

<b>'Bridging the Border' Education Project</b>		<b>L+/2/1/007/ALL</b>
<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	In Phase 1 of the Bridging the Borders Education project a student placement looked at the potential of working with a variety of youth groups, and found that youth groups would welcome contact from the project. Many expressed an interest in being involved with environmental activities and to develop links with people living and working in their area.	
<b>Project Summary</b>	Building on the successful Phase 1 of the Bridging the Border Educational Project, the project aims to encourage young people to get jobs in the field of environmental and cultural heritage. Specifically, the project aimed to outreach to local youth groups, increasing the opportunities for informal environmental education, such as outdoor activities, relevant voluntary work, communication with cross-border counterparts, researching local heritage and presenting to others. This involved the employment of two educational officers, one based in the Scottish Borders, and one in Northumberland.	
<b>Project Start Date</b>	April 2003	
<b>Project End Date</b>	October 2006	
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Tweed Forum	
<b>Location</b>	The Tweed Forum are based in Melrose, while project activities extended across the Tweed Catchment (Borders and Northumberland).	
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	£132,392	
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	£48,397	
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	36.5%	
<b>Innovation</b>		
<p>The project involved highly innovative education and training activities related to land, water, wood and culture. As well as initiating new activities the project formed links with existing projects, such as community woodland projects.</p> <p>This was also the first time such a project had taken place across the border between Scotland and England.</p>		
<b>Distinctive Leader Effects</b>		
<p>The project is cross border in nature, with the educational officers based in Northumberland and the Borders working closely on many aspects, such as the training of young people, forming links between groups on either side of the border, and producing resources that are suitable for both areas. Young peoples' understanding of the Tweed's natural and cultural resources and heritage has been increased through education and training.</p>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Total as Per Application</b>	<b>Results as of project completion</b>
Young people assisted	200	916
Women assisted	50	54
People with accessibility difficulties	50	79
New products developed	4	6
Individuals trained, gaining new skills	50	103
Community groups advised and assisted	20	16
Community and recreational facilities	3	3
Awareness raising events	6	6

No. of joint community projects	5	7
Organisations assisted	10	11
Schools participating	80	29
Events and festivals	6	7
Jobs created	1	1

### **The impact of the project on the area**

By 2006, Bridging the Borders developed into a multi-project programme targeting young people aged 11-25, in both formal and informal education, through networking, project development and capacity building with partners and workers with young people.

The range of activities included

- Shelter building, wildlife watching, falconry, bird box making.
- Mountain biking, canoeing, walking, electric fishing, orienteering.
- Story telling, environmental art, archaeology, web design, sculpture.
- Woodland Maths Trail - Harestanes Visitor Centre.
- Cyclepath Enhancements – Wooler to Etal
- Woodland Activities – Glentress, Wooplaw
- Tweed Stories – with middle schools on both sides of the border.
- Landlines, The Pinwell Project – Pinwell Valley, Wooler
- School grounds project – across the project area
- Electric fishing, Glansax, Walkerburn
- Tartan Design Project - Ladykirk / Norham

Young people in the focus group sessions generally felt that they had acquired both practical and social skills as well new environmental and historical knowledge. Both young people and workers highlighted the importance of experiential learning, particularly in the outdoor environment. An evaluation of the project reports that it has made a particularly strong contribution to young people's improved environmental awareness and activity.

Additionally young people have had opportunities within the project to share their learning with other young people, with youth groups and schools from across the Border, and with their friends, family and local communities.

### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The project has emphasised training of young people and their leaders so that work can continue once the project has been completed. Such work will enhance young peoples' chances of employment in the environmental field. Protection of the environment and sustainable use of the Tweed will help the local economy as much local economic activity depends on the resources within the Tweed catchment.

### **Future sustainability**

The project has formed partnerships with other agencies that have the potential to continue activities once the project has ended, as proved in Phase 1. A comprehensive training programme for group leaders along with new resources has given them confidence and knowledge to continue educating and training young people after the project has finished. An increased awareness of the importance of the Tweed will help ensure that it is used sustainably.

### **Lessons Learned?**

The overall emphasis of the project was seen as more environmental than cultural, although mini-projects have provided a very good vehicle for a more holistic approach. While young people's skills, knowledge and understanding have been successfully built up, the programme could benefit from more opportunities for progression, through more sustained involvement or by linking, with partners, to more structured learning.

