

The background of the cover is a quilt with a repeating pattern of birds, likely swallows, in various colors including blue, green, and yellow. A single, prominent red bird cutout is placed on the quilt. The text is overlaid on this background.

Community Led Local Development in Orkney

2014-2020

The Orkney LEADER Local Action Group's main objective was:

To achieve an increase in sustainable employment and incomes, and in social cohesion and quality of life; and to conserve and enhance the high quality of heritage and environment while maximizing the benefits in economic, social and environmentally sustainable terms.

The financial contributions of the Scottish Government, the European Community 2014-2020 LEADER Programme, the Scottish Rural Development Programme and Orkney Islands Council are gratefully acknowledged.

Introduction

LEADER Projects

LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale - links between actions for the development of the rural economy) formed part of the Scotland Rural Development Programme, which funded economic, environmental and social measures for the benefit of rural Scotland.

LEADER is a bottom-up method of delivering support for rural development, aimed at increasing the capacity of the local rural community and business networks by building knowledge and skills, encouraging innovation and co-operation, and attempting to achieve local development objectives.

Funded by the European Union and Scottish Government, the 2014 - 2020 LEADER Programme was delivered in Scotland by 21 Local Action Groups (LAGs) implementing Local Development Strategies for their area.

The Orkney Islands LEADER Programme offered funding for small scale projects led by the local community, or that are in the local community's interest, with the aim to promote economic and community development and farm diversification within Orkney as well as offering business sectoral support.

The Orkney LAG Board comprised representatives from both the public, private and third sectors (with a majority from the private/third sector), bringing expertise and experience in business, tourism, farming, the environment, community and voluntary groups as well as economic development and education. Work is ongoing to try and ensure that any future Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme will have more input from young people, those who are more marginalized in society and the older members of the community.

The 2014-2020 LEADER Programme distributed over £2.5 million in grant funding within Orkney, with approx. 20% each of this going to Community Support, and the Tourism, Heritage, Crafts, Food and Drink sector. Approx. 10% each was awarded to the business sector, farm diversification and environmental projects, with 5% going towards co-operation projects with other LAG areas and the balance on staff and administration costs to run the Programme.

This booklet celebrates the projects which were funded during the Programme and aims to provide ideas for groups and organisations who may be considering applying for CLLD funding in the future. A number of the projects which were approved were affected by Covid-19 which caused delays and costs increases. The information and costs in this booklet are the most accurate available at the time of publication. Almost all of the projects supported would not have been possible without the tremendous contribution made by community volunteers and the staff of the projects, without whose time and passion the projects, and indeed the whole LEADER Programme, would not have been possible. It is this community mindset of the people of Orkney contributes to the vibrancy of our islands.

A detailed evaluation was carried out at the end of the Programme, where the positive and negative points of the Programme were identified. Work is already on-going to build on the positives and eradicate the negatives going forward. A series of films was commissioned as part of this evaluation, and links to these films have been included on each project page, where available.

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/LEADER/



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



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

Burray Hall

Applicant: Burray Community Association

This community hall is well used by local groups including a toddler play group, exercise classes, brownies, clubs and leisure groups as well as concerts and other fundraising activities but was in need of repair and modernisation. Completion of this project has allowed the hall to encourage more users, thereby increasing its viability and allowing it to remain a central hub and focus for community activity.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To upgrade the fabric of the building including new roof.
- To increase in the energy efficiency by installing improved insulation.
- To install double-glazed doors and windows.
- To refurbish and equip the kitchen.
- To install two hearing loop systems.
- To provide table tennis equipment.
- To provide projection equipment.
- To provide portable flexi staging.

Total Approved Project Costs £69,995.47

LEADER Grant £34,971.66

Screwfix Grant £5,000.00

Orkney Islands Council £25,423.81

Own Funds £4,600.00

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/burray/

Link to LEADER film about the project



Installation of Artificial Bowling Surface at Kirkwall Bowling Club Area

Applicant: Kirkwall Bowling Club

This project involved the installation of an artificial outdoor bowling green at the Kirkwall Bowling Club. The Club wanted to convert the older of the two greens currently available into an all-weather artificial playing surface.

Installation of the surface allowed play to be assured irrespective of weather, extending the playing season and thereby increasing the opportunity for members and non-members to use the facility. The Club hoped that this would attract more people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in an activity which can be tailored to their ability and fitness level, benefiting their well-being.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To ensure that the Club will continue to attract a wide range of members and visiting players
- To provide for members and visiting clubs and players an even better facility.
- To extend the playing season greatly beyond the current period of April to September.
- To ensure that less able players who currently find difficulty on the present green can play with greater ease and confidence on the lighter, faster green.
- To allow tuition to be given to those with an interest in the game at times when the existing green is closed.

Total Approved Project Costs £138,516.00

LEADER Grant £68,721.00

Orkney Islands Council £65,448.81

Own Funds £4,346.19

www.bowlschat.com/directory/clubs/kirkwall-bowling-club



Birsay Play Park

Applicant: Birsay Community Association

There were no play parks in Birsay, Harray or Sandwick with the exception of the small play area at the Dounby school, which was not available to use at times during the school day. This project enabled the installation of a well-equipped, modern and safe play park incorporating a sheltered garden with seated picnic area and BBQ.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To encourage play and exercise to improve the health and wellbeing of children and adults who visit.
- To provide a new community facility which will encourage visitors to the area and help promote Birsay as an area to visit with benefits to local businesses.
- To provide a picnic and gardened area, which provided a green space for whole community to enjoy. This will improve biodiversity and attract bees and other wildlife to what was a barren area of land.
- To create a sensory garden which provided a facility targeted towards people with visual, hearing, learning or physical disabilities, but hopefully pleasing to all.
- To create volunteering opportunities; the installation and maintenance of garden area will provide ongoing opportunities for the community to help and create a space they are proud of.

Total Project Costs £25,900.95

LEADER Grant £12,263.60

Orkney Islands Council £12,171.00

Own Funds £1,466.35

www.birsayhall.com



Stromness Town House Garden Improvements

Applicant: Stromness Community Council

This project saw the construction of an outdoor multipurpose community space within the heart of Stromness. The space incorporated stone paving to complement the surrounding historic setting, seating and planting beds thereby creating a community area in the town centre open to casual use year round by the public as a space to relax. An easy to erect, removable canopy allows the area to be used as a performance space for cultural events, encouraging footfall in the town. Providing an attractive area which can be utilised by festivals and events and for people to linger within the town encourages more people to spend time in the town centre where they may visit the local shops, cafes and hotels, which may result in economic benefits for the town.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To provide a multipurpose community space encouraging to spend longer in the town centre and attracting visitors to the area, leading to social and economic benefits for Stromness.
- To achieve a sustainable town centre requires people to work, visit and live within it.

Total Approved Project Costs £91,981.30

LEADER Grant £45,990.42

Orkney Islands Council £45,306.08

Own Funds £684.80

www.stromnessorkney.com/



Digital Media Orkney

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

This was a 3-year project to develop and transition Orkney's collective marketing activity to fulfil an increasing requirement for digital media and content. The project focused on the external promotion of Orkney's four key sectors – tourism, food and drink, creative industries and energy, coupled with promotion of Orkney's communities and activities, demonstrating to the wider world that Orkney it is an excellent place to live, work, study, do business and visit. The project involved offering three contracts:

1. Social media management.
2. Film and photography (digital content) management.
3. Media and PR management.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To increase the amount of digital marketing that can be carried out for Orkney.
- To benefit Orkney's key sectors and communities.
- To raise awareness of Orkney and its quality products and services throughout the UK and beyond, given the potential global reach of digital marketing.
- To help increase visitors to Orkney, increase sales of Orkney products nationally and internationally, thereby improving viability of Orkney businesses leading to increased investment and job creation.
- To attract people to live and work in Orkney, enhancing the sustainability of our communities, by promoting Orkney's way of life and opportunities through enhanced digital marketing and increased traditional press marketing.

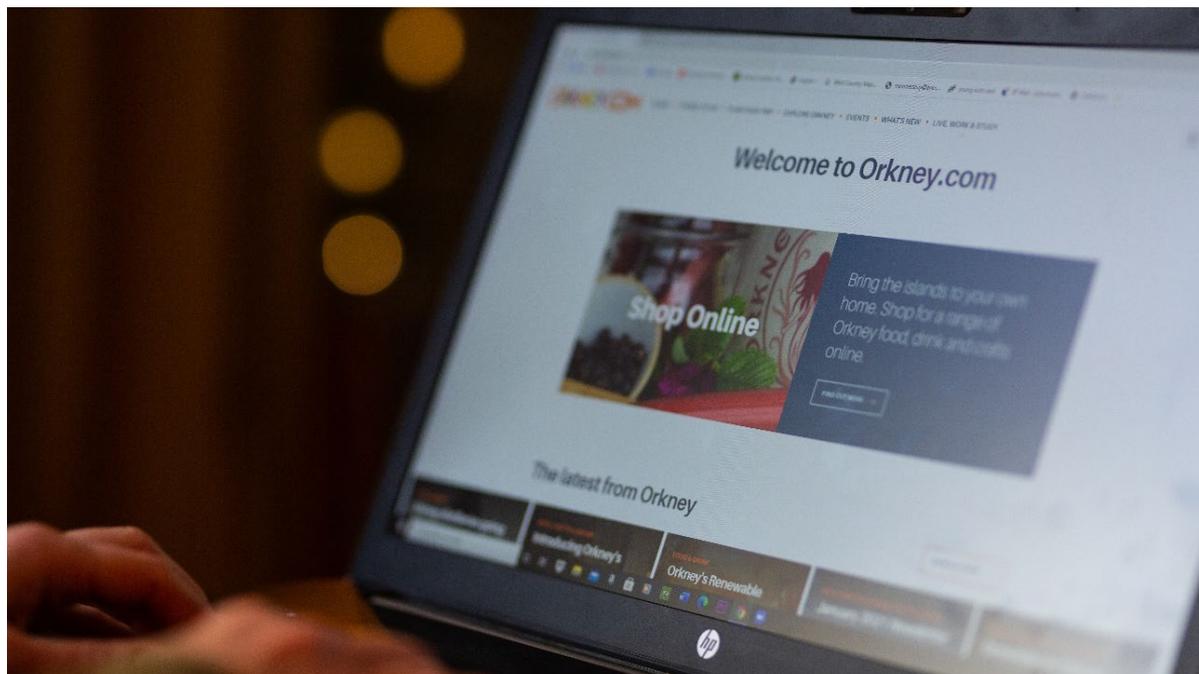
Total Approved Project Costs £348,000.00

LEADER Grant £173,999.40

Orkney Islands Council £130,500.00

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £43,500.00

www.orkney.com



Ness of Brodgar Development Project Phases 1 and 2

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

The Ness of Brodgar, in the midst of the World Heritage Site 'The Heart of Neolithic Orkney', has brought many visitors to Orkney and thus the Ness contributes directly to Orkney's economy through its tourism and cultural heritage sectors.

