Folkestone and Hythe Birds

Tetrad Guide: TR13 F

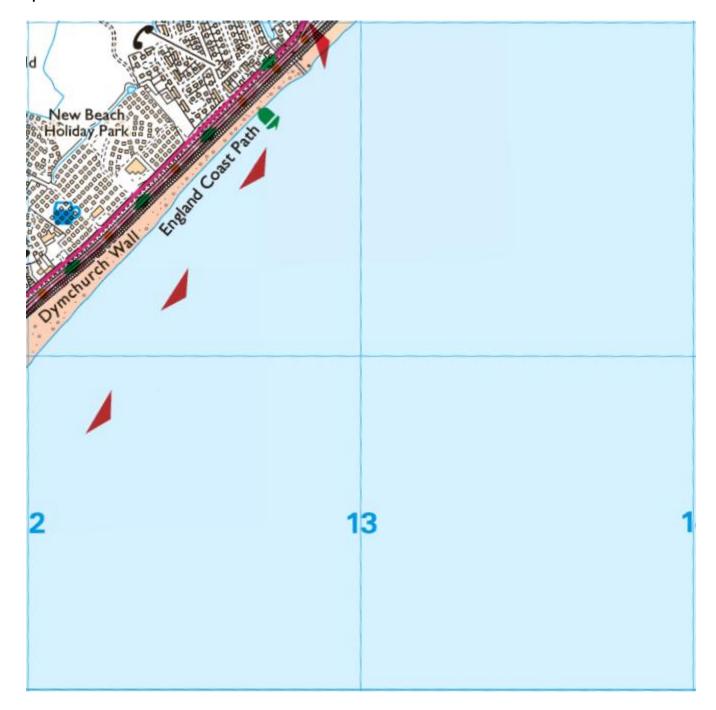
(Canal Cutting Outfall and Redoubt Way Estate)



Introduction

Over three quarters of the tetrad TR13 F is comprised of the English Channel, so most of the interest is generally offshore or provided by the shoreline, with the seawall providing a good vantage point from which to scan Hythe Bay. A short section of the canal cutting that runs south from West Hythe Dam can be found within the tetrad, before it reaches the shore by means of an outfall (one of the eight by which the Romney Marsh can drain into the sea). Much of the land is taken up by the Redoubt Way Estate and the New Beach Holiday Park, but a small area of Romney Marsh lies inland of these.

Map of TR13 F



The Romney Marsh

Rippon (2002) described how the river Rother originally flowed north-east past Old Romney to a tidal estuary at Hythe, with the Roman fortress at Stutfall Castle (situated in TR13 C) being situated beside the tidal inlet. In the Roman period Romney Marsh appears to have been an extensive saltmarsh protected by a shingle barrier that ran from Fairlight (in Sussex) to Dymchurch. There is evidence that the marshes were used by the Romans for salt production and probably seasonal grazing, but there are no indications of reclamation from that time.

In post-Roman times the marshlands were flooded, probably due to a rise in relative sea level seen all around northwest Europe which buried the Romano-British landscape under variable amounts of alluvium. Early medieval charters suggest that reclamation of the marshes was well underway by the 9th century and this may have been made possible by a breach in the shingle barrier at New Romney, which left the eastern section of the marshes relatively flood-free, with there being few substantial freshwater streams flowing off the uplands to the north, and with the coast largely protected by a shingle barrier.

Domesday documents suggest that by the 11th century this part of Romney Marsh, which is considered to be the Romney Marsh "proper" (the area to the north-east of the Yoke Sewer sea wall, which was replaced by the Rhee Wall in the 13th century, that ran roughly north-west to south-east between the present-day settlements of Appledore and New Romney) was extensively occupied, with the village of Burmarsh being one of the earliest known settlements.

The Romney Marsh "proper" is typically a highly irregular landscape created through piecemeal enclosure and drainage, with mainly small, irregularly shaped fields, highly sinuous roads, and a dispersed settlement pattern. Some of the gently curving field boundaries appear to incorporate the lines of naturally meandering creeks. The Romney Marsh is the third largest coastal wetland in Britain.



