

Rural Development Programme for England

- Socio- Economic
Schemes Case Studies

The Development Programme in England was announced in December 2013 at £3.5bn*.

Around £500m was earmarked to help grow farming, food and the rural economy.

*NB £3.5bn is at a £/€ exchange rate of 0.80.

Countryside Productivity

Under this scheme we have contracted £118m to 8,271 projects:

- Adding Value to Agri Food
- Water Management
- Improving Farm Productivity
- Forestry
- Small Grants

Assisting the farming and forestry industry to become more productive by investing in the best new technology and innovations, through a mixture of large (>£35k) and small (<£12k) grants.

Burn Valley Vineyard

Amount of Funding: £95,057.20

Total Cost of Project: £237,643.00

Burn Valley Vineyard is a family-run vineyard that forms part of a farm in Norfolk. The decision to branch into wine was a result of extensive research and reflected the surge in popularity that both food tourism and English wine has seen over the last decade. Although the vines were planted with the initial intention of selling the grapes to other processors, the family saw potential in developing their own range of wines and undertook the relevant training in winemaking.

However, the business needed funding to build and equip the winery so they could make, bottle and store their own wine on-site. A range of award-winning wines have been developed from the nine grape varieties growing at Burn Valley Vineyard, including a white burgundy style wine made from Solaris, a dry white blend from Sevyal and Schonburger grapes, a Bacchus, a red blend from Rondo and Regent, a Pinot precoce (a still single varietal red), a sparkling from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, and a sparkling rose. A number of farm shops, restaurants and delis now stock Burn Valley wines, as well as being sold online and at the winery itself. The vineyard also attracts visitors through tourism experiences, from tasting events and tours to 'secret suppers' accompanied by Burn Valley wines. These new activities necessitated more staff, creating several new jobs including a vineyard manager, wine maker, tour guide, and seasonal workers.

[Home \(burnvalleyvineyard.co.uk\)](http://burnvalleyvineyard.co.uk)



Precision Irrigation at Clock House Farm

Amount of Funding: £43,930.97

Total Cost of Project: £109,827.43

Beginning as a small family farm back in 1903, and with over 100 years of experience in the fruit growing industry, Clock House Farm has leapt from strength to strength to become what it is today. They grow over 100 hectares of soft fruit but needed better technology to meet the increasing UK demand for soft fruit in an environmentally friendly way. The newly developed and commercialised 'Precision Irrigation Package' (PIP) provided the solution, with moisture monitoring sensors linked to a data logger which automatically controls the irrigation system. Funding was used to install PIP on 22 hectares of existing strawberries and raspberries. By optimising water use efficiency and fruit yield, it has allowed an additional 5 hectares to be brought into strawberry production without increasing the amount of water abstracted. The adoption of this new technology has benefited the environment and minimised energy use whilst increasing product yield.



JG Fisher Crop Establishment System

Amount of Funding: £73,817.00

Total Cost of Project: £184,542.00

J G Fisher Ltd is a well-established, 66-year-old business incorporated with Gunnerby Farm in Lincolnshire, farming winter wheat, spring barley, oil seed rape, spring beans and sugar beet over an area of 470 acres. Volatility in commodity prices, rising production costs, and significant weed pressure, as well as a desire to adopt more sustainable practices to reduce environmental impact and improve soil health and condition, has created an incentive to change their approach to farming. There have been great strides in technology for crop establishment, and Countryside Productivity funding was used to purchase and implement a strip till drill, zero till drill, inter-row sprayer, and robotics system. These work together to cultivate crops with minimal soil disturbance, resulting in improved soil biological activity and organic matter, which had been declining for some time, as well as benefiting the environment and reducing carbon emissions. This improvement in soil health will reduce reliance on artificial fertilisers and pesticides, as well as reducing the cost of growing the crops.



Charleton Chips

Amount of Funding: £50,000

Total Cost of Project: £125,000

Charleton Chips is an eco-friendly waste disposal business for green waste based in Durham. They provide recycling services to both domestic households and larger commercial projects. The business had grown from a very small scale to where it handled a consistent throughput of material. However, it was unable to expand further as its equipment was running at full capacity.

