

The Isle of Wight in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

30th May – 2nd June 2022

Tour report by Jim Andrews



Naturetrek

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Tour participants: Jim Andrews (Leader) with seven Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Monday 30th May

Southampton, Newtown marshes and Ventnor

Meeting at the ferry port, we embarked out on our adventure of the Isle of Wight. Cruising out into the Solent the group had a few Sandwich and Common Terns. Once out in the Solent it was a little blowy but we soon crossed and as we came into Cowes a Great White Egret crossed the back of the ferry.

On docking we all disembarked and headed off to get a little dinner before heading to Newtown Marshes where we went for a wander round the marshes and meadows, stopping in the hide where there was a single Mediterranean Gull in amongst the Black-headed Gull colony. The group also picked up on a Common Seal bathing in the mud. Around the meadows Green-winged Orchids were just going over as well as several Common Spotted Orchids coming into flower. Other plants that caught peoples' eyes included Dyer's Greenweed and Grass Vetchling while butterflies included Common Blue, Small Heath, Painted Lady and Mother Shipton Moth. After a good wander we started to head towards our hotel for the next few days stopping at a verge to have a search for the delicate Adders Tongue Fern of which we found several plants, before heading to the hotel, dinner and a good nights sleep.

Day 2

Tuesday 31st May

Bembridge Bay (Brading Marsh) Compton Chine and Strawberry Field Lane, St Lawrence.

We started the morning heading over to Bembridge Bay and walking along the edge of Brading Marsh scanning around and picking up on much waterfowl while enjoying the sound of Cetti's Warblers exploding out of the undergrowth, and also the occasional Reed Warbler, with Cuckoos teasing their presence from around the reserve. Reaching the river bridge the group scanned over the reedbeds where Marsh Harriers quartered over and a Bittern broke cover flying over the river. Heading back to the van a Hobby hunted over the water meadows. Having had a spot of lunch we then headed on to Compton Chine.

On arrival we searched round the carpark for Glanville Fritillaries, but sadly no luck. Heading along the slopes we came across Wild Thyme and Pyramidal Orchids while on the cliff sides Hoary Stock was in flower. We moved inland a bit to Strawberry Fields Lane where we headed back up onto the downs looking for butterflies, finding Small Heath, Common Blue, and Painted Lady. After much searching by the group's keen eyes they managed to find a Glanville Fritillary sitting on the food plant of Ribwort giving stunning views. As it started to warm up several others appeared and the group decided they wanted to give Compton Chine another try but sadly no Glanvilles again. We headed back towards the hotel making a short detour where the group took a little wander, finding Ivy Broomrape and the Stunning Crested Cow wheat coming into flower, before we headed back to the hotel.

Day 3

Wednesday 1st June

Arreton, Briddlesford Wood, Alverstone Mead

The morning started as always with breakfast which was interrupted by the finding of a Wall Lizard sunbathing by the pool and Firecrest singing in the trees, making for a not bad start to the day.

We headed out to the centre of the island where we looked for Yarrow Broomrape (purple broomrape) finding several plants before meeting with Ian and Fiona who took the group on a Dormouse box check and explained about the ecology of this secretive and elusive mammal. We were lucky enough to see three, all in torpor, giving the group a great chance to have fantastic up close views of them, as well as two Wood Mice. We moved onto Briddlesford Wood which is a private site owned and managed by the Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species where the group got to see pristine woodland including Wild Service Tree and Lungwort, sadly not in flower.

Afterwards Fiona was kind enough to take us over to Alverstone Mead where we had a fantastic experience with Red Squirrel, with at least five different individuals at very close quarters before we headed back. Unable to get into a pub due to the jubilee weekend, we grabbed fish and chips and sat in the sunny hotel garden watching Wall Lizards as the sun went down.

Day 4

Thursday 2nd June

Strawberry field lane, Brading, Firestone copse and Southampton

Our last morning, and with the Firecrest still singing and the Wall Lizard still enjoying his pool side retreat, we headed out to Strawberry Field Lane where with a little searching the group found several Glanville Fritillaries as well as a rather worn Adonis Blue, but the star was a Green Hairstreak amongst the Birds-foot Trefoil.

Next we headed on over to Brading for a last look. Arriving and taking a little walk we soon came across the biggest of the island's residents in the form of the reintroduced White-tailed Sea Eagles with two young adult birds out in the trees surveying the marsh and occasionally taking to the wing. With Hobby and Marsh Harrier for comparison we could see how large these birds truly are.

