

DRIFT COFFEE HOUSE

APPLICANT

Firm of WT McNicol

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£82,344.88

£32,937.96

Tyne Esk LEADER

£32,406.92

Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Provide a comfortable refreshment stop for visitors on the east of North Berwick.
- Create the facilities in sympathy with the environment, from disused shipping containers which don't require foundations and minimise the effect they have on the land they are sited on.
- Help secure the future of a family farm by enabling it to diversify.
- Provide a venue for events and other activities such as yoga classes, 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, but until DRIFT it had lacked facilities for people to stop. Furthermore, Castleton Farm like all farms had the need to diversify and secure longer term sustainability. The project has addressed both of these issues and provided much more besides.



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RESULTS

The result is a contemporary space for people to stop and rest, with great coffee, local ware and views. It is constructed of upcycled shipping containers which have been fitted out to a high specification and allow DRIFT to seat up to 40 guests. Natural clean air roasted coffee, quality leaf tea, hot chocolate and a selection of soft drinks are served along with fresh home baked goods. The applicants plan to add on a further container and extend the kitchen, enabling them to expand into hot lunches and pop up nights.

DRIFT attracts all sorts of visitors including walkers, cyclists, golfers, bird watchers and tourists. It has proven especially popular with locals who have become regulars and provide steady, year round trade. DRIFT also serves as a venue for yoga classes and it is planned that other events will be held on regular basis, showcasing artists and exploring aspects of the local area, such as the seabirds and Dark Skies. By allowing them to diversify, LEADER funding has helped the future sustainability and viability of the farm business against many challenges, including leaving the EU. DRIFT's popularity is shown no better than in its staff numbers: the 3.5 full time equivalent (FTE) staff predicted in the application was doubled shortly after opening and plans for expansion may mean yet more again.