Romney Marsh inland of the New Beach Holiday Park

Habitats and birds

The seawall provides a good vantage point from which to scan Hythe Bay, where good numbers of Common Scoter, Red-throated Divers, Great Crested Grebes and auks can be found in season and occasionally Scaup, Eider, Velvet Scoter, Goosander, Red-breasted Merganser, Great Northern Diver and Shag. In colder weather these may be joined by dabbling ducks, which have included Shoveler, Gadwall, Wigeon and Pintail.

Seawatching during passage periods can produce Brent Geese, ducks, waders such as Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin, Little Gull, terns (including Little and Black), Arctic Skua and Balearic Shearwater, whilst four Egyptian Geese flew east in January 2021.

The shoreline regularly attracts Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Sanderling, with Turnstone favouring the musselencrusted walls of the canal cutting outfall, where Purple Sandpiper has become increasingly regular, and Knot has also been recorded. Common Sandpipers are frequently encountered on passage and Avocet has twice been noted.

Black Redstart, Wheatear and Rock Pipit have occurred on the seawall on passage, as has a Shore Lark in November 2015.



The shoreline and canal cutting outfall

The area of Romney Marsh inland is typically used as pastoral land and is prone to flooding, when it can attract waders such as Curlew, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Jack Snipe, Snipe, Redshank, Green Sandpiper and even Bar-tailed Godwit. Marsh and Hen Harriers, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, and Hobby have been recorded hunting over the fields, whilst Skylark, Meadow Pipit and possibly Yellow Wagtail breed. *Phragmites* along the ditches and at the extreme southern end of the canal cutting hold Reed Warblers and Reed Buntings, whilst Grey Wagtails may breed within the sluice workings and around ten pairs of Herring Gulls nest on the roofs of the New Beach Holiday Park.

There is very limited habitat to attract passerine migrants but a male Common Redstart was seen in a garden off Redoubt Way in April 2019 and a Yellow-browed Warbler was seen in trees behind the New Beach Holiday Park in October 2020 (click here to listen to a recording of this bird).





Eider off the seawall







Oystercatchers on the outfall

Ringed Plover on the beach

Access and parking

Access to the seawall is easiest through TR13 G, where there is limited parking on the seaward side of the road at the sharp bend where the A259 joins the seawall. The farmland can be viewed from Crimond Avenue in the Redoubt Estate. A main bus route runs along the A259.

Bird species diversity

Due to the limited terrestrial habitat, the tetrad has a very low diversity of breeding species. However, overall it has produced an overall total of 117 species, which ranks as the 21st richest in diversity amongst the 31 local tetrads as the table below demonstrates. The number of breeding and wintering species relate to those recorded in the 2007-2013 BTO/KOS atlas fieldwork. The full list of species that have been recorded is provided as Appendix 1.

	Total	Rank/31
Breeding species	38	27 th
Wintering species	75	12 th
Species recorded	117	21 st

Other Natural History

Brown Hares may sometimes be seen on the farmland inland of the New Beach Holiday Park, though are more regularly observed at the Willop Basin (TR13 A) or from Botolph's Bridge Road (TR13 G).

Both Common and Grey Seals have been noted offshore.

A number of insect groups in particular have received very little attention here and there is potential to extend several of the lists that are given below despite the relatively small amount of land present.

A list of all species recorded in the tetrad is provided below in Appendix 2.



Oak Hook-tip on the seawall



Large Wainscot on the seawall



Frosted Orange on the seawall



Feathered Brindle on the seawall

General History

The Neptune Inn dates from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century and was formerly two cottages, since combined and now functioning as a pub and restaurant. It is a grade II listed building.

References

British Listed Buildings, no date. https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/kent

Rippon, S. 2002. Romney Marsh: Coastal and Landscape Change through the Ages. OUSA Monograph 56: 84-100.

Acknowledgements

The map image was produced from the Ordnance Survey <u>Get-a-map service</u> and is reproduced with kind permission of <u>Ordnance Survey</u>.

The photographs of Eider, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Wheatear were taken by Brian Harper (www.brizey.co.uk) and all others by Ian Roberts.

Lists of the other fauna and flora which have been recorded in the tetrad were kindly provided by the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (www.kmbrc.org.uk).

