



The Yorkshire Dales
LEADER
PROGRAMME
2014 - 2020

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER
Annual Review
2016/2017



Yorkshire Dales LEADER Statement from the chair - March 2017

I am delighted to introduce our first Annual Review. The Yorkshire Dales LEADER area is characterised by iconic scenery and a rich cultural heritage that has at its heart three very special landscapes – the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Forest of Bowland AONB – surrounded by a wider hinterland of Dales and distinctive rural market towns. The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme has been set up to build a sustainable community and an economy that capitalises on this area's environment, landscape, culture and heritage.

Our Local Action Group (LAG) want to maximise the opportunities through the LEADER approach to grow our tourism economy and invest in farming and forestry to improve land management sustainability. We want to help businesses make use of modern technology, promote growth in local food and encourage expansion in local bio-energy initiatives.

I'm pleased to say that the Yorkshire Dales LEADER programme has proved to be a success in the first year. This is both from a perspective of having funded some fantastic projects, but also it has successfully managed to allocate funding in a difficult year for national government. A lot of the credit for this first year being a success is down to the Programme staff for the exemplary work they have done supporting the project applicants through the complex application process through to presenting the appraisal of the projects at our Executive Group. North Yorkshire County Council has also done a tremendous job in the financial

management of the programme to date. Without the hard work of the Programme staff and Accountable Body we would not be heralding such a successful year and not least the support they have given me as Chair. Which brings me finally to thanking the Executive Group for the time and commitment that you have all given so freely in attending our meetings and for making this first year a success.

The next 12 months will see our Executive Group focus on allocating the remainder of our budget and ensuring that the programme and the projects it has funded, continue to deliver real benefits across the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area. I encourage you to visit our website to see if you are in our area and whether we have a grant available that could be of interest to your business or community.

Rita Lawson
Chair

Yorkshire Dales LEADER Executive Group
14 March 2017

The LEADER Staff Team

Helen Patchett: LEADER Programme Manager, North Yorkshire County Council

Norma Hood: LEADER Programme Support Officer, North Yorkshire County Council

Pam Preston: LEADER Finance Administrator, North Yorkshire County Council

Rima Berry: LEADER Programme Co-ordinator, hosted by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

The LEADER Approach

The LEADER support (grant) is awarded by a local partnership, the Local Action Group (LAG). The Yorkshire Dales LAG is one of eleven partnerships in Yorkshire & North East which successfully applied to deliver grants through the rural development programme known as LEADER.

Each LAG decides which projects they will fund in their area. This depends on their priorities but all projects must support one of the 6 Defra Priorities for LEADER. These are to:

- Support micro and small businesses and farm diversification.
- Boost rural tourism.
- Increase farm productivity.
- Increase forestry productivity.
- Provide rural services.
- Provide cultural and heritage activities.

Consultation and research to produce a Local Development Strategy has shown what the key investment priorities are. In the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area, we support actions that fall within three broad areas of activity:

1. Capitalising on the distinctive environment and cultural landscape.
2. Developing a diverse rural economy.
3. Creating sustainable communities.

The LAG partnership has been awarded £2.232 million for rural projects benefiting the area and the communities.

Appendix 1 shows how much we have awarded to date.

The term LEADER is the French acronym for “Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l’Économie Rurale” meaning Links Between Activities Developing the Rural Economy.



LEADER is a community-led rural development programme which aims to improve the quality of life and prosperity in rural communities through locally driven rural development initiatives and projects.

LEADER funding is being made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union.

The Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group 2014 – 2020

Our Aims

We have 6 key aims in our Local Development Strategy. We are not able to fund all of the actions that meet these aims through LEADER.

Full guidance is located within the National LEADER Applicant Handbook, published on the Yorkshire Dales LEADER website.