The purpose of the Phase 1 project was to fund the temporary appointment of a Full Time Manager for the Ness and a part-time Project Officer to concentrate on developing the full potential of the site as an excavation of world importance, as an educational resource, to explore the potential to be a sustainable visitor attraction, and to grow Orkney's visitor market.

Phase 2 aimed to build on the success of Phase 1, to extend the temporary contracts of the existing staff and to create a major interim monograph as an overview of the project thus far and support larger grant applications.

A summary of the projects aims are:

- To develop the Ness of Brodgar both in terms of its academic profile and its long term, sustainable tourist draw to Orkney.
- To enhance the visitor experience of the Ness of Brodgar by providing increased information on the site through information panels and new guidebook and exploring the potential of other experiential routes such as a visitor centre, 3D models, interactive screens and improved on site artefact displays.
- To begin to explore ways of preserving and presenting the site in the long term and throughout the tourism off-season.
- To enhance and further develop the site's virtual presence.
- To improve accessibility to the site, both physically and by virtual means.
- To produce a full interim monograph.
- To develop cross sectoral partnerships e.g. Orkney's tourism, art, and craft sectors to meet the demands of the modern tourism market.
- To direct the excavations and post-excavation activity of the Ness of Brodgar.
- To develop quality and wide-ranging academic collaborations and output.
- To provide overall project management for the work of developing and sustaining the Ness.
- To find long-term and sustainable funding for the work at the Ness and a dedicated team to make that work happen at a world-class standard to match its world-class archaeology.

**Phase 1 Total Approved Project Costs £144,021.02
£157,941.62**

Phase 1 LEADER Grant £72,010.51.

Phase 1 Private Funding £72,010.51

Phase 2 Total Approved Project Costs

Phase 2 LEADER Grant £78,962.23

Phase 2 Private Funding £78,979.39

www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk



Orkney Boat Haven/Museum Feasibility Study

Applicant: Orkney Historic Boat Society

This feasibility study was carried out to assist the Orkney Historic Boat Society in determining the viability and achievability of establishing a Boat Museum/Haven of national importance in Stromness. The Museum would incorporate an interpretation centre including aspects of Orkney's maritime heritage and serve as a base for a boat building training programme and boat restoration.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To produce a feasibility study to assist the Society in determining the viability and achievability of establishing a Boat Museum/Haven of national importance. The feasibility study will consider the requirements for development of a Boat Museum/ heritage and interpretation/boat restoration and education centre, including cost estimates, marketing strategies, analysis of the potential benefits and options for management of the Haven.

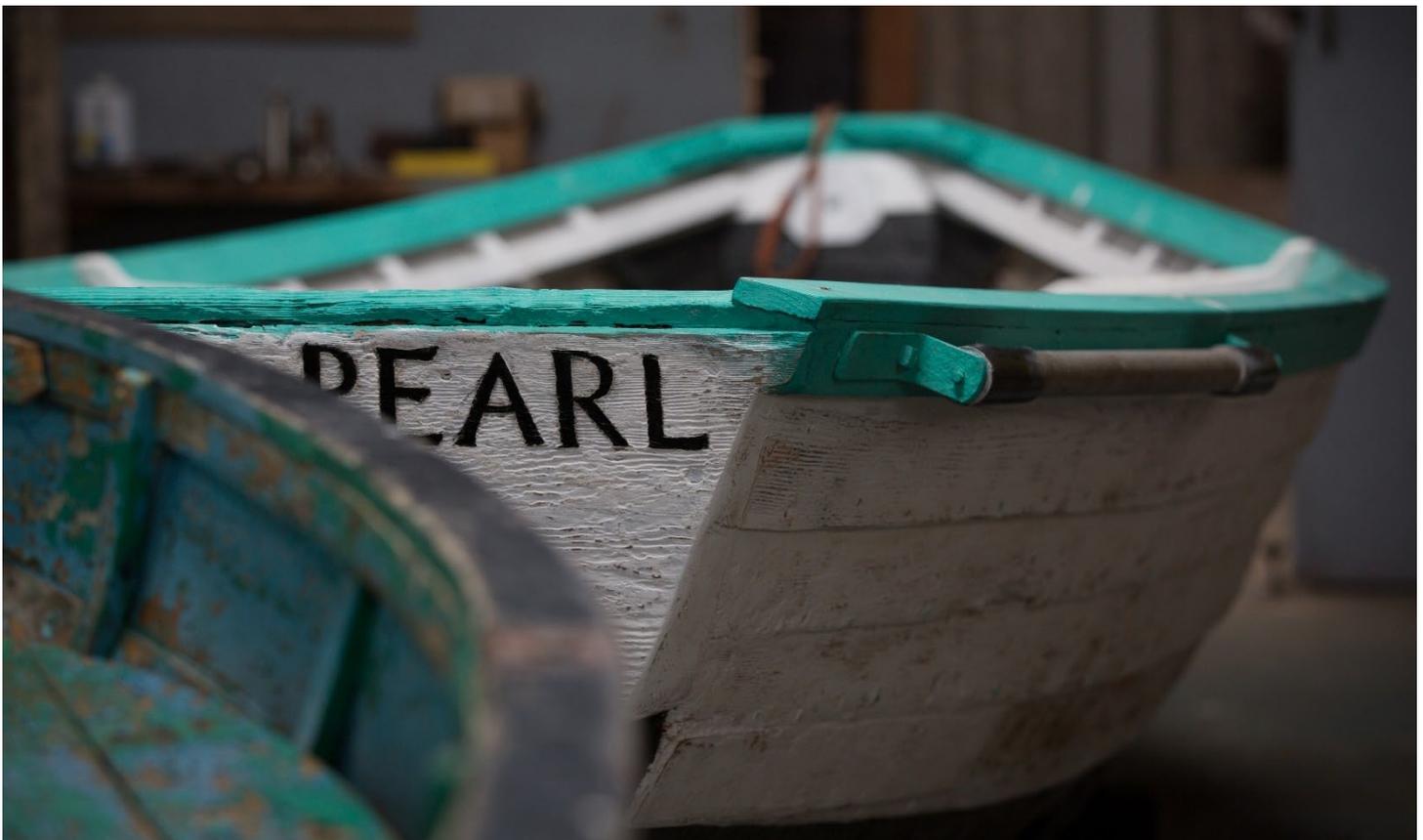
Total Approved Project Costs £8,800.00

LEADER Grant £41,80.00

Orkney Islands Council £4,180.00

Own Funds £440.00

www.ohbs.net



Westray Circular Economy Growers

Applicant: Westray Development Trust

Westray sits at the end of a very long wholesale supply chain of fruit and vegetables. This pilot scheme was created to erect two greenhouses, built specifically to withstand the local weather and grow a small but experimental range of produce using reliable and sustainable methods, with 2 part-time posts being created.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To grow affordable, fresh fruit and vegetables, whilst gathering information on crop varieties and their behavior.
- To gather information to be used to determine the physical structure and scale of a potential commercial operation.
- To reduce the carbon footprint of Westray and Orkney by reducing the food miles of perishable food stuffs.
- To increase the variety, freshness and affordability of fruit and vegetables available to the community of Westray.
- To compete with the traditional wholesale provision of fruit and vegetables in Westray, for the benefit of the Community.
- To increase the turnover of the local retail outlets, through increasing their market share of the sale of fruit and vegetables.

Total Approved Project Costs £74,956.65

LEADER Grant £28,124.64

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £23,936.00

Good Food Nation Grant £12,920.70

Own Funds £9,975.54

www.westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk

www.facebook.com/Westray-Community-Garden-Project-1960811767512092/



Veg, Visitors and Vibrancy for Papa Westray

Applicant: Papay Development Trust

This project was developed to provide a springboard to establish a market garden and a seasonal ranger service which will drive tourism on the island whilst demonstrating the island as a high-quality place to live and work. It aimed to generate significant economic activity in the context of the island, provide an exemplar of local food production, reduce food miles, promote health, reduce waste, bring the community together and help secure the ongoing improvement in the prospects for this remote island.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To generate economic activity which has long-term viability and benefits all residents and visitors.
- To develop the profile of the island as a place to visit, live and work, whilst offering an outstanding visitor experience.
- To provide Ranger-led tours of the island.
- To provide fresh local food and encourage healthy eating.
- To create employment and volunteering opportunities in the market garden.

Total Approved Project Costs £133,604.20

LEADER Grant £65,740.65

Papa Westray Community Council £9,999.00

Own Funds £53,864.55

Papa Westray Coffee Morning £1,000.00

Papa Westray Community Association £3,000.00

www.papawestray.co.uk/development-trust/

Link to LEADER film about the project: - <https://youtu.be/rsxlckOd8XE>



St Magnus Way – Phase 1 and Phase 2

Applicant: Orkney Pilgrimage SCIO

Phase 1 of this project saw the development of a 55-mile walking route through the Mainland of Orkney inspired by the life of St Magnus. The development of the route is seen as a significant legacy of the Magnus 900 celebrations and links Evie, Birsay, Dounby, Finstown, Orphir and Kirkwall in a varied route that is predominantly on core path and minor roads. A website and app using low-energy Bluetooth beacons were developed to provide a range of information and resources on the route – including natural environment, local history and a range of poetic and spiritual reflections in response to the landscape and history.

