

THE MAMMALS OF SANDWICH BAY

Karen Bartlett, Ken Chapman, Poppy Mason-Smith, and Greg Lee



Eurasian Beaver *Castor fiber*

A recent addition to the Sandwich Bay area.

Introduction

This survey is based on a paper by Karen Bartlett on the vertebrates of the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Recording Area between the years 1967 and 2007 which was published in the SBBOT Annual Report for 2001-2007, pages 170-177. The bulk of the text in this updated version is much as it was written in Karen's original version.

In her paper, the format of dividing past years into blocks, 1967-2000 and 2001-2007, was used, and this system was kept in second version with the addition of a third block for the years 2008-2016. The third update continued the trend with the addition of 2017-2022. Records relating to this most recent period were added in the Spring of 2023 by Greg Lee. Greg trawled through all of the Observatory's relevant Annual Reports and Vertebrate log books for these years.

Sources

Most of the records which are summarised here were taken from the Non-Avian Logbooks kept at the Observatory since 1967 and also from the archive of record cards kept at the Observatory. Records from many Observatory members are to be found in these sources, but often in an unstructured format.

Over a period of years concluding in 2015, more systematic recording of mammals were kept from around the Estate by the use of a number of 'habitat mats' made up of sheets of corrugated iron or heavy-duty rubber. These mats were laid out at key points and the animals found underneath them were carefully recorded. This project was ably run by Duncan McLean, a member of the Observatory. Other records, for example, some of the section on the *Cetacea*, also draw from some recently-discovered archive material at the Observatory.

A fourth very useful source has been the 2015 book on the county's mammals, (John S. Young, Hazel Ryan et al, (2015), *The Mammals of Kent*, Kent Mammal Group). This source is referred to as MoK, (2015) in the present paper.

Finally, information has been gathered by conversations with members of the Observatory who have first-hand experience or memories relating to the animals outlined in this survey.

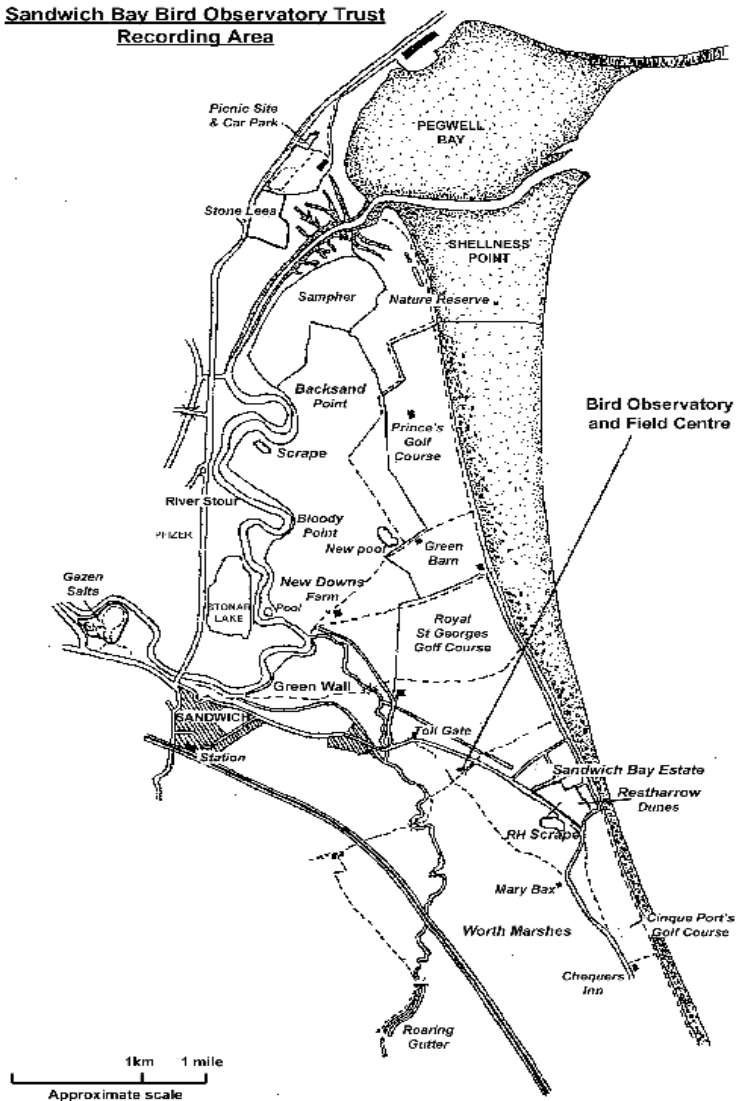
Thanks are due to various members of the Observatory whose photographs have been used to illustrate this document.

