

The Rare Moths of Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Flora and Fauna Volume 5

By Chris Bentley

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Rye Harbour Nature Reserve



RYE HARBOUR
NATURE RESERVE

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Map of Rye Harbour Area



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Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

In 1965 **East Sussex County Council** published a report on the future development of the East Sussex Coast which included proposals to encourage the establishment of a Nature Reserve over the whole of the 728 hectares (c.1,800 acres) of the Rye Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In 1970 the shingle beach, now owned by the **Environment Agency**, was declared a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by the County Council, who also appointed a Management Committee to administer the LNR. This was the beginning of Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve. Since then further land has been added by agreement with neighbouring landowners and the County Council and by purchase of land by the **Sussex Wildlife Trust** with the help of the **Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**. It is hoped that further areas of the SSSI will become part of the Nature Reserve and so this report covers the whole area.

The present extent of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, some 326ha, includes the seaward shingle ridges extending inland to, and including, the gravel pit known as Ternery Pool and the nearby excavation known as the Quarry (Beach Reserve), a large gravel pit (Castle Water), a large area of meadow land and shingle ridges around Camber Castle (Castle Farm) and a small area of saltmarsh fringing the western bank of the River Rother between Rye Harbour and the river mouth.

Visiting

Access to the Nature Reserve is free, but restricted to the network of footpaths. To avoid disturbance to wildlife all visitors are particularly requested not to enter the sign-posted "Wildlife Sanctuary Areas" or any of the other fenced areas within the Nature Reserve or any of our neighbours' land. There are four bird watching hides which are always open to the public.

Information is available at the Lime Kiln Cottage Information Centre where there are information boards, leaflets, reports and voluntary wardens to help you discover the wildlife of the Nature Reserve. Lime Kiln Cottage is open on most days.

Another good source of information is the Nature Reserve's website - **www.wildRye.info**

Please consider joining the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve to learn more about the reserve and help to support it.



Introduction

Moths belong to the order Lepidoptera (scale-wings) and in Britain currently number around 2,620 species (though species continue to be added to this total). The total number of species recorded from Rye Harbour is around 550, and again this continues to grow. Of these the majority are common, cosmopolitan species, others are more limited in distribution, but still widespread while yet others are have a limited distribution in Britain, and some occur only as migrants or vagrants in the British Isles. This report contains information on the 93 species at Rye Harbour which are either Red Data Book species (see below for an explanation of the terms used) or rare migrants or vagrants. All 93 species are illustrated at the end of the main text.

Red Data Book category 1, Endangered

Species in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if causal factors continue to operate. Endangered species either (a) occur as only a single population within one 10-km square, or (b) only occur in especially vulnerable habitats, or (c) have been declining rapidly or continuously for twenty years or more to the point where they occur in five or fewer 10-km squares, or (d) may already have become extinct.

Red Data Book category 2, Vulnerable

Species which are likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if causal factors continue to operate. Vulnerable species are declining throughout their range or occupy vulnerable habitats.

Red Data Book category 3, Rare

Not currently either Endangered or Vulnerable are at risk. Rare species that exist in 15 or fewer 10-km squares, or are more

Red Data Book category K, Insufficiently Known

Species suspected to merit either Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare or Indeterminate status but lacking sufficient information. Species included in this category may have only recently been discovered in Britain, or may be very poorly recorded for a variety of reasons.

Provisional Red Data Book (pRDB)

The prefix 'p' before any Red Data Book category indicates that the grading is provisional. The 'p' will be dropped once the species is included in the next relevant Red Data Book.

Nationally Scarce Category A, Na.

Species which do not fall within Red Data Book categories but which are nonetheless uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in 30 or fewer (typically between 16 and 30) 10-km squares of the National Grid, or for less well-recorded groups, in seven or fewer vice-counties.

Nationally Scarce Category B, Nb.

Species which do not fall within Red Data Book categories but which are nonetheless uncommon in Great Britain and thought to occur in between 31 and 100 10-km squares of the National Grid, or for less well-recorded groups, between eight and twenty vice-counties.

Nationally Scarce, N.

Species which do not fall within Red Data Book categories but which are nonetheless uncommon in Great Britain. This status category has been used where information has not been sufficient to allocate a species to either Na or Nb. These species are thought to occur in between 16 and 100 10-km squares of the National Grid.

The List of Moths

1. *Acronicta auricoma* (Scarce Dagger)

Status: Rare Immigrant - Former Resident

Ecology: As a breeding species, Scarce Dagger was confined to lowland oak woodland in Britain, with adults flying from May to early-June and mid-July to August. In Britain, the larvae were recorded feeding during June/July and September on Oak (*Quercus* spp) and Wild Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), though on the continent a wide range of plant species are utilized. Winter is spent as a pupa, usually attached to the foodplant.

Distribution: This species was formerly resident in parts of south-east England but became extinct in the early 20th century. Since then, its has been recorded as an immigrant in small numbers on the south-east coast. At Rye Harbour, recorded only once, at Lime Kiln Cottage on the 12th September 2003.

2. *Acronicta strigosa* (Marsh Dagger)

Status: Rare immigrant - Former Resident

Ecology: In Britain, a single-brooded species, with adults flying at night in late June and July in mature hedgerows, and on the edges of fenland, and marshy land. Larvae recorded on hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp) and occasionally Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), though a wide range of species is used on the continent.

Distribution: A local and uncommon species formerly occurring in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, but not recorded since 1933 and now probably extinct. In the past, it has also been recorded casually from Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcester and Norfolk. A single male of this species was recorded at Watch Cottage on 22nd July 1996.

3. Actebia praecox (Portland Moth)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Found on coastal sandhills, sandy heathland and the fine shingle banks of rivers. Adults are single-brooded, flying from mid-August to September. The larvae feed on on Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*), Tree Lupin (*Lupinus arboreus*) and other sandhill plants.

Distribution : Portland Moth has a scattered distribution, occurring on the coast in parts of southern England Wales, northwest England and Northumberland, and inland in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and along the River Spey (Morayshire and Inverness-shire). While not recorded within the reserve boundaries, singletons of this species have been trapped at Winchelsea Beach (1997, 1998, P. Philpot) and at Northpoint Pit (two dates in 1999, D. Brown).

4. Agrotis cinerea (Light Feathered Rustic)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Light Feathered Rustic is a species of chalk and limestone downland, sea-cliffs, shingle beaches, mountain hillsides, quarries and old spoil heaps. The larva feed on Wild Thyme (*Thymus drucei*) and other unspecified low plants from June to September before overwintering. Pupation then occurs in spring.

Distribution: This is a local species occurring in the southern half of England, northwards to Derbyshire, and in South Wales north to Anglesey. At Rye Harbour this species has been recorded as singletons on seven occasions from 1989 to 2004, with dates ranging between 16th May (1997) and 15th June (2002).

5. Agrotis ripae (Sand Dart)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology - A moth that inhabits sand dunes usually just above high water mark. Adults are single-brooded flying from June to early August. Larva on Prickly Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), and Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and other foreshore plants.