Phase 2 built on the successful launch of Phase 1 by installing interpretation boards and stone way-markers on the route and siting a St. Magnus Way table inside St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall where pilgrims can receive pilgrim completion certificates and make a donation to the charity.

A summary of the projects aims are:

- To launch the pilgrimage route in stages throughout the Magnus 900 year of 2017.
- To develop and launch an innovative smartphone app that uses Bluetooth Beacons to provide resources relevant to location and interests along the route.
- To develop and launch a website companion to the physical route and smartphone app with all resources and an online experience of the pilgrimage route for those unable to walk the entire route.
- To populate the app and website with further resources from the launch events and activities.
- To use the launch events and online presence to identify members of the community willing to be companions of St Magnus Way, adopting sections of path and helping support and maintain them.
- To commission and install interpretation boards and stone way-markers at significant points along the route.

Phase 1 Total Approved Project Costs £19,392.08
£16,927.10

Phase 1 LEADER Grant £9,696.04

Phase 1 Community Council Support £690.00
£2,396.08

Phase 1 Private Funding £9,006.04

Phase 2 Total Approved Project Costs

Phase 2 LEADER Grant £8,473.05

Phase 2 Community Council Support

Phase 2 Private Funding £6,076.97

www.stmagnusway.com

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/S3AhfzC6kxk>



Farming for Wildlife: Supporting People, Sustaining Nature

Applicant: RSPB

This project restored habitat across the 270-hectare Onziebust reserve on Egilsay, by creating a wildlife friendly farming operation and creating optimal habitat for key species such as corncrakes. Project activity included:

1. Purchase of wildlife survey equipment for staff, volunteers and to support training.
2. Purchase of an electric quad bike.
3. Recruitment of warden, farm manager, farm worker and a part-time stockman.
4. Renovation of the volunteer bothy to allow year-round residential volunteering and training.
5. Improvement to tracks and gates for greater accessibility.
6. Installation of interpretation panels, and production of information/conservation literature.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To enhance and conserve the natural heritage of the Onziebust Reserve and Egilsay in general for priority wildlife and habitats, as well as locals and visitors.
- To encourage and provision local communities to learn about and conserve their important natural heritage through developing and delivering a bespoke training programme.
- To increase community support for wildlife.
- To attract visitors to and improve visitor experience of the natural heritage of Egilsay.
- To contribute to the Economic Sustainability of the island and surrounding islands, particularly Rousay.
- To establish strong links with local schools by actively engaging children and young adults in reserve management.

Total Approved Project Costs £245,260.75

LEADER Grant £80,900.63

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £26,747.79

Coastal Communities Fund £115,244.39

Own Funds £22,687.98

www.orkney.com/listings/rspb-orkney



Collections Development Team

Applicant: Orkney Natural History Society Museum

The four-year project employed a Museum Collections Development Team, who

- Disseminated information about the museum's important collection by comprehensively cataloguing the collection and making the information widely available through a greatly improved website, a digital catalogue, guidebooks and improved visitor experiences.
- Identified new potential initiatives and funding opportunities to care for and make best use of the collection.
- Attracted more visitors, and increased income, to enable the museum to become more resilient and sustainable.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To work towards the recognition of Stromness Museum's collection as a Collection of National Significance accredited by Museums Galleries Scotland.
- To provide paid employment opportunities and training within the heritage sector.
- To allow innovative curatorial work to take place within the museum with paid expertise being applied to the collection.
- To improve the accessibility of the collection in an equal manner for various audiences – the local visitor, tourist, online visitor, and academic.
- To increase paying visitor numbers.
- To increase partnership working with other groups, and connections with the local community.
- To better utilise and develop the museum's current, and prospective, volunteers.

Total Approved Project Costs £274,926.11

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £7,635.17

**LEADER Grant £ 150,507.33
£11,843.18**

Orkney Islands Council CDF Grant

John Ellerman Foundation £75,078.00

Own Funds £1,184.31

Orkney Islands Council Economic Development Grant £28,678.14

www.stromnessmuseum.org.uk

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/CJh-cg77VLY>



Lifestyles Public Art Project

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

A project to enable adults with a wide range of learning disabilities to participate in a series of creative workshops which culminated in the production of a collaborative public work of art for permanent display within the Lifestyles Service building. The project was aimed at the 40 regular service users of the Lifestyles Centre and also to participants from wider Orkney Health and Care services and appropriate third sector groups.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To deliver creative artwork, which will be on display for the Orkney community to see, creating a talking point, creating awareness and positivity of the capabilities of often marginalised and stigmatised groups.
- To deliver enhanced environmental and economic value, leading to increased community usage of the Lifestyles facilities.
- To deliver enhanced group and individuals' confidence and skills in designing, planning, participating and delivering the project.
- Participants supported to explore their own creativity and develop creative skills that will be valuable to them beyond the life of the project.
- To act as a mechanism to break down general negative perceptions of "care" facilities, by raising awareness of individuals' abilities and engaging the wider public in the development and presentation of the artwork

Total Approved Project Costs £7,771.79

LEADER Grant £2,653.29

Own Funds £5,118.50

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/TUejKGrxROQ>



Project Manager – Orkney Crafts Association

Applicant: Orkney Crafts Association (now Creative Orkney)

This project involved the employment of a part-time Project Manager to support the development and growth of the creative industries sector in Orkney, including carrying out a full review of the organization and a refreshment the Orkney Craft Trail to include a digital element.

There was also a drive to both increase membership and enable member businesses of the key craft sector to grow and develop, helping to create additional sales and new jobs, benefiting the Orkney economy and community.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To continue to support the growth and development of the businesses involved in the arts and crafts sector in Orkney by employing a dedicated part-time resource.
- To enable the member businesses of the arts and crafts sector to grow and develop.
- To increase the promotion of the sector both within and outwith Orkney and Scotland and ensure that Orkney maintains and grows its excellent reputation for quality of product and design.
- To achieve increased sales for businesses, the confidence to develop new products and enter new markets, and the creation of new jobs.
- To enhance the viability of the tourism sector as visitors come to Orkney to enjoy the environment, and to buy good quality, local goods and souvenirs.

Total Approved Project Costs £138,430.00

LEADER Grant £69,215.00

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £33,100.00

Own Funds £3,008.00

Orkney Islands Council £33,107.00

www.orkney.com/life/industry/creative

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/0R6vqBGkqkx>



Project Manager – Orkney Food and Drink

Applicant: Orkney Food and Drink

This project involved the employment of a part time Project Manager to support the development and growth of the food and drink industry in Orkney, including involvement in small scale local events and large events in mainland UK, through development work on infrastructure – both the physical (in terms of physical exhibition stands) and enhancement of digital elements (websites and social media).

A summary of the project aims is:

- To continue to support the growth and development of the businesses involved in the food and drink sector in Orkney.
- To enable member businesses of the key food and drink sector to grow and develop.
- To increase the promotion of the sector both within and outwith Orkney and Scotland and ensure that Orkney maintains and grows its excellent reputation for the quality of produce.
- To achieve increased sales for businesses, the confidence to develop new products and enter new markets, and the creation of new jobs.
- To enhance the viability of the tourism sector as visitors come to Orkney to enjoy a great food and drink experience.

Total Approved Project Costs £105,764.00

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £16,857.00

LEADER Grant £52,882.00

Scotland Food and Drink £4,167.00

Orkney Islands Council £16,857.00

Own Funds £15,001.00

www.orkney.com/life/industry/taste

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/0R6vqBGkqkxk>



Printmaking for me and YOU

Applicant: Soulisquoy Printmakers

An initiative by Soulisquoy Printmakers that focused on developing and delivering new and imaginative opportunities within the local community for creative and artistic participatory activity centred on traditional printmaking. The key elements of the project are:

1. To employ two part-time members of staff.
2. Make an initial, small capital investment in equipment.
3. Promote and present a wide ranging programme of printmaking and related activity through workshops, classes and dedicated projects.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To develop a facility offering a wide range of creative opportunities for the local community. A broad and diverse audience and participants from the very young to the older members of the community were able to engage with printmaking activity.
- To grow the organisation, particularly in the areas of widening access, awareness and participation beyond current membership and in meeting the organisation objectives of being viable, resilient and self-sustaining.
- To expand both current ideas and activities in imaginative and innovative ways.

Total Approved Project Costs £54,177.46

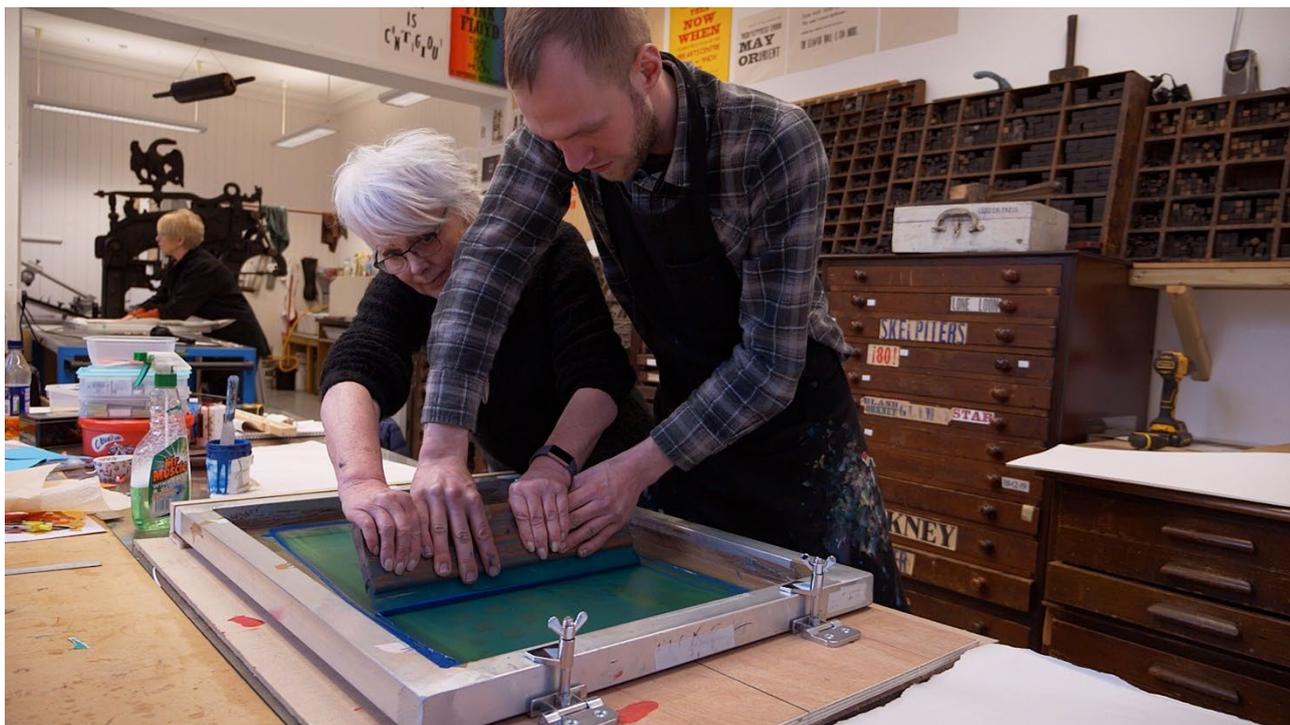
LEADER Grant £22,088.46

Creative Scotland £22,089.00

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £10,000.00

www.soulisquoyprintmakers.blogspot.com

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/Pz8lem-SpUU>



Building Destination Orkney

Applicant: Destination Orkney (formerly Orkney Tourism Group)

