

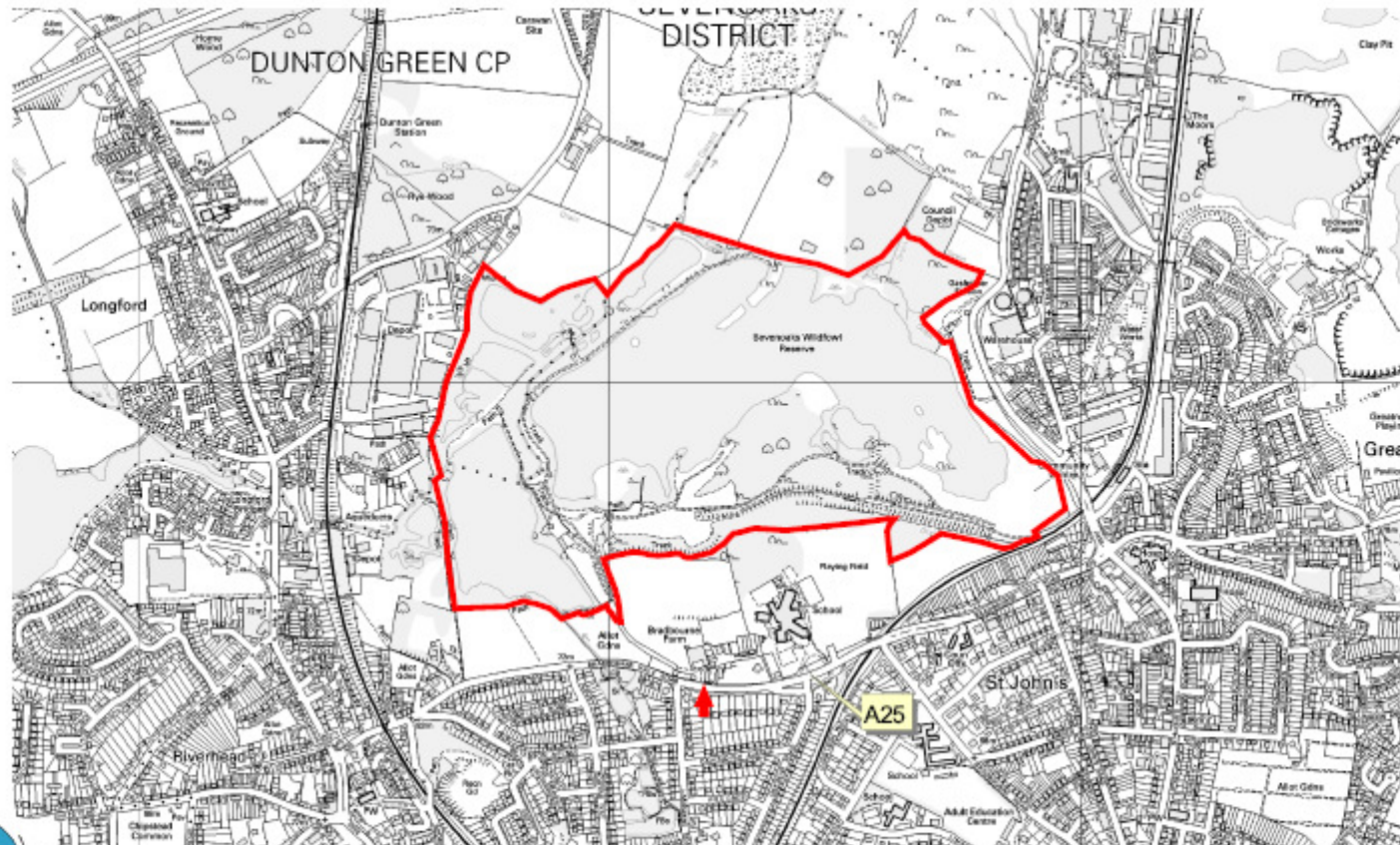
## Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	<b>18</b>	Title	<b>Grasses for Beginners,</b>	Date	<b>Tuesday 8th June 2010</b>
No. of students	5-15	Start time	10am	Finish time	3-4pm
Leader	<p><b>Ros Bennett</b>, 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 designed for those who, whatever their general botanical knowledge – complete beginner or the more experienced, have not yet tackled the grasses – or tried and failed!. It is not suitable for those who already have a working knowledge of the common grasses, for this is an introductory course and we shall not be looking at a <b>very</b> wide selection of species</p>				
Meeting place	<p>Jeffrey Harrison Visitor Centre, Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, on the north side of the A25, Bradbourne Vale Road, between Riverhead and the Bat and Ball crossroads.          Map Ref TQ 520565</p>				
Other sites to be visited	<p>The Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve will offer a range of habitats where we should be able study a good collection of the common species of grasses</p>				
Programme	<p>Part of the day will be spent indoors getting to grips with the basic features of the Poaceae (Grass family) and particularly those that can be used as clues to identification. Simplified keys will be introduced. We shall concentrate on those species which are common in Kent. The rest of the day will be spent exploring the lovely (and easy) paths around the reserve. Just under two miles maximum.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<p>The basic structure of grasses and especially the inflorescence. How grasses can be distinguished from sedges and rushes. The Top 30 Grasses. Key characters which help us distinguish the different species. The emphasis of the course will be on identification by close examination as well as considering useful field characteristics. Plenty of guidance will be given in the use of scientific keys to identification</p>				
What to bring	<p>A notebook and pencil. A hand lens magnification x 10 (available for purchase at the centre at £4.50). Suitable outdoor clothing and a picnic lunch, though sandwiches, crisps and drinks can be purchased in the visitors' centre. (There is also a loo at the centre)          A field guide such as "Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns of Britain and Northern Europe" by Francis Rose as well as "New Flora of the British Isles" by Stace and/or "Excursion Flora" by</p>				

	Clapham Tutin and Warburg if you have either of them.
Other information	<p>By early-June many grass species are at their peak of flowering. Grasses have flowers unlike any other families of flowering plants, so beginners, whether or not they are familiar with wild flowers, will have lots to learn. The family is a big one with over 150 species native to Britain. But we shall not be seeking to clock up a long list. Neither shall we be hunting for rarities. Rather we shall spend time consolidating an understanding and developing a confidence to tackle their identification independently.</p> <p>Grasses dominate many of our landscapes. It seems a pity, therefore, not to get to know them better.</p>



# Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve



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