

Folkestone & Hythe birding and moths

Site guide: Hythe Redoubt and Ranges

Location: Heading west from Hythe on the A259, pass Nickoll's Quarry and the Botolph's Bridge turning, and park where the road joins the seawall (TR 128320). Note that there is currently no access from this end due to coastal defence works (due to finish summer 2008).

Alternative access is from the east end via Hythe (take St. Leonard's Road to the end, park, and walk west).

Facilities: None on site, but there is the Jet garage by Nickoll's Quarry, and the nearby towns of Hythe and Dymchurch.

Access/route: Access to the ranges is restricted only to the foreshore, and then only when there is no firing. This is generally early mornings and evenings (though not always as sometimes there is night firing) and over public holiday periods, e.g. Christmas and Easter. Opening times are displayed on boards at either end of the site, and are available here: <http://www.hythe-kent.com/fshore3.htm>

Access to or from the Redoubt end can be tricky at high tide (and it is best to check tide times - <http://www.hythe-kent.com/fshore2.htm>) Disabled access from either end is difficult.

Access to the seawall by the Redoubt is unrestricted, and it is possible to walk west from here to the Willop Outfall, and beyond.

Birds: The bay can be scanned from the fishing boats at the Hythe end or from the Redoubt. Red-throated Diver and Great Crested Grebe are numerous on the sea in winter, and Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Red-necked Grebe, and Slavonian Grebe have occurred.

A Common Scoter flock may be present offshore, and Eider, Velvet Scoter and Long-tailed Duck have been recorded.

Seawatching is better further east out of the bay at Mill Point, but Manx and Mediterranean Shearwaters, and Pomarine Skua have been seen, whilst Brent Geese, ducks, waders, and terns are more usual.



Roosting Sandwich and Common Terns - Hythe Ranges

Terns sometimes form roosting flocks on the beach - usually Common and Sandwich, but Black has occurred and Little is a former breeder. Waders also frequent the foreshore: Ringed Plover breed, Oystercatcher, Turnstone, Sanderling and occasionally Purple Sandpiper winter. Redshank and Lapwing are former breeders, and Avocet, Stone Curlew, Little Ringed Plover,

Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper have occurred on passage.

Little Owl, Turtle Dove, Nightingale, and Wheatear have bred in recent years, and common migrants occur on passage, however there is no public access to the bushes. Visual migration can be witnessed here, with Swifts, hirundines, wagtails, pipits, thrushes and finches involved in season.

Oddities have included Little Egret, Spoonbill, Bewick's Swan, Bean Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Goldeneye, Montagu's Harrier, Little Auk, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Wood Lark, Shore Lark, Grasshopper Warbler, Hooded Crow, Raven, Lapland Bunting and Snow Bunting.

Read Roger Norman's account of birdwatching at this site since 1950:

<http://www.freewebs.com/folkestonebirds/14RangesRKN.pdf>

Regular: Red-throated Diver, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Common Scoter, passage Brent Geese, ducks, waders and terns, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Turnstone, Mediterranean Gull, roosting gulls and terns, passage migrants, Stonechat, Wheatear, breeding common warblers.

Possible: Eider, Velvet Scoter, Merlin, Hobby, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, Arctic Skua, Turtle Dove, Rock Pipit, Nightingale.

Rarities: Great Northern Diver, Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes, Manx and Mediterranean Shearwaters, Little Egret, Spoonbill, Bewick's Swan, Bean Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Goldeneye, Montagu's Harrier, Avocet, Stone Curlew, Pomarine Skua, Little Auk, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Wood Lark, Shore Lark, Grasshopper Warbler, Hooded Crow, Raven, Lapland Bunting and Snow Bunting.

Full site list:

1. Red-throated Diver
2. Black-throated Diver
3. Great Northern Diver
4. Great Crested Grebe
5. Red-necked Grebe
6. Slavonian Grebe
7. Fulmar
8. Manx Shearwater
9. Mediterranean Shearwater
10. Gannet
11. Cormorant
12. Shag
13. Little Egret
14. Grey Heron
15. Spoonbill
16. Mute Swan
17. Bewick's Swan
18. (Tundra) Bean Goose
19. Pink-footed Goose
20. White-fronted Goose
21. Greylag Goose
22. Canada Goose
23. Brent Goose
24. Shelduck

25. Wigeon
26. Gadwall
27. Teal
28. Mallard
29. Pintail
30. Tufted Duck
31. Eider
32. Long-tailed Duck
33. Common Scoter
34. Velvet Scoter
35. Goldeneye
36. Red-breasted Merganser
37. Montagu's Harrier
38. Sparrowhawk
39. Common Kestrel
40. Merlin
41. Hobby
42. Red-legged Partridge
43. Grey Partridge
44. Pheasant
45. Moorhen
46. Oystercatcher
47. Avocet
48. Stone Curlew
49. Little Ringed Plover
50. Ringed Plover
51. Golden Plover
52. Grey Plover
53. Lapwing
54. Knot
55. Sanderling
56. Purple Sandpiper
57. Dunlin
58. Jack Snipe
59. Common Snipe
60. Woodcock
61. Black-tailed Godwit
62. Bar-tailed Godwit
63. Whimbrel
64. Curlew
65. Redshank
66. Greenshank
67. Green Sandpiper
68. Common Sandpiper
69. Turnstone
70. Pomarine Skua
71. Arctic Skua
72. Great Skua
73. Mediterranean Gull
74. Little Gull
75. Black-headed Gull
76. Common Gull
77. Lesser Black-backed Gull

78. Herring Gull
79. Great Black-backed Gull
80. Kittiwake
81. Sandwich Tern
82. Common Tern
83. Arctic Tern
84. Little Tern
85. Black Tern
86. Guillemot
87. Razorbill
88. Little Auk
89. Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove
90. Stock Dove
91. Wood Pigeon
92. Collared Dove
93. Turtle Dove
94. Cuckoo
95. Barn Owl
96. Little Owl
97. Tawny Owl
98. Long-eared Owl
99. Short-eared Owl
100. Common Swift
101. Common Kingfisher
102. Green Woodpecker
103. Great Spotted Woodpecker
104. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
105. Wood Lark
106. Sky Lark
107. Shore Lark
108. Sand Martin
109. Swallow
110. House Martin
111. Tree Pipit
112. Meadow Pipit
113. Rock Pipit
114. Yellow Wagtail
115. Grey Wagtail
116. Pied Wagtail
117. Wren
118. Dunnock
119. Robin
120. Nightingale
121. Black Redstart
122. Common Redstart
123. Whinchat
124. Stonechat
125. Northern Wheatear
126. Ring Ouzel
127. Blackbird
128. Fieldfare
129. Song Thrush
130. Redwing

131. Mistle Thrush
132. Grasshopper Warbler
133. Sedge Warbler
134. Reed Warbler
135. Lesser Whitethroat
136. Common Whitethroat
137. Garden Warbler
138. Blackcap
139. Chiffchaff
140. Willow Warbler
141. Goldcrest
142. Spotted Flycatcher
143. Long-tailed Tit
144. Coal Tit
145. Blue Tit
146. Great Tit
147. Jay
148. Magpie
149. Jackdaw
150. Rook
151. Carrion Crow
152. Hooded Crow
153. Raven
154. Starling
155. House Sparrow
156. Tree Sparrow
157. Chaffinch
158. Brambling
159. Greenfinch
160. Goldfinch
161. Siskin
162. Linnet
163. Twite
164. Lesser Redpoll
165. Bullfinch
166. Lapland Bunting
167. Snow Bunting
168. Yellowhammer
169. Reed Bunting
170. Corn Bunting