

## **Exciting times: The birth of a new woodland**

12 acres of conifer plantation are being felled in the late summer of 2005 to improve the ecological condition of Holyford Woods.

Few British plants or animals are able to thrive in artificial evergreen plantation, and it was always part of the English Nature approved Local Nature Reserve management plan for this area of trees to be felled.

A few of the conifers are being left to provide a physical wind-break for the established broadleaf trees that abut the plantation, however in the main the evergreens will be removed.

This process will have a short-term visual impact upon the woodland, and may cause some inconvenience for people who regularly use the Local Nature Reserve. However, the long-term effect for the woodland will be hugely beneficial, as the native plants and animals will be able to re-colonise the area, increasing the size of habitat for which this woodland is justifiably recognised – native broadleaf woodland.

No tree planting will take place in the freshly felled area. Rather, the native flora and fauna will be allowed to regenerate naturally allowing natural succession to take place and, ultimately, producing a much more diverse woodland as a consequence.

Thank you for your understanding in this issue.