

Orchids & Butterflies of Kent

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th – 23rd May 2026



Fly Orchid



Late Spider Orchid

Tour report by David Gibbs



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

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Tour participants: David Gibbs (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Wednesday 20th May

Conningbrook Hotel – Kennington – Ashford

Four clients met David at Ashford International station; the remaining three arrived by car. At 5.00pm we all met in the bar of the Conningbrook Hotel, to talk over the next few days. David welcomed the group and we talked about our primary interests and what we were most hoping to see. After eating, we all went on a short excursion to the nearby Conningbrook Lakes before dusk. We found Egyptian Goose, Coot, Herring Gull, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow and a good showing from several Swifts overhead. An alarm call from the Swallows heralded the arrival of a Sparrowhawk as it dashed into the trees, and a Green Woodpecker could be heard, distantly. Plants included Greater Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Goat's Rue (*Galega officinalis*), both Creeping (*Ranunculus repens*) and Meadow Buttercups (*R. acris*) and a small patch of Hairy Tare (*Vicia hirsuta*). As it was getting chilly, and most of us had had a long day, we returned to the hotel and retired for the night.

Day 2

Thursday 21st May

Samphire Hoe – Folkestone Downs

After breakfast, we set off for the south coast of Kent, stopping at a local supermarket to pick up some lunch. Our first site was Samphire Hoe Country Park, just west of Dover and below the sheer white cliffs. This area was created from the chalk-marl spoil excavated to build the Channel Tunnel. By the time we arrived it was bright and sunny, but a cool wind was still keeping the threatened heatwave at bay. Our walk took us west on the path to the south of the railway line back through the centre of the site. Before leaving the car park, we searched for one of the real specialities of Samphire Hoe, Early Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*), which occurs here in abundance during its early flowering season, mainly in March-April. In May their season was drawing to a close, and this year seemed particularly early. We soon found many with withered flowers or developing seed pods, but after a while we came across three plants still with nice fresh flowers. In the same area, some Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) were just appearing.

Close to the car park a Common Whitethroat was bringing food to its nest, and along the cliff we came across a single singing Lesser Whitethroat, several Stonechats, and a family of Ravens soaring around the cliff top with a Buzzard; over the ponds House Martins hawked for insects. As we made our way west, parallel to the cliff, we came across Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), Wild Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) and a small patch of Smooth Tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*). In the grassland, new rosettes of Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) were found, along with many flowering Mouse-eared Hawkweeds (*Pilosella officinarum*). Up on the cliffs were a few bright spikes of Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) and numerous large yellow patches of Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*).

At the western end of the Hoe, we explored the shingle area, noting some fine specimens of Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*) in full flower. Nearby, on the sea wall and fringes of a pond, were clumps of Golden Samphire (*Limbarda crithmoides*), unfortunately yet to flower this year. In cracks in the concrete, we found Sea Pearlwort (*Sagina maritima*), Lesser Sand Spurry (*Spergularia marina*) and many clumps of Rock Sea-lavender (*Limonium binervosum*). Perhaps most

interesting were the many examples of Curved Hard-grass (*Parapholis incurva*) growing on the bare clay soil above the sea wall. Invertebrates were rather few in the cold breeze, but we saw many Common Blues, a few Dingy Skippers and Small Heaths, and one lucky client saw an Adonis Blue! We found a single Brown-tail Moth caterpillar, and had brief views of Black-tailed Skimmer and Broad-bodied Chaser. At one spot, several Rose Chafers gave nice views, and a couple of strikingly marked Superb Ant-hill Hoverflies were seen. Back at the visitor centre, we took our lunch, and some of us visited an exhibition on downland orchids.

After lunch, we headed back through the tunnel, west along the coast to Folkestone Downs, and parked beside a wheat field. On the verge we came across Common Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Black Mustard (*Mutarda nigra*) and hundreds of Wheat Stem Sawflies. We were soon at the location for one of our most special orchids, and it wasn't long before we were admiring three spikes of Late Spider Orchid (*Ophrys holosericea*) in pristine condition. Further up the slope were a couple of Man Orchids (*Orchis anthropophora*) in flower. In the same area we also noted Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) and Woolly Thistle (*Cirsium eriophorum*). We took a walk around the adjacent grassland, finding Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*) and Wild Mignonette (*Reseda lutea*). Also here were numerous Skylarks, and we came across several Slow-worms. We made our way back towards the hotel.