- Strengthen the tourism industry building on the cultural, heritage and natural assets and the Dales identity
- Improve the sustainability for upland land management in the Dales
- Support the development of the local bioenergy and renewable energy supply chains
- Support entrepreneurship and enable business growth
- Encourage the participation of young people and women in rural enterprise
- Sustain and enhance rural services



LEADER Programme Delivery

The LEADER process requires the establishment of a Local Action Group (LAG), made up of public, private and voluntary sector representatives. The LAG meets annually and it is the role of the LAG to set the strategic vision for the lifetime of the programme. The LAG is open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in the eligible rural area. The LAG nominates an Executive Group and it is the LAG Executive who make the decisions on how the funding should be delivered, based upon guidance from North Yorkshire County Council (as Accountable Body) and Defra.

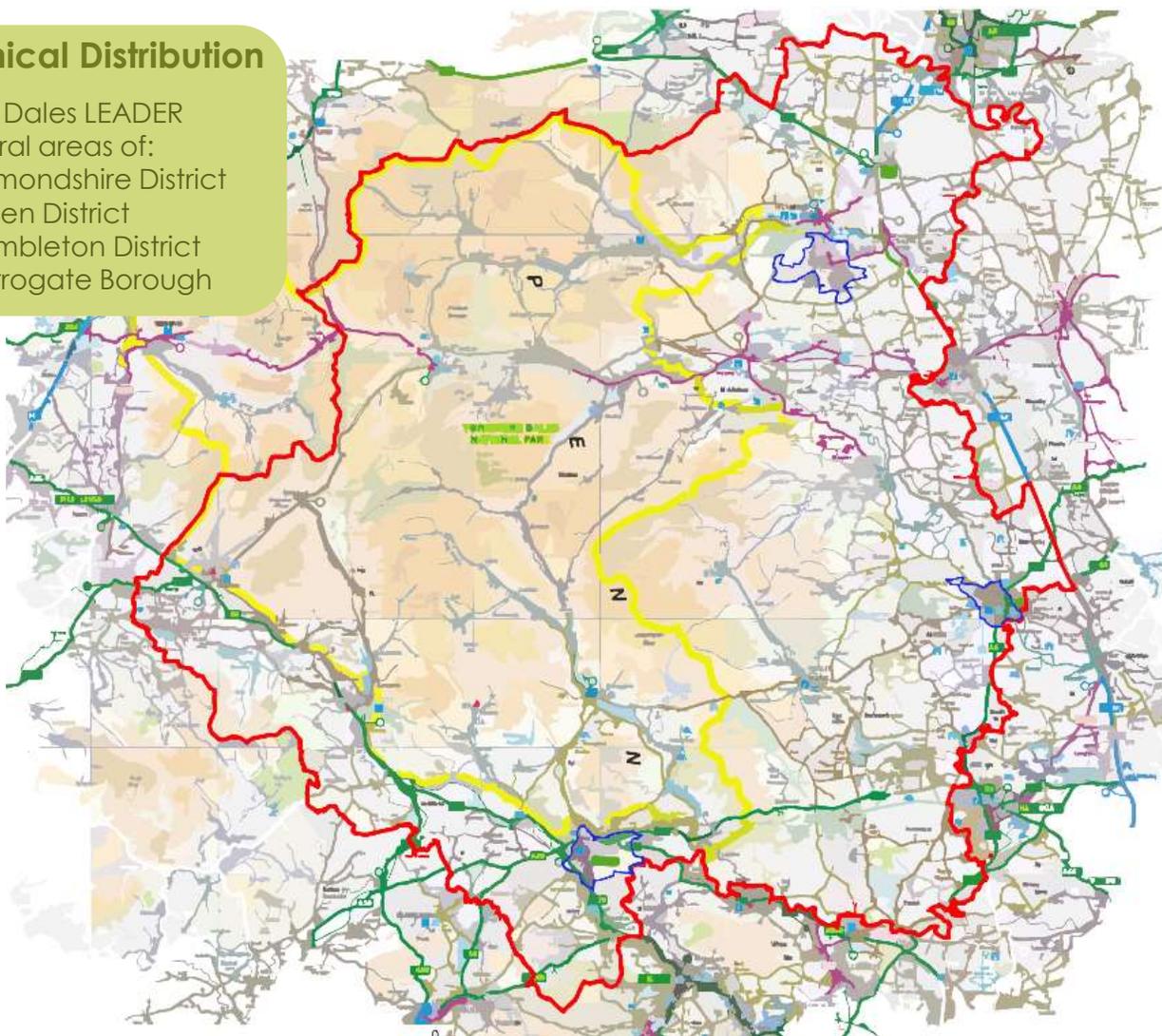
The LAG Executive consists of up to sixteen representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. It is a requirement of the programme that no LAG Executive can be made up of 49% from one sector and that any vote on project approvals cannot have more than 49% of votes from one sector.