Countryside Productivity funding enabled Charleton Chips to purchase a new, larger wood chipper which allowed the business to increase production whilst also adding value to their end product – wood chip. The new higher specification woodchipper allowed Charleton Chips to expand its enterprise of converting woody material brought in by forestry contractors and the general public into a product that can be used for biomass energy; contributing towards reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and minimising greenhouse gas emissions.

The project has increased the value of the wood product by 20% as the new self-propelled chipper produces a higher specification 50mm chips as apposed to the 100mm chip that the company previously produced. As a result of investment in the new woodchipper Charleton Chips has access to double the amount of wood per annum and has created new job opportunities.

[Home Page - Charleton Chips - Green Waste Recycling Services \(charletonchipsnortheast.co.uk\)](http://charletonchipsnortheast.co.uk)





Countryside Productivity Small Grants Scheme

The Countryside Productivity Small Grants (CPSG) scheme has provided £45m of funding to 7,677 projects for farmers to purchase equipment to improve the productivity and efficiency of their farming and horticultural businesses. It used an online application process and was based on a list of capital items with standardised costs. Farmers could apply for a grant of 40% towards the purchase of items from this list. The minimum grant was £3,000 and the maximum £12,000.

The CPSG invested in a range of innovative equipment to help achieve improvements in technical efficiency, animal health and welfare, resource efficiency, or nutrient management. For example:

- Fruit farmers could buy a fruit ripeness spectrometer, which would allow them to determine produce quality and harvest timing from a convenient handheld device.
- Dairy farmers could obtain funding for equipment that provided them with real-time milk analysis, or visual image analysis of cow body condition.
- Arable farmers could obtain variable rate controllers that can change fertiliser application without manual input or monitoring devices that provide essential data on harvesting rate and crop yields with minimal effort.

Growth Programme

Under this scheme we have contracted £230m to 1,080 projects:

- Business Development
- Food Processing
- Tourism
- Rural Broadband Infrastructure Scheme

Helping get new rural businesses off the ground and existing businesses to develop new products and facilities.

Investing in broadband, food processing and promoting rural tourism



Leicestershire Handmade Cheese Co.

Amount of Funding: £105,068

Total Project Cost - £262,668

Leicestershire Handmade Cheese Co. started making their signature Sparkenhoe Red Leicester cheese in 2005 using traditional methods and milk from their own pedigree cows. To combat milk price volatility, which was making the future of their small family-run dairy farm uncertain, they wanted to use all their milk to make cheese rather than sell the liquid milk. As there was more milk available than was needed just to make the Sparkenhoe Red Leicester, Neal's Yard Dairy in London approached them to make a premium, handmade Stilton-style cheese. However, without funding to finance the specialist equipment and staff requirements, the company would not have been able to produce this new type of cheese.

Growth Programme funding enabled the Leicestershire Handmade Cheese company to build a new dairy and maturing rooms for the production of a Stilton-inspired blue cheese. The new cheese required very different conditions to the Red Leicester, but the new equipment and building allowed them to experiment with the recipe and make this diversification a reality. In addition, by using their own cows' milk and energy from existing solar panels and biomass boiler, they kept the supply chain short and close to carbon neutral. This business expansion also supported the local economy by employing an extra 5 full-time staff.

[Leicestershire Handmade Cheese Company](https://leicestershirecheese.co.uk) | [Home of Sparkenhoe Red Leicester](https://leicestershirecheese.co.uk)
(leicestershirecheese.co.uk)

Baboo Gelato

- **Amount of Funding:** £50,671.96
- **Total Cost of Project:** £132,360.13

Baboo Gelato was established in 2015, making artisanal handmade ice-cream in Bridport, Dorset. The demand has been high, and they have built up a good reputation by winning the Champion Ice Cream and Sorbet award from Taste of the West in 2016, as well as Best Producer in the Taste of Dorset awards. A second kiosk in Lyme Regis was opened in 2017. However, funding was then needed to meet increasing demand, as the current operations were severely constrained in terms of space, machinery and staff. The capacity constraint meant that without investment the business would have had to turn down new opportunities for growth and expansion.

