



## **GRANT ALLOWS RESTORATION OF WOODLAND**

A grant of £25,000 given to the Woodland Trust by the Sita Trust, has allowed the restoration of Pontburn Wood, close to Consett in the Derwentside Valley. It extends to more than 270 acres and is the largest site of its kind in the region.

The wood provides a haven for threatened species and is a resource which is difficult, if not impossible, to be replaced.

The award will allow restoration of parts of the wood, and work is expected to begin in autumn and will continue over the next three years.

Laura Judson, of the Woodland Trust has said "Pontburn Woods are already a very special place and this work will ensure they get better. Ancient woodland deserves our protection and where we can, through a programme of conifer removal, our restoration programme will see much improvement, but it will be a gradual process".

John Leaver, chairman of Sita Trust has said "it is very exciting to be able to fund a project of this scale where we can see such an improvement to biodiversity in such a short space of time".

*Taken from Derwentside Advertiser w/e 22/09/07*