North Yorkshire County Council is the Accountable Body for the Local Action Group. However, although County Council will allocate resources it will not make any payments to projects as this is done by the Rural Payments Agency. The only funds the County Council will directly manage will relate to the Running costs and Animation of the programme (which is fully funded out of the budget allocated).

Geographical Distribution

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER covers the rural areas of:

- 100% Richmondshire District
- 100% Craven District
- Part of Hambleton District
- Part of Harrogate Borough



The 2016 Invitations to Apply



2016 was a difficult year for launching a funding Programme. Specific restrictions on the use of public resources in the period before elections and referendums meant communication restrictions were in place from 30th March to 6th May (local elections) and from 27th May until 4th October, (a specific extended restriction as a result of the EU referendum).

The Yorkshire Dales area was fortunate in that for most of the restricted period, although no new invitations to apply could be publicised, there were existing invitations already on the programme website, so new projects could be submitted and seen by the LAG Executive.

Approved projects were formally issued contracts as soon as communication restrictions were lifted.

The Invitations to Apply are published on our website. They are revised and approved as required at formal meetings of the LAG. In total the LAG publicised 3 rounds of Invitations to Apply for LEADER support.

Round One

Ref Number	Invitation name	Open date	Closing date	Min Grant	Max Grant	Contracts Issued
SP1_01	Yorkshire Dales Tourism Development Scheme	01/02/16	09/03/16	£5,000	£35,000	1
	Yorkshire Dales Tourism Development Scheme (2) Re-opened		25/07/16 Revised by LAG and closed early	£5,000	£35,000	-
SP4/5_01	Yorkshire Dales Enterprise Scheme (farm diversification)	01/02/16	09/03/16	£10,000	£35,000	-
	Yorkshire Dales Enterprise Scheme (farm diversification) (2) Re-opened		25/07/16	£10,000	£35,000	5
SP4/5_02	Yorkshire Dales Enterprise Scheme (Micro and Small Enterprise)	01/02/16	09/03/16	£10,000	£35,000	-
	Yorkshire Dales Enterprise Scheme (Micro and Small Enterprise) (2) Re-opened		25/07/16 Revised by LAG and closed early	£10,000	£35,000	-

Round Two

Ref Number	Invitation name	Open date	Closing date	Min Grant	Max Grant	Contracts Issued
SP1_02	Yorkshire Dales Capital Tourism Grant	16/05/16	25/07/16	£2,500	£35,000	-
SP2_01	Upland Farm Capital Grant Scheme	16/05/16	25/07/16	£2,500	£35,000	5
SP3_01	Forestry Capital Grant Scheme	16/05/16	25/07/16	£2,500	£35,000	3
SP4/5_03	Micro and Small Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme	12/05/16	25/07/16	£2,500	£35,000	3
SP6_01	Integrated Rural Mobility	16/05/16	25/07/16	£5,000	£90,000	-