However, thanks to Growth Programme funding, another two kiosks in Weymouth and Morcombelake have been opened, as well as the development of their wholesale business and commercialisation of their novel chocolate-covered bite-sized ice-creams. This funding has also enabled Baboo to support the local economy and environment. They have hired more staff across the business to support their growth, including roles in manufacturing, sales and management, and they are also making use of small local farm producers for vital ingredients such as milk and berries. Having won even more awards since expanding, they have been able to reach new markets across the country and also attract tourists to the area.

[Baboo Gelato](#) | [Our gelato](#)



North Shire Big Build

Amount of Funding: £150,505.72

Total Cost of Project: £425,764.30

North Shire is a beautiful family farm located in the old English countryside of the North York Moors. Their business provides self-catering accommodation with an unusual twist – the theme of the accommodation is taken from films such as Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit and Harry Potter, and offers stays in a Hobbit House, Storybook Cottage, Shepherds' Huts and Gypsy Wagons. To build on their success, North Shire wanted to expand their current site. With the Shire House being booked two years in advance, the business needed more themed accommodation and car parking to meet the demand.

The Growth Programme funded the construction of a new Hagrid's Hut (or Groundkeeper's Cottage), an Enchanted Barn, a car park and Green Dragon Café. The Green Dragon Café has attracted more day visitors to the site, and the car park accommodates the increased number of visitors. In addition, the Enchanted Barn has allowed the business to improve the wedding service it provides and enable it to host various events and festivals. North Shire has supported the local economy by creating five full-time jobs. The number of stays has been steadily increasing, with the business being fully booked 12 months in advance. The accommodation has been voted one of The Times 50 Best Cottages in Britain and listed on Host Unusual Extraordinary Places to Stay.

[North Shire – A real Shire in the heart of North Yorkshire](#)



Marches & Gloucestershire Viable Clusters Broadband Project

Amount of Funding: £8.97m

The Marches & Gloucestershire Viable Clusters Broadband Project is using Rural Broadband Infrastructure Scheme (RBIS) funding to provide Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure into rural areas.

Access to faster and more reliable broadband services will help grow businesses and increase economic activity in rural areas, and faster broadband will also help reduce socio-economic barriers to residents. The aim of the project is to reach 20 clusters in rural areas across Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin which are in the final 5% of areas without access to NGA broadband services (at least 30 megabits per second download speed).

Herefordshire Council is leading the project on behalf of partners including Gloucestershire County Council. The £8.97m of RBIS grant is funding the installation of infrastructure such as fibre-optic cables. The 20 clusters are targeting to provide the opportunity to connect to NGA broadband services to 675 rural businesses and 5,806 other mainly residential premises with the total population of 11,312 benefitting from the new faster access.

It is forecast that for those businesses which take up the new faster broadband service an additional 60 jobs will be created, and their collective turnover will be increased by over £11m.



LEADER

Under this scheme we have contracted £157m to 3,689 projects:

- Tourism
- Culture and Heritage
- SME Development
- Farm Productivity
- Forestry Productivity
- Rural Services

Giving local communities the responsibility and resources to identify local needs and fund projects to meet them.

79 Local LEADER groups decide how to spend funds in their area.

Village Farm Getaway

- Amount of Funding: £15,532.90
- Total Cost of Project: £38,832.26

Village Farm in Leicester has been a family-run dairy farm for four generations, with years of experience welcoming visitors to see how the farm is run and enjoy the rambling Leicestershire countryside. An opportunity was identified to capitalise on the growing demand for tourism in more natural locations and to provide extra economic security to support the family business as traditional food production income diminishes. With the help of LEADER funding from the East Leicestershire Local Action Group, Village Farm were able to purchase two safari tents for on-farm glamping providing a novel holiday experience.

Village Farm now successfully provides luxury accommodation in two beautifully furnished 'canvas cottages' named after fields on the farm, Barleyleas and Coathills. Glampers enjoy relaxing in the private hot tubs, gathering fresh eggs, feeding the calves, and experiencing a farm tour. It is proving to be a popular business, as well as providing much-valued extra business for local pubs, restaurants, and rural tourist attractions. It has had positive environmental impacts by exposing visitors to the wildlife of the farm and surrounding areas, and the accommodation itself is low impact, using renewable energy and tents made from natural materials. The new stream of income has enabled the farm to employ seasonal workers, supporting the local economy.

