



Greencoat UK Wind Dronehill Wind Farm Community Fund

Fund Report
January - December 2025

Highlights



Greencoat Drone Hill
Wind Farm
Community Fund
established in 2012



Integrated Drone
Hill & NnG East
Berwickshire Fund
launched Dec 25



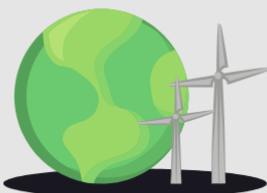
2025 - largest
annual funding total
of £88k awarded to
19 projects



197 Awards since the Fund's inception
totalling £667,000



Every £1 awarded in 2025 leveraged an
additional £3.50 in local communities



Largest awards to Community equipment,
infrastructure and transport, Youth Services
and extra curricular opportunities

Highlights

The Drone Hill Fund reached a significant milestone in 2025, surpassing the previous year's record to deliver its largest annual award distribution since the Fund's inception. **Over £88,000 was distributed to 18 diverse groups and organisations** across the Fund area's community. Since its establishment, the Fund has made **197 awards totalling over £667,000**, demonstrating strong financial leverage with each pound invested attracting an additional £3.50 from other funding sources.

Overall, the Fund's performance metrics remained strong, with a 79% application success rate and significant leverage achieved by supporting projects totalling just over £588,000 in value.

Two key impact areas emerged throughout 2025, with 27% of funding supporting Sustainable Cities & Communities projects (SDG3) and 24% supporting Reduced Inequality initiatives (SDG10). Awards contributing towards Sustainable Cities and Communities included £10,000 to Sea the Change to contribute towards purchasing a van to support the delivery of cycling and litter picking initiatives along coastal communities and in local villages within the Fund area. Inequalities were tackled for example via £7,500 awarded to Connect Berwickshire Youth Project to fund a 12-month pilot employing a youth worker to engage rural young people, improve access to support, co-create solutions to youth inequality, and strengthen community understanding of youth needs through outreach, drop-ins, and collaboration.

The Fund achieved notable success in supporting infrastructure projects that enhanced community facilities and access. A £10,000 contribution was made towards a new playpark facility in Coldingham that will provide safe, inclusive and accessible play equipment that enhances physical activity, outdoor play and social connections for children and their families. Additionally, £5,000 was awarded to improve access to Siccar Point by enhancing the walking route and adding interpretation boards, signposts and benches. This project promotes the site's geological significance ahead of James Hutton's Tercentenary celebrations in 2026, with the aim of boosting local engagement and tourism.

This year's achievements underscore the Fund's role in supporting community well-being, tackling inequalities and promoting sustainable development across the region. The funded projects this year have primarily contributed to achieving five different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



2025 has seen a wide range of supported projects spanning **quality education, health and well-being, infrastructure, outdoor activities, and science and environmental education**. Typical grant sizes in 2025 ranged from £1,000 to £5,000, with six awards exceeding this range. For more details, please refer to the grantmaking section.

The Panel remains a highly engaged and thoughtful decision-making body, ensuring grant funding achieves maximum impact in local communities. The Panel faced a particularly challenging round in November 2025 with requested amounts far exceeding available funding and it did so with considered insightful professionalism. One new member was inducted during the year, maintaining Panel knowledge whilst bringing in fresh community perspectives.

Key activities in 2025 included Fund promotion and the development of impact case studies. Significant emphasis was placed on publicising the Fund and evaluating its impact on previously funded projects.

A major change in Fund arrangements involved exploring the potential integration of the Drone Hill Fund with a new community benefit fund from Neart na Gothie (NnG) offshore wind farm, developed by EDF Power Solutions and EBS. Comprehensive consultation and engagement took place with Greencoat UK Wind, NnG stakeholders, the Drone Hill and neighbouring Community Councils, and the Panel to explore the proposed integration. Following insightful and constructive consultation, it was agreed to integrate the two Funds following the final round of Drone Hill funding in November 2025. **The new integrated Fund is now known as the Drone Hill & NnG East Berwickshire Fund** and re-launched under this new moniker in early December 2025.

Background

Following the announcement of NnG community benefit funding for the five East Berwickshire communities of Co'Path & Cove, Coldingham, St Abbs, Eyemouth and Burnmouth for at least three years (2025-2028), and given the proximity and overlap with the Drone Hill Fund area of benefit (Co'Path & Cove, Coldingham, Reston & Auchencrow, and Grantshouse), Foundation Scotland reached out to communities, donors and other stakeholders to explore the possibility of integrating the Drone Hill and NnG Community Benefit Fund arrangements. The aspiration was to maximise the impact of both funds whilst making things as efficient and straightforward as possible for all concerned.

Foundation Scotland engaged and consulted with the seven Community Councils, the Drone Hill and NnG donors, and other stakeholders to gauge their views on the integration proposal and consider their feedback to help shape the future of the prospective funds.

The two Funds' income levels are as follows:

- Drone Hill: £40,000 per annum, index-linked – in 2025 this equated to £64,200.
- NnG for East Berwickshire: £32,400 per annum, index-linked, commencing 2025.

The overall NnG community benefit fund arrangements (which will also benefit East Lammermuir and five Fife communities in years 1-3) will be reviewed in 2028. This will include review of the area of benefit and percentage allocations between regions and communities.

However, it seems likely that some level of community benefit funding will continue to be dedicated to the East Berwickshire communities, and hence there remains value in establishing the integrated Fund arrangement in anticipation of operating longer-term.

The owners of both wind farms have clarified that they wish the respective areas of benefit for their own funding to be:

- Drone Hill (unchanged): only projects benefiting at least one or more of Reston & Auchencrow, Grantshouse, Co'Path & Cove or Coldingham can receive funding from the Drone Hill Fund.
- NnG in East Berwickshire: only projects benefiting at least one or more of Co'Path & Cove, Coldingham, Eyemouth, St Abbs and Burnmouth can receive funding from the NnG Fund.

The integrated structure proposed below therefore takes account of these parameters, as well as suggestions and feedback from stakeholders plus experience in other Fund arrangements across Scotland.

Fund accounting

Within Foundation Scotland systems in the background, both Funds will be separately ring-fenced, such that all income and expenditure from each can be seen separately and transparently (e.g. for donors) but can also be presented on a combined basis (e.g. for Panel overview). This will also allow projects to receive grants from either one or both Funds, depending upon the area of benefit for the project in question.

Fund purpose and priorities

The integrated Fund purpose and priorities will remain the same as the existing Drone Hill Fund purpose and priorities, apart from the area of benefit.