Traditional Boundaries		L/1/3/077/WO	
<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	Previous small scale tree and hedge planting schemes have demonstrated the huge demand for funding to take part in such activities by a wide cross section of the community.		
<b>Project Summary</b>	Traditional Boundaries was run as a grant scheme and operated by offering funding assistance to community groups and individuals to recognise, renovate and actively manage hedgerows, associated dykes and small woodlands in the Scottish Borders. This was done by new planting and appropriate management to improve local facilities for biodiversity and amenity, reinforced by a variety of methods including training days, guided walks and demonstration days.		
<b>Project Start Date</b>	1/4/06		
<b>Project End Date</b>	31/12/07		
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Scottish Borders Council		
<b>Location</b>	Newton St Boswells		
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	£120,678		
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	£56,716		
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	47%		
<b>Innovation</b>			
The project helped develop training and education in crafts and skills involved in hedging and the management of small woodlands.			
<b>Distinctive Leader Effects</b>			
Partnership working, bottom up community engagement and empowerment. Networking and improving the natural and cultural environment.			
<b>Outputs</b>	Total as Per Application	Results as of 31/12/2007	
No of environmental projects	70	27	
No of training days	4	3	
No of sites of natural heritage interest assisted	8	14	
Community groups advised	8	9	
No of awareness raising events	4	2	
No of schools participating	20	30	
No of publications produced	1	1	
No of micro business assisted	35	26	
<b>The impact of the project on the area</b>			
The aim of the project was to promote and manage native hedgerows ad small woodlands through out the Scottish Borders. This was achieved by a total of 27 projects being offered assistance and successful completion. Traditional Boundaries together with SBC rangers marked Tree Week 2007 by offering schools and community groups advice, materials and assistance to carry out hedge and tree planting in school grounds and community woodlands. A total of 13 schools and community woodlands were involved with the added benefit of raising children's awareness of the importance of trees and encouraging them to take an active part in habitat creation.			
The Borders Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group was involved in five training sessions on hedging and produced a leaflet on hedging which have been made available through the library service.			

**Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The project was popular and had a waiting list of applicants. SBC hopes to continue it next year but with a broader remit to include small wetlands. The idea is being developed with SNH at present. The grant terms and conditions state that all beneficiaries must maintain the hedge rows and/or trees for 10 years.

**Future sustainability**

The grants have been very popular and further funding was applied for in November 2007. The scheme has been a 'pump primer' for micro businesses who may not have carried out the work were it not for the grant.

**Lessons Learned?**

Early advice and input from FWAG and their encouragement of local communities to research their local natural history of village boundaries has proved a very accessible tool in engaging local groups to take a stake in their area.

The limitations in funding on a scheme of this size is that it can really only react to interest and is largely unable to target areas where work would be beneficial.

<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	The international forest products market is increasingly demanding assurance about the quality and environmental impacts of forest management. Such assurance can be provided by independent forest certification, which relates to the way in which management is implemented in the woodland or forest, addressing conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and the impact on the community and rural development. Most of the large forests in the Scottish Borders have or are undergoing independent forest certification but cost is seen as a barrier to owners of small woodlands and the Scottish Borders is an area with many small woods, and therefore an appropriate location to pilot a Soil Association Woodmark Project, aimed at improving access to United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for owners of small woodlands. A survey in 2003 found that 80% of landowners contacted would be more interested in seeking certification through a new group scheme designed for owners of small woodlands than through existing certification opportunities, and that most owners of small woodlands had a limited knowledge of certification.
<b>Project Summary</b>	The aim of the project was to encourage up-take of UKWAS/FSC certification by owners of small woodlands in the Scottish Borders through a pilot group certification scheme using reduced auditing procedures for small and low impact woods. The project used certification procedures designed for 'small and low intensity managed forests' (SLIMF) through the establishment of a group SLIMF scheme, and the provision of technical support to woodland owners interested in joining the scheme. The project was made up of four components; identification of target groups, capacity building of organisations to administer a group SLIMF scheme, training of woodland owners to prepare for certification, and market analysis and support of local processors.
<b>Project Start Date</b>	January 2004
<b>Project End Date</b>	December 2007
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Forestry Commission Scotland
<b>Location</b>	Borders
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	111,800
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	17,852
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	16%
<b>Innovation</b>	
The project aimed to help owners of small woodlands realise the potential of their resources by encouraging improved management, with benefits to the environment and local communities, as well as the potential for increasing access to new markets.	
<b>Distinctive Leader Effects</b>	
Forest certification aims to ensure that woodland resources are being well managed from economic, environmental and social perspectives. Encouraging the up-take of certification in the Borders had the potential to improve the management of a significant part of the woodland cover in the region (65% of forest cover in the Borders is in woodland of less than 100 hectares). By facilitating access to new markets the project sought to provide incentives for small woodlands to	

be brought into active management with related economic, environmental and social benefits at a local level.

<b>Outputs</b>	Total as Per Application	Results as of project completion
No of awareness events held	10	9
No of training courses given	6	6
Individuals Trained	10	24
No of small woods brought into management	20	5
No of organisations assisted	6	1
New groups formed	1	1
No of feasibility studies / marketing plans	1	1
No of diversified enterprises established	1	1
No of innovative methods of adding value	1	1
No of new markets accessed	0	0

#### **The impact of the project on the area**

The pilot was well publicised in the Borders, but interest from private woodlands was very low, because there was little incentive to work up the management plans required. In March 2007 five community woodlands gave the pilot its first (and final) group of certification applicants. Local small woodlands have a group with certification which they can join should they wish.

#### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

Enabling woodland owners to access new markets has the potential to promote economic growth and help to secure economic activity throughout the wood chain in the Scottish Borders. However, the local small woodlands who expressed an interest are not yet in a position to start selling their wood. The project was extended by 12 months in order to allow for the take-up of certified woodlands to increase. Borders Forest Trust have now taken over the running of the group and will continue to manage and expand it beyond the Scottish Borders, if appropriate

#### **Future sustainability**

The project aimed to establish a functioning group SLIMF scheme, with SLIMF members expected to contribute 50% to group administrative costs. In the future, the group scheme will be funded through annual membership fees that will be much lower than standard certification charges. At the end of this pilot project registration for each woodland increased from £50 to £200, but the SLIMF scheme should continue to attract new members. Despite the low level of interest in woodland certification in the Borders, there is interest in joining the certification group from further a field and this will be encouraged the group.

#### **Lessons Learned?**

In September 2006 it was noted that take-up of small woodland certification was going to be very low. There are several lessons to be learned from the pilot; that by getting more active participation from local organisations, from the very start, the project could have been more appealing to its market; that the pilot was trying to place procedures that should have been in place UK-wide. It was therefore difficult to instigate changes on a UK-scale. The pilot has shown that local businesses recognise that certification gives reassurance in the 'greenness' and sustainability but it does not increase sales, and the price paid for certified timber has not gone up. Certification is regarded as an additional level of bureaucracy, with time and cost cited as the main reasons for not taking up certification for their woodland.

**Lammermuir Hills Signposting Project**

**L+/2/1/006/ALL**

**Need / Opportunity Identified** The Lammermuir Hills Signposting Project sought to enhance the environment, and contribute to the local tourist amenity of the area. The project also had a social remit, by aiming at all the local population, including under-represented community groups, and to help reverse health inequalities.

**Project Summary** The project has improved public access in the Lammermuir hills through the installation of signposts and way-marks, and the distribution of 10,000 leaflets through the area tourist boards. Specifically the project aimed to improve access for low income groups, ethnic minorities, and disabled people, and the style of signs installed are appropriate for a led party of visually impaired walkers. The project involved the local community in the installation of the signposts wherever possible, and included training, support and supervision for all volunteers.

**Project Start Date** January 2003

**Project End Date** May 2004

**Lead Applicant** Scotways

**Location** Lammermuir Hills

**Total Eligible Expenditure** £5,090

**Total Leader+ grant claimed** £2,545

**Intervention Rate** 50%

**Innovation**

The project sought to enhance the environment, and contribute to the tourist amenity of the area by improving public access. The access routes being signposted are sufficient length that overnight stays in local establishments are likely. In addition, the project actively engaged local communities in the installation of the signposts.

**Distinctive Leader Effects**

The project sought to promote public access to the environment, to enable an increased appreciation of the Border's cultural heritage of access to woodland, water and land resources.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Total as Per Application</b>	<b>Results as of project completion</b>
Length of path enhanced	76 km	100 km
No of local organisations assisted	50	54
Visitor number	2,500	7,500

**The impact of the project on the area**

The project aimed to enhance the environment and encourage economic development through non-polluting forms of tourism. Most users of the paths are local people. The project also built the capacity of those who participated in the project. Local resources and businesses were favoured in order to maximise the economic impact of the project.

**Results anticipated beyond project closure**

An increase in user confidence, longer-term economic impact associated with an increase in visitors to the area, and the impact on career prospects of volunteer training in countryside work. This project assisted with an application to Leader+ for another project in the Cairngorms.

**Future sustainability**

The manufacture of the signposts and way-marks is usually a one-off capital expenditure. As a condition of Scottish Natural Heritage signposting, which has co-funded the project, the society has

committed to maintain the signposts and way-marks for a period of 10 years.

**Lessons Learned?**

Many of the intended project outcomes are very difficult to quantify, such as economic impact and increased confidence amongst participating volunteers.

**Red Squirrels in South Scotland**

**L+/2/1/022/WO**

**Need / Opportunity Identified**

Phase Two of the Red Squirrels in South Scotland project sought to build on vital experience gained in Phase One of the same project, which focused on awareness raising, identification of priority woodlands and the promotion of best practice amongst forest managers. The primary aim of Phase 2 of the Red Squirrels in South Scotland project was to help safeguard the future of the species throughout the south of Scotland, while promoting the associated benefits of community involvement and green tourism. The project was also a response to the need for a fundamental regional strategy for grey squirrel control, and a united cross-border and UK wide approach to red squirrel conservation

**Project Summary**

The Phase Two project had three objectives. Firstly, it sought to encourage forest managers and owners to help create the best possible habitat for red squirrels through the development of site specific management plans, written in liaison with forest managers. Secondly, it identified local community groups and schools surrounding priority woodlands, and involved them in the project, to raise awareness of the importance of native species and biodiversity. Thirdly, the project aimed to identify, develop and promote sites for nature-based tourism, through the provision of interpretation, viewing stations and information leaflets for visitors to South Scotland.

**Project Start Date**

October 2003

**Project End Date**

October 2005

**Lead Applicant**

Southern Uplands Partnership

**Location**

Project activities took place throughout the Borders, organisational networking across Northern England.

