

Project Profiles



Hadrian's Wall Welcome



Uplands Micro Hydro



Horse Power for Ability



Humshaugh Village Shop



Introduction

Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group is hosted by its lead Partner the Northumberland National Park Authority. Funding is made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union, and is managed by Defra in North East England. It specifically funds projects which it believes will create sustainable development in rural areas.

Northumberland Uplands Collaborative Woodfuel Support

Leader funding enabled a three pronged approach to support the wood fuel sector in the Northumberland Uplands.



First on the 16th October 2011 Leader funding enabled Northwoods to organise the first ever Northumberland Firewood Fair. A total of £6,059.93 in 224 lots of wood were sold under the hammer with 778 people through the gates. This is a first for the North of England, an innovative method of connecting woodfuel suppliers and consumers; an auction of woodfuel, supplied by local woodfuel suppliers.

Second Northwoods are working intensively with six woodfuel supply businesses to assist them to gain accreditation - the first 'set' of woodfuel supply businesses to achieve accreditation through collaboration in the UK.

And finally by creating educated and informed buyers through the publication of a Buyers' Guide, attendance at local shows and the use of 'woodfuel shops'

Leader Grant £32,125

Northumbria Basketry Group Phase 2

A transnational project with Swedish crafters, 10 Northumbria Basketry Group members travelled to a Joint Meeting in Sweden between 14th and 19th September 2011. The visit included a two day workshop/meeting and two days for site visits. Members learnt how to make many new willow items and spent a day leaning how to weave with birch bark. In June 2012 three Swedish crafters will return to the Northumberland Uplands with one day spent teaching young people at Glendale Children's Show, one day visiting Basket makers in the Highlands, one day visit to Somerset and a final willow and wool meeting. This is a real example of shared learning and co-operation.



Leader Grant £4,340

Hartburn Village Hall

The installation of Ground Source Heating into St Andrews Church, Hartburn, gives the Grade I listed building, a constantly warm environment on an economically sustainable basis. The church is the only community building available in the village and this project has enabled it to be used as a hub for the community. A range of activities are offered within the building, which are not currently available locally. These include cultural events, various clubs, playgroups and physical activities to improve the health especially of older residents. In this way the project seeks to enhance the social cohesion, cultural development and physical health of the community. It also helps to reduce social disadvantage by enabling the older and poorer sections of the community, who do not have transport, to access services locally.

Leader Grant £15,000

Selling the Soil



Leader funding has enabled Luk Luk Productions to make a 45 minute film to emphasise the importance of local farmers markets and their wider impact on communities. Farmers markets are renowned for their locally produced quality produce but also facilitate bringing local people together who are scattered far and wide over the rural landscape. The film follows farmers and customers.

Four local schools have taken part in workshops about farmers markets and their produce; Glendale Middle School, Wooler First School, Dr Tomlinson Middle School and Rothbury First School. Food producers and market organisers have interacted with the children during the workshops and the young people also feature in the film.



Leader Grant £6,000

Northumberland Young FireFighters



Recent recruits at the newly formed Wooler Branch

Leader funding has supported the Fire Services Youth Training Association, Northumberland Young Firefighters Association to establish three new branches in rural Northumberland based around fire stations in Rothbury, Wooler and Haltwhistle. These will each be supported by two Retained Firefighters (who live and work locally) and two trained young volunteers and will involve young people in decision making and planning.

Each branch will recruit 12 young people aged 13-18 through partner referrals. They will participate in a structured, accredited training programme, which leads to a Level 2 BTEC qualification in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Firefighting skills will be taught through weekly evening sessions and help build confidence and practical skills, as well as training around health and safety, nutrition, first aid, communications, problem solving and understanding anti-social behaviour. They will also get involved in county wide competitions and camps with other Northumberland branches. A further station in Amble has been funded by the Coast and Lowlands LAG.



Leader Grant £26,770

Coquettale Brewery

To establish a microbrewery within Rothbury thus reintroducing an industry back to the village after an absence of over 100 years whilst at the same time producing a viable ongoing and growing business on the back of a nationally increasing trend towards the consumption of 'real ales' produced by microbreweries.



The locally sourced prime ingredients in the real ales include water from the Simonside Hills and malted barley from Simpsons, the Northumberland-based maltsters.

