

COUSLAND SMIDDY HERITAGE HUB

APPLICANT

Cousland Smiddy Trust
www.couslandsmiddy.co.uk

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£35,617

£21,117
(59.3%)

£14,500

Tyne Esk LEADER

Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Upgrade Cousland Smiddy and encourage more visitors.
- Make the site more accessible for visitors.
- Improve the working conditions for the resident blacksmith.

PROJECT DETAIL

Cousland Smiddy has been in continuous operation for over 300 years and is the only smiddy in Scotland with a working blacksmith for this time. Steeped in history it is a popular tourist destination, attracting an increasing number of visitors, both domestic and overseas. The project aimed to upgrade and renovate the building to make it a more comfortable and efficient workplace for the tenant blacksmith and more accessible for visitors. This would be done in sympathy with the original character, guided by match funders Historic Environment Scotland.

RESULTS

The grant from Tyne Esk LEADER has enabled the sympathetic restoration of the smiddy, meeting all of its aims. The building is now air and water tight and new flooring with ramp greatly improves accessibility for visitors and vehicles making drop offs. The chimney has also been improved allowing the blacksmith more heat to work with a greater range of materials and hold more frequent demonstrations.

The restoration works were carried out during Covid but the applicant is confident that, when restrictions ease in their finality the smiddy and Heritage Hub will attract over 400 visitors per year. Albeit a popular destination, this is a marked increase on previous. What is more, they now have a preserved and safeguarded local landmark and have built the capacity of the Cousland Smiddy Trust into the bargain, improving knowledge of historic building restoration.

Blacksmith photographs courtesy of Eilidh Munro

