

Northumberland

Uplands



Project Profiles



Introduction

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



Railway Carriage Exhibition & Tearoom

The Heritage Centre, Bellingham will use their Northumberland Uplands Leader grant to purchase two Mark I Railway Carriages to be installed at the museum on the site of the original station platform. The first is to be converted into a tearoom providing simple high quality homemade cakes/scones and light lunches. The second carriage is to be turned into an additional exhibition space on the railways of the area and their impact on the social and industrial heritage of the area. The carriages will help give tangible meaning to the impact of the railways and their demise to rural Northumberland, as well as offer the visitor additional facilities not currently available.



The centre plans to use an innovative approach to finding the right tenant for their new tearoom by offering the facilities rent free for the first year to the right candidate to assist in encouraging a new business venture.

Leader grant: £39,486



[Visit the Heritage Centre's Official Website](#)

Short Walks on St Cuthbert's Way



A cross-border cross-leader area project by Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council has been granted funding towards the establishment and promotion of a series of short walks that are planned along the full length of St Cuthbert's Way.

It is hoped that the walks will increase visitor numbers offering an opportunity for day visitors and families to experience a 'taste of St Cuthbert's Way'. The development of these walks will be twinned with the launch of guide books, maps and branded products, all of which will



promote the area and local points of interest. The project aims to use funds generated from the sale of these promotional items to supplement rights of way maintenance.



The development of the short walks will add value to the local tourism offer. They also provide new routes for local residents and community groups and associations for leisure and as part of the healthy living/healthy walking agenda in the region.

Leader grant: £10,500

Scarlett & the Spotty Dog



Rebecca Hedley has launched Scarlett and the Spotty Dog, a local cakery producing locally and ethically sourced specialist cakes and baked goods offering something a little different to the market. Her Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group grant will be put towards the purchase of a delivery van to supply her goods to local shops as well as for the transport of her products to farmers markets.



It will also be used towards expanding her bakery to increase production capacity to meet the growing demand for her products.

Leader grant: £10,285

[Visit the Official Scarlett & The Spotty Dog Blog](#)

Uplands Community Broadband Training

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

The Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group has granted funding to support a series of training courses for businesses and individuals to help them make the most of this new service.

Recent studies and trials within the Uplands have highlighted the importance of training to help business make the best use of these newly available services enabling them to become more competitive online and giving them better online representation.



The 5 half-day and 15 full-day workshops aim to provide support to businesses and individuals in the effective use of broadband services and e-business practise. This will include the development of websites, setting up email systems and use of e-commerce.

Businesses need to make every effort to capture as wide an audience as possible. Broadband services can help businesses overcome the geographic isolation of the Uplands

Leader grant: £20,705

[For further information visit the Race Online 2012 Website](#)

Cheviot Futures Phase 2

Cheviot Futures is fundamentally based on taking action to adapt to a changing climate. This is the first 'cross-border' Leader project, working in both the Northumberland Uplands and the Scottish Borders to raise awareness of the predicted threats and opportunities from climate change in the Cheviot Hills and Tweed and Till river catchments.

This second phase of Cheviot Futures supports the development of long term resilience measures for the environment, economy and local community against the impacts of a changing climate. The approach reflects the needs of land managers and ensures the emphasis continues to be on practical solutions to real problems. The project aims to demonstrate benefits that will encourage land managers to invest in adaptation measures.



The project will recruit an adviser to work directly with farmers and land managers to enable them to incorporate climate adaptation measures into their business model including the roll out of the recently developed and successfully piloted farm flood plans. The project officer will seek to create a sufficient legacy of projects and best practice guidance as to have a lasting impact on the way farmers and land managers within the catchment reduce the risk of flooding and improve their overall resilience to climate change.

Leader grant: £82,375

[Cheviot Futures Official Website](#)



Young Farmers

Leader funding is helping Young Farmers Clubs in the Northumberland Uplands gain the skills needed to successfully run their own committees across Northumberland. Trainees take part in two days of leadership and team working training provided by the Brathay Trust. They also attend at least two short training courses on officer skills which include a presentation on child protection and health and safety, and a short training session specific to their own role as a club or county officer (e.g. treasurer, chair, secretary).

