

Sarah Brown

BSc (Hons) Geology/Geography (Earth Science)

e-mail: sb@benholden.net

Position – Consultancy Manager

Ipswich, Suffolk

Career Experience & History Summary

Sarah qualified with a degree in Earth Science from The University of Birmingham in 1997. This was followed by a period of short-term employment with Midland Bank (Now HSBC) before embarking on an around the world backpacking trip of a lifetime where she travelled mainly through Southeast Asia and Australia. Whilst in Sydney she ended up temping for Qantas Airways at what was then called Mascot International Airport and recalls the thrill of watching Concorde land not long before the plane was taken out of service.



Upon her return to the UK, she continued to temp in various office positions before landing an assistant geotechnical/site investigation engineer role. In 2004 she moved to a large international engineering company with an office near Ipswich and took on the role of Geotechnical/Site Investigation Engineer. Site work predominantly involved investigation of the underlying geology, groundwater and ground gas conditions of both greenfield and brownfield sites and presenting the findings in a report with recommendations on foundation design. Where contamination was evident, recommendations were made on categorising the waste along with its appropriate disposal and if necessary, a plan for site remediation. During this time, she was a member of the British Geological Society. Following the office relocation, Sarah moved to another large international company with an office based in Newmarket, namely Arcadis UK Ltd. Here she was the Project Manager within the Exxon team managing site investigations of Esso petrol filling stations nationwide as they progressed through planning as part of their redevelopment.

Following the financial crash in 2008 the industry was eventually affected and resulted in her redundancy in late 2010. At this time Sarah found herself enjoying spending some time with her young family having always worked full-time. However, this was to not be for long as she then met Ben in December 2010 and began working for Ben Holden Ltd part-time. Sarah enjoyed the opportunity of a career change and the new flexible working it provided and soon began working full time working her way up to Consultancy Manager.

In addition, since 2003, Sarah assisted her husband in setting up and managing their own School Photography Company and continues to be a director. Also, during this period, they operated their own photography studio for over 7 years. At the start of the pandemic, her husband took the opportunity for a career change and as such the company has since merged enabling Sarah to have much more free time.

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Instead, Sarah now uses this time to volunteer for Anglia Care Trust as an Appropriate Adult (AA) supporting vulnerable adults, children and young people whilst in custody following their arrest. Sarah finds this role extremely interesting and rewarding.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

To maintain high standards of service by our team members, Ben Holden Ltd provides regular in-house training and attendance of annual statutory and mandatory refreshers. As part of CPD, members regularly attend external events/courses. All staff are subject to regular supervision and mentoring sessions.

Sarah has completed various training through her role as an Appropriate Adult (AA) as well as being the qualified First Aider at Work for Ben Holden Ltd.

Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) – Enhanced Certificate

To remain up to date and enable regular annual rechecks our team members are all registered with the online Update Service

Employment History

December 2010 – Current

Ben Holden Ltd – Suffolk, UK
Consultancy Manager

April 2008 to November 2010

Arcadis (UK) Ltd
Environmental Senior Consultant – Project Manager

May 2004 to March 2008

Jacobs UK Ltd
Geotechnical/Site Investigation Engineer & EMS Co-ordinator (ISO14001)

August 2001 to August 2003

RSA Geotechnics Ltd
Assistant Geotechnical/Site Investigation Engineer

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Voluntary Role

October 2020 - Current

Anglia Care Trust

Appropriate Adult

Personal Summary

Sarah loves walking and regularly takes out her two dogs, one being a 'not so' miniature sausage dog and the other a scruffy terrier of unknown origin that she rescued from Battersea dogs home in 2017. With a grown up family, her dogs have become her new children and a very spoilt!

Sarah and her husband also enjoy camping weekends in their self-converted campervan, although they don't get away as often as they would like. With the photography background, each trip away becomes a competition between her and her husband to capture the best snap.

As a teenager of the 90's, Sarah continues to love dance music and finds herself regularly Shazaming a tune she might hear somewhere and adding these to her increasing Spotify playlists.

Sarah has an interest in criminal law and has found her voluntary work as an Appropriate Adult extremely interesting and rewarding.

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