**Total Eligible Expenditure**

£56,279

**Total Leader+ grant claimed**

£24,641

**Intervention Rate**

43.8%

**Innovation**

Phase 2 of the project represented a new approach to red squirrel conservation that evolved through much research. The methodology was approved by the UK Red Squirrel Group, and has been adopted by the Forestry Commission in northern England. Project implementation relied heavily on local community involvement and sought to benefit local accommodation providers, thus combining social, economic and environmental outcomes.

**Distinctive Leader Effects**

The project aimed to make better use of natural resources and to involve local communities in the implementation of the project, which are distinctive elements of the Leader approach. The project also sought to work closely with other squirrel groups, conservation agencies and voluntary and statutory bodies throughout the UK, and was thus an inter-regional undertaking.

**Outputs**

Total as Per Application

Results as of project completion

No of young people assisted

250

260

No of women assisted

50

161

No of under employed assisted

50

67

No of geo-disadvantaged assisted

30

155

No of individuals trained	40	195
No of community groups advised / assisted	20	20
No of sites of natural heritage interest	6	5
No of awareness raising events held	20	23
No of joint projects	1	3
No of demonstration sites	2	2
No of schools participating	10	12
No of jobs created	1	1
No of educational packs produced	1	1
No of management plans completed	12	10
No of red squirrel walk videos produced	1	1
No of interpretation sites	2	2

### **The impact of the project on the area**

Economically, the Phase 2 project helped ensure effective incorporation of red squirrel conservation into commercial forestry, leading to diversification of forestry objectives. Two Red Squirrel Conservation Officer jobs were also created. Socially, the project encouraged a sense of community ownership and responsibility for biodiversity, and encouraged community participation in practical conservation projects, while environmentally, the project ensured that habitat management for red squirrels is incorporated into the long term forest plans of Priority Woodlands. However, as red squirrel populations fluctuate naturally over time, any change in population as a result of the project will not be known for 10 years or so.

### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The forest management plans will bring about increased biodiversity by encouraging diversification away from intensive commercial forestry practice, leading towards improved management for conservation and amenity. The management plans will help ensure the forest habitat will continue to be enhanced long after the end of the project, while community participation should aid long term local interest in the management of the Priority Woodlands.

### **Future sustainability**

Completed management plans were passed over to partner organisations and private forestry managers so that conservation work could continue to progress, with the plans used during future forest planning to help protect the best woodlands for red squirrels in South Scotland. Responsibility for ongoing education and awareness-raising was handed over to appropriate organisations that were able to incorporate such activities into their remit.

### **Lessons Learned?**

The project was deemed a great success, and appeared in a Dumfries and Galloway Leader+ publication as an example of best practice. A survey in 2005 found that 67% of respondents believed the government should be doing more to save the red squirrel.

**Glenkinnon Burn Biodiversity Trail**

**L+/1/3/079/WO**

<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	Glenkinnon Burn was deemed a particularly significant site for the project as it is part 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI) and part of a former conifer plantation.
<b>Project Summary</b>	Development of Glenkinnon Burn Community Woodland to re-establish semi natural, native woodland with community involvement, the creation of a Biodiversity Trail with low key interpretation that describe different aspects of woodland habitats and wildlife. General access improvements also formed part of the project. Schools were encouraged to visit the woodland through education packs and events.
<b>Project Start Date</b>	April 2006
<b>Project End Date</b>	December 2007
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Borders Forest Trust
<b>Location</b>	Ancrum
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	£31,116
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	£15,488
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	49.7%

**Innovation**

This was seen to provide excellent opportunities to encourage further public interest in the project, establish a diverse woodland habitat and monitor habitat improvements to the woodland.

**Distinctive Leader Effects**

Capacity building to facilitate community involvement, particularly of women and young people, in the conservation, development and interpretation of forest land.

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Total as Per Application</b>	<b>Results</b>
No of young people assisted	300	35
Training courses delivered	2	1
No of services and facilities established	1	1
No of sites of natural heritage interest	1	1
No of commercial and recreational facilities supported	1	1
No of demonstration sites	1	1
No of schools participating	10	2
No of events/festivals	3	0
Length of footpath improved/created	1132	1690
No of artworks commissioned	8	8
No of publications produced	3	2
No of individuals using services and facilities	450	0

**The impact of the project on the area**

As a result of the project:

- there is a new resource available to local community which interprets the wildlife around them and involves them in the development of an important site.
- There is integration of Forestry activities and biodiversity.

- non-native species have been removed to encourage expansion and regeneration of native woodland especially the SSSI woodland in Glenkinnon Burn.
- dead wood (habitat piles) have been retained to encourage fungi, and also invertebrates which birds feed upon.

#### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The formal launch took place in the summer of 2008. There was a programme of events for children and the public with the BFT's Community Liaison and Education Officer providing ranger led sessions to any schools which request the service.

Schools and local communities were sent the education pack produced as part of the project and teacher training sessions will take place to allow schools to take full advantage of the learning opportunities at Glenkinnon.

#### **Future sustainability**

BFT and Forestry Commission Scotland in partnership will oversee the maintenance of Glenkinnon Burn and the biodiversity trail to stop encroachment of non-native species and to maintain the path. There will also be regular safety checks. Volunteers are likely to be involved in the maintenance of the paths and the regeneration of the plant life.