We went for a little lunch before having a last walk at Firestone Copse where we found a little more Lungwort as well as Common Spotted Orchids in the mixed woodland as well as signs of Red Squirrel.

Sadly we had to head back to the ferry and back to Southampton where we said our farewells after a great four days on the island, seeing some of its more secretive residents.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May/June 2022			
			30	31	1	2
1	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓
2	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓		✓
3	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓		✓
4	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓		✓
5	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	✓			
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓		✓
7	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		✓		
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓		✓
10	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		✓
11	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓		✓
12	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		1		
13	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓		✓
15	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1			
16	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	White tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				2
18	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓		✓
19	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1		1
22	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1			
23	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		H		
24	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓	✓	✓
25	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓
26	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓			
27	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓			✓
28	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May/June 2022			
			30	31	1	2
29	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				✓
30	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓		✓
31	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		✓	✓	
32	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	1			
33	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓			✓
36	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓			
37	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	✓			
38	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		✓	✓	✓
40	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓		✓
43	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓	✓
44	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	H	H	✓	
46	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓
47	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓
52	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			✓	✓
53	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓		✓
56	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			✓	
58	Cettis Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			✓	
61	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓		✓
63	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓	✓	✓
64	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>			✓	✓
67	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			H	H
68	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H	H
70	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			H	H
71	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓	
75	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		
77	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓

			May/June 2022			
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2
80	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	H		H	
84	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	✓	✓		✓
87	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓		✓
88	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓		

Other vertebrates

		May/June 2022			
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2
Reptiles & Amphibians:					
Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			✓	✓
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		✓		
Mammals:					
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		✓		
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			7	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓	
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>			✓	
Hazel Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>			3	
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	1			

Invertebrates

		May/June 2022			
Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2
Butterflies:					
	Hesperiidae				
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>		✓		
	Pieridae				
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓	✓
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓	✓
	Lycaenidae				
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>				✓
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>				✓
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	✓	✓		✓
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>				✓
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓		✓
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			✓	
	Nymphalidae				

Common name	Scientific name	May/June 2022			
		30	31	1	2
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓		✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓		✓
	Satyrinae				
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓		✓	✓
Small Heath	<i>Ceionympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓			
Moths:					
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>		✓		✓
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>				✓
Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>	✓			✓
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>		✓		✓
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>			✓	
Dragonflies:					
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>		✓		
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>		✓		
Other Invertebrates:					
Hornet sp					
Common Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>				

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name
POLYPODIOPSIDA	FERNS
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adders Tongue Fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Buckler Fern
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Harts Tongue Fern
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch
<i>Picea abies ssp. abies</i>	Spruce
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
Taxaceae	Yew Family
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew

Scientific Name	Common Name
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)	FLOWERING PLANTS
Aceraceae	Maple Family
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)	Carrot Family
<i>Aegipodium podagaria</i>	Ground Elder
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
	Hemlock water dropwort
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family
<i>Ilex aquifolia</i>	Holly
Araliaceae	Ivy Family
<i>Hedera helix agg</i>	Ivy
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Leucanthimum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Senecio jacobae</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Taraxacum agg</i>	Dandelion
Betulaceae (Corylaceae)	Birch Family
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Lungwort
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	Cabbage Family
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	Hoary Stock
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Silene latifolia (S.alba)</i>	White Campion
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Helianthum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
Corylaceae	Hazel Family
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel
	Devils bit scabious
Ericaceae	Heath family
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	Pea Family
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Lotus uliginosa</i>	Large Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Restharrow
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Vicia sativa ssp. segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Grass Vetchling
Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
Lamiaceae (Labiatae)	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Deadnettle
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Thymus polytrichis</i>	Wild Thyme
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>	Crested Cow-Wheat
<i>Melampyrum arvense</i>	Field Cow-wheat
<i>Orobanche elatior</i>	Knapweed Broomrape
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape
<i>Orobanche purpurea</i>	Yarrow Broomrape
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift family
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens or Herb Bennet
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg	Dog Rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	Bramble
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> agg	Salad Burnet
	Wild Service Tree
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> agg	Hay Rattle
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
	Wooded Nightshade
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
Violaceae	Violet Family
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet
Araceae	Arum Family
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords and Ladies
Asparagaceae	Bluebell Family
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
Iridaceae	Iris Family
<i>Iris psuedocorus</i>	Yellow Flag
	Stinking Iris
Liliaceae	Lily Family
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom
	Yellow Pimpernell
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid