

Review of butterfly, moth and other natural history sightings 2020

January

High pressure lay over southern parts of the country at the beginning of the year, bringing dry, settled conditions though generally with plenty of cloud. This gradually moved away south-eastwards allowing frontal systems in from the west, and from the 7th to the 17th the weather was mild, unsettled and very windy at times. More settled weather returned between the 18th and 25th as high pressure dominated again, but the rest of the month saw windy conditions and some rain, though it was mild.

Despite the mild spells there were no migrant moths noted and those species that were recorded were typical of the early season: *Epiphyas postvittana* (Light Brown Apple Moth) (on the 1st), Mottled Umber (on the 3rd), Spring Usher (on the 5th), the Chestnut (on the 8th), Winter Moth (on the 12th), Early Moth and Pale Brindled Beauty (on the 21st), *Tortricodes alternella* (Winter Shade), Double-striped Pug and Satellite (on the 30th) and *Pyrausta aurata* (Small Purple & Gold) found indoors on the 31st. The only early stage noted that was attributable to this year was a tenanted mine of *Ectoedemia erythrognella* (Coast Bramble Pigmy) at Samphire Hoe.

The only butterfly recorded was a Small Tortoiseshell in a garden in Hythe on the 10th, whilst the first Buff-tailed Bumblebee was noted at Seabrook on the 12th. Also of note was a Common Toad at Folkestone Downs on the 2nd and Grey Seals were seen off Seabrook and the Willop Outfall during the month, whilst Common Seal was resting on the beach at Princes Parade on the 20th. A Mink was at Botolph's Bridge on the 11th.



Early Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Spring Usher (Paul Howe)

February

The mild, windy and wet weather persisted into the first few days of February before a ridge of high pressure brought a brief interlude of more settled conditions between the 5th and the 7th. This was short-lived and the rest of the month was exceptionally wet, with frequent belts of persistent heavy rain and strong winds as three named storms hit the country during the month, but there were a few intervals of brighter showery weather.

Three species of micro moth were added to the year list: *Emmelina monodactyla* (Common Plume) at Hythe on the 3rd, *Ypsolopha ustella* (Variable Smudge) at Seabrook on the 4th and *Agonopterix alstromeriana* (Brown-spot Flat-body) at Seabrook on the 24th.

Additions to the macro moth year list comprised March Moth, Hebrew Character and Common Quaker at the Aldergate Bridge on the 2nd, Pale Mottled Willow found indoors at Hythe on the 20th, Oak Beauty at Seabrook on the 23rd, Small Quaker the following night and Early Grey at Hythe on the 28th.

The first Red Admiral of the year was seen at Seabrook on the 4th and a hibernating Peacock butterfly was found in a pill box at Creteway Down on the 8th, with another at Seabrook on the 14th. A Common Seal was seen on the beach at Hythe on the 21st.



Oak Beauty at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



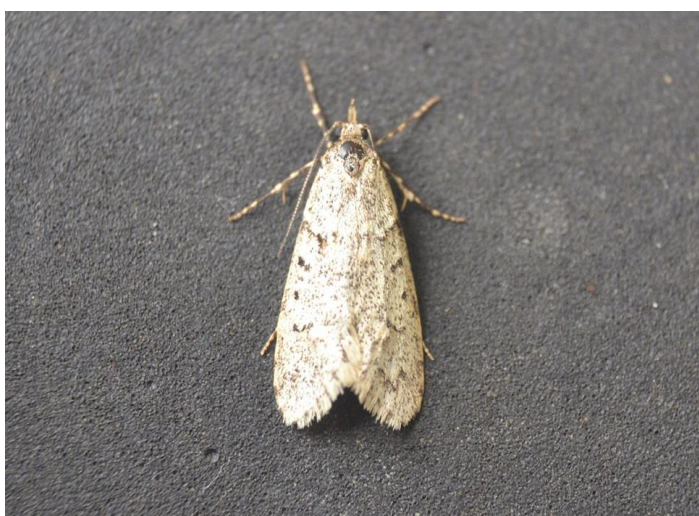
Common Seal at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

March

The first half of the month was cool and showery, with winds mainly from the westerly quadrant. The weather turned more settled in the second half and overnight temperatures initially began to approach double figures before easterly winds from the 19th brought colder conditions. A brief spell of northerlies towards the end of the month even produced a few wintry showers on the 29th.

Single Hummingbird Hawk-moths at Hythe on the 22nd and Saltwood on the 25th were presumably individuals that had over-wintered rather than primary immigrants and there were no signs of moth arrivals during March.

There were ten additions to the micro year list, including *Depressaria daucella* (Dingy Flat-body) at Seabrook on the 10th, *Diurnea fagella* (March Tubic) there on the 14th and *Acleris kochiella* (Elm Button) there on the 18th, and *Dahlica inconspicuell*a (Lesser Lichen Bagworm) at Abbotscliffe on the 26th. Early stages included cases of *Luffia lapidella* f. *ferchaultella* (Grey Bagworm) at Cheriton Road Cemetery on the 7th, a *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* (Carnation Tortrix) larva found at Seabrook the same day (which emerged on the 5th April) and tenanted leaf-mines of *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Firethorn Leaf Miner) at Hythe on the 15th.



Diurnea fagella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Luffia lapidella at Cheriton Road Cemetery (Ian Roberts)

Eleven further macro moth additions included an early Spruce Carpet found indoors at Hythe on the 15th, but the others were more expected and included Red Chestnut at Saltwood and Samphire Hoe on the 15th, Dotted Border at Seabrook on the same night, Twin-spotted Quaker at Hythe on the 17th, the Streamer there on the 18th, and Tawny Pinion there on the 25th, and Lead-coloured Drab at Seabrook and Early Thorn at Saltwood on the 27th.



Phyllonorycter leucographella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



The Streamer at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Tawny Pinion at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Lead-coloured Drab at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

There were four new butterfly species for the year: Small White at Seabrook on the 6th, Comma at the Golden Valley on the 24th, Orange-tip in a garden in Folkestone on the 26th and Brimstone at Little Dibgate Wood on the 27th.

At least two Harbour Porpoises were seen regularly off Mill Point and a Mink was seen along the canal at Hythe on the 29th.

April

The first half of the month was dry with a settled high pressure system and, after a cool start, daytime temperatures climbed to around 20°C between the 4th and the 12th. However with winds predominately from the easterly quadrant and clear skies it was rather cool at night. After a brief interruption around mid-month pressure rose again and it remained dry and settled until the final three days of April, which saw some heavy rain.

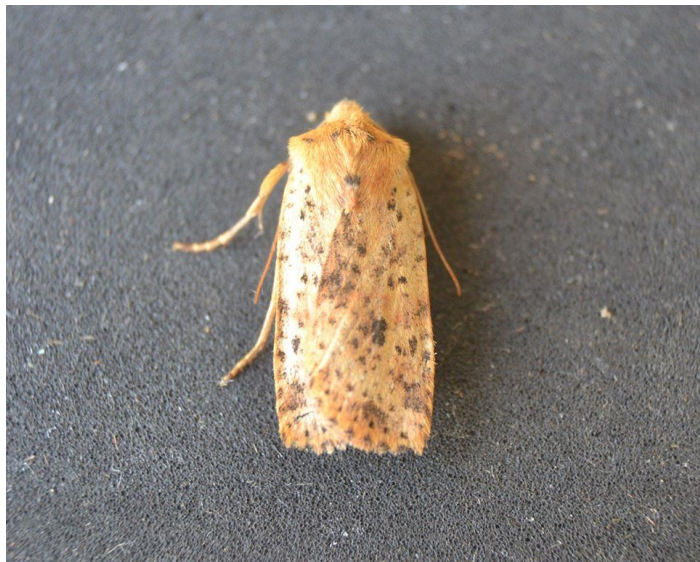
Highlights included the first area record of ***Epehstia kuehniella*** (Mediterranean Flour Moth) found indoors at Seabrook on the 13th, the second to fourth area records of **Dotted Chestnut** at Saltwood on the 5th and 14th, and Seabrook on the 8th, and about the eighth area record of the presumed immigrant **Blossom Underwing** at Seabrook on the 7th. Other immigrants were limited to a Hummingbird Hawk-moth at Folkestone on the 5th, single Dark Sword-grass at Hythe on the 2nd, and Saltwood 22nd and 23rd, and five Silver Ys from the 17th.