Tourism is one of Orkney's key industry sectors, contributing to the economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of communities throughout Orkney. The Destination Orkney partnership will be responsible for the delivery of an action plan focused on achieving the 2025 vision for tourism in Orkney, seeking to make a step change in destination marketing and management.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To recruit a Chief Executive who will effectively lead Orkney's Tourism team, chairing the Destination Orkney Partnership and leading the new operating company (OTG plus). The CEO will work closely with Destination Orkney partners and industry members, leverage tourism industry relationships, and be responsible for enhancing the reputation of both the destination and the organisation, and in meeting the mission, vision and objectives of the destination and organisation.

Total Approved Project Costs £132,986.52

LEADER grant £64,763.36

Orkney Islands Council £28,341.00

Highlands and Islands Enterprise 27,382.00

Own Funds £12,500.16

www.orkney.com/life/industry/tourism



Upgrade of Sandwich Community Centre

Applicant – Sandwich Community Association

The aim of this project was to upgrade the facilities at the Sandwich Community Centre, which was last refurbished 33 years ago. The upgrade has ensured that the hall is more energy efficient, cheaper to heat and is a warm, more welcoming and safer environment for all its users.

A summary of the project aims is:

The overall aim of the project is to upgrade the facilities at the Sandwich Community Centre, making the hall more efficient to run, while lowering costs. This will be achieved by:

- Replacing the current kitchen facilities with a modern kitchen fit for purpose as a professional catering kitchen and meeting current Environmental Health food hygiene standards.
- Replacing the existing windows and doors with insulated doors and double-glazed windows.
- Installing an air to air heating system to reduce heating costs.
- Installing insulation in areas which currently require it, reducing heating costs.
- Improving facilities by creating a permanent lighting bridge for the stage and secure store for the lighting system.

Total Approved Project Costs £96,266.60

LEADER Grant £45,726.63

Orkney Island Council £45,726.00

Own Funds £4,813.97

www.facebook.com/sandwickhall/



Deerness Hall Extension

Applicant: Deerness Community Centre Association

This project encompassed an extension to the Deerness Hall to provide a permanent stage area with accessible lift access and a multiuse room. The project also included the addition of externally accessible toilets and showers, and a laundry room to compliment the camping facilities. An electric vehicle charging point was installed outside the hall, with facilities for two cars to be charged simultaneously. Air-to-air heating was also installed in the main hall to increase the building's energy efficiency.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To extend the Hall, creating a permanent stage and increased seating capacity in order to make it a more attractive venue for events.
- To reduce heating costs in an environmentally-friendly way by the use of air-to-air heating, complimenting the existing wind turbine.
- To encourage more campers to use the improved camping facilities at the Hall and attract more visitors to the playpark as well as to local businesses including the nearby shop.

Total Approved Project Costs £231,610.99

LEADER Grant £ 107,009.39

Own Funds £21,854.69

Orkney Island Council £91,063.04
£370.35

St Andrews and Deerness Community Council

Energy Saving Trust £1,000.00

The Robertson Trust £10,313.52

www.facebook.com/Deerness-Community-Centre-1067048326680687/



North Ronaldsay Development Manager

Applicant: North Ronaldsay Trust

The population of North Ronaldsay, which is the most northerly of the islands in the Orkney Archipelago, was in decline and aging, and to ensure the island's survival it was imperative to attract new residents and to improve facilities and amenities. An Island Development Plan was developed which outlined immediate and longer-term priorities to assist in ensuing economic and social sustainability and a part time Community Development Manager was recruited to lead on the agreed projects. Ultimately the main objective of the project was to leave a legacy of a self-sustaining community being part of a larger network of islands in Orkney.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To achieve an increase in population, with economic growth through a variety of industries: farming, tourism, crafts, food and drink, cosmetic.
- To increase available housing thereby increasing the population, and the possibility of the school being used.
- To employ a dyke worker or/and Ranger, again increasing the population.
- To create employment opportunities and economic growth.
- To ensure that the locally produced wind energy was being utilised in the most effective way.

Total Approved Project Costs £41,161.39

LEADER Grant £20,403.39

Orkney Island Council £9,339.00

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £8,923.00

Own Funds £2,496.00

www.northronaldsay.co.uk



Graemsay Community Hall Development

Applicant: Graemsay Community Association

The community hall on Graemsay was purchased second-hand, and erected by the men of Graemsay, in the 1930's. The purpose of this project was to upgrade the community hall, to keep it usable for the next generations. The hall is central to the island community, used by everybody for social functions, events and meetings. There were no toilet facilities, the roof could not withstand the Orcadian weather conditions, the heating system was ineffective, unsafe and expensive to run and the doors and windows were neither draught- nor waterproof.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To create a facility suitable for all, including the less able-bodied, which is usable in all weathers, and which the community can maintain for the foreseeable future with reduced repair and running costs.
- To replace the roof using materials that will cope with the adverse weather conditions and install a high level of insulation.
- To upgrade the windows and doors.
- To install an air-source heating system which is environmentally sound and efficient to run.
- To erect a fully accessible, fully composting toilet installation.

Total Approved Project Costs £41,917.00

LEADER Grant £19,897.42

Orkney Islands Council £19,910.00

Own Funds £2,109.58



Orkney Sailing Club – Development and Access Programme

Applicant: Orkney Sailing Club

Orkney Sailing Club (OSC) is a volunteer-run organisation whose primary objective is to encourage the sport of sailing in Orkney. To help celebrate its 130th Anniversary in 2019 a programme of activities to promote and increase sailing activity in Orkney through improving accessibility to sailing and enhancing the facilities and opportunities available to its existing and new members was devised. The LEADER funded project established a fleet of Club boats that can be used by existing, new and prospective members for training and racing, thereby ensuring that sailing in Orkney is as accessible as possible.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To give new and existing members without access to their own boat the ability to participate in sailing activities in Orkney using those provided by the Club.
- To improve access to training opportunities for new and existing members across Orkney.
- To increase sailing activity in Orkney, increase in OSC membership and overall future sustainability.
- To raise awareness of Orkney's sailing heritage.
- To maximise engagement with the local community and other sailing groups.
- To promote the Club Fleet and sailing in general.
- To re-generate interest in sailing in Orkney.

Total Approved Project Costs £78,450.09

LEADER Grant £37,263.80

Orkney Islands Council £37,263.00

Own Funds £3,923.30

www.orkneysailingclub.org.uk

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/X986LFItiJ4>



Lower Cottiscarth Farm Diversification

Lower Cottiscarth, an organic beef and sheep farm in Rendall, wished to diversify by establishing self-catering accommodation on site to augment the income from the farm.

The accommodation was targeted at birders, nature lovers and (in winter) those interested in enjoying the area's 'dark skies'. The Cottiscarth and Rendall Moss RSPB reserve is situated on the hill land farmed by the owner and is renowned for Hen Harrier and Merlin.

LEADER funding enabled the building of one three-bedroomed unit and two two-bedroomed fully wheelchair accessible units.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To provide high quality accommodation targeted at birders, nature lovers and those wishing to have unique high-quality accommodation whilst providing an authentic Orkney experience.
- To develop a marketing strategy to attract birders for the migratory season, nature lovers and those interested in stargazing and the dark skies once the clocks change for winter, through a strong on-line presence.
- To offer weekend and short stays in addition to the marketing as detailed above in order to try and get visitors to the area in the "off season".

LEADER has provided £75,000.00 funding towards total approved project costs of £286,000.00.

www.cottiscarthcottages.co.uk



Making Yogurt and Farmhouse Cheese

This project was to diversify a dairy farm by creating an on-site facility producing yoghurt, milk shakes and eventually farmhouse cheese from the farm's own milk.

LEADER funding was provided to support the set-up phase. This covers the building renovation, including creation of dairy, office, toilet and change area, purchase of equipment for dairy, office and change area and purchase of a refrigerated van for deliveries.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To create purpose-made facility so that yoghurt, milkshakes and cheese can be produced in a hygienic environment with the proper equipment, and produce can be stored on site.

Following completion of the building project the aim is:

- To distribute the products to many local produce shops, hotels, restaurants, schools and hospitals throughout Orkney and become a reliable supplier.
- To attend national food and drink events such as the Good Food Show in Glasgow, The Royal Highland Show and many more to develop a national market and distribution network for products.