Leader funding enabled the purchase of a brewing system including four fermentation vessels

Leader Grant £5,000

Wooler Youth Hostel

This project has two main aims. Firstly the project will directly improve what is on offer at Wooler Youth Hostel, providing more and different types of accommodation through the provision of en-suite accommodation and sleeping pods. Secondly the project will hopefully realise more income for the local development trust, Glendale Gateway Trust who reinvest surplus profit in community projects.



Wooler YHA as it currently looks



The project sets out to involve youth groups from the Wooler area in the development of the Youth Hostel. Young people will be involved in the delivery and installation of new sleeping pods. They will then go on and design, budget and hopefully install one more sleeping pod on their own.

Leader Grant £42,056

Greenhead Youth Club

Before Leader funding Greenhead Youth Club was producing sufficient income to finance two youth workers, who are assisted by two volunteers. There was however a long waiting list of young people in this isolated rural community wanting to join but new members could not be taken on without an increase in paid staff.

The Leader funding has been used to fund two additional youth workers for one year so that children on the waiting list can join. The Youth Club offers a forum to provide social skills and education for young people through talks from visiting groups such as the fire brigade. Subs and community fundraising will ensure the additional youth workers are kept on once Leader support ends.

Leader Grant £2,510

Bardon Mill Village Hall



Believed to be the country's first 'earth-sheltered' village hall the Northumberland Uplands Leader grant will contribute to this new build. The community led project will provide a centre for activities, whilst also complementing the natural environment.

Leader grant: £15,000

www.bardonmill-villagehall.co.uk

Gilsland Village Hall

Gilsland Village Hall is using a Northumberland Uplands Leader grant to ensure the building is insulated in preparation for the introduction of renewable energy sources. One of the green insulation solutions is 'Thermafleece' sheep's wool insulation which will be used between and over the rafters in the roof space. The building provides a critical focus for village life in an isolated part of rural Northumberland, twenty miles from both Carlisle and Hexham.



The hall is currently impossible to heat through the winter months because of its size and the height of its ceilings. Consequently, it is greatly underused. Many users opt to travel to cheaper, warmer and more comfortable venues elsewhere, despite having what is otherwise an excellent facility right on their doorstep. Despite this the village hall accommodates the village post office, a small library, public IT facilities and a venue for a wide range of social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

Leader grant: £18,500

www.gilsland.org.uk

Scarlett & the Spotty Dog



Rebecca Hedley has launched Scarlett and the Spotty Dog, a local cakery producing locally and ethically sourced specialist cakes and baked goods - offering something a little different to the market.



Rebecca's Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group grant supported the start up of her bakery by installing a commercial kitchen from which she can grow the business. It also supported the purchase of a delivery van to take deliveries to local shops and her stall to farmers markets.

Leader grant: £10,285

<http://scarlettandthespottedog.blogspot.com/>

Railway Carriage Exhibition & Tearoom



The Heritage Centre, Bellingham used their Northumberland Uplands Leader grant to purchase two Mark I Railway Carriages. These have been installed on the site of the original station platform at the Heritage Centre. One has been converted into a tearoom providing simple high quality homemade cakes/scones and light lunches. The second turned into an additional exhibition space exploring the impact railways have on the social and industrial heritage of the area together with the impact of their demise in rural Northumberland.

The centre employed an innovative approach to finding the right candidate to run the cafe; offering the facilities rent free for the first year to assist in encouraging a successful new business start up.

Leader grant: £39,486

www.bellingham-heritage.org.uk



Short Walks on St Cuthbert's Way

A cross-border cross-Leader area project by Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council was given funding to establish and promote of a series of short walks along the full length of St Cuthbert's Way.



The short walks provide new routes for local residents and community groups and enhance visitor numbers by offering an opportunity for day visitors and families to experience a 'taste of St Cuthbert's Way'. The walks are complemented by a guide book, map and branded products, which promote the area and local points of interest. Sales of these promotional items will supplement rights of way maintenance.

Leader grant: £10,500

Uplands Community Broadband Training

With the roll out of the rural community broadband project many areas in the Northumberland Uplands previously out of reach of broadband connections will soon have access to broadband services overcoming the geographic isolation of the Uplands.

The Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group has granted funding to support a series of training courses for businesses and individuals to help them make the most of this new service. The 5 half-day and 15 full-day workshops provide support to businesses and individuals in the effective use of broadband services and e-business practise, including the development of websites, setting up email systems and use of e-commerce.



Leader grant: £20,705

<http://raceonline2012.org/>

Cheviot Futures Phase 2



The first 'cross-border' Leader project, Cheviot Futures, works in the Northumberland Uplands and the Scottish Borders to raise awareness of the predicted threats and opportunities from climate change in the Cheviot Hills and Tweed and Till river catchments.

Phase Two of the project employs an advisor to work directly with farmers and land managers to enable them to incorporate long term resilience / climate adaptation measures into their business model including farm flood plans. The project reflects the needs of farmers and land managers and focus continues to be on practical solutions to real problems. The aim is to leave a legacy of projects and best practice guidance which have a lasting impact on the way farmers and land managers within the catchment reduce the risk of flooding and improve their overall resilience to climate change.



Leader grant: £82,375

www.cheviotfutures.co.uk

Bellingham Library

Bellingham Town Hall Steering Group used their grant to relocate Bellingham library to Bellingham Town Hall. The funding facilitated the conversion of the ground floor of the Town Hall into the new community library and an IT/Internet Café area. The library has full disabled access and baby changing facilities.

This project is an example of a community taking action to save a service which would otherwise have been lost and building on this to enhance facilities by introducing new services into one multi-purpose building.

Leader grant: £4,734

Young Farmers



Leader funding enabled Young Farmers Clubs in the Northumberland Uplands to gain the skills needed to successfully run their own committees across Northumberland. Trainees took part in two days of leadership and team working training provided by the Brathay Trust and ITOL registered Young Farmers Trainers. They also attended two short training courses on officer skills, and a short training session specific to their own role as a club or county officer (e.g. treasurer, chair, secretary).

The Young Farmers reported back to the Northumberland Uplands Leader Group that the training had increased their confidence and self esteem to carry out their roles within YFC but also within their paid employment and have added the skills they have gained to their CV's.

The training was partially funded by The Duke of Northumberland and the Young Farmers themselves.



Leader grant: £4,610

www.northumberlandyfc.co.uk

Moss Peteral – Farm Diversification



Sue Seymour and Alan Pink have diversified their farm activities at Moss Peteral by getting involved in care farming. Leader funding installed a wood gasification boiler and central heating system. The installation of the central heating system has enabled suitable accommodation, meaningful 'work' opportunities and respite care to be offered to vulnerable adults with social and care needs.

The farm accommodates two people at a time, with the length of stay depending on the clients' requirements. Alan and Sue are registered with Northumberland Care Trust who place clients with them through the Adult Placement Carers Scheme.

Leader grant: £9,867



Rocky Road

Rocky Road Tearoom and Holiday Let used Leader funding to redevelop the empty CO-OP building in Bellingham Market Square. The tearoom offers locals and tourists affordable freshly prepared and home cooked food, with the ingredients locally sourced where ever possible. It opens early for breakfast and you can even order a packed lunch to go!



Networking with other local business is important for the business model. During the off peak season floor space is offered to local small businesses and community groups free of charge allowing them a platform to showcase their products and demonstrations i.e. cake decorating, flower arranging and book clubs.

Leader grant: £60,803

Umbrella Project

The Umbrella Project is an innovative way of adding value to Leader in the Northumberland Uplands. The project assists potential applicants to Leader as they develop their own project ideas by funding study visits within the UK and EU. These visits allow applicants to refine exactly what they want to do in the Northumberland Uplands before they complete full application forms. The funding is also available to previously approved Leader projects if they identify opportunities to add value to what they are already doing.



Snoezelen facilities at Poppelgården (Sweden)

Examples of visits supported so far include visits to Lincolnshire to research a fire wood fair, two separate visits to Sweden one to learn about care farming and the other traditional basket making skills.

Leader grant: £14,000



Lincolnshire Firewood Fair

Kielder Observatory

Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society wanted to increase the ability of the general public to visit the observatory. Education sessions had been delivered on a voluntary basis but Leader funding enabled the delivery team to be employed on a sessional basis to deliver a broader public access programme. The Observatory now offers additional astronomy sessions in both evenings and during the daytime.

The project is self sufficient, generating its own funds through increased numbers of paid visits by the public which also raised public awareness of the Observatory and the work of Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society.



