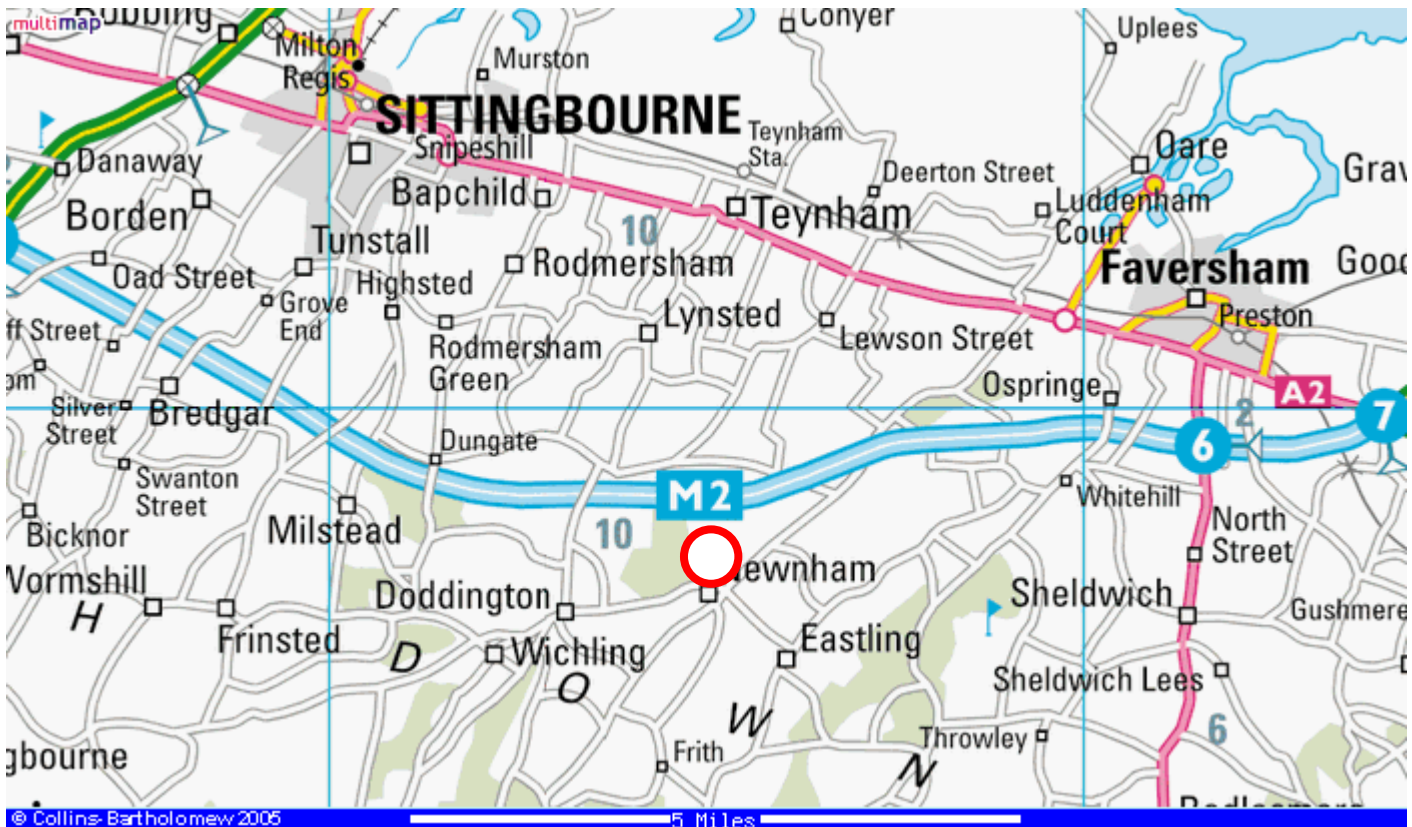


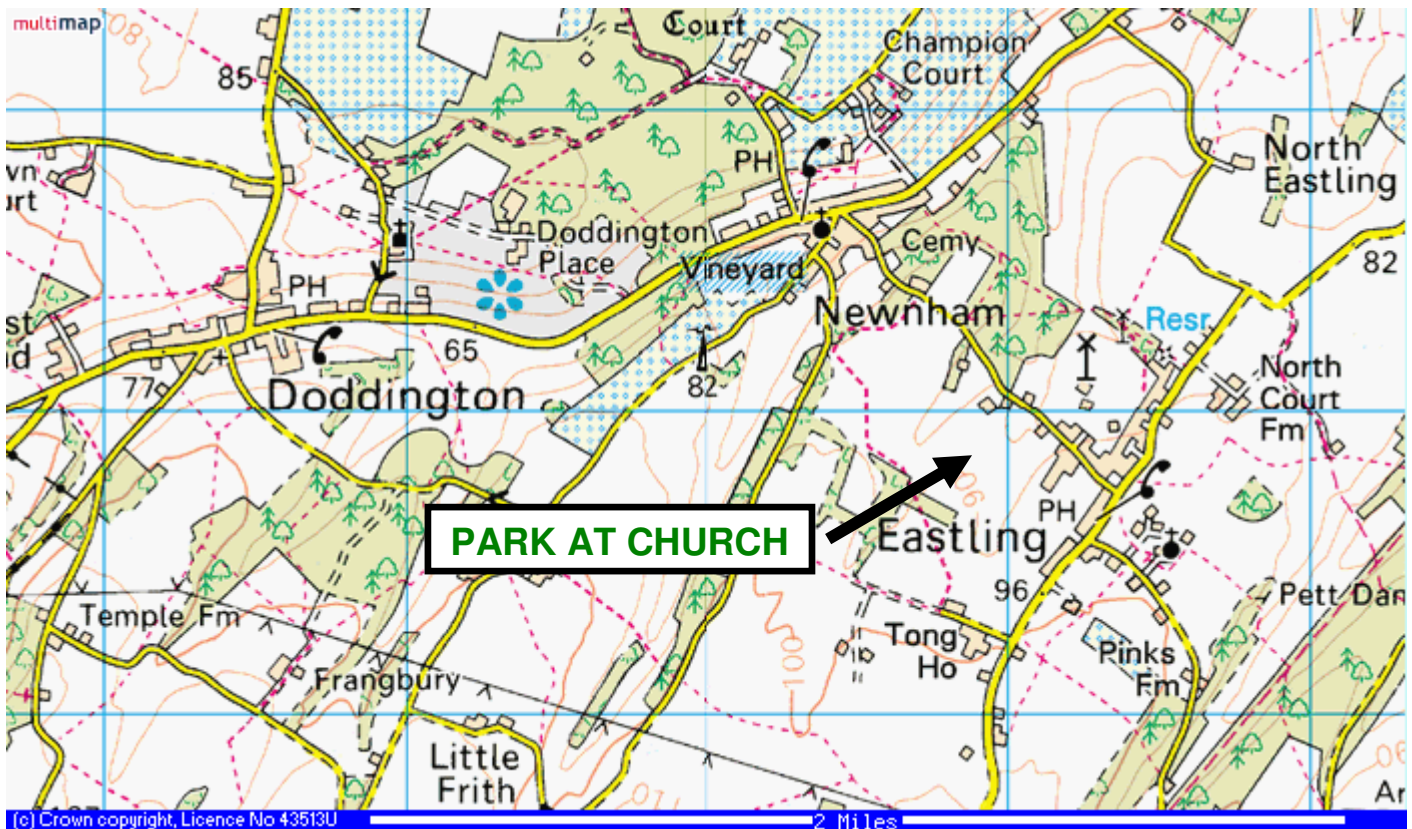
Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	5	Title	Woodland & Wetland Birds	Date	Friday 26 th March 2010
No. of students	5-15	Start time	10am	Finish time	4-4.30pm
Leaders	<p>Tony Swandale, KWT Warden for Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR (formerly Oare Marshes), has 20 years' experience surveying birds and leading birdwatching courses.</p> <p>Rob Clements is a leading authority on birds of prey who has an intimate knowledge of the birdlife in this part of the county.</p>				
Who should attend	Birders of all abilities who wish to improve their identification skills and knowledge of birds. Beginners are welcome.				
Meeting place	Eastling Church car park about 4 miles south west of Faversham. Map ref.: TQ965565. From the M2, exit at junction 6 and head south on the A251 Ashford Road. After about ½ mile turn right down the narrow Porter's Lane then left at the junction to Painter's Forstal and follow the sign posts to Eastling village