A word of caution

In her 2001-2007 paper, Karen Bartlett pointed out some of the problems with the recording of mammals and especially the need to be cautious in reading too much, (or, alternatively, too little), into the estimates of number that are given. Mammals are typically very shy, secretive or nocturnal in their habits. In addition, the lack of observers who are familiar with some of the more difficult species; the lack of systematic record-keeping for long periods and the inevitable over-emphasis on records collected from just the better-covered areas at the Bay, are just some of the problems which have to be allowed for. Having accepted these caveats, it is hoped that the production of this report will encourage more Observatory members and visitors to record any mammals that they see and to enter such records into the Vertebrate Log kept at the Observatory.

There are about 40 species listed in this report. The systematic order that is used follows Harris, S and Yalden, D.W. (2008). *Mammals of the British Isles*, Southampton, The Mammal Society.

Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust
Recording Area



SYSTEMATIC LIST

Note: BAP= Biodiversity Action Plan species. This is a species which was identified under the United Kingdom's Biodiversity Action Plan from 1995 onwards as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

Order: Rodentia (Rodents)

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Status: *Local, but steadily increasing in numbers.*

1967-2000: For much of this time the species was only seen along the Green Wall, at the inland edge of the Recording Area. Single wanderers were seen on Sandown Road, St George's plantation and Worth marshes in 1993 and on Waldershare Avenue and St George's plantation on the Estate in 1997. By 1998 they were being seen regularly on the Estate and on Worth Marshes.

2001-2007: In 2002 there was a single sighting on Waldershare Avenue and single sightings were made in the Elms throughout the year in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

2008-2016: A continued increase, with the species resident in the Elms, frequently seen in the gardens of the Estate and with occasional appearances at the Observatory. MOK, (2015), also records Grey Squirrel from the Sandwich and Stonelees tetrads and it is possible, given the number of planted trees on the New Downs area and the Princes Golf Course, that it could spread into these areas too.

2017-2022: Sightings continued to increase, singles in the Elms and Haven areas made up the majority of records though frequent sightings were also reported on the Green Wall and New Downs New Pool. The northern area of Prince's Golf Course consisting of Pine trees has also been favoured by this species.

Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*)

Status: *Widespread and common throughout the Recording Area.*

1967-2000: This species was not recorded in every year during this period and in those years when it was recorded, the numbers were low, with a maximum of seven in 1987.

2001-2007: Increased numbers were recorded in 2002 and 2005 (12/13). However, there were no records during 2006 and 2007.

2008-2016: An increase in records of this species, largely due to the fact that it was regularly seen around the Estate under habitat mats put out in the Big and Little Gullies, the White House, Haven and often in the Observatory car park. The frequency of these records probably better reflects the species' true status throughout much of the Recording Area.

2017-2022: There were three records in 2017, however the species wasn't not recorded in 2018-2022. This is more than likely a case of under-recording, however, and the species is still very much present in the area.

Field or Short-tailed vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

Status: *Widespread and common throughout the Recording Area.*

1967-2000: Two to ten observations were recorded in most years from the Elms, St George's bushes, the Green Wall and at the Observatory.

2001-2007: The number of observations decreased to one in 2006 and 2007, in the Gullies and at Mary Bax's.

2008-2016: Increased records of this species from the Estate, as it was often found under habitat mats in the Big and Little Gullies, Whitehouse, Haven and often in the Observatory car park.

2017-2022: Records remained sporadic through this period with the odd sighting on the Estate and New Downs. Despite this, it can be assumed that the continuing strength of the over-wintering owl population implies that the population of voles is still very strong.

This species is a major prey item for Short-eared and Barn Owls and birds of prey such as Hen Harrier, as well as for carnivorous mammals such as the Stoat and Weasel.



Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)

Status: *Thinly distributed throughout much of the area, with some indication of recovery in numbers in recent years.*



1967-2000: Recorded every year around dykes and streams throughout the area. In 2000 one or two were reported on many dates along the North Stream, Green Wall, Worth and New Downs Pool.

2001-2007: Numbers remained constant with additional sightings around Restharrow Scrape.

2008-2016: There were an increasing number of records of animals being seen in such localities as the Haven, Restharrow Scrape, by the pond in the Middle Field and in the surrounding drainage ditches and, more commonly, on the Worth-Lydden Valley marshes.

2017-2022: Numbers have continued to increase with the stronghold residing on Worth Marshes. Restharrow Scrape, Sandown Road and the Point all maintained small populations.

Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*)

Status: nationally this is a BAP priority species. Only recorded in the Sandwich Bay area on five widely-spread occasions (with the last previous sighting in 2002) until four nests were found in 2017.

1967-2000: An individual was recorded in 1986, the first record since 1974. The only other record was in 1989.

2001-2007: There were two records in 2002 in the Worth-Lydden Valley area, but none since, until the important record outlined below.

2017-2022: four nests were found in late February 2017 by staff and students from Hadlow College at a site not far from the Observatory. Other records also came from nests around the area plus one sight record of an individual in May 2022.

Wood or Long-tailed Field Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Status: Widespread and common throughout the whole Recording Area.

1967-2000: One to five observations were recorded in most years from the Elms, St George's bushes, the Green Wall and at the Observatory.

2001-2007: The number of observations increased to around 10 per year, with the Gullies also providing habitat.

2008-2016: Frequently seen under habitat mats throughout the whole Estate area.

2017-2022: Frequently recorded under refuge mats in the Estate during this period.



Yellow-necked Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*).

Status: Needs confirmation. This is primarily a woodland animal and it can be easily confused with the previous species. It is therefore possible that some of the records below could relate to *A. sylvaticus*

1967-2000: A record from the Estate on 28th June 1974, mentions 'a mouse plague', which sounds unlikely for this species. An individual was seen at the Green Wall on 13th July 1985 and two were noted by Mary Bax's on 14th February 1994.

2008-2016: Sightings showed an increase in frequency with animals found under the habitat mats spread around the Estate. There is a possibility of confusion with the very similar Wood Mouse, as suggested above.

2017-2022: There were no records during this period.

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Status: widespread throughout the area in suitable buildings. (Note that MoK, (2015), does not show this species for any tetrad in the Sandwich Bay area!).

1967-2000: Present throughout the period, reaching 'plague proportions' in the Observatory in 1987.

2001-2007: Continued to be present, although the number of reports varied.

2008-2016: Occasional sightings around the Observatory. Any visiting animals were routinely trapped and removed.

2017-2022: Occasionally present at the Observatory, however individuals were trapped and removed.

Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Status: *widespread throughout the whole area, but under-recorded. MoK, (2015) does not show the species for any tetrad in the Sandwich Bay area.*

1967-2000: Although assumed to be common, the species was rarely reported.

2001-2007: Again, thought to be common but the species was rarely reported.

2008-2016: While very few records were submitted, it is assumed that the species remains a fairly widespread resident due to the food available at different farm and residential sites throughout the area.

2017-2022: Some sporadic live records of this species though it is expected it is still very much widespread throughout the area.

Order: Lagomorpha (Rabbits and Hares)

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Status: *widespread and common throughout the area, especially on rough grassland, golf courses and some coastal sites.*

1967-2000: A common and familiar species throughout the entire period, and believed to be abundant, although accurate counts or estimates were never submitted. Annual totals fluctuated with the spread of myxomatosis. A leucistic specimen was recorded 1st June 1967 and albino young were recorded in 1994 and 1997. Of note was a burrow with well grown young that was found at the top of the beach within feet of the tideline in 1969.

2001-2007: Populations of the species across the Recording Area remained high, but under-reported. In 2002 an albino was seen at Sandilands.

2008-2016: Visibly increased in abundance each spring and common throughout the area. Occasional reports were made of different colour morphs and probable ex-pets, for example, in the Elms, 10th October 2012.

2017-2022: The population continued to remain prominent in the Recording Area with evidence of breeding very noticeable, The presence of myxomatosis is still causing high mortality in the population causing fluctuations in numbers.

Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

Status: *widespread throughout the Recording Area, but numbers have probably declined with the conversion of more farmed areas to intensive arable farming and market-gardening. Occasional problems also arise as a result of illegal hare coursing in the area.*

1967-2000: Present throughout the entire period, and believed to be fairly abundant, although very few accurate counts or estimates were submitted.

2001-2007: Numbers remained fairly high across the Recording Area, particularly around Restharrow Scrape on the Estate.

2008-2016: Regularly reported from the New Downs area, the golf courses, Worth Marshes, Restharrow Dunes and surrounding fields.

2017-2022: Regular records reported across the area on Worth, New Downs, Restharrow Dunes and the surrounding farmland. In 2022, two leverets were very conspicuous in early autumn around the Observatory car park.



Order: Insectivora (Insectivores)

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

Status: once seen regularly in the area, but now much scarcer. This reflects the national picture of steep population decline. The animal is a BAP priority species.

1967-2000: Recorded annually around the Estate area, with annual records fluctuating from four to 12. In 1994 and 1996 particularly low counts of two were recorded.

2001-2007: Numbers remained low but consistent up until 2007 when no observations were recorded.

2008-2016: It appears that, in common with U.K. trends, there is a declining local population, with a marked decrease in sightings over the last decade. In 2014 – 2016, only one or two animals were recorded at widely scattered dates throughout each year.

2017-2022: Records remained sporadic, though despite national declines, Hedgehogs do appear to be holding on. Most records came from the Estate with only 1-2 per year recorded.

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

Status: under-recorded due to its subterranean life-style, but known from the presence of molehills to be widespread throughout the whole area

1967–2000: Evidence of this species was seen annually but records of individual animals were scarce.

2001–2007: The species continued to be rarely seen but with abundant evidence of their presence.

2008-2016: Remains abundant in the Estate and fields surrounding the Observatory. Its numbers are presumably controlled on all of the golf courses due to the damage done to the greens and fairways

2017-2022: Evidence of mole-hills remained abundant around the Estate and surrounding fields. Records of animals mostly consisted of dead specimens above ground, presumably having been controlled.

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

Status: Found throughout most of the Recording Area

1967-2000: Recorded annually in single figures. Initially records were confined to the Green Wall. This remained the stronghold but by 1992 observations were being made across the Recording Area.

2001-2007: Numbers remain constant with observations from across the recording area, particularly Middle Field, the Whitehouse and the Gullies.

2008-2016: A few records only, from scattered years, but this may well reflect under-recording rather than any real decline in numbers.

2017-2022: There were several records from this period, mostly around the Estate but also around the Observatory building, where some were humanely trapped and removed from the premises.

Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

Status: A species of long grass habitat which is widespread throughout the area.

1967-2000: One to five sightings were reported across the Recording Area, but not every year.

2001-2007: The species was not reported between 2005 and 2007 but this was more likely due to the lack of observers rather than the loss of the species from the area.

2008-2016: Records indicate a stable population, although there are some years where none were recorded at all. Reported from such areas as the Elms, Whitehouse, Middle Field and the Gullies on Sandwich Bay Estate.

2017-2022: Recorded on infrequently, mostly around the Estate particularly under habitat refugia. Likely to be under-recorded rather than due to population loss.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens*)

Status: not recorded in MoK, (2015) for the Bay area, but it is present, at least in small numbers, as shown below.

1967-2000: Frequently recorded from 1973 until 1995.

2008-2016: Increasing sightings, especially from the habitat mat set up by the Observatory Pond. In 2009 one was seen in the partially flooded Little Gully on 17th March. In 2015 a nest was found under a habitat mat in the Observatory car park on 30th April, and an adult with four young was found under the same mat on 28th May.

2017-2022: Records were sporadic with Worth being the stronghold for the species. A few records consisted of dead specimens.



Young Water Shrews, Bird Observatory H.Q., 28th May 2015

Order: Chiroptera (Bats)

Status: Several bat species have been recorded at the Observatory over the years, but there is still no consistent data and what data there is has been logged as a result of the use of more reliable bat detectors in more recent years. There is more work that needs to be done on this group, especially taking into account the possibility of the occurrence of migrant species.

Species that have been identified in recent years are as follows:

Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)

2016: the first confirmed record of this species for the area was from the Estate on October 1st.

Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*)

1995: probables of this species were identified by the use of a bat detector in late August.

2019: Five were recorded on Worth Marshes by bat detector on May 25th.

Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*)

2019: One caught during a ringing study was the first record for Sandwich Bay

Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus sp.*)

2015: One Long-eared Bat caught in the Whitehouse on the Estate on 8th September, and one on 3rd October.

2017-2022: Regular sightings around the Elms area. A Brown Long-eared was caught in the Whitehouse on 19th August 2022.

Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*)

1995: a single animal visited a moth light trap at the Observatory in late August

2010: Three detected and seen in the Elms, Chequers and over Middle Field pond 15th May.

2011: One heard flying over the Estate on 10th August.

2017: One was recorded on 26th August.

Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) (the most frequently reported species)

2010: Two seen flying over the Observatory 17th April, and three seen flying about the Elms 15th May.

2011: four heard over the Estate, exact subspecies unknown, 10th August, with another being recorded in the Elms 7th September.

2014: two over the Elms and three over the Observatory car park 22nd August.

2017: One was along the Observatory track on 8th and 26th August.

2019: There were a few records during the year with seven recorded on the Estate in early April. An individual flew over the Observatory Car Park on 20th May. Five were recorded on Worth on May 25th.

2021: one to three were present around the Elms on 26th October.

2022: A single was recorded on 27th February. Two were recorded at the Little Elms on 30th April.



Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pigmaellus*)

2014: Six were heard over Restharrow Scrape and some of the streams from 22nd to 23rd August.

2016: 1 on October 29th

2017: Several were present over the Observatory Car Park on 26th August.

2019: A single was flying in the Elms on April 18th. One was trapped at the Elms on October 4th.

2021: A single was over Restharrow Scrape on 26th October.

2022: At least three were along the Observatory track and the Little Elms on 30th April.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*)

2016: The first confirmed record of this species relates to up to five animals present around the Elms on the Estate on October 1st 2016 and eight there on the 8th. These records may well relate to migratory individuals.

2017: One was recorded on Worth on 26th August.

2019: Five were trapped during a survey on October 4th.

2021: One was recorded over Restharrow Scrape on October 26th.

2022: A tagged individual was recorded on MOTUS on May 5th, having previously been detected at Landguard Bird Observatory before crossing the channel into Belgium and the Netherlands. At least one individual was present on the 30th April over the Observatory Car Park.

Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*)

1995: up to 3 were recorded by the use of a bat-detector around a moth light trap in late August.

2019: A handful of records were recorded by use of a bat detector. Three of these were along the Estate road in May with two also recorded on Worth Marshes on the 25th.

Order: Carnivora (Carnivores)

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Status: common and widespread throughout the Recording Area.

1967-2000: Recorded annually across the whole area, usually as single animals.

2001-2007: Frequent single sightings across the whole area made throughout the year. Families with cubs were observed in 2005 and 2006.

2008-2016: Remains common and widespread across the area. Many are shot annually by local farmers, especially during the lambing season, but they appear to be rapidly replaced by newly-reared cubs or by inflow from outside of the area.

2017-2022: Though numbers remain controlled, the population remains high in the area with individuals often sighted on Worth Marshes and the Estate. Evidence of breeding was also recorded in most years.

Stoat (*Mustela ermine*)

Status: widespread throughout the area.

1967-2000: Recorded annually across the whole area, usually between 5 to 15 observations of individuals, with no obvious trend in numbers.

2001-2007: Recorded as single animals across the whole area. The number of sightings reduced, but this may not necessarily be due to a decline in the species.

2008-2016: Presumed to still be common throughout the area, though not often seen.

2017-2022: Though not often seen, it is expected that the species is still fairly common given the strength of the small rodent and rabbit population.

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

Status: widespread across the area.

1967-2000: Recorded annually across the whole area, often seen crossing roads or tracks. Usually there were between 8 to 25 observations of individuals, with no obvious trend in numbers. They were considered to be more widespread and numerous than stoats.

2001-2007: Recorded as single animals across the whole area. The number of sightings remained consistent with earlier years.

2008-2016: Presumed to still be common throughout the area, though not often seen or reported.

2017-2022: Again records are infrequent but several records from around the Estate indicate the species is still very much present in number.



