



wkps

Watch on the Weald

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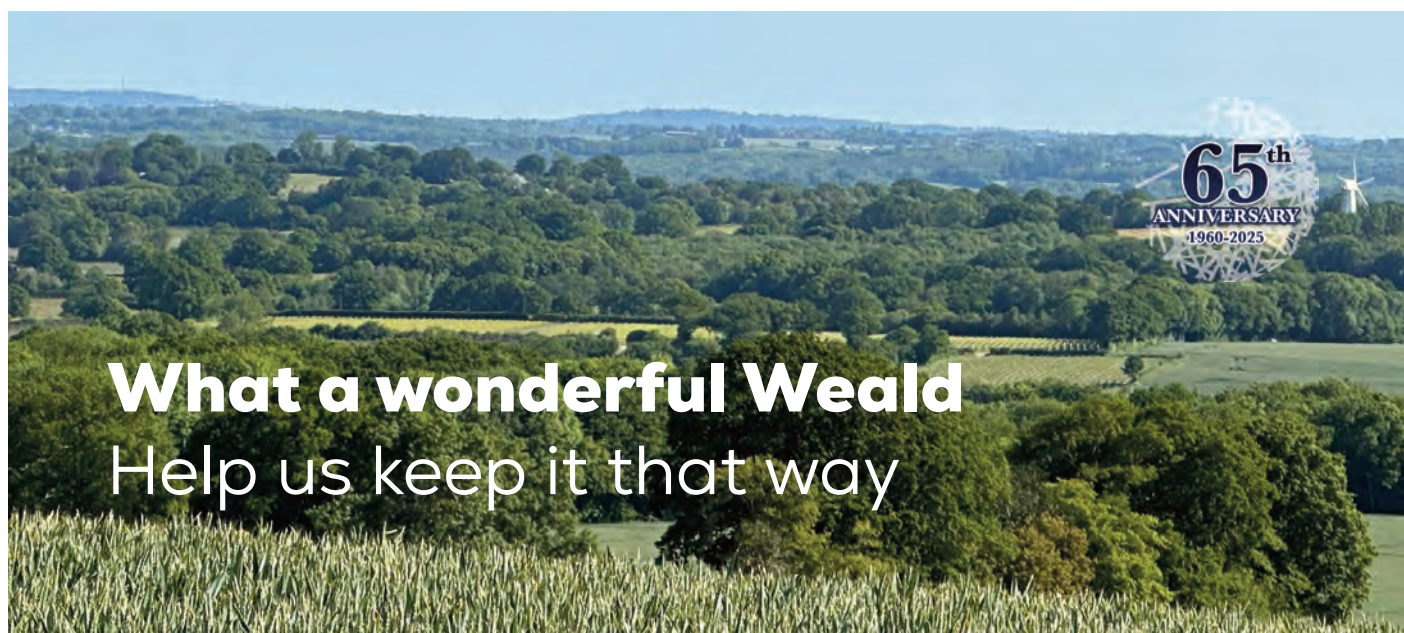
Newsletter of the Weald of Kent Protection Society

wkps.org.uk

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No: 177



65 years and on we go

Back in the day (1960), love and rage caused the foundation of the Weald of Kent Preservation Society (WKPS). It was renamed in 2005 by changing 'preservation' to 'protection' to better reflect the work of the Society.

WKPS set out to protect all the villages or small towns of the then five Rural District Councils who administered what was rather arbitrarily classed as the Weald of Kent. The map shown on the front page of our last edition depicts that area of 220 square miles. It was a localised society involving the loyalty of a single town or village amenity society; there were active village representatives reporting what was happening in their patch and scrutineers covering specific villages monitoring planning applications.

Planning controls that predated the second world war had been substantially strengthened by the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, but the huge boom in private housing and commercial construction of the late 1950s was laxly regulated by both central and local government, and in the words of the day, 'fearful things were done'.

It was a fight! Some councillors and officers treated the Society with disdain and resentment with the attitude of how dare we criticise their actions. Some authorities refused to accept any WKPS correspondence unless it was submitted via a specified authority committee. By 1964, our records show that there was 'increasing rapport' with local authorities but periodic discourtesy and resentment continued into the late 1970s. One shocking example was that of a prominent local politician who repeatedly made public statements to the effect that elected councillors should ignore all group representations when making planning decisions. This attitude merely showed the lack of awareness of local democracies and environmental green issues. Environmental groups, as well as his planning officers were, shall we say, against him.

