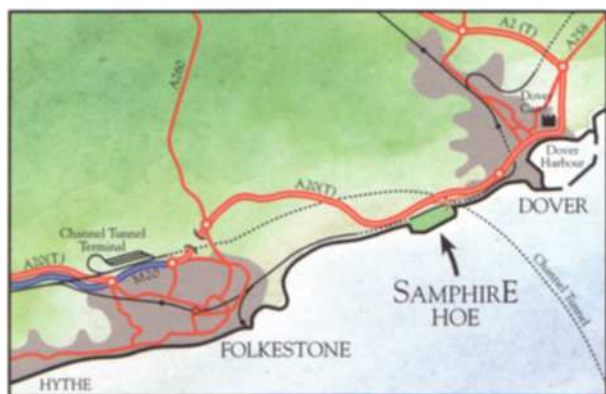


Folkestone & Hythe birding and moths

Site guide: Samphire Hoe

Location: Access is via a tunnel through the cliffs, which is located off the A20 between Dover and Folkestone, on the Folkestone-bound side of the dual carriageway. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted.



There is a pay and display car park. Charges for cars are 50p for one hour or £1 for all day. Season tickets are available for £25 per year. The Hoe is open from 7 a.m. to dusk every day.

Facilities: Refreshments are available from the Tea Kiosk, which is open every day between Easter and September, and Saturdays and Sundays at other times. Details of recent sightings are posted on a chalkboard, in a sightings book and are available from the information centre. There are toilets on site.

Access/route: Much of the Hoe is "accessible for all": the recommended route is shown in a free site leaflet (available from the visitor centre at the Hoe, or via the warden on 01304 225649).

Birds: Rock Pipit, Black Redstart and Stonechat are resident, and Snow Buntings often winter (photo right). Peregrines are frequent along the cliffs and Mediterranean Gulls can usually be seen offshore.



Snow Bunting - Samphire Hoe

Firecrests, Ring Ouzels and commoner migrants are regular, and rarities have included Dusky Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Red-rumped Swallow, Bee-eater, Icterine Warbler, Wryneck, Water Pipit, Long-eared Owl and Dartford Warbler. The small pools attract the occasional wader and duck, and Water Rails are regular in winter.

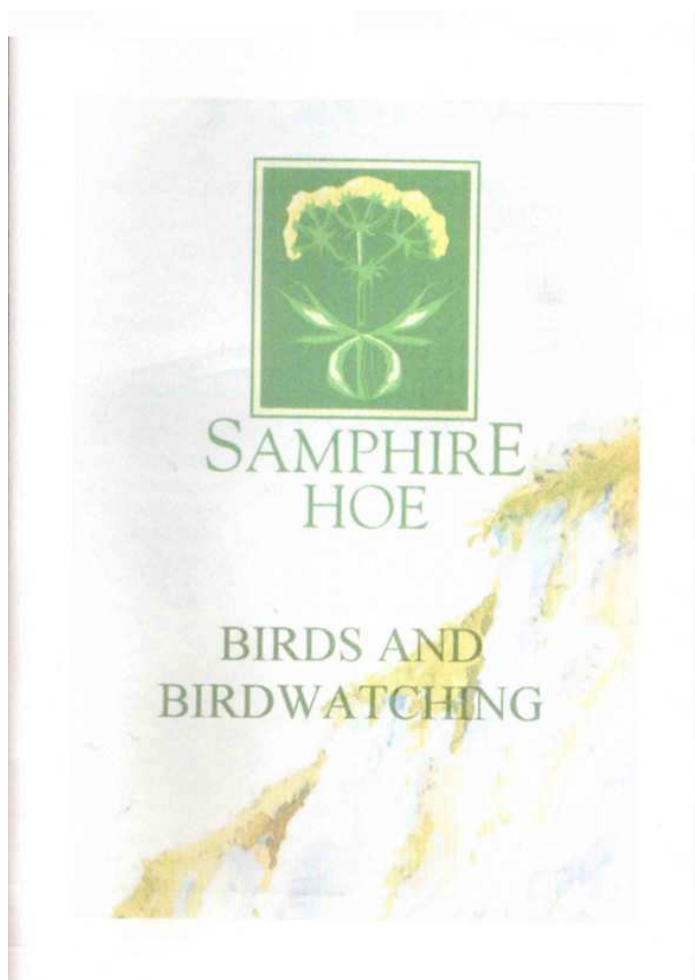
Over the last few years the site has emerged as a seawatching site in the spring, with March seeing an up-channel passage of Brent Geese, ducks - including Garganey, and Sandwich Terns, and Black-throated Divers, Common Scoters, waders, Great and Arctic Skuas, and other terns joining in April, and Pomarine Skuas in May. Shelter is limited in the autumn but Manx, Balearic, and Sooty Shearwaters, Leach's Petrel, and Little Auk have been recorded.

Flyover raptors have included Honey Buzzard, Red Kite, Marsh, Montagu's and Hen Harriers, Osprey and Common Buzzard, and White Stork and Spoonbill have also been seen passing over.

Further information: A leaflet is available (opposite) which provides fuller details of birds and birdwatching at Samphire Hoe. It contains a map and a guide to the different areas of the Hoe, a monthly guide to the species that might be seen and a checklist of the more regular species which occur.