Distribution - Found throughout England and Wales and also on the east coast in Scotland. Trapped regularly but in small numbers at Rye Harbour, with a maximum of 20 individuals on the 10th July 1996. Earliest date 6th June (2004), latest 5th August (1996).

6. Ancylosis oblitella

Status: Notable

Ecology: Frequents waste ground, coastal shingle and saltmarshes. This species is double brooded, the adult usually flying in May and again in July and August. The larva feeds on goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp), with pupation taking place in a thick silken cocoon above ground.

Distribution: First recorded in Britain on the Isle of Wight around 1874, this species is widely recorded in southern England north to East Norfolk. Formerly an extremely scarce immigrant, populations have become established from time to time, though many quickly die out. At Rye Harbour, this species was recorded regularly between 1995 and 1998, though there have been no records since.

7. Apamea oblonga (Crescent Striped)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A moth of saltmarshes, tidal rivers, ditches and fenland, with adults on the wing from late-June to August. The larva feed on various grasses, including saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia* spp.), mainly on the roots and stem-bases. This stage is active from September until the following June before pupating in an underground chamber.

Distribution: Found in southern and eastern England to south-east Yorkshire. Recorded annually in small numbers at Rye Harbour, with a maximum of 20 on 25th July 1997. Earliest date, 26th June (1999), latest 21st August (1996). Recorded mainly from scattered localities on the Beach Reserve, though with the odd record from Castle Farm.

8. Aphomia zelleri

Status: pRDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Occurring on coastal sandhills, adults of this species are single-brooded, active at night from June to August. Adults spend much of their time running over the sand, particularly the males which are smaller than the female and poor fliers. The larvae feed on the moss *Brachythecium albicans*, feeding from a vertical tube in the sand, within which they pupate when fully grown (from about May in Britain).

Distribution: A rare species occurring on the coasts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Kent. Also recorded from the Isle of Wight and Gloucestershire. At Rye Harbour this species has been recorded more or less annually in small numbers between 1995 and the present day, with a maximum of four on 10th July 1995. Earliest date, 2nd June (2000), latest 28th August (1998).

9. Aporophyla australis pascuea (Feathered Brindle)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology - Coastal sandhills, shingle beaches, sea-cliffs and downland. Adults are on the wing from late August to early-October. Larva feed on Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodina*) and many unspecified low plants and grasses, this stage lasting from October to the following May before pupating in earth or moss.

Distribution: - Found locally along the south coast from Cornwall to Suffolk and also in south Wales. Recorded annually at Rye Harbour, with most records from the Beach Reserve, and occasional records from Castle Water, Harbour Farm, Winchelsea Beach and the Caravan Park Pit. Earliest date 9th September (2000), latest 23rd October (1996).

10. Aplasta ononaria (Rest Harrow)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Occurring on coastal sandhills, adults of this species fly from late June to July (and sometimes late-August to September). The larva feed on Common Rest Harrow (*Ononis repens*) from August to late-May or early-June

Distribution: As a resident, this species is confined to a few sites in Kent, though it has turned up as a suspected immigrant in the south-east.

Recorded once on the reserve, a singleton at Watch Cottage on 20th June 1998.

11. Archanara sparganii (Webb's Wainscot)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Inhabits ponds, ditches, fenland, marshy places etc. usually near the coast. Adults are on the wing during August and September, while the larva feed in the stems of Reed-mace (*Typha* spp), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Bulrush (*Scirpus* spp) and Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*).

Distribution: Occurs in south-east England ranging northwards to Norfolk and westwards to Cornwall and South Wales. This species is trapped almost annually at Rye Harbour, with a maximum of four on 5th August 1996 at Castle Water. Earliest date 22nd July (1996), latest 11th September (1999).

12. Aristotelia brizella

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Although mainly associated with saltmarsh, this moth has also been recorded from cliff faces and at the foot of cliffs, and from coastal shingle. This species is double-brooded; the adult is on the wing in May and June, and again in August. The first generation larvae feed in June and July, and the second generation occurs September and October. The larva feeds in the flower-head of Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) or Common Sea Lavender (*Limonium vulgare*) (Emmet 1988a).

Distribution: A local species, *A brizella* occurs in suitable sites along the south coast and east coast, north to West Norfolk. There are also older records for sites on the coast of northern England. One record at Rye Harbour, a singleton on 2nd August 1998 on the Beach Reserve.

13. Aspitates gilvaria (Straw Belle)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Inhabits chalk downland, with adults flying from July to August. The larva feed on Wild Thyme (*Thymus polyomictus*), Cinque-

foils (*Potentilla* spp.) and Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) from September to June.

Distribution: Once quite widespread in southern England with a range extending north to Cheshire, the Straw Belle is now confined to a few sites in the North downs of Kent and Surrey (though it occasionally occurs elsewhere as a migrant). Recorded twice at Rye Harbour during 1995: 23rd August (Wader Pool) and 1st September (Watch Cottage).

14. Bactra robustana

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Occurring on saltmarsh, adults of this species are single-brooded flying during June and July. The larva feeds in the stems of Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*).

Distribution: This species occurs locally in southern and western England and in Wales. Two records at Rye Harbour: one in 1982 (M. Tweedie), and one from the Beach Reserve on 25th July 1997 (B. Skinner & M. Parsons).

15. Bembecia ichneumoniformis (Six-belted Clearwing)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: This species is mainly associated with calcareous meadows and downland, though it has also occurs on sea-cliffs and quarries. It is single brooded, flying during the day between June and August, while the larvae feed on the roots of Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllus vulneraria*) between August and May.

Distribution: This species occurs in southern England north to north-east Yorkshire and also in north and south Wales. There has been only one record of this species at Rye Harbour, from the eastern end of the Beach Reserve on 8th July 1999 (N. F. Heal).

16. Calamotropha paludella

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A micro moth found in large, wet fens and marshes or margins of flooded gravel pits and broads. The adults fly in July and August,

while larvae feed on Bulrush (*Typha* spp), at first mining the leaf and then feeding in a dead stem, and are sometimes gregarious.

Distribution: This species is largely confined to southern England, though there are records from as far north as Cheshire and Lancashire. Recorded more or less annually since 1995 at Rye Harbour, mostly from the Beach Reserve, but with the odd record from Castle Water, with a maximum of six on 5th August 1996. Earliest date 24th June (1998), latest 20th August (1996).

17. Calophasia lunula (Toadflax Brocade)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: A moth of shingle beaches, waste land and gardens. Adults are double brooded, flying during May and June and then again in August. The larvae feed on Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) and occasionally other *Linaria* spp between June and September.