Leader grant: £50,000

www.kielderobservatory.org

Haydon Bridge – Tourism Gateway Phase 2



Phase Two funding focused on securing the long-term sustainability of the library building by providing revenue support for two years allowing the library to become financially self-sufficient. It also provided training for local service providers and tourism businesses on 'visitor welcome' and developed a series of information leaflets/panels for new walks and trails from 'The Bridge'. These trails focus on: walks to Hadrian's Wall; heritage and nature; and cycling.

In addition the 'community hub' role of the library has developed by encouraging its volunteers to gain confidence and learn computer and customer service skills as a means into/back to employment.

Leader grant: £22,801

www.haydon-bridge.co.uk



Realising Potential – Calvert Trust

Leader funding for the Realising Potential project by Calvert Trust has enabled two new items of specialist equipment to be installed- a High Ropes Course and Laser Clays. Both activities are available for use by people with and without disabilities therefore promoting inclusion, while also developing the tourism offer at the Kielder Water and Forest Park.

The Laser Clay Shooting facility provides an environmentally friendly leisure pursuit with no risk of injury or damage to humans, animals or the countryside. It fires an infra-red beam at reflective clays using specialist de-activated shotguns and is able to be used by up to five people at the same time.



Leader grant: £82,092

www.calvert-trust.org.uk

Flodden Eco Museum

A group of organisations and individuals from the private, voluntary and public sector came together to develop England's first Eco Museum (a museum without walls). The idea behind



Flodden Eco Museum is to allow communities, projects, locations and events to retain their individual ownership but to be linked through a single brand, in this case the Battle of Flodden and the 500th year commemoration in 2013.

This project provided various workshops, training days, and a single identity branding for all sorts of local businesses and organisations. This community network ensures a legacy within the area beyond the 500th commemoration of Flodden in 2013.

The project officer organised key workshops for business and community development, created a web portal linking all the sites and developed small scale interpretation of each site.

Leader grant: £24,265

Bellingham Equestrian Events



The North Tyne & Redesdale Agricultural Society used a Leader grant to purchase a full set of versatile show jumps that can also be used as working hunter jumps. The wooden jumps have been sourced from sustainably managed British woodland. The society also purchased a trailer to transport and store the equipment securely.

The equipment is used at the annual Bellingham Show but also hired out to other local organisations in the area. The income saved from having their own equipment and the additional income generated from the hiring out the equipment is reinvested into the Bellingham Show, enabling it to host popular traditional events such as Northumbrian Piping competitions and Cumberland and Westmoreland Wrestling.

Leader grant: £4,870

Eastbanks Eco Bothy – Farm Diversification

Alasdair Mitchell used his Leader grant to convert an old, redundant agricultural stone building into reasonable comfortable holiday accommodation generating additional income for the farm and making the farm less dependent on subsidies. The road access, car park and planning all took into account the natural aspect of the landscape.



Before conversion



After conversion

Eastbanks Eco Bothy offers a unique holiday experience for visitors providing an utterly private, isolated setting, with access to miles of walking routes along Hadrian's Wall. The focus is on low-impact, eco-friendly tourism using renewable energy and existing completely 'off-grid'.

Leader grant: £20,000

www.eastbanks.co.uk

Hooked Up Hotspots

In preparation for the planned roll out of 1700 vehicle charge points across the North East, the Northumberland National Park trialled two units within the park boundary to test whether the technology was feasible within the broader rural areas of Northumberland.

Additionally the trial allowed the Park to identify logistic and installation costs of charge points in rural areas. Currently all charge point trials have, up to now, only been carried out in urban settings. The Park assessed and trained local contractors in the installation and maintenance of the system. The information is of great value in the roll out of the infrastructure across the North East.



The technology allows people to arrive at their destination, swipe a fob to register their usage of the charge point, plug their car in and head out for their walk/hike/picnic knowing that their vehicle will charge for the allotted time purchased. Not only can usage and power consumption be monitored but it is an entirely cash free system as all financial transactions are done online beforehand.

