

Protection of bluebells on campus

Proposer: Karl Phillips (BIO PG)

Seconded: Rosie Earwaker (Conservation & Wildlife)

Union notes:

- 1) That the woods on the UEA campus support a substantial population of common bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*).
- 2) That the common bluebell is a native UK species and is protected under UK law (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 8).
- 3) That across Britain, populations of common bluebell are being threatened by hybridisation with and competition with the introduced Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), a common garden species.
- 4) That Spanish bluebell is extensively planted on campus.

Union believes:

- 1) That common bluebells and bluebell woods are iconic parts of the British countryside.
- 2) That these countryside icons are threatened by an introduced species.
- 3) That due to the nation supporting approximately 70% of the world's wild common bluebell population, the UK and its citizens have a duty of care to the common bluebell.
- 4) That an institution that prides itself on its environmental credentials should not plant Spanish bluebells at all, let alone in close proximity to large populations of common bluebell.

Union resolves:

- 1) To write to the Estates department asking that no further Spanish bluebells be planted on campus.
- 2) To ask Estates to remove all existing Spanish bluebells from campus. Student volunteers could readily be involved in this.
- 3) To continue to pester Estates if they do not remove existing Spanish bluebells from campus, citing widespread concern about Spanish bluebells, scientific evidence that this is a legitimate threat process, and the important role this could play in boosting the campus's environmental credentials.
- 4) To discuss with Estates the planting of alternative plants where bluebells have been removed.

Passed 31/4/11