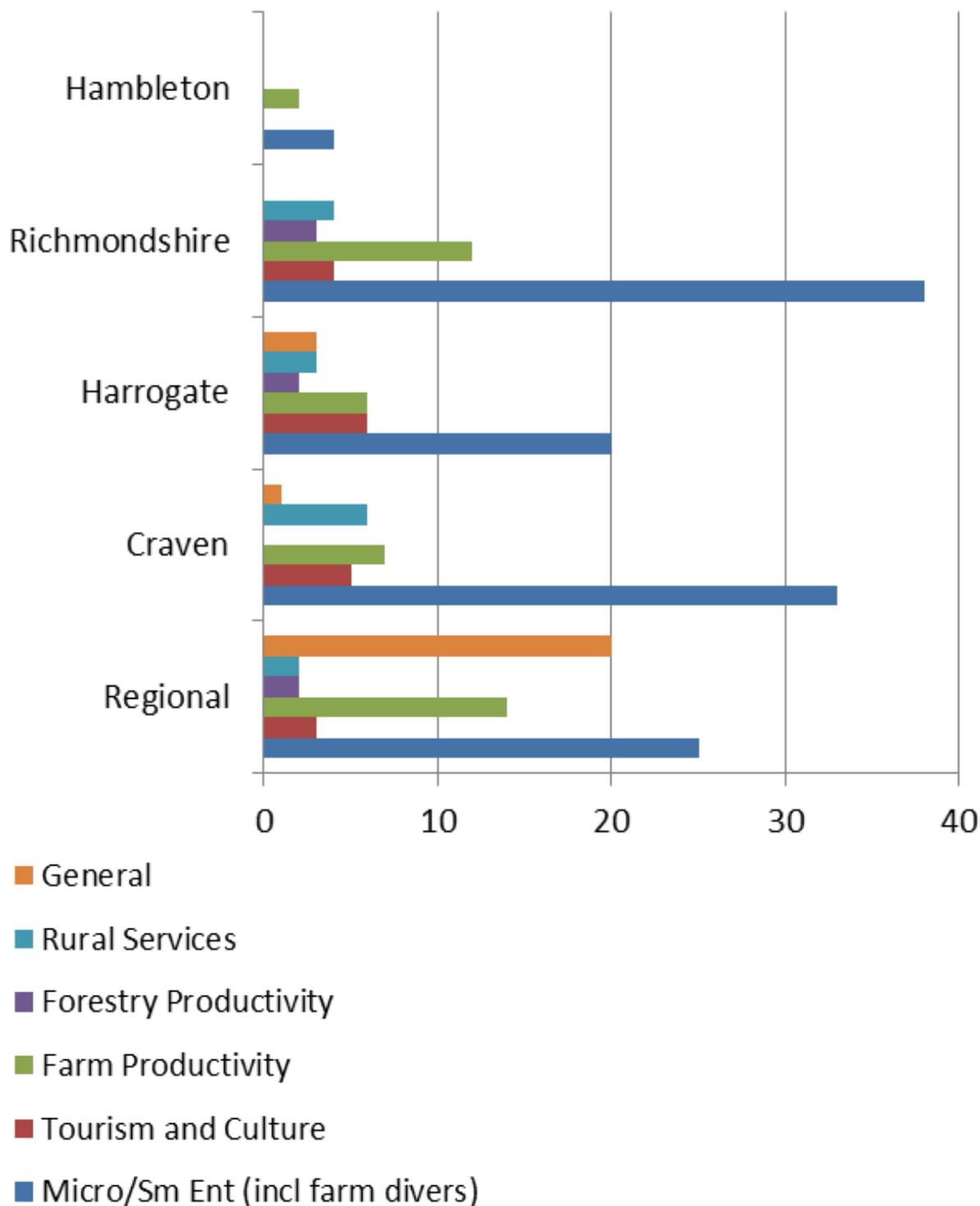
Round Three

Ref Number	Invitation name	Open date	Closing date	Min Grant	Max Grant
SP1_03	Yorkshire Dales Tourism, Heritage and Culture Capital Grant	08/12/16	none	£5,000	£100,000
SP2_02	Dales Farm Capital Grant Scheme	17/11/16	12/06/17	£2,500	£75,000
SP3_02	Forestry Capital Grant Scheme	17/11/16	12/06/17	£2,500	£75,000
SP4/5_04	Micro, Small Enterprise and Farm Diversification Capital Grant	08/12/16	none	£5,000	£150,000
SP6_02	Sustain and Enhance Rural Services Capital Grant	08/12/16	none	£5,000	£100,000

Number of Enquiries 2016

A total of 274 enquiries were received by the Programme Coordinator.