Distribution: This species colonised Britain in the 1950s, but now appears to be declining in numbers. Resident in Kent and Sussex; also a suspected immigrant. Recorded twice on the Beach Reserve at Rye Harbour: 19th June 1996 and 16th August 1997

18. Capperia britanniodactyla

Status: Notable

Ecology: The adults of this species are single brooded flying during June and July. The larva feeds on Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodina*), nibbling halfway through the stem after overwintering and causes part of the plant to wither, then feeding on the withered part.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Britain, though quite local. There have been a total of five records of this species at Rye Harbour, from Castle Water (2), Watch Cottage (2) and Rye Harbour Village. The first occurred on 23rd July 1996, the remainder between 28th July and 6th August 1997.

19. Catarhoe rubidata (Ruddy Carpet)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: This species frequents downland, sea-cliffs, hedgerows and bushy places. Adults can be found during June and July, while the larvae occur from July to August, feeding on Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*G.verum*).

Distribution: Local, found mainly in the southern half of England and Wales, but with records as far north as Yorkshire. One was recorded at Watch Cottage on 4th August 1996.

20. Chortodes extrema (Concolorous)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Inhabits clearings in marshy woodland and marginal fenland. Adults are single-brooded flying in June and July, while the larvae feed in the stems of Purple Small-reed (*Calamagrostis canescens*) and Wood Small-reed (*C. epigejos*).

Distribution: Very local, occurring in Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire and at a single locality in Lincolnshire, also a possible immigrant. A singleton of this species was recorded on the Beach Reserve on 4th July 1985 (C. Pratt).

21. Chortodes fluxa (Mere Wainscot)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: An uncommon moth found in damp open woodland, marginal fenland and other marshy places. Adults are on the wing between July and August. The larvae feed in the stems of Wood Small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*).

Distribution: Recorded most often from the East Midlands and less frequently elsewhere in the Midlands, also in Yorkshire, Kent and Hampshire. There have been a total of five records at Rye Harbour between 1989 and 2001.

22. Coleophora frischella (Small Clover Case-Bearer)

Status: Nationally Notable B

Ecology: A case-bearing micro-moth of sub-maritime distribution in southern Britain. Continental authors state that the larva bores through the florets of White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and feeds on the green seeds.

Distribution: This is a local species with most records from southern England (particularly Hampshire) extending north to Rutland. One on the Beach Reserve on 25th July 1997 (B. Skinner & M. Parsons) is the only record.

23. Coleophora galbulipennella

Status: pRDB1 - Endangered

Ecology: A case bearing micro-moth associated with Nottingham catch-fly (*Silene nutans*). The eggs are laid on the food plant during August and September, with the larvae feeding in a leaf-mine from September to the following July.

Distribution: In Great Britain *C. galbulipennella* is only known as a breeding species from Dungeness, and Hythe Ranges in Kent., though a singleton was found at the western end of the Beach Reserve on 18th August 1997 (N. Hall).

24. Cossus cossus (Goat Moth)

Status: Nationally Notable B

Ecology: Adults of this species are on the wing during June and July, while the larva feed internally on the solid wood of various trees, such as Willow (*Salix* spp), Oak (*Quercus* spp) and Poplar (*Populus* spp). The larval stage can last up to five years.

Distribution: Declining though still widespread in southern England and Wales, also occurs in the Midlands, northern England and central Scotland. Adults recorded a total of four times at Rye Harbour between 2nd July 1986 and 21st June 1998, twice on the Beach Reserve and once at Watch Cottage and Beach Field. In addition, four larvae were found within cut Willows at Castle Water on 1st September 2008.

25. Cucullia asteris (Star-Wort)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Adults are single brooded, flying from June to August. In coastal habitats the larvae feed on Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), while populations in woodland utilize Golden Rod (*Solidago virgaurea*).

Distribution: Star-wort occurs along coasts and estuaries in England from Hampshire to Yorkshire and also in woodlands from Dorset to Kent and parts of Wales. At Rye Harbour this species occurs annually in small numbers, the maximum being no more than three on several dates. Earliest date 6th June (1997), latest 4th September (2001).

26. Cynaeda dentalis

Status: pRDB3 - Rare

Ecology: An extremely local micro-moth frequenting coastal localities. Adults are on the wing during July, while the larva feeds in the stem and on the leaf bases of Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*).

Distribution: Recorded from southern and south-eastern England, from Suffolk to Devon. Recorded more or less annually in small numbers at Rye Harbour since 1989, with a maximum of seven on 25th July 1996. Earliest date 24th June (1997), latest 13th September (1999).

27. Deltote bankiana (Silver Barred)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Occurring in marshes and fenland, the adults are univoltine, on the wing in June and July, while the larvae feed on grasses including Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*).

Distribution: Long established in Cambridgeshire, where its status is satisfactory. Recently found in Kent where it was probably established by an immigrant parent. Other suspected immigrants are reported occasionally elsewhere in southern England. There have been three records in the area: one at Winchelsea Beach (24th June 1998) and two in Rye Harbour Village (23rd July 1996 and 21st July 2001).

28. Dolicharthria punctalis

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A very local and strictly coastal species, this moth frequents beaches and cliffs by the sea. Adults are on the wing during July and August, while the larva feeds on dead and decaying leaves of plants such as Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Clover (*Trifolium* spp) and Plantain (*Plantago* spp).

Distribution: Locally distributed from Sussex to the Isles of Scilly and also in south-west Wales. Recorded more or less annually at Rye Harbour since 1983, generally in small numbers but with a maximum of 24 on 25th July 1996 (three light traps used).

29. Earias clorana (Cream-Bordered Green Pea)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A moth that frequents shingle beaches, damp woodland, fenland, river valleys and other marshy areas. Adults can be found during May and June (with an occasional second brood during August), while the larva feed on sallow (*Salix* spp).

Distribution: Southern and eastern England, westwards to Dorset and northwards to Yorkshire. At Rye Harbour occurs annually in small numbers, with a maximum of ten on the 22nd July 1996 (two traps).

30. Eilema pygmaeola (Pigmy Footman)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Adults are on the wing from mid-July to August, while the larvae occur from August to June and feed largely on lichens and algae.

Distribution: Occurs mainly in south-east England (Sussex, Kent, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk), extending as far north as Yorkshire and as far west as Devon. Recorded annually at Rye Harbour, with a maximum of 30 on 24th July 2000 (two traps). Earliest date 1st July 1998, latest 17th August 1996.

31. Elaphria venustula (Rosy Marbled)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: This is a species of open woodland, with adults flying in late May and June. The larval foodplant is not known, though it is thought to be Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*).

Distribution: Southern England and parts of East Anglia, possibly increasing. One was trapped at Beach Field on 6th June 1997, and another at Winchelsea Beach on 4th July 2001.

32. Enargia paleacea (Angle-Striped Sallow)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Occurs in mature birch woodland. Native adults can be found during July and August, with immigrant individuals generally earlier in the season. The larvae feed on Birch (*Betula* spp).

Distribution: Midlands and central Scotland, immigrant elsewhere. One record at Rye Harbour: a singleton on 19th August 1996.