Times have changed; planning regulations have changed; the attitude towards the environment, habitats and wildlife have become more of a mainstream goal among citizens, and some politicians, but always

Find out more and join online: wkps.org.uk

we fight the government of the day as they seek to dilute the protections in place to the point of harming and destroying nature.

Before the internet our planning scrutineers would have had to visit council offices to inspect paper copies of the planning applications, so in contrast, we really have it easy now. Planning is much more accessible to everyone, with residents creating their own action groups and campaigns to protect their local environment. It is also clear that such access has led to increased knowledge and awareness of people other than those in the profession of planning.

As time has passed, we no longer have village representatives supplying local information and knowledge and more recently our Constitution had to change because of the lack of planning scrutineers (see page 5).

Although time has moved on, the theme remains the same which is to protect the Wealden landscape and attempt to either stop planning consent or to at least mitigate the impact if permission is granted.

We still face the same issues as we have in the past, but with successive governments pushing and manipulating the planning system to achieve huge targets of house-building, and the national planning framework geared towards consent being granted, it becomes more and more difficult to ‘win’.

Bad planning decisions will continue to happen particularly when the local efforts of protection, including those of the LPA having refused an application, passes into the hands of the planning inspectorate. To be fair, the inspectorate does deny appeals, but not enough in my opinion.

Threats to the landscape also comes from solar arrays and whilst most of us probably support renewable energy, there is still a right and a wrong place to locate them.

There's no doubt that the countryside has gradually changed over the last six decades and not just in Kent. Rural isolation and quietness have greatly diminished; hedgerows, trees and other features have been lost; arable fields are larger; vehicle use has increased; farm vehicles are huge; rural lanes have become busy; the construction of houses affects most villages; the conversion of agricultural buildings; all contribute to suburbanising countryside making it generally a much noisier environment and more remote.

We will continue to protect the countryside and our founders' legacy. Many people have given their time and knowledge to WKPS over the decades and the society has evolved and flourished as a result.

WKPS is not just about the planning side of things; it's also about the green environment, biodiversity, wildlife, habitats, flora and fauna, trees, hedgerows; everything that makes our landscape, our landscape. It is worthy of protection and enhancement for us and all generations to come.

If you feel strongly about any of the above, visit our website and join us.

Peta Grant
WKPS Planning



Why we love (our) Big Data

Every keystroke on your computer, every screen you check. How much toilet paper you bought from Aldi last week. All data, ready to be harvested. Sinister!

Data is at the heart of what Marden Wildlife does. It really matters whether that unexciting-looking plant is True Fox Sedge (hooray - rare plant) or False Fox Sedge (meh - common). Where's it growing and why? Was it there last year? And will this year's common plant be rare in ten years' time? How

is the way we're managing the land affecting this?



Marden's Moth Mob recording their night's catch

Our ornithologists are trying to collect as much data as they can on the breeding success of rare Turtle Doves. Every sighting and trailcam shot is followed up, and a small number of the birds are electronically tagged to add to the picture of their movements in the short time they're

with us. Each data point clarifies the picture of how doves are successfully breeding in our landscape while populations elsewhere have been lost. Many people here contribute these links into the chain of information, and are proud to play their part in what is groundbreaking research.

We salute the Kent County Recorders: dedicated experts whose amateur status belies great expertise. These data gatekeepers will only accept records if enough evidence is

supplied to convince them. This rigour is vital to maintain, to ensure the credibility of bigger datasets. Our Marden moth enthusiasts regularly have to send specimens to the county's micromoth recorder, as some species can only be identified by dissection. This highly skilled process, done under microscope, is hard on individual moths, but vital for monitoring populations in a world where insects are declining.

David Newman, our County Fungus Recorder, had to submit detailed microscopic evidence to a national fungi recorder at Kew before a



True Fox Sedge, flower like a fox's tail, and observed above left

specimen was finally confirmed as Kent's first record for the species *Steccherinum bourdotii*. Without David's expertise and persistence, it would have remained undetected in our wood, where it's probably always been.