Appendix 1: Species Lists – Birds: 117 species

- Recorded in winter survey 2007-2012
- Recorded in breeding survey 2008-2013 Confirmed breeding
- Recorded in breeding survey 2008-2013 Probable breeding
- Recorded in breeding survey 2008-2013 Possible breeding
- Recorded in breeding survey as a non-breeder or recorded outside of survey period

Wintering

Rare migrant or vagrant (less than 50 area records)

	TR13 F - Bird List	 		 O	-		TR13 F - Bird List
		Breeding	Wintering	Other			
	Pheasant	•				<u></u>	Great Northern Diver
	Brent Goose					*	Balearic Shearwater
	Canada Goose				-		Gannet
	Greylag Goose				•		Shag
	Mute Swan	•					Cormorant
*	Egyptian Goose						Grey Heron
	Shelduck						Little Egret
	Shoveler						Sparrowhawk
	Gadwall						Marsh Harrier
	Wigeon				-	*	Hen Harrier
	Mallard				-	*	Long-eared Owl
	Pintail				-		Short-eared Owl
	Teal				•		Great Spotted Woodpecker
*	Scaup				-		Green Woodpecker
	Eider				•		Kestrel
	Velvet Scoter				•		Hobby
	Common Scoter				-		Peregrine
	Goosander				-		Magpie
	Red-breasted Merganser				-		Jackdaw
	Swift				-		Rook
	Cuckoo	•					Carrion Crow
	Feral Pigeon						Blue Tit
	Stock Dove	•					Great Tit
	Woodpigeon				_		Skylark
	Collared Dove						Shore Lark
	Moorhen	•					Sand Martin
	Great Crested Grebe				_		Swallow
	Oystercatcher						House Martin
	Avocet				_		Yellow-browed Warbler
	Lapwing						Chiffchaff
	Golden Plover						Reed Warbler
	Ringed Plover						Wren
	Whimbrel						Starling
	Curlew				_		Blackbird
	Bar-tailed Godwit				_		Fieldfare
	Turnstone						Redwing
	Knot						Song Thrush
	Sanderling						Mistle Thrush
	Dunlin						Robin
	Purple Sandpiper						Black Redstart
	Jack Snipe						Redstart

TR13 F - Bird List	Breeding	Wintering	Other
Snipe			
Common Sandpiper			
Green Sandpiper			
Redshank			
Kittiwake			
Black-headed Gull			
Little Gull			
Mediterranean Gull			
Common Gull			
Great Black-backed Gull			
Herring Gull			
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Sandwich Tern			
Little Tern			
Common Tern			
Black Tern			
Arctic Skua			
Guillemot			
Razorbill			
Red-throated Diver			

Breeding Breeding	ther
Wheatear	
House Sparrow	
Dunnock	
Yellow Wagtail	
Grey Wagtail	
Pied Wagtail	
Meadow Pipit	
Rock Pipit	
Chaffinch	
Greenfinch	
Linnet	
Goldfinch	
Siskin	
Yellowhammer	
Reed Bunting	
Total 38 75	
Confirmed breeding 6	
Probable breeding 20	
Possible breeding 12	
Total species recorded in tetrad	117

Appendix 2: Species Lists – Other Natural History

Information on other natural history has been kindly provided by the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (www.kmbrc.org.uk), with particular thanks to Tony Witts. A few additional records from other sources are also included.



Amphibia (Amphibians): 1 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	2004

Reptilia (Reptiles): 1 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	2004

Mammalia (Mammals): 3 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	2017
Grey Seal	Halichoerus grypus	2022
Common Seal	Phoca vitulina	2014

Hemiptera (True bugs): 1 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Western Conifer Seed Bug	Leptoglossus occidentalis	2019

Lepidoptera (Butterflies): 8 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Large White	Pieris brassicae	2010
Small White	Pieris rapae	1997
Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus	2020
Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	2020
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	2020
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	2009
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	2000
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	2009

Lepidoptera (Moths): 30 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
London Dowd	Blastobasis lacticolella	2020
Beautiful Plume	Amblyptilia acanthadactyla	2020
Carnation Tortrix	Cacoecimorpha pronubana	2020
Ox-tongue Conch	Cochylis molliculana	2020
Barred Marble	Celypha striana	2020
Shore Marble	Lobesia littoralis	2020
Rosy-striped Knot-horn	Oncocera semirubella	2020
Straw-barred Pearl	Pyrausta despicata	2020
European Corn-borer	Ostrinia nubilalis	2020
Box-tree Moth	Cydalima perspectalis	2020
Elbow-stripe Grass-veneer	Agriphila geniculea	2020
Oak Hook-tip	Watsonalla binaria	2020
Small Dusty Wave	Idaea seriata	2020

