

Sevenoaks Ramblers

Orchid spotting around Shoreham's SSSIs - 5 miles

Wednesday, 10th June

Orchid-spotting around Shoreham's SSSIs, 10/6/26, 5 miles

Two dogs and 12 humans set out from Shoreham Station on an orchid-hunting quest. Eddy and Humphrey (the dogs) were tasked with searching for bee orchids as, unusually, the leader had not spotted any so far this year. We saw common spotted orchids (with blotched leaves and spotty sepals) and pyramidal orchids aplenty, and Clare 'the nose' identified fragrant orchids by smelling them - they look like common spotted orchids without the spots.

Common twayblades and white helleborines, both of the orchid family, were also in evidence. Sadly, there were no bee orchids and no man orchids - the weather has been too hot, too cold, too wet and too dry this year. Talking of weather, Eddy was even more unhappy than the humans at the torrential rain shower, but once the sun came out the butterflies followed suit on Fackenden Down. Highland cattle were another highlight for the humans, though ignored by our well-behaved canine companions. Thanks to Clare, Mandy and Alice for the photos.