It shouldn't surprise WKPS members to learn that our Weald is a magical place, full of rarities. It's an ancient landscape, still woven together by ancient woodlands and hedgerows. We can't hope to defend it against the developers' rising tide of concrete and sewage unless we can prove there's too much to lose. Good data is vital in this. We need more, and more of those who can maintain it accurately and impartially.

Lou Carpenter
Marden Wildlife

Fungus recorder David Newman uncovering the hidden life of a Weald wood





Design is critical and is up for criticism

On the basis we need to build houses and some of those houses will need to be adjacent to rural villages, or in some cases on predominantly rural sites, I would advocate a strong input at an early stage by local organisations, such as WKPS, in the design process once the application has been validated by the relevant local authority.

We can all see houses that have been sympathetically designed and built to reflect the local character landscape and we can also see houses that have had misguided at best, design aspirations and stand out 'like a sore thumb'. I think every village has some of these and every village has some wonderful examples of how to meld into the local architecture whilst fulfilling a modern way of life.

An application for a housing development should not be viewed any differently and is actually far more important than individual dwellings.

There are many design codes and standards nationally, locally and specifically produced by county councils, neighbourhood plans, national landscape teams and so on.

I believe we should have a set of parameters that we should judge any new development we are presented with, be it 10 houses or 300 houses. For example ...

- What green space and amenity land has been included in the outline design, e.g. size of gardens, access to common green space, walking and cycling routes etc.
- Is the design sympathetic to the surroundings be it existing houses, or village? What existing features and trees are present on the site, and can they be incorporated? Natural features can help give shape to a development and should be retained.

- Where are the dwellings situated in relation to existing houses and structures. Does the housing fit into the landscape or is it visually dominating?
- Does the proposal relate well to the scale, massing and height of adjacent buildings, if any?
- What will the visual impact be on the surrounding Wealden countryside? It is better to conserve and enhance existing features which can mitigate harm and produce a better appearance of new build in the landscape.
- Does the proposed scheme have regard to the local Wealden architecture and building materials? Does it fit visually?
- Does the planting scheme include indigenous planting to encourage habitats for wildlife and vegetation?
- Does the layout of the scheme include buffers between existing dwellings and the new, the retention of hedges and trees, and factor in the topography?
- How are the boundaries of the whole development and between properties treated? Fencing can create a harsh urbanising environment and limit or sever wildlife corridors.

WKPS Planning - where are we?

For 65 years WKPS has been monitoring the planning lists over three boroughs (Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells) selecting applications from the particular parishes/villages that we cover and submitting our comments.

This has been achieved by our planning committee comprising as many as ten scrutineers giving their time and knowledge to protect the environment of the high and low Wealds of Kent. When one scrutineer left, they introduced someone to take their place. This worked well until replacements were no longer to be found and the numbers of the planning committee dwindled to the point of so few members that coverage of our areas was no longer possible, and we became non-compliant with our Constitution.

As a registered charity, compliance must be maintained so at the AGM on 5th June this year, the Constitution was amended by deletion of the planning committee structure and replaced with 6.(i) The Society shall deal with planning matters and responses as they arise or are brought to the Society's attention.

Without scrutineers we cannot monitor the area we cover; this is a major problem and maybe this is where you can help us? Visit our website and use the contact page to alert us to a planning application causing concern in your location. This will enable us to continue coverage and to protect the Weald together.

Peta Grant
WKPS Planning

All aspects of a scheme should be assessed against a set of criteria which is strongly weighted towards the environment, flora and fauna, habitat and natural Wealden landscape.

With the ever-increasing number of planning applications for housing developments, we must focus our attention, at an early stage, on preserving, enhancing and improving the natural Wealden landscape and wildlife habitats in a balancing act with the need for housing and for nature.

Of course, if the proposal is for a scheme in an inappropriate location, strong objections will be made!

Sarah Ellison
WKPS Planning



Site location plans

Gone are the days when a site location plan for a planning application was A4 sized showing the location of the site in relation to surrounding property and landmarks such as road junctions, etc., a zoomed out, pinpointed, obvious to everyone, actual location.