There were 30 other additions to the micro year list, including *Acrolepiopsis assectella* (Leek Moth) at Seabrook on the 9th, *Acleris logiana* (Grey Birch Button) at Hythe on the 13th, *Acrolepia autumnitella* (Bittersweet Smudge) at Seabrook on the 18th, *Phtheochroa rugosana* (Rough-winged Conch) there on the 19th, *Acleris literana* (Lichen Button) at Hythe on the 23rd, *Eriocrania sangii* (Large Birch Purple) (leaf-mines) at Gibbin's Brook and *Acleris cristana* (Tufted Button) at Hythe on the 27th, *Elachista canapennella* (Little Dwarf) at Seabrook on the 28th and *Grapholita funebrana* (Plum Fruit Moth) at Saltwood on the 30th.

There were 54 other additions to the macro year list, including a remarkable total of 20 species that registered earliest ever emergence dates, with Grey Pine Carpet at Saltwood on the 4th (34 days earlier), Sharp-angled Peacock at Seabrook on 16th (25 days earlier), Figure of Eighty at Seabrook on the 22nd (24 days earlier), the Campion at Saltwood on the 16th (22 days earlier), Burnished Brass at Seabrook on the 28th (19 days earlier), Toadflax Brocade at Hythe on the 22nd (15 days earlier), Clay Triple-lines at Seabrook on the 25th (14 days earlier), Buff Ermine at Seabrook on the 9th (12 days earlier), the Cinnabar at Hythe Ranges on the 27th (11 days earlier) and the Mullein at Hythe on the 1st (10 days earlier) being of particular note.



Ephestia kuehniella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Dotted Chestnut at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Blossom Underwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Elachista canapennella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Other macro additions of note included Water Carpet at Saltwood on the 3rd, Bloxworth Snout at Hythe on the 12th, Chocolate-tip at Seabrook on the 18th, Tawny Shears at Hythe on the 22nd, Early Tooth-striped at Hythe on the 26th and Light Feathered Rustic at Hythe on the 29th.

There were 12 additions to the butterfly year list including Holly Blue at Seabrook on the 4th, Speckled Wood at Folkestone on the 6th, Small Copper at Capel-le-Ferne and Green-veined White at Seabrook on the 7th, Green Hairstreak at Scene Wood on the 11th, Wall at Peene Quarry on the 22nd, Painted Lady at Seabrook on the 23rd, Dingy Skipper at Folkestone Warren on the 24th and Adonis Blue at Round Hill on the 26th.

Harbour Porpoises were noted off Hythe, Seabrook, Mill Point and Copt Point. A log with a large number of Goose Barnacles attached was found on Hythe Ranges on the 4th.



Toadflax Brocade at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Clay Triple-lines at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

May

After a showery first day May was the driest and sunniest on record. However with clear skies and a predominately easterly airflow overnight temperatures were disappointing, dipping to single figures on most nights in the first half of the month. The second half of May was a little warmer, particularly for a few nights from the 20th when some immigration was apparent.

There were some extremely notable records, including the first area records of **Cryptic Fern** at Folkestone Warren and Hythe on the 21st, although with two being trapped that night at the former site (and a further five there on the 24th and three on the 26th) it may well transpire that it has been an over-looked resident. There were only two British records prior to 2020 but it has been noted at a number of sites in south-east England this year and currently can only be determined by examination of the genitalia.



Cryptic Fern at Folkestone Warren (David Shenton)



The Fern at Folkestone Warren (David Shenton)

The second area record of ***Caloptilia honoratella*** (Pale Maple Slender) at Seabrook on the 20th was another highlight and was also only the fourth British record, following the first at Cheriton in April 2019 and others in Suffolk September 2019 and in Sussex in April 2020. The second and third area (and c.12th and 13th British) records of **Banded Pine Carpet** near Saltwood on the 19th and in Folkestone on the 25th and the fourth and fifth area records of **Beautiful Marbled** at Folkestone Warren on the 21st and 24th were also of particular note.

A White Spot at Seabrook on the 9th and a Dusky Hook-tip at Folkestone Warren on the 24th were well away from known breeding sites and so likely to be wanderers or possibly immigrants, whilst the former species was also noted in more typical habitat at Folkestone Warren and the latter species was again noted from woods in the Saltwood area. Very early White Satin Moths at Hythe on the 22nd and Folkestone Warren on the 25th may also have been of immigrant origin as there were a number of extralimital records along the south coast at this time.



Caloptilia honoratella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Beautiful Marbled at Folkestone Warren (Andy Millar)



Banded Pine Carpet near Saltwood (Ian Roberts)



Banded Pine Carpet at Folkestone (Nate Moss)

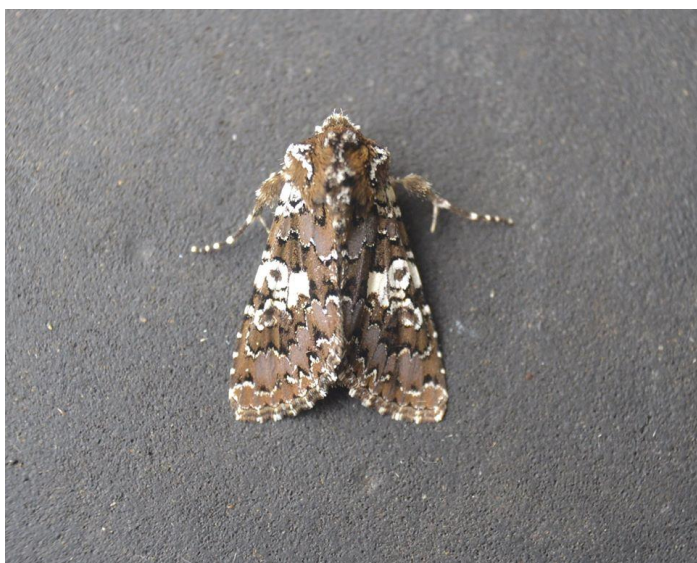
A ***Coleophora follicularis*** (Agrimony Case-bearer) at Folkestone Warren on the 21st was a new but presumably overlooked species for the area, whilst a **Lace Border** seen in the grazing area at Folkestone Warren on the 8th was only the second record since 1951 (with the other occurring in 2006) but is probably a very scarce and under-recorded resident.

Other notable residents included an *Agrotera nemoralis* (Beautiful Pearl) in a garden in Saltwood on the 20th (and presumably breeding nearby), the Four-spotted at Hythe Roughts on the 26th and 30th and two Fiery Clearwings at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 30th. A total of 162 Dew Moths were counted at Abbotscliffe on the 12th.

A further 108 micros were added to the year list, including *Mompha miscella* (Brown Cosmet) with a tenanted leaf-mine at Abbotscliffe on the 2nd (followed by an adult at Folkestone Warren on the 26th), *Incurvaria mascuella* (Feathered Bright) at Hythe on the 3rd and *Micropterix aruncella* (White-barred Gold) at Asholt Wood on the 19th.

A warm day followed by a mild night on the 21st produced no less than 35 new additions, including *Aethes tesserana* (Downland Conch) at Fisherman's Beach (Hythe), *Elachista subocellea* (Brown-barred Dwarf) at Abbotscliffe, *Anania crocealis* (Ochreous Pearl) and *Anania perlucidalis* (Fenland Pearl) at Nickolls Quarry, and *Eupoecilia ambiguella* (Vine Moth), *Parectopa ononidis* (Clover Slender), *Agonopterix pallorella* (Pale Flat-body), *Mecyna asinalis* (Coastal Pearl) and *Agdistis bennetii* (Saltmarsh Plume) at Folkestone Warren.

Other noteworthy species in the remainder of the month included *Pammene regiana* (Regal Piercer) at Aldergate Bridge on the 25th and *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl), *Cochylimorpha straminea* (Straw Conch) and *Delplanqueia inscriptella* (Brown Powdered Knot-horn) at Folkestone Warren on the 26th.

