

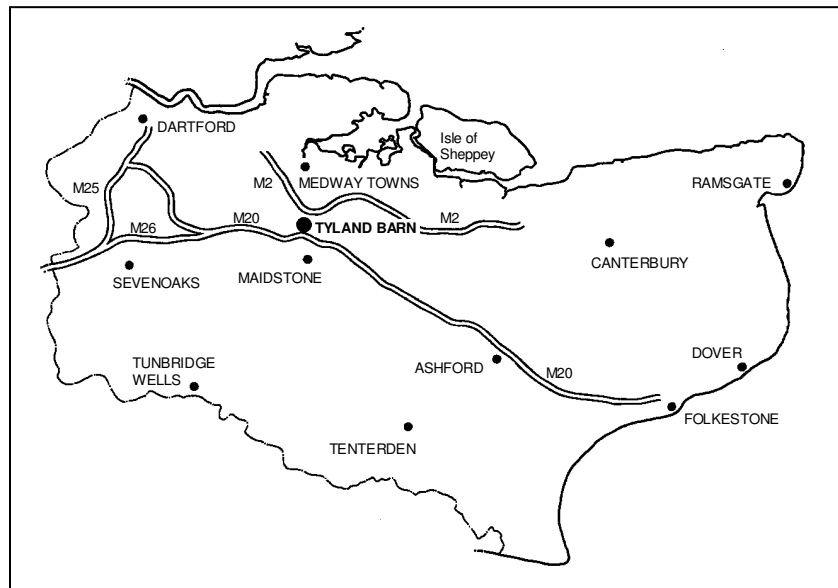
## Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	<b>40</b>	Title	<b>Getting to know the conifers</b>	Date	<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b>
No. of students	5-15	Start time	<b>10am</b>	Finish time	<b>3-4pm</b>
Leader	<p><b>Ros Bennett - Botanist and ecologist</b>          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, however knowledgeable about trees, do not feel confident about distinguishing the major types of conifers.</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>None on this day. However this study day is linked with study day 41 on the following day Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November which will be spent at Bedgebury Pinetum, consolidating what we have learnt on this Saturday (27<sup>th</sup>).</p>				
Programme	<p>Most of the day will be spent in the Barn classroom getting to grips with those basic features of cones and foliage that help us distinguish the main genera (such as Spruce, Pine, Fir, Hemlock, Cedar, Redwood, Lawsons, Juniper, Cypress and Yew). We shall also consider the features that can be used to differentiate the various species of each of the genera. Simplified keys will be introduced and students will be encouraged to use them on a variety of twigs and cones that will be available for practice.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<p>What is a conifer? Features of cones and foliage for identification purposes.</p>				
What to bring	<p>A notebook and pencil. A hand lens magnification x10 (available for purchase at the Barn at £4.50). Suitable outdoor clothing so that you can take a bit of exercise around the nature park at mid-day. A picnic lunch, though sandwiches can be purchased in the Barn restaurant.          Books are not essential but you might like to bring your favourite such as "Collins Tree Guide" by David More and Owen Johnson (£17.50).          "The New Flora of the British Isles" by Stace has some good keys to those conifers that have naturalised (but you will be encouraged to work with keys designed for this course).</p>				
Other information	<p>In winter, when there are very few flowers around and most of our native plants have lost their leaves, it is a wonderful opportunity to focus our attention on the conifers – most of which are evergreen and still bear cones. The British flora is remarkably poor in diversity of native conifers but many introduced species form a major feature in our landscape. And here in Kent, at Bedgebury Pinetum (to be visited on the Sunday), we are fortunate to have the opportunity to study the finest World collection of this magnificent group of trees.           The field trip to Bedgebury Pinetum Study Day 41 on 28<sup>th</sup> November is an integral part of this week-end and it is highly recommended that participants join both study days to get the full benefit.</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.

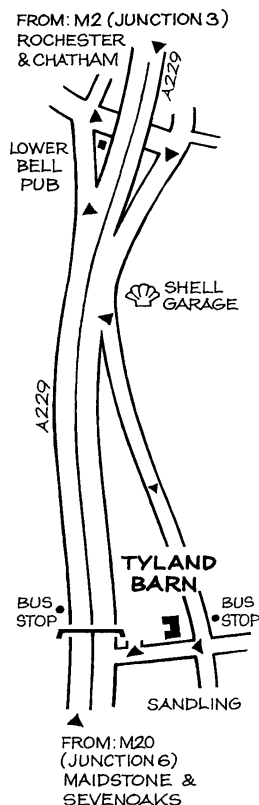


### Travel to Tyland Barn by public transport

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!