

Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	41	Title	Conifers – at Bedgebury Pinetum	Date	Sunday 28th November 2010
No. of students	5 - 15	Start time	10am	Finish time	3-4pm
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 designed as a follow-up to study day 40 on Saturday 27th November when we shall be getting to grips with the features of foliage and cones that help us distinguish the major genera of conifers If you plan to attend only on the 28th December it would be an advantage to be acquainted with the main generic characteristics, though these will be revised repeatedly during the day.</p>				
Meeting place	Bedgebury Pinetum Visitors' Centre near the car park. Map Ref: 712330 See directions overleaf.				
Other sites to be visited	None				
Programme	<p>Weather permitting we shall slowly complete a circuit of the Pinetum (but not sticking to the recognised footpaths and involving some rough and hilly terrain). Along this route we will encounter all the genera that we studied on Saturday 27th November (and more). We shall have the opportunity to consider a variety of species within most of the genera (though this will be kept to a maximum of three or so in most of the bigger genera, to avoid overload!) We shall stop en route for a picnic. If the weather is particularly unpleasant we may complete the circuit slightly faster and return to the visitors' centre for a late lunch. Here there are lavatories and a cafe. There is one lavatory en route around the Pinetum.</p>				
Subjects to be covered	<p>The emphasis of the day will be the Identification features of about 25 genera and about 50 species (i.e. those most commonly found). We shall also explore the Pinetum for some of the unusual and uncommon conifers especially those from the southern hemisphere.</p>				
What to bring	<p><u>Books etc:</u> Your favourite tree book 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. (You may however feel disinclined to refer to books too often during the day.) Laminated keys to identify the most common species will be used extensively. A notebook and pencil. A hand lens magnification x 10 (available for purchase from the leader for £4.50). <u>Suitable outdoor clothing.</u> If it is not wet it is likely to be very</p>				

	<p>cold, particularly since we shall be stopping to study the trees most of the day. Wrap up warm, wear wellies or stout walking boots and bring a waterproof.</p> <p><u>A picnic lunch</u> which will be consumed outside. Extra provisions can be purchased at the visitors' centre, but we shall not be near the centre at lunchtime, so ensure you have enough with you before you set off.</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, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to study the finest World collection of this magnificent group of trees.</p> <p>Study Day 40 on Saturday 27th November based in the classroom at Tyland Barn is an integral part of this week-end. Particularly if you are a beginner at conifers, it is highly recommended that you join both study days to get the full benefit</p> <p>This can be a popular week-end, and priority for places will be given to those who book on both days</p> <p>There is no entrance charge to the Pinetum but parking is £7.50 per car. This is not included in our charge for the day.</p> <p><u>Directions:</u> On the B2079 3 miles south of Goudhurst (about ½ mile north off the A21 near Flimwell)</p> <p>Bedgebury Pinetum car park. Map Ref: TQ 712330</p>

Bedgebury Pinetum



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