

Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	33	Title	Introduction to Fungi I		Date	Saturday 25th September 2010	
No. of students	5-15	Start time	10am		Finish time	3-4pm	
Leader	<p>Martin Allison, RSPB Area Manager Martin is the RSPB's Wealden Heaths & Woodlands Manager, working on nature reserves across the South East, including Tudeley Woods. He is also the RSPB's resident mycologist, an associate tutor in fungi for the Field Studies Council, and is a member of the UK Fungus Conservation Forum.</p>						
Who should attend	The day is suited to both beginners and those with a little knowledge of the fungi.						
Meeting place	At the Car Park of the RSPB Tudeley Woods Reserve. From Tonbridge, along the A 21 towards Pembury, turn left just before the Shell Garage, along the lane signposted to Capel, park about ¼ mile on the left. Map Ref TQ616 433						
Other sites to be visited							
Programme	<p>We shall be studying the fungi of mixed woodland habitats, which are known to have (usually) a very wide range of species. We will decide which area of the reserve to visit on the day, as it will be dependent on recent weather conditions. We will not venture too far on to the reserve during the day, so those who might need to leave earlier can do so easily.</p> <p>Please remember to bring lunch, as this will be taken with us into the woods.</p>						
Subjects to be covered	<p>The overall aim of the day will be to identify some of the many groups (genera) of fungi from their characteristic features. We will not be able to identify every species in the field, but a list will be provided at a later date. We will be using detective work, investigating shape, texture, smell and simple chemical reactions to help identify what we find.</p> <p>We will also discuss the ecology of the fungi we find, including what they are growing on, what they are feeding on, what is feeding on them, how they reproduce, etc.</p>						
What to bring	<p>A 10x hand lens. A note book and pencil. Good field guides include The Mushrooms & Toadstools of Britain & North-western Europe by Marcel Bon (Hodder & Stoughton) and Collins Field Guide to Mushrooms & Toadstools of Britain & Europe by Courtecuisse & Duhem. Suitable clothing and footwear for the conditions – which can be muddy! A picnic lunch.</p>						
Other information	<p>There are no toilet facilities or other buildings at this reserve. Please note that the focus of this day is not to identify edible fungi, nor to collect them. At many sites (e.g. SSSIs) collecting is not allowed and except for the purpose of identification collecting is in any case usually not to be encouraged. We seek to understand the place of fungi in the context of wildlife ecology rather than the human food chain!</p>						