#### **Lessons Learned?**

The project was delayed while Borders Forest Trust developed an agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland, who both have community engagement aims, but otherwise work towards different targets.

The launch of the trail had to be delayed due to the poor weather at the time of finishing the project. As a result the number of visitors/people assisted is less than originally envisaged.

**New Focus on Art & Learning at Wooplaw Woods**

**L+/1/3/075/WO**

**Need / Opportunity Identified**

In September 2004 Wooplaw Community Woodlands conducted a survey of 'users'. 'More focus on arts-linked events', 'arts in the woods', 'arts and crafts', more 'interesting things to look at' and 'events aimed at children' were all identified as potential improvements that were desired by interviewees. At the facilitated events a feeling was expressed that Wooplaw had lost some of the 'magical' quality that prevailed when the previous sculpture trail existed.

There is documented evidence that Wooplaw is regularly visited by a wide range of groups (and in particular school parties). There is a steady flow of ordinary visitors and (as the first community woodland in Britain) it is frequently used by Borders Forest Trust as a show case for events and visits. Therefore, although there was considerable scope for increasing visitor numbers, there were already a large number of people who would benefit from the enhancements.

**Project Summary**

The project aimed to improve the visitor environment at Wooplaw Community Woodlands to promote greater community involvement and a richer cultural experience for visitors. This was achieved by providing a sculpture trail and by improving and extending the facilities to the existing log cabin area.

**Project Start Date**

February 2006

**Project End Date**

December 2007

**Lead Applicant**

Wooplaw Community Woodlands

**Location**

Wooplaw

**Total Eligible Expenditure**

£12,828

**Total Leader+ grant claimed**

£5,728

**Intervention Rate**

44.6%

**Innovation**

To realise the potential rural development opportunities of small woods in an artistic way which would attract more visitors.

**Distinctive Leader Effects**

Volunteers and community members making the most of the local woodland to build capacity and confidence and attract visitors.

**Outputs**

**Total as Per Application**

**Results**

Art works commissioned

6

6

Schools participating

3

1

Events

7

36

Young people assisted

150

127

Community Woodland project

1

1

Micro businesses assisted

6

6 (local artists)

**The impact of the project on the area**

Six sculptures were created and new visitors are attracted to the Woodland due to the new sculptures and improved facilities. The log cabin is now a venue used for outdoor parties and barbeques.

The project also encouraged volunteers who want to come back. The participation rose during the workshops to create the sculptures. An artist would work in conjunction with attendees, young and old, to realise the sculptures.

Lauder Primary School now comes to Wooplaw to conduct wildlife studies. Additionally, a group of young people with additional needs organised by Kidsclub, based in Byker, Newcastle, also visit the woodlands to undertake outdoor activities and camp.

#### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The Wooplaw Community Woodlands and sculpture trail are maintained by the Wooplaw Community Woodland volunteers, who also organise events.

#### **Future sustainability**

All sculptures are for the most part comprised of materials source within the wood, which are harvested in a sustainable manner. This does mean however that the sculptures will biodegrade over time. This will make way for new designs and ideas to come through.

The Community Woodlands has a management plan which is delivered by volunteers.

#### **Lessons Learned?**

It was more difficult than anticipated to contact young people and people with accessibility difficulties as the project lost one of its project managers who moved away from the area.

On Yer Bike		L+/1/3/074/WO	
<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	Key partners identified a need for cooperation and a more strategic approach to planning mountain biking activities for young people. Existing opportunities for young people to participate had been significantly over subscribed.		
<b>Project Summary</b>	'On Yer Bike' was a project to make mountain biking and forest activities available to young people of the Scottish Borders.		
<b>Project Start Date</b>	March 2006		
<b>Project End Date</b>	December 2007		
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Scottish Borders Council		
<b>Location</b>	Glentress, Peebleshire		
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	£106,818		
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	£50,000		
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	46.8%		
<b>Innovation</b>			
The Bike Patrol at Glentress was the first in Britain. Patrollers are volunteers, recruited from trained Trail Leaders. Their role is to cycle round at weekends, informing, assisting and educating trail users and generally promoting responsible enjoyment of the forests and particularly mountain biking trails and keeping the trails safe. The Bike Patrol now has a permanent base on site at Glentress. The 'On Yer Bike' project laid the foundations for its development and reserve of volunteers.			
<b>Distinctive Leader Effects</b>			
Realising the potential rural development opportunities of woods and forest. Training and education initiatives related to woodlands.			
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Total as Per Application</b>	<b>Results</b>	
No of innovative methods introduced	1	1	
No of young people assisted	500	534	
No of geographically disadvantages assisted	400	446	
No of training courses delivered	6	8	
No of training days provided	220	148	
No of community/recreational facilities provided	2	2	
No of schools participating	20	20	
No of events/festivals	6	3	
No of publications produced	10	21	
No of micro businesses assisted	4	5	
No of businesses and groups assisted	4	0	
No of jobs created	0.5	1 FTE and 1 seasonal	
No of individuals trained	60	78	
No of innovative methods introduced	1	1	
No of young people assisted	500	534	
No of geographically disadvantages assisted	400	446	
No of training courses delivered	6	8	

No of training days provided	220	148
No of community/recreational facilities provided	2	2

### **The impact of the project on the area**

The project succeeded in getting over 500 young people on bikes; some for the first time. Substantial training opportunities have been opened up through the schools and there is new access to biking facilities. The Bike Patrol is also in a much stronger position as a result of the project.

