

The Establishment of FOLK

Mar 1993 – First Site Management Plan drawn up for Leckhampton Hill 1992-1993 by John Doe of Gloucestershire Wildlife Management Ltd on behalf Gloucestershire Trust for the Conservation of Wildlife, with acknowledgements to Geoff Jenkins, Leckhampton Hill Countryside Ranger, Dr Guy Meredith, Gloucestershire Butterfly Recorder, Dr Colin Studholme, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Dr Mike Wilkinson, Conservation Officer English Nature. The Plan covered: Year 1 – 1993/94; Year 2 – 1994/95; Year 3 – 1995/96; Year 4 – 1996/97; Year 5 – 1997/98. This was the Plan which was never fully implemented because of lack of resources and led to a series of reviews and meetings commencing in 1998-2000, which resulted in the formation of FOLK.

Feb/Mar 1995 – Survey undertaken by B T Griffin, Land Management Consultant for ADAS Environmental concerning proposed grazing of Charlton Kings Common. Report produced, but nothing further.

23 Sep 1998 – Walk/tour of Hill and Common organised by Nick Eden, with independent experts from Countryside Exchange (American) in attendance to review management of the site.

24 Sep 1998 – Presentation by Countryside Exchange to a meeting at Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation HQ, sponsored by Cotswold AONB. National Trust, Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation, Cotswold Hills ESA and English Nature. Attended by 70/80 people.

31 Dec 1998 – Report in Echo of residents' protests about CBC announcement to lease 9.7 acres off Daisybank Road to the Woodland Trust for 999 years, for the 'Woodlands on your doorstep' scheme.

25 Jan 1999 – Public Meeting at Municipal Offices, chaired by Cllr Ken Buckland, attended by about 80 people. Those present included Simon Lee, Nick Eden, representative of Woodland Trust, Tim Byng, Head of Property Services and members of the public who later went on to form the core of FOLK. Also revealed at the meeting was a plan to sell off the historic Tramway Cottage, which was part of the site. Following protests that the correct procedures for disposal had not been followed, this part of the plan was dropped for the time being.

16 Sep 1999 – Public Meeting in Leckhampton Village Hall, attended by over 200 people, including Mark Connolly, of Cotswold AONB and Nick Eden.

6 Mar 2000 – Public Meeting in Leckhampton Primary School, attended by around 250 people. Agreed to set up a Friends Group to support CBC's management of the site and elected a Steering Committee to draw up a constitution for the new Friends Group.

2 May 2000 – First meeting of Steering Group, which agreed to Julius Marstrand drawing up the draft constitution. Following a series of Steering Group meetings the draft constitution of the Friends of Leckhampton Hill & Charlton Kings Common (FOLK) was put to the first General Meeting in July. That meeting also elected the first Steering Committee of FOLK, including Julius Marstrand (Chairman), Jack Shepherd (Secretary), Guy Meredith, Judith Frazer-Holland, Ann North and others, pending the first formal Annual General Meeting in November.