Table 1: Enquiries 2016 (by district and funding priority)



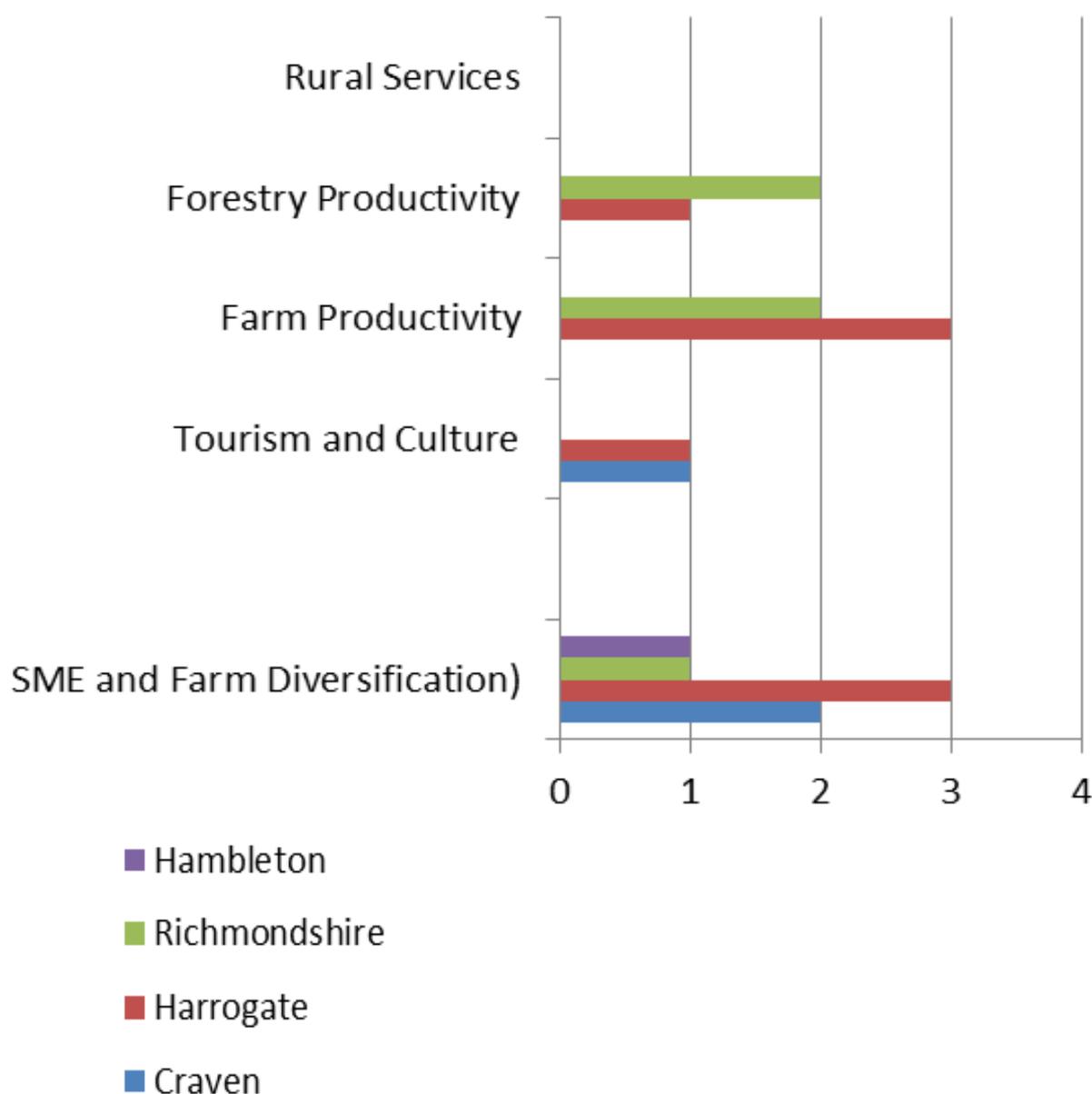
What have we funded?

