

## **Recent planting of non-native trees spoils Ancient Woodland**

Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust (**BHCCAT**) works in partnership with, among others, Manchester City Council (**MCC**) the landowner of Boggart Hole Clough (**BHC**).

BHC contains Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (**ASNW**) and is a Local Nature Reserve (**LNR**).

Twenty non-native trees (saplings averaging about 11 feet high) were planted on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in the south-east area of the Lakeside at BHC under the direction of Joe Walsh (MCC Arboricultural Officer) disregarding the 11.2.2011 MCC / BHCCAT consultation meeting's decision against the planting of these trees.

The planting of these non-native trees diminishes the nature conservation value of the ASNW / LNR and flouts the 'BHC Biodiversity Management Plan' (Ecology Services UK Ltd, 2007), adopted by MCC & BHCCAT (this plan can be seen on our website), which states:

"...the introduction of non-native or locally uncharacteristic species... has actually led to a reduction in the biodiversity value of the semi-natural woodland..." Page 8.

"High proportion of non-native species in some areas as a result of past planting schemes has led to a reduction in value of semi-natural woodland habitat..." Page 14.

**"The greatest benefit to biodiversity at BHC would be to manage all woodland so that it maintains or develops characteristics of locally native semi-natural woodland. This is particularly important as the site has been identified as an Ancient Woodland site...** The factors contributing to the unfavourable condition of the woodland at BHC are currently a high proportion of non-native tree and shrub species within the woodlands as well as patches of invasive non-native species... The best benefit for biodiversity conservation would be to manage all woodland areas to increase their natural woodland characteristics..." Page 16.

The 20 non-native trees recently planted, as gleaned from the labels (recording their scientific classification) attached to them, are as follows:

- 5 x *Metasequoia Glyptostroboides* - Dawn Redwood: 1949 introduced from China.
- 3 x *Quercus Palustris* – Pin Oak: 1800 introduced from North America.
- 2 x *Quercus Frainetto* – Hungarian Oak: 1830s introduced from Balkans.
- 2 x *Malus Hupehensis* – Hubei / Tea Crab Apple: 1900 introduced from East Asia.
- 1 x *Gleditsia Triacanthos* Sunburst – Golden Honey Locust: 1950s introduced from North America.
- 1 x *Prunus Shirofugen* – Flowering Cherry: early 1900s introduced from Japan.
- 1 x *Prunus Shimidsu Sakura* – Flowering Cherry: early 1900s introduced from Japan.
- 1 x *Prunus Shirotae* – Mount Fuji Flowering Cherry: early 1900s introduced from Japan.
- 1 x *Prunus Serrulata* Kanzan / Kwansan – Flowering Cherry: 1913 introduced from Japan.
- 1 x *Prunus Accolade* – Flowering Cherry: 1940s cultivated from *Prunus Sargentii* introduced from Japan.
- 1 x *Prunus Okame* – Flowering Cherry: 1940s cultivated from *Prunus Incisa* introduced from Japan.
- 1 x *Prunus Serrulata* Royal Burgundy - Flowering Cherry: introduced from Japan.

Please see our website for further BHCCAT documents related to this matter e.g. 'Lakeside flora proposals' (9.2.2011) and 'Minutes of 11.2.2011 meeting re Lakeside flora proposals' (19.2.2011).