33. Ennomos autumnaria (Large Thorn)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Occurring in woodland and bushy places, the adults are on the wing during September and October. The larvae feed on a variety of trees, including Birch (*Betula* spp) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

Distribution: Local, possibly reinforced by immigration, found in south-east England and East Anglia. Only recorded seven out of 25 years from 1982, though virtually annual from 1997 to 2002.

34. Ethmia bipunctella (Viper's Bugloss Moth)

Status: pRDB2 - Vulnerable

Ecology: Adults of this species are on the wing during May and June (though there is often a partial second generation in autumn). The larvae feed on the flowers and leaves of Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*).

Distribution: Very local, resident in Kent and East Sussex, occasionally occurs elsewhere in southern Britain.

A regular and reasonably common species at Rye Harbour, recorded annually in good numbers since 1994, with a maximum of 34 at Watch Cottage on 23rd May 1998. Earliest date 16th April (2007), latest 16th September (1982).

35. Ethmia terminella

Status: pRDB2 - Vulnerable

Ecology: Adults occur mid-May to July. The larvae feed on the flowers and unripe seeds of Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Comfrey (*Symphytum* spp) or related species.

Distribution: This species is a very local resident in Kent and East Sussex, though it may also occur as a migrant elsewhere on the south coast.

Recorded annually at Rye harbour between 1997 and 2002, though there are older records dating back to 1969. Maximum trapped was nine on the 5th June 1997 at Watch Cottage. Earliest date 30th May (1997), latest 9th July (1998).

36. Eucosma lacteana

Status: pRDB3 - Rare

Ecology: A small moth frequenting coastal areas, especially the drier areas of saltmarshes. The larva feeds on the florets and unripe seeds of Sea Wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*).

Distribution: Local, Lincolnshire to Sussex. The only record relating to Rye Harbour is one from 'Rye Harbour SSSI' on 2nd August 1972 (F. Smith).

37. Eudonia lineola

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A small moth usually recorded from coastal habitats. The larva feeds on lichens (*Parmelia* spp.) growing on fences, old walls and old branches (especially those of hawthorn and blackthorn). This is a very local species which may be declining.

Distribution: Recently recorded from fifteen vice counties with scattered records from the south of England and from Westmorland north to East Ross. Formerly recorded in East Anglia and South Wales. Recorded annually in small numbers at Rye Harbour between 1996 and 2000. Since then, it has not been recorded but may have been overlooked. Earliest date 24th June 2000, latest 18th August 1996.

38. Eulamprotes wilkella

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Adults occur in two generations, flying during June and again in August. The larvae inhabit a silken tube just under the surface of the ground and feed on Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*).

Distribution: Occurs on shingle coasts and inland in the Breck district. There have been three records from Rye Harbour, all from the Beach Reserve: 25th July 1997, 2nd August 1998 and 11th July 1999.

39. Euphyia biangulata (Cloaked Carpet)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Frequents the edges of woodland and hedgerows, with adults on the wing during June and July. The larvae feed on Chickweeds (*Stellaria* spp).

Distribution: Very local in southern England and Wales. Four records from the Rye Harbour area, one each from Rye Harbour Village (2nd August 1997), Pett (23rd July 1999), West Beach (12th August 2000) and Beach Field (9th July 2001).

40. Eupithecia insigniata (Pinion-Spotted Pug)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Adults are on the wing during April and May in hedgerows and bushy places. The larvae feed on Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp) and Apple (*Malus* spp).

Distribution: Local in the southern half of England ranging north to Yorkshire. Two recent records of singletons from Beach Field: 26th May 1998 and 12th May 2000.

41. Eupithecia millefoliata (Yarrow Pug)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Yarrow Pug inhabits shingle beaches, sandhills, waste ground and roadside verges, with the adults flying during June and July. The larvae feed on Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Distribution: Local along the coast from Dorset to Essex as well as along the Thames estuary. Recorded in nine years between 1983 and 2002 in ones and twos. Earliest date 7th June 1983, latest 12th August 1996.

42. Eupithecia valerianata (Valerian Pug)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A moth of damp woodland, fenland and marshy places. The adults fly during June and July. The larva is found on the flowers and ripening seeds of Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*.)

Distribution: Widely distributed in England, Wales and southern and central Scotland. One record at Rye Harbour, a singleton at Lime Kiln Cottage on 16th July 2003.

43. Euplagia quadripunctaria (Jersey Tiger)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Suburban gardens, waste ground and open countryside. Adults can be found from July to September. The larvae feed on many low

growing plants including Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Plantain (*Plantago* spp).

Distribution: South coast in Devon spreading inland to the edge of Dartmoor. Also a known immigrant. First recorded in 1997 at Beach Field, and regular in ones and two here until 2000, with occasional records from Watch Cottage and Winchelsea Beach during this time. Since then only two records: 18th August 2001 at Winchelsea Beach and 15th August 2004 at Lime Kiln Cottage.

44. Evergestis extimalis

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Adults are on the wing during June and July, though migrant individuals may occur later on in the year. The larvae feed on the seed-pods of various species of crucifers including Charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*) and Hedge-mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*).

Distribution: A micromoth recently recorded from 23 vice-counties though it probably only breeds in Breckland and along the Thames Estuary. It is also an occasional immigrant. The earliest record for the area is from ‘Camber Sands and Rye Saltings’ in 1977, and this species has been virtually annual at Rye Harbour from 1995 to the present, with a maximum of seven on 14th August 2006. Earliest date 10th June 2007, latest 9th September 2000 and 2007.

45. Gymnancyla canella

Status: Nationally Scarce A

Ecology: Frequents sandy coasts just above the high tide mark. Adults are single-brooded and can be found during July and August. The larvae feed on Saltwort (*Salsola kali*), initially internally but later on in an external web.

Distribution: Extremely local, possibly declining, Lincolnshire, Suffolk to Dorset. First recorded in the area in 1960 (‘Camber sands and Rye Saltings’) and annual between 1999 and 2003, with a maximum of three on 27th July 2002 at Lime Kiln Cottage. Earliest date 10th July 2003, latest 7th August 2000.

46. *Hadena albimacula* (White Spot)

Status: RDB2 - Vulnerable

Ecology: A moth found on shingle beaches and chalk or limestone cliffs. Adults June and July. The larva feed on Nottingham catchfly (*Silene nutans*).

Distribution: Very local on the south coast, Kent, Hampshire and South Devon. Two records from the reserve: 11th and 14th June 1997, both from Beach Field.

47. *Hydraecia osseola hucherardi* (Marsh Mallow Moth)

Status: RDB1 - Endangered

Ecology: River-banks, ditches and marshy places. Adults are single-brooded, on the wing during September. The larva feeds on the roots of Marsh Mallow (*Althaea officinalis*) from early-spring to July.

Distribution: Local, occurring in south-east Kent, East Sussex and also in north Kent. A total of five individuals from four dates in the Rye Harbour area. The first on 9th September 1997 (Beach Field), the remaining dates between 4th and 13th September 1999, two each from the Beach Reserve and Winchelsea Beach.

