



The Borders Forest Trust ...

... rooted in the community

You are here: [home/projects/school grounds](http://www.bordersforesttrust.org/projects/school_grounds)

[Conservation Community](#) [Economy](#) [Map](#)

Education

The Education project aims to co-ordinate innovative environmental education, interpretation and awareness raising activities. The project promotes school grounds environmental improvement projects, community Arts in the Woods projects, the creative use of local hardwoods (the Butts to Benches project) and the production of educational information.

School Grounds

Borders Forest Trust works to encourage, support and assist schools to improve their grounds for the benefits of children, for both playing and learning, and for wildlife. Through making environmental improvements, school grounds become more stimulating and enriched areas which can be used for education across the curriculum and encourage more creative and constructive play.

Pupils are highly involved in the projects from the beginning, in the planning and fundraising stages through to the practical activities such as tree planting and creation and maintenance of wildlife gardens.

The success of the projects comes through the hard work, support and working partnerships of the many groups and individuals including pupils, staff, parents, the Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and Outdoor Education Department, Community Service and the Scottish Wildlife Trust conservation teams.

Financial support is crucial to the accomplishment of these projects and comes from a wide variety of sources. Scottish Natural Heritage has been a major financial supporter of this and other educational projects particularly in funding BFT staff time to support the project. Other financial assistance has come from PTS and school fundraising, Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust, Scottish Power RuralCare, Border Tree Grant Scheme, BT Grounds for the Future, Scottish Borders Council Landfill Tax credit scheme, Volvo and the SWT Better Place project.

To date BFT have been involved with the development of 35 school ground projects in nursery, primary and secondary schools. Examples of projects include creating wildlife gardens and ponds, woodland and wildlife trails, sensory, seasonal and special needs gardens, hedge planting, mural painting and outdoor classrooms.

Arts in the Woods

Borders Forest Trust has co-ordinated 2 large Arts in the Woods projects - Woodlands in Time and Seeds in Time, which encouraged people to access and enjoy local woods, and celebrate the nature and value of our woodland heritage.

A partnership of artists and community groups participated in "Woodland in Time" to create Beasts of the Forest, an evening



theatre and film production and the Whitaker Sculpture Project, a series of woodland sculpture and artworks, trash music, drama, poetry and storytelling performances in the summer of 1997.

Seeds in Time involved a series of creative partnerships between artists, scientists and community groups who explored the woodland environment through storytelling, sculpture and photography workshops which culminated in the Forest Lights woodland performance in the summer of 1999.

Butts to Benches

The Butts to Benches project promoted the imaginative use of local hardwoods to create benches and play structures in school grounds, parks and other public spaces. The project brought together school and community groups to work with crafts people using local timber to demonstrate the natural beauty of using wood from native hardwood trees, such as oak or elm.

The project resulted in the creation of some amazing structures including a dolphin bench at Caddonfoot primary school, a red squirrel bench at Trinity primary school, leaf shaped benches Wilton primary school and benches at Hutton Kirk made from the limbs of a 300 year old cherry tree which was felled in a storm.

Education Information

Borders Forest Trust has been involved with the production of educational packs and resources for primary school across the Borders including the School Grounds Education pack which encourages schools to use their grounds for environmental studies and the Woodlands Pack which provides material for woodland education.



[Home Help Sitemap](#)

Borders Forest Trust, Monteviot Nurseries, Ancrum, Jedburgh, TD8 6TU Tel.- 01835 830 750 Fax.
- 01835 830 760

Email - enquiries@bordersforesttrust.org

Com
Charit