

Final Report for Geology in the Park, Cotherstone – The Cotherstone Pyramid

1. Name of Project

Project Title. Geology in the park, Cotherstone

Aka, The Cotherstone Pyramid



2. Funding allocation

Summary

Total Funding allocated £5000, Total spend £4857.40, this confirms that the project was delivered within budget with an under spend of £142.60. A detailed breakdown of funding allocation and spending is provided below.

Detailed Expenditure breakdown

Formal Budget for 'Geology in the park' at Cotherstone Community Park: The Cotherstone Pyramid

Below is the Budget with planned spend against a actual spend

Projected budgeted spend £	Activity	Actual spend £	Itemised budget expenditure	Residual Budget grant £
1500	Purchase/source materials	1500	Advance payment for Stone for construction	3500
1500	Build phase 1	1500	Interim payment for labour and construction once structure is half way up	2000
1000	Build phase 2	1000	Pyramid completion, Interpretation stone, Denoted carvings	1000
400	School/Community Interaction	450	Training/launch day with local primary school.	550
200	Cancelled as	0	Creation of supporting web pages	550

	maintenance of web page too expensive, explore use of HoT legacy			
400	Contingency		Safety requirements identified during build	
	Safety		Safety Matting £317.94	
	Safety		Top soil and grass seed £39.98	
	Safety		Bulbs £52.94	
	SAFETY subtotal	357.92	Against £407.40 advance payment (£3.46overspend)	142.60
	Final ground works	No charge		
	Project Complete			
			Under spend residue remaining in HoT Funds	£142.60

3. Short introduction to the project

The idea of 'Geology in the Park', was to provide a place that will enable people of the dale and visitors to learn and interact with the geology of the dale. Something that will cause people to ponder about what lies beneath their feet, how it came about and shaped the Teesdale we live in.

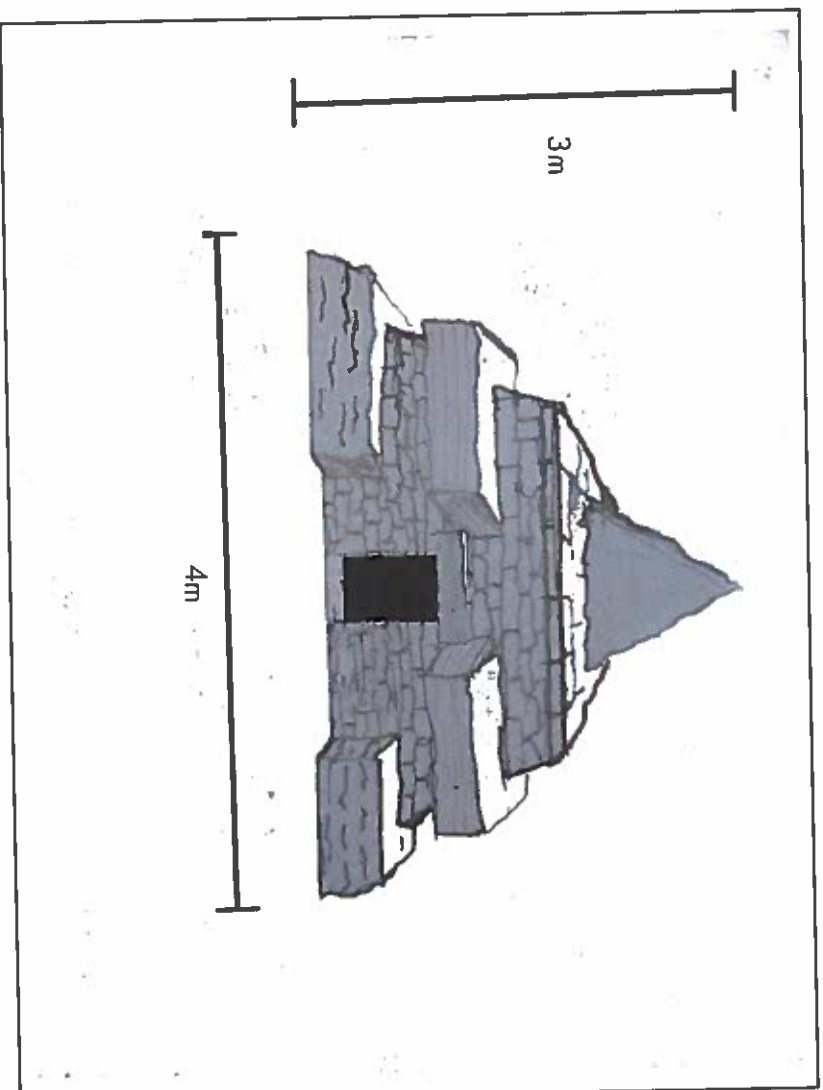
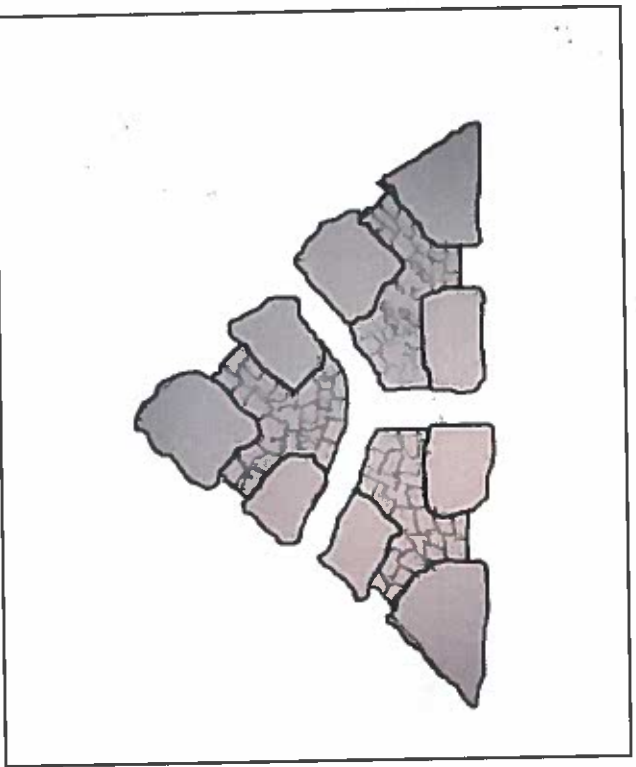
The embodiment of the concept above morphed into the 'Cotharstone Pyramid' which provides both a geological context of the stone in the dale and an interactive presence