Recent applications include thumbnail maps showing almost nothing of the surrounding area and causing one to revert to aerial maps to narrow down the location.

Fig.1 shows the name of the two neighbouring properties, and we know from the drawing itself the name of the lane the site is situated in, but if the area is unknown to the viewer, or maybe even if it is, effort is required to establish the actual location.



Fig.2 this tells us more, we know the name of the road from the application and directions are indicated on the road, but even though I know this area well, I still needed to refer to a map to pinpoint it.



A quick search for maps on the web reveals that various companies produce maps that are approved by councils for planning purposes. The two examples above are representative of such maps; the size of which have

probably been chosen because of the low cost but probably only qualify as 'block plans' rather than 'location plans', the latter covering 2+ hectares rather than only metres squared. As the area increases so does the cost although the costs aren't actually alarming.

Of course, we also know the postcode, if there is one, but these cover numerous properties and can only take us to a rough location.

It's the 21st century and so easy to pinpoint any location within a 3-metre square so I think that location maps should also show the what3words address. If I asked you to meet me in Hemsted Forest at a specific time and location using what3words, we wouldn't miss each other say: ///promise.speaks.dumps - there is also the potential amusement factor of the assigned words!

Peta Grant
WKPS Planning

Plantlife's guide to a nature friendly lawn

Many people take part in Plantlife's No Mow May each year to benefit nature and reap the rewards of a lawn awash with colourful wildflowers and buzzing with insects. Not mowing in May is the perfect starting point to get greenspaces on track for a wild summer. But the buzz doesn't have to stop there - Plantlife has heaps of advice to support anyone wanting to leave spaces in their garden for nature to continue to bloom in June and for the rest of the summer ... why not join the No Mow Movement and enjoy a wild lawn all year round?

Our lawns and green spaces are precious havens for wildlife - with over 23 million gardens in the UK even the smallest patches can add up to a significant proportion of land which, if managed properly, can really benefit nature, communities and the climate.

Visit: plantlife.org.uk for tips and then share your garden pictures with the team on social media to inspire others.

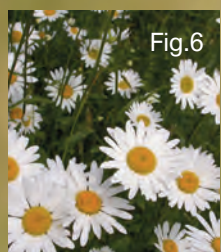
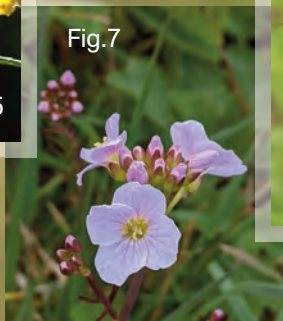
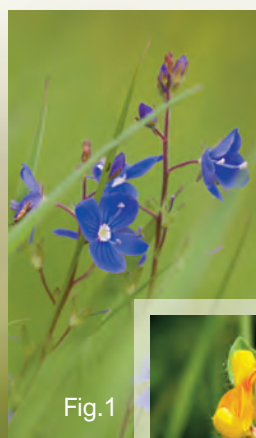
Plantlife's No Mow Calendar also provides advice on how to give your lawn flower power throughout the year.

What might be growing in July?

From Clovers and Knapweed to Buttercups and Great Burnet - what will you discover in your gardens and local green spaces this month?

Katie Cameron
plantlife.org.uk

Fig.1 Germander Speedwell; Fig.2. Bird's-Foot-Trefoil
Fig.3 Creeping Buttercup; Fig.4 Herb Robert
Fig.5 Yellow Rattle; Fig.6 Ox-eye Daisy
Fig.7 Cuckooflower; Fig.8 Selfheal
Fig.9 Common Knapweed



From trying out different grass lengths and spaces in your garden to advice on managing the cuttings if you do mow - the Plantlife website is the place to be this summer for all your friendly lawn advice and know how.

Swifts are in danger and need our help



The Common Swift is a spectacular and remarkable bird, but its numbers are in steep decline.

High Weald Swifts is a registered charity working to raise awareness of the incredible Common Swift - one of our most remarkable summer visitors - and to encourage action to boost their numbers locally. Unfortunately, surveys from the High Weald reflect a worrying national trend: Swift populations in the UK have declined by a staggering 66% between 1995 and 2023. Now classed as

a bird of conservation concern, the Common Swift has joined Sparrows and Starlings on the British Trust for Ornithology's 'red list'.

