
Wychwood Project

Environmental Activities in the Wychwoods

Local Possibilities

Last autumn some Friends of Wychwood and others from Ascott, Shipton and Milton-under-Wychwood, Lyneham and Bruern met to explore possibilities for environmental action locally. Our

communities have already helped create 'Diggers Wood' between Milton and Shipton, as well as planting trees at the gateways to these villages and elsewhere in the neighbourhood. The Oxfordshire Woodland Project's officer

David Rees, based in Woodstock, advocates the creation of hazel coppice on under-used allotments in order to encourage wild life as well as provide pea sticks. Local groups are exploring the possibility of small-scale coppice creation and the encouragement of wild flowers on allotments in Shipton and Ascott.

Nature Reserves

Churchyards have the potential to become small-scale nature reserves if well managed, and groups from Ascott, Milton and Shipton have agreed to approach their vicars, parochial church and parish councils, with a view to managing parts of their churchyards for wildlife. The aim is to get a better balance between frequently cut grass in the more visited parts of the churchyards,

and the encouragement of wild flowers, birds and butterflies elsewhere.

In December, with the help of some local Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, we planted a small spinney and replanted a gappy hedgerow at Langley Ridge. We

are investigating a number of other sites locally for tree planting in early 2005.



Ponds and Streams

The Wychwood Project is currently awaiting digital copies of early Ordnance Survey

maps of the area from the Bodleian Library archives. These maps show quite vividly the ponds and streams that existed in the 19th century. We hope to use the maps as the basis of a local pond survey. We are also working on a survey of recent woodland planting.

Lastly, the owners of one or two local pastures need stock to graze them. If you know someone who is looking for grazing for their cows please let me know.

If you are interested in helping in any of these activities, or have any other suggestions, do please give me a call, or contact the **Wychwood Project** on:

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