



Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways

Case Study

Making best use of the CWWW area's Inland Waterways

All Funding Sources & Project Total

Funding source: RDPE LEADER CWWW Phase 1 -	£42,806.00
RDPE LEADER CWWW Phase 2 -	£213,330.91
Total -	£256,136.91

Start Date: Phase 1 April 2009

End Date: March 2010

Start Date: Phase 2 April 2010

End Date: September 2013

Lead Organisation: CWWW Local Action Group

Location: CWWW LEADER Area wide Coverage

1. Rationale

Phase 1 of this project was commissioned by the LAG in year one of the CWWW LEADER programme for three reasons. Firstly, as a result of small amounts of funding to waterways projects under the LEADER+ programme, a need was identified that more linking together of waterways activity and more mentoring was required between organisations to help develop a coherent approach to the unrealised potential of the area's waterways. Secondly, a study by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) had identified a need for a strategic approach to the development of the area's inland waterways, underpinned by a strong partnership of stakeholders. Thirdly, there was no one organisation able to take on this task so the LAG commissioned some initial research to advise on the best way forward.

This approach would enable the delivery of significant economic, social and environmental benefits to the local area. A key priority objective within the LEADER CWWW Local Development Strategy was, therefore, to 'develop a strategic approach to the restoration and development of the LEADER area's inland waterways'.

Email; Leader@eastriding.gov.uk or contact

Rural Programmes, Drifffield Business centre, Scotchburn Garth, Skerne Road, Drifffield,
East Yorkshire. YO25 6EF

Tel: 01377 208410 www.ruralprogrammeseast yorkshire.co.uk/rdpe



**Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways**

2. Activity

Phase I: Waterways are an important part of the natural and cultural heritage of the LEADER CWWW Area. The character of, and challenges facing, these inland waterways differ from those facing the wider ‘national network’ of UK inland waterways however. The term ‘inland waterways’ is most commonly associated with navigable canals, yet the LEADER CWWW area contains a diversity far broader than this relatively narrow definition. These waterways include the following:

Aire & Calder Navigation		Driffield Navigation	Dutch River
Gypsy Race	Hedon Haven	Hornsea Mere	Leven Canal
Market Weighton Canal	Pocklington Canal	River Aire	River Derwent
River Foulness	River Hertford	River Hull	River Ouse

The LEADER CWWW LAG commissioned a consultant to carry out extensive consultation with statutory, voluntary and community organisations involved with the area’s waterways to understand the challenges and opportunities that they face, and identify shared goals.

As recommended by the LEADER+ programme evaluation, the project was managed via a steering group of LAG members, thus ensuring full involvement of the LAG and a method of communication and regular reporting was established. Members of the project steering group included the LAG vice chair, independent business, independent museum, Filey4wards, cultural partnership representation, ERYC external funding and independent members of the community.

As part of the consultation process, templates highlighting key features and stakeholders in all the waterways listed above were produced as a means of showing the disparate nature of the waterways and who the project needed to engage with. The templates brought interested stakeholders together for the project’s first two annual conferences. The participants concluded that forming an area-wide Waterways

Email; Leader@eastriding.gov.uk or contact

Rural Programmes, Driffield Business centre, Scotchburn Garth, Skerne Road, Driffield,
East Yorkshire. YO25 6EF

Tel: 01377 208410 www.ruralprogrammeseastyorkshire.co.uk/rdpe



Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways

Partnership was the most appropriate solution for meeting these collective challenges. Advice was sought from other successful waterways partnerships to inform the partnership development process and a governance working group was formed comprising voluntary and community representation.

Phase I of the project was successfully concluded with the production of 'Making best use of the waterways' report, setting out how a LEADER CWWW Waterways Partnership could be established;

Phase II: The project steering group submitted a successful funding application to LEADER CWWW to implement Phase II of the project. This allowed for the recruitment of Waterways Partnership staff to develop the partnership. Initial work, in 2010-11, included fully establishing the Partnership's innovative structure, which is set out in its agreed Constitution.

In recognition of its innovative approach and achievements, the Partnership was recognised as the winner of the 'Partnership' category at the national Waterway Renaissance Awards in 2011. The project was also runner up in the 'innovation' category. This helped to galvanise the partnership to develop its 'Waterways Strategy 2012-2020' and start support work with a number of the area's waterways. This has involved coordinating multiple ambitions and building consensus between partners to find solutions in the case of potentially conflicting interests.

The Waterways Strategy was launched at the project's fourth annual waterways conference, demonstrating how far the project has developed in a relatively short time. A major success of the project has been the small amounts of LEADER funding that have been made available via the partnership to support specific work on a number of the waterways. These include:

Pocklington Canal: Extensive community consultation and stakeholder liaison to develop an Action Plan setting out agreed priorities and objectives for the waterways.



Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways

This has led to a significant Heritage Lottery Fund application from a broad local partnership including the Canal & River Trust, Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, Natural England and ERYC that will lever in significant additional funding to the area if successful.

Market Weighton Canal & River Foulness: Community led local engagement to establish agreed priorities for these two waterways, key for local flood risk management and biodiversity. Recommended actions that are being taken forward by a community steering group include establishing the Market Weighton Canal as a recreational ‘regional spine’ and the development of canoe, cycle and walking trails.

River Hertford: Community consultation to understand local priorities for the River Hertford and surrounding Carrs wetland landscape. This has built the capacity of local groups to access Heritage Lottery funding through the submission of a broad Landscape Partnership application.

Driffield Canal: Development of a local partnership to begin establishing local needs and opportunities, and develop a series of projects, activities and events.