Introduction

The Greencoat UK Wind Drone Hill Community Fund, established by Greencoat UK Wind as owners of Drone Hill Wind Farm in the Scottish Borders, serves the communities within the Cockburnspath & Cove, Coldingham, Grantshouse, and Reston & Auchencrow Community Council areas. Initially offering grants between £250 and £5,000, the Fund expanded its scope in Year 7 (2018) to consider applications of up to £10,000 for projects demonstrating significant community impact. This enhanced funding threshold was made permanent in 2020. The Fund provides grants to support charitable activities that:

- Enhance quality of life for local residents.
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities.
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

Requests to support a wide range of costs and activities can be considered, for such things as: equipment costs; running costs for local groups and events; staff or sessional workers costs; consultations and feasibility studies; refurbishment of community facilities, and a wide range of other costs.

Greencoat UK Wind Drone Hill Community Fund Panel makes decisions on how the Fund is spent and promotes it locally. The Panel comprises up to 16 volunteer representatives: up to two Community Councillors from each of the four areas and up to two representatives from the wider community in each area.

The Fund was established in 2012. Annual payments of £40,000 from the date of the wind farm being first commissioned, are index linked, and will be made over the 25 years the windfarm is likely to be operational. Foundation Scotland provides governance and administrative support to the Fund, under contract to Greencoat UK Wind. The Foundation's costs for this service are paid separately by Greencoat UK Wind, over and above the Fund value.

Financial Overview

The following table summarises the Fund finances **from January 2025 to December 2025**.

Financial Overview			
Opening Balance available	£7,924.00	Expenditure	
		Grants awarded	£88,885.88
Donations	£64,226.04	Grants returned	£0.00
Interest received	£1,838.79	Panel meeting expenses	£0.00
Total income	£73,988.83	Total expenditure	£88,885.88
Available balance as of 31/12/2025		-£14,897.05	

The Fund balance available for distribution as of 31st December 2025 shows as a negative figure due to forward commitments made by the Panel; the cash balance position is £10,659.56. In particular, the Panel made a strategic decision to award two grants from the anticipated 2026 donation to support two large infrastructure projects taking place in 2026. £10,000 was awarded to Coldingham Community Council to contribute towards a new playpark facility, and £5,000 was awarded to the Edinburgh Geological Society to support the upgrading of the geologically significant Siccar Point located in Cockburnspath & Cove. Both awards will be drawn down following receipt of the 2026 donation from Greencoat UK Wind.

Grant-making

The Drone Hill Fund has awarded 197 grants totalling just over £667,000 since the Fund's inception.

A total of 26 new funding applications were received throughout 2025. Of these, seven applications were rejected: three at the point of application and four due to insufficient funding available in the final round of 2025.

The three applications rejected at the point of application were declined for varying reasons. The first application was not deemed charitable in nature, as it was oriented primarily toward private gain. The second application was submitted by a high school. Given the nature of the request which included supporting school trips, Foundation Scotland asked the applicant to consult with the Parent Council and requested that the Parent Council submit the application to the Fund on behalf of the high school. The third application did not demonstrate sufficient local need nor clear benefits to the communities within Fund area.

The November 2025 round was heavily oversubscribed, with around £110,000 requested against £25,000 available for funding. During this round, the Panel carefully considered each application and awarded an amount that would still achieve minimum impact funding where possible, ensuring that each group could receive support. Minimum impact funding refers to the threshold amount specified by applicants themselves—the minimum level of funding that would still provide meaningful support and allow them to move their project forward. This approach ensures that funding decisions reflect applicants' own assessment of what they need to make a real difference. However, due to the Fund balance, four applications were rejected due to insufficient funding being available, and all those applicants were invited to reapply in 2026.

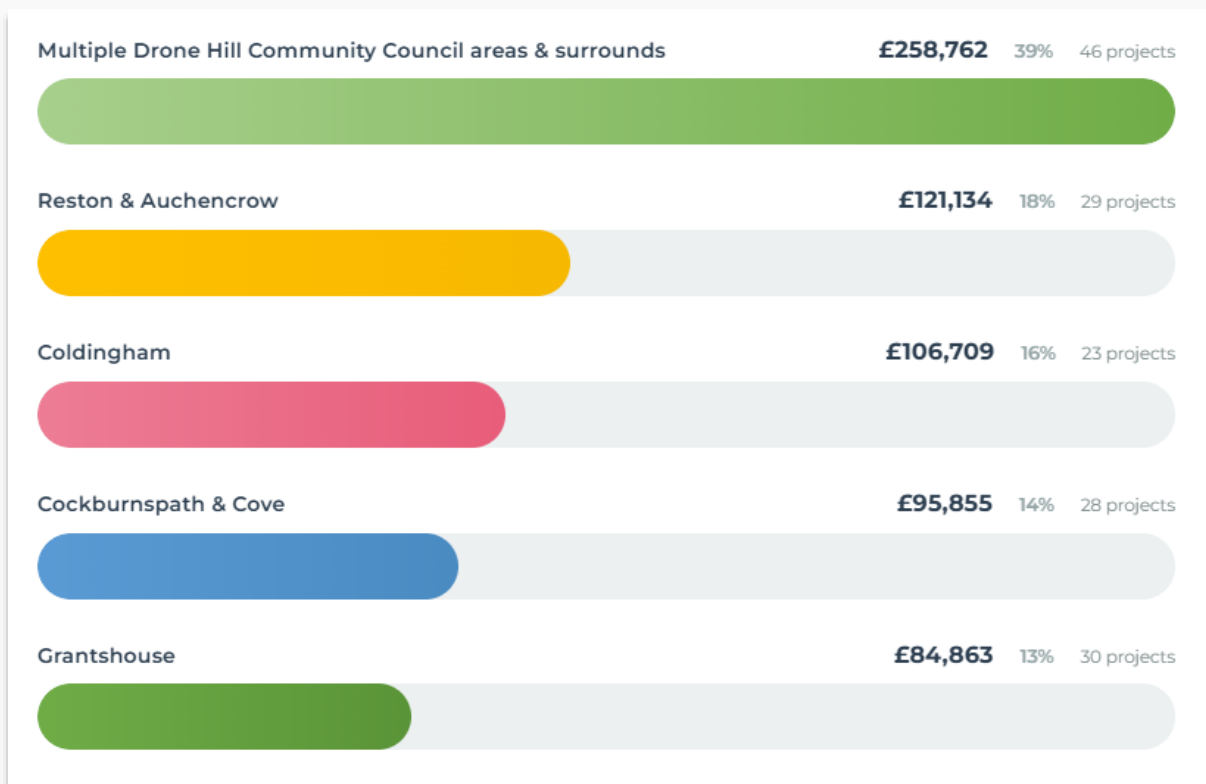
This led to 19 awards being made to 18 different applicant groups in 2025.