The leaflet is available from the visitor centre at the Hoe, or via the warden on 01304 225649 and costs 80p (+p&p if required).

Samphire Hoe is owned by Eurotunnel and managed in partnership with the White Cliffs Countryside Project.



Full site list:

1. Red-throated Diver
2. Black-throated Diver
3. Great Northern Diver
4. Little Grebe
5. Great Crested Grebe
6. Red-necked Grebe
7. Slavonian Grebe
8. Fulmar
9. Sooty Shearwater
10. Manx Shearwater
11. Balearic Shearwater

12. Leach's Petrel
13. Gannet
14. Cormorant
15. Shag
16. Cattle Egret
17. Little Egret
18. Grey Heron
19. White Stork
20. Spoonbill
21. Mute Swan
22. Greylag Goose
23. Canada Goose
24. Barnacle Goose
25. Brent Goose
26. Shelduck
27. Mandarin
28. Wigeon
29. Gadwall
30. Teal
31. Mallard
32. Pintail
33. Garganey
34. Shoveler
35. Pochard
36. Tufted Duck
37. Scaup
38. Eider
39. Common Scoter
40. Velvet Scoter
41. Goldeneye
42. Red-breasted Merganser
43. Goosander
44. Honey Buzzard
45. Red Kite
46. Marsh Harrier
47. Hen Harrier
48. Montagu's Harrier
49. Sparrowhawk
50. Common Buzzard
51. Osprey
52. Common Kestrel
53. Merlin
54. Hobby
55. Peregrine
56. Red-legged Partridge
57. Grey Partridge
58. Pheasant
59. Water Rail
60. Moorhen
61. Coot
62. Oystercatcher
63. Avocet
64. Little Ringed Plover

The site is home to a wide range of other wildlife including impressive numbers of Early Spider Orchid (12,000 in 2006) and moths such as the Six-belted Clearwing. (photos below)



Early Spider Orchid - Sapphire Hoe



Six-belted Clearwing - Sapphire Hoe

65. Ringed Plover
66. Golden Plover
67. Grey Plover
68. Lapwing
69. Knot
70. Sanderling
71. Purple Sandpiper
72. Dunlin
73. Common Snipe
74. Woodcock
75. Black-tailed Godwit
76. Bar-tailed Godwit
77. Whimbrel
78. Curlew
79. Redshank
80. Greenshank
81. Green Sandpiper
82. Common Sandpiper
83. Turnstone
84. Pomarine Skua
85. Arctic Skua
86. Great Skua
87. Mediterranean Gull
88. Little Gull
89. Black-headed Gull
90. Common Gull
91. Lesser Black-backed Gull
92. Herring Gull
93. Yellow-legged Gull
94. Iceland Gull
95. Glaucous Gull
96. Great Black-backed Gull
97. Kittiwake
98. Sandwich Tern
99. Common Tern
100. Arctic Tern
101. Little Tern
102. Black Tern
103. Guillemot
104. Razorbill
105. Little Auk
106. Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove
107. Stock Dove
108. Wood Pigeon
109. Collared Dove
110. Turtle Dove
111. Cuckoo
112. Barn Owl
113. Little Owl
114. Tawny Owl
115. Long-eared Owl
116. Short-eared Owl
117. Common Swift

118. Common Kingfisher
119. European Bee-eater
120. Wryneck
121. Green Woodpecker
122. Great Spotted Woodpecker
123. Wood Lark
124. Sky Lark
125. Shore Lark
126. Sand Martin
127. Swallow
128. Red-rumped Swallow
129. House Martin
130. Tree Pipit
131. Meadow Pipit
132. Rock Pipit
133. Water Pipit
134. Yellow Wagtail
135. Grey Wagtail
136. Pied Wagtail
137. Wren
138. Dunnock
139. Robin
140. Nightingale
141. Black Redstart
142. Common Redstart
143. Whinchat
144. Stonechat
145. Northern Wheatear
146. Ring Ouzel
147. Blackbird
148. Fieldfare
149. Song Thrush
150. Redwing
151. Mistle Thrush
152. Grasshopper Warbler
153. Sedge Warbler
154. Reed Warbler
155. Icterine Warbler
156. Dartford Warbler
157. Subalpine Warbler
158. Lesser Whitethroat
159. Common Whitethroat
160. Garden Warbler
161. Blackcap
162. Greenish Warbler
163. Yellow-browed Warbler
164. Dusky Warbler
165. Chiffchaff
166. Willow Warbler
167. Goldcrest
168. Firecrest
169. Spotted Flycatcher
170. Pied Flycatcher

171. Long-tailed Tit
172. Coal Tit
173. Blue Tit
174. Great Tit
175. Red-backed Shrike
176. Great Grey Shrike
177. Jay
178. Magpie
179. Jackdaw
180. Rook
181. Carrion Crow
182. Raven
183. Starling
184. House Sparrow
185. Tree Sparrow
186. Chaffinch
187. Brambling
188. Serin
189. Greenfinch
190. Goldfinch
191. Siskin
192. Linnet
193. Twite
194. Lesser Redpoll
195. Common Crossbill
196. Bullfinch
197. Lapland Bunting
198. Snow Bunting
199. Yellowhammer
200. Reed Bunting
201. Corn Bunting