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Firm in tree felling storm

ONE of the most prestigious firms in the Stroud area has denied claims it unnecessarily felled an area of woodland near its factory.

A spokesman for the Bentley piano company at Woodchester said a number of trees had to be axed because they were found to be in poor condition.

But protestors claimed workmen at the firm were axing more trees than they needed to.

"One of the neighbours described the scene when the work was finished as devastation," said Bernard Fletcher of Stroud Job Creation.

He claimed a tender for the work put forward by his group would have led to fewer trees being cut down.

But Bentley director and secretary, Peter Freake, said the trees were in worse condition than originally thought and had to be axed.

Stroud District Council conservation officer, Roy Vallis, backed the felling: "When I visited the site I was able to confirm that the contractors had taken the correct course of action," he
id.