Climate change, the decline in insect populations and the shortage of suitable nesting sites have all contributed to the dramatic fall in Swift numbers, but despite their rapid decline, they are a species we can help. We can play a vital role in their survival, while inspiring others to get involved and make a difference too.

These iconic summer visitors make the hazardous 3,500-mile journey from Africa every year, reaching our shores in early May. Their only objective on arrival is to nest and raise their young before making the long return journey to Africa in early August. It's only when nesting that these incredible birds land; the remaining nine months are spent on the wing, eating, sleeping and breeding. Once young Swifts leave the nest, they won't touch down again until they're ready to breed - around the age of three.

Swifts are loyal to their traditional nest sites, typically gaps under tiles, cavities behind soffit boards or brickwork, often with us unaware that they are there. Modern homes are well insulated, whilst older houses are being renovated, soffits replaced and gaps sealed, leaving these special birds homeless. Being long-lived, Swifts may have used the same nest site for many years, unbeknown to us. They're quiet and leave no mess.

The good news is that Swifts will adopt specially designed artificial nest boxes. By installing these boxes and using a simple call system that plays pre-recorded Swift calls, we can attract them to new nesting sites and help reverse their decline. There are plenty of different nest boxes available, to suit all budgets and aspects. Head over to highwealdswifts.co.uk to see some of our favourites.

Swifts are insectivores, which is why they migrate during our cold winters, heading south to warmer climes in the Congo, where insect life is abundant. When they return to the UK in late April/early May, they rely on a steady and plentiful supply of insects to raise their young. A single Swift can consume up to 20,000 insects a day, but with insect populations in decline, food is becoming scarcer, forcing adult Swifts to travel long distances every day just to find enough to eat.



You can create a haven for Swifts - and a wide range of other wildlife - by making your outdoor space more insect-friendly and offering shelter. All it takes is a little enthusiasm, some creativity, and a willingness to let part of your garden grow a bit wild. One of the simplest and most effective ways to start is by planting wildflower mixes, which provide vital food sources for pollinators. Here are a few easy ideas to help you get started: good wildflower mixes include Bird's-foot

trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Hoary plantain (*Plantago media*), Cowslip (*Primula veris*) Greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), Field scabious hoary (*Knautia arvensis*), Meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Common knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*), Wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Most importantly, avoid using harmful insecticides in your garden. Instead, embrace organic gardening principles like companion planting, which naturally supports a balanced ecosystem. If you have the space, consider going even

further by creating a beneficial insect meadow, a sanctuary for pollinators and creatures.

Remember, no wildflowers mean no insects means no food, so, let's celebrate Swifts and create a home for them to come back to.

Cheryl Mason

Trustee of High Weald Swifts

Photographs: Martin Garwood

High Weald Swifts What we do

Our aim is to halt and reverse the decline of the Common Swift by working to understand their numbers and distribution in our local towns and villages. We're trying to protect established nest sites and colonies and provide new nest sites for swifts to occupy. To achieve this, we:

- provide advice and support for people who would like to install swift boxes and bricks;
- carry out Swift surveys during the main breeding season;
- hold talks for local groups and societies;
- attend local events to educate and inform;
- encourage developers to consider including swift boxes and bricks in their plans.

We're also speaking up for Swifts when there are opportunities to influence local planning decisions, and we're contributing our voice to consultations on Local Plans and on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent.

highwealdswifts.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook:

High Weald Swift Conservation

Registered Charity Number: 1204521



An ancient bloomery furnace discovered near Benenden



Fig.1

Following the report of a discovery of some iron-making slag (Fig.1) by WKPS member Steven Lemon, in a ghyll on Dingledden Farm, Benenden, two members of the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG); Victor Kellett and I, began an intensive and organised landscape survey to try and locate the furnace that produced that material.

A bloomery furnace is an ancient type of furnace used for smelting iron from its ores. It's characterised by its relatively small size and the direct production of a spongy mass of iron and slag called a 'bloom'. The bloom, also known as sponge iron, is then further processed into wrought iron.