A total of 56 Outline applications (expressions of interest) were received, 42 of which were invited to submit a Full Application.

27 Full applications were received by LEADER staff, totalling a grant request of £523,877.86. Of these 10 withdrew or failed to submit a complete and eligible application.

17 projects under the following Defra priority areas were presented for consideration by the Local Action Group. All were approved.

Table 2: Approved 2016 (by district and funding priority)



Project Case Studies



Photo courtesy Martin Whipp / Nidderdale AONB

Discover Upper Nidderdale

Location: Harrogate district

Awarded: £25,698 RDPE LEADER

The 'Discover Upper Nidderdale' project has been developed by a newly formed partnership of tourism businesses, Nidderdale Plus and Nidderdale AONB. The project will develop and promote Upper Nidderdale as an all-year-round tourism destination, building on the area's rich heritage assets to provide a diverse range of rural tourism attractions tailored to the needs of existing and emerging markets.

The project's objectives are to:

- to build a year round tourism offer and encourage collaboration between businesses
- Improve visitor orientation in Upper Nidderdale by creating 2 on-the-ground visitor information points
- Improve physical access to Upper Nidderdale through the creation of 4 new walking routes, associated on-line information and upgrading the Upper Nidderdale Way section of the Nidderdale Way
- Install on-site interpretation at 2 'Flagship Heritage Sites' at Prosperous Lead Mine, a nationally important lead mining site and at Lodge Village, an abandoned village on the site of a former medieval grange and associated on-line information
- Develop and market two experiential tourism products focussed on 'Upper Nidderdale as a walking destination' and 'Dark Skies' destination.

Project Case Studies

Improving productivity of hill sheep flock

Location: Harrogate district

Awarded: £3,492 RDPE LEADER



Rapper Mobile Sheep Handling: R Berry, YDMT

This project will improve the overall performance of the hill sheep flock through improved sheep handling facilities which will allow more frequent gathering of the flock in order to improve the management and welfare.

A mobile sheep handling unit was purchased in December 2016 in order to be able to gather the sheep flock directly on Heathfield Moor. This moor is infested with sheep ticks and these facilities will allow more regular treatment which will benefit both sheep productivity and grouse welfare. Through the more regular and timely sheep handling flock productivity will improve. It will also release currently non-productive time thus allowing more ewes to be kept and managed, following the purchase of this equipment, and as more land becomes available.

Project Case Studies

The Cheese Experience

Location: Craven district

Awarded: £33,099 RDPE LEADER



The Courtyard Dairy, a small retail shop, was created in 2012 by Kathy and Andy Swinscoe with the ethos to champion and support traditional farm-made cheese, and with a vision to be the most respected cheese shop in the UK. The shop specialises in traditional farm-made cheese: those made on the farm from the farm's own milk (usually unpasteurised) from traditional breeds of cows (such as Dairy Shorthorn), hand-made and naturally matured.

The "Cheese Experience" project will improve upon The Courtyard Dairy's current standing to provide a larger tourist attraction by creating a brand-new cheese centre, part of a new attraction situated on the edge of The Yorkshire Dales.

The centre will have a small 'museum-style' display area telling the story of farmhouse cheese, how it is made and its history. The centre will also incorporate a cheese production room for courses and tastings, as well as an area showcasing cheese maturation. To tie it altogether is a café themed around artisan cheese; all alongside their existing shop.