48. *Hydrelia sylvata* (Waved Carpet)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A woodland species, the adults flying from June to early August, the larva feeding from mid-July to early-September on Alder (*Alnus* spp), Birch (*Betula* spp), Willow (*Salix* spp) and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus* spp).

Distribution: Local in southern and south-west England, Wales, north-west Midlands and Cumbria, with scattered records north to north-west Scotland. Two records at Rye Harbour: 12th July 1995 (Barn Field) and 20th July 1995 (Watch Cottage).

49. Hymenia recurvalis

Status: Scarce Migrant

Ecology: In Britain appears to occur only as a migrant on the south coast, with between 10 and 15 records since the first in 1951. On the continent this species feeds on Beet (*Beta* sp) Spinach (*Spinacia* sp) and Maize (*Zea* sp) and can be a pest.

Distribution: This moth is a rare autumn migrant from the tropics, and the only record at Rye Harbour was of a singleton trapped on the Beach Reserve on 8th August 1998.

50. Hypena rostralis (Buttoned Snout)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Hedgerows and bushy places, the adults occurring from mid-August to September before overwintering and appearing again in spring. The the larva feed on Hop (*Humulus lupulus*).

Distribution: A decreased species occurring in southern England. One at Watch Cottage on 15th June 2000 is the only reserve record.

51. Idaea ochrata cantiata (Bright Wave)

Status: RDB1 - Endangered

Ecology: Coastal sandhills and shingle beaches with adults occurring from mid-June to August. The larva possibly feeds on a variety of flowers of sandhill plants.

Distribution: Very local in south-east England, Kent, Essex and Suffolk. May also occur as an immigrant in other parts of southern England. One record: a singleton on 25th July 1996 on the Beach Reserve, the first ever Sussex record.

52. Lasiocampa trifolii flava (Pale Grass Eggar)

Status: RDB1 - Endangered

Ecology: The larva feeds on a variety of grasses and plants including Broom (*Cytisus* sp), Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*), and Bramble (*Rubus* sp).

Distribution: This sub-species of the Grass Eggar has a very limited distribution in Britain, inhabiting shingle beaches in Kent and East Sussex. At Rye Harbour this species is trapped annually in small numbers, with a maximum of 36 on 5th August 2003. Earliest date 10th July 2003, latest 7th August 2000.

53. Leucochlaena oditis (Beautiful Gothic)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Frequents grassy slopes and cliffs by the sea. Adults are on the wing from late August to mid-October, while the larvae occur from October to the following June and feed on various grasses.

Distribution: Very local in south-west England, Isle of Wight, Dorset and South Devon, with occasional records further east and north. A singleton of this species was trapped at Lime Kiln Cottage on 3rd October 1999.

54. Loxostege sticticalis

Status: RDB3 - Endng/Migrant (extinct?)

Ecology: Native adults of this species occur in June, and as a partial second generation in August/September, with migrant individuals usually during late summer/early autumn. The larvae feed on Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and Field Wormwood (*A. campestris*)

Distribution: Present status uncertain, but known to be resident in the brecklands in the past. Elsewhere recorded as a scarce migrant. Occasional singletons at Rye Harbour between 1996 and 2000, with dates between 29th July and 21st September (both 2001).

55. Macdunnoughia confusa (Dewick's Plusia)

Status: Scarce Migrant

Ecology: On the continent Dewick's Plusia is double-brooded, the larvae feeding on a range of plants, including Nettles (*Urtica* sp) and Yarrows (*Achillea* sp).

Distribution: This moth is a vagrant to Britain, having occurred only a few dozen times, mostly attracted to light on the south and east coasts. August is the optimum month for this species, but records have occurred between July and October. Four records of singletons at Rye Harbour: 19th August 1996 (Watch Cottage), 3rd October 2006, 9th August 2008 and 14th September 2008 (Lime Kiln Cottage).

56. Macrochilo cribrumalis (Dotted Fan-Foot)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A species of fens and other wetland habitats. Adults are on the wing from mid-June to August. The larval foodplant is unclear, though it is said to feed on Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), and probably on other grasses and sedges.

Distribution: Very local, with the majority of records in southern and eastern England, particularly East Anglia, extending north to Lincolnshire and west to Dorset and Devon. Also occurs in north and west Wales. At Rye Harbour this species has been trapped almost annually between the first record in 1996 and the present, with a maximum of six individuals on 22nd July 1996 (two traps). Earliest date 27th June (2007) latest 28th July (1996).

57. Meganola albula (Kent Black Arches)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Frequenting coastal habitats. Larva feeds on Dewberry (*Rubus* sp).

Distribution: Known in southern and eastern England and parts of Wales. Recorded inland in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Berkshire where it inhabits woodland clearings. The first records of this species at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve were in 1983, and it has been annual in

small numbers from 1994 to the present, with a maximum of eight on 22nd July 1996 (three traps).

58. *Monochroa palustrella*

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Occurring in sandy habitats. Adults are on the wing from June to August, while the larvae of this micro-moth feed on Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*) and possibly other species of *Rumex*.

Distribution: Locally distributed in south-east England. A total of seven record: two from the Beach Reserve during 1997 (25th July and 18th August), four singletons from Lime Kiln Cottage between 11th June and 11th August 2008, and an earlier, undated record from 'Rye Harbour LNR' in 1982.

59. *Monopis imella*

Status: Nationally Notable

Ecology: Most often recorded in maritime localities. Adults are on the wing from June to September. The larvae have been found in birds nests, on dead animals and on woollen materials.

Distribution: This species is very local in England, with most records in the southern and eastern part of the country as far north as Yorkshire (though the most northerly record is from south Cumbria). Two records from Rye Harbour: 2nd August 1998 and 11th September 1999, both from the area around the Wader Pool.

60. *Mythimna l-album* (L-Album Wainscot)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A species of coastal habitats, with adults on the wing during July and again September to October. The larva feed on unspecified grasses.

Distribution: Occurring mainly along the south coast from Cornwall to Kent. Before the 1930's it was considered a rare immigrant and it is still occasionally noted elsewhere. At Rye Harbour, annual in small numbers

from 1996 to the present, with a maximum count of five on 12th June 2001. Earliest date 7th June (2000), latest 12th October (2006).

61. Mythimna litoralis (Shore Wainscot)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A moth that inhabits coastal sandhills. Adults are single-brooded, flying from June to early-September. Larvae feed on Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*).

Distribution: Found in suitable localities over northwards to Angus in the east and Galloway in the West. A regular, almost annual species at Rye Harbour. Usually occurring in relatively small numbers, but with a maximum of 100 recorded from Harbour Farm on 10th July 1996! Earliest date 10th June (2007) latest 13th September (1999).

62. Neofriseria peliella

Status: (pRDB2)

Ecology: A micro-moth recorded from coastal shingle sites. Adults are on the wing from late-June to early-August. The larva feeds in a silken tube at the base of Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). This species has been, and continues to be, confused with *N. singula*.

Distribution: Confined to coastal areas of Sussex and Kent. One record from Rye Harbour: a singleton from the Beach Reserve on 25th July 1997.

63. Nephopterix angustella

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A species of hedgerow and scrub. Adults are double-brooded, flying during June and July and then again in September and October. The larvae feed internally on the berries of Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

Distribution: Largely confined to southern England. Two records at Rye Harbour: 9th September 2003 (Winchelsea Beach) and 13th June 2006 (Lime Kiln Cottage).

64. Nola aerugula (Scarce Black Arches)

Status: RDB - Extinct

Ecology: Adults are on the wing from June to August. The larvae feed on Birdsfoot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and various species of Clover (*Trifolium* spp).

Distribution: Formerly restricted on sandhills at Deal, Kent, but since the turn of the century it has been regarded as a migrant in Britain. At Rye Harbour there have been five records of singletons between 1st August 1994 and 2nd July 1999, these two dates representing extremes.

65. Oncocera semirubella

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Yellow and pink micro-moth associated with calcareous grassland and cliff. Adults are on the wing from June to August, while the larvae feed on common Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*).

Distribution: A very local species, with most records from south and south-eastern England, though extending northwards on the east coast to Lincolnshire. Recorded annually at Rye Harbour since 1996, usually in small numbers but with a maximum of 12 on 16th July 2003. Earliest date 4th July 2001, latest 18th August 2002.

66. Oxyptilus distans

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A plume moth frequenting sandy coasts, Breck sands and less often chalk downland. Adults are double-brooded, flying from May to June and again from July to September. The larva feeds on Smooth Hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), Hawkweed Ox-tongue (*Picris hieracioides*) or Sow-thistle (*Sonchus* spp).

Distribution: Local, Devon to Kent and Norfolk. There have been three records of this species at Rye Harbour, all from the Beach Reserve: 28th July 1998, 4th September 1999 and 10th September 2000.

67. *Palpita vitrealis*

Status: Scarce Migrant

Ecology: Larval foodplants abroad include Jasmine (*Jasminium*), Privet (*Ligustrum*), Ash (*Fraxinus*) and Olive (*Olea*). Adult moths are most likely to turn up in Britain during August.

Distribution: Recorded all along the south coast. Four records from the Rye Harbour area, one each from Lime Kiln Cottage (24th September 2006) and Beach Field (27th September 1998) and two from Winchelsea Beach (13th September 1999, and 28th July 2001).

68. *Pechipogo plumigeralis* (Plumed Fan-foot)

Status: Rare immigrant and probable resident

Ecology: In southern Europe, this species has two generations between May and September. Larvae feed on a range of trees and shrubs, including Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Broom (*Cytisus* spp) and Bramble (*Rubus* spp).

Distribution: A rare migrant to the south-east, though populations may become established occasionally. Singletons trapped regularly at Beach Field between 22nd July 1996 (the second British record) and 21st July 2001 (with an additional record from Winchelsea Beach on 28th July 2001), probably representing a briefly established breeding population.

69. *Pediasia aridella*

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Frequents the margins and drier parts of salt-marshes. Adults can be found from June to early September, while the larva is found in a silken tube attached to the roots of Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*P. Fasciculata*) and other grasses.

Distribution: This species occurs locally on the coast from East Yorkshire to Hampshire. Records of this species at Rye Harbour go back to 1976, and it has been virtually annual since 1990, with a maximum of 26 on 30th July 2002. The majority of records are from the Beach

Reserve and surrounding areas, with the occasional record from Castle Water. Earliest date 20th June 1999, latest 20th August 1996.

70. *Pediasia contaminella*

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A local moth frequenting dry grassland, with adults on the wing from July to August. The larva feed on various grasses e.g. Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*).

Distribution: Reported from Kent, Essex, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Hampshire and the Isles of Scilly. Possibly overlooked and more widespread. Almost annual at Rye Harbour between 1995 and 2002, though only as singles, with most records from the Beach reserve and Winchelsea Beach. May have been overlooked since. Earliest date 12th July 1995, latest 6th August 2000.

71. *Pelosia muscerda* (Dotted Footman)

Status: RDB3 - Rare

Ecology: A species of fenland, with adults on the wing during July and August. The food-plant is unknown in Britain, though may include algae and/or lichens.

Distribution: As a breeding species, Dotted Footman is virtually restricted to the Norfolk broads, with occurrences elsewhere thought to be migrants. One record from Winchelsea Beach on the 5th August 1997 (D. Brown).

72. *Pempelia genistella*

Status: Nationally Scarce A

Ecology: Frequenting heaths and commons, usually near the coast. Adults can be found during July and August, while the larva feeds on Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) inhabiting a thick silken web.

Distribution: Very local and distributed from Kent to Cornwall and also noted in Wiltshire. Virtually annual at Rye Harbour between 1995 and the present, though only ever recorded as singletons. Most records have

been from the Watch Cottage/Winchelsea Beach area. Earliest date 20th July 2000, latest 18th August 1996.

73. Phibalapteryx virgata (Oblique Striped)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Breckland, downland and coastal sandhills. There are two generations: May to June and then again in August and September. The larva feed on Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and possibly other *Galium* species.

Distribution: Southern England and parts of Wales, also noted from Lancashire and Yorkshire and as far north as central Scotland. Recorded annually in small numbers at Rye Harbour since 1995, though these individuals probably originate from a colony on Camber dunes to the east of the River Rother. Earliest date 6th May 2005, latest 11th September 1999.

74. Phlyctaenia stachydalis

Status: pRDBK

Ecology: Adults can be found from June to August, while the larvae feed on the leaves of Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*) or Marsh Woundwort (*S. palustris*)

Distribution: A local and uncommon moth confined to southern England and Wales. One was trapped at Castle Water on 27th June 1990, and one at Winchelsea Beach on 30th June 1998.

75. Photedes elymi (Lyme Grass)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A species of coastal sandhills. Adults occur from June to August, the larva feeding on Sea Lyme-grass (*Elymus arenarius*).

Distribution: Coasts of eastern England and eastern Scotland, also at Camber dunes in East Sussex. Trapped on four occasions at Rye Harbour between 10th July 1996 and 24th June 1998, these individuals probably originating from the colony at Camber.

76. *Platyperigea kadenii* (Clancy's Rustic)

Status: Rare Migrant and probable resident

Ecology: Adults are on the wing from August to September. The larvae are polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of plant species.

Distribution: First recorded in Britain at Dungeness in Kent in 2002. Since then there have been several records along the south coast of England, and there is evidence that a breeding colony has been established at Dungeness. First recorded at Rye Harbour on the 18th September 2006, with a further seven individuals on six dates until the 19th October.

77. *Platytes alpinella*

Status: pRDB3 - Rare

Ecology: Adults fly from July to early September on sandy coasts while, the larva feed on *Tortula* spp. and other mosses.

