Current Management

The 22 hectare (54 acre) Local Nature Reserve was set up by the landowners and Suffolk County Council in 1987 to protect wildlife and to maintain the site's landscape character. Since 1970 a committee has met twice a year to monitor management against a ten year plan.

Priorities include:

- *Manage the woodlands affected by Dutch elm disease and the 1987 storm
- *Increase the area of acid heath
- *Cut or graze the wet meadows
- *Control scrub
- *Manage hedges
- *Enhance streams, ponds and ditches

Management is funded and carried out by the landowners - helped by Suffolk County Council and other individuals.

Habitats

Six main habitats are found on the different soils:

*Acid grass-heath is dominated by bent grasses and fescues, with sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw

and harebell as well as mosses and lichens. It is the only heathland left in south-west Suffolk.

*Wetter slopes, where great horsetail and golden saxifrage can be found below an alder-dominated canopy.

*Woodland is found mostly on the drier sandy ground; it is mainly oak, hazel and ash but als contains stands of wild cherry and sweet chestnut, with birch around the margins.

Wormingford