	Approved		Withdrawn		Rejected		Deferred		Total	
	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)
Main Grants	15	£79,251.96	0	£0	7	£44,421.00	0	£0	22	£123,672.96
Microgrants	4	£9,633.92	0	£0	0	£0	0	£0	4	£9,633.92
Total	19	£88,885.88	0	£0	7	£44,421.00	0	£0	26	£133,306.88

During the year, grants totalling just over £88,800 were awarded to community projects, with no Panel expenses incurred. These grants supported projects with a combined value exceeding £588,000. **Each £1 invested by the fund leveraged £6.62** from other funding sources, delivering significant benefits to the local economy. A full list of grants awarded during this reporting period can be found in **Appendix A**.

Geography, significant grants and flagship projects

Since the Fund's inception through December 2025, Foundation Scotland has monitored the grant-making distribution process across the Fund area. To date, the following award amounts have been made:



As illustrated in the funding distribution, the highest proportion of grants has been awarded to projects spanning multiple areas, receiving 39% of total funding. Reston & Auchencrow has received the largest amount of funding overall for individual Community Council areas.

Up to the end of 2024, the remaining three Community Councils had received varying levels of funding: £79,000 for Coldingham, while Cockburnspath & Cove and Grantshouse were relatively evenly matched at around £83,000 each. Consequently, in 2025, the promotional strategy focused greater attention on the Coldingham Community Council area (as well as the wider Fund area).

This resulted in £28,000 of funding awarded to support an increased number of projects benefiting Coldingham.

In 2026, there will be a continued focus on Fund promotion and raising awareness, with further attention and focus on encouraging groups to apply with projects benefiting Cockburnspath & Cove and Grantshouse.

Foundation Scotland has discussed potential projects in the pipeline with representatives from the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council, which has indicated that it is seeking to progress two projects through the Drone Hill Fund in 2026. Grantshouse Community Council representatives are exploring plans to construct a play park with anticipated funding support from the Fund, and this will also be taken into consideration during discussions with the Panel.

Foundation Scotland and the Panel will continue to monitor these distribution patterns and discuss the current geographical spread at the April 2026 meeting. They will then consider whether to implement targeted strategies, particularly to support increased grant activity in Cockburnspath & Cove and Grantshouse, where funding levels remain comparatively slightly lower.

2025 saw a range of grants distributed across the Fund area, including the following significant awards:

£11,541.29 awarded to Coldingham Gala Committee to fund the replacement of an ageing marquee and gazebos, and the purchase of a generator, enhancing the gala's capacity to prosper and continue to serve as a valuable community resource. This multi-year award, to be distributed over three years, also sought to support core running costs, with just over £2,000 allocated annually in years two and three.

The Coldingham Gala Committee coordinates approximately thirteen events annually, including the main Coldingham Gala (attracting over 3,000 people), two ColdFest musical festivals. The group also support the Coldingham Priory Summer Fete and Priory Live event, organise the Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch and entertainment, and host the Village Hogmanay ceilidh. Most events take place outdoors in Coldingham, with some held in local pubs or the village hall, serving the village's approximately 600 residents plus visitors from surrounding villages and nearby Berwick upon Tweed.

Coldingham Gala sought funding to replace essential equipment, including a marquee, gazebos, and a generator, and multi-year funding for hire of a large marquee and portable toilet facilities.

This equipment helped ensure the successful execution of the annual Gala Day, ColdFest musical festivals, and various events hosted by the Coldingham Gala Committee. The current items had deteriorated and were not fit for their purpose, requiring replacement.

The group was also keen to increase its reserves and requested funding to support with hiring of portable toilets and a large marquee over three years to alleviate some of the financial pressures that come with generating funding for the event and allow the group to focus on delivering its core objectives, whilst building up its reserves. Following an application to the Drone Hill Fund, the group were awarded the full requested amount. Please see the Spotlight section to read the case study for this project.

£10,782.55 was awarded to the Reston Village Hall Committee to fund new tables and chairs for the village hall, enhancing accessibility and safety, potentially increasing bookings and fostering community engagement.

Reston Village Hall Committee is a constituted not-for-profit organisation that manages Reston Village Hall, a central community space hosting regular recreational activities for a diverse range of local groups.

The project sought funding to purchase new tables and chairs for the village hall, in Reston. The project was to ensure the hall's accessibility to its diverse range of users by providing easily movable and storable furniture. This project also aimed to help increase bookings and help to ensure the safety of its users, especially those less able to handle heavy equipment.

The project directly benefited around 50 people who use the hall regularly and has the potential to increase new user groups by attracting them to the hall following the implementation of this project. Please see the Spotlight section to read the case study for this project.

£10,000 was awarded to Sea the Change CIC to contribute towards the costs of funding a van for children's cycle sessions and bike maintenance in Berwickshire, enhancing cycling access and confidence, promoting health and independence.

Sea of Change (SOC) is a Scottish coastal charity, based on the East Berwickshire coast. The organisation's mission is to connect people of all ages and communities to coastlines and encourage positive changes in attitudes and behaviours towards the natural environment.

SOC delivers a range of services including beach wheelchairs for accessibility, community clean-ups (recently attracting 360 participants), participation in the Greener Berwickshire Network, and the newly launched Cycle for Change programme.

SOC's Cycle for Change programme was seeking funding to purchase a 2021 Mercedes Benz Vito electric van to support and expand bicycle-related community initiatives across East Berwickshire from June 2025 onwards. The van was replacing a personal vehicle currently being used and enabled SOC to transport bikes, equipment, and volunteers to various locations throughout Berwickshire, with approximately 75-80% of activities directly benefiting Fund area residents.

The van aimed to support a range of cycling activities delivered by SOC's qualified bike coaches. Key activities include monthly Dr Bike sessions rotating around the four Fund area communities (visiting each three times per year) to provide free 20-point bicycle health checks and minor repairs, alongside Cycle Confidence and Cycle Skool programmes delivered to three primary schools within the Fund area and Eyemouth High School (the catchment High school for the Fund area), catering for up to ten young people per session with at least two sessions annually per school.

The van also supports the Reston e-bike hire scheme, free bike library deliveries, bike upcycling transport, and community litter collection initiatives along coastlines. Please see the Spotlight section to read the case study and find out more.

