

THE CHALET – HOLIDAYS FOR ALL

APPLICANT

James Gilchrist

www.thechaletdunbar.co.uk

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£121,983

£60,333
(49.7%)

£60,650

Tyne Esk LEADER Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Diversify the farm by providing tourist accommodation allowing inclusive holidays for everyone.
- Design and build a holiday chalet aimed at catering for people with a broad range of physical and learning disabilities.
- Provide a self-catering holiday home that caters for all family members, able-bodied and disabled.
- Provide a relaxing, countryside retreat that allows everyone to enjoy the great outdoors and experience a working farm.

PROJECT DETAIL

This project aimed to diversify the Gilchrist's 400 acre East Lothian farm and help meet the growing demand for accessible tourism. The objective was to provide a safe, non-clinical, self-catering holiday home, fully accessible to all visitors.

The 3 bedroom chalet is designed to accommodate people with a range of disabilities. It has three bedrooms, one of which has a wet-room connected to the bedroom, with a ceiling track hoist and Clos-o-Mat toilet which has a wash/dry facility to support guests who require it. The exterior of The Chalet has accessible ramps and decking to allow for easy access. The kitchen worktops are lowered and cupboards underneath the sink and hob are removable to accommodate wheelchairs.

The situation of The Chalet allows visitors to see the coastal view of Dunbar and the Firth of Forth, providing total relaxation. It also links with other accessible tourism options in the area like the Beach Wheelchairs project in North Berwick which rents out specialist beach wheelchairs.



RESULTS

"The Chalet has been quite busy since opening and we have been happy with the design and the specialist equipment that we chose. We have had a lot of booking for this year so far, which we are delighted about."

LESSONS LEARNED

"Be well aware of the costs that may be higher than the original plan. The company that we based our build on to start with went into receivership and we ended up using a more expensive company."

"Allow for claims to take longer than expected and make sure that you have a large enough fund to cover this."

"Don't be afraid to ask for support in submitting your claim, I had to be talked through each one we submitted, as I could not remember what to do each time, as it was rather complicated!"