

## Progress/Final Report Template

### Name of Project: Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership Funding

The project came about as a consequence of a prior project - "The Stone Academy" being set up in the Teesdale area in 2011. This project reached out to some 20,000 people delivering information, guidance and training in traditional craft areas and the local vernacular. Over 40 people were directly trained with some receiving accreditation for the learning undertaken.

Moving forward from this it was proposed that there should be further delivery of accredited training along with some opportunities for local people to access short traditional craft skills courses and therefore to offer some legacy for the future within the region.

Heritage Craft Alliance took on management of all the training delivery with support from others in the VAR group. The main venue for training was Cross Lanes, where a new facility for training had been established.

Heart of Teesdale along with Cross Lanes Organics and Heritage Craft Alliance Ltd were the key stakeholders for this project.

The original aims of the project are set out below:

- To re-discover the particular visual qualities of Teesdale drawing on the historic and cultural legacy of artists, scientist and others who have explored the area and foster creativity and imagination through art, crafts and other media.
- To conserve or restore the built and natural features that characterise the area.
- To engage individuals and communities in learning, training, skills and new technology to understand and interpret the local landscape, traditions and heritage

Crucially it wanted to engage with learners to promote 'Training and Skills' with a particular focus on giving a 'Future for Heritage Crafts':

*'The intention is to ensure the conservation, transfer and development of traditional and existing skills, and also seek options for diversifying these skills for new purposes.*

*'It will also assist in the wider regeneration of the area as a base for artistic and cultural expression,'*

*'The primary focus is expected to be on those skills which have a close relation with the landscape and the conservation of buildings and places'*

*The Community benefits: 'Local knowledge will be transferred to new generations, and individual trainees will gain skills which can be used for enjoyment or employment. Use of local materials and products, and retention of knowledge within the area.'*

To achieve these aims the following funded courses were set up and advertised to those local to, or closely connected to Teesdale and its surrounding areas.

- a. Recruitment of 10 people to undertake a level 2 accredited course in Craft and Design: Stone Carving.
- b. Recruitment of up to 30 people to undertake the Level 3 accredited award in Understanding repair and maintenance in pre 1919 buildings.
- c. Two 8 week bursary placements offered to individuals who would learn new skills through placement with a local employer in either a Traditional skills Masonry or Carpentry based capacity.
- d. Recruitment of 15 people to undertake an accredited level 2 Award in Heritage Construction.
- e. Recruitment of 8 people to undertake an unaccredited course in Craft and Design: Stone Carving.
- f. 12 week extended bursary placement offered to an individual learning traditional skills through placement with a local employer.

**Project outcomes:**

**Numbers participating:**

The final numbers of learners who participated against each course type are given below:

<b>Course type</b>	<b>No of learners participating</b>
a. 8 week Stone carving course	8
b. L3 Award in Understanding repair & maintenance of pre-1919 buildings	20
c. Bursary placement – 8 weeks	1
d. L2 Award in Heritage Construction	12
e. 4 week stone carving course	6
f. Extended Bursary placement – 12 weeks	1

**Press coverage:**

The 8 week Stone Carving course was featured in the Teesdale Mercury (attached for reference) along with social media exposure through Twitter/Facebook from local supporters within the Teesdale area and beyond.

### **Feedback from learners:**

We asked our course participants to tell us how they got on. Here are a few quotes:

*“The course has surpassed my expectations. I would be interested in another follow on course and any other craft courses.”*

*“I learnt more than I expected and would like to do and learn more and do another course”*

*“Excellent course tailored to meet individual needs. Would love to learn more.”*

*“Amazing, so much fun and I’ve gained confidence working in 3-D and in stone.”*

### **Finance/Funding information:**

The supporting excel file exported from HCA Ltd SAGE system detailing funding drawn down for specific courses. (No additional funding was provided for this project).

### **Additional achievements and legacy – community involvement/benefits**

#### **Lessons learnt**

Heritage Craft Alliance Ltd has adopted the skills and training contract previously supported by the Stone academy.

The Stone academy achieved good results in terms of message to the wider community and engaged substantially with Upper Teesdale relating to the regional stone heritage. The wider context of skills training was offered to HCA as an accredited heritage trainer, to deliver focussed accredited and non-accredited training to individuals.

This has been a success and the delivery of several different interventions has been well subscribed and has had excellent success rates. (See project outcomes)

Part of the initial aspiration was to *engage* with young people and deliver training in support of apprenticeships in the region.

This however was shown to be very difficult, with very little response to the offer.

As an alternative to this, we have ensured that those people who have a real interest in pursuing skills and employment in the heritage construction sector; had a chance to engage with both accredited and non-accredited programme which met their aims.

Summary:

The revised Stone Academy programme has provided 12 learners with Level 2 award in Heritage Construction and a further 20 individuals with Level 3 award in understanding repair and maintenance of pre 1919 buildings. “Both accredited qualifications”

In addition due to local; demand we have engaged with 14 local people from a range of backgrounds, in delivering stone carving courses both accredited and non-accredited. We have also managed to

undertake a 4 month placement for a pre apprentice learner, who has gained site experience in both stone masonry and carpentry.

Lessons learned:

In hindsight, it would have been better to have earlier interventions with school leavers and a wider range of promotional materials, to try to attract potential apprentices to the project.

Given that most young people would need some form of pre apprentice interventions, it would be good to engage with employers early on, who would become mentors and offer placements, prior to employment of apprentices.