The project will strengthen tourism, providing a brand new high-quality wet weather visitor attraction offering locally sourced products, courses and tasting sessions, whilst also encouraging visitors to stay longer in the area. LEADER investment in the "Cheese Experience" project will improve the productivity of the business, providing eight new jobs to the local area and increasing training and development of staff as the new facility provides the need for more managerial and skilled jobs.

Andy Swinscoe said "We are really excited to be continuing and growing our business in the Yorkshire Dales. We have been proud to set up our business here and can't wait to give a brand new opportunity for people to visit, and learn more about traditional farmhouse cheese. The LEADER funding has been essential for us to create this bigger 'place of cheese' - without it, it simply wouldn't have been possible."

Key Achievements 2016/ 2017

Budget, Allocation and Expenditure

RDPE Expenditure Feb 2016 – Dec 2016

Total Approved to December 2016	£392,415.39
Total left to commit	£1,437,823.61

LEADER Outputs

Outputs are the benefits that the projects achieve over their lifetime. The LEADER Programme has set outputs to report upon and achieve. As our projects submit their final claims, the outputs are captured and compiled.

For example, the following are just a few of the outputs recorded across the Programme:

Number of Jobs Created: Jobs created are where new, permanent and paid jobs are created.

Wage Bill (increase or decrease): The increase (or decrease) of a wage bill to a business receiving grant funding to a project. This will have a direct relation to jobs created if there is an increase to the wage bill. The wage bill is more than just the cost of the salaries themselves and wherever possible should include other costs such as employer pensions and national insurance contributions.

Number of New techniques: A new technique equates to a new piece of technology or process that is introduced to the business.

Additional Number of day visitors : The increase in day visitors achieved as a result of the project activity

Projected Outputs Forecast from Feb 2016 – Dec 2016

Outputs	Forecast
Nb Jobs created (in FTE*)	16.45
Change in Wage bill (£)	223,284
Additional day visitors	20200
Additional overnight stay	950

*FTE – Full time equivalent
(source: DORA database, Feb 2017)

Appendix 1: Yorkshire Dales LEADER Executive Group – Projects approved

Executive Group Date	Ref No.	LEADER Project Title	RDPE Measure	Amount Awarded (£)
13/07/2016	103551	Discover Upper Nidderdale	7.5/7.6	25,707.68
04/10/2016	103736	Skirbeck Holiday Cottage	6.4	34,995.75
	104079	Improving Productivity of Hill Sheep Flock	4.1	3492
	104120	Crimple Head Farm	4.1	2930
	103935	Forcett Quarry Biomass Processing 2	8.4	35,000
	104057	Grant for Capital Items, Croft Farm	4.1	2592
16/11/2016	103938	The Cheese Experience	7.5	33,099
	103878	Proposed Dairy Cubicle Shed and Parlour	4.1	22,700
	104033	Peaks and Pods	6.4	33,149
	104119	High Moor Farm	4.1	30,100
	104113	Old Home Farm Woodland Eco-Cabins	6.4	35,000
	104115	Castles Farm Glamping Business	6.4	31,070
	103989	Woodhouse Biomass	8.6	15,994
	103999	Small Woodland Management	8.6	14,395
07/12/2016	103990	Yorkshire Dales Dog Hydrotherapy Centre	6.4	26,430.96
	102557	Artisan Cheese Production in Upper Nidderdale	4.2	12,320
	104104	Heritage Timber Construction Training Centre and Virtual Learning Environment	6.4	33,440

Report compiled:
R Berry, Yorkshire Dales LEADER
Programme Coordinator, Feb 2017

Photo Credits

Front cover top
Kettlewell : Mark Corner.

Front cover bottom
Cheese Experience: A Swinscoe

Page three
Dry Stone Walling: R Berry, YDMT.

Page eleven
Martin Whipp / Nidderdale AONB.

Page Twelve
R Berry, YDMT.

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Yorkshire Dales Leader Local Action Group



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