



WORK DONE: Members of Bolton Conservation Volunteers after they finished restoring the orchards at Rivington Ornamental Gardens

Group's plum restoration job finished at Rivington Gardens

ONE of Bolton's landmarks has been restored to its original glory, thanks to help from volunteers.

Bolton Conservation Volunteers have been helping United Utilities restore orchards in Rivington.

The 400 acres of Rivington

Ornamental Gardens was built by Lord Leverhulme in the late 1800s and gifted to the people of Bolton.

In 1902 an Act of Parliament gave Liverpool Corporation responsibility for the management of the site and its maintenance.

By 1947, all of the site's buildings had been

demolished and the gardens started to decline. Now, responsibility for the gardens maintenance lies with United Utilities, which wants to return them to their former glory, and part of this involves restoring Lord Leverhulme's orchards. Rick Parker, chairman

Bolton Conservation Volunteers, said: "We began working on the garden's orchards in November 2006.

"At that time the orchards were over-run with brambles, rushes and weeds with only one or two fruit tree remaining. "United Utilities

researched and sourced the original species of apple, pear and plum trees that once grew on the site and, with our help, reinstated them.

"After four years of weeding, mulching and planting, the orchards are now returning back to their original condition."