Hedon Haven: Funding that will refresh community consultation and research undertaken in the previous LEADER+ programme to build capacity and identify how the waterway could benefit from nearby economic development activity.

The final element of the Project was to ensure the Partnership’s sustainability, and a number of funding bids have been developed that will begin to implement the Strategy’s priorities. Specific activity in Phase II has included:

- Creation of a Community Forum, which includes community groups, recreational organisations and private businesses involved with the Partnership’s waterways;
- Creation of a Technical Forum, which includes officers from public, voluntary and statutory organisations involved with the Partnership’s waterways;
- The project steering group amalgamated with the governance sub group to form an interim executive committee and now a full Executive Committee, which includes elected members from each of the Forums, alongside standing



**Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways**

representation from key stakeholders, and monitors the work of the Partnership, resolving issues amongst different interests;

- Development of a LEADER CWWW area-wide Waterways Strategy, which sets out an agreed vision and priorities, supported by a broad evidence base;
- Production of community led Action Plans on the Pocklington Canal, Market Weighton Canal and River Hertford, linked to the Waterways Strategy;
- The development of local projects, and support to submit funding applications to external bodies, including the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- A cooperation project with the LEADER LAG in the South Pennines involved members of the partnership attending a conference to share best practice and learning, and members of the South Pennines LAG have attended one of the Partnership's annual conferences to report on progress.
- A further cooperation project has been developed by the CWWW LAG that has links with the Waterways Partnership. Independent waterways museums in Goole and Montlucon, France have undertaken a number of staff exchanges to develop a joint exhibition depicting the development of each area's waterways. The exhibition is being displayed at LEADER meetings and events, local and national museums and is raising the profile of a local independent museum.

3. Impact

Bob Watson LAG Member and Chair of the East Riding & North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership has summarised the impact of the project:

“The situation five years ago was that there were 15 waterways in the LEADER CWWW area of east and north Yorkshire, all at different stages of development, all proud of their own success, but generally tackling their problems alone and in some cases not knowing what was on offer.”



**Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways**

I say 'waterways' as if they were synonymous with the organisations responsible for navigation, conservation and tourism. Often there were several bodies involved with a single waterway, some big some small, some statutory, some voluntary, with different ways of doing things and different plans for the future. Sometimes they would be in competition even if they claimed to be working together; certainly there was too little evidence of active co-operation.

What the LAG, have done, by commissioning an East Riding and North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership, is to significantly change the local waterways landscape in a very short time indeed. And this is something of which they should be proud. By approving expenditure to develop the partnership and the funding to develop a number of significant waterways projects, the LAG have set in motion a train of events that in the words of John Edmonds, formerly chair of the Inland Waterways Advisory Council, has made the East Riding & North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership the most distinctive in Britain."

Other notable impacts include

- The production of a strategy that gives the partnership a strong base for continuing after its initial LEADER funding ceases.
- The potential for significant amounts of funding being levered into the area to facilitate real development along a number of the area's waterways
- Four annual conferences with attendance of over 60+ voluntary, community and statutory organisations meeting for the first time to work collaboratively with real opportunities for sharing of knowledge, best practice and mentoring.

4. Sustainability

A sub group was established by the Partnership's Executive Committee to set out how the Partnership could develop into a sustainable body after the conclusion of its LEADER CWWW funding. The group identified a number of potential funding

Email; Leader@eastriding.gov.uk or contact
Rural Programmes, Drifffield Business centre, Scotchburn Garth, Skerne Road, Drifffield,
East Yorkshire. YO25 6EF
Tel: 01377 208410 www.ruralprogrammeseast yorkshire.co.uk/rdpe



**Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways**

sources to achieve this, and take forward the priorities and objectives identified in the Partnership's Waterways Strategy. Funding applications have since been submitted, and/or are in development.

Many of the waterways projects supported via the Partnership and LEADER funding will lever in further funding to develop their individual projects, thus giving the partnership further momentum as these projects report their successes and deliver real social, economic and environmental benefits to the local communities of the LEADER CWWW area into the future.



**Rural Development Programme for England/LEADER
East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire
(Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough)
LEADER Local Action Group
Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways**

Appendix A: Quotes

“Without a doubt, this is a group of people who are demonstrating that things can be achieved when everyone pulls in one direction...This is a refreshing bottom-up approach, facilitated by the local authority but passionately driven by local people. The innovative approach to the creation of the steering group is attracting interest from other areas and partnerships”

Waterways Renaissance Awards Assessment Panel, May 2011.

“Following a very successful project to create a community Action Plan for the Market Weighton Canal and River Foulness, sponsored by the LEADER Waterways Partnership, further community consultation is now taking place. An engagement workshop is scheduled to further develop key opportunities and actions, and a wider audience is being encouraged to participate in these discussions over the coming months to take forward the selected actions.”

Gordon Shields, Community Project Manager Newport Parish Council, March 2013.

“An excellent Audience, Conservation and Interpretation Plan (ACIP), based on extensive consultation with the public and organisations with an interest in the waterway, was produced for the Pocklington Canal. The project was funded by LEADER CWWW and has helped the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society to work closely with the Canal & River Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Natural England to produce a bid for Heritage Lottery funding. This is to support community engagement, wildlife conservation, heritage skills training, and improvement of the canal and its towpath for the benefit of the public. The Waterways Partnership has facilitated the entire process, and the ACIP will be used to support other major grant applications.”

Alistair Anderson, Committee Members, Pocklington Canal Amenity Society, April 2013.