Day 3

Friday 22nd May

Yockletts Bank – Park Gate Down – Sole Street

Following a 7.30am breakfast, we set off from the hotel on another warm, sunny day, pausing at the Co-op to buy our lunch, before continuing north on the Canterbury Road. Our first stop was the well-known Kent Wildlife Trust reserve at Yockletts Bank, tucked away down a few miles of very narrow Kentish lanes. No sooner had we emerged from the van than a Turtle Dove flew over, giving some of us reasonable views. Along the lane to the wood we found Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) and Wood Mellick (*Melica uniflora*). Once we turned into the wood it was not long before we came across the first addition to our orchid list: a splendid Greater Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*) in fine flower, followed just a few steps on by a splendid Lady Orchid (*Orchis purpurea*), with many more just a little further on up the trail. Here we also found numerous Fly Orchids (*Ophrys insectifera*), Twayblades (*Neottia ovata*), Common Spotted Orchids, a single Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) rather past its best, and many White Helleborines (*Cephalanthera damasonium*), a few of them looking good.

Further up the trail in a cleared area, we watched a couple of Red-tailed Mason Bees bringing grass to camouflage their nests. A large ichneumon wasp with a huge ovipositor hunting around a Yew tree proved to be the rather scarce *Dolichomitrus tuberculatus*. Walking back down the path, we came across several Common Cardinal Beetles, and a thin song from the canopy betrayed the presence of a Firecrest, which eventually gave most of us views.

We made our way to a second Kent Wildlife reserve: Park Gate Down. We ate our lunch in the shade of the woodland, right next to a large patch of Herb-Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*); the Nationally Scarce Black-headed Cardinal Beetle was spotted wandering across the road. Once lunch was eaten, we headed to the down itself, where we soon found a group of five Monkey Orchids (*Orchis simia*) in full flower. We eventually came across eleven plants across the down. Nearby was a nice colony of Fragrant Orchids (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), unfortunately still in bud but very

close to flowering. Further on there were many Early Purple Orchids, now well past their best, and eventually we came across a nice stand of Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*).



Columbine



Dark Thistle Case-bearer (larva)



Curved Hard-grass



Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp (gall)

It was now getting very hot, although a male Yellowhammer still sang. Getting views of the butterflies was difficult in this warmth, but we recorded Dingy Skipper, Orange-tip, Small Copper and Painted Lady. With the temperature approaching 30°C, we needed some refreshment, but before heading to Perry Court Farm Shop, we took a detour to Sole Street. Here we searched for the colony of Man Orchids on the roadside bank. Only one flowering spike was in evidence, the remaining plants not having produced an inflorescence, or having been nibbled, presumably by deer. In addition, the wooded verge produced Sanicle, Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*) and Crosswort (*Cruciata laevipes*). After a very successful day of orchid hunting, we headed to the tearoom at Perry Court Farm for much-needed refreshment.

Day 4

Saturday 23rd May

Denge Woods

We had a rather later start today, on another sunny, still morning with the temperature forecast to soar into the high twenties again. We headed north and were soon in the narrow Kentish lanes, heading for the extensive Denge Woods. Having parked as deep in the shade as possible, we set off across a recently cleared area of Sweet Chestnut

woodland. Here we watched a Tree Pipit singing away in the remaining tall trees, even doing its “parachute” display. In the adjacent woodland we could hear Coal and Marsh Tits, and Garden Warbler. A very intriguing find here was a gall on the Sweet Chestnut leaves, which David did not recognise at all. It turned out to be a recently arrived invasive Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*).

We continued into the woodland, relieved to find some shade: along the track grew Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*). A little further on, we were lucky to come across a Glow-Worm (*Lampyrus noctiluca*) larva crawling across the gravel track. In a more open, cleared area, we found more Columbine adorning the path side, but whether these were natives or escapes was uncertain.

By the time we arrived at the clearing the heat was rising and insects were already moving at high speed. Immediately we found dozens of Lady Orchids: there must have been hundreds in this clearing alone. There were also plenty of Greater Butterfly Orchids, as well White Helleborines and Twayblades. As we searched for butterflies, we came across many Fly Orchids, and a single Man Orchid. Day-flying moths included Speckled Yellow, Cinnabar and Burnet Companion, and a single Treble-bar was disturbed from the vegetation. As for butterflies, we saw Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak, and after considerable searching we finally found three Dukes of Burgundy. After initially giving us the run-around and not settling for more than a second, one finally behaved and perched in the sunshine long enough for everyone to see it.

We trudged back through this very large wood, arriving at the van very hot but satisfied. There was just time for a quick look at Wye Down, where we hoped to find Black-veined Moth, which is usually a June flyer, but in this hot weather was possibly already out. In these conditions, only one keen client chose to accompany David to the bottom of the Devil’s Kneading Trough. Unfortunately, no Black-veined Moths could be found, but we came across some Fragrant Orchids in full flower, and our first Brown Argus and Large Skipper of the trip. Perhaps most interesting was a freshly emerged Clouded Buff moth that we disturbed from the grassland. By the time we had puffed back up the very steep hill, everyone was ready to head to Perryhill Farmshop and Tea Room for a late lunch and refreshment.