£10,000 to Coldingham Community Council to contribute towards the redevelopment of Coldingham's village play park, providing safe, inclusive and accessible play equipment that will enhance physical activity, outdoor play and social connections.

Coldingham Community Council (CCC) provides a fourth tier of local government to approximately 500 residents. CCC represents local interests and promotes community wellbeing by liaising with the Scottish Borders Council and supporting local improvements. The 12-member group links residents with authorities, helping to initiate projects that enhance Coldingham as a place to live, work and visit.

The CCC sought funding to support the complete redevelopment of the village's current playpark, which was considered inaccessible and outdated, to regenerate it and create a safe, inclusive facility for children aged 0-16.

Located centrally between the village hall and primary school, the group aimed to raise around £220,000 to support the total project costs.

The new design plans included accessible swings, a wheelchair-friendly carousel, a toddler play zone, and dynamic equipment, including a giant tower slide, pendulum swing, and climbing structures. The project will benefit between 75 to 100 young people from the village, their families and caregivers, along the wider Drone Hill Fund area. The plan is to complete the fundraising phase of the project by the end of December 2025 and commence the construction of the play equipment in early 2026.

£7,500 to Connect Berwickshire Youth (BYP) Project to fund a 12-month pilot project employing a youth worker to engage rural young people, improve access to support, co-create solutions, and strengthen community understanding of youth needs in the Fund area through outreach, drop-ins, and collaboration.

Connect BYP requested the total cost to fund its project, Connect - Rural Reach. A 12-month pilot project to fund a dedicated youth worker engaging rural young people specifically within the Fund area. The project will run from January 2026 to December 2026 across Reston, Auchencrow, Grantshouse, Coldingham, and Cockburnspath, with links to drop-ins in Duns and Eyemouth.

This project was identified as a need within the Fund area due to limited local provision and transport barriers that prevented access to existing services. The worker plans to attend community events, visit schools and meet with young people to co-create local activities, support access to drop-in sessions, and to determine what young people are looking for in the area. Following completion of the project, an evaluation report will be developed and shared with all stakeholders, alongside a development plan based on the findings to support young people on a longer-term basis.

£5,000 awarded to the Edinburgh Geological Society (Siccar Point) to contribute towards the costs of improving access to Siccar Point by enhancing a walking route, adding interpretation boards, signposts, benches, and promoting its significance of the Deep Time Trail to boost local engagement and tourism and celebrate a world-renowned geologically significant destination.

The Deep Time Trail project aimed to raise circa £145k to enhance the access and interpretation signage of Siccar Point, one of the most significant locations in the history of science. It was at this location that James Hutton predicted and discovered an important geological junction in 1788, verifying his Theory of the Earth and Deep Time. In essence, he discovered that the earth was not 10,000s of years old as originally suspected at this time but was in fact millions of years old.

This groundbreaking discovery fundamentally changed scientists' understanding of geological processes and the immense timescales over which the Earth has evolved. The unconformity at Siccar Point - where near-vertical layers of grey slate (around 435 million years old) meet the overlying horizontal layers of red sandstone (around 345 million years old) - provided physical evidence that vast periods of time had elapsed between the formation of different rock layers.

The Deep Time Trail aims to make this historic site more accessible to visitors while preserving its natural character, allowing people to experience firsthand the location where modern geology was born and to appreciate the concept of "deep time" that continues to shape our understanding of Earth's history today.

The project aims to improve the existing 1.3-kilometre walking route from the nearest road with new interpretation boards and contemplative viewing points, a new stone shelter structure at the viewpoint above the rocks, signposts, gates and benches. The onsite interpretation will link to online resources providing further information about James Hutton and the significance of Siccar Point.

The project is timed to celebrate the tercentenary of James Hutton's birth on 3 June 2026, with a formal launch scheduled for 29 May 2026. The project is expected to benefit an estimated 2,000–5,000 visitors per year, including local residents, walkers diverting from the Southern Upland Way and Berwickshire Coastal Path, and international visitors who recognise James Hutton's contributions and wish to experience this site of global geological importance.

Indirectly, the project will increase tourism and visitor numbers to the local area, which is anticipated to support local accommodation providers and services in the surrounding area.

Local residents will gain an accessible, safe and engaging place of which to be proud for recreation, exercise and welcoming visitors, with improved infrastructure including benches, clear signposting and bilingual interpretation, making the site welcoming for all ages and abilities. Community engagement through the celebration weekend, time capsule contributions and ongoing involvement with Cockburnspath Primary School will foster local ownership and pride in this internationally significant heritage asset.

What Difference is the Fund Making?

Foundation Scotland has evolved its reporting systems to better align project activities with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Since the Fund's inception, grants have contributed to achieving **at least ten SDGs**. It is the case that most projects contribute to more than one SDG; however, Foundation Scotland seeks to identify the 'best fit' primary SDG for illustrative purposes. The largest proportion of funding has been to projects contributing primarily to **SDG11** (Sustainable cities & communities, 43% of funds awarded) **and towards SDG3** (Good health & well-being, 25% of funds.)

Award distribution across SDG goals up to 2025



The following spotlights provide more detailed examples of how the Fund is making a difference.

Spotlight: Edinburgh Science Foundation



In 2024 The Edinburgh Science Festival (ESF) was awarded £1,965 towards the costs of delivering the Generation Science event and workshops in the Drone Hill fund area primary schools, to enhance pupil's education and foster interest in STEM subjects among children ages 5 – 11 yrs.

The Challenge

For Rural Schools Primary schools across Scotland, particularly in rural areas, struggle to deliver quality STEM education. Only 53% of UK primary schools met the recommended minimum of two hours weekly science teaching in 2020, and 44% of primary pupils view science as exclusive to 'clever' people, potentially discouraging future STEM engagement. Rural schools in the Drone Hill Fund area face additional barriers with remote locations, limited transport, and higher transport costs, which can restrict access to hands-on science experiences and create educational inequalities.

Project Scope

To help alleviate these geographical barriers, ESF created its Generation Science programme, which set about delivering interactive touring science workshops directly to primary schools in the first part of 2025.

The project specifically targeted pupils aged 5-11 years across Cockburnspath & Cove, Coldingham, and Reston & Auchencrow primary schools in the Drone Hill Fund area. The programme employed trained Science Communicators to deliver theatre-style performances incorporating drama, music, live science experiments and demonstrations.



