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A Brindled Green was at Saltwood on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, with 8 Merveille du Jour trapped there in October, and totals for the area of 16 Green-brindled Crescent and 30 Large Ranunculus. A Brown-spot Pinion was taken at Saltwood on the 11<sup>th</sup> October. Four Orange Sallow were recorded in September (one at Hythe and 3 at Saltwood) and 2 Pink-barred Sallow were at the latter site in October.



Pale Pinion at Saltwood  
(Paul Howe)



Brown-spot Pinion at Saltwood  
(Paul Howe)

One or more Alder Moths were trapped on consecutive nights in late May at Saltwood, and there were area totals of 7 Millers and 27 Sycamores. A Reed Dagger was at Saltwood on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Just 3 Old Lady were trapped (all at Hythe) and Small Angle Shades were at Dibgate Quarry (2) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and at Saltwood on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. There were 5 Olives at Saltwood in August and single Suspected on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> August. Dingy Shears were at Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and Saltwood on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, with 4 Lesser-spotted Pinions at Saltwood in August and September, and 2 Lunar-spotted Pinions there in early August.



Alder Moth at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Plain Golden Y at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A Clouded-bordered Brindle was at Saltwood on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, with 2 Clouded Brindles there in June and 4 Slender Brindles in August, and there was a very interesting series of Mere Wainscot records there with singles on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, and the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August. A Small Wainscot was trapped there on the 12<sup>th</sup> August.

A Saltern Ear was at Saltwood on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, with 4 Ear Moths there in early August. Two Frosted Orange were at Saltwood in late September and there were just two Large Wainscots recorded (singles at Saltwood in September and October), compared to the influx of 61 last year.

A Bordered Sallow was at Samphire Hoe on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, with 2 further singles at Saltwood in July, and the only Cream-bordered Green Pea of the year was trapped there on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. Three Green Silver-lines were at Saltwood in July and a total of 8 Oak Nycteoline were caught there (singles in March and April, and six in July). There were 7 Burnished Brass recorded between mid-June and early September (2 at Hythe and 5 at Saltwood) and a Fused Burnished Brass was at the former site on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.



Four Beautiful Golden Y were at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with a Plain Golden Y at Saltwood on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. A Dark Spectacle was at Dibgate Quarry on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 2 were at Saltwood in late August, whilst a total of 8 Red Underwings were trapped across the area between mid-August and early October.

Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion were recorded from usual sites along the cliffs and a Herald was at Hythe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with a further 5 in July (2 at Saltwood and 3 at Hythe).

A total of 21,220 macro moths of 339 species were identified in 2012 (which was a slight increase in both numbers and species from the previous year, when 20,855 macro moths of 326 species were recorded).



Herald at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Figure 2 shows the number of species recorded in each month of 2012:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Micros	11	8	16	9	54	70	149	131	61	18	11	1	252
Macros	6	14	30	29	117	113	165	169	83	68	26	4	339
Total	17	22	46	38	171	183	314	300	144	86	37	4	591

Figure 2: moth species at Folkestone and Hythe in 2012

The night of the 24<sup>th</sup> July produced the highest number of micro moth species, with 41, whereas the 8<sup>th</sup> August saw the most macro moth species, with 82. The greatest overall diversity was recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> July when 117 species (81 macros and 36 micros) were trapped.

Figure 3 shows the total number of individual moths recorded in each month of 2012:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Micros	23	77	173	85	837	434	3095	4147	1609	337	62	1	10878
Macros	32	65	987	535	1470	1241	4932	5441	5014	1358	147	11	21220
Total	55	142	1160	620	2307	1675	8027	9588	6623	1695	209	12	32098

Figure 3: total moth numbers at Folkestone and Hythe in 2012

The night of the 19<sup>th</sup> July produced both the highest number of individual macro moths recorded, with 510, whilst the 27<sup>th</sup> August saw the most individual micro moths, with 217. The largest overall catch was on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, when 623 moths were trapped (198 macros and 425 micros, including 162 *Epiphyas postvittana*).

The impact of the unusually cold and wet weather in April can be clearly seen, both in terms of the number and diversity of moths recorded. Overall it was the wettest April in south-east England for 12 years, with over 250% of the average monthly rainfall recorded. Nationally it was the coldest April since 1989, with average temperatures down 5°C on last year, which meant it was colder than March.

## Butterflies

It was once again a poor year for immigrant butterflies, with just 5 reports of Painted Lady: singles near the Hythe Redoubt and at Saltwood on the 24<sup>th</sup> May, at Samphire Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, at Seabrook on the 1<sup>st</sup> August and at Sandgate on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. There were no reports at all of Clouded Yellow.

The first and last butterflies of the year were Red Admirals (at Saltwood on the 11<sup>th</sup> January and the 11<sup>th</sup> November) and this species showed some signs of immigration, including one in off the sea at Folkestone Pier on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, whilst there was a peak count of 33 at Samphire Hoe on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and 8 flew west at Seabrook on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.



Red Admiral at Samphire Hoe  
(Phil Smith)



Painted Lady near Hythe Redoubt (Ian Roberts)

The future for the Grayling at Folkestone Warren (its sole haunt in Kent) remains very worrying as there was just one sighting of two there on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, which follows the single record last year. Other rarer residents were represented by 2 Silver-spotted Skippers at Cheriton Hill on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, a single Chalkhill Blue there on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, with a breeding pair at Castle Hill on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, and Small Blues at Crete Road West and Round Down in late May and up to 6 at Samphire Hoe on 19<sup>th</sup> June.