Badger (*Meles meles*)

Status: a scarce and infrequent wanderer into the Recording Area, with no evidence of permanent settlement of the species.

1967-2000: One pre -1977 Maidstone Museum record, of a badger in the area of the Estate. The first record, apart from this earlier one, was in 1993 when one was found dead on the Worth marshes. There was one other record in 1999.

2001-2007: The only record during this period was a single sighting in the Elms in 2006.

2008-2016: One seen alive by Mary Bax's on 5th February 2010 and an injured animal in the Elms on 24th November, which was collected by the RSPCA. In 2011 one was found dead on the railway track through Worth on the 10th April.

2017-2022: The only record during this period was a long-dead specimen in the Great Wood on Worth marshes on 21st December 2018.

North American Mink (*Neovison vison*)

Status: Sporadically recorded and may now be extinct in the Recording Area. Only a few were ever seen in the area and apparently none for the past 15 years or more. An

eradication programme for this introduced predator further inland in the Stour Valley may well have been responsible for the welcome decline.

1967-2000: Two reported at New Downs on 29th May 1986 and 25th July 1986, with another on the 15th August 1987 and there was another confirmed sighting on 11th August 1995.

In 2000 animals were recorded from four different sites within the Recording Area but there appear to have been none in any of the following years up to the present day.

2016-2022: One individual was recorded on Worth on July 19th 2022.

European Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Status: *only historical records and presumed locally extinct, but see discussion below, relating to a record from 2016.*

Pre-1967: historical records exist in the county archives for several sites on the Lower Stour around Sandwich and the late Dennis Harle compiled a detailed dossier of records of Otter from the late 1940's to their presumed local extinction by the 1960's - 1970's. This dossier is now kept at the Observatory. MoK, (2015, p.109), refers to a population on the Worth Marshes which was thought to have been eliminated by the electrification of the railway line after 1956 and this is corroborated by details in the Harle dossier.

1967-2000: A doubtful record exists of one reported at high tide along the edge of the then Ramsgate Tip, (now Pegwell Country Park), on 15th October 1977.

2008-2016: MoK, (2015, p.109), states that the Otter is 'limited to the Medway catchment', with the last records from anywhere in East Kent coming from the Stour Valley as far downstream as Stodmarsh and Grove Ferry in the period 1991- 2001. In this context, a very interesting record, from just outside of the Observatory's Recording Area, relates to fresh spraint being found on Monk's Wall Nature Reserve on October 30th 2016. This appears to be the first confirmed evidence for nearly fifty years that the Otter is still present in the Sandwich area, (KC).

2017-2022: The first confirmed record in 60 years came from a camera-trap on Worth Marshes in December 2018.



Order: Pinnipedia (Pinnipeds – Seals)

Atlantic Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)

Status: *scarce in the area, wandering animals from further north.*

1967-2007: Sporadic observations were made of this species over this period, but numbers were never high, typically only involving single animals.

2008-2016: There were records on four occasions in 2008 of singles offshore from the Estate and at the Point in January and February. In 2013 one was reported from the Estate beach on 13th December, while in 2014 there were a few further such reports of animals out at sea off the Estate or hauled out on the beach. The only record for 2015 relates to a single animal seen off the Estate on the 2nd and 22nd June. Recent , (August 2016), research by the Zoological Society of London on seals in South-east England have suggested a growth in inter-specific competition between the larger, stronger Atlantic Greys and Common Seals, with the Greys displaying aggressive behaviour and 'bullying' the Common Seals off the best haul-out sites.

2017-2022: Present in the area in lower numbers than Common Seal. Most records come from offshore sightings although singles have been observed on haul-out sites on the Point.

Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

Status: *now a common resident and seen very regularly off the Estate. The major 'haul-out' site at the River Stour estuary is probably the largest gathering of these animals in South-East England. Animals may also be seen, (with the use of a telescope!) hauled out on the Goodwin Sands at low tide.*

1967-2007: This species was reported annually across the entire period, with numbers of records and numbers of actual animals showing a steady increase.

2008-2016: A continued increase in the population, with 30+ frequently recorded in the Stour estuary at the beginning of the period and steadily increasing numbers up to the present day. There were counts of in excess of 100 animals in the river mouth on several dates in 2015-2016 culminating in a record count of about 150 animals on December 17th 2016.