Demand for Trail Leader training still outstrips the number of training courses, so the courses remain extremely popular.

The partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has worked very well and the SBC presence at Glentress has been very positive (thanks to the space given in-kind to the project by FCS).

In general there are big developments happening at Glentress. The 'Peel' (a house converted into meeting room facility) on the other side of the burn from Glentress, is going to be developed into an educational resource probably housing the Osprey Viewing centre, with space for environmental studies. This is being funded by 7even Stanes.

### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The mapping process resulted in a database of cycling routes which were unavailable previously. These have been included in the educational packs which have gone out to schools and are available from the Sports Coaches.

### **Future sustainability**

There is a small group of tutors now employed by the Council as 'Sports Coaches'. They are available to provide a training service to schools/local clubs. There are fleets of bikes at Kelso, Hawick and Glentress available for hire by qualified biking instructors for sessions with local clubs/groups.

### **Lessons Learned?**

The recruitment of the right Ranger turned out to be pivotal to the success of the project. The number of courses able to be delivered was impacted by the loss of the first Ranger early in the project. However, he left in June and a new appointee started in November. A summer of training was lost as a result.

**Need / Opportunity Identified**

The Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy was adopted as an amendment to the Structure Plan in 2005. It is also a regional expression of the National Forestry Strategy and is related to the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan and overlaps with tourism and recreational strategies. The Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy was drafted following extensive consultation with local stakeholders thereby representing a broad consensus of the action required to make the most of the then situation.

**Project Summary**

The aim of this project was to assist with the implementation of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy and this work is continuing. The aim of the strategy is to establish and improve sustainable use of woodland resources.

To enable the delivery of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy, four defined projects were identified as representing the areas of policy not being carried out by other organisations and needing attention. The project delivered on these four areas and ensured they complied with national and local policy.

The projects were:

1. Wood Supply and Small businesses
2. Construction and sustainable development using local timber
3. Use of Forest Products and Fuel
4. Designed Landscapes

**Project Start Date**

January 06

**Project End Date**

December 2007

**Lead Applicant**

Scottish Borders Council

**Location**

Borders-wide

**Total Eligible Expenditure**

£81,743

**Total Leader+ grant claimed**

£20,188

**Intervention Rate**

24.7%

**Innovation**

The project represents the first attempt to deliver policies targetted on the full range of economic, social and environmental aspects of the local woodland resource.

**Distinctive Leader Effects**

'Wood' was identified as one of the key 'Innovation Areas' of the Scottish Borders Leader+ Programme. This project contributes in particular to making best use of the woodland as a resource in the Scottish Borders.

**Outputs (as at December 2007)**

**Total as Per Application**

**Results**

No of pilot projects carried out	15	2
No of groups formed	5	1
No of small businesses advised/assisted	33	33
No of organisations assisted	8	10
No of demonstration sites	5	6

No of wood recycling projects	8	1
No of small woods bought into management	7	0
No of publications produced	2	1
No of farms assisted to develop their own woods	5	2
No of micro-businesses assisted	25	3
No of new products developed	3	1
No of new/innovative methods of adding value	4	0
No of new markets accessed	5	1
No of new businesses established	3	0
No of jobs created	12	8
No of wood products developed in the Scottish Borders	3	1

**N.B. Outputs are still developing and a further assessment will be available at end March 2009**

#### **The impact of the project on the area**

**Project 1:** 'Wood Supply and Small businesses', developed a detailed information base of the Borders forest industry stakeholders including surveying their needs.

**Project 2:** 'Construction and sustainable development using local timber' prepared a Supplementary Planning Guidance note for use of timber in construction industry.

**Project 3:** 'Use of Forest Products and Fuel' conducted public information sessions and offered advice to local businesses. A local wood fuel supply co-operative was created with the Borders Machinery Ring.

**Project 4:** 'Designed Landscapes' conducted audit of local designed landscapes, and created strategy for management and restoration of designed landscapes.

#### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

**Project 1:** 'Wood Supply and Small businesses'. This information obtained will be used to increase the contribution of wood to the Borders economy in 2008/09.

**Project 2:** 'Construction and sustainable development using local timber'. The Supplementary Planning Guidance should increase the use of local timber and will be strengthened by partnering projects with local builders to provide practical demonstration sites as an example. A study tour is being undertaken in April 2008 to support the SPG, along with seminars planned to roll-out the SPG later in the year. 'Post and Beam' is use of wood to construct homes. Gaia Architects is also training Wood School to deliver this method of house building.

**Project 3:** 'Use of Forest Products and Fuel'. The co-operative hopes to set up a Wood Fuel Station in an old aircraft hanger in Charterhall. Local farmers would provide the wood for the fuel.