[Village Farm Getaway | Glamping in East Midlands, UK](#)
[Glamping,Camping](#)



Warwick Bridge Corn Mill – Newcastle Upon Tyne

- **Amount of Funding:** £49,815
- **Total Cost of Project:** £93,300

Warwick Bridge Corn Mill is a Grade II* listed early 19th century building with an abundance of potential as a unique heritage destination. The catalyst for this project was the need to rescue a historic, fragile, and rare building, with surviving mill machinery that uniquely offered the chance to teach traditional millwrighting skills. The mill had been disused for 25 years and was starting to deteriorate beyond repair – this loss would have consequently meant the loss of an opportunity to nurture these traditional skills in the region and to create potential source of sustainable local income.

Restoring the mill, using funding provided by the Solway, Border and Eden LEADER Group, has created a valued community asset that has been used for wider cultural, community, and economic benefit. Not only has an artisan bakery been founded, with the benefit of preserving traditional skills, generating local jobs, reducing food miles and creating a marketplace for locally produced bread and flour, but the mill itself has become established as a tourist attraction along the Hadrian's Wall corridor.





Outside Tribe Nature Kindergarten and Forest School - Cornwall

- **Amount of Funding:** £6,897.64
- **Total Cost of Project:** £16,576.70

Outside Tribe, based at St Merryn in Cornwall, was a start-up business with the aim of creating a Nature Kindergarten that would be operated from a woodland site, with the ethos that the children would spend at least 80% of their time outdoors. There had been a lot of local demand for this service, as the founder found herself being overwhelmed by the number of parents bringing their children to her parent/toddler group focussed on creative and outdoor play. This gave the founder the courage to get the necessary personal qualifications and seek LEADER funding from the Atlantic and Moor LEADER Group to create the infrastructure for a proper forest school to meet demand and spread the research-backed benefits of nature-based early education.

Outside Tribe is now a successful organisation offering a pre-school, after-school clubs, holiday clubs and toddler groups. It has created local skilled jobs in the school that are year-round rather than seasonal, which is particularly important in this area of Cornwall. It has improved the provision of local childcare services and indirectly supports other local businesses who work in the holiday trade by providing childcare for parents who work in the local economy.

Belle Furniture Workspace - Devon

Amount of Funding: £12,037.35

Total Cost of Project: £30,093.38

- Belle Furniture makes handmade bespoke furniture and freestanding kitchens from solid timber at Dunkeswell in Devon. The business started as a side project of the founder who was a self-employed builder by trade, but within two years the furniture offshoot was generating a steady stream of orders and the opportunity existed to make the most out of this niche work area. Working out of a home studio, the business was limited to production of units only on certain days. Business expansion could not be fulfilled without LEADER funding for a larger purpose-designed studio space and new machinery to make the furniture.
- LEADER funding from the Making it Local LEADER Group has given Belle Furniture more space and time to fulfil orders, and this will soon justify employment of another person, creating a local job opportunity. With more time to innovate, they have been able to expand their product range which has had a positive impact on orders. The business also benefits the wider community, as customers who are visiting to see the furniture often stay in the area and eat in local establishments or ask for recommendations for other suppliers (for sinks, flooring, and so on) to complete their kitchens. Furthermore, raw materials such as timber, paint, and hardware are purchased from local merchants in East Devon, supporting the local economy.

[Belle Furniture – Handmade furniture and kitchens](#)

Belmont Nurseries - Norfolk

Amount of Funding: £36,435.19

Total Cost of Project: £91,087.97

Belmont Nurseries is a family-run business that provides UK supermarkets with the finest quality freshly cut flowers. Due to increasing demand, they needed extra land to grow more flowers. However, the new fields were further away from their existing water supply, which involves capturing rainfall to fill their reservoir and storage tanks. The increase in flower production meant they did not have the space to store all the water they were capturing, which was a waste of valuable water. Belmont Nurseries, therefore, sought funding from the West Norfolk LEADER Group to purchase a more efficient and environmentally friendly system of pumping water to all their fields.

