

South Stack Cliffs (RSPB reserve)

Location: Holy Island, Anglesey

Opening times: Open all year-round. Visitor centre and shop 10am - 5pm, café 10am-3pm

Entrance fee: Free to RSPB members. Free to the public but donations suggested

Parking fee: free at the time of writing

Facilities: Visitor centre, toilets, café, shop, picnic area, viewing point

How to get there:

Public transport: The nearest train station is Holyhead station but there is no public transport to the reserve.

By bike: The reserve is 3 miles from Route 8 of the National Cycle Network

By car: Take the A55 across Anglesey to Holyhead and follow the signs to the town centre. Then follow the brown signs to the reserve which is approximately 3 miles away.

Habitats: heathland, farmland, cliffs, coast and ocean.

South Stack RSPB is a great place for wildlife. The different habitats mean a wide range of wildlife can be spotted all year round.

Star species:

- * Silver-studded Blue butterfly
- * Adder
- * Common Lizard
- * Dolphin
- * Porpoise
- * Chough
- * Puffin
- * Gannet
- * Guillemot
- * Razorbill
- * Spatulate Fleawort

Trip report for 28/06/18

The weather was beautiful for the visit to South stack today which really enhanced the incredible beauty of this place. We saw plenty of wildlife and enjoyed the scenic views from the clifftop.

Birds

The cliffs provide nesting sites for approximately 9,000 seabirds, the cacophony of bird calls as you approach the cliff edge is incredible. On our visit we saw Puffins, Guillemots, Razorbills and Gannets.

South stack cliffs are also a breeding site for Choughs, the rarest member of the crow family in the UK. These birds are very charismatic, we were fortunate enough to see two juvenile Choughs.

In the heathland area of the reserve we saw several different bird species including Meadow Pipits, Skylarks, Stonechat and Linnets.



Juvenile Chough



Meadow Pipit

Insects

We saw lots of butterflies in the heathland area, including Large Skipper, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown and Silver-studded Blue. We also saw a Six-spot Burnet moth and a Garden Tiger caterpillar.



Six-spot Burnet moth



Garden Tiger caterpillar



Silver-studded Blue butterfly

We also saw a Rose Chafer, Emperor Dragonfly and a possible Nomad Bee species (ID tbc).



Rose Chafer



possible Nomadic Bee species

Others

We saw a Lion's Mane Jellyfish from the clifftop at South Stack. We got a much better sighting at Cemlyn Bay, see the site report for Cemlyn Bay to find out what else was seen there and for photographs of the Lion's Mane Jellyfish.