

A Brief History...



In 1985 an area of natural woodland known as the Sparkford Hill Copse was available to purchase. Local residents, headed by Major K Crawford of Weston Bampfylde and Mrs Barbara Cottier of Sparkford, took immediate action to acquire this attractive copse so as to keep it as an amenity for inhabitants of the nearby villages. Thus the Sparkford Copse Trust was formed.

In 1995 another area of privately owned woodland was put on the market - part of what is known locally as Ridge Copse, in the parish of Queen Camel. Action was taken to purchase this land so as to manage it on the same lines as Sparkford Hill Copse and ensuring that it remained as woodland. It is approached by Gason Lane and a footpath from the A303, and also from the A359 via a signposted footpath immediately opposite the entrance to Sparkford Hill Lane.

As the year 2000 approached, the committee was hoping to acquire a suitable piece of land to plant with broadleaf trees to mark the Millennium. Fortunately in 1998 a four acre pasture field on Sparkford Hill Lane was offered for sale, between the Lane and the water treatment plant – and the Trust succeeded in raising the money to buy the land. After much planning, the field was planted in 1999 with some 1200 trees by local volunteers who provided the money for the trees, stakes, shelters and mulch mats at £3 a tree. This is known as Millennium Copse. The following year another smaller area of land on the other side of the Lane was bought and planted in the same way – in fact it is shown on old maps as a continuation of the original quarry from which Sparkford Hill Copse developed. This is now known as Wyvern Copse.

So the Trust now owns four parcels of land, managed by a Committee. Contact is maintained with the Forestry Authority, the Woodland Trust and other organisations, and advice is sought on their management to fulfil the constitutional objectives. The land is open to all who wish to enjoy their natural amenities - to observe the wildlife, use the picnic facilities or just admire the splendid views.

Funds to support the activities of the Trust are raised through membership subscriptions.

Annual Membership (per household)	£5.00
Life Membership (per person)	£30.00

For further details contact the Sparkford Copse Trust Membership Secretary on 01963 440878