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Common Carpet	Epirrhoe alternata	2020
Double-striped Pug	Gymnoscelis rufifasciata	2020
Lime-speck Pug	Eupithecia centaureata	2020
Puss Moth	Cerura vinula	1997
Straw Dot	Rivula sericealis	2020
Mother Shipton	Euclidia mi	2009
Frosted Orange	Gortyna flavago	2020
Flounced Rustic	Luperina testacea	2020
Large Wainscot	Rhizedra lutosa	2020
Feathered Brindle	Aporophyla australis	2020
Hedge Rustic	Tholera cespitis	2020
Bright-line Brown-eye	Lacanobia oleracea	2020
L-album Wainscot	Mythimna l-album	2020
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba	2020
Lesser Brbordered Y. Underwing	Noctua janthe	2020
Square-spot Rustic	Xestia xanthographa	2020
Setaceous Hebrew Character	Xestia c-nigrum	2020

Hymenoptera (Wasps, Bees and Ants): 9 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Large Red Tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus lapidaries	2001
Early Bumble Bee	Bombus pratorum	2000
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus terrestris	2001
-	Lasioglossum leucopus	1971
Shaggy Mining Bee	Lasioglossum villosulum	1971
-	Myrmica specioides	1971
-	Sphecodes puncticeps	1971
German Wasp	Vespula germanica	2001
Common Wasp	Vespula vulgaris	2001

Mollusca (Molluscs): 1 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Common Garden Snail	Cornu aspersum	1996

Flowering Plants: 138 species

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	1991
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	1991
Ground-elder	Aegopodium podagraria	1991
Creeping Bent	Agrostis stolonifera	1991
Early Hair-grass	Aira praecox	1991
Black-grass	Alopecurus myosuroides	2005
Barren Brome	Bromus sterilis	1991
Cow Parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris	1991
Horse-radish	Armoracia rusticana	1991
False Oat-grass	Arrhenatherum elatius	1991
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris	1991
Grass-leaved Orache	Atriplex littoralis	1991
Common Orache	Atriplex patula	1991
Spear-leaved Orache	Atriplex prostrata	1991
Wild-oat	Avena fatua	1991

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Daisy	Bellis perennis	1991
Sea Beet	Beta vulgaris	1991
Sea Club-rush	Bolboschoenus maritimus	1991
Oil-seed Rape	Brassica napus	1991
Common Soft-brome	Bromus hordeaceus	1991
Sand Soft-brome	Bromus hordeaceus	1991
Large Bindweed	Calystegia sylvatica	1991
Shepherd's-purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris	1991
Hairy Bitter-cress	Cardamine hirsute	1991
Slender Thistle	Carduus tenuiflorus	1991
Sea Fern-grass	Catapodium marinum	1991
Fern-grass	Catapodium rigidum	2005
Sticky Mouse-ear	Cerastium glomeratum	1991
Fat-hen	Chenopodium album	1991
Red Goosefoot	Chenopodium rubrum	1991
Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense	1991
Spear Thistle	Cirsium vulgare	1991
Danish Scurvygrass	Cochlearia Danica	1991
Field Bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	1991
Lesser Swine-cress	Lepidium didymium	1991
Swine-cress	Lepidium coronopus	1991
Beaked Hawk's-beard	Crepis vesicaria	1991
Crested Dog's-tail	Cynosurus cristatus	1991
Cock's-foot	Dactylis glomerata	1991
Carrot	Daucus carota	1991
Annual Wall-rocket	Diplotaxis muralis	1991
Common Couch	Elytrigia repens	1991
Great Willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum	1991
Short-fruited Willowherb	Epilobium obscurum	2005
Square-stalked Willowherb	Epilobium tetragonum	2005
Common Stork's-bill	Erodium cicutarium	1991
Sun Spurge	Euphorbia helioscopia	1991
Petty Spurge	Euphorbia peplus	2005
Black-bindweed	Fallopia convolvulus	1991
Red Fescue	Festuca rubra	1991
Cleavers	Galium aparine	1991
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	Geranium dissectum	1991
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Geranium molle	1991
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	1991
Hoary Mustard	Hirschfeldia incana	1991
Yorkshire-fog	Holcus lanatus	2005
Wall Barley	Hordeum murinum	1991
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	1991
Cat's-ear	Hypochaeris radicata	1991
Cat s-ear Soft-rush		1991
	Juncus effuses	
Hard Rush	Juncus inflexus	1991
Red Dead-nettle	Lamium purpureum	1991
Autumn Hawkbit	Leontodon autumnalis	1991
Rough Hawkbit	Leontodon hispidus	1991
Lesser Hawkbit	Leontodon saxatilis	1991
Hoary Cress	Lepidium draba	1991
Perennial Rye-grass	Lolium perenne	1991
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	1991
Common Mallow	Malva sylvestris	1991

