



# Halesworth Millennium Green Trust

## Policy on the introduction of plants

### INTRODUCTION

The management of the Green aims to identify and encourage stable and self-maintaining wildlife populations. There is little dispute that *non-native* species can be a critical threat to the maintenance of such populations and the Trust has no difficulty in resisting their deliberate introduction. The situation with proposals to introduce *native* species is not so straightforward.

**Existing species:** the Management Plan identifies the key species in each compartment of the Green. These are monitored according to the regime set out in the Monitoring Spreadsheet. Management is carried according to the Objectives set out for each compartment.

### County Wildlife Site designations:

1. An area of spring fed marsh in Folly Meadow - as a habitat that has suffered a dramatic decline with the drainage and application of herbicides and pesticides with the agricultural intensification following the Second World War.
2. The Folly - for its acid grassland habitats (also significant is a population of Brown Argus butterfly).
3. The New Reach - for its submerged and emergent floristic interest (also significant are dragonfly species and bats)

It is acknowledged that many native *trees* have been introduced onto the Green both in specified areas and individually: orchard, hedgerow and woodland trees, the Latitude poplar, commemorative trees in Blyth Meadow etc. Trustees have resisted requests to introduce native *floral* species e.g. by wildflower seed sowing.

### Hazards of introduction

- Species apparently native but not rigorously selected (e.g. some "wildflower" seed packets)
- Unintended importing of minute non-native or invasive material (e.g. duck weed)
- Unintended invasive impact of native species (e.g. water soldier in Folly dyke)

### POLICY

1. Floral Species
  - Existing populations should be augmented by appropriate management techniques but not with newly introduced seed sources.
  - Existing populations which disappear or which are thought to be desirable in any particular location may be re/introduced by movement from elsewhere on the Green.
2. Tree Species
  - Any introductions must be of native species and from a source approved by Trustees.
  - Introductions should serve an identified management objective.