

WILDLIFE POND AND MEADOW

GREAT OAKS SMALL SCHOOL

Registered charity No. 1105559

April 2014

Great Oaks Small School is a small independent (secondary) day school, in a semi-rural site, in converted farm buildings on the outskirts of Minster in Kent. We have a colourful flower garden, a field, and a bank soon to be planted with wild flowers.



The school is for students who may have specific learning difficulties, have experienced emotional or physical trauma or have missed significant periods of education. All have attended primary schools, but have found the transition to secondary education difficult. Many of them have never had a chance to spend time in country surroundings.

We provide a variety of projects throughout the school year that involve co-operative activity, i.e. school camp, project work, development and maintenance of the school environment. We plan to introduce raised beds in one area where students will be able to grow herbs and vegetables, hopefully to be incorporated into our school meals; later we will plant fruit trees and fruit bushes.

Our long barn, divided internally into different work spaces, has a pipe taking rainwater from its roof to a spot where, with the help of the *Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership*, the financial support of *The Naturesave Trust* and a generous donation from a private individual, we plan to create a wildlife pond with a dipping platform. Combining our natural surroundings with the old farm buildings we want to provide a pond planted with free, floating and marginal plants plus a stock of invertebrates. Our students will see how to combine a building, the weather, a natural space, to make an environment for interactive learning – and fun.



The barn roof for rainwater



Ready for the lining and planting