

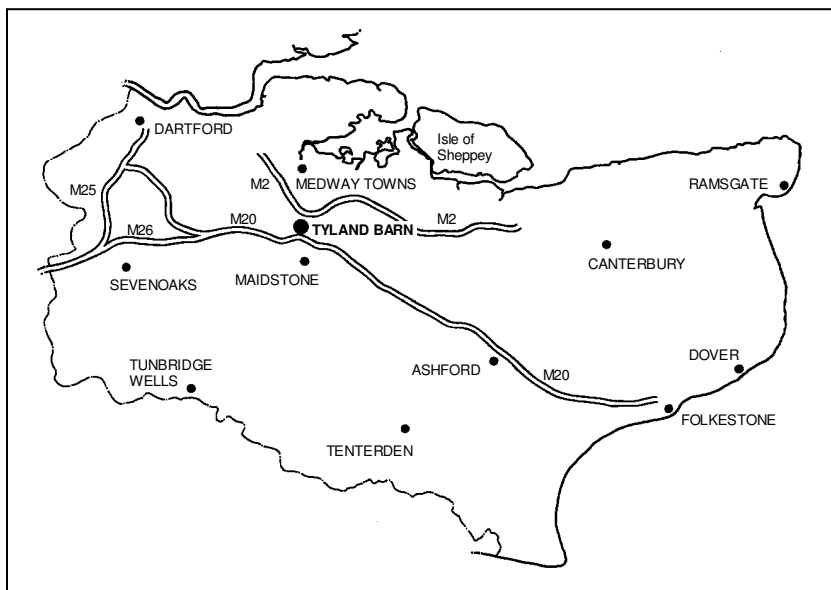
## Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	<b>11</b>	Title	<b>Introduction to Orchids</b>	Date	<b>Saturday 15th May 2010</b>
No. of students	5-15	Start time	<b>10am</b>	Finish time	<b>4pm</b>
Leader	<b>Fred Booth, Warden of KWT woodland reserves, Ecological surveyor, and David Johnson, Naturalist.</b>				
Who should attend	This day is suitable for beginners and anyone who has a special interest in orchids and other flowers of chalk woodland and grassland				
Meeting place	Classroom at Tyland Barn, the Headquarters and largest visitor centre of Kent Wildlife Trust. See directions overleaf				
Other sites to be visited	Sites in mid-Kent at discretion of the leader but likely to include: a roadside nature reserve, Stockbury Hill Wood and Queendown Warren. Optional visit to Marden Meadow.				
Programme	<p>We shall begin in the classroom with an introduction to the life cycles of the orchids, their pollination techniques and habitats</p> <p><b>We shall then travel in students' own cars</b> (combining where possible to reduce parking problems) to visit sites selected for the known presence of orchids in flower and some which may be present but too early for flowering</p> <p>We shall take the opportunity to indicate other chalk plant species on the various sites.</p> <p>The objective will be to give students a broad experience of the diversity of the wild orchids, their habitat requirements, and their conservation.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	Life cycles, pollination, habitat requirements, mycorrhizal association with fungi, distribution in Kent and an indication of their national status, rarity and protection.				
What to bring	<p>Own favourite field guide to the orchids (Wild Guide to British Orchids by David Lang ISBN 1 – 903657-06-7 strongly recommended). Hand lens important (some may be available on loan or available for purchase at Tyland Barn).</p> <p>Clothing and footwear suitable to the weather conditions, some steep slopes.</p> <p>Packed lunch or visit local public house en route between sites.</p>				
Other information	No toilets on the reserve sites.				

## 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.

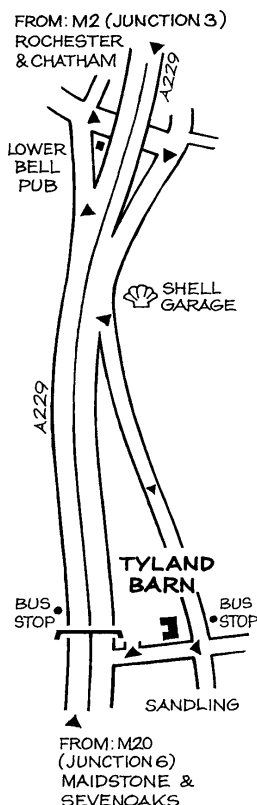


### Travel to Tyland Barn by public transport

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](http://www.arriva.co.uk) Stagecoach East Kent (08456 002299), [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) and Metrobus (01293 449191) [www.metrobus.co.uk](http://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!