The tour concluded and the clients dispersed, well-pleased with a tour full of exciting finds.

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Species lists

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>				✓
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓	✓	✓
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓	✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓		
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓	✓
Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>				✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓	
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>				✓
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓	✓	✓
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				✓
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓		
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>			✓	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓		✓
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓		

Moths

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
L=larva					
Dark Thistle Case-bearer	<i>Coleophora paripennella</i>				L
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>			✓	
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>		✓		
Treble-bar	<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>				✓
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>				✓
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>		✓		✓
Brown-tail	<i>Euproctis chrysorrhoea</i>		L		
Clouded Buff	<i>Diacrisia sannio</i>				✓
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>				✓
Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>			✓	
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>				✓

Orchids

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Yockletts Bank
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	Samphire Hoe
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	Yockletts Bank
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	Park Gate
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Twayblade	Yockletts Bank
<i>Ophrys holosericea</i>	Late Spider Orchid	Folkestone Down
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid	Yockletts Bank
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid	Samphire Hoe
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid	Folkestone Down

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	Yocketts Bank
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Yocketts Bank
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Park Gate
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Yocketts Bank

Other plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
Calamophytes	Horsetails	
Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	Conningbrook Lakes
Polypodiales	True Ferns	
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern	en route
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Park Gate
Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern	Park Gate
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	Folkestone Down
Taxaceae	Yew Family	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	Kennington
MAGNOLIOPSIDA	DICOTYLEDONS	
Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms	
Nymphaeaceae	Water-lily Family	
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-Lily	Conningbrook Lakes
Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons	
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	Samphire Hoe
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Conningbrook Lakes
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family	
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Beet	Samphire Hoe
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	Denge Wood
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica	Denge Wood
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Conium maculatus</i>	Hemlock	M20
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Samphire Hoe
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Samphire Hoe
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	Yocketts Bank
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Folkestone Down
<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Knotted Hedge-parsley	Co-op, Kennington
Apocynaceae	Dogbane Family	
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	Yocketts Bank
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family	
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly	Folkestone Down

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i> agg	Ivy	Samphire Hoe
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	Folkestone Down
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Samphire Hoe
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender Thistle	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina Thistle	Samphire Hoe
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black Knapweed	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	Folkestone Down
<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	Stemless Thistle	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly Thistle	Folkestone Down
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawks-beard	Samphire Hoe
<i>Jacobaea erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort	Folkestone Down
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Ragwort	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Limbarda crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Samphire Hoe
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	Perry's Barn Farmshop
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple Weed	Co-op, Kennington
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-eared Hawkweed	Samphire Hoe
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	Narrow-leaved Ragwort	Co-op, Kennington
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	Perry's Barn Farmshop
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Co-op, Kennington
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	Co-op, Kennington
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	Samphire Hoe
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Denge Wood
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Samphire Hoe
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Water forget-me-not	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet	Yocketts Bank
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	Kennington
<i>Brassica oleraceus</i>	Wild Cabbage	Samphire Hoe
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	Samphire Hoe
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress	Samphire Hoe
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty	en route
<i>Mutarda nigra</i>	Black Mustard	Folkestone Down
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Perry's Barn Farmshop
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	Samphire Hoe
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Sagina maritima</i>	Sea Pearlwort	Samphire Hoe
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	Folkestone Down
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-robin	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	en route
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Yocketts Bank
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Lesser Sea-Spurrey	Samphire Hoe
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	Yocketts Bank
Celastraceae	Spindle-tree Family	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle-tree	Yocketts Bank
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose	Folkestone Down
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Conningbrook Lakes
Corylaceae	Hazel Family	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Folkestone Down
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	Conningbrook Lakes
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family	
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony	Yocketts Bank
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	Conningbrook Lakes
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	Samphire Hoe
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	Folkestone Down
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	Samphire Hoe
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	Park Gate
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goat's-rue	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	Samphire Hoe
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Yellow Vetchling	Yocketts Bank
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Everlasting-Pea	Samphire Hoe
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	Samphire Hoe
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Restharrow	Samphire Hoe
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	Samphire Hoe
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Samphire Hoe
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Samphire Hoe
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Yocketts Bank
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare	Samphire Hoe
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Denge Wood
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Kennington
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	Conningbrook Lakes
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-Wort	Samphire Hoe
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	Samphire Hoe
<i>Geranium pratensis</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill	Devil's Kneeding bowl
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Folkestone Down
Hypericaceae	St. John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	Folkestone Down
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	Yocketts Bank
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	Folkestone Down
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	Folkestone Down
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Deadnettle	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Oregano officinalis</i>	Marjoram	Samphire Hoe