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Pineappleweed	Matricaria discoidea	1991
Scented Mayweed	Matricaria recutita	1991
Spotted Medick	Medicago arabica	1991
Black Medick	Medicago lupulina	1991
Annual Mercury	Mercurialis annua	1991
Field Forget-me-not	Myosotis arvensis	1991
Hemlock Water-dropwort	Oenanthe crocata	1991
Common Poppy	Papaver rhoeas	1991
Wild Parsnip	Pastinaca sativa	1991
Redshank	Persicaria maculosa	1991
Timothy	Phleum pratense	1991
Common Reed	Phragmites australis	1991
Bristly Oxtongue	Picris echioides	1991
Buck's-horn Plantain	Plantago coronopus	1991
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	1991
Greater Plantain	Plantago major	1991
Annual Meadow-grass	Poa annua	1991
Smooth Meadow-grass	Poa pratensis	1991
Rough Meadow-grass	Poa trivialis	1991
Equal-leaved Knotgrass	Polygonum arenastrum	1991
Knotgrass	Polygonum aviculare	1991
White Poplar	Populus alba	1991
Silverweed	Potentilla anserina	1991
Creeping Cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans	1991
Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris	1991
Bulbous Buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus	1991
Lesser Celandine	Ranunculus ficaria	1991
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	1991
Common Sorrel	Rumex acetosa	1991
Sheep's Sorrel	Rumex acetosella	1991
Curled Dock	Rumex crispus	1991
Broad-leaved Dock	Rumex obtusifolius	1991
Annual Pearlwort	Sagina apetala	2005
Fringed Pearlwort	Sagina apetala	2005
Sea Pearlwort	Sagina maritima	1991
Procumbent Pearlwort	Sagina procumbens	1991
White Stonecrop	Sedum album	1991
Hoary Ragwort	Senecio erucifolius	1991
Common Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea	1991
Groundsel	Senecio vulgaris	1991
Hedge Mustard	Sisymbrium officinale	1991
Black Nightshade	Solanum nigrum	1991
Potato	Solanum tuberosum	1991
Perennial Sow-thistle	Sonchus arvensis	1991
Prickly Sow-thistle	Sonchus asper	1991
Smooth Sow-thistle	Sonchus oleraceus	1991
Lesser Sea-spurrey	Spergularia marina	1991
Common Chickweed	Stellaria media	1991
Lesser Chickweed	Stellaria pallida	1991
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale agg.	1991
Knotted Hedge-parsley	Torilis nodosa	1991
Goat's-Beard	Tragopogon pratensis	1991
Hop Trefoil	Trifolium campestre	1991
Lesser Trefoil	Trifolium dubium	1991
esser freion	Trijonam aabiam	1991

Common name	Scientific name	Last recorded
Slender Trefoil	Trifolium micranthum	1991
Bird's-foot Clover	Trifolium ornithopodioides	1991
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	1991
White Clover	Trifolium repens	1991
Knotted Clover	Trifolium striatum	1991
Subterranean Clover	Trifolium subterraneum	1991
Sea Mayweed	Tripleurospermum maritimum	1991
Common Nettle	Urtica dioica	1991
Small Nettle	Urtica urens	1991
Wall Speedwell	Veronica arvensis	1991
Common Field-speedwell	Veronica persica	1991
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	1991
Sweet Violet	Viola odorata	1991
Squirreltail Fescue	Vulpia bromoides	1991