

COUSLAND SMIDDY HERITAGE HUB

APPLICANT

Cousland Smiddy Trust
www.couslandsmiddy.co.uk

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£35,617.01

£21,117.01

Tyne Esk LEADER

£55,080

Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Upgrade Cousland Smiddy to encourage more visitors and customers to enable the blacksmith business to thrive.
- Make the site more accessible for visitors.
- Improve the on-site interpretation to make the visitor experience better.
- Promote the offer of being able to experience an ancient rural craft still being practiced.

PROJECT DETAIL

Cousland Smiddy has been in continuous operation for over 300 years. It is a popular tourist destination with an increasing number of visitors. This project will upgrade the Smiddy, renovation and updating aspects of the structure to make the building a more efficient workplace for the tenant blacksmith as well as making it more accessible for visitors.

The early 20th century workshop is currently unsuitable for visitors to enter and view the large machine tools in the collections. Upgrading of the building will include enhancing a section of the floor to make it suitable for visitors of all ages and abilities, to enter the forge and view smithing demonstrations from a safe area. This will improve the experience for visitors to the Smiddy, the Heritage Hub and the organic gardens.

Work will be done to improve the chimney and lining, in order to hold more frequent demonstrations and allow the blacksmith to work with more complex types of material which require a greater heat. Archive footage of the previous blacksmith working and demonstration ancient techniques in the Smiddy will be digitised and presented to the visiting public. Additionally the project will provide cycle racks for visiting cyclists and advertising brochures for distribution.

This project will ensure that Cousland Smiddy will maintain a vibrant, functioning presence in the village as a working rural business, visitor attraction and heritage hub in this historically important rural area of the country for many more years to come.



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