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	Samphire Hoe
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	Denge Wood
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	Samphire Hoe
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Purging or Fairy Flax	Samphire Hoe
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	en route
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	Conningbrook Lakes
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	Samphire Hoe
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	Folkestone Down
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Stag's-horn Plantain	Samphire Hoe
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Samphire Hoe
<i>Plantago majus</i>	Greater Plantain	Conningbrook Lakes
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
<i>Limonium binervosum</i>	Rock Sea-lavender	Samphire Hoe
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	Samphire Hoe
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family	
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel	Samphire Hoe
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	en route
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel	Denge Wood
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i> (<i>Anagallis Vulgaris</i>)	Scarlett Pimpernel	Samphire Hoe
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	Samphire Hoe
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Folkestone Down
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Yocketts Bank
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	Park Gate
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old-man's-beard	Samphire Hoe
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Samphire Hoe
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	Conningbrook Lakes
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	Folkestone Down
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	Conningbrook Lakes
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn	Sole Street
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	Yocketts Bank
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens or Herb Bennet	Yocketts Bank
<i>Argentina anserina</i>	Silverweed	Park Gate
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	Folkestone Down
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Folkestone Down
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg	Dog Rose	Samphire Hoe

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	Bramble	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg	Whitebeam	Denge Wood
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	Sole Street
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	Folkestone Down
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	Hybrid Black Poplar	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Salix x fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	Conningbrook Lakes
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Folkestone Down
Thymalaceae	Mezereon Family	
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	Yocketts Bank
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Conningbrook Lakes
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort	Denge Wood
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	en route
Veronicaceae	Speedwell Family	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Folkestone Down
<i>Veronica montana</i>	Wood Speedwell	Denge Wood
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog Violet	Yocketts Bank
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	Park Gate
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies	Yocketts Bank
Asparagaceae	Bluebell Family	
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	Park Gate
Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	Sea Clubrush	Samphire Hoe
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	Denge Wood
<i>Carex sylvatica</i>	Wood Sedge	Denge Wood
Dioscoreaceae	Black Bryony Family	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	Yocketts Bank
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris	Samphire Hoe
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Conningbrook Lakes
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush	Denge Wood
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	Denge Wood
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	Conningbrook Lakes
Melanthiaceae	Herb-Paris Family	
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb-Paris	Park Gate
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Black-Grass	Folkestone Down
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	Conningbrook Lakes

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	Samphire Hoe
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Common Soft Brome	Samphire Hoe
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogtail Grass	Samphire Hoe
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	Co-op, Kennington
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Mellick	Yocketts Bank
<i>Parapholis incurva</i>	Curved Hard-grass	Samphire Hoe
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Conningbrook Lakes
Typhaceae	Bulrush Family	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush	Conningbrook Lakes
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed	Conningbrook Lakes

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓			
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	✓			
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓		
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓	✓
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			✓	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		H	✓	H
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓			
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓			
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H	H	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	H		H	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓		
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			✓	✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓		
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				H
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>				H
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	H		H	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			H	H
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	H	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	H	H
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓		H	H

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				H
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓	H	H
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			✓	H
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	H	✓	H	H
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	H	H	✓
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	H			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓		✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	H	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓		
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>			✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓		✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓		
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		H	H	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓		
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓	✓

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓			
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	✓		✓	✓

Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		✓		✓
European Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		✓		

Damselflies & dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026			
		20	21	22	23
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		✓		
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>		✓		
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		✓		

Other insects

L=larva, G=gall		May 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23
Glow-worms					
European Glow-Worm	<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>				L
Flies					
Batman Hoverfly	<i>Myathropa florea</i>		✓		
Superb Ant-hill Hoverfly	<i>Xanthogramma pedissequum</i>		✓		
Sawflies					
Wheat Stem Sawfly	<i>Cephus pygmaeus</i>		✓		
Ants, wasps and bees					
Yellow Meadow Ant	<i>Lasius flavus</i>			✓	
Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp	<i>Dryocosmus kuriphilus</i>				G
an ichneumon wasp	<i>Dolichomitus tuberculatus</i>			✓	
European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>			✓	
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>			✓	
Red-tailed Mason Bee	<i>Osmia bicolor</i>			✓	
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>		✓		
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>		✓	✓	
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>		✓	✓	
Early Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>			✓	
Beetles					
Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>				✓
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurea</i>		✓		
Soldier Beetle	<i>Cantharis rustica</i>		✓		
Black-headed Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i>			✓	
Common Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i>			✓	
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>				✓
Two-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	✓			
Seven-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>		✓	✓	

Isopods

		May 2026			
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23
Pill Woodlouse	<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>			✓	

Fungi

Common Name	Scientific Name
King Alfred's Cakes	<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>