Young Farmers will also use this training in local community organisations, agricultural shows, the NFU and many other organisations in the County. It is hoped this positive interaction will widen the social and farming networks of young people in the Uplands who often live in isolated situations. The training will be delivered by ITOL registered Young Farmers Trainers and the Brathay Trust and YFC certificates will be awarded to those completing the training. Members will be able to include this training on their CVs and the skills should help them in the work place.

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

Leader grant: £4,610

[Northumberland Federation of Young Farmers Clubs](#)

Bellingham Library

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

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

Leader grant: £4,734



Moss Peteral

Sue Seymour and Alan Pink are diversifying their farm activities at Moss Peteral and getting involved in care farming. The Leader funding installs a wood gasification boiler and central heating system. The installation of the central heating system allows them to offer suitable accommodation, meaningful 'work' opportunities and respite care to vulnerable adults with social and care needs.

The farm has the capacity to accommodate two people at a time, with the length of stay depending on the clients' requirements. Alan and Sue have registered with Northumberland Care Trust who will place clients with them through the Adult Placement Carers Scheme. This micro-enterprise will contribute to the economic sustainability of the farm and enable enhanced care of the farm environment.

Leader grant: £9,867

Magpies

Magpies Tearoom and Holiday Let sees the redevelopment of the empty CO-OP building in Bellingham Market Square. The tearoom offers both sit down and take away options for residents and visitors alike, including catering for early breakfasts and packed lunches.

Networking with other local business is important for the business model; all food will be freshly prepared and home cooked, with the ingredients locally sourced where ever possible. Floor space is offered to local small businesses and community groups free of charge allowing them a platform to showcase their products and demonstrations i.e. cake decorating, flower arranging and book clubs.

During the off peak tourist season it's hoped the tearoom and holiday let will be utilised more fully and offer added value for visits from residents and tourists alike.

Leader grant: £60,803



Umbrella Project

The Umbrella Project is a really innovative way of adding value to Leader in the Northumberland Uplands. The project assists potential applicants to Leader as they develop their own project ideas by funding study visits within the UK and EU. These visits allow applicants to refine exactly what they want to do in the Northumberland Uplands before they complete full application forms.

The funding is also available to previously approved Leader projects if they identify opportunities to add value to what they are already doing. It is hoped that some of these visits will result in cooperation projects with partners from other Leader areas.

Leader grant: £14,000

NULAG remains committed to getting the most out of the Leader Approach. By designing this support for Leader projects they are combining the principles of networking, cooperation and innovation.

Kielder Observatory

This project aims to increase the ability of the general public to engage with the Kielder Observatory. Currently sessions have been delivered on a voluntary basis but this Leader grant is enabling the delivery team to be employed on a sessional basis to deliver a broader public access programme. The project is running for 24 months and offers additional astronomy sessions in both evenings and during the daytime. After these two years it is hoped the programme will be self-financing. The project will increase public awareness of the Observatory and the work of Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society.



Leader grant: £50,000

[Visit the Kielder Observatory Website](#)

The location of Kielder Observatory makes it one of the best places to star-gaze! This Leader grant really emphasises how we can get the most value possible out of the natural and built assets that we already have.

Haydon Bridge - Phase 2

Following on from the success of Phase One of Haydon Tourism Gateway Initiative, Phase Two now focuses on securing the long-term sustainability of the library building by providing revenue support for the next two years until the library becomes financially self-sufficient.

Funding is also being used to develop information leaflets/panels for further walks and trails from 'The Bridge'. These trails focus on: walks to Hadrian's Wall; heritage and nature; and cycling. Phase Two also includes training for local service providers and tourism businesses on 'visitor welcome'.



In addition the 'community hub' role of the library is being developed by encouraging their volunteers to gain confidence and learn computer and customer service skills as a means into/back to employment. The project has also linked up with the Rural Employability Project in Haltwhistle to provide an information and access point for their services.

NULAG were keen to support the second phase of this project after the great success of phase one. The community of Haydon Bridge has embraced this opportunity for social action and by delivering public services that are important to them they have empowered themselves to control their own destiny.

Leader grant: £22,801

[Visit Haydon Bridge Official Website](#)

Realising Potential – Calvert Trust

The Realising Potential project by Calvert Trust purchases two new items of specialist equipment - a High Ropes Course and Laser Clays. The High Ropes Course is based in the trees around the Trusts Kielder site and provides a dramatic new recreation activity.