**Project 4:** 'Designed Landscapes', the consultant is arranging a seminar on the findings, subject to the completion of an advice note for attendees.

#### **Future sustainability**

The remaining elements of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy require substantial work and will continue beyond the Leader+ period with a view to helping to ensure the viability and appropriate management of woodlands in the future.

#### **Lessons Learned?**

Originally the project looked to employ a member of staff to deliver the project but when the post was advertised and interviewed no suitable candidate could be found. It was decided that the projects should be carried out by a mix of consultants/staff.

<b>Borders Wood Pasture</b>		<b>L+/1/3/004/WOLA</b>
<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	<p>Borders Forest Trust completed a survey of the Ancient Woodlands in the Borders and was the first organisation in Scotland to carry out a study of veteran trees. Subsequently BFT carried out native woodland regeneration and conservation on a number of ancient and riparian woodlands in the Borders. Through these activities, interest from landowners and farmers to get involved with a project which integrates trees into the landscape with minimal disturbance to agricultural operations was overwhelming. The concept of creating 'wooded landscapes' without losing grazing land or fencing off areas had been put forward by most Borders farmers involved in the aforementioned projects.</p>	
<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>Administered by Borders Forest Trust, The Wood Pasture project had two main objectives. Firstly, to place trees into the Borders landscape without the need to create discrete areas of woodland, and secondly to conserve and enhance areas of ancient wood pasture and veteran trees. The funding application to Leader+ was limited to the first project objective. Sites suitable for the creation of upland wood pasture and parkland were identified, surveyed, and simple management prescriptions drawn up. On sites where upland wood pasture or parkland was to be created, individual trees were planted into locally produced tree boxes, which are produced from locally sourced hardwood by a local contractor. The number of trees planted per hectare aimed to give the appearance of parkland and will be maintained and monitored by the Borders Forest Trust until such an age as they are considered established.</p>	
<b>Project Start Date</b>	February 2003	
<b>Project End Date</b>	January 2007	
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Borders Forest Trust	
<b>Location</b>	Administered in Jedburgh, project activities across the Borders (predominately central and western)	
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	£125,335	
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	£49,993	
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	39.8%	
<b>Innovation</b>		
<p>Training in woodland management skills of a specialist nature has been provided to six individuals. The use of Borders grown hardwood in the making of over 5,000 tree boxes involved processing recycled timber and 'under sized hardwood trees'. The project connected to the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for woodlands through the conservation and enhancement of a cultural and heritage resource.</p>		

### **The Leader+ Difference**

By working with the Leader+ Coordinator, the Borders Forest Trust was able to better identify the outputs that would be achieved by the project and community involvement was given more emphasis. The Decision Making Group requested that a monitoring and evaluation programme be implemented as part of the project. By the end of the project this had become part of a 'Woodland Habitat Survey' Monitoring and Evaluation programme for the Borders Forest Trust's projects.

The Leader+ Coordinator discussed the project with the Scottish Executive to negotiate the inclusion of the BFT Site Officer and the creation/supervision of the part time Wood Pasture Project Officer as an eligible cost to the project. This was successful.

In October 2006 the project requested a grant extension. This was approved within 4 weeks by the Leader+ Decision Making Group, subject to underspend from other Leader+ projects. The Leader+ Programme spend is continually updated and sufficient underspend was identified elsewhere in the Leader+ Programme. As a result the Borders Wood Pasture project received a grant extension of £2,000 to allow the project to achieve further outputs.

### **Outputs**

	Total as Per Application	Results as of project completion
No. of micro businesses assisted	1	4
No. of demonstration sites, including woodlands (80 ha)	10	27
No. of wood recycling projects	1	1
No. of individuals trained, gaining new skills or retrained	5	6
Quantity of wood used (tonnes)	0	200

### **The impact of the project on the area**

In 3 years over 2,300 trees were planted in boxes across the Borders creating open parkland habitat, 82ha of wood pasture created and 34ha of existing wood pasture conserved and regenerated.

To enable the public to understand more about the wood pasture habitat created by planting the trees in boxes interpretation panels were designed and installed on tree boxes on more accessible higher profile sites such as March Wood, St Mary's Kirkyard and Buckholm Hill, Galashiels.

Local businesses were also able to supply the project with services, increasing their financial sustainability.

To highlight the success of this project and the importance of Wood Pasture habitats, a seminar about Wood Pasture was co-ordinated at the end of the project. This was attended by some 40 local farmers, land managers and conservationists.

### **Results anticipated beyond project closure**

The trees will establish as time passes, increasing the biodiversity and habitat linkages between woodland networks. The trees also act as demonstration sites.

Maintenance of the sites will be undertaken by the landowners.

Borders Forest Trust also reports that some of the project's young volunteers intend to pursue employment related to the environment.

### **Future sustainability**

Borders Forest Trust is committed and resourced to maintain the wood pasture and parkland trees once Leader+ funding has ceased. Once the trees are established, landowners will assume full responsibility for the maintenance of the trees. The use of Tree Wardens, and other volunteers in training and the practical delivery of the project will reinforce woodland culture skills and contribute to personal development.

