



# The Borders Forest Trust ... ... rooted in the community

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## Tweed valley community woodlands

The Tweed Valley Woodlands are a partnership project involving BFT, Forest Enterprise (FE) and the local communities. The aim of this project being to bring six FE owned woodlands in the Tweed Valley area into conservation management, improving biodiversity, whilst increasing public access, recreation and community involvement, in the decision making and management issues concerning the woods.

The woodlands (Janet's Brae, Eshiels, Caddonbank, Plora, Glenkinnon and Lindinny) cover approximately 150 hectares and vary from small, ecologically important semi-natural woods to large, heavily used amenity woods along the River Tweed.

A Joint Management Board (JMB) was established in 1999 to ensure that there was a successful integration of conservation management with community involvement. Members include staff from BFT and FE and representatives from local communities, who have worked together to deliver appropriate sustainable management strategies for the woodlands.

Five year management plans have been produced for each of the woods and woodland restructuring and management operations have taken place at Lindinny and Eshiels and are imminent for Plora and Janet's Brae. At Eshiels work has also been undertaken to create and maintain paths, install benches and picnic tables, upgrade styles and removing invasive scrub species.

One of the public access elements of the project involves linking the town of Peebles to Glentress Forest via a path through Eshiels and Janet's Brae Community Woodlands. Once this is completed it will hopefully encourage more visitors to Borders woodlands and will be a valuable addition to existing FE access trails.

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