

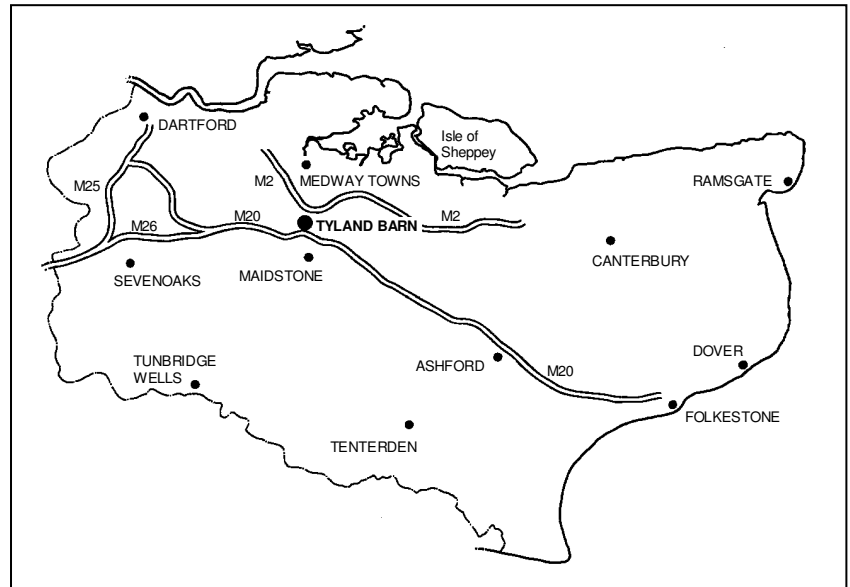
Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	30	Title	Flowers of the Salt Marshes	Date	Saturday 21 August 2010
No. of students	15	Start time	10.00 am	Finish time	3 – 4 pm
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 beginners and for those who want to know more about coastal plants and how to identify them.</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>Salt marshes along the North Kent shoreline near Faversham.</p>				
Programme	<p>We shall spend the morning in the Barn classroom when the main focus will be to consider how plants cope with and adapt to the extremes of conditions on the saline mud flats and coastal marshes. We shall also spend time considering the key identification features of the major families and the species that we shall find outside during the afternoon. This will require close examination of the flowers which provide the major big clues to the identity of any plant, but other features are also very useful to determine precise identification. Beginners should acquire a basic knowledge of how to identify a good range of our native coastal plants. They should also gain the inspiration to pursue the subject further. The walk to the salt marsh is about one mile over easy terrain. The marsh itself is less easy with low shrubs, pools and drainage dykes to negotiate, but the pace will be gentle. There are no lavatories near the salt marsh.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<p>Adaptations of saltmarsh plants Identification features of as many plants as we find and have time for.</p>				
What to bring	<p>Notebook and pencil. A x 10 magnification hand lens (can be borrowed or purchased on the day @ £4.50). Your favourite wild flower book (not essential) such as "<i>The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe</i>" by Fitter, Fitter and Blamey (Collins) or "<i>The Wild Flower Key</i>" by Francis Rose and Claire O'Reilley (For background reading try "<i>Flowers of the Coast</i>" by Ian Hepburn in the Collins New Naturalist series.) A picnic lunch, though sandwiches can be purchased in the Barn restaurant. Suitable outdoor clothing (including for kneeling on wet ground) – be prepared for all weathers and no protection – full waterproofs as well as sun cream and sun hats!</p>				
Other information	<p>Saltmarshes can be utterly bleak at any time of year but when the sun shines in high summer the atmosphere and extensive horizons can be stunning. Only a relatively few species can survive on these coastal marshes and they are highly specialised to cope with regular submergence in saline water. For them, unrelenting sunshine simply exacerbates the problem.</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.

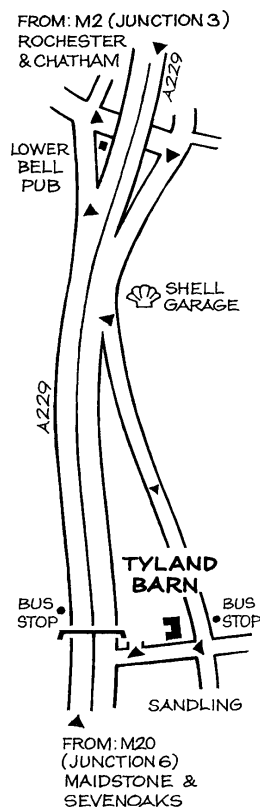


Travel to Tyland Barn by public transport

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!