



## Wild Orchids of Bedfordshire

Richard Revels, Chris Boon  
and Graham Bellamy  
Bedfordshire Natural History  
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Why would anyone want to publish a book about a small group of wild flowers in a small, agricultural county that not many people would choose for their holidays? Well, one reason is that Bedfordshire is surprisingly rich in wild orchids, with nearly half the British species – 27 in all – and mostly in publicly accessible sites. It also contains the longest continually monitored wild-orchid population in the world: the Autumn Lady's-tresses at Knocking Hoe. The best reason, however, is that Bedfordshire has three enthusiasts who have managed to cover orchids in unusual detail. Chris Boon has recorded and monitored them at the close-up scale of a single kilometre. Graham Bellamy has looked after them in nature reserves for decades. And Richard Revels not only knows them all intimately but has produced the best sequence of orchid pictures that I have ever seen. He has managed to image not only the flowers, but also habitat shots, insect pollinators, young plants, seeding plants, variations and hybrids and even, in some cases, seeds – and all of the highest quality. This is a superb production, beautifully printed, perfectly pitched, well presented and thoroughly reliable. This is English local botany at its very best.

**Peter Marren**



**Bedfordshire is an important county for Musk Orchids.** Richard Revels