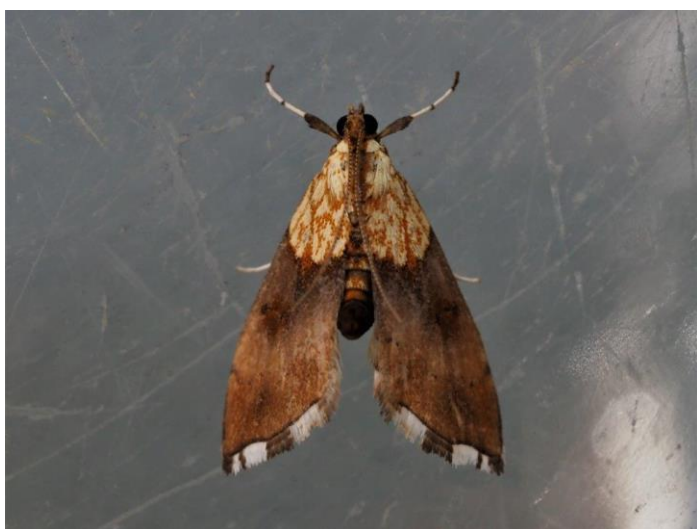


White Spot at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Lace Border at Folkestone Warren (Nathan Jones)

A further 136 macros were added to the year list, including the Mocha at Aldergate Bridge on the 8th, Channel Islands Pug at Hythe on the 9th, Alder Moth at Saltwood on the 16th, Grey Birch and Tawny-barred Angle near Saltwood on the 19th, Latticed Heath at Abbotscliffe on the 20th, Yellow Belle at Hythe Ranges, Reed Dagger at Nickolls Quarry, Pine Beauty at Seabrook, and Galium Carpet, Broken-barred Carpet, the Fern and Cream-spot Tiger at Folkestone Warren on the 21st, Six-belted Clearwing at Hythe Ranges, Water Ermine at the Aldergate Bridge and Clouded Buff and Netted Pug at Folkestone Warren on the 25th, Clancy's Rustic at Saltwood and the Miller at Folkestone Warren on the 26th, Green Silver-lines at Saltwood on the 27th and Rest Harrow at Capel-le-Ferne on the 30th.



Agrotis nemoralis at Saltwood (Colin Dunster)



Mompha miscella at Folkestone Warren (Ian Roberts)

The butterfly highlight of the month was a Swallow-tail seen flying over a garden in Capel-le-Ferne on the 30th. This species was first recorded in the Folkestone area in 1870 and after several further records Chalmers-Hunt (1968) considered that there were "indications that the [Swallow-tail] was temporarily established in the Hythe area between 1918 and 1926". A further single was seen at Hythe in 1929 but there have been no records from the site since however it was recorded from Cheriton, Folkestone, Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone Warren and Abbotscliffe between then and 1953. There had been only three subsequent sightings before this latest one: at Abbotscliffe in late June 1995 and on the 6th April 2007, and at Seabrook on the 24th April 2014.

Other additions to the butterfly year list in May were Small Blue at Folkestone Warren on the 17th, Large Skipper at Nickolls Quarry on the 27th, Meadow Brown at Hythe Roughs on the 30th and Brown Argus at Seabrook on the 31st.



Alder Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Pine Beauty at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

June

The first couple of days of June were dry and sunny with high pressure and temperatures exceeding 25°C but the following week was more changeable with northerly winds. After a wet day on the 10th it became generally warm and fairly humid until further rain arrived on the 17th and a cooler few days ensued. There was a hot spell from the 23rd to the 26th when daytime temperatures reached 30°C and overnight lows exceeded 20°C. The last few days of the month though saw a return to cooler changeable weather.

A new adventive micro for the local area, the Antipodean *Sphyrelata amotella* found freshly dead in garden trap in Hythe on the morning of the 15th June 2020, was also the first to be documented in Britain. This species was only previously known from Australia and, as an introduction, New Zealand.

There was also one addition to the area macro list, with the capture of the **Druid** at Hythe on the 30th (which was only the second for the county, whilst there are less than 20 British records).



Sphyrelata amotella at Hythe (Sean Clancy)



The Druid at Hythe (Sean Clancy)

Other highlights included the presumed immigrants **Portland Ribbon Wave** at Hythe on the 2nd (only the fifth area record but the fourth consecutive year of its appearance since the first in May 2017) and **Silver Barred** at Hythe on the 12th and Samphire Hoe on the 20th (the third and fourth area records following another recent record in July 2018 and an historical one in August 1965).



Portland Ribbon Wave at Hythe (Sean Clancy)



Silver Barred at Hythe (Sean Clancy)

There was a significant immigration event on the nights of the 24th and 25th, associated with the arrival of warm air from the continent, with the most obvious feature being an exceptional arrival of *Acrobasis repandana* (Warted Knot-horn). On the first night there were around 100 at Folkestone Warren and on the second night counts included six at Hythe, 14 at Nickolls Quarry and 34 at Seabrook and there were also several at Saltwood. The first area records of **Rosy Marbled** at Folkestone Warren on the 24th and at Nickolls Quarry the following night were presumably also of immigrant origin, as was a **Brussels Lace** at Hythe on the 25th (the third area record, following one last year and an historical one in 1946).

Other potential immigrants (or at least wanderers) included three *Ancylosis oblitella* (Saltmarsh Knot-horn) at Folkestone Warren on the 24th (with two of the latter at Hythe and Nickolls Quarry the following night) and the second area record of **Euspilapteryx auroguttella** (Gold-dot Slender), a *Sciota adelphella* (Willow Knot-horn), a Suspected and two Sub-angled Waves at Nickolls Quarry, a *Pempeliella ornatella* (Ornate Knot-horn), a Buttoned Snout and a Golden Twin-spot at Hythe, a White Colon, a Silky Wainscot and a Scarce Silver-lines at Seabrook and a *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box Tree Moth) at Saltwood on the 25th.



Rosy Marbled at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Brussels Lace at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

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The more typical migrants during this arrival were limited to two Dark Sword-grass at Folkestone Warren and two Hummingbird Hawk-moths at Lympne on the 24th and a few *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths) and Silver Ys. Earlier in the month though single *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearls) were trapped at Saltwood on the 16th and Hythe on the 17th, and a Delicate was at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd.

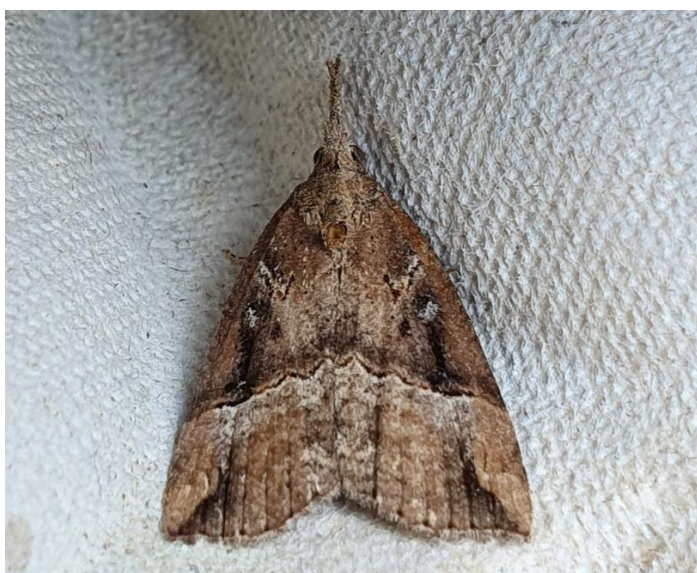


Pempeliella ornatella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Sub-angled Wave at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)

Notable resident species included the earliest ever record of Straw Belle at Abbotscliffe on the 1st, a White-banded Carpet at Seabrook on the 13th (this species seems to have disappeared from its breeding site near Saltwood and there was only a single record in 2019, also at Seabrook, raising hopes that there might be an undiscovered population nearby) and the early earliest ever record of Sussex Emerald at Seabrook on the 21st (the earliness of the date and the occurrence away from the breeding site suggests a possible immigrant origin, whilst there were a further two on a night of significant immigration at Nickolls Quarry on the 25th and singles in a garden in central Hythe on the 28th and 29th, whilst one in a coastal garden in the town on the 30th was a more typical record).



