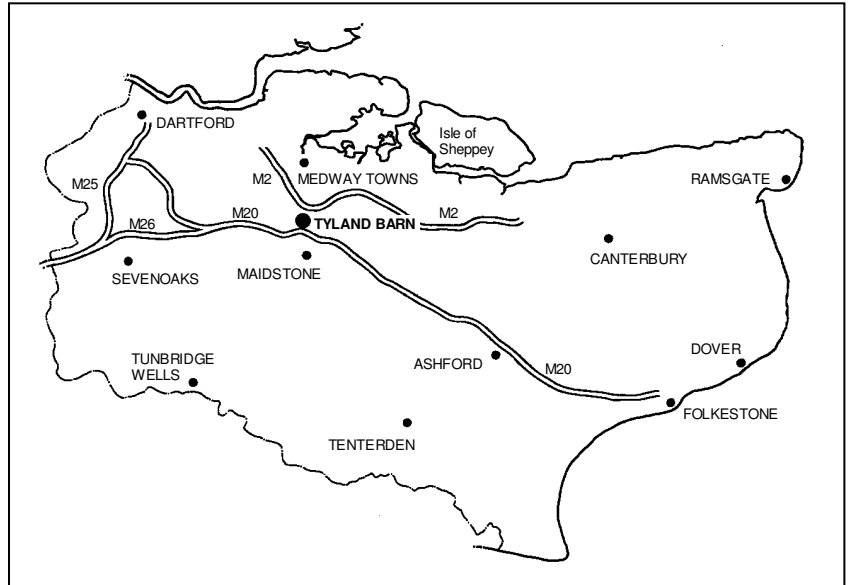


## Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	<b>29</b>	Title	<b>Dandelions, Daisies and Thistles</b>	Date	<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 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 suitable for beginners as well as those who are past the beginners stage but who have always shied away from identifying the hawkweeds and hawkbits and the other look-alikes that are such a notorious feature of this family.</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>The Nature Park at Tyland Barn which is remarkably rich in species plus other sites within a 2-mile radius of Tyland Barn</p>				
Programme	<p>At least half the morning will be spent in the classroom getting to grips with the basic features of this family – the Asteraceae (or Compositae as they were previously called) particularly those features that help us sort out the different genera and species. The rest of the day will be spent exploring the local habitats (at a leisurely pace) and practicing those ID skills</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<p>Key features, especially floral features (using a hand lens), of the family Asteraceae and also of the major genera and their species.</p>				
What to bring	<p>A notebook and pencil. A hand lens magnification x 10 (available for purchase at the Barn at £4.50). Suitable outdoor clothing and a picnic lunch, though sandwiches can be purchased in the Barn restaurant.  Books are not essential on the day as we shall be using laminated keys designed specifically for the course but you may like to bring your favourite field guide such as “The Wild Flower Key” by Frances Rose and Claire O’Reilly as well as “The New Flora of the British Isles” by Stace and/or “Excursion Flora” by Clapham Tutin and Warburg if you have either of them.</p>				
Other information	<p>By August many of our finest native plants have finished flowering, with the notable exception of glorious shows of thistles, ragworts and mayweeds. Many people feel confusion when attempting to distinguish between the hawkweeds and hawkbits, or mayweeds and chamomiles. This study day will be devoted to helping participants increase their confidence and competence in using scientific keys to identify, in the field, the look-alikes that are such a notorious feature of this family.</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.



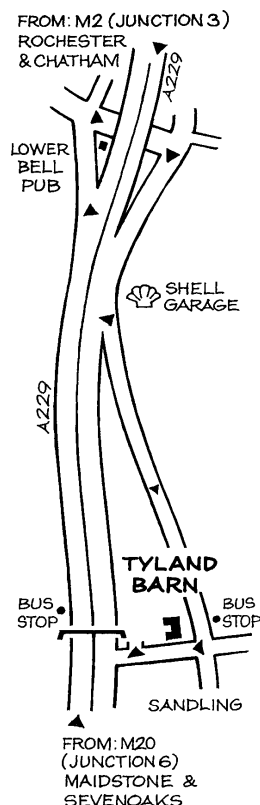
**Travel to Tyland Barn by public transport**

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](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!