

The Kent Wildlife Conference 2008

Long Term changes in Kent's Flora and Fauna



Saturday, 11 October 2008, 10:00am – 4:30pm

**The Old Sessions Lecture Theatre
Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent**

Organised by Kent Field Club

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Supported by Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre

The aim of this year's conference is to look at the data sets (records, note books, collections, surveys) we have available for monitoring changes in Kent's flora and fauna and what they show. The period we are aiming to cover is 1900 to the present, though individual speakers may draw attention to earlier records, as some groups are more thoroughly recorded than others. For certain taxa that are taxonomically challenging or difficult to access, such as our marine fauna, we have only recently begun to study them in any depth. We should be in a better position than our forebears a century ago to assess the status of the wildlife in our region, but are we?

Over the next year we can expect a flurry of atlases with maps of our fauna and flora at tetrad or monad (1-km) level and these will act as baselines for future comparisons. Government and increasingly local government agencies monitor the countryside for changes in human population density, land-use, water and air quality and conservation priority species. These results can be linked with the county's biological records base using meta-data analysis to present a much wider picture, a process virtually unthinkable pre-computers. In addition to local studies we need to be aware of the bigger picture: of changes in biodiversity and conservation measures at a landscape scale, in the South-East as a whole, encompassing Sussex, Surrey and Essex and linking with France across the channel.

So, what do the records tell us and how well placed are we to monitor change in the future?

The cost for the day will be £13.50 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) and return by **Friday 3rd October 2008** 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 2008**.
(Please make cheques payable to **Kent Field Club**).

Name(s)

Address

Telephone/email

We do **not** normally send a booking confirmation. If you require confirmation of your booking, or a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Programme

9:30 - 10:00 *Arrival and coffee*

10:00 Welcome and Introduction. *John Badmin (Kent Field Club)*

Session 1

10:05 The Kent Downs – a historical overview of its landscape and biodiversity.
Daniel Tuson (Natural England, Wye)

10:25 The changing quality of Kent's aquatic habitats. *Ian Humpheryes (Environment Agency, Kent)*

10:45 Long term monitoring projects, the role of the Records Centre. *Hannah Cook (Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre)*

11:05 - 11:30 *Coffee and poster session*

Session 2

11:30 The role of museum collections in assessing floristic change. *Fred Rumsey (Natural History Museum, London)*

11:50 Mammals of Kent – the past and the future. *Martin Newcombe (Kent Field Club)*

12:10 The changing fortunes of Kent's raptors. *Rob Clements (Kent Ornithological Society)*

12:30 Kent's lichens –grave concern or exciting future? *Keith Palmer. (British Lichen Society)*

12:50 – 2:15 *Lunch and poster session*

2:15 Project and record requests. *(All)*

Session 3

2:30 Monitoring Kent's marine plant and animal communities.
Bryony Chapman (Kent Wildlife Trust) & Ian Tittley (Natural History Museum)

2:50 What can long term monitoring of moths tell us? *John Badmin (Kent Field Club)*

3:10 The changing face of nature conservation. *Richard Moyse (Kent Wildlife Trust)*

3:30 Biodiversity and the changing climate – a look at the future. *Sarah Taylor (Kent County Council)*

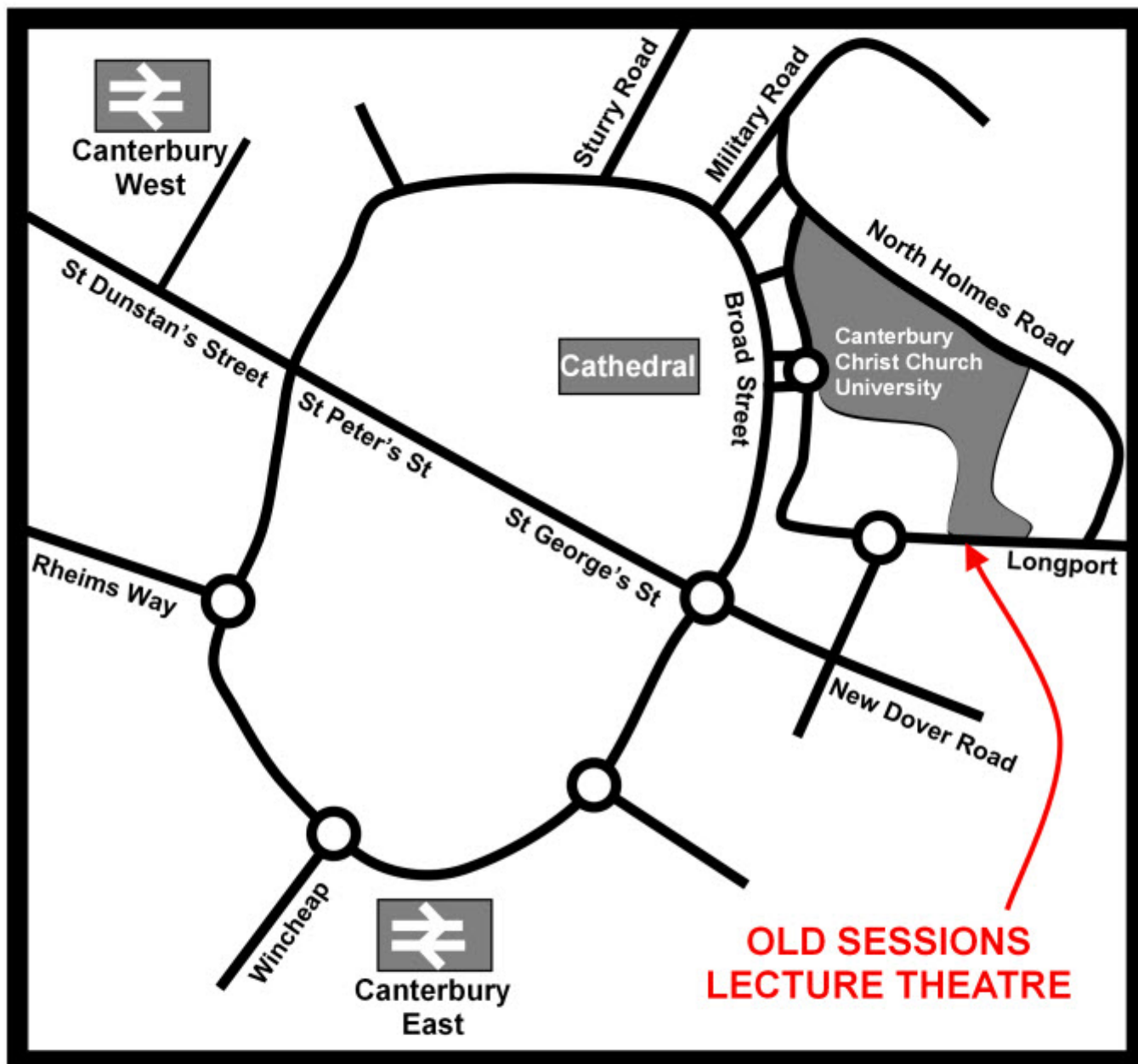
4:00 - 4:30 *Tea and poster session*

4:30 *Close.*

How to find the Old Sessions Lecture Theatre

The Canterbury Christ Church University campus is within a short walking distance of both Canterbury West and Canterbury East stations.

Parking is available on the campus from North Holmes Road, and there is town centre parking within a short distance of the lecture theatre.



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Organised by Kent Field Club, the Natural History Society of Kent
www.kentfieldclub.org.uk

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