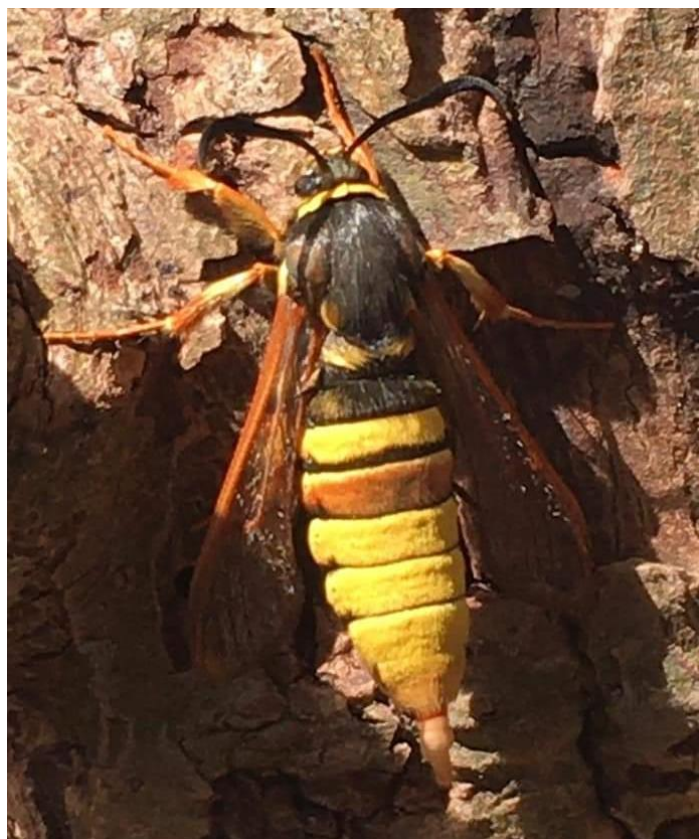
Buttoned Snout at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Hummingbird Hawk-moth at Lympne (Nick Hollands)

The first modern record of **Lunar Hornet Moth** was seen in the Horn Street area on the 22nd (there are very few historical records with the most recent in 1945) and there were two *Cosmopterix scribaiella* (New Marsh Cosmet) at Nickolls Quarry on the 25th (the fourth area and fifth county record, with all previous local records coming from the canal between the Aldergate Bridge and West Hythe).

A further 195 micros were added to the year list, including the first area record of *Glyphipterix fuscoviridella* (Plain Fanner) at Seabrook on the 1st, *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* (Beet Moth) at Hythe Ranges on the 2nd, *Olindia schumacherana* (White-barred Twist) and *Adela croesella* (Small Barred Long-horn) at West Hythe on the 3rd, *Cynaeda dentalis* (Starry Pearl) at Hythe on the 10th, *Piniphila bifasciana* (Pine Marble) at Hythe on the 11th, *Achroia grisella* (Lesser Wax Moth) at Hythe, *Stathmopoda pedella* (Alder Signal) at Cock Ash Lake and the first area record of *Eriocrania sparrmannella* (Mottled Purple) (tenanted leaf-mines) at Gibbin's Brook on the 13th, *Capperia britanniodactylus* (Wood Sage Plume) at Hythe on the 14th and *Monochroa palustrellus* (Wainscot Neb) and *Batrachedra praeangusta* (Poplar Cosmet) at Aldergate Bridge on the 15th.



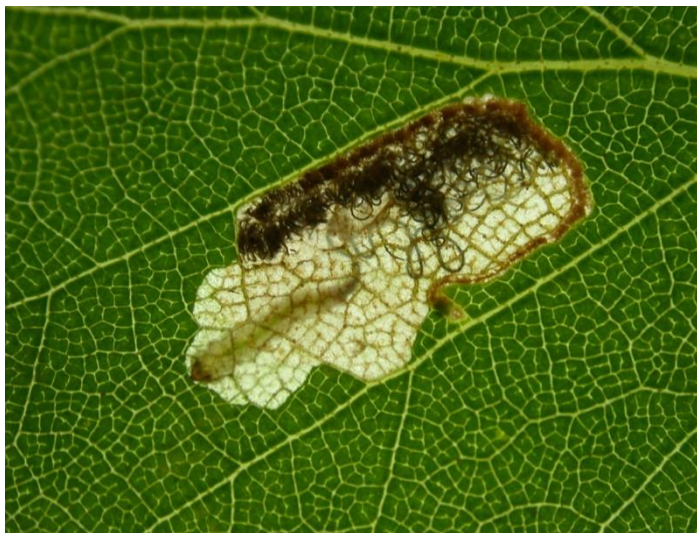
Lunar Hornet Moth at Horn Street (Marie Pullen)



Straw Belle at Abbotscliffe (Ian Roberts)

The second half of the month produced *Caryocolum marmorea* (Beautiful Groundling) at Nickolls Quarry on the 17th, *Pammene aurana* (Orange-spot Piercer) at Lympne on the 19th, *Cochylimorpha alternana* (Kentish Conch), *Bactra robustana* (Saltern Marble), *Anerastia lotella* (Sandhill Knot-horn), *Sitochroa palealis* (Sulphur Pearl), *Anania fuscalis* (Cinerous Pearl) and *Platytes alpinella* (Hook-tipped Grass-veneer) at Samphire Hoe on the 20th, *Ypsolopha nemorella* (Hooked Smudge) at Aldergate Bridge, *Eudonia truncicolella* (Ground-moss Grey) at Seabrook and *Selania leplastriana* (Cabbage Piercer) at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd, *Monochroa cytisella* (Bracken Neb) at Seabrook on the 23rd, *Anarsia spartiella* (Small Crest) at Seabrook, the first area record of *Coleophora deauratella* (Red-clover Case-bearer), *Schrekensteinia festaliella* (Bramble False-feather), *Plodia interpunctella* (Indian Meal Moth), *Eulamprotes unicolorella* (Unmarked Neb) and *Ypsolopha sequella* (Pied Smudge) at Folkestone Warren on the 24th, *Teleiodes luculella* (Crescent Groundling) and *Eudonia delunella* (Pied Grey) at Seabrook and *Scoparia subfusca* (Large Grey) and *Pammene albuginana* (Blotched Piercer) at Hythe on the 25th, *Gypsonoma aceriana* (Rosy Cloaked Shoot) at Seabrook on the 28th and *Sophronia semicostella* (White-shouldered Groundling) at Hythe on the 29th.

A further 95 macros were added to the year list, including Varied Coronet at Hythe on the 4th, Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet at Lympne on the 11th, the Lackey at Seabrook on the 13th, *Argyresthia retinella* (Netted Argent) at Hythe and Gold Swift, Four-dotted Footman, Minor Shoulder-knot and Round-winged Muslin at Gibbin's Brook on the 14th, Blue-bordered Carpet and Plain Pug at the Aldergate Bridge and Plumed Fan-foot at Hythe on the 15th Jun, Olive Crescent, Dingy Shell and Purple Clay at Kiln Wood on the 16th, Ruddy Carpet at Hythe on the 19th, Red-necked Footman and Wood Carpet at Samphire Hoe on the 20th and. About 12 Orange-tailed Clearwings were attracted to a pheromone lure at Peene on the 23rd, several Orange Moths were trapped at Folkestone Warren on the 24th, Bordered Beauty and Dingy Shears were at Nickolls Quarry on the 25th, Small Ranunculus and the Spinach at Saltwood on the 28th and Slender Brindle at Seabrook on the 30th.



Eriocrania sparrmannella at Gibbin's Brook (Ian Roberts)



Capperia britanniodactylus at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Olive Crescent at Kiln Wood (Ian Roberts)



Four-dotted Footman at Gibbin's Brook (Ian Roberts)

There were five additions to the butterfly year list in June: Marbled White at Round Hill on the 4th, Small Skipper at Folkestone Downs on the 14th, Ringlet at Round Hill on the 22nd and White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary at Folks' Wood on the 24th.

July

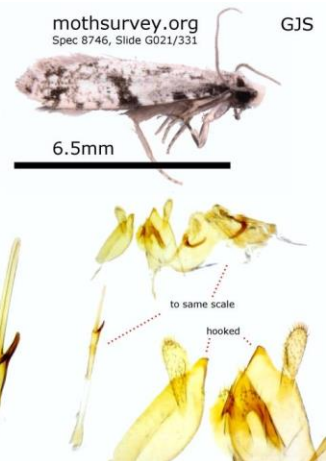
The beginning of the month saw low pressure dominating and this brought unsettled weather until the 9th before high pressure often ridged in between the 10th and 22nd, giving drier, sunnier weather although it was often rather cool overnight. It was generally changeable thereafter but there was a very warm end to July with temperatures soaring to 33°C on the 31st, with an overnight low of 18°C.