Distribution: Very local and rather uncommon, distributed along the south coast from Devon to Kent, also East Anglia, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. Recorded more or less annually at Rye Harbour since 1995, with a maximum of 12 on the 16th August 1997. Also occurs on Camber Dunes to the east of the river Rother. Earliest date 2nd July 1999, latest 4th September 1999.

78. *Pterophorus spilodactylus*

Status: pRDB2 - Vulnerable

Ecology: Adults are on the wing from June to October. The larvae feed on White Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) leaves.

Distribution: The majority of records of this moth are from the Isle of Wight, though it does occur at several other places on the south and south-eastern coasts of England also in north Wales. Recorded annually at Rye Harbour, the majority of records from the northern and eastern parts of Castle Water. The largest counts relate to larvae on the foodplant at Castle Water: 100+ on 20th June 1998, 100 on 9th May 2004 and 80 5th July 1996. Earliest date for adult 19th June 2003, latest 11th September 2001.

79. Schoenobius gigantella

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Adults can be found from late-May to August, while the larvae feed in the young shoots of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) or Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), often below the surface of the water.

Distribution: Occurs locally England, mainly in the south-east. At Rye Harbour has been recorded widely on the reserve, records being virtually annual since 1994. Earliest date 30th May 1999, latest 20th August 1996.

80. Sciota hostilis

Status: pRDB1 - occasional immigrant

Ecology: Adults of the resident population are on the wing from May to early July, the larvae feeding in spun leaves on Aspen (*Populus tremula*).

Distribution: As breeding species in Britain, *S. hostilis* is confined to a single Warwickshire wood, though it did occur more widely up to the start of the 20th century. It does however occur very occasionally as a migrant in Britain. One record at Rye Harbour: a singleton on 14th June 2006, only the second Sussex record.

81. Scopula emutaria (Rosy Wave)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A moth that occurs on the edges of coastal marshes and inland bogs. Adults are on the wing from June to July; the larva on Sea Beet (*Beta maritima*).

Distribution: Southern and south-eastern England, from Essex to Yorkshire, parts of Wales and found inland in the New Forest and Dorset. First recorded at Rye Harbour in 1996 and occurring annually in small numbers since. Earliest date 6th June 2004, latest 27th August 2006.

82. Scrobipalpa ocellatella (Beet Moth)

Status: Nationally Scarce

Ecology: A micro-moth of saltmarshes and shingle beaches. Adults have two generations; May to July and August to October. The larva feeds on Sea-beet (*Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima*).

Distribution: This species occurs mainly along the south coast, but has also been recorded from south Wales. One on the 19th September 1998 is the only reserve record (M. Parsons).

83. Scrobipalpa salinella

Status: Nationally Notable

Ecology: A micro-moth normally associated with coastal habitats. Adults can be found from June to September. The larva has been found in or amongst the leaves of Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Sea Blite (*Suaeda* spp) and Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*).

Distribution: Occurs locally along the southern and eastern coasts of England and also in south Wales and Scotland. Only one record at Rye Harbour: a singleton from the Beach Reserve on 31st August 1985 (M. Corley).

84. Scrobipalpa suaedella

Status: Nationally Notable

Ecology: A micro-moth associated with saltmarsh sites. Adults occur during June and July, while the larva feeds in a gallery amongst the leaves and blossom of Shrubby Sea-blite (*Suaeda vera*) or Annual Sea-blite (*S. maritima*).

Distribution: Occurs very locally along the south-east coast of England. The only reserve record concerns one on the Beach Reserve on 18th August 1997 (N. Hall).

85. *Senta flammea* (Flame Wainscot)

Status: Nationally Scarce A

Ecology: Inland and coastal reed-beds, with adults on the wing from May to July. The larvae feed on Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Distribution: Flame wainscot occurs in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, and has recently been noted from Kent to Devon though these are possibly the result of immigration. One recent record at Rye Harbour: a singleton trapped at Watch Cottage on 18th July 1990.

86. *Sideridis albicolon* (White Colon)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: It frequents heathland in Hampshire, Surrey and Breckland in East Anglia, elsewhere it is a sandhill species. The larva feeds on a wide variety of plants including Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) and Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*).

Distribution: White Colon occurs over much of England, Wales and eastern Scotland. Annual in small numbers at Rye Harbour, earliest date 19th May (1999), latest 5th August (1996).

87. *Simyra albovenosa* (Reed Dagger)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: A moth of fenland and marshy places. Adults occur in two generations; May, and then again in July and August. The larva feed on Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and other wetland plants.

Distribution: Very local in East Anglia and south-east England, casually noted elsewhere. An annual species at Rye Harbour. Earliest date 15th May (2000), latest 25th August (2001).

88. *Sitochroa palealis*

Status: Nationally Notable

Ecology: Adults fly during July and August, while the larvae feed on the flowers and seedheads of Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*).

Distribution: Local along the south and south-eastern coasts of England and also occurring as an immigrant. Occurs annually in small numbers at Rye Harbour. Earliest date 2nd July (2001), latest 28th August (2005).

89. Spilosoma urticae (Water Ermine)

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Inhabits marshy meadows and fenland. The adults can be found from late-May to July, the larva feed on various marsh plants including Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*).

Distribution: A local species, occurring mainly in, south-east England and East Anglia, but extending as far north as Co. Durham, Lancashire and north-west Wales. At Rye Harbour, this species occurs annually in small numbers (though a total of 26 were trapped on the 17th June 2000). Earliest date 27th May (1999), latest 28th July (1996).

90. Synaphe punctalis

Status: Nationally Scarce B

Ecology: Single brooded flying from June to August The larvae feed in silken galleries on terrestrial mosses.

Distribution: Inhabits shingle, dune slacks, chalk downs and salt-marshes in the seaboard counties from Kent to Cornwall, also recorded from the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk and the Breckland. Common at Rye Harbour, with records occurring annually. The maximum count involved 296 on 21st July 1996. Earliest date 11th June (1997), latest 1st September (1998).

91. Tinagma balteolella

Status: pRDB1 - Endangered

Ecology: Continental authors give the adult flight period as late April to June. The larvae feed in a silken spinning in the flower-heads of Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*).

Distribution: Only known from Essex, Kent and East Sussex where it is found in a very few coastal localities. The only record refers to an undetermined number from 'Rye Harbour SSSI' in 1986 (P. Hodge).

92. *Trichoplusia vittata* (Streaked Plusia)

Status: Suspected Rare Immigrant.

Distribution: Streaked Plusia is mainly a species of sub-Saharan Africa, extending eastward through the Arabian peninsular and the Indian Ocean as far as western Pakistan. One record: a singleton on 31st July 1995, the first British and European record of this species.

93. *Trigonophora flammea* (Flame Brocade)

Status: Immigrant; transitory resident

Ecology: Adults are on the wing during October and November, with most immigrant individuals earlier in this period. The larvae feed on low growing plants such as Buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp) in their early stages switching to Privet (*Ligustrum*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) later on.

