

*Boggart Hole Clough
Nature Conservation Group & Wildlife Gardening Club*



18 July 2004

During 2004 we finished eradicating invasive Rhododendron from the top half of **Middle Clough** thus allowing natural regeneration/recolonization of native woodland flora and fauna. This photo shows several members in Middle Clough moving a large Silver Birch uprooted by Rhododendron Ponticum and toppled by gale force winds. The Birch unfortunately landed on top of the Rhododendron which dislodged it. We wanted to retain the felled Birch intact as a natural woodland feature. Eventually we dragged the Birch several feet which exposed the allelopathic/toxic Rhododendron roots enabling us to dig them out. We will supplement natural regeneration where necessary, e.g. to ameliorate ravine-side erosion we intend sowing some areas with Bird's-Foot-Trefoil, Betony and Lady's Bedstraw wildflower seeds. Holly is the main evergreen replacement for eradicated invasive Rhododendron. In the years ahead a selection of deciduous indigenous trees e.g. Silver Birch, Hazel, Oak, Maple, Alder, Rowan, Willow, Lime and Hawthorn will be planted if such trees are not naturally regenerating.

Restoring Boggart Hole Clough Ancient Woodland Biodiversity