The schools could choose from ten different workshops; each aligned with the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence outcomes for scientific learning. Two specific workshops were delivered in the area: 'Our Changing Climate', introducing planetary climate systems through interactive experiments, and 'Fizz, Boom, Ban', focusing on chemistry concepts.



Outcomes and Impact

The Generation Science programme successfully reached around 100 pupils across the three funded schools, with an additional 21 pupils benefiting from a school-funded supplementary workshop. Participating schools provided strong feedback, with teachers rating their experience as 10 (excellent) and confirming they would both recommend the programme to colleagues and rebook if funding permitted.

'We are very grateful for the funding from Drone Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund towards the delivery of Generation Science in the community.'



The project helped pupils develop scientific inquiry skills and understanding of the material world through hands-on experimentation. Teachers received comprehensive resource packs enabling continued STEM learning using readily available materials, extending the project's impact beyond the initial visit.

The programme particularly benefited pupils with additional needs who responded well to the hands-on approach, improving accessibility of STEM topics and building self-confidence through practical learning.

Final thoughts

The Drone Hill community benefit funding uniquely positioned itself to understand and respond to local educational needs, making strategic investments that strengthen educational provision within the Fund area. The positive feedback following this project resonated with the Panel, to such an extent that in November 2025, the Panel agreed to award £1,965 for ESF to deliver another three workshops to schools across the Fund area in 2026.

Spotlight: Reston Village Hall Committee



Reston Village Hall Committee was awarded £10,782.55 to fund new tables and chairs for the village hall, enhancing accessibility and safety, increasing bookings and fostering community engagement.

About Reston Village Hall Committee

Reston Village Hall Committee is a constituted not-for-profit group serving the communities of Reston and Auchencrow in Scotland. The hall functions as an important community hub, regularly hosting 10 different user groups and benefiting over 50 residents. The organisation is supported by 7 volunteers and governed by 12 committee members.

Background to the project

The village hall's 25-year-old furniture had become damaged and difficult to use. Heavy tables required up to four people to move, posing safety risks to older volunteers and users. This outdated equipment created accessibility barriers for those with reduced mobility and threatened the loss of user groups and bookings. The committee struggled to attract new volunteers who could manage the cumbersome furniture.

The Solution

The committee proposed purchasing new, lightweight furniture that would be easier to move, set up, and store. This aimed to improve accessibility for all users while reducing the physical strain on volunteers. The new furniture would help maintain and grow user groups, sustain income, and create a safer environment for everyone.

Funding and Implementation

The committee committed £500 from unrestricted reserves and applied to the Drone Hill Fund to cover remaining costs.



The new furniture was expected to serve the community for over 25 years, ensuring long-term value. Existing furniture was disposed of responsibly, whilst any serviceable items were offered free to the community via Facebook Marketplace. During the decision-making meeting, **the Panel agreed to award not only the requested amount of £10,000 but also an extra £782.55** to cover the total project cost. Following the delivery of the project, the Grantee had an underspend of £350, the Panel agreed to allow the group to keep the additional funds to purchase further resources for the hall.

Final Thoughts

As someone who frequently visits village halls, I can attest that quality soft and hard furnishings can impact the user experience. When furnishings become old and worn, they can leave visitors feeling disappointed and may damage the hall's reputation.

While this project may not seem as exciting as others, good quality, comfortable equipment makes a tangible difference to how people feel about the space. This, in turn, helps maintain and enhance the hall's standing within the community. As a community hub, well-maintained furnishings also invoke community pride and spirit, supporting the facility's long-term sustainability.

Spotlight: Borders Pottery



Borders Pottery was awarded £10,000 to fund the costs of a new Community Crafts Project and the continuation of its pottery mental health support classes for local people suffering from poor mental health and addiction to reduce isolation and support recovery.

Borders Pottery was established as a Community Interest Company (CIC) in November 2022. The organisation operates the Smiddy Café at Northfield Farm in St Abbs on a social enterprise basis, helping to cover the overhead and premises costs of the adjacent pottery studio.

The organisation offers free and affordable pottery classes with professional tuition in a safe and comfortable environment for those experiencing isolation, poor mental health, or living with disabilities. Participants are referred through Borders Council Local Area Coordination (LAC) Mental Health Services.

The organisation has grown to employ one full-time member of staff, five permanent part-time staff, five seasonal part-time staff, and three volunteers. The team operates both the café and pottery, providing pottery classes funded through café profits, pottery sales, and participant contributions.

The pottery studio can accommodate between 4-6 people per class and is fully inclusive, welcoming participants of all ages and abilities.

The Journey with the Drone Hill Fund: Initial Pilot Project (Spring 2023)

In spring 2023, [Borders Pottery launched a pilot project](#) addressing a community need for accessible, therapeutic activities for individuals with long-term physical or mental health conditions. The project offered free pottery workshops to participants referred by Berwickshire Local Area Coordination (LAC) Mental Health Service. Recognising the project's potential, the Drone Hill Wind Farm Community Fund awarded £7,464 to support the commencement of the project. This funding proved instrumental in establishing the foundation for what would become an important community resource.

Project Development and Outcomes



The tactile nature of working with clay and the careful design of classes proved particularly beneficial for participants, including those with autism or addiction issues. The regular weekly sessions provided a structured environment enabling participants to gradually build confidence and social connections without pressure.

The funding supported both weekly sessions within the pottery studio and the purchase of a portable pottery wheel, enabling outreach work. The outreach work included monthly clinic drop-in sessions in Reston, supporting those experiencing and recovering from addiction. These sessions were positively received and demonstrated the project's adaptability and reach.

Continued Growth (November 2024)

Building on the success of the pilot project, Borders Pottery received a second award of £10,000 in November 2024 to contribute towards wider project costs. This funding enabled the organisation to sustain and expand its programmes whilst developing new community initiatives that included:

- **Mental Health Support Classes:** Six-week blocks for 4-6 participants who are most severely impacted by their conditions.
- **The Tag Team:** A weekly women's-only group accommodating around 10 participants.
- **Addiction Support Sessions:** Monthly drop-in sessions for a local addiction support group of approximately 10 participants, held in Reston.
- **Community Craft Programme:** A new initiative led by existing participants from the referred programmes, designed to utilise and develop art and craft skills whilst providing opportunities to earn money through tutoring, develop employability skills, and connect with the wider community.

The expanded craft programme included pottery, sculpture, crochet, knitting, drawing, painting, printing, and "fixing sessions" where participants learn to repair items with guidance and provided tools and materials.

