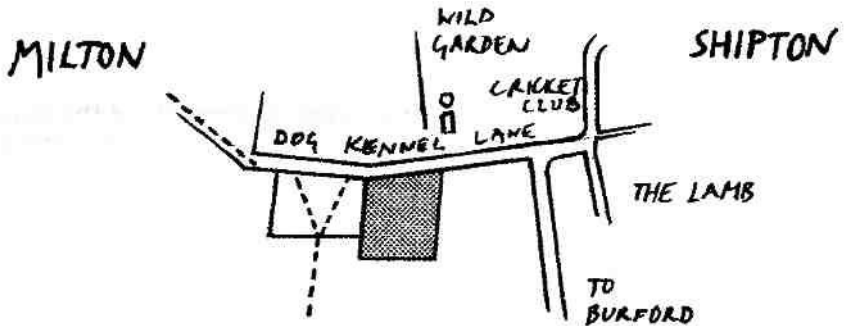


A Millennium Wood for the Wychwoods

Support is growing for the creation by the Woodland Trust of a community wood – a place for trees, flowers and wildlife, with public access – on the 9-acre field site, south of Dog Kennel Lane, Shipton. West Oxfordshire District Council has promised substantial financial support, as part of its Millennium celebrations. This woodland will contribute to the historic landscape of the Wychwoods, and with its excellent access, it will be an asset to local villages.



The timetable is that we hold a major fund raising campaign this Spring. In the Summer the Woodland Trust hopes to acquire the site, with the local community working with the Woodland Trust to plan and design the wood. Community planting will take place in late autumn. The woodland will be owned and managed by the Woodland Trust, with full public access.

The Woodland Trust is Britain's largest charity dedicated solely to the conservation and creation of woodland. The Wychwood Project, which aims to restore tree cover in this area to levels present in Norman times, also supports the creation of this community wood in the Wychwoods.

To create these *Woods on your Doorstep*, the local community usually has to raise half the costs of acquisition and planting, with the Woodland Trust providing the other half from Lottery funds. However, several offers of substantial donations including from local industry – have already been made to help buy this site.

This year, the proceeds of Sue Jourdan and Gail Huntingford's plant sale on 16th May will go to the Millennium Wood. But this still leaves more money to be raised locally.

If you – or your business or your community group – like the idea, and are prepared to help in any way, please contact me on 01993 831403 or Belinda Flitter, Wychwood Project Officer, on 01865 810217.

Charles Keighley