Buttercups

One of our best loved and easiest to recognise native wild flowers. How many of us as children held a Buttercup under our chin, the intensity of the reflected yellow glow being an indication of how much we loved butter?

There are quite a few different species of Buttercup, and the flowers all look very similar, so how do you tell them apart? Here are a few tips to help you recognise four of the most common species of Buttercup.

The key characters to look at are: the **sepals** - are they spreading or reflexed (sharply turned down); the **flower stalks** – are they smooth or grooved; and the basal **leaves**.