The success of the initial pottery focus has led to significant programme diversification:

- **Craft activities:** Macramé, crochet, wire art, watercolour, paper art, calligraphy
- **Skill-based programmes:** Woodworking, knitting clinics, yoga sessions
- **Community initiatives:** Knitting library, exhibition planning



Impact and Achievements

The 2025 project has demonstrated significant reach within the Fund area:

- **Total participants:** 425 people engaged across all activities
- **Local participation:** 368 participants (87%) from the Fund area
- **Community tutors:** 100% sourced from within the Fund area

Programme Expansion: Unexpected Successes

Several developments exceeded initial expectations:

Organic Growth: Word-of-mouth promotion has been so effective that many sessions have waiting lists before formal advertising begins. This has necessitated holding back spaces to ensure equitable access rather than repeated participation by the same individuals.

Community Leadership: Participants who initially attended due to social anxiety are now leading groups themselves, demonstrating remarkable personal transformation and community capacity building.

Demographic Diversity: Woodworking sessions particularly attracted male participants who were less present at other activities, whilst weekend sessions drew younger people from farming communities and those in full-time employment.

Skills Recognition: The project has identified significant creative talent within the rural community, leading to plans for exhibitions and potential pathways into creative industries.

Individual Impact



One participant's journey highlights the project's transformative potential. A woman in her 50s experiencing social isolation due to long-term caring responsibilities, bereavement, physical health problems, and mobility issues initially attended a 6-week pottery block. Their progress demonstrates the project's holistic impact - they joined the ongoing weekly group creating items for café sale, gained confidence to attend all activities, and became a volunteer crochet tutor.

The individual has offered to help establish the community knitting library, regularly uses the café's 'free cuppa' scheme with fellow participants, and successfully sold pottery pieces while developing strong friendship networks that provide mutual support.

This participant credits the group with "changing their life for the better," representing one of many similar transformations observed through the project.

Conclusion

Borders Pottery CIC's journey from a pilot project to an established community resource demonstrates the transformative power of creative activities in addressing social isolation and mental health challenges. It also underscores the importance the Drone Hill Fund played in supporting a concept to a valuable community resource. The project's success lies not only in its direct therapeutic benefits but in its ability to build community capacity, support growth, and create sustainable networks of mutual support.

Spotlight: Coldingham Gala Committee



Over the past two years, the Coldingham Gala Committee has received funding to support equipment and core running costs. The group has been awarded £20,128.23 from the Drone Hill Community Fund, enabling the group to replace equipment and provide core running costs for the next two years.

The Coldingham Gala Committee was established in 1977. Since then, the Committee has been dedicated to organising community activities and supporting local projects, with community involvement at its heart.

Its flagship event is the annual Coldingham Gala, alongside two ColdFest music festivals each year. Beyond these major occasions, the Committee also supports various other musical performances and village-based entertainment throughout the year. All events serve as fundraising opportunities, with proceeds distributed to local causes and community initiatives.

In 2024 the Drone Hill Fund awarded £8,586.94 to contribute towards the cost of purchasing a PA system to use at musical and fundraising events within the community of Coldingham. In 2025 the group approached the Drone Hill Fund once again and was awarded a further £11,541.29 to contribute towards the replacement of event marquees, upgrade its generator and provide funding for core running costs over three years.

2024 - PA System Project

For each event, the committee needed to hire a PA system and the services of a sound engineer, costing approximately £400-500 per occasion. This expenditure significantly reduced the funds available for distribution to worthy local causes. Whilst performers often gave their time and services for free, the technical requirements remained a consistent financial burden.

The committee identified an opportunity to purchase a state-of-the-art PA system that would be owned and managed by the Coldingham Gala Committee on behalf of the local community. The primary objective was to create a community-based resource, free at the point of use for the committee's events, thereby maximising fundraising potential. Additional objectives included making the PA system available for hire to other local groups and provided training for a small team of local residents, including young people, in its operation.

Project Outcomes



The acquisition eliminated PA rental costs of £400-500 per event, resulting in significant savings across approximately 13 events organised annually. These savings freed up funds for distribution to local community groups and charities, whilst also enabling the committee to generate income through hiring the equipment to neighbouring communities. The project contributed to pooling local assets and resources, enhancing the sustainability of community activities in the area. The project enabled the continuation and enhancement of a thriving music scene that increased cohesion and inclusion within Coldingham and surrounding areas, benefiting 600 residents and visitors.

Local performers gained access to professional-quality sound equipment, elevating performance standards whilst nurturing up-and-coming talent. Additionally, community members trained as sound engineers developed valuable transferable technical expertise with potential future employment opportunities.



2025 -Marquee, Generator & Core Running Cost Project

After delivering events for approximately 12 years, the committee found its essential equipment had deteriorated and needed replacing. The 8m x 4m marquee had been repeatedly patched but was beyond further repair. Two 3m x 3m gazebos had an estimated year of service remaining, and a generator borrowed from a supporter had become unreliable and reached the end of its working life.

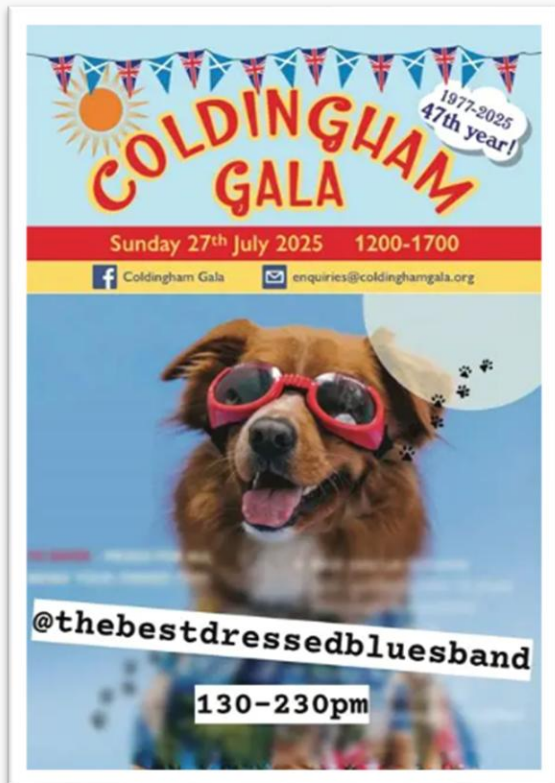
The committee also managed annual hire costs of around £2,000 for a large 37m x 10m marquee and portable toilet facilities. These recurring expenses were gradually depleting the organisation's reserves, and with no local facilities offering similar equipment for hire and limited financial resources available, the group needed external support to continue its work.