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

Leader grant: £82,092

[Visit the Calvert Trust at Kielder](#)

NULAG was delighted to support this project as part of The Calvert Trust’s overall aim of encouraging inclusive activities for people with different abilities. The work of the Trust in Kielder is having a dramatic impact on how the local tourism sector makes provision for disabled visitors.

Flodden Eco Museum

A group of organisations and individuals from the private, voluntary and public sector have come together to develop England’s first Eco Museum. An Eco Museum is a museum without walls. The idea behind Flodden Eco Museum is to allow communities, projects, locations and events to retain their individual ownership but to be linked through a single brand, in this case the battle of Flodden and the 500th year commemoration in 2013.

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

The project officer is organising key workshops for business and community development, creating the web portal linking all the sites and developing small scale interpretation of each site.



Leader grant: £24,265

Bellingham Equestrian Events

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

The equipment has not only been used at the annual Bellingham Show but will be hired out to other local organisations in the area. The income saved from having their own equipment and the additional income generated from the hiring out this new equipment is reinvested into the Bellingham Show, enabling it to host popular traditional events such as Northumberland Piping competitions and Cumberland and Westmoreland Wrestling.

Leader grant: £4,870

Local Agricultural Shows play such a valuable social role in communities across the Northumbrian Uplands. They give farmers an opportunity to get together and compare livestock and work practises. They showcase local and traditional handcrafts and maintain important musical and sporting traditions. Even the giant vegetable competitions contribute to the maintenance of local identities, vital to the sustainability of our communities. Come and visit one of the many shows across our county!

Eastbanks Eco Bothy

The Eastbanks project has converted an old, redundant stone building into reasonable comfortable holiday accommodation generating additional income for the farm and making the farm less dependent on subsidies.

The project offers a unique holiday experience for visitors who wish to stay in an utterly private, isolated setting, giving visitors access to miles of walking routes along Hadrian's Wall and in the surrounding areas. The focus is on low-impact, eco-friendly tourism using renewable energy and existing completely 'off-grid'. The road access and car park and planning are in place, all of which takes into the account the natural aspect of the landscape. The eco bothy is aimed at small groups and families that are seeking a more rustic 'away from it all' holiday without all the modern luxuries.



Leader grant: £20,000

Hooked Up Hotspots

In preparation for the planned roll out of 1700 vehicle charge points across the North East the National Park is trialling two units within the park boundary to test whether the technology is feasible within the broader rural areas of Northumberland. Currently there is no test data on the use of electric vehicle charge points within rural settings and this trial offers valuable data on the reliability of the technology and either prove or disprove the concept within a rural setting.

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

The technology allows people to arrive at their destination, swipe a fob to register their usage of the charge point, plug their car in and head out for their walk/hike/picnic knowing that their vehicle would charge for the allotted time purchased.

The advantage of this charge point system over other versions is that not only can usage and power consumption be monitored but it is an entirely cash free system as all financial transactions are done online beforehand.



The North East is leading the way with regards to electric vehicle implementation.

- Nissan to build 'Leaf' and vehicle batteries at Sunderland
- 1,300 charging points to be installed over next three years
- £3,000,000 secured from the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV)

Northumberland National Park Authority is one of the partners in the roll-out of electric vehicle charge points and is keen to find out what this means for rural areas.

Leader grant: £9,000

[Northumberland National Park Authority](#)

Bellingham All Acoustic Festival

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

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

Set in the grounds of the Riverdale Hall, the two-day event welcomed folk groups like Megson, Whapweasel and the Caffreys. On the Saturday, Bellingham's trade and tourism association held a traditional farmers' market in the village and the town hall opened its doors as exhibition space for five local artists.

Funding has also been granted for Landermason to buy new equipment for their home-based recording studio and turn it into a commercial space. The duo hopes to encourage budding amateur musicians from the district to come forward and record their music locally.

Leader grant: £20,000

[BAAFest Website](#)



Kielder Camping & Caravan Site

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

Leader grant: £14,295

[Kielder Campsite Online](#)



Revitalisation & Regeneration of Bellingham

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



Leader grant: £9,500

[Bellingham District Trade & Tourism Association Website](#)

Kielder Garage

This grant tested old fuel tanks at the disused garage in Kielder Village in order to verify whether they are still sound and able to hold fuel. Local partners will now aim to install unmanned fuel pumps at the forecourt. This will provide a vital source of transport fuel for both local residents and tourists alike in this deep rural area.

