

Farming for Wildlife: Supporting People, Sustaining Nature

Area – Egilsay, Rousay and Wyre

Summary

This project will restore habitat across the 270 hectare Onziebust reserve on Egilsay, by creating a wildlife friendly farming operation. Restoration of hay meadows and wetland will create optimal habitat for key species. Conservation of these species will be addressed more widely through: developing and delivering a training programme; an education programme for schools; improving access and interpretation; delivering a visitor engagement programme. Courses will be delivered which allow people to gain skills in nature conservation as a career and to understand, implement and monitor wildlife friendly farming techniques. This will include residential volunteer placements.

A summary of project aims are:

- To enhance and conserve the natural heritage of Egilsay for priority wildlife and habitats.
- To stabilise the Orkney corncrake population for future generations.
- To create a wildlife spectacle on the island – waders and bees and wildflower meadows.
- To enhance the Onziebust Reserve for people and visitors.
- To encourage and provision local communities to learn about and conserve their important natural heritage through developing and delivering a bespoke training programme.
- To increase community support for wildlife.
- To attract visitors to experience the natural heritage of Egilsay.
- To improve the visitor experience on Egilsay.
- To contribute to the Economic Sustainability of the island.
- To train people across the county to be able to conserve wildlife on their own land.
- To establish strong links with local schools by actively engaging children and young adults in reserve management.
- To support the island community and deliver sustainable economic growth on Egilsay and surrounding islands, particularly Rousay.

The proposed project includes the following elements:

Financial Information	£	%
Total Project Costs	464,282.03	
Total Eligible Costs	251,153.35	100
LEADER	86,793.23	34.56
Coastal Communities Fund	115,244.39	45.89
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	26,747.79	10.65
RSPB funds	22,367.94	8.9