The site lies to the north of Pookwell Wood, and as subsequent research has revealed, is located on the Rolvenden side of the Benenden parish boundary.

Victor Kellett called in my assistance after he observed some sizeable pieces of slag in the base of a fallen tree alongside the stream in the ghyll (Fig.2).



Fig.2

After surveying where other pieces were emerging from a prominent bank above the initial findspot, I called in further help from my Rovers landscape investigation team, and with the combination of probing with a steel teebar, and skilful use of metal detectors, we fortuitously encountered what proved to be the edge of the furnace, once exploratory excavations commenced.

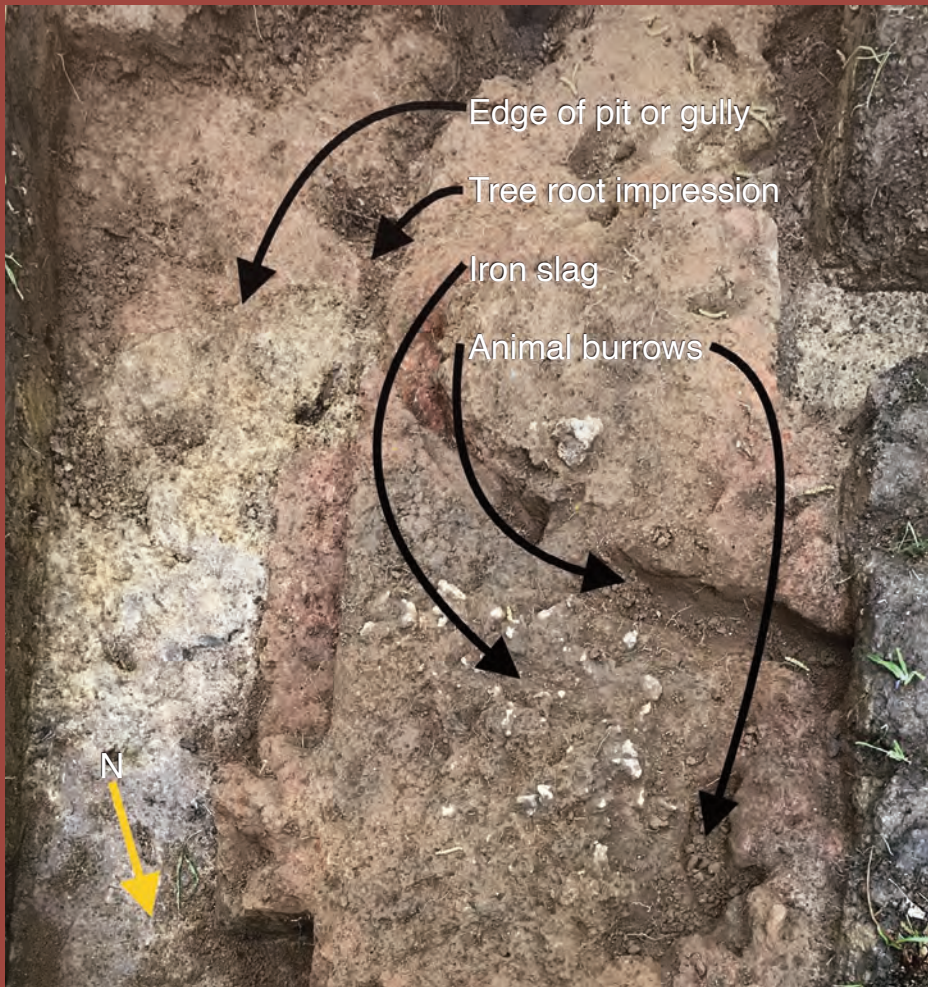
After digging a small hole where a strong metal response was detected, we exposed the base of the furnace (Fig.3 and Fig.4).

I then began a carefully planned series of exploratory excavations of the furnace, confounded by animal burrows and tree root channels, eventually revealing the approximate layout of the furnace.

After a couple of weeks of careful digging and recording, the collapsed furnace has been further exposed, and is now under wraps. The team from Isle Heritage CIC, have expressed an interest in visiting the site. The bloomery potentially bears a resemblance



Fig.3



to an Iron Age (280 BC) bloomery they excavated as part of the Lossenham Project 4km to the South. They have kindly offered to provide advice on further work and seeking funding to date the feature.