Leader grant: £2,100

[Kielder Community Website](#)

Children's Countryside Day

The Glendale Agricultural Society's Children's Countryside Day held near Wooler in Northumberland is one of the foremost rural educational events in the UK. During the past five years, over 8000 first school pupils have learnt about rural life and the importance of conserving the countryside.

NU LAG has supported this innovative and forward thinking project for four years as it believes it will enhance the economic, environmental and social welfare of rural communities across the county. The group sees the Children's Day as a perfect fit as the Glendale Agricultural Society are leading the way towards the long term sustainability of the countryside.

The annual event is open to all first schools in Northumberland and some from Tyneside and to date over 50 urban and rural schools have taken part. The Children's Countryside Day aims to improve pupils' knowledge of rural living and food production and promote a healthy lifestyle. It is run in collaboration with an army of volunteers from local businesses and associations and engages children through practical demonstrations.

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

Leader grant: £40,000

- Engaging young people in rural way of life
- Showcasing rural skills and livelihoods
- Bringing schools together

[Children's Countryside Day Online](#)



Wooler Youth drop-In

WOOLER YOUTH DROP-IN is being supported over four years, by the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group.

Since 1999 Wooler young people, over the age of 13, have been using the centre at 53 High Street and the Local Action Group has been impressed with the range of facilities youth workers and members have planned. Regular activity includes art and music nights, games, a training programme with the Fire service and work with local paramedics. Internet links and regular help from the Connexions service give access to all kinds of information and advice; a service rarely available to young people in rural districts. Older people in the town have given generous support: a sale of donated goods raised £1700 in two days and last year the management committee, all Wooler people, raised over £6000 in local events.

The Local Action Group were impressed with the commitment of the committee and the fact that they are reaching out to young people and offering



them all sorts of opportunities in and around Wooler. Mike Allport, Chair of Trustees for the drop-in, said “we welcome support of this kind, which will help us for several years to come. It recognises the ability of our team of youth workers to attract a large membership of young people. Our remaining need is for the help of volunteers; to help at the centre and to refresh our management committee- after ten years some of us are getting a little old for the job!

Leader grant: £20,000

- Essential support for young people
- Maintaining sustainable communities

In many Northumbrian towns and villages there are few activities for young people in the evenings once they have returned from school. Youth clubs can make a real difference to young people across the county by offering them all sorts of opportunities

[Wooler Youth Drop-In Centre Online](#)

Hadrian's Wall Visitor Welcome

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



As a World Heritage Site, Hadrian's Wall (and the neighbouring corridor) is a 'key destination' for the region, in terms of boosting visitor numbers to the region. 'Know Your Hadrian's Wall Country' encourages local businesses to associate themselves with the World Heritage Site and benefit from visitors coming to the site.

Trade fairs and meet the producer days provide an opportunity for micro-businesses to link up with other local businesses in the food, craft and cultural industries.

Leader grant: £20,000

- Support to local micro-businesses
- Championing local produce
- Encouraging visitor welcome standards

[Visit Hadrian's Wall Heritage Online](#)

Haltwhistle Music and Arts Festival

The main focus of this project is on working with under 25 year-old volunteers to create and organise a Music and Arts Festival in Haltwhistle, showcasing local talents. The project encourages creative thinking skills and aspirations for young people in and around the town.

Leader grant: £32,775

- Opportunities for young volunteers
- Showcasing local talent
- Support to community networks

[Haltwhistle Partnership Online](#)

Heatherslaw Light Railway

Heatherslaw Light Railway at Ford and Etal has used Leader funding to complete a new steam locomotive and construct two new 16-passenger capacity carriages. The increased capacity of the extra steam locomotive and rolling stock has reduced waiting times and it also means visitors are guaranteed a trip on a steam-hauled train, rather than the substituted diesel engine at peak periods. The company has used the funding to pay for external expertise to complete the new steam locomotive that Neville Smith began to build over four years ago.

Alan Keef Ltd - a specialist steam locomotive manufacturer and restoration company with an international reputation – has carried out the completion of the locomotive. Existing staff have completed the additional two carriages to keep costs down.



