

Generations of STEM: Sophie Wilson

Computer Scientist

It's very likely that the technology you're using to read this biography right now is made possible by the processor developed by Sophie Wilson. Born in England, Sophie studied computer science at the University of Cambridge. One of her school projects was an embedded system for an automatic cow feeder. That work led to her



project at Acorn Computers designing the Acorn Mini-Computer. While at Acorn, she also extended the Acorn Atom's BASIC programming language leading to the BBC Microcomputer. Sophie led the development of BBC Basic for many years.

Later in her career, Sophie designed the instruction set for the Acorn RISC Machine, known as the ARM processor. This processor is in many of the things we use today including cell phones, speakers and the Roomba® robot vacuum. ARM is the most successful embedded processor architecture in the world, as they are small, powerful, and low-cost. Over 130 billion of them have been produced as of 2019!

While assigned male at birth, she transitioned later in life. Sophie continues to work today in the industry with technology affecting our daily life. Her hobbies include photography and creating costumes and set pieces for a local theater group.

Image Source: [Wikipedia, Chris Monk](#) Information Sources: [Computer History Museum](#), [Medium](#), [Wikipedia](#)