Distribution: This species was formerly resident in Sussex, becoming extinct in the late 19th Century. It now occurs as a resident only in the Channel Islands, occurring elsewhere as an immigrant. Four records, all of singletons and all from the same site at Winchelsea Beach between 10th October 1997 and 22nd October 2000



Aerial view of Castle Water and shingle ridges at Camber Castle



1. Scarce Dagger



2. Marsh Dagger



3. Portland Moth



4. Light Feathered Rustic



5. Sand Dart



6. *Ancylosis oblitella*



7. Crescent Striped



8. *Aphomia zelleri*



9. Feathered Brindle



10. Rest Harrow



11. Webb's Wainscot



12. *Aristotelia brizella*



13. Straw Belle



14. *Bactra robustana*



15. Six-belted Clearwing



16. *Calamotropha paludella*



17. Toadflax Brocade



18. *Capperia britanniodactyla*



19. Ruddy Carpet



20. Concolorous



21. Mere Wainscot



22. Small Clover Case-bearer



23. *Coleophora galbulipennella*



24. Goat Moth



25. Star-wort



26. *Cynaeda dentalis*



27. Silver Barred



28. *Dolicharthria punctalis*



29. Cream-bordered Green



30. Pigmy Footman



31. Rosy Marbled



32. Angle-striped Sallow



33. Large Thorn



34. *Ethmia bipunctella*



35. *Ethmia terminella*



36. *Eucosma lacteana*



37. *Eudonia lineola*



38. *Eulamprotes wilkella*



39. Cloaked Carpet



40. Pinion-spotted Pug



41. Yarrow Pug



42. Valerian Pug



43. Jersey Tiger



44. *Evergestis extimalis*



45. *Gymnancyla canella*



46. White Spot



47. Marsh Mallow Moth



48. Waved Carpet



49. *Hymenia recurvalis*



50. Buttoned Snout



51. Bright Wave



52. Pale Grass Eggar



53. Beautiful Gothic



54. *Loxostege sticticalis*



55. Dewick's Plusia



56. Dotted Fan-foot



57. Kent Black Arches



58. *Monochroa palustrella*



59. *Monopis imella*



60. L-album Wainscot



61. Shore Wainscot



62. *Neofriseria peliella*



63. *Nephotrix angustella*



64. Scarce Black Arches



65. *Oncocera semirubella*



66. *Oxyptilus distans*



67. *Palpita vitrealis*



68. Plumed Fan-foot



69. *Pediasia aridella*



70. *Pediasia contaminella*



71. Dotted Footman



72. *Pempelia genistella*



73. Oblique striped



74. *Phlyctaenia stachydalis*



75. Lyme grass



76. Clancy's Rustic



77. *Platytes alpinella*



78. *Pterophorus spilodactylus*



79. *Schoenobius gigantella*



80. *Sciota hostilis*



81. Rosy Wave



82. *Scrobipalpa ocellatella*



83. *Scrobipalpa salinella*



84. *Scrobipalpa suaedella*



85. Flame Wainscot



86. White Colon



87. Reed Dagger



88. *Sitochroa palealis*



89. Water Ermine



90. *Synaphe punctalis*



91. *Tinagma balteolella*



92. Streaked Plusia



93. Flame Brocade

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Bactra robustana	Jon Baker
Beautiful Gothic	K Tailby MothShots
Bright Wave	Peter Kyle
Buttoned Snout	G Lyons
Calamotropha paludella	Paul Harris
Capperia britanniodactyla	Ian Kimber
Cloaked Carpet	Chris Wormwell
Coleophora frischella	Peter Buchner
Coleophora galbulipennella	Peter Buchner
Concolorous	Andrew Mackay
Oxyptilus distans	Jeff B Higgott
Dotted Footman	Peter Kyle
Ethmia terminella	Jeff B Higgott
Eucosma lacteana	Neil Sherman
Eudonia lineola	G Lyons RSPB Dungeness
Eulamprotes wilkella	Martin Cade
Flame Brocade	Moths of Norhtants
Flame Wainscot	K Tailby MothShots
Goat Moth	G Lyons RSPB
Gymnancyla canella	Jeff B Higgott
Hymenia recurvalis	Laurie Oakes
Large Thorn	Paul Harris
Loxostege sticticalis	Martin Cade
Lyme Grass	K Tailby MothShots
Marsh Mallow Moth	K Tailby MothShots
Mere Wainscot	Stuart Read
Monochroa palustrella	Nigel Whinney
Monopis imella	Jeff B Higgott
Neofriseria peliella	Christian Steeman
Pediasia aridella	Jeff B Higgott

Pediasia contaminella	Chris Steeman
Phlyctaenia stachydalis	Christian Steeman
Pinion-spotted Pug	G Ferrari
Platytes alpinella	Peter Kyle
Portland Moth	Rob Petley-Jones
Rest Harrow	M Deans
Rosy Marbled	Peter Kyle
Ruddy Carpet	Peter Kyle
Scarce Black Arches	Peter Kyle
Scarce Dagger	Dave Walker
Scrobipalpa ocellatella	Peter Buchner
Scrobipalpa salinella	Ian F Smith
Scrobipalpa suaedella	Jon Clifton
Silver Barred	Matthias Biere
Six-belted clearwing	Martin Down
Straw Belle	M Deans
Tinagma balteolella	Peter Buchner
Toadflax Brocade	Andy Philips
Trichoplusia vittata	Douglas Kroon
Valerian Pug	Paul Harris
Water Ermine	Peter Kyle
Waved Carpet	Christian Steeman
Webb's Wainscot	Peter Kyle
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Wildlife Recording

The Nature Reserve keeps its wildlife records on a computer database called RECORDER, which enables a large amount of data to be kept safely and accessible. It can produce maps, tables, graphs, summaries and species lists for small areas, or the whole of Rye Bay. The database currently holds 200,000 records of more than 6,000 species.

You can help to add to this information which will help us to protect and manage the wildlife, and assess the populations and distribution of the many rare and endangered species that occur in the area.

What makes a useful record ?

A useful record does not need to be of an unusual species, we are lacking a lot of information on the distribution of many common species.

An acceptable wildlife record needs four basic parts;

- the name of the species - please indicate if you are not 100% certain.
- its location - preferably a name and a six figure grid reference e.g. Watch Cottage at TQ928175 .
- date - preferably 09 October 1997, but October 1997, autumn 1997, but 1997 or before 1997 can be used.
- your name and anyone else involved in identifying the species.

other information is useful;

- abundance - an exact count, or 1, 10, 100, 1000, or
- DAFOR- dominant, abundant, frequent, occasional, rare.
- sex/stage - male, immature, or flowering, rosette, seeding.
- record type - sighting, dead on road, trapped.....
- associated species - e.g. feeding on leaves of White Willow.
- comment - e.g. seen on road after heavy rain or found under stone.

Please make sure that you keep to public places, or, footpaths, or, that you have the landowner's permission.