The improvements have secured the existing six jobs at the railway and created a further full time and part time job. It is also estimated that ten jobs in the local economy will be secured and a further three will be created as a result of the trickle-down effect of an additional 40% boost to visitors to the railway by 2011.

The new train and carriages mean that the business will become more sustainable and allow it to grow as a key attraction in the area. We are hoping that other neighbouring businesses in and around Etal will also be able to capitalise on an increase in visitor numbers to the area.

Leader grant: £42,530

- Real support to a network of businesses
- Support to community networks

[Heatherslaw Light Railway Online](#)

Investment in one main business in a small community can have a real trickle-down benefit to other neighbouring businesses. Visitors come to Ford and Etal to enjoy the light railway but also spend time in other local businesses, helping maintain a thriving community

Northumbria Basketry Group Development

A group of creative and enterprising people in the Coquet Valley has succeeded in reviving an ancient craft of the countryside. They also made an impact on the local tourism economy of Rothbury this year when the [National Basketmakers' Association](#) held its annual summer meeting, bringing around 60 people to stay in the area.

Northumbria Basketry Group based at Hepple village hall was started by a small group in early 2007 following an adult day class in basketry run by Liz Balfour at the Middle School in Rothbury. The group was established as a self-help group and gained members as the interest in local basketry grew.

The group looked to the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group for a Leader grant to help them cultivate a sustainable local supply of willow instead of having to buy it in from Somerset; run classes in willow weaving and basket making at the local village hall and to research the history of basket making in Northumberland. The LAG voted in favour of the grant and since then Northumbria Basketry Group has not looked back. Courses are in progress, attracting many new people to the satisfying craft, and new willow beds are being planted at Whitton.



Leader grant: £9,887

- Support for traditional skills
- Support to an innovative community group

Since starting beginners classes with Leader funds this group have been inundated with requests for talks and weekend courses, including from the Grace Darling Museum in Bamburgh!

Humshaugh Community Shop

The villages of Humshaugh and Wall have come together to protect their valuable village shop from closure. Facing the real prospect of the final shop in their community closing, local people have formed a committee that purchased the lease and have taken on the day to day management of the shop. Local people run the committee and many of them have also volunteered to work in the shop alongside a part time paid manager. The committee are stocking local produce as much as possible, they have received advice and guidance around the governance of the group from Social Enterprise Northumberland and the Plunkett Foundation and they have sourced other funding to complement their grant from NU LAG.

The project tackles real issues of rural deprivation. The initial project development is an excellent example of how a local community is taking on matters that affect it. The shop is really important in terms of basic rural service provision and the community are getting on and doing something about its impending closure.

NULAG is interested in exploring the factors that could make a project like this a success. Initial indicators suggest: a strong coordinator group; a wide level of community ‘buy-in’; a critical mass of skilled individuals.



Leader grant: £22,500

- New social-enterprise start up
- Job safeguarding
- Community empowerment and youth Engagement

[Visit the Humshaugh Community Shop Website](#)

The *State of the Countryside* report 2008 points out that any closure of service outlets in rural areas has a greater impact than in urban areas.

Perhaps the plans for Humshaugh Community Shop also present the opportunities that exist for rural service outlets if they stay open. Stocking local goods, being responsive to local needs and being a focus for community planning can really strengthen a rural village.

Equestrian Pilates

A Pilates instructor from Kielder, who specialises in exercises for horse riders, is to hit the road with a new mobile studio.

Sue Gould-Wright, who runs Equestrian Pilates, has used her Leader grant to purchase a mobile equestrian pilates studio. The studio is a fully carpeted, heated and covered-in horse trailer which boasts a pilates reformer machine and Cadillac exerciser. It is also fully mirrored, making it light and spacious to work in.



It accommodates two or three people at a time to do floor work.

Riders across Tynedale have warmed to Sue's method of strengthening their core muscles, specifically those of the trunk, pelvis and shoulder – giving them a more stable seat and an improved communication with their horse.

Sue's aim is to bridge the gap between a warm studio in Hexham to being outside on the horse. With her trailer she is no longer limited to the town, but is able to take her classes across Northumberland. She's already come a long way. "When I started it was just me saying this was a good idea. I taught a few riders in Kielder but now more people are becoming aware of beneficial activities, aside from riding lessons. There's emphasis on improving the human as well as the horse and my clients are reaping the benefits."



