

Day Trip Summary

Name of trip: Wildflowers of the South Downs National Park.

Date of trip: 11th & 13th May 2022

Species highlights (5+): Skylark, Common Whitethroat, Red Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Corn Bunting and Northern Raven. Butterflies included Small Blue, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Peacock and Red Admiral. For the plants there were Horseshoe Vetch, Burnt Orchid, Hairy Rock Cress, Wood Sanicle, Chalk Milkwort and Ramsons.

Summary of the day(s) Two contrasting days weatherwise. The 11th was cloudy and wet, so the emphasis was on the chalk grassland where it meets scrubby woodland. We examined the trees, shrubs and ground-flora, finding Wood Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) Woody plants included Dogwood (*Cornus sanguineus*), Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*).

Both groups saw an array of chalk grassland species, which included Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*), Salad burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) and Hairy Rock-cress (*Arabis hirsuta*). The inclement weather on the 11th, meant no butterflies were seen but, on the 13th a mixture of species were on the wing. On the 11th were found a nymph of Glo-worm, in a location not previously recorded. Despite the weather issues, both groups enjoyed their day