The Pyramid is described in detail below;

The Cotherstone Pyramid

The design

The Cotherstone Pyramid is three-sided in plan and comprises 3 layers of boulders held within a dry-stone structure. Each layer represents a different slice of the local geology and the contemporary/ historic uses to which each type has been put. The triangular boulder on the top is of whin stone taken from Middleton quarry (6 miles away). The next layer down is limestone blocks from Hulands Quarry (3miles away) and at ground level, a layer of sandstone from Harthope Ganister Quarry (14 miles away). The walling stone is from Harthope Ganister Quarry. Each boulder has carved on one or more simple motifs which would indicate the use to which the stone has been put both historically and still today. An internal passageway has been incorporated to add an extra dimension to the piece. Pyramids are, after all, buildings that have interiors.



4. Aims and Objectives of the project and how they have been met

Aim and Objective	How met	Success Score
Provide an understanding of what the Geology of Teesdale is and how has impacted the dale	Pyramid incorporates different geology/rocks from Teesdale, providing an explanation and context in relation to the dale	1
An interactive facility placed in the heart of Teesdale	The pyramid can be climbed, felt, stroked, penetrated, clambered over, and viewed from different aspects by all age groups	1
A place where Teesdale residents and visitors alike can have a hands on experience with the geology/rocks	The explanatory panels and accessibility allow the people to touch, feel and interact	1
Have a healthy outcome	Provides and climbing resource in the open air	1
Rock formations will be virtually maintenance free	Zero maintenance required	1
	Total	5 out of 5

5. Additional achievements and legacy – community involvement/benefits

Additional donations of time and resources:

- 1) Time from play@cotherstone chairman Mark Windle, approx 195 hours
- 2) Donation of ground works time, approx £60.
- 3) Donation of stone sculpture by Ewan, £1500

Legacy

- Timecapsule – placed in top of pyramid
- School interaction – working with stone day; detail listed below in the email copy
- Opening Event – Community and school involvement in launch day, press release attached below
- Permanent Geological pyramid that will be a presence in Teesdale for a few hundred years

- School interaction email

From: r.jellis100@durhamlearning.net

To: e_allinson@hotmail.co.uk

Subject: RE: Friday

Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2015 09:21:57 +0000

Hi Ewan

I hope the following plan is ok.

