

MELVILLE CASTLE BRIDGE RESTORATION

APPLICANT

The Hay Trust
www.melvillecastle.com

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£66,842

£35,000
(52.4%)

£31,842

Tyne Esk LEADER Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Re-instate a historic bridge on the grounds of an elegant hotel estate in Midlothian.
- Open up the grounds for walkers and cyclists, completing a core circular path.
- Allow access to land south of the River Esk for development/community use.

PROJECT DETAIL

Melville Castle is a stylish hotel and wedding venue located on the outskirts of Eskbank, Midlothian. It is set in expansive grounds lined with ancient woodland and a branch of the North Esk River runs through it. A bridge was built in the 1800s to span the river, but this was destroyed in floods c. 1997 and was never replaced. This project aimed to replace the bridge, increasing amenity for hotel guests, local and visiting walkers and opening up the grounds for development.

RESULTS

The bridge was re-instated to plan in early 2020, to the delight of the applicant and the local community, who frequently walk in the estate and take in its beauty. Local ramblers, cyclists and horse-riders can now complete a circular route in Midlothian Council's Core Path Plan. The bridge was completed just as the first outbreak of Covid-19 struck, meaning less walkers from out-with the region and hotel guests have been able to take advantage. It has also meant that the plans for development of woodland lodges by the hotel and a possible forest based nursery with Midlothian Council have been put on hold. They are still in the mix however and may well be re-invigorated once recovery commences. This would increase the capacity for more visitors, provide more quality local employment and further enhance community amenity.