This project resembles an innovative response to the pressures of the rural economy in Northumberland. It presents an opportunity for a small business to continue trading by targeting a real niche market with a new technique



Leader grant: £8,984

- Diversifying a rural business
- Seizing opportunities in rural Northumberland

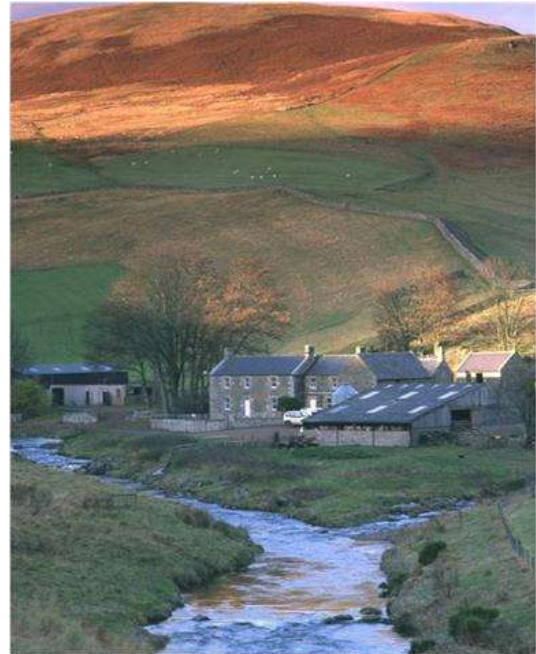
[Equestrian Pilates Online](#)

Upland Micro Hydro

A group of seven local farmers have been supported by the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group to explore the potential for installing Micro-Hydro systems on their farms.

The stunning natural environment in the Northumberland Uplands may hold opportunities to generate electricity from its water resources that can be used in farm businesses. This project has supported the farmers in their pursuit of carbon-neutral land management.

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



Leader grant: £11,625

- Making use of natural resources
- Energy options on marginal farms
- Support to rural businesses

Can micro-hydro systems offer a real tangible choice to upland hill farmers across Northumberland?

Using these natural resources may be able to raise farm income, lower costs and provide an exciting marketing tool.

NULogs

The Northumberland Uplands Local Development Strategy identified an opportunity to grow the wood fuel sector locally. A pilot project has been supported that looks to unlock the economic potential of un-managed woodland and support small operators in the wood fuel sector across the Leader area. A number of complementary activities have taken place, including direct technical training, one-to-one mentoring and a study tour to see wood fuel processing techniques in action.

The project is being independently evaluated in order to share lessons across the country. Other regions have already expressed an interest in learning from the delivery of this project and these opportunities are being actively pursued by the applicant.



Leader grant: £63,943

- Support to new businesses
- Opportunities in an untapped market?
- Joined up business support

[Visit NULogs Online](#)

Northumberland has an abundance of wood fuel resources that offer an opportunity to new business start-ups as well as to land managers, who might want to make more use of this natural resource.

Consumer demand for wood fuel is increasing as it can offer a viable alternative to heating oil.

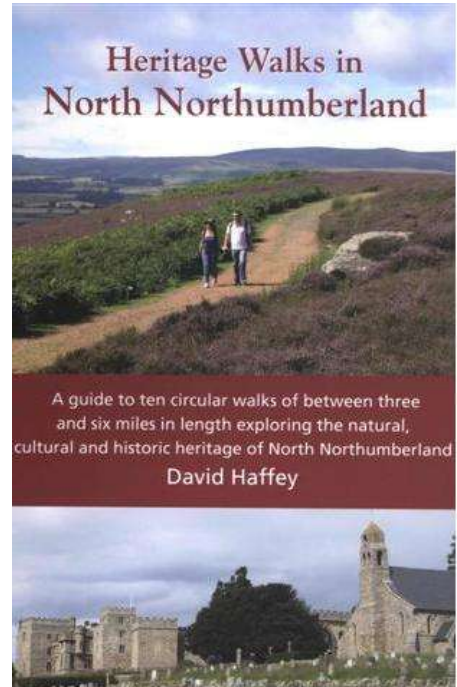
Heritage Walks in North Northumberland

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

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

Leader grant: £2,797

- Celebrating walking opportunities
- Highlighting local businesses



Glendale Charities Cooperative

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

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



Leader grant: £4,900

- Innovative use of redundant space
- Bringing life to the High Street
- Support to community networks

[Read more about Glendale Gateway Trust](#)

Running charity shops presents a great, innovative opportunity for local organisations to raise much needed funds.