### **Lessons Learned?**

Through the development of the project, the Trust discovered that there were greater levels of interest from landowners than anticipated. This demonstrated the enthusiasm for the creation of an open wood pasture and its value to land managers both aesthetically on a landscape scale and for providing shelter for stock. An apparent attraction to the project was that it was grant funded and from discussions it appeared that this played a significant role in encouraging landowners to participate. From this the Trust is aware that to engage with landowners for future project financial incentive is generally required.

The most inspiring part of the project was seeing the impact of the tree boxes in the landscape, knowing that within the next 5 to 10 years young trees will emerge from the boxes and grow for hundreds of years to come, enriching the landscape and providing important links for wildlife between woodlands. The high visual impact also drew attention to the project from the public and the feedback that the Trust received was very positive. Raising awareness of the project and the value to the landscape and biodiversity through the creation of the wood pasture parkland was also a very valuable output of the project.

The most difficult part of the project was a logistical problem of transporting materials from the small local sawmill to the planting site as the saw mill did not have access to a haulage vehicle. This was overcome through finding local haulage contractors.

**Leadburn Community Woodland Purchase**
**L+/1/3/067/WO**

<b>Need / Opportunity Identified</b>	An opportunity to purchase a strategically placed wood from Forest Enterprise offered the potential to establish a native woodland near Leadburn, creating habitats for birds and other wildlife through imaginative use of ponds, water margins and wetlands, which will in time become a valuable accessible amenity for residents of all ages and visitors to the area. The site's location is accessible by road and bus and can be enjoyed by wheelchair and pushchair users because an old railway track runs right through it.	
<b>Project Summary</b>	Leadburn Wood is comprised of 100 acres of former conifer plantation, which was clear felled in 2000. The creation of a community woodland at the site will encourage locals and visitors alike to stop and enjoy the local area. Friends of Leadburn Community was established in February 2005 in order to buy Leadburn Wood from Forest Enterprise. Scottish Land Fund provided a grant for 75% of the purchase price and conveyancing fee, and Leader+ provided most of the remaining funding required. The project was delayed for a year by legal arguments over access routes, but planning permission to create an access route was granted and the land was purchased at the end of 2006. Fundraising and publicity events have been held in local towns and there are plans for a raised bog and tree planting to improve biodiversity, while renovated pathways and buildings are planned to make the site appealing to walkers, cyclists, train cyclists and all looking for a day in the countryside.	
<b>Project Start Date</b>	August 2006	
<b>Project End Date</b>	March 2007	
<b>Lead Applicant</b>	Friends of Leadburn Community Woodland	
<b>Location</b>	Leadburn	
<b>Total Eligible Expenditure</b>	£36000	
<b>Total Leader+ grant claimed</b>	£8000	
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	22.2%	
<b>Innovation</b>		
The project resulted in community ownership of the woodland and puts future development of the public access links between woodlands and other local communities, in their hands.		
The project brings different parishes together, and is the first project of its type in the area.		
<b>Distinctive Leader Effects</b>		
The project aimed to address the lack of recreational amenities for local people of all ages, and is seeking to involve specific groups at risk of marginalisation – for example, pupils at the nearby Wellington special school, older people living in the Whim nursing home, and people with learning difficulties at the John Chant centre in Penicuik.		
<b>Outputs</b>	Total as Per Application	Results as of project completion
Leadburn Wood Purchased	1	1
Awareness raising events held	2	2
Small woodlands brought into management	1	1

Land made available to access	100	100
No of publications produced	1	2
Tourism project	1	1
Sustainability project	1	1
<b>The impact of the project on the area</b>		
<p>The strategic location of the woodland, at a crossroads and at the boundary between different communities and local authority areas, creates particular social benefits and connections. The location is accessible by people of all ages and abilities, and the project is bringing together local volunteers and school children. It is too early to measure any change in biodiversity, but in time there will be environmental benefits.</p>		
<b>Results anticipated beyond project closure</b>		
<p>Friends of Leadburn Community Woodland will establish native woodland, specifically birch, willow, alder, hazel, rowan and gean, has will also create a range of wetland and water habitats for a variety of birds, insects and small mammals, which can be accessed all year round by members of the public of all ages and abilities.</p> <p>Partial restoration of a bog, and 5,000 trees to be planted, access track and display boards to be produced, improved path network to be created. There are plans to renovate an old railway building. The project planned to submit plans and grant applications to the Forestry Commission and to other funders with specific biodiversity or recreational objectives, although this was delayed due to delays in land purchase. The woodland will take shape over the next few years, as the Leader+ funded land purchase is just the start of the work that will be undertaken.</p>		
<b>Future sustainability</b>		
<p>There are currently 60 members in the group, who pay a small annual subscription to the group, with more volunteers coming forward at the time of the final report.</p>		
<b>Lessons Learned?</b>		
<p>As explained, the purchase of the wood was delayed for a year due to complex legal arguments over access. The delay caused a lessening in the level of local interest in the project (and hence the number of subscriptions) although interest has started to recover.</p>		