Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	28	Title	**A journey through Living landscapes**	Date	**Monday 2nd August 2010**

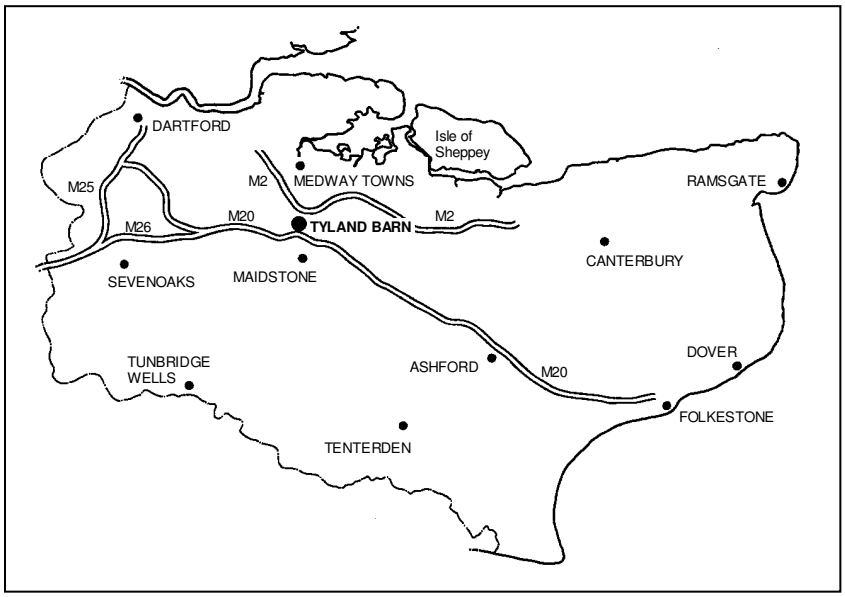
No. of students Max 15		Start time	**10am** **At Tyland Barn**	Finish time	**3-4pm** **At Queendown Warren**

Leader	**Alison Ruyter Three Valley/HLF Warden West** Alison has always had a passion for nature at the landscape scale and, in 1999, became a warden for Kent Wildlife Trust. Initially managing Darland Banks, her remit has expanded over the years to 9 sites including Queendown Warren. Both Darland and Queendown are large chalk downlands that have a significant impact on the landscapes in which they are set. **Paul Pearce Living Landscape Green Infrastructure Development Officer** Paul Pearce has worked for Kent Wildlife Trust since 2008 as part of the Living Landscape Team. With considerable experience of conservation in urban areas, he works with local authorities, community groups and schools on a range of projects to promote the Living Landscape message throughout Kent's towns and villages.
Who should attend	Those keen to see how the Living Landscape approach is being delivered. Those with an interest in wildlife corridors linking green spaces around our towns. Also those wishing to understand more about the long-term, large-scale work of the Trust
Meeting place	Tyland Barn Visitor Centre (parking and toilets) Map Ref. TQ753594. Directions included.
Other sites to be visited	To gain an overview, this course visits three main areas where the Living Landscapes are being developed in different ways. Participants should expect to spend between 30 mins to an hour at each venue**. Transport will be provided in the Trust's vehicles** as parking is minimal and we will be going off-road. There will be a running commentary as we move around the landscape. KCC Bluebell Hill car park (no toilets) and walk to the top paddock of Burham Down NR Bredhurst Woods, approx. 5 miles (no parking, no toilets) Queendown Warren Nature Reserve, approx. 10 miles (minimal parking, no toilets)

Programme	After the introduction with morning coffee, the group will drive up to the KCC Bluebell Hill car park. From here there is a short walk to the top paddock of Burham NR to take in the scale of the 'Valley of Visions' project with opportunities to see how it will actually link up this area, connecting land owners, statutory bodies, local councils, and environmental groups. Back to Tyland Barn for lunch with an optional 0.5 mile walk over the footbridge from Tyland Barn to see an excellent example of what roadside nature reserves can be. After lunch the group drive through Bredhurst Woods, to observe connecting features on the North Downs and what can be achieved through local involvement. The last part of the afternoon will be spent at Queendown Warren Nature Reserve. Here the Trust works with farmers and local land owners on grazing projects to restore as much of the valley as we can, both inside and outside the boundaries of the reserve.
Subjects to be covered	Wildlife conservation in urban environments, working on large-scale habitats, working with other organisations, using green spaces to connect habitats and create stepping stones for wildlife and using livestock in wildlife conservation.
What to bring	Wear suitable clothing, ideally warm and waterproof for the outdoor sessions. None of the sites are particularly muddy but strong waterproof outdoor shoes are recommended for walking over natural ground. Packed lunch. Hot drinks and light (sandwich) lunches available from the Shop at Tyland Barn. Please pre-order on arrival. Binoculars are useful but not essential.
Other information	There are no stiles to climb, all routes use kissing gates, there may be some steep slopes at Queendown and there will be livestock present in some areas

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

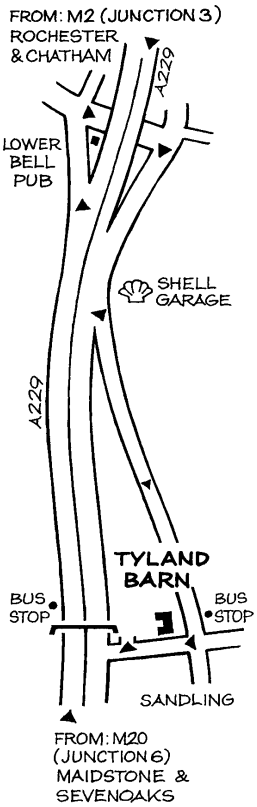
Tyland Barn is four miles north of Maidstone, on the junction of Chatham Road and Tyland Lane, Sandling, just off the A229 between the M20 and the M2.



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!