thereafter. In Eastling turn left at the Carpenters' Arms pub. The church is about 300 yards on the left (just before the village hall). See map overleaf.				
Other sites to be visited	Oare Marshes Nature Reserve near Faversham. See map overleaf.				
Programme	<p>The morning will be spent at Pett Dane Wood, an attractive and varied woodland with a good range of resident birds which, given reasonable weather, should be at their most conspicuous and vocal at this time of year. They include species which are declining or now very scarce in the county such as lesser spotted woodpecker, marsh tit and the elusive hawfinch. We will also spend time at a prominent watch point overlooking the valley in order to observe and learn about the resident species of raptor (birds of prey), namely common buzzard, kestrel and sparrowhawk. Later in the afternoon we will move to Oare Marshes Local Nature Reserve which is 10 – 15 minutes drive. This wetland is of international importance for birds and one of the most popular birding venues in the county. Breeding species include redshank, avocet, shoveler, water rail, Cetti's warbler, bearded reedling and, in some years, the rare garganey. The first migrants of the spring such as yellow wagtail, sand martin and sedge warbler arrive at this time of year.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raptors of the North Downs: their identification, habitats and behaviour 2. Identifying birds by sight and sound 				
What to bring	<p>Binoculars and telescope if you have one. Please wrap up warmly and bring clothing suitable for all kinds of weather including walking boots and waterproofs. The paths may be wet and muddy and there are moderately steep slopes to negotiate at Eastling which may be unsuitable for people with mobility difficulties.</p> <p>Please provide your own packed lunch and drink. If you wish to borrow binoculars, please contact Tony Swandale a few days in advance.</p>				
Other information	<p>Tony Swandale tel: 07889 822412</p> <p>Please note there are no toilets at either site. The nearest public toilets are in Faversham.</p>				