LEADER has provided £36,800.95 funding towards total approved project costs of £73,636.91.

www.theorkneydairy.com

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/NIQIITNI7mM>



North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS) – Staff Costs

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

The NILPS programme has 4 main themes:

1. Celebrating island life and culture.
2. Conserving islander knowledge.
3. Exploring island landscapes.
4. Equipping island communities .

and based on those 4 main themes, NILPS will deliver 18 main projects across a five-year programme focused on the North Isles of Orkney, to be delivered up to March 2023. LEADER funding has been awarded to cover the costs of 2 project officers and 1 finance/admin officer to support the entire project.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To employ suitably qualified staff who can deliver the NILPS objectives of -
 - Celebrating what the North Isles offer through promotion and recognition of what makes them special, by making heritage more accessible to learn or experience, encouraging the involvement of young people, and promoting islander skills and traditions.
 - Conserving and raising awareness of the unique cultural identity and history of the North Isles including dialect, field names, genealogy and oral history, by conserving and developing local knowledge and skills.
 - Conserving and raising awareness of the distinctive built and natural landscapes of the North Isles by raising awareness of the wider North Isles landscape, conserving and promoting natural characteristics of land, sea and sky, whilst conserving and showcasing built heritage.
 - Providing resources to help communities pro-actively manage their natural and cultural heritage, to help improve the North Isles as a place to live, work and visit, by improving the heritage offer of the isles and effective management of a changing landscape.

Total Approved Project Costs £252,796.15

LEADER Grant £91,006.61

Heritage Lottery Fund £161,789.54

www.nilps.co.uk



North Isles Landscape Partnership (NILPS) – Biodiversity Projects

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

There are two key biodiversity projects which form part of the on-going NILPS project as a whole, which have benefitted from LEADER funding:

1. Natural Heritage Guides and Interpretation in the North Isles to promote understanding and interaction with the natural environment within the North Isles. The guides are aimed at both visitors and the local community and produced with input and support from key local stakeholders and community groups.
2. Virtual Dives in the North Isles aim to develop and promote the understanding, interaction and awareness of the natural marine environment of the North Isles and to raise the awareness of the role it plays in delivering economic and social benefits and promoting the area as a visitor destination.

A summary of the NIPLS project aims is:

- To improve the tourist offer of the North Isles to help sustain and responsibly develop its considerable potential for the island communities.
- To celebrate island life and traditions in order to capture and catalogue the unique stories of the North Isles for current and future generations.
- To undertake landscape surveys and investigations, to help catalogue the origins and changes throughout the North Isles in order to better understand the future.
- To enhance and develop the heritage trails and active travel routes throughout the North Isles, in order to better promote and utilise the considerable network for both locals and visitors.
- To reinforce isles connections through various community-led partnership activities involving sharing of knowledge, experiences, and collective ambitions for the future.
- To protect and enhance the natural habitats and biodiversity that exist within the North Isles, providing opportunities for communities to explore and learn.
- To enhance and conserve of the built heritage in the North Isles, through training, restoration and development of facilities for local communities and visitors to enjoy.
- To develop the network of heritage centres found throughout the North Isles, providing opportunities for additional use of, and participation in these important community and visitor facilities.
- To work in partnership with local landowners, farmers, businesses and local communities to help achieve a sustainable future for the management of the heritage and landscape in the North Isles.
- To assist the communities and groups of the North Isles to achieve additional skills, knowledge, and confidence in caring for and making decisions about their own heritage and landscape.

Total Approved Project Costs £140,000.00

LEADER Grant £50,400.00

Heritage Lottery Fund £89,600.00

www.nilps.co.uk



Between Islands Co-operation Project

Applicant: An Lanntair Ltd

This co-operation project created a new and ambitious series of collaborative events between the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland, creating a legacy for future working practices. Led by An Lanntair, the main arts centre in the Western Isles, the Between Islands Project initiative included:

1. The creation of an inter-island cultural exhibition.
2. The production of new archive materials.
3. Publication of supporting materials.
4. Touring musical events.
5. Workshops and Skills sharing, residencies and lectures.
6. Website/Creatives Directory.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To highlight the historical links between the Islands whilst exploring the modern-day similarities and differences through the creation of a programme of cultural events.
- To create a physical body of work that can be shared throughout the island groups in the form of exhibitions and archive film materials.
- To provide a supporting artistic, education and outreach programme.
- To celebrate and enhance the distinctiveness of the Islands, highlighting history and heritage, whilst promoting the work of established and emerging creatives.
- To establish and encourage collaborative working, and the sharing of skills and resources.
- To raise the profile of the arts and heritage sector as a major asset to each region.
- To support the economic development of the creative industries through the creation of work and opportunities.
- To establish an online resource, which will collectively promote both the cultural heritage of the Islands and the bank of skilled arts practitioners who live and work there.

Total Approved Project Costs £137,654.00, with Orkney LEADER funding of £41,218.00

www.betweenislands.com

Link to LEADER film about the project: <https://youtu.be/tPHmajG2WNo>



Broadening Accessibility

Applicant: Kirkwall Kayak Club

Kirkwall Kayak Club undertook this project to encourage paddle sports in Orkney. To do this they needed to ensure that we have craft and equipment available to suit paddlers whatever their age, size or levels of ability and mobility. To achieve this, they aim to purchase the following equipment:

- 6 Junior boats and equipment – suitable for small junior members aged 8 to 12 years.
- 1 Tandem sit on top kayak and equipment – suitable for paddlers in need of additional support on the water.
- 3 Small adult sea kayaks and equipment to enable small juniors to progress to full size craft as they grow, and to make smaller craft available for new junior members.
- 1 High capacity sea kayak and equipment to suit larger and heavier (XL/XXL) paddlers.
- 2 20-foot shipping containers to store the new equipment in.
- 1 Vehicle trailer to enable them to transport all the above equipment.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To improve the experience and allow the full participation in Kirkwall Kayak Club activities of community members who do not fit or suit the craft that the Club currently has available to use.
- To remove barriers to full participation in Club activities and events especially for community and disability groups.

Total Approved Project Costs £16,545.97

LEADER Grant £7,859.33

Orkney Islands Council £7,859.34

Own Funds £827.30

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/kirkwallkayakclub/



Development of Wyre Community and Heritage Centre

Applicant: Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Heritage SCIO

This project started life as upgrading the existing Community and Heritage Centre on Wyre to ensure its continued use as a fit-for-purpose community facility for:

1. Social events, meetings etc.
2. Housing and displaying an extensive heritage archive.
3. Offering shelter and comfort facilities to visitors immediately adjacent to the major heritage sites on Wyre – Cubbie Roo's Castle and St. Mary's Chapel.

It soon became apparent that the structure of the building was in a worse state of repair than had originally been thought, and that a full re-build would be required including kitchen and toilet facilities. Unfortunately, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the contractor was unable to complete the works within the LEADER programme timescale, and the LEADER funds therefore had to be withdrawn, although initial costs totaling £11,904 had already been incurred. It is hoped that the project can still complete with alternative funding and the project aims (listed below) will still be achieved.

A summary of the projects aims is:

- To ensure the continuing availability and enhancement of the facility for social events and meetings of various kinds.
- To maintain a facility for visitors to heritage sites on Wyre, for its archive of heritage information and for rest, shelter and conveniences at some distance from the Wyre pier.
- To increase the number of visitors which will also contribute to the maintenance of a good level of ferry service to the island which is itself an important factor in maintaining/enhancing the population of this small and fragile island.

LEADER Grant towards roofing materials and professional fees £5,629.16.

www.rewdt.org



Hall of Clestrain Project Manager

Applicant: John Rae Society

The John Rae Society is a trust which was set up to recognise the achievements of Arctic Explorer John Rae, and to secure the future of the Hall of Clestrain, John Rae's Birthplace. The generation of a Feasibility Study on how to best develop the Hall along with the appointment of a Project Manager who would bring expertise to the development of the project were felt to be the best way forward for this project and LEADER funding was secured to fund both of these elements.

A summary of the projects aims is:

- To have a clear plan of the way forward backed up by a detailed Feasibility Study
- To appoint a Project Manager/Development Officer who will lead to successful grant applications and thus the renovation and development of the building and gardens.
- Once the renovation has been completed, the aim is to create an award-winning visitor centre and community resource, combining heritage conservation with contemporary 'accessible' design and environmental sustainability and placing the John Rae story at the heart of the interpretation, connecting the stories of the Hall, Hudson's Bay Company and Canada/Arctic exploration and their close connections with Orkney. To provide a highly digitised and interactive visitor experience and year-round facilities offering employment/volunteer opportunities and exhibition, research and learning to engage, educate and change perceptions. This will be supported by retail, café and community facilities, events and activities which will include the local community and those who don't normally interact with heritage.