Leader grant: £9,000

www.nnpa.org.uk

Kielder Camping & Caravan Site



The community run, Kielder Ltd, was granted funding for the renovation and refurbishment of the outdated facilities of Kielder Caravan and Campsite. The funding has been used to refurbish the 30 year old shower and toilet block as well to increase the hard standing for caravans from 17 to 21 pitches. The funds have also been used to carry out safety repairs to the road as well as replace the old children's play area facilities.

Leader grant: £14,295

www.kieldercampsite.co.uk

Bellingham All Acoustic Festival

Northumberland hosted its very own version of Glastonbury and T in the Park, staging a weekend-long acoustic music festival, courtesy of two local musicians.

Fiona Lander and Paul Mason, who form the Bellingham song-writing duo Landermason, organised a new music festival in the small Northumbrian Village of Bellingham in 2010.



The two-day event welcomed folk groups like Megson, Whapweasel and the Caffreys. On the Saturday, Bellingham's Trade and Tourism Association held a traditional farmers' market in the village and the town hall opened its doors as exhibition space for five local artists.



Funding allowed Landermason to buy new equipment for their home-based recording studio and turn it into a commercial space. The festival ran again in 2011 this time without Leader financial support.



Leader grant: £20,000

www.baafest.co.uk

Revitalisation & Regeneration of Bellingham

Bellingham District Trade and Tourism Association, representing as many as 59 businesses in and around the remote market town of Bellingham used its Leader grant to purchase a number of items of event equipment, including public display systems and market stalls. The association makes use of the equipment at public events throughout the year including Bellingham's monthly fresh produce and craft market. The items are also made available to members and non-members when they are needed.



Leader grant: £9,500

<http://bdtta.co.uk>



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.

Kielder Garage

A Leader grant paid for the testing of old fuel tanks at the disused garage in Kielder Village in order to verify whether they are still sound and able to hold fuel. The tests confirmed that the fuel tanks are able to hold fuel and local partners are currently working to secure funding to install unmanned fuel pumps at the forecourt. This will provide a vital source of transport fuel for both local residents and tourists alike in this deep rural area.

Leader grant: £2,100

www.kieldervillage.com

Children's Countryside Day

The Glendale Agricultural Society's Children's Countryside Day held near Wooler in Northumberland is one of the foremost rural educational events in the UK. NU LAG has supported this innovative and forward thinking project for four years enhancing the economic, environmental and social welfare of rural communities across the county.

The annual event is open to all first schools in Northumberland and some from Tyneside. The Children's Countryside Day improves pupils' knowledge of rural living and food production and promotes a healthy lifestyle. It is run in collaboration with volunteers from local businesses and associations and engages children through practical demonstrations.



Each year there are over 70 educational exhibits and activities. They include farm livestock; sheep shearing; goats being milked; plants and vegetables being sown and grown; bread-making; butchery; fly-fishing; archaeology; renewable energy and healthy recipes being cooked. The exhibitors talk to the children in small groups and the children are able to take part in activities and ask questions in an informal, fun and relaxed setting away from the classroom.

Leader grant: £40,000

www.glendaleshow.com/countrysideday.php

Wooler Youth Drop-In

Wooler Youth Drop-In secured support over four years from the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group.

Since 1999 young people in Wooler, over the age of 13, have been using the drop in centre at 53 High Street and regular activity includes art and music nights, games, a training programme with the Fire service and work with local paramedics. Internet links and regular help from the Connexions service give access to all kinds of information and advice; a service rarely available to young people in rural districts.



Leader grant: £20,000

www.wooler.org.uk/page/index.php?id=601

Hadrian's Wall Visitor Welcome

Hadrian's Wall Heritage Limited ran a series of specific tourism-sector 'business enhancement' events with their Leader grant.

As a World Heritage Site, Hadrian's Wall is a 'key destination' for the region, in terms of boosting visitor numbers to the region. 'Know Your Hadrian's Wall Country' encouraged local businesses to associate themselves with the World Heritage Site and benefit from visitors coming to the site. Trade fairs and 'meet the producer' days provide an opportunity for micro-businesses to link up with other local businesses in the food, craft and cultural industries.

Leader grant: £20,000

www.hadrians-wall.org

Haltwhistle Music and Arts Festival

The main focus of this project was working with volunteers, who were under 25 year to create and organise a Music and Arts Festival in Haltwhistle, showcasing local talents. The project encouraged creative thinking skills and raised the aspirations for young people in and around the town.