Coldingham Gala secured funding from the Drone Hill Fund for a three-year project addressing both equipment replacement and financial sustainability. In year one, the group purchased two standard 3m x 3m gazebos, one large 8m x 4m gazebo, and an 8kWh generator. The funding also covered annual hire costs for a large marquee with furniture and five portable toilets, including one accessible facility, continuing through years two and three with inflationary increases.

The project benefits approximately 2,500 people annually across the Fund area and surrounding communities. The annual Gala Day attracts around 2,500 attendees, whilst ColdFest music festivals draw between 350 and 400 people each. An estimated 400 to 500 Coldingham residents regularly participate in activities organised by the committee.

Local community organisations borrow the equipment around 20 times each year. Recognising that some groups have limited budgets, the committee often provides equipment at no cost, requesting donations only when organisations are able to contribute.

Private events such as weddings are asked to make higher contributions. The larger generator is also made available during power outages to support the local community.



This project demonstrates how the Drone Hill Fund's multi-year funding approach can provide organisations with financial stability and breathing space to plan ahead.

By covering recurring costs over three years, the Fund enables groups to redirect their own resources towards building reserves and strengthening their long-term sustainability, rather than simply managing year-to-year pressures.

Coldingham Gala has been celebrated its 47th year in 2025, demonstrating the enduring value of community traditions and the importance of sustainable support.

Spotlight: The Splash Project



In November 2024, the Splash Project received funding from the Drone Hill Wind Farm Community Fund to create and deliver empowering sessions for women in the local area.

About the Organisation

The purpose of Eyemouth and District Community Trust (EDT) is to create a sustainable Eyemouth through community partnerships, volunteer development, and local projects. EDT runs several initiatives including the Eyemouth Larder/Community Fridge, Splash Hub, and Eyemouth Living magazine. EDT is located in one of the main service centres for the communities in the Drone Hill Fund area.

The Need for the Project

Following community consultations that identified a lack of accessible women's groups in East Berwickshire, the Splash Project launched as a pilot in July 2023. The pilot's success and positive participant feedback encouraged EDT to continue the sessions and seek funding to develop the project further.

Women in the area faced social isolation, limited development opportunities, and restricted social networks. Barriers to participation included childcare responsibilities, financial constraints, social anxiety, and health issues.

About the Project

The Splash Project aimed to provide weekly support sessions and standalone trips for women aged over 21 in East Berwickshire. The participant-led sessions created a safe environment to share experiences, build skills, and foster intergenerational connections among women from diverse backgrounds.

Funding

To support the continuation of this project, EDT applied for £5,200 from the Drone Hill Wind Farm Community Fund to contribute to overall project costs. Approximately 40% of participants were from the Drone Hill Fund area and following careful consideration, the Community Panel agreed to award £2,300, which represented 40% of the overall project costs.

Project Delivery

The project ran from April 2024 to April 2025, with 46 sessions delivered weekly on a Tuesday from 1-3 pm at EDT's Eyemouth office.

Activities included:

- **Wellbeing sessions:** Gong baths, chair yoga, aqua aerobics
- **Skill development:** CPR training, herbal remedy making
- **Creative workshops:** Wreath-making, flower arranging, resin jewellery
- **Community engagement:** Cooking workshops, Women's Aid discussions

The project also included four annual trips to garden centres, craft workshops, and cookery courses, all free to participants.



Benefits to Participants

The project delivered a range of benefits:

- **Growth in confidence:** Women have progressed from hesitant participants to activity leaders.
- **Strong social connections:** Diverse participants have formed supportive friendships.
- **Sharing in a safe space:** The trusting environment has enabled women to discuss personal challenges, including domestic violence.
- **Reduced isolation:** Attendance has increased from 8-12 to 14-20 regular participants.
- **Volunteer pathways:** Three women now volunteer at Splash and other EDT projects.



The Project Leaders noted:

“When the group first started, many of the women arrived feeling unsure, anxious, and reluctant to speak up. A number had never taken part in community activities before, and the idea of contributing to a group felt overwhelming. Over time, this began to change. Through consistent support, gentle encouragement, and a warm, welcoming environment, the women began to relax, engage and form connections. Their confidence grew visibly week by week. Now, several women help lead activities, contribute ideas for future sessions, and take real pride in what the group has become. Three women have gone a step further and now volunteer at Splash events and their mother projects, helping to support others in the wider community. Their journey is a powerful reminder of what can happen when women feel seen, heard and part of something that matters.”

Long-term Impacts

The project has created lasting change:

- **Individual transformation:** Participants have developed from service users to community contributors.
- **Enhanced employability:** Women have gained transferable skills including leadership and communication.
- **Community resilience:** By building individual capacity, the project strengthens the wider community.
- **Support networks:** Sustainable connections extend beyond the weekly sessions.

The Project Lead noted important yet unanticipated outcomes:

“One of the most powerful outcomes has been the strong bonds that have formed between group members. Despite coming from very different backgrounds, the women have created a genuinely welcoming and supportive environment. This sense of safety has enabled some to open up about deeply personal experiences. During one session with Women’s Aid, three women felt confident enough to share their own histories of domestic violence. As a result, two of them are now attending awareness training with Women’s Aid and have spoken about how much this group has helped them feel less isolated.”

Future Sustainability

The funding from Drone Hill has supported the long-term success of this project. It has helped leverage additional funding to continue the work and is now being embedded within EDT's core delivery. The project has become an essential support for many women, who describe it as **"something they really rely on"** and **"look forward to every week."**

Conclusion

The Splash Project stands as an important initiative for women in East Berwickshire, addressing gaps in community support services. What began as a pilot in July 2023 has evolved into a weekly gathering that successfully combats social isolation, builds skills, and fosters meaningful connections among women from diverse backgrounds.

Community Panel Overview

The Drone Hill Community Panel typically meets three times each year to make recommendations on awards from the Fund and additionally to review and develop overall Fund strategy. The Panel is made up of 16 people who live, work or actively volunteer in the area that the Fund benefits, and comprises a mixture of community councillors and other members of the community, and is governed by a Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct.

The Terms of Reference enable each community to have up to four Panel members (at least one and no more than two from each of the Community Councils and the wider community), providing a pool of people to draw on for Panel meetings. All may attend Panel meetings, however only a maximum three may vote on decisions.

In 2025, one Panel member was recruited to join the Drone Hill Panel. The opportunity to become a non-Community Council Panel member (Community Representative) is advertised both locally and on the Fund webpage, and appointments made via an open and transparent process agreed with Foundation Scotland.