The highlight of July occurred at the very end of the month, when the second British record of *Nemapogon inconditella* (Pale Devon Clothes Moth) was trapped Hythe on the 31st and later confirmed by examination of the genitalia. Although only previously recorded in south Devon in July 1979 it is may be an overlooked resident rather than a rare immigrant. A **Raspberry Clearwing** attracted to a pheromone lure at Seabrook on the 17th was another new species for the area and is also perhaps an overlooked resident or a recent colonist originating from imported plants.

A further three other additions to the area list in July seemed certain to relate to previously unrecorded residents: *Gelechia sororculella* (Dark-striped Groundling) at Gibbin's Brook on the 7th and *Elachista biatomella* (Two-dotted Dwarf) and *Elachista apicipunctella* (Pearled Dwarf) at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd.

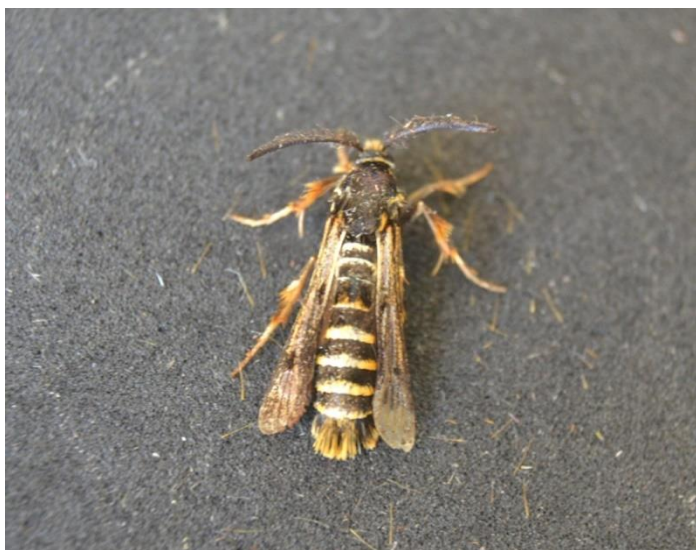


ABH 12.018 / BF 0216a
Nemapogon inconditella
(Lucas, 1956)



2nd U.K. record (last South Devon in 1979)
Hythe, TR1634, VC15. 31vii2020. Ian Roberts

Nemapogon inconditella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Raspberry Clearwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Gelechia sororculella at Gibbin's Brook (Ian Roberts)

The warm night of the 31st produced a number of other notable moths, including the second area record of **Double Kidney** at Seabrook, the fourth area record of **Oak Processionary** at Hythe Ranges and the seventh area record of **Acrobasis tumidana** (Scarce Oak Knot-horn) at Hythe.

Other significant captures from earlier in the month included the second area record of **Vitula biviella** (Pine-blossom Knot-horn) at Hythe on the 16th, the fourth area (second modern) record of **Oblique Striped** at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd, the eighth area record of **Dark Crimson Underwing** at Hythe Ranges on the 16th, the first Garden Dart since 1991 at Hythe on the 11th, and the 14th and 15th area (but only the 22nd and 23rd British) records of **Pale-shouldered Cloud** at Hythe on the 13th and Cheriton on the 24th.

More regular migrant species included a *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer) at West Hythe on the 1st, a Pearly Underwing at Hythe on the 9th, a Bordered Straw at Hythe Ranges on the 16th, a Gypsy Moth at Seabrook on the 30th, singles of *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl) at Seabrook on the 22nd and Hythe on the 30th and 31st, singles of *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box Tree Moth) at Hythe on the 8th and 22nd, and Seabrook on the 9th, 21st and 23rd, two Hummingbird Hawk-moths, five Dark Sword-grass and eight *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl).

Notable resident species included a White-banded Carpet in a garden in Hythe on the 16th, a Dusky Hook-tip at Seabrook on the 31st (with eight at an inland locality the previous night) and *Catoptria verellus* (Marbled Grass-veneer) at Seabrook, Samphire Hoe, Tolsford Hill, Heane Wood (up to three) and West Hythe (up to six). There was a peak of 75 Sussex Emeralds at Hythe Ranges on the 16th and Straw Belles appeared to be emerging in good numbers towards the end of the month, with 22 on Folkestone Downs on the 29th.



Oblique Striped at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)



Dark Crimson Underwing at Hythe Ranges (Ian Roberts)

Following the record in June, there were further sightings of Lunar Hornet Moth at Nickolls Quarry on the 13th and at Seabrook on four dates (attracted to a new pheromone lure), whilst up to four Yellow-legged Clearwings were also seen at the latter site.

A further 91 micros were added to the year list, including *Elegia similella* (White-barred Knot-horn) and *Gypsonoma minutana* (Brindled Shoot) at West Hythe and *Epermenia aequidentellus* (Carrot Lance-wing) at Stanford North on the 1st, *Spilonota laricana* (Larch-bud Moth) at Seabrook on the 6th, *Epagoge grotiana* (Brown-barred Twist) and *Phalonidia manniana* (Water-mint Conch) at Gibbin's Brook on the 7th, *Epiblema scutulana* (Thistle Bell) at Seabrook on the 8th, *Bisigna procerella* (Kent Tubic) at Seabrook on the 14th and *Recurvaria leucateella* (White-barred Groundling) at Hythe on the 15th.



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Yellow-legged Clearwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Trapping at Hythe Ranges on the 16th produced a number of additions including *Aristotelia brizella* (Thrift Neb), *Caryocolum alsinella* (Narrow Groundling), *Caryocolum vicinella* (Coast Groundling), *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* (Rose Plume), *Hellinsia carphodactyla* (Citron Plume), *Aethes dilucidana* (Short-barred Yellow Conch) and *Pediasia contaminella* (Waste Grass-veneer), whilst trapping at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd added *Agonopterix rotundella* (Rolling Carrot Flat-body), *Acompsia schmidtellus* (Marjoram Crest), *Apodia bifractella* (Dark Fleabane Neb), *Moitrelia obductella* (Kent Knot-horn), *Eudonia lineola* (White-line Grey) and *Merrifieldia baliodactylus* (Dingy White Plume) among others. Also of note in the latter part of the month were *Isophrictis striatella* (White-border Neb) at Seabrook on the 27th, *Dichomeris alacella* (Lichen Crest) at Heane Wood on the 29th and *Eulamprotes wilkella* (Painted Neb) at Seabrook on the 30th.

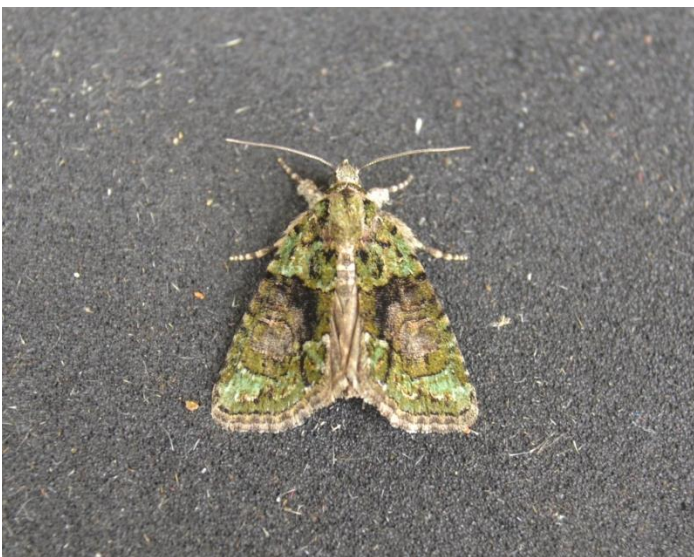


Isophrictis striatella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

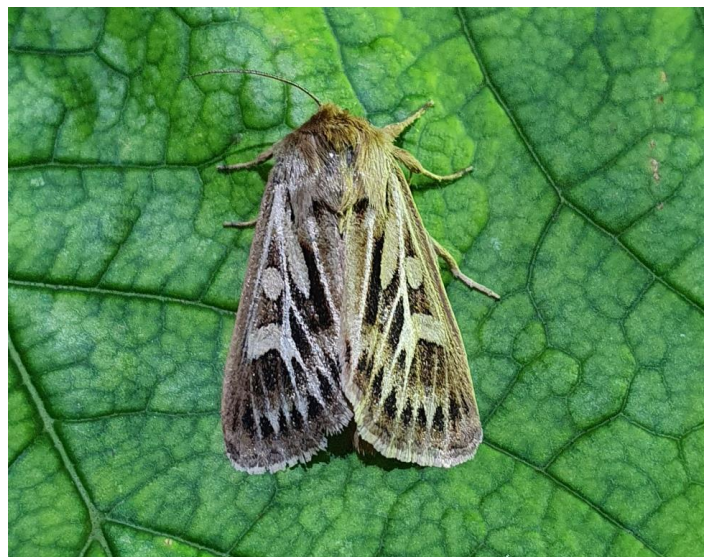


Bisigna procerella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

A further 37 macros were added to the year list, including Dark Umber at Hythe and Seabrook on the 1st, Pigmy Footman at Hythe on the 2nd, Four-spotted Footman and Tree-lichen Beauty at Seabrook and Grass Emerald at Hythe on the 13th, Hoary Footman at Seabrook on the 14th, Juniper Pug at Seabrook on the 17th, Chalk Carpet at Tolsford Hill on the 21st, Barred Rivulet, Lobster Moth, Small Dotted Buff and Reddish Light Arches at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd, Brown-veined Wainscot at Hythe on the 23rd, *Bucculatrix thoracella* (Lime Bent-wing) at Hythe on the 27th, Antler Moth at Tolsford Hill on the 30th and Small Rufous at Seabrook on the 31st.



