

DRIFT COFFEE HOUSE

APPLICANT

Firm of WT McNicol

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£21,929.93

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(100%)

Tyne Esk LEADER

PROJECT AIMS

- Provide a comfortable refreshment stop for visitors on the east of North Berwick.
- Create facilities in sympathy with the environment, from disused shipping containers which do not require foundations and minimise the effect on the land.
- Help secure the future of a family farm by enabling it to diversify.
- Provide a venue for events and activities such as yoga, art exhibitions and pop up nights.

PROJECT DETAIL

DRIFT is located near Castleton Farm, on the east of North Berwick. The site has always been popular among visitors and tourists with Tantallon Castle and the Bass Rock as local landmarks. However, until DRIFT, it had lacked facilities for people to stop. Furthermore, Castleton Farm like many farms had the need to diversify and secure longer term sustainability. The project has addressed both of these issues and provided much more besides.



RESULTS

The result is a contemporary space for people to stop and rest, with great coffee and views. The shipping containers have been fitted out to a high specification and allow DRIFT to seat up to 40 guests. Barista coffee and loose leaf teas are served along with hot lunches and fresh home baked goods plus adventurous cuisines through their pop-up nights.

DRIFT has been lauded by visitors near and far and boasts a following of 80,000 on Facebook. Visitors include walkers, cyclists, golfers, bird watchers and tourists but importantly also locals who have become regulars and provide steady, year round trade. DRIFT also serves as a venue for yoga classes and events showcasing artists and aspects of the local area.

By allowing them to diversify, LEADER funding has helped the future sustainability and viability of the farm business against many challenges, including Covid and Brexit. DRIFT's popularity is shown no better than in its staff numbers: the **3.5 staff** predicted in the application was doubled shortly after opening and **stood at 17 at the time of writing**. Many of these are young people the applicant is putting through training to gain formal qualifications.