Pett Dane Wood (near Eastling)

This privately owned wood near Eastling is accessible by public footpath. The bird life is varied and it is one of a rapidly diminishing number of sites for hawfinch, an elusive species which is most easily detected by the distinctive noises it makes. The confusingly named marsh tit (which is actually a woodland species) also occurs here along with buzzard and hobby.



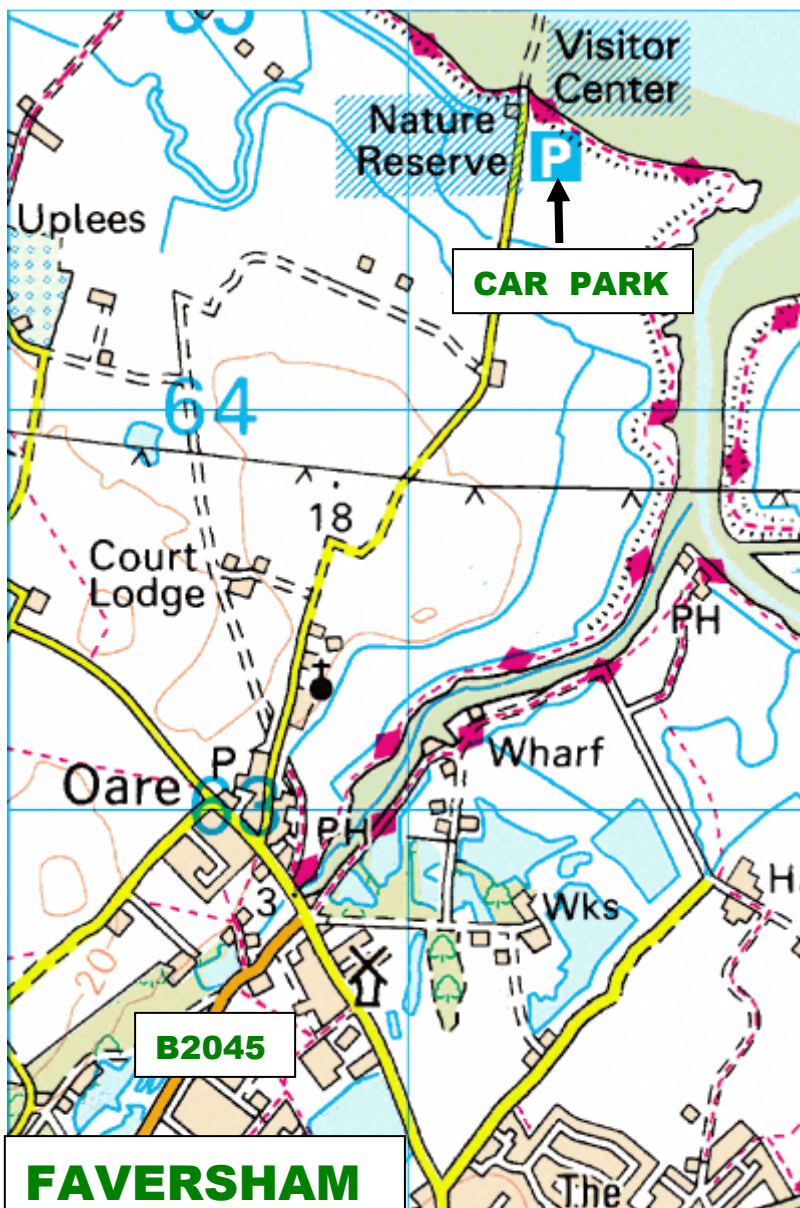


Pett Dane Wood is situated about 4 miles south west of Faversham. From the M2, exit at junction 6 and head south on the A251 Ashford road. After about ½ mile turn right down the narrow Porter's Lane then left at the junction to Painter's Forstal and thereafter follow the signs to Eastling village. In Eastling turn left at the Carpenters Arms pub. Park at the church about 200 yards further along the road. Map Ref. TQ965565.

Oare Marshes

A haven for birds on the south bank of the Swale Estuary

Oare Marshes is one of Kent Wildlife Trust's most popular reserves and an internationally important site for wetland birds. Typical of coastal grazing marsh, it is an expanse of open tussocky grassland with brackish pools and floods. Shallow scrapes have been created and water levels are carefully managed for the benefit of birds. The reserve is particularly noted for the spectacular number and variety of wading birds during late summer and autumn. No less than 43 species of wader have been recorded at this site including rarities such as long-billed dowitcher and sharp-tailed sandpiper. The session has been timed to coincide with the middle of the autumn migration period when numbers are at their peak and species such as avocet, black-tailed godwit, ruff, curlew sandpiper and little stint are typically present. Other annual visitors to the area include osprey, black tern and garganey.



Oare Marshes nature reserve is situated near the village of Oare about two miles north of Faversham. From the A2, take the turning north onto the B2045 and follow the signs to "Oare". At the three Mariners Pub in Oare, turn right to "Harty Ferry" and continue for about a mile to the end of the road where there is a car park just inside the sea wall.

The reserve has three viewing hides and a path on the sea wall offers spectacular views across the estuary and marshes.

Please note the nearest toilets are in Faversham town.

Map ref. TR013647