The Panel also conducted a Fund Review, examining grant-making arrangements, Fund publicity, promotion, and microgrant procedures. As a result, Foundation Scotland enhanced Fund publicity through press releases, case studies, and impact reports. This saw 2025 as receiving the largest number of applications since the Fund's inception.

Conclusions

2025 marked another milestone for the Fund, awarding the highest amount of awards grants since its inception. The grants demonstrate a strong focus on community development, with 27% supporting Sustainable Cities & Communities initiatives and 24% directed towards Reduced Inequalities projects. This diverse range of awards will create meaningful impact across all four communities, enhancing local services and opportunities for residents.

The distribution of grants reflects key community priorities, with a significant investment in educational and sustainable infrastructure programmes that will help build stronger, more resilient communities. These targeted investments demonstrate the Fund's commitment to supporting local services and addressing community needs effectively.

The Panel's deep understanding of local needs and challenges continues to be instrumental in shaping effective grant-making decisions. Their collective expertise and community insight ensure that funding reaches projects that will create lasting positive change. This localised approach to decision-making has proven invaluable in identifying and supporting initiatives that truly resonate with community priorities.

Looking ahead to 2026, the new integrated Drone Hill & NnG East Berwickshire Fund will undertake its first funding round, with three rounds scheduled to take place. As with the Drone Hill Fund, it aims to continue to attract high-quality applications that address key community needs. The Fund remains committed to maintaining transparent communication about its impact and continuing to build strong relationships within the communities it serves.

Contact

For further information about the Fund you can visit:

[Drone Hill & NnG East Berwickshire Fund | Foundation Scotland](#)

Or contact:

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Appendix A: Summary of Awards from 1st Jan to 31st Dec 2025

Cockburnspath & Cove

Application	Grant Summary	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost	Leverage
Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro-grants.	£2,408.48	£2,408.48	0%
Borders Youth Theatre - FR-0088713	To contribute towards the cost of an intergenerational project that uses drama to connect younger and older residents; thereby creating cultural and social opportunities which creates social connections, as well as learning and development opportunities.	£3,682	£4,782	23%
Edinburgh Geological Society - FR-0096383	To contribute to the cost of improving access to Siccar Point by enhancing a walking route, adding interpretation boards, signposts, benches, and promoting its significance to boost local engagement and tourism.	£5,000	£144,553	96.5%
Cockburnspath & Cove Total		£7,408.48	£151,743.48	95.1%

Coldingham

Application	Grant Summary	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost	Leverage
Coldingham Gala Committee - FR-0089563	To fund the replacement of an ageing marquee and gazebos, and the purchase of a generator, enhancing the gala's capacity to prosper and serve as a valuable community resource.	£11,541.29	£11,541.29	0%
Coldingham Archery - FR-0093514	To fund the replacement of aging equipment with new 3D targets, enhancing accessibility, skill development, and well-being, while increasing program capacity and improving quality and sustainability.	£1,000.00	£10,000.00	90%
Coldingham Community Council - FR-0095088	To contribute towards the redevelopment of Coldingham's village play park, providing safe, inclusive and accessible play equipment that will enhance physical activity, outdoor play and social connections for children aged 0-16 and their families.	£10,000.00	£261,883.67	96.2%

Application	Grant Summary	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost	Leverage
Coldingham Primary School Parents & Friends Association - FR-0097389	To contribute to the cost of developing a library, enhancing outdoor learning, funding a theatre trip, and supporting nursery biodiversity projects to promote reading, environmental stewardship, cultural access, and community engagement.	£3,050.00	£10,595.95	71.2%
Coldingham Community Council (Microgrants) - FR-0099718	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro-grants.	£2,408.48	£2,408.48	0%
Coldingham Total		£27,999.77	£294,020.91	90.5%

Grantshouse

Application	Grant Summary	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost	Leverage
Grantshouse Community Council (Microgrants)	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro-grants.	£2,408.48	£2,408.48	0%
Grantshouse Total		£2,408.48	£2,408.48	0%

Reston & Auchencrow

Application	Grant Summary	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost	Leverage
Reston Village Hall Committee - FR-0088491	To fund new tables and chairs for the village hall, enhancing accessibility and safety, potentially increasing bookings and fostering community engagement.	£10,782.55	£10,782.55	0%
Reston and Auchencrow Community Council (Microgrants) FR-0095500	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro-grants.	£2,408.48	£2,408.48	0%
Reston & Auchencrow Total		£13,191.03	£13,191.03	0%

Multiple areas

Application	Grant Summary	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost	Leverage
Eyemouth Scout Group - FR-0089585	To fund the costs associated with a summer camper trip and activities, facilitating cost-effective camping and fostering life skills among young participants.	£2,529	£3,029	16.5%
Sea the Change SCIO - FR-0089674	To fund a van for children's cycle sessions and bike maintenance in Berwickshire, enhancing cycling access and confidence, promoting health and independence.	£10,000.00	£15,000	33.3%
Chirnside Community Council - FR-0089780	To contribute to the cost of resurfacing Chirnside Primary School's multi-use games area with Astro turf, enhancing its usability throughout the year for school PE, junior football club training, and community use.	£500	£34,080	98.5%
Berwickshire Marine Reserve - FR-0097301	To provide new IT equipment and a climate futures visualisation tool, including a film and animated model showing potential climate impacts on Berwickshire Marine Reserve's landscapes, biodiversity, and infrastructure to support the Future Shores Project.	£1,200.00	£16,390	92.7%
Connect Berwickshire Youth Project - FR-0097399	To fund a 12-month pilot project employing a youth worker to engage rural young people, improve access to support, co-create solutions, and strengthen community understanding of youth needs through outreach, drop-ins, and collaboration.	£7,500	£10,000	25%
Cheviot Youth - FR-0097438	To upgrade training equipment for the swimmer; thereby, allowing them to improve performance and technique and positively impact their health and wellbeing.	£7,000	£30,000	76.7%
Berwickshire Swap - FR-0097488	To contribute to the cost of purchasing an electric van to collect donations, deliver emergency parcels, transport equipment, expand rural services, reduce carbon footprint, and improve efficiency through lower running costs.	£3,502.12	£19,194	81.8%
Edinburgh Science Festival	To contribute to the cost of delivering six free STEM workshops in rural primary schools, enhancing pupils' understanding, curiosity, and Science Capital, supporting teachers with curriculum-aligned resources and teaching confidence.	£1,965	£3,930	50%
Multiple areas Total		£32,231.12	£127,693.00	74.8%