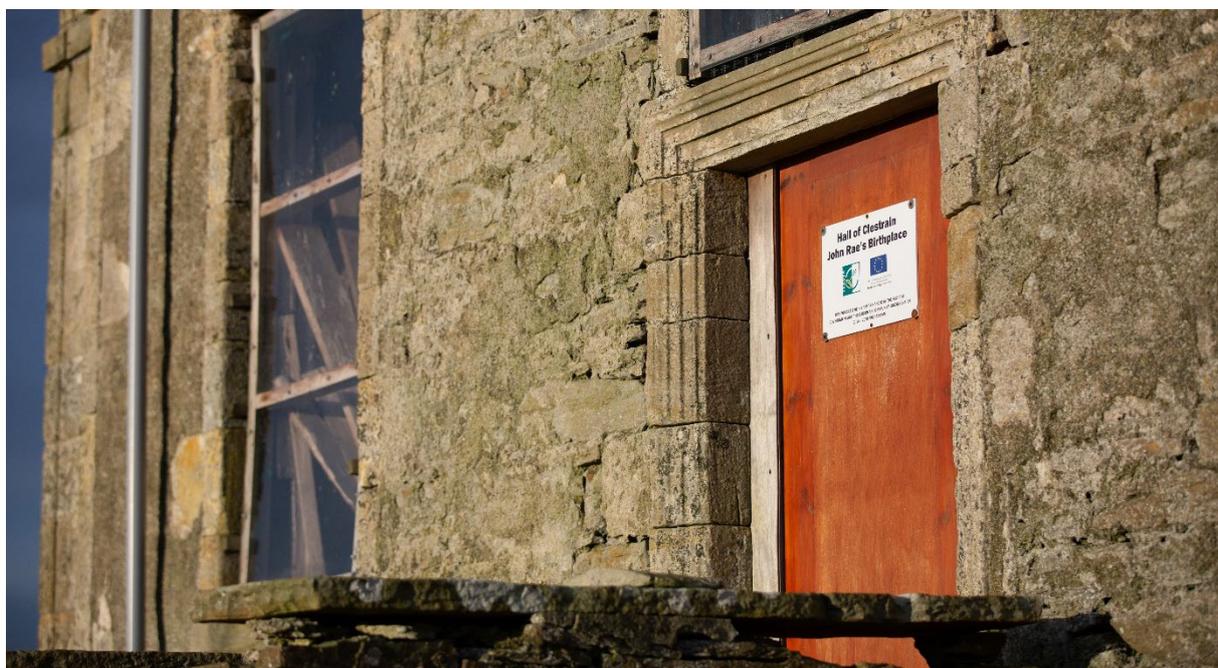
Total Approved Project Costs £36,223.46

LEADER Grant £18,111.73

Orkney Islands Council £2,500.00

Own Funds £15,611.73

www.johnraesociety.com



Heating and Environmental Upgrade for Firth Community Centre

Applicant: Firth Community Association

Firth Community Centre is at the hub of the local community and a central venue for a vast array of intergenerational activities. However, it was in need of improvement to increase the capacity and potential of the centre and encourage participation of individuals and organisations within the local community, thereby helping to ensure social cohesion and development.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To install a new heating and hot water system, which is affordable to run, controllable and environmentally friendly which upgrades the hall and makes it more suitable to allow its use for accommodation and catering facilities during the 2023 Island Games, which are due to be held in Orkney.
- To install an electric car charger at the hall for general use of local residents and visitors.
- To convert a piece of waste ground as a “Wild Flower Area”, planting Buddleia and Rosa Rugosa shrubs and sowing wild flowers to attract wild life, mainly insects, bees and butterflies which in turn will attract birds. Various different groups within the community will be involved in this project on an on-going basis –
 - The children from the various organisations can learn about the biodiversity of the area and help in sowing/planting, taking a positive approach to the wildlife in the area.
 - To develop a garden club to ensure future maintenance of this area and continue the community efforts with pride in their surroundings and used of an attractive common space.
 - The more experienced members of the community will be able to share their knowledge with the younger groups.

Total Approved Project Costs £24,875.92

LEADER Grant £11,816.06

Orkney Islands Council £11,816.06

Own Funds £1,243.80

www.facebook.com/Firth-Community-Centre-741048585975575/



South End Play Area

Applicant: Stromness Community Development Trust

The South End Play Park in Stromness has been a focal point for the town's young people for generations and has provided an important amenity for those residing locally and also, given its proximity the Camping and Caravan Site and Golf Club, to young people from out with Stromness visiting the town. Over the last few years much of the existing play equipment has deteriorated to a point where the majority of it has been removed. The redevelopment of the Play Park has provided a safe and sustainable park for future generations

A summary of the project aims is:

- To provide free outdoor play opportunities which are a vital ingredient in ensuring the all-round, healthy development of children and young people.
- To provide stimulating and challenging play to enable young people to develop their physical, mental and social skills, find out more about themselves and their local environment.
- To provide an area which is safe and accessible to all levels of ability and disability, built using natural and sustainable materials.

Total Approved Project Costs £72,000.00

LEADER Grant £36,000.00

Orkney Islands Council £18,000.00

Own Funds £18,000.00

www.stromnessorkney.com



Stromness Community Development Officer

Applicant: Stromness Community Development Trust

The project involved the employment of a development officer in order to take forward a suite of key projects each having social, economic and environmental elements to help achieve a more vibrant and sustainable town. It was viewed as a pilot in order to take forward the key projects identified from the various consultations undertaken within the Stromness community. It also provided an opportunity to test the viability of having such a paid resource available.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To build confidence and ability within the local community to take a more active role in helping shape the future of the town.
- To provide a platform for further development of projects, as well as new projects being identified for delivery within the community.
- To act as a pilot delivery project, based on the outcomes of the Council community consultation events and supporting document, to enable the community to take greater responsibility for its own future.
- To assist the town with Covid-19 recovery.

Total Approved Project Costs £40,414.27

LEADER Grant £18,889.26

Orkney Islands Council £20,734.00

Own Funds £791.01

www.stromnessorkney.com



Happy Valley Access and Biodiversity Improvements

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

Happy Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR) includes an area of mature woodland crossed by a small watercourse, a more recently planted woodland area and three additional fields, one of which contains a freshwater pond and wildflower-rich grassland. The project was designed to improve access through the Reserve by installing a recycled plastic boardwalk through the 'pond' field which had been little used by visitors to the site. This enabled the creation of a circular route to reduce pressure on the existing woodland paths. Two sheltered stone seating areas were also provided.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To improve access through the LNR by creating a circular route, thus reducing wear and tear on the path through the mature woodland and improving the visitor experience.
- To open further areas to people who otherwise have limited access to the reserve by installing a 160-metre boardwalk path crossing an area of wet meadow.
- To create two sheltered stone seating areas, one in the wet meadow and the other in a recently planted woodland area, is to provide accessible areas where people may rest and appreciate the natural heritage interest and tranquility of the reserve.

Total Approved Project Costs £44,885.00

LEADER Grant £22,442.50

Orkney Islands Council £2,442.50

EB Scotland £15,000.00

Friends of Happy Valley £5,000.00

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/happyvalley/



Mull Head Local Nature Reserve Access and Interpretation

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

This project was designed to enhance visitor experience in the Mull Head LNR by installing the following:

- Lengths (90m x 1m in total) of boardwalk at various points along the path.
- A GPS-based interpretation app which would provide information, accessible on the visitor's smartphone, at 20 points of interest throughout the reserve. Numbered posts would guide the visitor along the information trail.
- Six finger-post way markers to keep visitors on the correct path, avoiding damage to heathland vegetation or disturbance to nesting birds.
- Four hazard signs to warn visitors of proximity to dangerous cliffs.
- A new sign at the entrance to the visitor centre access track.
- Two galvanised gates to enable sheep to be driven along a safe route into the reserve for grazing.
- Two interpretation boards in the car park.
- Produce and print a new Mull Head leaflet.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To improve access to Mull Head LNR.
- To improve the provision of interpretation.
- To improve signage.
- To make provision to enable conservation grazing of maritime grassland.

Total Approved Project Costs £40,906.30

LEADER Grant £19,517.65

Heritage Lottery Fund £21,388.65

Link to the Mull Head app: <https://izi.travel/en/955e-mull-head-nature-reserve/en>



Foraging Fortnight Co-operation Project

Foraging Fortnight was a cooperation project involving six LAG areas along with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as a national delivery partner. The festival ran in 2019 and 2020 in each of the following LAG areas: • Forth Valley and Lomond • West Lothian • Fife • Moray • Lanarkshire • Orkney

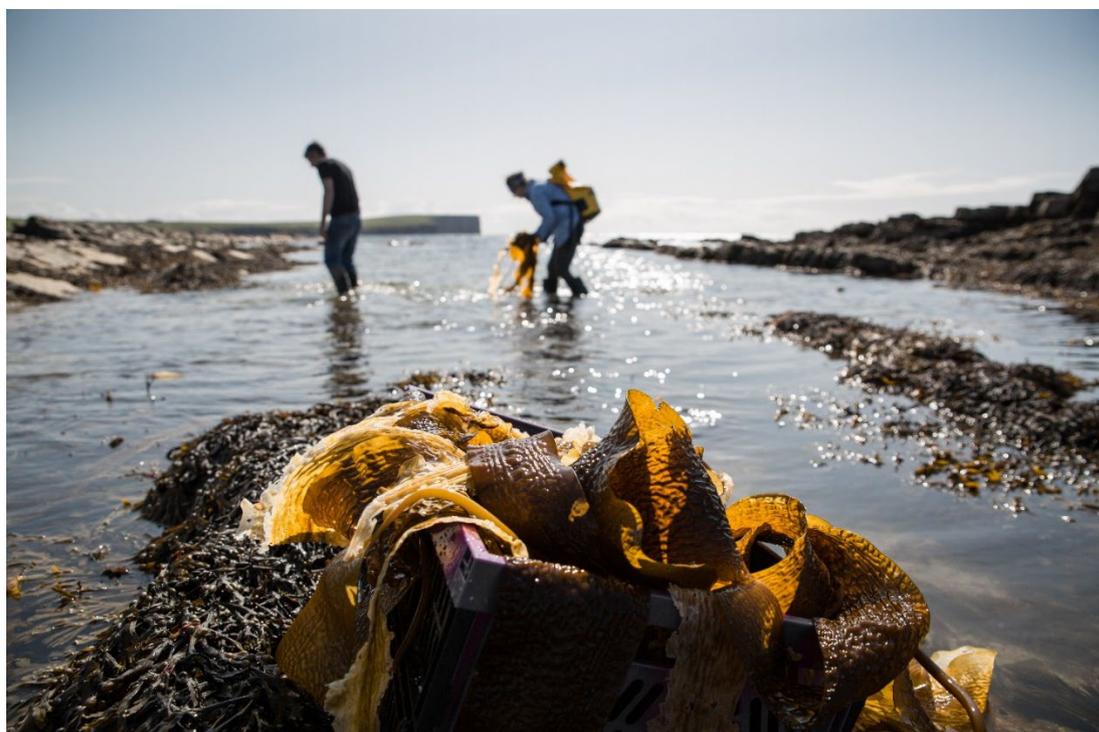
Foraging Fortnight aimed to celebrate Scotland's natural environment and wild food through a coordinated foraging festival, involving a wide range of foraging and wild food activities across the country. Aspects of Foraging Fortnight align with the goals of the national food tourism ambition, for Scotland to become a globally recognised food tourism destination- building a name for Scotland as a hub for wild food experiences – good seasonal food with a taste of the wild to enjoy, and opportunities to connect with the natural environment. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the festival in 2020 was held virtually. In Orkney the festival was incorporated into the annual Orkney International Science Festival.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To increase interest and understanding around wild food and responsible foraging throughout large areas of Scotland.
- To help Scotland become known for foraging tourism experiences and wild food/'taste of place' food offerings supporting new business ventures and sustainable tourism and local food and drink sectors in rural areas.
- To identify an organisation or body to continue Foraging Fortnight as a regular festival in the Scottish Calendar of Events, beyond the LEADER funded project.
- To encourage engagement with the Scottish natural environment and further the understanding of responsible foraging and wild foods.
- Participating LAGs will reflect the themes of their own Local Development Strategy in the activities included in their areas as part of the festival, resulting in a very interesting and diverse range of activities to be promoted.

