

Borders Forest Trust Staff Profiles

Willie McGhee, BFT Director

Willie is a forester who has worked with the Trust since its formation in 1996. He graduated from Edinburgh University with a degree in Ecological Science and Honours in Forestry and has worked in UK and international forestry since 1990 and in the environmental sector since 1988. He is currently a non executive Director of Woodschool, the Tweed Forum, and BioClimate Research and Development Ltd. and is a Trustee serving with the Scottish Forestry Trust and Scottish Power's Green Energy Trust.

Nicola Hunt, Projects Manager

Nicola joined the Trust team in 2001 as the projects assistant. Now as Projects Manager, she is now responsible for the general day to day running of the Trust and the development and delivery of projects. Originally from Hamilton, Nicola moved to Edinburgh to study Ecological Science at the University. From there she worked in a number of jobs including as a ranger in West Lothian before moving to the Borders in 2000 to a mammal research position.

Lisa Brydon, Community Woodlands Officer

Lisa, a local Borders person joined the trust in June 2008 as the new Community Woodland Officer. Lisa graduated from Edinburgh University with a degree and honours in Ecological Sciences. Lisa previously worked for the RSPB in the Tweed Valley as their Osprey information assistant and has a keen interest in wildlife and conservation at both home and abroad.

George Moffat, Woodland Officer

George's involvement with the Trust stemmed from being a volunteer at Wooplaw Community Woodland. He then went on to study conservation management whilst working locally with land based companies before becoming Warden on Selkirk Hill. He joined the Trust in 1997 as Community Woodland Officer before moving onto ecological restoration within the riparian and ancient woodland project sites.

Anna Craigen, Community Liaison and Education Officer

Anna started out with the Trust in 2002 as a part-time Community Woodland Assistant and has since become the full-time Community Liaison and Education Officer. She graduated with a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Heriot Watt University and has experience in landscape design, property law and voluntary work in the conservation sector.

Sandra Smith-Maxwell, Finance Officer

Sandra joined the Trust in January 2006, having gained and HND in Business Management at Heriot Watt University in 2001.

Louisa Finch, Administrative Assistant

Louisa Finch joined the Trust in January 2009, working part-time to provide administrative support and cover press and marketing activities. Louisa has worked as a freelance journalist for the last five years, and was previously a staff writer at The Scotsman. A keen gardener and conservation volunteer, she is currently studying Countryside Management via distance learning with the Scottish Agricultural College.

Bridie Ashrowan, Fundraising Manager

Bridie joined BFT as their Fundraising Manager in October 2008. This is a new post and Bridie's experience includes founding the drug and alcohol charity, Open Road, fundraising at the youth volunteering charity, ProjectScotland and most recently Woodland Trust Scotland. Her wider work experience includes work in business and social enterprise. Her main role in the Trust is work with Members, Charitable Trusts and the wider community on income for Borders Forest Trust, through donations and legacies.

Staff Changes 2008/9

There were a number of staff changes during 2008 and early 2009. Hugh Chalmers left the role of Site Manager at BFT in late 2008 to take up a new post at Tweed Forum. Claire Doig, formerly Marketing and Communications Officer, re-located with her family to New Zealand at the end of 2008. Funding for the Green Grounds project reached an end in spring 2009, resulting in the loss of the Green Grounds Project and Education Officer filled by Diane Bennett. Following this Diane is working on a contract to deliver an Ancient Tree Hunt project in partnership with the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland.