To find out more about the project, and how your school can become involved in planting its own arboretum, contact:

Pennine Edge Forest, Rochdale Council
PO Box 32, Telegraph House
Baillie Street
Rochdale, OL16 1JH. Tel: 01706 924234
Email: pef@rochdale.gov.uk

Pennine Edge Forest is a community woodland and environmental regeneration partnership between Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport and Tameside Councils with the Forestry Commission, United Utilities, BTCV and Groundwork. The partnership are working together to deliver new woodland planting and to transform undermanaged and neglected woodland into well maintained habitats to provide a green gateway to the region, rich in recreational opportunity, visual attraction and biodiversity.
A school arboretum is a mini woodland planted within a school's ground, which is used to both diversify and improve the school environment, and also as an educational resource to enable school children to explore and experience nature.

Within Rochdale, Pennine Edge Forest has been working with schools throughout the borough to plant arboretums within their grounds. The schools were able to choose the tree species which they felt would most enhance their grounds and link to national curriculum study, from a number of themes.

**Arboretum themes**

There are many different trees which grow well throughout the Pennine Edge Forest area, some of which are native to the area, and some of which have particular significance, for both cultural or historic reasons. Through a School Arboretum, schools can enhance their links to the natural environment, by choosing trees on a particular theme.

**The Themes**

- **Native trees:**
  - ie: those which have grown in the UK since the last ice age;

- **All year round interest trees:**
  - which by virtue of bark, flowers or seeds add interest to every season of the year

- **Heritage trees:**
  - which relate to the rich cultural heritage of the Southern Pennines and add something to the local area through links with industry etc., or

- **Fruit trees:**
  - which link to the 5-a day project. The size of the arboretum varies from school to school, but typically could be between 5 and 10 trees, depending upon the area of land available for planting.

Included within the project are some environmental education activities linking the planting to the national curriculum and helping to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the natural environment.