Tree-lichen Beauty at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Antler Moth at Tolsford Hill (Ian Roberts)

Migrant butterflies comprised a **Swallow-tail** at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd, Clouded Yellows at Cheriton Hill on the 20th and Castle Hill on the 29th, and a Painted Lady at Samphire Hoe on the 30th, whilst other additions to the year list were Gatekeeper at Tolsford Hill on the 21st and Chalk Hill Blue and Essex Skipper at Cheriton Hill on the 29th. The Italian Wall Lizard colony was noted again at Folkestone Warren.

August

After a changeable start, a generally hot and sunny spell with some thundery outbreaks set in from the 6th, with maximum temperatures approaching 35°C locally and overnight lows exceeding 20°C. It turned more unsettled mid-month, and then from the 19th it was often windy with some deep depressions moving in from the west. Temperatures were mostly near normal during this spell but it turned cooler during the last few days.

Four new species for the area were recorded in August: the rare immigrant ***Etiella zinckenella*** (Legume Knot-horn) at Seabrook on the 11th (only the fourth Kent record), the scarce adventive ***Oinophila v-flava*** (Yellow V Moth) at Hythe on the 10th, and two wanderers from coastal saltmarshes: a ***Bucculatrix maritima*** (Saltern Bent-wing) at Hythe on the 10th and a ***Eucosma tripoliana*** (Saltmarsh Bell) there on the 19th.



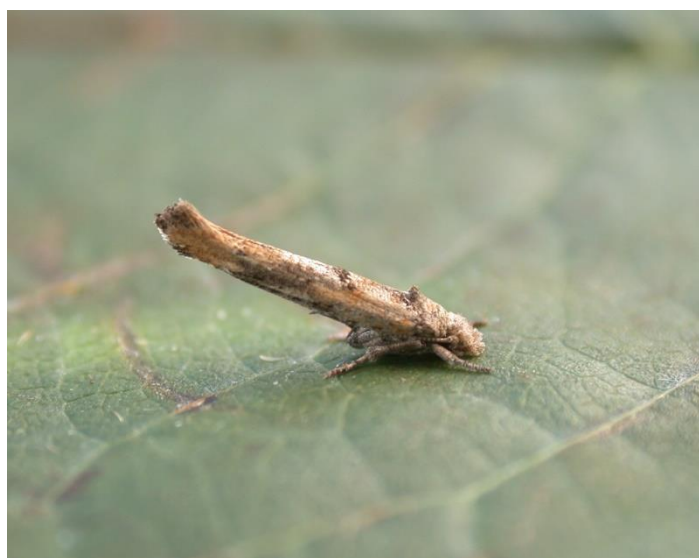
Etiella zinckenella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



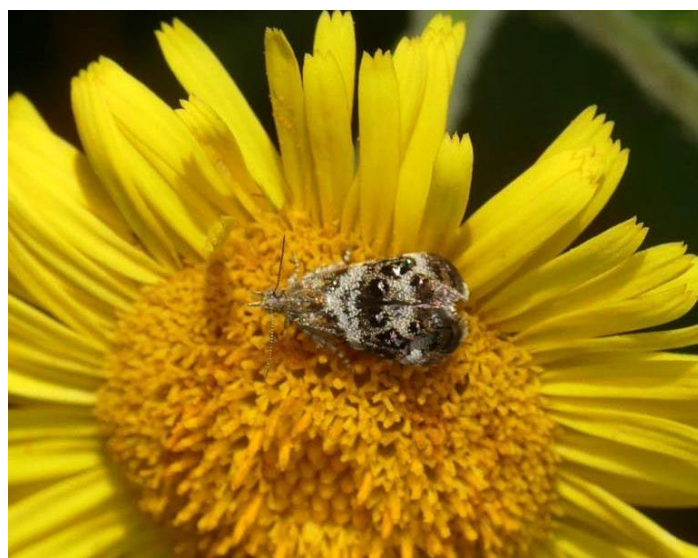
Oinophila v-flava at Hythe (Sean Clancy)

There was a plethora of other exciting rarities in August including ***Zelleria oleastrella*** (Olive Ermel) at Hythe on the 15th (the second area and county record, following one at same site in June 2018), ***Tebenna micalis*** (Vagrant Twitcher) found by day at Folkestone Warren on the 20th (the fourth area, and fifth modern county, record following singles at Hythe and Saltwood in 2014, and Hythe in 2015), and the first modern area records of **Marbled Clover** at Samphire Hoe on the 11th and **Light Crimson Underwing** at Seabrook on the 19th.

Marbled Clover was previously known from Folkestone Warren until about the mid-nineteenth century and Light Crimson Underwing appears to have been resident locally until the early twentieth century. Following the first area records in May, further Cryptic Ferns were noted at Nickolls Quarry and Hythe on the 10th, and at the latter site on three subsequent dates.



Zelleria oleastrella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Tebenna micalis at Folkestone Warren (Michael Baldock)

Also of significant note were the fourth area record of **Porter's Rustic** at Seabrook on the 18th, the sixth record of **Dotted Footman** there on the 7th, the sixth record (but the third this year, following two in May) of **Beautiful Marbled** at Samphire Hoe on the 16th, the sixth to eighth records (following the fifth in June) of **Portland Ribbon Wave** at Cheriton on the 11th, Samphire Hoe on the 18th and Nickolls Quarry on the 20th (when three were trapped) and the ninth record (following the eighth in July) of **Dark Crimson Underwing** at Cheriton on the 10th.



Marbled Clover at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Light Crimson Underwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

A **Blair's Mocha** at Hythe on the 7th was only the 11th area record but has now been recorded in four consecutive years, whilst a **Pale-shouldered Cloud** was only the 24th British record but the 16th local record, and the third this year (after two in July). Following the fourth area record in July, there was an exceptional influx of **Oak Processionary** with a total of up to 38 recorded between the 1st and the 11th, and with 19 of those trapped on the 7th alone (one at Hythe, five at Samphire Hoe and an incredible 13 at Seabrook).

Similarly, after just the seventh area record in July, a total of up to 45 **Acrobasis tumidana** (Scarce Oak Knot-horn) were logged between the 7th and 15th, including a peak of eight at Seabrook on the 10th.



Porter's Rustic at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Oak Processionary at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

There were also record arrivals of Gypsy Moth, with up to 33 recorded (including 8 at Seabrook on the 7th) and Golden Twin-spot, with up to 63 recorded (including 7 at Hythe on the 9th and 6 at Samphire Hoe on the 14th).

The more regular migrants included singles of the Gem at Seabrook on the 16th, the Vestal at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th, the Delicate at Seabrook on the 21st and Latticed Heath at Hythe on the 26th. Two presumed immigrant Dusky Hook-tips were noted (at Seabrook on the 1st and Hythe on the 14th), two Scarce Bordered Straws were trapped at Hythe (singles on the 26th and 27th) and there were totals of up to seven Hummingbird Hawk-moths, 14 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer), 19 Dark Sword-grass, 27 *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl) and 45 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl). Silver Ys were present in good numbers, including an estimated 100 to light at Samphire Hoe on the 14th.

