

Stogursey Parish Circuit Woodlands and Orchards

Proposed:

To buy or lease lane-side strips for the planting of trees to fragment and screen the views of the industrial development at Hinkley Point. These will serve to make the lanes attractive to residents and visitors for walking, cycling and riding and encourage those on foot to explore the footpaths.

The trees would be planted not only as staggered avenues but also as clumps to extend the depth of the landscape.

To buy land at Shurton and Burton as identified fields, and land at other points (Wick and Stolford) if possible and desirable, for the planting of woodlands and orchards.

Rationale:

The initial effect of the planting would be to improve the immediate surroundings of the hamlets and give the residents hope for the future, a landscape focus other than that of the construction works. The ultimate effect would be to enhance the amenity of the main village and its hamlets.

The planting would help conceptually to unite the settlements, which would be of social and economic benefit in the face of present disintegrating forces, and would be a source of employment, enterprise and leisure activity.

Both woodlands and orchards would enhance the bio-diversity of the area, compensate to some degree for the works at the Point, and form a coherent and contiguous landscape feature with the future re-landscaping of Hinkley C.

Uses to which the woodlands and orchards could be put include:

- Bee-keeping and the sale of honey and honeycomb
- Coppicing and the sale of bean-poles and kindling
- Cosmetics made using bee product, herbs and wildflowers, lanolin etc
- Dyed products made using plants grown in the woods, and wool grown on the sheep

- Education
- Fruit growing and the sale of fruit, jams, jellies, chutneys, pies, cider and juices
- Mistletoe growing (if successfully encouraged) and the sale of same
- Poultry-keeping and the sale of eggs
- Selective felling and re-planting and the sale of the wood
- Sheep grazing and the sale of woollen products
- Walking and riding along paths throughout
- Wildflowers and the sale of seeds, plants and cuttings