



## Introductions Policy

- 1 The Trust recognises that the introduction of plants and animals has an important role in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity but believes that natural processes are preferable if practical.
- 2 Introductions should be of known provenance, where practical from local sources. Non-local material should only be used after consideration of any effect on existing biodiversity and when native alternatives are not available.
- 3 Before introductions are carried out on any site, a survey of existing wildlife should be completed. The likely effects of introduction on existing features should be assessed.
- 4 Where native plants or animals are transferred from one site to another, the effects of such transfer on the donor site needs at least as much consideration as that on the recipient site.
- 5 Re-introduction of rare or scarce taxa to sites where they have become locally extinct should only be attempted where the cause of the extinction is understood and has been reversed. This will require considerable knowledge of the ecology of the taxa concerned.
- 6 All introductions of native taxa other than common ones (new hedgerow trees etc) should be fully documented in a way that is easily accessible. For scarce taxa the data should be lodged with Worcestershire Biological Records Centre. Where methods such as hay-strewing are used, details of the donor sites should be noted.
- 7 The effects of introductions should be monitored. The level of monitoring will vary according to the type of introduction, ranging from simple success or failure for the most trivial examples to long-term population studies for the introduction or re-introduction of national rarities.
- 8 Introductions, translocations etc should conform with The Wildlife Trust's existing policy.

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