Leader grant: £32,775

www.haltwhistle.org



Heatherslaw Light Railway



Heatherslaw Light Railway at Ford and Etal, used Leader funding to pay for external expertise to complete the new steam locomotive that Neville Smith had already begun building and constructing four years earlier. It also paid for two new 16-passenger capacity carriages. This in turn has secured six existing jobs and additionally created one full and one part time job.

The increased capacity of the extra steam locomotive and rolling stock has reduced waiting times, guaranteeing visitors a trip on a steam-hauled train, rather than the substituted diesel engine at peak periods. The new train and carriages mean the business has become more sustainable allowing it to grow as a key attraction in the Northern Northumberland Uplands area.



Leader grant: £42,530

www.heatherslawlightrailway.co.uk

Northumbria Basketry Group Development



A group of creative and enterprising people in the Coquet Valley has succeeded in reviving an ancient craft of the countryside. Northumbria Basketry Group was established as a self-help group, based out of a local village hall, and gained members as the interest in local basketry grew.

They also made an impact on the local tourism economy of Rothbury in 2010 when the National Basketmakers' Association held its annual meeting, bringing around 60 people to stay in the area.

The Leader grant helped them cultivate a sustainable local supply of willow, less than a year after planting the willow, the group has already harvested its first willow crops, instead of having to buy it in from Somerset. They also run classes in willow weaving and basket making, which have generated income, and research the history of basket making in Northumberland.



Leader grant: £9,887

www.northumbriabasketrygroup.co.uk

Humshaugh Community Shop

The villages of Humshaugh and Wall came together to protect their valuable village shop from closure. Facing the real prospect of the final shop in their community closing, local people formed a committee that purchased the lease and took on the day to day management of the shop.



A part time paid manager and local volunteers run the shop, stocking local produce. The shop is really important in terms of basic rural service provision and the community got on and did something about its impending closure which is recognised in their current top 10 for the National Lottery Awards.

Leader grant: £22,500

www.humshaughshop.co.uk

Equestrian Pilates

Sue Gould-Wright, who runs Equestrian Pilates, used her Leader grant to purchase a mobile equestrian pilates studio. The studio is a fully carpeted, heated and covered-in horse trailer housing a pilates reformer machine and Cadillac exerciser. It is also fully mirrored, making it light and spacious to work in. It accommodates two or three people at a time to do floor work.



Riders across Tynedale use the facility to strengthen their core muscles, specifically those of the trunk, pelvis and shoulder – giving them a more stable seat and an improved communication with their horse. Sue’s aim is to bridge the gap between a warm studio to being outside on the horse. With her trailer she is no longer limited to the town, but is able to take her classes across Northumberland.

Leader grant: £8,984

www.equestrianpilates.co.uk

Upland Micro Hydro



A group of seven local farmers have been supported by the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group to explore the potential for installing Micro-Hydro systems on their farms. The Northumberland Uplands may hold opportunities to generate electricity from its water resources that can be used in farm businesses. The project supported the farmers in their pursuit of carbon-neutral land management.

Reducing carbon emissions on marginal upland farms is tricky as a lot of typical farming practise will use minimal inputs. Looking at how farms generate their power can be one way of doing this. If feasible micro-hydro power has the potential to increase farm income, reduce costs and be used as marketing tool for farm produce.

Leader grant: £11,625

NULogs

NULogs Leader grant funded a pilot project that looked to unlock the economic potential of un-managed woodland and support small operators in the wood fuel sector across the Northumberland Uplands Leader area.

A number of complementary activities have taken place, including direct technical training, one-to-one mentoring and a study tour to see wood fuel processing techniques in action. The project was independently evaluated in order to share lessons across the country.



Leader grant: £63,943

www.northwoods.org.uk/nulogs

Glendale Charities Cooperative



Leader funds allowed Glendale Gateway Trust to take on a lease for an empty property on Wooler High Street. The Trust works with a wide range of local charitable groups and organisations that use the property to hold charity sales in order to raise much needed income. The enterprise is designed to be self-sustaining with the second year's costs being raised from a small percentage of takings during the first year.

This innovative and enterprising use of a prime location on Wooler High Street is a fantastic Leader project and encapsulates a real bottom-up community spirit.