Other wanderers included a Four-spotted in a garden in Hythe on the 5th, a White-banded Carpet there on the 8th, singles of Rest Harrow at Seabrook and Hythe on two dates (whilst good numbers were again noted at the breeding sites, including at least 250 at Samphire Hoe on the 6th), an *Assara terebrella* (Dark Spruce Knot-horn) at Hythe on the 11th and the Confused at Seabrook on the 24th.



The Four-spotted at Hythe (Sean Clancy)



Assara terebrella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Straw Belles were present in excellent numbers on Folkestone Downs, with surveying over the 6th-7th revealing a total of 129 moths, including a count of 55 at Round Hill. This meta-population is now the largest and most extensive in Britain (Wheatley, 2020). *Celypha rufana* (Lakes Marble) now appears to be resident (after six were recorded last year) and this year produced one at Samphire Hoe on the 6th, two there on the 16th and one at Seabrook on the 26th.

A further 34 micros were added to the year list, including *Dichrorampha simpliciana* (Round-winged Drill) at Seabrook on the 1st, *Gelechia senticetella* (Cypress Groundling) at Hythe on the 2nd, *Evergestis extimalis* (Marbled Yellow Pearl) at Hythe on the 3rd, *Cochylis dubitana* (Little Conch) at Samphire Hoe on the 6th, *Lobesia occidentis* (Spurge Marble) there on the 7th, *Apotomis lineana* (Willow Marble) and *Cosmopterix lienigiella* (Fen Cosmet) at Nickolls Quarry on the 10th, *Phyllocnistis unipunctella* (Poplar Bent-wing) at Hythe on the 11th, *Bucculatrix ulmella* (Elm Bent-wing) at Hythe and *Ypsolopha alpella* (Barred Smudge) at Seabrook on the 14th, *Eucosma conterminana* (Pale Lettuce Bell) at Samphire Hoe on the 16th, *Mirificarma mulinella* (Gorse Groundling) at Hythe on the 17th, and *Mompha propinquella* (Marbled Cosmet) and *Platyptilia gonodactyla* (Triangle Plume) at Nickolls Quarry on the 20th.

A further 22 macros were added to the year list, including Lesser-spotted Pinion at Hythe on the 5th, Toadflax Pug at Seabrook on the 7th, the Annulet and Northern Rustic at Samphire Hoe on the 7th, the Wormwood at Seabrook on the 10th, August Thorn there on the 11th and Large Thorn at Hythe on the 23rd.



Platyptilia gonodactyla at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Wormwood at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Notable amongst the butterfly sightings were a **Swallowtail** at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 2nd and the first site record of **Grayling** at Samphire Hoe. The latter species has disappeared from Folkestone Warren, which was its last stronghold in the county (with the last record there in 2014), and is feared to be extinct in the county but this record raises hope that it may still persist.

The first county record of **Large Conehead Bush-cricket** was attracted to light at Seabrook on the 13th, with further singles there on the 15th and 27th. Three Harbour Porpoises off Samphire Hoe on the 16th were also of note.



Grayling at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)



Large Conehead Bush-cricket at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

September

The early part of the month was unsettled with areas of rain moving in from the west, interspersed with brighter showery weather. There was a spell of mostly warm and sunny conditions from the 13th to 21st, and daytime temperatures exceeded 25°C around mid-month, with an overnight low of 18°C on the 14th. It turned much more unsettled and cooler from the 22nd, with strong winds and rain at times and overnight temperatures dipped into single figures for the first time since early June.

There was another addition to the area list in September when a ***Lyonetia prunifoliella*** (Striped Bent-wing) was trapped at Seabrook on the 8th. This species was locally resident in parts of southern and central England before it became extinct in Britain in around 1900, but since 2007 it appears that it is slowly becoming re-established and there have been a number of Kent records in recent years.

Following the first area record in August, a second ***Oinophila v-flava*** (Yellow V Moth) was trapped at Hythe on the 3rd. A **Clifden Nonpareil** was trapped at Saltwood on the 11th, which was only the third modern record but is third consecutive year of occurrence (with others at Beachborough in 2018 and Heane Wood in 2019), raising hopes that it could be starting to become established locally as part of a pattern of apparent colonisation nationally.



Lyonetia prunifoliella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Clifden Nonpareil at Saltwood (Colin Dunster)

An **Oak Lutestring** at Postling on the 7th was only the fourth area record (but the second in successive years) and two **Dewick's Plusias** at Samphire Hoe on the 21st were the sixth area record (following singles in 2009, 2014, 2015, 2018 and 2019).



Oak Lutestring at Postling (Ian Roberts)

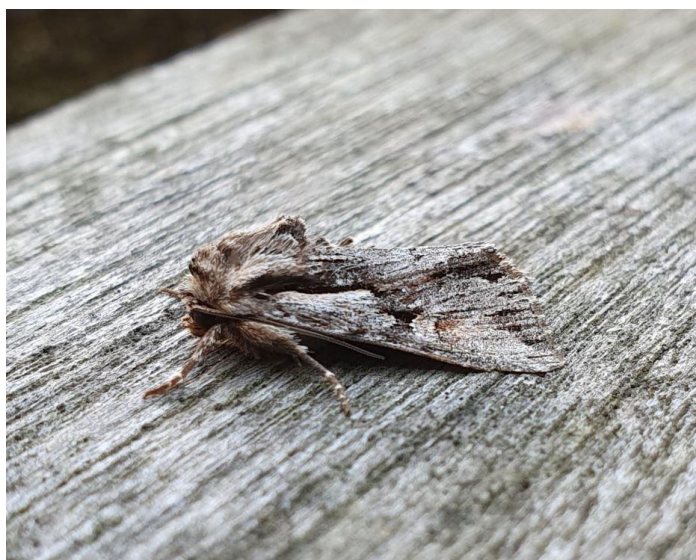


Dewick's Plusia at Samphire Hoe (Kevin Button)

A **Portland Ribbon Wave** at Hythe on the 3rd was the ninth area record but the fourth this year, suggesting that it might now be locally established, whilst an exceptional total of six **Pale-shouldered Clouds** trapped in September (at Hythe on the 9th, 14th and 20th and at Seabrook on the 14th, 18th and 21st), following two in July and one in August, strongly suggests that it is now resident locally (although there have still been just 30 British records).



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Following from the exceptional influxes in August, there was one further ***Acrobasis tumidana*** (Scarce Oak Knot-horn) at Hythe on the 3rd and another 19 Golden Twin-spots, whilst a total of 34 ***Cydalima perspectalis*** (Box Tree Moth) were logged. Migrants included single Convolvulus Hawk-moths at Seabrook on the 20th and 22nd, Scarce Bordered Straws at Hythe on the 4th and 28th, Vestals at Lower Wall Road on the 15th and Samphire Hoe on the 21st, a ***Nomophila noctuella*** (Rush Veneer) at Hythe on the 28th, four Dark Sword-grasses, up to 11 Hummingbird Hawk-moths, 17 Delicates, 18 ***Palpita vitrealis*** (Olive-tree Pearls) and 25 Rusty-dot Pearls.

A further five micros were new for the year including, ***Cochylidia implicitana*** (Chamomile Conch) at Seabrook on the 20th and ***Endothenia quadrimaculana*** (Blotched Marble) at Aldergate Bridge on the 21st and ***Depressaria badiella*** (Brown Flat-body) at Hythe on the 23rd.



Convolvulus Hawk-moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



The Vestal at Samphire Hoe (Kevin Button)

An additional 16 macros were added to the year list including Feathered Brindle at Hythe on the 4th, Large Ranunculus at Hythe and Brindled Green at Seabrook on the 6th, Hedge Rustic at Hythe and Orange Sallow at Postling on the 7th, Autumnal Rustic at Hythe on the 11th, Large Wainscot at the Hythe Redoubt and Dusky-lemon Sallow at Seabrook on the 14th, the Sallow at Seabrook on the 16th, Barred Sallow, Beaded Chestnut and Brown-spot Pinion at Saltwood on the 20th, Deep-brown Dart at Samphire Hoe on the 21st, Merveille du Jour at Hythe on the 24th and Blair's Shoulder-knot at Hythe on the 30th.

Also of note was an exceptional late, possibly second brood or perhaps immigrant, Straw Belle at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd.

The most significant butterfly record involved a male **Long-tailed Blue** at Castle Hill on the 14th. This was only the third area record (following sightings in 1957 and 2019). A total of six Clouded Yellows were also logged, including two at Samphire Hoe on the 8th.

An exhausted **Kuhl's Pippistrelle** was found at Samphire Hoe in late September (there are thought to have been less than ten previous British records).