Chalkhill Blues at Castle Hill (Phil Green)



Small Blue at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

There were 3 records of Brimstone at Samphire Hoe and a Purple Hairstreak attracted to an actinic light trap at Saltwood on the 17<sup>th</sup> August was noteworthy. The Folkestone/Dover area is the stronghold of the Wall butterfly in Kent and local counts included 9 at Folkestone Warren and 12 at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 11 at Folkestone Warren on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, and 8 at Folkestone Escarpment and 9 at Cheriton Hill on the 17<sup>th</sup> August. The Dingy Skipper is also relatively localised and there were notable counts of 43 along the Downs above Folkestone on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and 10 at Samphire Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> May (virtually no second generation was recorded in Kent due to poor weather but two were at Cheriton Hill on the 17<sup>th</sup> August).



The first dates for the 31 species of butterfly recorded in 2012 are provided as figure 4:

Small Skipper	03 Jul
Silver-spotted Skipper	17 Aug
Large Skipper	19 Jun
Dingy Skipper	30 Apr
Brimstone	Spring
Large White	22 Mar
Small White	24 Mar
Green-veined White	22 Mar
Orange Tip	13 May
Green Hairstreak	29 May
Purple Hairstreak	17 Aug
Small Copper	22 May
Small Blue	28 May
Brown Argus	05 Jun
Common Blue	22 May
Chalkhill Blue	09 Aug
Adonis Blue	23 May
Holly Blue	29 Mar
Red Admiral	11 Jan
Painted Lady	24 May
Small Tortoiseshell	01 Mar
Peacock	24 Feb
Comma	01 Mar
Speckled Wood	28 Mar
Wall	30 Apr
Gatekeeper	24 Jul
Marbled White	26 Jun
Grayling	Summer
Meadow Brown	20 Jun
Small Heath	12 May
Ringlet	26 Jun



Dingy Skipper at Peene Quarry (Brian Harper)



Orange Tip at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

**Figure 4: first dates for butterflies at Folkestone and Hythe in 2012**

Adonis Blues were recorded from their usual haunts along the downs, with noteworthy counts of 7 at Samphire Hoe on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 45 along Folkestone Escarpment on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and 25 there on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. There was also an unusual variant female recorded at Samphire Hoe which had extensive blue on the inner wings. Common Blue numbers appeared to be low, with an annual total on the Folkestone Escarpment transect of just 45, which continued a decline from 76 in 2011, 210 in 2010 and 262 in 2009, however 100 were estimated to be at Samphire Hoe on the 4<sup>th</sup> September. Other notable counts of commoner species included 32 Small Heaths at Samphire Hoe on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, with 33 at Folkestone Escarpment on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, 12 Large Skippers at the latter site on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 14 Speckled Woods there on the 17<sup>th</sup> August.



Male Adonis Blue at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Variant female Adonis Blue at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

### Other insects

There were few records of dragonflies or damselflies received and the clear highlight of the year was the first area record of **Lesser Emperor**, one of which was seen at Folkestone Warren over the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Other reports of note included a Hairy Dragonfly near Hythe Redoubt on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, a Banded Demoiselle at Saltwood on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Brown Hawkers at Saltwood on the 24<sup>th</sup> July and Seabrook on the 30<sup>th</sup> October and several Migrant Hawkers in late August and September, including one to 125w mv light at Hythe on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The most notable record amongst the other groups was the discovery of a **Southern Oak Bush-Cricket** inside a house at Lynton Road, Hythe on the 4<sup>th</sup> November which also appears to be the first for the Folkestone and Hythe area.



Southern Oak Bush-cricket at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

### Mammals

Harbour Porpoise were seen regularly in small numbers along the coast between Mill Point and Samphire Hoe between early March and late November, including counts of 3 off Samphire Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 3 off Abbotscliffe on the 13<sup>th</sup> April, 5 off Samphire Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and 6 off Copt Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

There were also 2 records of unidentified, but possibly White-beaked, dolphins (two off Samphire Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup> April and one off Copt Point on the 17<sup>th</sup> April) and Common Seals were at Folkestone Harbour on the 27<sup>th</sup> October and Folkestone Warren on the 15<sup>th</sup> November.



On land there were regular sightings of Brown Hare at the Willop Basin, with a peak count of 6 there on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and the 12<sup>th</sup> October. , whilst a number of the more common mammals such as Badger, Fox, Weasel, and the abundant Grey Squirrel were also logged.



Fox at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Grey Squirrel at West Hythe (Brian Harper)

## Reptiles

The colony of introduced Wall Lizards remained in the Little Switzerland area of Folkestone Warren and Adders were seen in their usual haunts along the downs between Peene and Samphire Hoe.



Wall Lizard at Folkestone Warren (per WCCP)



Adder at Peene (Brian Harper)

## Other

Storms in December caused a large number of Sea Mice (*Aphrodita aculeata*), a marine polychaete worm, to be washed up on the tideline. On the 15<sup>th</sup> December a total of 161 were counted along approximately 700m of beach at Hythe, with at least 5 noted along Hythe Ranges the following day.

## Flora

Of most note amongst the flora was the second highest count ever of Early Spider Orchid at Samphire Hoe, with 11,500 present, and with some in flower as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> April.



Early Spider Orchid at Samphire Hoe (Steve Coates)