During the early stages of the discovery, Jeremy Hodgkinson of WIRG visited the site and was able to show some of the slag at the Rolvenden Local History Group meeting that evening where he gave a talk on the topic of Wealden Ironmaking, which helped greatly to contextualise the iron-making industry into the local landscape.



- The slag is of a type known as non-tapping, a result of liquid slag dripping down into the base of the furnace throughout the firing process, whereas the alternative is a tapping furnace, with the molten slag being allowed to run out or be raked out of the furnace during the burn. The majority of wealden bloomeries are of the tapping variety, although the non-tapping method was deployed during the Iron Age, the Roman period, and again during early Saxon times. We have a small sample of charcoal which, in the absence of pottery, should provide a dating guide for this furnace.

- There are at least three other bloomery sites in nearby valleys to the west, and they also are of the non-tapping variety.

Last but not least, our thanks are due to Eleanor North at Dingleden Farm for inviting us to explore.

Lindsay Akerman
Wealden Iron Research Group

Actions for nature with Kent Wildlife Trust



Kent
Wildlife Trust

Here at Kent Wildlife Trust, we know that nature is in crisis. We must take bold action to restore and protect our wildlife and wild spaces for future generations.

With that in mind, here are two important actions you might like to get involved with this year:

Become a citizen scientist with Bugs Matter

Bugs Matter, in partnership with Buglife, is a national citizen science survey to monitor flying insect abundance. The survey uses an innovative insect sampling method conducted by members of the public, involving surveying 'bug splats' on vehicle number plates. This methodology is based on the 'windscreen phenomenon', a term given to the observation that people tend to find fewer insects squashed on the windscreens of their cars compared to several decades ago.

If you drive, you can take part - and you will quite literally be driving the data!

To get involved head to kwtg.uk/bugs-matter

Take part in the Wilder Kent Awards

The Wilder Kent Awards is a scheme set up to encourage, recognise, and reward the work that schools, businesses, and community groups are doing to create a #WilderKent. By taking positive actions to restore nature, participants are helping to forge a more climate-resilient county and provide a home for wildlife. Their action benefits us locally and helps tackle the global environmental threats we all face.

Whatever action you're taking (or could take) for nature, you can take part in the Wilder Kent Awards. This year, submissions are open until January 2026 and the awards ceremony will take place at Chapel House Estate in Ramsgate. Please spread the word if you can - and learn more on our website.

About Kent Wildlife Trust

Kent Wildlife Trust is the county's leading conservation charity, driving innovation to fight the climate and nature crises.

We have over 32,000 members and volunteers, manage over 9,000 acres of land and influence much more. Together with our partners, supporters and grazing animals, we transform habitats, restore and protect species and bring ecosystems back to life across the county and beyond, to benefit wildlife and people.

You can learn more about us and how to support our work at kentwildlifetrust.org.uk



Brooding

Different species of birds time their egg laying, hatching and fledging based on the availability of natural food to suit them.

For example, Blue Tits typically only have one brood as they rely on the emergence of caterpillars in the spring. Data gathered from a study of 100 nests show caterpillars make up almost two thirds of the diet for Blue Tit nestlings, with spiders, pupae, other small insects making up the rest. They'll lay around 8-10 eggs in late April, which they incubate for roughly two weeks, and then it's a further three weeks before the young birds leave the nest. The abundance (or lack of) caterpillars therefore ultimately determines the success of breeding in this short spell for Blue Tits. With a typical life expectancy of just a few years, they start breeding at just a year old.



Blackbirds, on the other hand, can have up to 5 broods in a year, but only lay up to 5 eggs at a time. They'll also start their season earlier as they don't have the reliance on a single food source like Blue Tits. Snails, worms and berries make up around 60% of the diet for nestling Blackbirds, but there is a far greater variance to their diet, with fruit, insects and larvae also collected by the adults to feed their young. The life expectancy for Blackbirds is also only a few years, but the oldest Blackbird officially recorded was 15 years old, having been ringed as a first-year female in Dungeness in 1985, and found unfortunately shot dead in northern France in 2000.

