

The Kent Wildlife Conference 2011

The Natural History of North West Kent

Saturday, 22 October 2011,

10:00am – 4:00pm

**Pilkington Lecture Theatre
University of Greenwich, Medway Campus**

This year the aim of the conference will be to look at the current status of the flora and fauna of north-west Kent. This region has become increasingly urbanised in recent decades as London's suburbs and its commuters have spread farther east into Kent. The 'North-West' extends from Bromley and Bexley east to Gravesend and to the towns along the river Medway. The built area in the west is known to support some of the largest and most important brownfield sites for invertebrates in the country, owing to its warm, south-easterly location in the UK. By contrast there are some wonderful stretches of open downland and woodland rich in wildlife along the area's southern boundary. The northern boundary is defined by the river Thames and includes the Isle of Grain. Entirely different types of habitat occur here; isolated woodland remnants, extensive patches of grazing marsh and lagoons important for overwintering and breeding birds, sea defences and saltmarshes. The river Thames itself is rich in marine flora and fauna.

This area appears to have received less attention from naturalists than other equivalent areas of Kent in recent years and one of the aims of the meeting is to collate information for future conservation purposes. For example, the siting of a third London airport in the region remains an issue. Landscape scale conservation plans for the area have been prepared and will be discussed during the day.

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Programme

9:30 – 9.55am Arrival and coffee

9.55 Welcome and Introduction. *John Badmin (Kent Field Club)*

Session 1

10:00 North-west Kent – Wildlife Gateway. *Greg Hitchcock (Kent Wildlife Trust)*

10:20 Changes in the lichen flora of north-west Kent, 1981-2011. *Keith Palmer (Kent Field Club, Lichen Recorder)*.

10:40 Plants in NW Kent: survival or adaptation in the face of urbanisation? *Geoffrey Kitchener (Botanical Society of British Isles, County Recorder)*

11:00 The greenwashing of NW Kent: can brownfield insects survive in the Thames Gateway? *Richard Jones (Ecological Consultant)*.

11:20 - 11:40 Coffee and poster session

Session 2

11.40 Marine and brackish water invertebrates of the Thames and Medway estuaries. *Tim Worsfold (Thomson Unicomarine Ltd.)*

12:00 Tales from the ditch bank: the status of water voles in north-west Kent. *Emma Venham (Groundwork Kent & Medway)*.

12:20 From source to sea: a tour of the fish species found in rivers in north-west Kent. *Jim Lyons (Environment Agency)*.

12:40 – 2:00 Lunch and poster session

Session 3

2: 00 Project and record requests and information. *(All)*

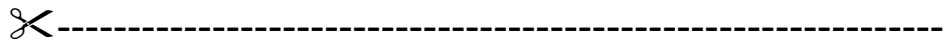
- 2:15 iSpot : Wildlife recording by the public. *Colin Higgins (Mentor – South-East, Open University)*
- 2.40 Habitats as flood defence on a tidal estuary: their justification, construction and management. *Jill Goddard (Thames Estuary Partnership).*
- 3: 05 The Greater Thames Futurescape: the case for landscape-scale conservation. *Alan Johnson (RSPB).*

3.30 - 4.00 Discussion and Close



The Conference will be held in the Pilkington Building, University of Greenwich, Medway Campus, Chatham Maritime, ME4 4TB. Pembroke Rd leading to the campus is off Dock Rd/Maritime Way roundabout. Follow the brown signs to the University: students will then direct you to free parking and conference centre. There is a frequent bus service from Chatham railway station to the University; walking time 20mins. Maps are downloadable from the University website.

The cost for the day will be £19.00 per person including all light refreshments and a buffet lunch (vegetarian dishes included). Please enclose a cheque payable to the **Kent Field Club** with the completed reply slip (below) by **Friday 14th October 2011** to: *John Badmin, Kent Field Club, Coppice Place, Perry Wood, Selling, nr Faversham, Kent ME13 9RP.*



I/We hereby enclose £ to attend the **Kent Wildlife Conference 2011**

(Please make cheques payable to **Kent Field Club**).

Name(s)

Address

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Telephone/email

If you require confirmation of your booking, or a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.