They rely on volunteer time and the generosity of local people, but they also embody a real sense of community spirit.

Extra Miles

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

This project creates 3 new jobs and supports remote communities that face challenges when it comes to accessing shops, healthcare and basic services.



Leader grant: £105,250

- New community transport model
- Using the core value of school run contracts
- Support to community networks

[Find out more online at ADAPT NE](#)

The provision of public and community transport across Northumberland presents many challenges. Vehicles that are used in the school run often have extra capacity that can be utilised through consultation with local communities

Horse Power for Ability

An inspirational woman with cerebral palsy is opening a horse power therapy centre to help people with mobility problems in Northumberland with the creation of three jobs.

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

Dr. Debus said, ‘Riding a horse has proved to be incredibly empowering, giving people a great deal of hope with raised self esteem and a feeling of achievement both physically and psychologically. It’s beautiful to witness.’

The business will create jobs for a specialist physiotherapist, a horse handler and an assistant.



Leader grant: £8,389

- Innovative therapy and business
- Introducing new care options

[Visit the Horse Power for Ability website](#)

Tynedale Women's Training Group

This project is providing training opportunities for women in five villages across the north Tyne region. Sessions covering practical skills, personal development, and careers advice are run free of charge and a crèche service allows young mothers to join other women of different ages, with different interests and from different social groups in isolated rural communities to develop an informal learning network.

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

NU LAG are keen to support this project, which clearly delivers part of their sustainable communities' objective. This project tackles the barriers that prevent rural women from gaining qualifications, developing skills, improving their employability and raising their self esteem.



Leader grant: £34,945

- Providing support for women in Tynedale
- Overcoming isolation to provide skills
- Support to community networks

Taking opportunities to learn new skills and gain confidence into local communities can help to overcome some of the rural isolation often associated with living in Northumberland.

When learning and training take place locally, those classes can contribute to making a sustainable community.

Cheviot Futures

This project helps farmers and land managers take steps to adapt to a changing climate, through a series of demonstration projects that looks at new farming techniques and shares best practice. These short projects address the various impacts of climate change faced by rural communities, such as increased flooding and runoff carrying soils and pollutants, drought, wildfire, wind erosion and the effects on grouse, sheep and salmon.



Leader grant: £45,000

- Communicating climate change
- Demonstration projects

[Cheviot Futures Online](#)

Land Managers are faced with increasing challenges to make a sustainable living from the land.

Does the debate around climate change and how we value the provision of public goods offer new opportunities for land managers?

Haydon Tourism Gateway Initiative

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



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

Leader grant: £50,038

- Support to local micro-businesses
- Skill days for volunteers
- Support to community networks

[For further details see Visit Haydon Bridge online](#)



Development Trusts are playing an increasing role in communities across Northumberland.

They can play a vital role in revitalising market towns, taking a lead in setting local priorities and providing important rural and local services.

Local people learn more about community development and shows small communities as places where action takes place!

Slate and Nature

After working in his garden shed for some years developing prototypes, Gerard is using his Leader funds to build a workshop. This small scale enterprise helps to meet a demand from tourists for locally produced craft products. NULAG sees this as a project with many plus points. It's a small scale manufacturing business, creating two jobs in a deep rural area. NU LAG has stipulated that Gerard use reclaimed slate (and other materials), which might otherwise have gone to landfill. Gerard has also offered his time to mentor others who are thinking about starting up micro-businesses in the Uplands.

Gerard's business is based on sustainable principles that promote nature. He has been inspired by the Northumberland Uplands to make this a place to live and work



Leader grant: £ 47,650

- Job creation
- Micro-business start up
- Skill days for other entrepreneurs

[Visit the Slate & Nature Website](#)

Working from home is a common feature of the Northumberland Uplands economy.

In order to be sustainable, local businesses like Slate and Nature, seek opportunities to overcome distances between their workplace and the market and look to create links and networks with neighbouring businesses.

Northumberland Uplands can be a thriving place for people to live and work in.