Leader grant: £4,900

www.wooler.org.uk/page/index.php?id=595

Extra Miles - ADAPT

A new way of tackling community transport provision has been supported by the Northumberland Uplands LAG. Minibuses that were being used for school runs were upgraded with Leader money to allow new routes and services to be extended to rurally isolated communities around Bellingham and Haltwhistle. The two buses are fully accessible and are able to carry cycle tourists. Community groups and organisations hire the buses and they also cover specific routes identified by local people.



The project created three new jobs and supports remote communities that face challenges when it comes to accessing shops, healthcare and basic services.

Leader grant: £105,250

www.adapt-ne.org.uk

Horse Power for Ability



An inspirational woman with cerebral palsy has opened a horse power therapy centre to help people with mobility problems in Northumberland.

Dr. Dorothee Debuse is bringing hippotherapy – a specialist physiotherapy intervention using the movement of horses – to the Northumberland Uplands.

The grant was used to purchase specialist equipment to help Dr Debuse open up her hippotherapy business.



Leader grant: £8,389

www.horsepowerforability.com

Tyndale Women's Training Group



This project provided training opportunities for women in five villages across the north Tyne region. Sessions covered practical skills, personal development, and careers advice and were offered free of charge. A crèche service allowed young mothers to join other women of different ages, with different interests and from different social groups in isolated rural communities to develop an informal learning network.

Tyndale Women's Training Group aims to advance the education of women by providing access to learning and by bringing together organisations to improve the training and learning opportunities for women.

Leader grant: £34,945

Cheviot Futures

This pilot project helped farmers and land managers take steps to adapt to a changing climate, through a series of demonstration projects that looked at new farming techniques and sharing best practice.



The project addressed the various impacts of climate change faced by rural communities, such as increased flooding and runoff carrying soils and pollutants, drought, wildfire, wind erosion and the effects on grouse, sheep and salmon.

Leader grant: £45,000

www.cheviotfutures.co.uk

Child using sound box

Haydon Bridge Tourism Gateway Initiative

The flagship project for Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish Development Trust has promoted the parish as a tourism gateway, renovated the existing library and taken it into local ownership in order to provide a wide variety of services. These include a visitor information point and space for the sale of local items. This project was at the heart of Haydon Parish Plan and reflects local peoples' priorities for the sustainable development of their own community.

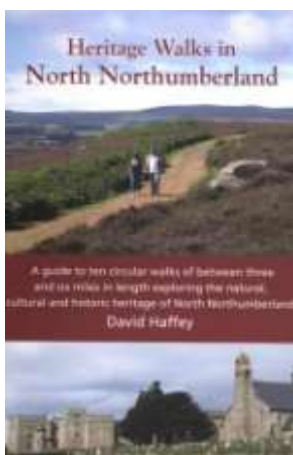


Wider benefits have been felt by the local tourism sector; local residents have started volunteering in library and the local community have benefited with the establishment of a development trust.

Leader grant: £50,038

www.visit-haydon-bridge.co.uk

Heritage Walks in North Northumberland



A small grant allowed Countrywise Consultants to write, design and print a new heritage walking book that covers 10 walks across north Northumberland.

The book helps visitors and locals enjoy the rich cultural and historic heritage of the area and also encourages people to visit local businesses nearby.

Leader grant: £2,797

Slate and Nature

After working in his garden shed for some years developing prototypes, Gerard used his Leader funds to build a workshop. This small scale enterprise helps to meet a demand from tourists for locally produced craft products. Gerard uses reclaimed slate (and other materials), in his designs which might otherwise have gone to landfill.



Leader grant: £ 47,650

www.slateandnature.com



Traditional Boundaries, Traditional Skills

The overall aim of the project was to run a rural skills apprenticeship scheme, training people in the management and repair of traditional boundaries and associated features such as gates, stiles and fences. The Northumberland National Park ran this course which provided training and skills in boundary management, including dry-stone walling. The twelve month course was designed so that trainees had the best possible chance of entering full time employment in the rural economy.



This practical initiative addressed the issue of a lack of boundary management experts in rural areas. The project brought training and subsequent employment within reach of people who wanted to become boundary management contractors.

Leader grant: £45,000

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/lookingafter/projects/traditionalboundaries

Northumberland Uplands



The Northumberland Uplands Leader area covers 3,000 km² with a population of 32,600.

Contact:

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