Doves and Pigeons produce a milk-like substance called crop milk which allows them to potentially breed for most months of the year. Feral Pigeons which live in towns and cities are able to find an abundance of food all year

round, so by converting that food into crop milk for their young, their reliance on natural food is minimised.

Not a bird you're likely to see in the Weald, but as an interesting comparison, Puffins only have one brood per year, but also only lay 1 egg! Their survival rate is far higher than small passerine birds, and they don't breed until they are 5 years old. The oldest recorded Puffin was (at least) a whopping 42 years old, colour ringed as an adult on Skomer Island in 1977 and recorded alive in the same location again in 2019.

Joe Rawles, Feathers Wild Bird Care
featherswildbirdcare.co.uk



A simple branching strategy



Trees are tricky, they fool us into thinking that when we look at an individual tree in summer, it is full of leaves.

But stand beneath it and look up and the tree is empty, mostly without leaves. Branches reach out from the trunk having no leaves, whilst it is the many shorter branches near the edge of the tree that hold all the leaves. Of course, it is all about light and the tree doesn't waste any energy producing leaves near the trunk.

Branches have two roles: reaching out from the trunk towards the light and holding the leaves that will harvest it. The long branches stretch away from the trunk and act as a scaffold for the short branches, which hold the leaves. A simple strategy of long and short branches.



Trees that grow close together in a dense copse are affected by their neighbours and when we walk into the centre a similar pattern occurs. Trees at the edge of the wood have lots of smaller, leaf-bearing branches on the side of the tree that faces out of the wood, the outside edge, and will also have a lot of leaves at the top of the canopy with very few branches or leaves on the side of the tree facing the interior of the wood. Trees in the centre of the wood have few branches or leaves on any of the sides of the tree but will have a good covering near the top.



These effects are logical: light can reach one side and the tops of the trees at the edge of the wood, but not the sides of the trees at the centre. Step out of the wood, look back at the whole and the combined effect is that the wood has acted as a single tree does out in the open. Small branches and leaves cover all sides of the wood and its top, but there are very few near the centre. Growing close to each other, the patterns of leaf cover and the smaller branches of many trees combine to create a single effect in the canopy.

The canopy of a dense wood is a tree and the centre is empty.

Branch strategy is all about seeking the light.

Peta Grant
WKPS Planning

Dates for the diary 2025

Saturday 6th September **Ghyll Safari, Dingleden** **10.30am**

Following on from our successful Ghyll Safari last year, we will be visiting a few different Ghylls and will explore the delights we find within, which include a recently excavated bloomery. Stephen Lemon will be our expert guide. Lots of walking so wear suitable shoes.

Saturday 13th September **Weald of Kent Ploughing Match** **Moatenden Farm, Headcorn**

WKPS will have a stand at this great event, a great day out for all the family.

For details visit wkpma.co.uk



Saturday 25th October **Chequer Tree Safari, Shadoxhurst** **10.30am**

Learn all about these amazing trees, also known as Wild Service Trees (*Sorbus torminalis*). They are an ancient woodland indicator, a rare and special habitat. WKPS and Marden Wildlife have been successful in propagating seed from three farms in the Weald and growing these lovely trees.



If you have any suggestions for future events WKPS could organise please get in touch with secretary@wkp.org.uk or call 01580 861246

what a wonderful weald

help us keep it that way



wkps

Weald of Kent Protection Society

The aim of our dedicated team of volunteers is to protect our beautiful Wealden towns, villages and countryside from the effects of damaging and unsuitable development, preserving its charm and character for future generations to enjoy. We welcome active members to help us with a range of activities, from scrutinising planning applications to organising events. If, like us, you care about the Weald, please get in touch and get involved.

**Become a member and
find out more: [wkps.org.uk](https://www.wkps.org.uk)
secretary@wkps.org.uk 07919 871543**

Charitable Donations and Bequests

In these difficult times and thanks to generous legacies from members, we continue to financially weather the storm. WKPS now has a link on the homepage of its website to make it easier to accept donations directly. We also hope that you consider a charitable bequest to WKPS when you plan your estate.

Disclaimer

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