

Wetland Mammals and their Habitats



Issue	Response
<p>Market Failure</p>	<p>Supported by research carried out by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, this project was designed to address a number of important instances of market failure within the rural East Riding of Yorkshire. These areas of market failure were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment within the East Riding of Yorkshire LEADER+ area, specifically riverbanks and ditches which drain farmland were being degraded by poor management practices; • The East Riding of Yorkshire has viable populations of water voles which are regarded as nationally important. Between 1990 and 1998 there was a 97% drop in water vole numbers in Yorkshire, the worst in the country. The deterioration in habitat quality is a key factor; • The East Riding of Yorkshire Council's "<i>Biodiversity: our vision</i>" is a clear statement of the issues facing biodiversity. Otter and water voles are identified as key species with farmland, wetlands, standing open water and flowing waters identified as their key habitats; • The River Hull Headwaters are the most northerly chalk streams in the UK. Chalk streams have a particularly complex and fragile ecosystem and are a UK BAP habitat. They are easily damaged by silt deposition which can be a by-product of insensitive agricultural practices.

<p>Rationale</p>	<p>The rationale for the project was that public intervention was required to educate and support agricultural activities that enhanced, rather than damaged the sustainability of wetland mammals and their habits. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust designed a project that protected and enhanced the natural environment, engaged the local community, and also capitalised on the economic potential of this natural asset in a sustainable way.</p> <p>LEADER+ funding was needed to pump-prime an integrated programme of activity that would demonstrate to landowners the benefits of sensitive environmental management and encourage them to make their own private investment.</p> <p>The project's rationale addressed the identified market failures and was consistent with the overall rationale of the East Riding of Yorkshire LEADER+ Programme.</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>The project was consistent with the aims of the East Riding of Yorkshire LEADER+ Programme supporting the theme of "Making Best of Natural and Cultural Resources" and delivering directly against the LEADER+ Programme objectives focused on enhancing and conserving the natural environment, delivering economic and social benefit from natural resources and encouraging local communities to undertake collaborative activity.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the natural heritage of the East Riding of Yorkshire by protecting, improving and maintaining habitats; 2. To give local communities, especially the farming community, the skills to continue this work; and 3. To assist agricultural diversification and employment. <p>Through the achievement of the above objectives the project also surveyed, maintained and enhanced the populations of wetland mammals, particularly the otter, water vole, water shrew and harvest mouse.</p> <p>These objectives are appropriate and relevant to the rationale for the project. Although they are not particularly SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound), they are concise and set a clear focus and direction for the activity.</p>
<p>Activity</p>	<p>Based with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, a project officer was employed to deliver advice to landowners, provide environmental training and build community capacity that energised local people to work in conjunction with the project officer to deliver the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of the East Riding of Yorkshire LEADER+ area to evidence the populations of the 4 key species - otter, water vole, water shrew and harvest mouse; • Monitoring the impact of the project on the 4 key species; • Habitat protection and management such as management near water courses to combat bank-side erosion, improving channels, preparing suitable banks, soft engineering, building and installing otter holts; • Habitat creation such as creating new landscape features and encouraging appropriate tree planting;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of invasive species which threaten wildlife and business interests; and • Advise fisheries on otter behaviour, to minimise fish predation. <p>The information collected as part of the project was used to support the work of other agencies including Internal Drainage Boards, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.</p>																																										
Financial analysis	<p>In total LEADER+ (EAGGF & DEFRA) funding accounted for 60% of the total budget, with the private sector contributing the remainder. Private investment came from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In 2005, there was an under-spend by the project which resulted in a negative figure for the DEFRA contribution. This was rectified in subsequent years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Funding Source</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EAGGF</td> <td>£4,239</td> <td>£4,205</td> <td>£21,104</td> <td>£4,782</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£34,329</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEFRA</td> <td>£3,426</td> <td>-£1,414</td> <td>£9,694</td> <td>£13,439</td> <td>£787</td> <td>£25,932</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Public</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private</td> <td>£624</td> <td>£6,656</td> <td>£13,499</td> <td>£15,625</td> <td>£4,047</td> <td>£40,452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£8,289</td> <td>£9,447</td> <td>£44,297</td> <td>£33,846</td> <td>£4,834</td> <td>£100,713</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Funding Source	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total	EAGGF	£4,239	£4,205	£21,104	£4,782	£0	£34,329	DEFRA	£3,426	-£1,414	£9,694	£13,439	£787	£25,932	Other Public	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	Private	£624	£6,656	£13,499	£15,625	£4,047	£40,452	Total	£8,289	£9,447	£44,297	£33,846	£4,834	£100,713
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Output and result analysis	<p>The original project proposal only set targets for 5 output/result indicators. It also made a commitment to monitor any new/safeguarded jobs delivered by the project but did not set a specific target figure for this. In reality, the project dramatically exceeded the majority of its targets and in addition delivered against a further 11 output/result indicators.</p>																																										
Value for money: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy • Efficiency • Effectiveness 	<p>Economy</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge the impacts could not have been secured at any lower cost to the public purse which demonstrates the project has been delivered economically.</p> <p>Efficiency</p> <p>In terms of efficiency, the project has performed very well with its delivery of hard economic outputs. This is uncharacteristic of the East Riding of Yorkshire LEADER+ Programme as a whole, which struggled to deliver significant levels of jobs and business assists. This project has delivered 30% of all new/safeguarded jobs in the East Riding LEADER+ Programme at a gross public cost of £6294 per job. It also delivered 200 business assists at £503 per unit.</p> <p>Effectiveness</p> <p>The project has been very effective in its delivery of economic, social and environmental impact to its local communities.</p> <p>It has clearly exceeded all expectations in terms of output / result delivery and also made a substantial impact in generating community capacity, stimulating volunteer involvement and raising awareness of the environmental importance of wetlands in the East Riding. We</p>																																										

	<p>believe the project’s objectives have been met.</p> <p>Finally, the project has been innovative in both its structure and delivery. Uniquely, it cut across the 3 axes of the LEADER+ Programme and was strategically aligned to wider strategy at a sub-regional and regional level. It also offered innovative solutions to specific activities such as solar powered water feeders and specific support to Bishop Burton College on its new environmental courses; training the land managers of the future.</p>
<p>Learning for the future</p>	<p>Learn from the approach</p> <p>Future activity can benefit from looking at the way this project was designed and implemented to successfully cut across the 3 axes of the LEADER+ Programme and deliver significant levels of economic, social and environmental impact to its local communities. The project design was simple and focused with 3 very clear and concise objectives. It made the specific activities relevant to all local parties and delivered outputs that were valuable to all.</p>