Two Western Conifer Seed Bugs on the seawall by the Hythe Redoubt on the 14th were considered likely to have been immigrants.



Long-tailed Blue at Castle Hill (Tony Poole)



Kuhl's Pippistrelle at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

October

It was a generally unsettled month with rain crossing the area at frequent intervals and this was heavy and persistent at times. It was drier and more settled from the 14th to 19th with mainly easterly winds, but the rest of the month was mostly wet and windy.

There was another addition to the area list in October when an example of the adventive *Duponchelia fovealis* (Dark Marbled Tabby) was found at Cheriton on the 16th. A further two were later located at the same site and were thought to have emerged from a *Senecio rowleyanus* (String of Pearls) plant.

There were a number of other very significant records during the month, including a presumed immigrant **Figure of Eight** at Samphire Hoe on the 7th (the first area record since 1958) and a **Juniper Carpet** at Saltwood on the 16th (the first area record since 1965).



Duponchelia fovealis at Cheriton (Ian Roberts)



Figure of Eight at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)

The second area record of **Radford's Flame Shoulder** was trapped at Hythe on the 21st (following the first at Samphire Hoe last year) and there further captures at Samphire Hoe again on the 23rd (three) and 30th. The fifth area record of **Dotted Chestnut** was trapped at Saltwood on the 10th and the seventh area record of **Pale-lemon Sallow** was taken there on the 17th, whilst the eighth area record of **White-speck** was noted at Samphire Hoe on the 30th and a **Death's-head Hawk-moth** was found by day on the seawall there on the 6th.



Juniper Carpet at Saltwood (Sean Clancy)



Radford's Flame Shoulder at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Despite only first being recorded in 2017, Oak Rustic now appears to be gaining a foothold as a resident, with seven sightings (with the first at Hythe on the 22nd).



Pale-lemon Sallow at Saltwood (Sean Clancy)



Death's-head Hawk-moth at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Migrants included a Vestal at Saltwood on the 21st, a Gem at Samphire Hoe on the 23rd, Convolvulus Hawk-moths at Samphire Hoe on the 6th and Cheriton on the 8th, 3 Pearly Underwings, 6 Dark Sword-grasses, 7 Scarce Bordered Straws, 13 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneers), 14 Hummingbird Hawk-moths, 17 Delicates, 27 *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearls) and 90 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearls). Other records of note included another very late Straw Belle at Samphire on the 8th the latest ever (possibly immigrant) Gold Spot at the same site on the 31st.



White-speck and Radford's Flame-shoulder at Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)



Hummingbird Hawk-moth at Cheriton (Tony Poole)

A further four micros were added to the year list, all of which were leaf-mines: *Stigmella confusella* (Pale Birch Pigmy) and *Stigmella sakhalinella* (Small Birch Pigmy) at Hythe on the 11th, and *Stigmella speciosa* (Barred Sycamore Pigmy) at Hythe and *Stigmella continuella* (Double-barred Pigmy) at Brockhill Country Park on the 18th.

An additional 11 macros were new for the year including Pink-barred Sallow at Hythe on the 6th, Green-brindled Crescent at Hythe on the 10th, Feathered Thorn at Hythe on the 8th, Red-line and Yellow-line Quakers at Hythe on the 12th, the Mallow at Hythe on the 20th and December Moth at Hythe on the 27th.

A Clouded Yellow flew west at Seabrook on the 10th.

November

After a mild, wet and windy start, November briefly turned cooler and more settled from the 4th to the 7th due to the influence of a ridge of high pressure. Southerly and south-westerly winds then predominated until the 18th, bringing mild conditions with wet and windy spells and it was unseasonably warm on the 8th and 9th, with an overnight low of 15°C. It continued to be mostly unsettled and mild until the 25th before becoming more settled and colder for the last few days of the month.

The unseasonable conditions on the 8th produced single **Red-headed Chestnuts** at Hythe and Samphire Hoe (the second and third area records, following one at Hythe in November 2015), whilst single ***Caloptilia honoratella*** (Pale Maple Slender) were at Seabrook on the 6th and 8th (the third and fourth area records, following the second in May, but with still only around ten British records) and **Radford's Flame Shoulders** were at Samphire Hoe on the 8th and 9th, and Seabrook on the 9th and 27th (the fifth to eighth area records, following three in October).



Red-headed Chestnut at Hythe
(Ian Roberts)



Red-headed Chestnut and Radford's Flame Shoulder at
Samphire Hoe (Tony Rouse)

Leaf-mines of ***Ectoedemia argyropeza*** (Virgin Pigmy) found at Port Lympe on the 19th November constituted a new species for the area.



Caloptilia honoratella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Ectoedemia argyropeza at Port Lympe (Tony King)

Regular migrants included a Dark Sword-grass at Hythe on the 21st, 5 Hummingbird Hawk-moths, 7 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneers), 53 *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearls), including an exceptional total of 46 on the 8th (when 12 were at Saltwood and 21 at Hythe) and 86 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearls), including 20 at Samphire Hoe on the 8th and 9th.

There were two further additions to the micro year list: *Acleris umbrana* (Dark-streaked Button) at Saltwood and *Caloptilia stigmatella* (White-triangle Slender) at Hythe on the 8th and two additions to the macro year list: Scarce Umber at Seabrook on the 5th and the Sprawler at Hythe on the 14th.



Acleris umbrana at Saltwood (Colin Dunster)



Scarce Umber at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

A late Clouded Yellow was seen at Round Hill on the 7th and several Hares were seen in the Donkey Street area.

December

December was typically quiet with just a few last migrants of note, with a *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) at Seabrook on the 1st, a *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) there on the 11th and a Silver Y and 3 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd. A count of 11 December Moths at Seabrook on the 11th was also of note.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to David Shenton for undertaking genitalia determination of Cryptic Fern and the Fern, to Robert Arnfield for undertaking genitalia determination of *Delplanqueia inscriptella* and to Graeme J. Smith for undertaking genitalia determination of *Scrobipalpa ocellatella*, *Pempeliella ornatella*, *Nemapogon inconditella* and *Eucosma conterminana* among others.

I am also very grateful to all the observers that have contributed records and photographs, particularly Paul Howe, Sean Clancy, Brian Harper, Fred Butcher and Colin Dunster, and to landowners for permitting access to trapping sites.

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Folkestone and Hythe Moth List

The full list of species recorded at Folkestone and Hythe in 2020 and other years is available at:

www.folkestonebirds.com/moth-list

Summary tables

Migrant micro moths	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	0	0	0	0	10	73	42	95	32	40	21	1	314	1,630	1,150	151	14,783	263
<i>Cydia amplana</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	15	2	3	0
<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	45	25	90	104	4	279	230	23	183	231	98
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	27	18	27	30	0	107	21	65	44	18	58
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	1	13	7	0	36	24	24	81	614	287
<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	34	0	0	0	40	21	12	1	0	1
Total	0	0	0	0	11	78	59	181	110	170	162	5	776	1,943	1,304	472	15,684	758

Figure 1: Regular migrant micro moths in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2020

Migrant macro moths	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Convolvulus Hawk-moth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	10	5	1	33	2
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	7	11	14	5	0	44	22	5	17	8	15
The Vestal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4	2	7	20	6	70
The Gem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	6	2	5	9
Golden Twin-spot	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	63	19	2	1	0	86	27	6	1	0	1
Silver Y	0	0	0	5	10	47	175	542	42	52	71	0	944	534	1,097	318	665	750
Bordered Straw	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	3	3	63
Scarce Bordered Straw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	7	0	0	11	30	5	101	10	39
Small Mottled Willow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	4	42
Oak Rustic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	0	13	11	8	3	0	0
The Delicate	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	17	17	0	0	36	77	59	37	8	8
White-speck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	5	0
Pearly Underwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	4	6	3	20	11	39
Dark Sword-grass	0	0	0	3	0	3	5	19	4	6	1	0	41	26	76	84	77	84
Total	0	0	2	9	10	54	184	636	99	113	84	0	1,191	819	1,553	751	844	1,207

Figure 2: Regular migrant macro moths in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2020

Total species	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Total area list
Micro	518	571	479	475	325	336	309	286	256	219	776
Macro	459	479	461	452	399	418	386	370	338	321	633
Total	977	1,050	940	927	724	754	695	656	594	540	1,409

Figure 3: Total moth species recorded in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2020

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