Traditional Boundaries, Traditional Skills

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

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



Leader grant: £45,000

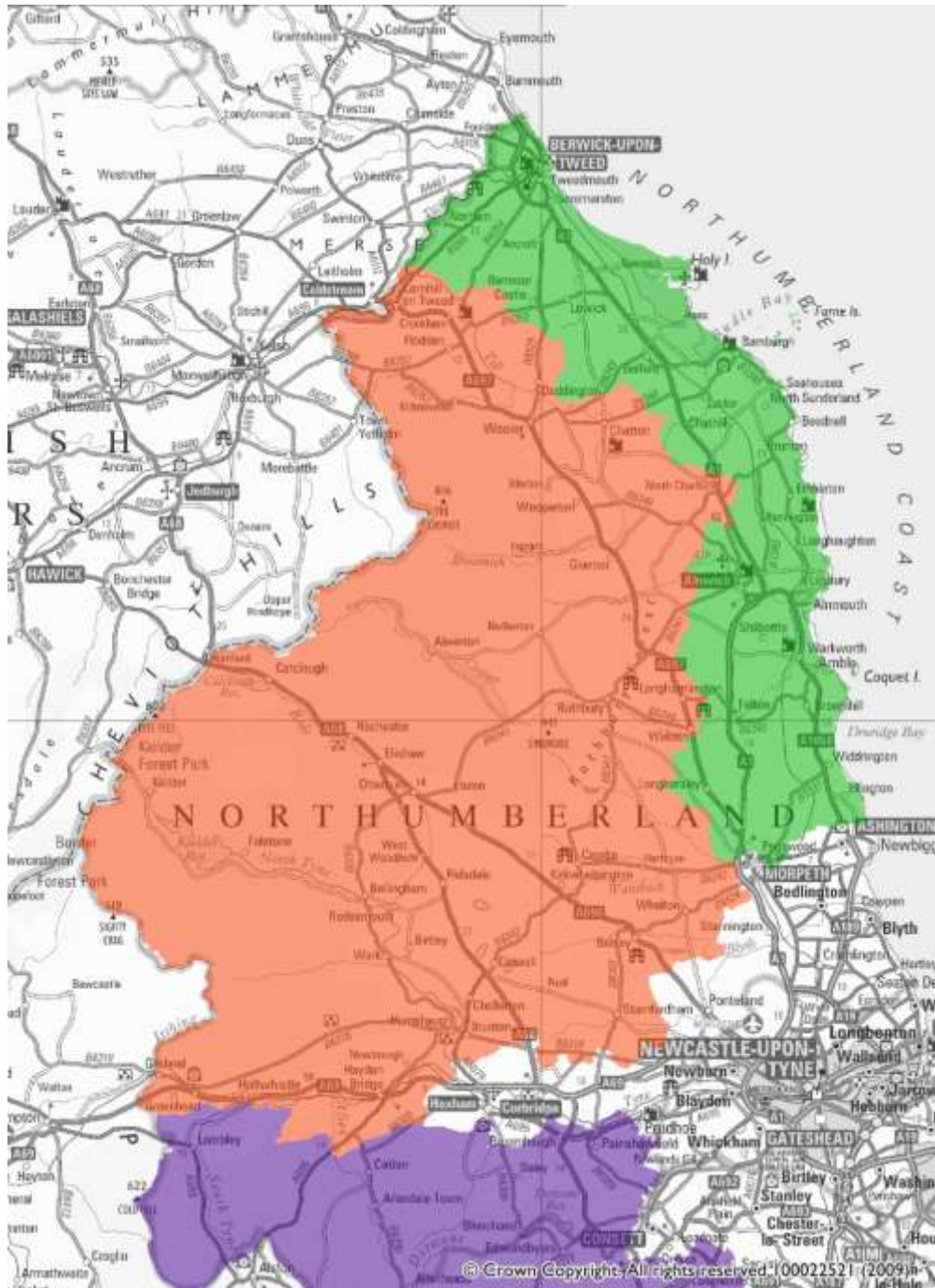
- Job creation
- Micro-business start up
- Training for entrance into rural economy

[Find out more about the TBTS Project Online](#)

While this project looks at 'traditional' skills it is essentially offering ways to make the most of new market opportunities. Funds available through agri-environment schemes have allowed land managers to repair boundary walls and fences.

This project has meant that skills are available locally to carry out this work.

Northumberland Uplands



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