My Hungary butterfly conservation working holiday

My dairy of the trip :

Travelling to Hungary was very interesting because i travelled one way by train and and the other by minibus . The route was very interesting that i travelled by train leaving London St Pancreas on the 8:05 Eurostar service after staying a night in the Youth hostel nearby . So the service continued from London to Brusseles Midi arriving at 10:56 then on the Thalys high speed service to Koln :

Then further travelling on to munich on the new ICE 3 German service

Then once arriving at Munich i travelled further on to Budapest on the night sleeper service :

Arrival at Budapest Keleti

Then for a tour of the famous sights of Budapest such as the holy square and was occupied matthias church alonside other key landmark feature such as the hugarian royal palace that was occupied untill 1918

The tour of the city was very interesting learning about the history of a very diverse place many of the buildings designs seem very Russian in influence further sites were the hungarian paliament buildings across the river

So after the tour of Budapest the 3 hour journey to the Aggletek national park began in the national park minibus with a short stop in a wonderful park with a water feature and my first Butterfly of the journey !!!

So arrival at the guest house in josvafo

So the first day survey in a most wonderful unimroved hay meadow the aims of the survey were to each cut sward was monitored to determine the numbers of dead invertibrates this was directly linked to the speed and height that the sward was cut at the transect lengh was 100 meters by 5 meters in width .
In addition to this another area was surveyed to be able to make a comparison between the uncut site results and the different speed cut sites

The results of this survey were very important because it allowed the best methods to be established in order to manage the site it the most species friendly way .

Then in the afternoon a walk into the near by fields that had not been cut to indentify and flora in these areas examples are as follows .

Crown Vetch
Whorled Clary
Yellow Loosetrife
Meadow Clary
Field Scabious
Common Agimoney
Ladys bedstraw
St Bernards star
St Johns wort
Purple loostrife

Butterflys

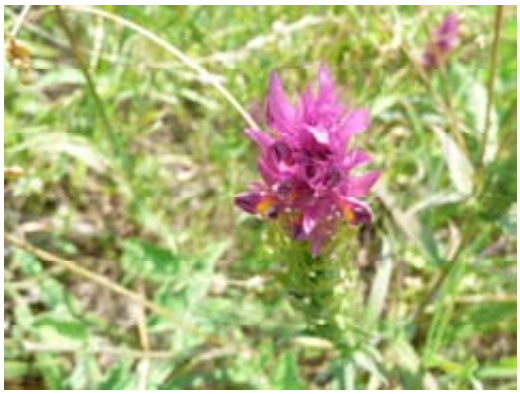
Pale clouded yellow
Marble white
Green underside blue

Catipillars
Bedstraw hawk moth

The third day a wonderdul and incredbilly infomative day on crickets and grassshopper on the picturque karst we saw some amazing species such as a parasitic wasp and wonderful grasshoppers

And internationally rare species on the red list

Some of the flora was facinating as well such as creasted cow wheat and irish feabane



Then in the evening a hungarian langauage lesson which was great fun and highly entertaining see seperate sheet .

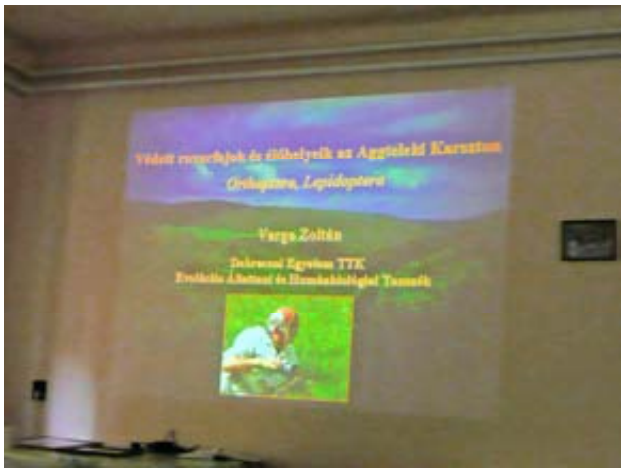
Day four

Half a day identifying flora with Roland the incredible diversity of the area we covered was phenomenal many rare and endemic species such as ground pine and Goatsbeard

Other notable species such as blue pimpenal and forking larkspur

Then in the afternoon we had a tour of the international world heritage site caves which were very interesting and beautiful

Then a very interesting presentation by varga zultan



Day 5

A wonderful and glorious day hay bayling

The small bails were being further distributed to local farms to feed livestock but at the end of the day an unex[ected surprise

Horse power!!!

And stacking the hay to be kept dry

Day six

A wonderful and intriging day underground in the Aggletek cave system a witnessing a most spectacular struture Europe's biggest stalimite and discovering a endemic blind creatures of the stunning caves

Day seven

A search for amphious wonders such as agile frogs and blind salmanders

And fire bellied toads

Further butterfly species we saw were scarce swallowtail ,Meleagers Blue. Along with the following floral species –wood cow wheat ,Restharrow,and a pair of long horns

Then in the afternoon a field survey for Geranium Argus on a natura 2000 site were the foodplant for this species is found

Day eight

A second survey day in a disused vineyad which had a very diverse landscape with many different habitat types

The height varience meant that the species found varied greatly (see records kept by Nigel for species present in the different areas

Green lizard

Then in the evening a informative talk about the park and natura 2000 sites and their significance this was very useful because it helped to put many apects of the surveying and apects of the park into context and to deliver an important meaning . Further more the importance of spa which were simular to those in the UK

Day 9

A shorter surveying day with some outstanding results such as the Queen of spain fritilary and an in flower Cross Gentian!! And a provencial short tailed blue.

And a common glider

The survey area a wonderful landscape !!

Then in the afternoon the search for the large blue and maculei rebuli together on one site .

Day 10

A splendid day surveying another fairly small vineyard and the honey maker!!

Butterfly present blue spot hairsteak1 ,spotted fritilary
2

1

Also the wonderful spruce hawkmoth

And a branch line service train

Day 11

A most special and interesting day surveying some different sites including the sites previous managed by the group using brush cutter and other mangement tools

Some of the species present were as follows

Silver washed fritilary 1
Woodland grayling
Map
Lessser purple emporer 2

Then in the afternoon a wonderful lunch with the mayor of the village and at the school followed in the afternoon by a guided tour of the village

A very interresting lunch
Starter hot cherry and fruit soup and the main course

And also cottage cheese style products with pasta

Then the tour of the village starting with the wonderfully ornate church and breathtaking inside roof design

Then followed by the small tour of the local museum of the way life used to be in the village

Day 12

Over the border in to slovakia and a wonderful limestone gorge

And some wonderful species

purple emperor

Hungarian glider

Then in the evening travelling to a spectacular quarry to see mederrian horseshoe bats

Day 13

Trip to the wonderful cake shop

Then onward to the wonderful 15th centuary castle that had great infulence in hungary during this period

Then wine tasting in the evening

Day 14

The last day

A wonderful day with a search for the elusive fire salmander

And a magical horse and carrige ride

And final dinner

The journey back took two days and some camping ,on the first night we had dinner in a small restuarant see images below

And breakfast the following morning

Then after one more night in belgium

Home to Dover on the ferry

Carbon emissions which form of transport that i use was greener with lower Co2 emissions

Eurostar 24.3 grams per km/travelled

Total distance travelled eurostar
London- brusseals 340km
8262 grams Co2

Brusselles
180km

Unfortunately i could not find the carbon emissions for the other services

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For further infomation please contact

Nigel Spring on 01963 23559

and at

346 Mundens lane
Alweston
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 5HU