

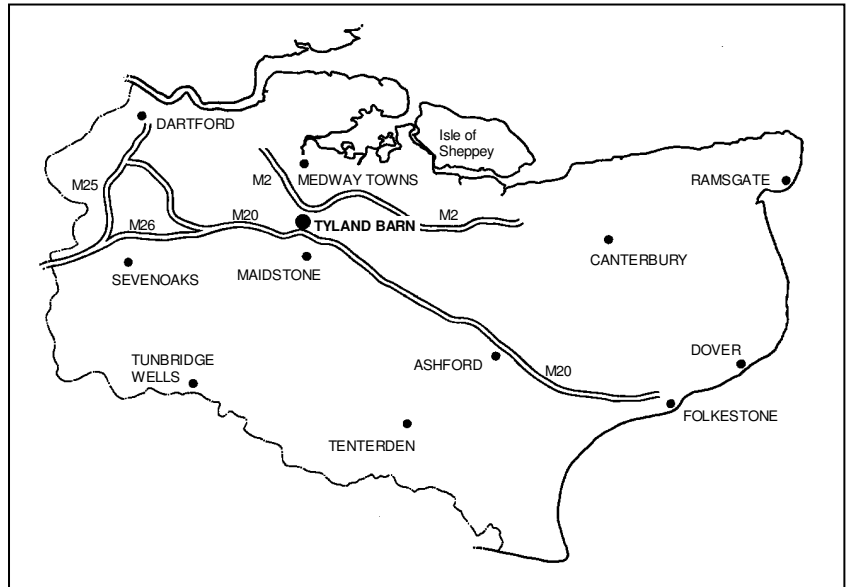
Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	9	Title	Woodland Ferns and Flowers	Date	Saturday 8th May 2010
No. of students	5-15	Start time	10am	Finish time	3-4pm
Leader	<p>Ros Bennett, Botanist and ecologist Ros was formerly a full-time tutor for the Field Studies Council in East Anglia and then organiser and leader of courses for FSC Overseas. She has written books on plants and habitats and has been teaching courses on identification and ecology for many years to all age groups from primary children through to University students, environmental professionals and interested adults.</p>				
Who should attend	<p>This study day is suitable for all who love plants - for beginners as well as those who although more experienced, may not have studied flowers or ferns in a systematic way before. No previous knowledge will be assumed.</p>				
Meeting place	<p>Classroom at Tyland Barn, the Headquarters and largest visitor centre of Kent Wildlife Trust. Map Ref. TQ 753594. See directions overleaf</p>				
Other sites to be visited	<p>Quarry Wood (KWT Nature Reserve) near East Farleigh</p>				
Programme	<p>Most of the morning will be spent in the classroom getting to grips with the basic features that are used to classify flowering plants and ferns and that can also be used as clues to identification. There will be a variety of specimens available for practice. The rest of the day will be spent at Quarry Wood (KWT Nature Reserve), which we shall explore at a gentle pace and find a good range of large frondose ferns and attractive woodland flowers. Participants should acquire a familiarity with many woodland plants and how to identify them. They should also gain the confidence to tackle other species on their own, in other habitats, as the year progresses.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<p>Introductions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basic structure of ferns and to their unusual life cycle • Features used to identify ferns • Outline of the classification of flowering plants, notably those that flower early • Structure of the flower and how close observation highlights features that help distinguish species. 				
What to bring	<p>Notebook and pencil. A x 10 magnification hand lens (can be purchased at the Barn @ £4.50) Suitable outdoor clothing (waterproofs and wellies – the ground will be wet and muddy) and a picnic lunch, though sandwiches can be purchased in the Barn restaurant. There will be no loo during the afternoon</p>				

	<p>at Quarry Wood.</p> <p>None are essential during the day, but useful books include: “Excursion Flora” by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg (OUP) (copies can be borrowed from the leader if necessary) and/or “The New Flora of the British Isles” by Stace (CUP). “The Wild Flower Key” by Frances Rose and Claire O’Reilly or your favourite field guide “Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns of Britain and north-western Europe” by Francis Rose. The leader will introduce “The Fern Guide” by James Merryweather which can be purchased at the Barn, £6.95</p>
Other information	<p>Late spring, with its abundance of flowers and the promise of more to follow, is a tremendously exciting time for the field botanist. And now, while the woodlands are still at their best but before the overwhelming diversity of summer flowers is underway, it is a good time to start developing reliable ID skills. As well as many of the characteristic spring flowers of woodlands, we shall also take the opportunity to focus on the several large frondose ferns which will have freshly unfurled.</p>

Kent Wildlife Trust HQ and Visitor Centre
Tyland Barn, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3BD Tel: 01622 662012

Tyland Barn is four miles north of Maidstone, on the junction of Chatham Road and Tyland Lane, Sandling, just off the A229 between the M20 and the M2.

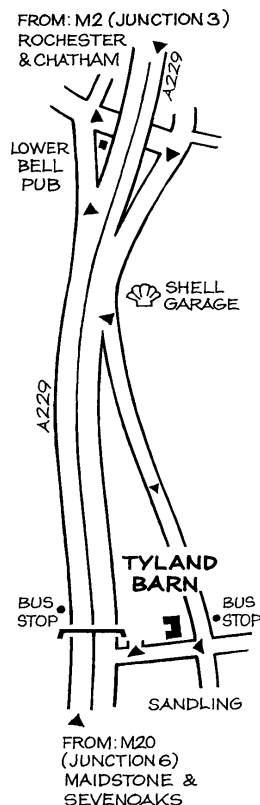


Travel to Tyland Barn by public transport

Nearest railway stations: Maidstone East and Chatham (both a bus ride away, or about a 40 minute walk from Maidstone East).

Arriva Bus 101. From Chatham: stops outside Tyland Barn.

From Maidstone: stops on the A229 (if requested!), opposite the Barn, at Cobtree Golfcourse (take footbridge over A229 and the Tyland Barn entrance is immediately on your left). Further details from Arriva (0871 2002233), www.arriva.co.uk
Stagecoach East Kent (08456 002299), www.stagecoachbus.com and Metrobus (01293 449191) www.metrobus.co.uk NB. Not all services are frequent!



Travel to Tyland Barn by car

The Barn is adjacent to the A229 (just north of J6 of the M20), but it is only accessible via Chatham Road off the southbound carriageway of the A229, taking the turning immediately beside the entrance to the Shell garage on the southbound carriageway.

Follow the brown 'badger signs' on the Maidstone to Chatham road (A229), between the M2 (Junction 3) and the M20 (Junction 6).

If you are travelling northwards from Maidstone on the A229 dual carriageway, you have to go past the Barn (with a blue butterfly sign) on your right and go up to the next junction in order to return down the southbound carriageway. So, from the A229 northbound, north of the M20 (J6), take the left turn after the golf course entrance, proceed to the crossroads by the Lower Bell Pub, turn right, pass under the A229, and turn right and back onto the A229 going south. You have to turn off the A229 again almost immediately after joining it, immediately after/beside the Shell garage!