2017-2022: Numbers have continued to remain high with counts along the River Stour exceeding 100 individuals. Sightings are common offshore and in Pegwell Bay throughout the year.



Common Seals hauled out at the Stour river mouth

Order: Artiodactyla (Even-toed ungulates)

Reeve's Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*)

Status: a rare wanderer to the area, but secretive and therefore easily overlooked

1967-2000: One in the Lydden Valley on the 13th June 1996, was the first record for the Recording Area.

2008-2016: There were several sightings during the 2011 with one on 14th September and one heard in the White House on the Estate on 29th September. Two were seen at the Green Wall on 18th October.

2017-2022: There were no records from this period.

Order: Cetacea (Whales, porpoises and dolphins)

Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Status: very rare. Two records only, one relating to a dead animal.

1961: A specimen of Common Dolphin was found washed up in good condition on 17th June. Details and specimens were sent to the British Museum (Natural History) for ratification.

1994: 2 were recorded moving North off the Estate on September 2nd.

Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

Status: *rare, with only scattered records at long intervals.*

1967-2007: 1974: One was found dead on Princes Beach in 1974, in 1984 a pod of up to six were seen offshore on 8th August and in 2007 one was recorded offshore from the Estate.

2008-2016: the sole record for this period relates to a pod of eight sighted offshore, far out to sea, on 2nd April 2012.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

Status: *very rare. One historical record relating to a dead specimen.*

1963: One was found stranded on the beach by the Estate on the 15th January during the exceptionally severe winter of that year. Drawings and specimens were sent to the British Museum (Natural History) by Dennis Harle where the identity of the animal was duly confirmed.

Common or Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Status: *now seen at fairly regular intervals, particularly in the winter months.*

1967-2007

Only three live sightings in this period and a further five records of dead animals, involving six individuals in total.

2008-2016

2010: One found dead on Princes Beach 24th January and four were found dead on the beach off the Estate on 1st February. An individual headed North offshore on 7th September, and a deceased animal was floating out at sea on 14th November.

2012: Five seen offshore, 29th March.

2013: One found dead on the beach by Estate 22nd January, killed by a boat propeller. Two were seen off the Estate on 10th April and five were seen swimming offshore of the Estate on 10th August.

2014: One seen offshore of the Cellars 26th March, and again offshore of the Estate on 19th December.

2015: One at mid-distance off the Yacht club, 24th December.

2016: One drifted south on 3rd January. Two were recorded on 30th March and three headed south on 3rd April. Two were next seen on 7th August.

2017: One was recorded on 2nd February. Two were close inshore on June 6th.

2018: Two were offshore including a calf on 28th August. Another was offshore on 1st November

2019: One drifted offshore on 17th March. One was offshore on 3rd June. Another two were offshore on 10th July.

2022: One was offshore on 1st September and another was recorded on 24th September.

Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*)

Status: *very rare. Only one record of a stranded animal.*

1995: A female found stranded in Pegwell Bay on 25th April, was freed but stranded again at Sandwich Bay on 26th April and was then euthanised. Post-mortem

examination at the British Museum (Natural History) revealed that the animal had suffered a cerebral haemorrhage.



Killer Whale stranded at Sandwich Bay, 26th April 1995

Pilot Whale (*Globicephala melas*)

Status: very rare. One record only.

1985: At least 5 seen offshore from the Estate, moving slowly North, on 22nd October.

Sperm Whale (*Physeter microcephalus*)

Status: very rare. One record only.

2011: A male of this species was found dead in Pegwell Bay, 3rd March.

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

Status: very rare. One record only.

| 1986: A 14ft long specimen of this species was found dead on the Reserve beach on the 11th April and was recorded by its previous name, Lesser Rorqual. From information sent to the British Museum (Natural History) it was identified as a female.

Deleted: r

Whale sp.

1984: A large whale, estimated as being at least 60ft long, was seen moving slowly down the Channel on 2nd December.

1993: Details of a badly-decomposed whale carcass washed up on June 29th were sent to the Natural History Museum but it was not possible for the experts there to identify the animal as to its species. However, it was identified as one of the genus *Balaenoptera*, which includes the Blue, Sei and Fin Whales.