The total approved project costs are £145,150.20, with an Orkney LEADER contribution of £58,887.43.

<https://www.foragingfortnight.co.uk/>



Scottish Island Passport Co-operation Project

This Scottish Islands Passport project, which was taken forward by HITRANS, helped to promote all of Scotland's offshore islands which are accessible by regular transport and in so doing will help encourage more people to visit more of these islands. It is being run in conjunction with the LAGs from • Argyll and the Islands • Highland • Orkney • Outer Hebrides • Shetland.

The project saw the recruitment of an 2 part-time island-based project managers for a 2-year period who were responsible for implementing a detailed project plan that will include the development of both a physical and online app-based version of a Scottish Islands Passport that is capable of appealing to different markets and demographics. HITRANS and ZETRANS were responsible for funding the remainder of the project manager costs after the end of the LEADER programme.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To encourage more people to visit more of Scotland's Islands, in particular those which have a lower profile or are more remote.
- To help support sustainable economic development in our island communities.
- To use the Passport as a means to help encourage more people to access the Islands by public transport.
- To use the Passport as a means of raising the profile of all Scotland's Islands.
- To use the Passport as a means to encourage more people to visit the Islands throughout the year.
- To ensure that the content developed to support the Passport adds value to the existing information and campaigns.
- To identify and implement a sustainable revenue model for maintaining the Passport and associated marketing materials beyond the timeframe of the LEADER project.

The total approved project costs are £215,645.00 with an Orkney LEADER contribution £43,129.00.

<https://www.islands.scot/>



Breck Be South Long Term Let

This farm diversification project aimed to carry out improvements to a redundant farmhouse and outbuilding to attain a high quality, affordable, long term let. The house had been empty for several years and was in need of renovation before it became beyond the point of saving. The outbuilding was unusable but could be transformed into a usable space for a small business which could benefit the local community.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To provide a house and workspace combined unit available for long-term let. The property will be finished to a high standard providing a comfortable 3 bed roomed house. Being well insulated and having an affordable rent, the aim is to be desirable for the average family looking for accommodation.
- To provide an adjacent external workspace which will be heated and insulated to make it a comfortable space to spend the day, with ample natural light sources. The level access into the workspace will be by way of a door in (garage) door arrangement which can be opened up to allow large items in or out, if the need arises. The workspace will also be Wi-Fi enabled. The workspace will be of a multi-functional design to suit a wide range of business types.

LEADER has provided £19,618.74 funding towards total approved project costs of £39,237.49.



Blackhall Holiday Cottages

This idea behind this farm diversification project was to build one 3-bed self-catering cottage on the farm allowing guests to experience a little bit of farm life including meeting resident highland cattle, hens and ducks. Access was created along a purpose-built track to a designated Local Nature Conservation Site on the farm which boasts a variety of wildlife and plants. A viewing hide was installed and an existing stone-built barn was upgraded and converted into a recreational space.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To create a holiday cottage along with access routes to a LNCS and viewing hide and an outdoor patio area with hot tub.
- To create a recreational area within existing stone-built barn and small outdoor play area with swings and climbing frame.
- To provide an additional income stream for the farm business allowing it to continue to support those in the partnership and allow for the improvement and expansion of current farm buildings and an increase in livestock.
- The partners currently all have other employment and the long-term aim would be for the farm to be able to fully support them without the need for additional employment allowing them to focus more fully on improving land and animal management.
- The self-catering cottage will also provide part-time seasonal employment for one additional individual.

LEADER has provided £90,916.26 funding towards total approved project costs of £270,121.27.



Promoting Orkney

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

The Promoting Orkney project involved the digital marketing of Orkney. It was originally intended to focus on Orkney as a place to visit, live, work and study and to invest in or buy from, a concept which had been explored during the 2-year Digital Media Orkney (DMO) project. However, due to the travel restrictions surrounding COVID-19, much of the PR and media was unable to take place although the social media, film and photography elements did go ahead. An STV advertising campaign was developed and screened to coincide with the period when the tourist industry was expected to re-open, encouraging visitors to return to Orkney once it was safe to do so. Another STV advert was also created and aired late in 2020 to showcase the array of food, drinks and crafts produced in Orkney.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To raise awareness of Orkney and its quality products and services throughout the UK and beyond.
- To increase the number of visitors to Orkney
- To improve viability of Orkney businesses, leading to increased investment and job creation.
- To attract people to live and work in Orkney.

Total Approved Project Costs £364,821.95

LEADER grant £182,410.97

Highlands and Islands Enterprise £9,051.37

STV Growth Fund £110,000.00

Orkney Islands Council £63,359.61

www.orkney.com



Orkney Islands Council
Campaign - September
2020

Receiving 146 spots
across Daytime, Peaktime
and Late Night.

Reaching 43% of Adults
across STV Macro and
delivering 230 TVRs.

Redland Luxury Lodges

This farm diversification project is to build a 2-bed self-catering unit to create a holiday destination for young folk and young families. This project has been designed to fit exclusively with the "Are Ewe Ok?" campaign run by the Young Farmers, by offering discounted stays and breaks.

The project will be able to offer Reiki sessions and training to those interested, this gives another aspect to the wellness retreat and something different on offer to guests at Redland Farm.

A summary of the project aims is:

- Diversify a farm business through developing a new tourism attraction and facility.
- Develop a separate income stream from the beef and sheep.
- The development will increase the turnover of the business and develop a new market opportunity with the emphasis placed on creating short breaks for those within the industry who need to escape from the daily grind.

LEADER has provided £28,887.50 funding towards total approved project costs of £94,492.17.



EMFF Projects

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) was the main supporting instrument to the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which sought, from 2014 to 2020, to improve the social, economic and environmental sustainability of Europe's seas and coasts by supporting local projects, businesses and communities on the ground.

It is one of the five European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) which complemented each other to deliver more jobs, welfare and growth in the EU, by:

- helping fishers adapt to sustainable fishing.
- supporting coastal communities in diversifying their economies.
- financing projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts.
- supporting sustainable aquaculture developments.
- making it easier for applicants to access financing.
- supporting the implementation of the maritime policy.

The awarding of EMFF grants in Orkney was overseen by the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) which comprised representatives from both the public and private sectors including those from Orkney Sustainable Fisheries, Orkney Fishermen's Society and Orkney Fisheries Association as well as Heriot-Watt University, Orkney College (UHI) and tourism/crafts businesses.

5 projects were funded in Orkney, with details on the following pages.

The Marine Fund Scotland is open for applications for funding. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-and-fisheries-grants/> or send an enquiry to MFS@gov.scot



European Union
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/FisheriesLAG

Link to LEADER film about the creel fishing projects: <https://youtu.be/LV7KAKhzngk>

Orkney Shellfish Research Project

Applicant: Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd

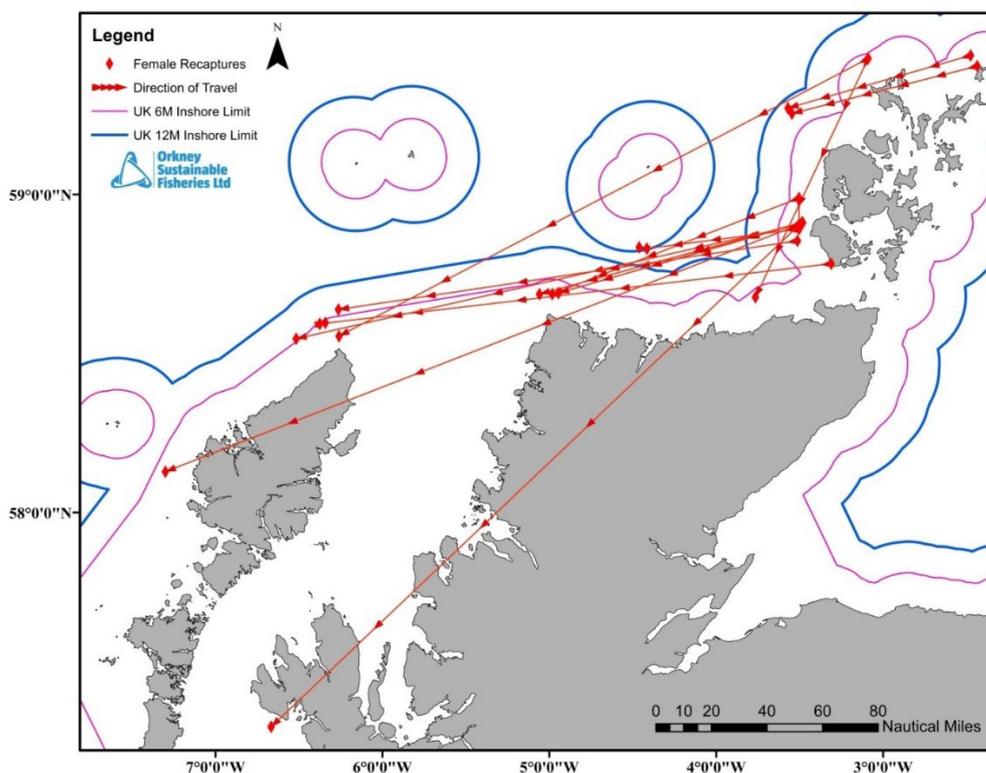
This project provided the opportunity to secure local fisheries research and management for a 15 month period to develop a number of research initiatives to benefit the local inshore fishery sector and communities in Orkney generally. It involved the development of an inshore fisheries management framework for Orkney including harvest rules and harvest control strategy for brown crab and lobster, as well as ongoing shellfish stock assessments. This research project involved fishermen working out of Stromness, Tingwall, Kirkwall, and from the islands of Hoy, Westray, Sanday and Stronsay.

