

## **Edible Landscapes.**

Located in the Great North Forest, South Tyneside, Edible Landscapes is a two year project to research, preserve and promote traditional varieties of fruit trees once grown locally by Gateshead nursery W.Falla, who provided most of the area's fruit trees in the early 1800s.

Volunteers are propagating and planting traditional fruit trees, some of which were uniquely cultivated for the region. The trees grown by the project will be used to create both woodland plantations and fruiting hedges, forming an edible walk where the public can pick fruit. The varieties of fruit trees being planted include apples, gooseberries, medlars, pears and gages.

Countryside Volunteers South Tyneside (formerly the South Tyneside Action Group) are a voluntary community group that works to improve the environment of South Tyneside Great North Forest area.

Since 1992 their volunteers have planted thousands of trees, managed a diverse array of habitats, and been involved in many projects to promote and enhance the local countryside. The group holds regular Apple Day events to raise awareness and encourage participation in the project.

The LHI grant allowed specialist adviser support, purchase of rootstock and scions, collected and grafted by volunteers. The group will maintain the trees in future years.