

4 LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The longer term

As the proposals contained in this plan get under way, thoughts will begin to be given to longer-term possibilities, and among these an obvious example is to consider the re-introduction of grazing stock to help maintain the grassland interest.

The difficulties (and indeed undesirability) of adopting too ambitious a programme under this heading, not least on common land, were highlighted in my earlier report of 1995 which focused mainly on Naphill Common. But the use of goats or ponies might well be quite feasible and the concept would be worth pursuing. In any case, as the period covered by this Plan runs its course, its progress will have been monitored as indicated in Project I, and there should be plenty of ideas on how best to continue. These should form the nub of any plan for the following decade.

4.2 Concluding comments

I hope that this Plan provides a realistic framework for a rewarding and effective programme of conservation management for Down 1 ey Common.

4.3 Acknowledgements

It has been most useful to be able to build on the original ideas worked out between DCPS and the West Wycombe Estate, and a great pleasure working with DCPS members during the preparation of this more ambitious Plan. I am especially grateful to Norman Belson and John Willson for their fascinating background information and their kind hospitality.

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C.J. SMITH

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