A summary of the project aims is:

- Development and implementation of harvest strategy and harvest control rules for crab & lobster fisheries.
- Research strategy and action plan in relation to MSC requirements of creel fisheries written and pre-agreed.
- MSC pre-assessment undertaken for scallop and whelk fisheries.
- Annual review of Orkney inshore fishery sustainability (all species).
- Stock assessment for creel fisheries.
- Annual review of Orkney inshore fishery sustainability (all species)
- Establish FIPS for scallop and whelk fisheries but will also establish a template which can be used in the future for other species eg cockles, periwinkes and razor clams. More lucrative branded markets for these species could offer significant economic opportunities - particularly in some of the more fragile rural and island communities within Orkney.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund provided up to £110,170.00 towards the cost of this project.

<http://www.orkneysustainablefisheries.co.uk/>



Crab Tagging

Diversification and Enhancement of Orkney Small Scale Coastal Fisheries

Applicant: Orkney Fishermen's Society Ltd

This was a multi-faceted project looking to develop added-value products from the small-scale fisheries around Orkney, allowing diversification of fishing effort to other species, diversification of products through the local fishermen's co-operative processing factory, and enhancement of supply chain integration. A market research programme looked at existing products and opportunities in markets including Europe, the US and the far-east with products initially market tested in the local area. A new website was developed to help promote the Society. The project also included the procurement of new fish boxes to be distributed to member vessels, the purchase of a box washer so that all fish or shellfish boxes will be washed at high temperature before being returned to fishermen to help avoid contamination, and the purchase of a blast freezer to freeze cooked whelks ready for sale.

A summary of the project aims is:

- New website developed.
- Blast freezer, boxes and box washer procured.
- Greater local processing and promotion of locally caught seafood.
- Wider market opportunities for existing fishermen catching alternative species.
- 5 local jobs created.
- Over 100 local jobs safeguarded.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund provided up to £68,024.62 towards the cost of this project.

www.orkneycrab.co.uk



Orkney Shellfish Data Collection and Management Development Project

Applicant: Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd

This project provided the opportunity to secure local fisheries research and management for a 33-month period developing a number of research initiatives to benefit the local inshore fishery sector and communities in Orkney generally. It underpinned the development of inshore fisheries management out to 12 nm and specifically looked at the development of a harvest strategy and harvest control strategy for brown crab and lobster as well as ongoing shellfish stock assessments. The project fitted with the aims of the local development strategy through developing and delivering local research and data collection while enhancing and diversifying fisheries assets.

A summary of the projects aims is:

- Extend the collection of local fishery data throughout the Orkney creel fleet and to build a management structure and system that sits within a Scottish Inshore Fisheries strategy at a national level but is responsive to real-time changes in the creel fishery at a local level. Doing so will empower local decision making while maximising economic benefits to the wider Orkney community.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund provided up to £174,482.00 towards the cost of this project.

www.orkneysustainablefisheries.co.uk



Orkney Green Fishery Development Strategist

Applicant: Orkney Fisheries Association

This project created one 18-month full-time post and one 24-month part-time post dedicated to collaborative working with fishermen to evaluate current practice in the industry in particular use of consumables in the creel fishery and to develop consensual strategies to enable collective adaption to improved practice and access to species underpinned by sustainable objectives.

A summary of the project aims is:

- To complete a comprehensive fine grain social and economic audit that will provide a sound basis for evidencing the Orkney fishery and its secondary benefits.
- To design and trial the use of more selective fishing gear (e.g. multi-species escape panels) and identify a pathway to flexible management via a seasonal fishery to promote improved sustainability of the fishery.
- To create a set of strategies which provide a basis for successful consensual fishing adaptation towards greener practices with a view to implementation through the relevant body.
- To undertake practical research and development and production of selective gear to improve efficiency, reduce unwanted catches and reduce fuel.
- To understand the role of women in Orkney's fishing industry.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund provided up to £101,190.14 towards the cost of this project.

www.orkneyfisheries.com



Orkney Scallop and Whelk Research Project

Applicant: Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd

The project was a collaboration between the fishing industry and Orkney Sustainable Fisheries scientists aiming to establish and ensure the long-term sustainability of commercially exploited scallop and whelk stocks in Orkney, with the hope of it being the start of a long-term assessment providing information for fishery managers and fishing industry.

A summary of the projects aims is:

- To identify and understand the scallop and whelk population structure and dynamics within Orkney.
- To collect data on the population dynamics of both species (age and size structure) combined with abundance data will contribute to understating of the dynamics of the stocks in relation to fishing activities.
- To collect information on the scallop fisheries using fisheries independent dredges survey and underwater cameras.
- To monitor the whelk fishery through the use of market sampling and at sea observer trips.
- To monitor changes in abundance and stock size from year to year to evaluate effects of the fishery and know what is available for harvest.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund provided up to £46,073.57 towards the cost of this project.

www.orkneysustainablefisheries.co.uk



Figure 5 Images of dissected common whelks (*Buccinum undatum*). Left Male, Right female.

Things To Think About Before You Apply

A Community-Led Local Development funding scheme will not provide 100% funding for a project, and you will need to find additional funds. Who will provide the match funding for your project? Do you have your own funds you can use, or will you need to find additional funders? A list of some of the current funders is on the next page, but it may be worth contacting Voluntary Action Orkney for further help (enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk) as this list is not exhaustive. Business Gateway may also be able to help with funding for business and farm diversification projects (01856 898233).

If you are considering a bank loan you should note that these can take several weeks to process, and you should allow sufficient time within your project. Recently, some projects have considered crowdfunding, and there are several organisations who will help with crowdfunding for businesses, charities, communities, social enterprises and sports clubs.

Will your project involve erecting a new building or maybe altering or renovating an existing building? If so, you are likely to need planning permission and probably a building warrant through Orkney Islands Council (OIC). Both of these incur a charge and can take between 8-12 weeks to be approved. You should contact both of these departments early on in the planning stage of your project for further information.

Do you own the land or building connected to your project? You will need to provide proof of ownership, evidence of control of the asset or landowner/leaseholder permission before any project funding can be approved.

If your proposed project will involve the production of food and/or drink items you may need environmental health approval and/or certification. This must be done through the OIC Environmental Health department.

If you represent a charitable organization, you may already be registered as a charity or a SCIO. If you are not, you may want to consider becoming registered. Organisations can apply through OSCR to become a charity and further information is available at <https://www.oscr.org.uk/becoming-a-charity/>

A SCIO is totally different. A Scottish Incorporated Organisation is a legal form unique to Scottish charities. It makes the organisation a legal entity rather than just a collection of people sitting on a group. To be a SCIO you have to be a charity and through this you are then able to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts, own property, sue and be sued. It also provides a high degree of protection against liability. For further information visit <https://www.oscr.org.uk/becoming-a-charity/becoming-a-scio/>

Supporting Evidence You May Need

Supporting evidence will be required for any application to a Community-Led Local Development funding scheme. At the time of publishing the exact criteria and evidence required are still unknown, but in the past the following have been requested. They do not all apply to every application, and you should check with the funder before applying to see what is required in your circumstances.

- A detailed project plan stating exactly what you want to do, how you will achieve it and what the costs will be. Match funding confirmation (as detailed in the previous section) will be required.
- Evidence of the need for the project, such as a current development plan, place plan or action plan, or a recent community survey.
- Evidence of VAT status and VAT number (if applicable).
- Applicant bank statements (organization or individual) for the period of at least 3 months prior to application, showing the current bank balance. Also, 3 years of audited or certified accounts where applicable.
- Projected cash flow for the period of the project.
- Quotes to support the costs detailed in the project plan. Depending on the cost of the items to be purchased up to 3 quotes may be required and if it is a very large project the work may need to go out to formal tender.
- Company registration number or charity/SCIO number.
- Letters of support for the project. These can include potential clients for your business, consumers of your goods, partner organizations, interested third parties, or any other person or group who can help you make a case for funding for the project.
- Depending on the type of project you are considering, you may need to provide additional information such as job descriptions, employment policies or insurance documents, and you should seek further advice from the funder before submitting an application.

Organisations Offering Financial Assistance To Projects

Below is a list of some of the organisations that provided match funding for projects in the 2014-2020 Programme. Priorities may have changed and there is no guarantee these organisations will provide match for future projects.

- Orkney Islands Council Community Development Fund – previously for capital projects only.
- Other Orkney Islands Council grant funding streams, such as tourism grant, economic development grant, creative arts fund etc.
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- Local Community Councils.
- Local Development Trusts.
- Heritage Lottery Fund.
- EB Scotland Ltd – for environmental projects.
- The Robertson Trust – for organisations who support people and communities living with poverty or trauma.
- The Energy Saving Trust – mainly for projects involving energy efficiency, carbon reduction.
- Creative Scotland – mainly for projects in the arts and creative industries.

Credits

All photographs taken by and copyrighted to Fionn MacArthur of Start Point Media, with the exception of the following:

Collections Development Team - photo credit Rebecca Marr, copyright Stromness Museum.

Deerness Hall Extension – photo credit The Orcadian, copyright The Orcadian.

Farming for Wildlife: Supporting People, Sustaining Nature – photo credit Mike Partridge, RSPB.

Mull Head Local Nature Reserve Access and Interpretation - photo credit Jill Sutcliffe, LEADER.

Ness of Brodgar Development Project – photo credit Scott Pike, copyright The Ness of Brodgar Trust.

Cover photo – taken by Fionn MacArthur from artwork produced by the Lifestyles Public Art Project.

Design and Printing – The Orcadian

Orkney LEADER Legacy 2014-2020:

Communities

21 community facilities developed or improved

593 community events supported

196 communities supported

508 local residents accessed new/improved community-based services

608 members of the rural population benefitted from improved services/infrastructure



Young people and disadvantaged groups

63 young people and those in disadvantaged groups involved in community-based activities

201 young people benefitted from new learning, recreation or job opportunities



Business

2021 businesses supported

815 promotional and marketing initiatives



Farming

5 farm diversification projects supported

Participants

3662 people participated in environment or heritage focussed projects, events and initiatives

3633 people participated in LEADER projects



Jobs

21 new jobs created

6.5 jobs safeguarded



Natural Heritage

15 natural heritage sites assisted

87 km of pathway developed