Pyramid Sculpture Plan – Friday 26th June

09:00 – 09:30 – Ewan arrival and set up in the hall

09:30-10:15 – Yr 1 and Reception – 9 pupils

10:15-10:40 – Playtime

10:40 – 11:30 – Yr 2 – 7 pupils

11:15 – 12:15 – Set up in Class 2 to work with Yr 3 and 4 – 10 pupils

12:15 – 1:00 – Lunch / Set up in Class 3

1:00 – 1:45 – Yr 6 in Class 3 – 5 pupils

1:45 – 2:30 – Yr 5 – 7 pupils

2:30 -2:45 – Preparation for Celebration Assembly

2:45 – 3:10 – Celebration Assembly

3:15 – End of School day

Would you like a school lunch on Friday? The options are battered fish or cheese melt baguette. Our assembly on Friday is open to parents, so I thought after the usual intro and song, you could do a talk about the pyramid and then some of the children could show the work they had done with you in the workshops. We then present certificates and sing happy birthday to any one who has had a birthday. Is that ok?

Rebecca
Dr Rebecca Jellis
Headteacher
Cothelstone Primary School

From: ewan allinson [e_allinson@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 22 June 2015 20:07
To: R. Jellis
Subject: RE: Friday

Hi Rebecca,

Those are great themes to work with. I can arrive for 9am and would allow about 40 mins per group.

Regards,

Ewan

From: rjellis100@durhamlearning.net
To: e_allinson@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: RE: Friday
Date: Mon, 22 Jun 2015 15:07:40 +0000

Hi Ewan

So I can sort out a plan. What time would you expect to arrive and how long would you spend with each group?

Thank you
Rebecca

Dr Rebecca Jellis
Headteacher
Cotterstone Primary School

From: ewan allinson [e.allinson@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 22 June 2015 00:54
To: R. Jellis
Subject: Friday

Dear Rebecca,

I wonder if you could inform me of the curriculum themes for the pupils so that I can theme the carving focus accordingly. For the sessions to be meaningful for the pupils, I'd say that ten (-ish) at a time is about right, allowing me to guarantee that every pupil gets to enjoy real progress in ability.

How do you see the morning being structured?

Kind regards,

Ewan

- Opening Event Press Release

Teesdale Village gets a Pyramid, with secret toddler chamber, that is built dry-stone to last for eons.

It's not every day that a village gets to unveil a new pyramid, but that's what's happening at Cotherstone in Teesdale, Co. Durham, at 10.30am on the 6th July.

Built by local sculptor and Master Craftsman dry-stone waller Ewan Allinson, the pyramid rises to 4m high and from the centre of each side, little tunnels for toddlers disappear into its heart, meeting at a chamber where there's room for them to stand. Above the chamber, hidden in the stonework, is a time capsule filled with items collected by pupils at Cotherstone School and from the community, to be rediscovered, no doubt, by their descendants many generations hence.

The pyramid, built using three types of local stone, serves as a climbing structure for the village playing field. It explores aspects of local geology and quarrying, as well as the Norse mythology which attaches to Baldersdale (to which Cotherstone is a gateway) Balder being the god of joy. The pyramid also deals with the terrifying narrative, relayed to the sculptor by a woman who grew up at the head of Baldersdale, a tale that adds a whole new layer of Norse resonance to the dale. The pyramid tackles this local manifestation of Norse mythology head on, literally: the pyramid forms three heads, that of Balder, his mother Freya and his father Odin. The pyramid moves their story on. All will become clear at the launch on the 6th July.

But why a pyramid, here?

Pyramids are not unknown in the region. Auckland Castle has one, while Yorkshire has a number. Ewan also appeals to Roman history. "In Roman Times, Egyptian soldiers would have travelled hereabouts as part of the retinue of Emperor Septimus Severus, a North African who was active in the North-East of England. Some might have witnessed pyramid building on a grand scale back home. This is a delayed homage, with a Norse twist, from the North Western fringe of the Roman Empire to those from the South Eastern fringe who walked and rode and even settled in these parts, long before most of our British ancestors had even set foot on this fair isle.

During the construction, local kids enjoyed being part of the process of building THEIR pyramid. So much so, that an impromptu pyramid police was formed which attends to various pyramid matters on an ongoing basis. Senior officers of the pyramid police will be available at the launch to answer questions about pyramid policing.

This project, initiated by Play@Cothelstone, the local charity that provides the Community Park, was funded through the Heritage Lottery Funded Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

For all enquiries, contact

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e_allinson@hotmail.co.uk

07840-277505

6. Lessons learnt

- Bad Weather really impacts on outside work schedules
- Sometimes taking longer allows a project concept time to develop and mature into a more holistic outcome that sits comfortably in the landscape

Photo Blog of Project