Belmont Nurseries is now able to make better use of the water they have available, allowing them to grow more flowers to meet demand. The new system is far cleverer and more sustainable, with pressure-sensing technology ensuring they only use the exact energy required. The technology can also be remotely controlled which saves miles driving to and from the fields. They have also been able to provide water to neighbouring farms, fostering good relationships and collaboration.

[Belmont Nurseries |](#)



Little Bellhurst Farm – Project Sustainability

Amount of Funding: £43,867.23

Total Cost of Project: £109,668.08

Little Bellhurst, East Sussex, is a mixed farm with arable crops, livestock, a vineyard and winery, as well as holiday accommodation. They had plans to increase arable crop yield and create another product in the winery. However, they were aware of their environmental impact in terms of fossil fuel use, CO2 emissions and soil microbial destruction, and therefore wanted funding to address these issues whilst still increasing the productivity of their organic farming operation. LEADER funding allowed them to invest in an innovative piece of farming technology for their arable crops, as well as additional equipment in the winery to allow them to add another organic drinks product – sparkling cider – to their range.

Little Bellhurst has managed to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of their farm and their food and drink production through innovative, niche and higher value organic farming. They also supported the local job market by creating a new skilled job within the winery business to support the extra production. Fossil fuel use is down 50% thanks to reduced tillage, whilst producing a higher yield per acre. In general, they have responded to the market trend of increasing organic food and drink consumption in the UK and created more supply to meet this product demand without disadvantaging any other businesses, as there is limited availability of traditionally made organic sparkling cider in particular.

[English organic wine \(oxneyestate.com\)](http://oxneyestate.com)



Overwater Wheelybus Project – Cheshire

- **Amount of Funding:** £10,560.00
- **Total Cost of Project:** £38,124.61

The Overwater Wheelyboat Service, based in Nantwich, Cheshire, is run by a team of local volunteers who provide boat trips along the Shropshire Union Canal for wheelchair, walking frame and walking stick users. This service had highlighted a key issue in the community – the need for specialist affordable road transport for those with adapted needs. This was a particular problem for those who are home-bound or have significant mobility issues and require specialised transport, excluding them from community-led social activities. Funding was provided by the Cheshire East LEADER group to procure a specially adapted motor vehicle, and so the Overwater Wheelybus Project was initiated under the Overwater Wheelyboat Services.

This specialised vehicle can now accommodate wheelchair users and those with special educational needs or mobility issues to access the services they need, whether that's the Overwater Wheelyboat, social activities, or medical or educational services. It has meant that people can access local facilities and services that they would not otherwise have been able to enjoy. This has improved cohesion in the local community, which is especially important in rural areas.



England Coast Path

Under this scheme we have contracted £8.6m to 71 projects.

The England Coast Path is a 2,700 mile National Trail around the coast of England that is set to be the longest continuous coastal walking route in the world once completed. The England Coast Path is likely to cost around £27m of which the RDPE will contribute about £8.6m.

Newport Bridge to North Gare - Teesside, Stockton

Amount of Funding: £388,963

The coastline from Newport Bridge to North Gare connects the towns of Billingham, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool and passes key tourist attractions such as the Transporter Bridge, RSPB Saltholme Nature Reserve, Teesmouth National Nature Reserve, Stockton and the National Museum of the Royal Navy. The aim was to create a new ten-mile route that would increase access to the magnificent Tees Valley coastline by incorporating parts of the estuary that were previously difficult to reach into the England Coast Path.

RDPE funding has provided a continuous way-marked route between Newport Bridge and North Gare, with over half the stretch being brand new access thanks to the construction of causeways, boardwalks and footbridges that have opened up new parts of the estuary for walkers to enjoy. There are many treasures of natural beauty along the route, including the golden beach of Seaton Carew, seal-viewing areas around Greatham Creek, lapwing and yellow wagtails in the open wetlands of RSPB reserve Saltholme.



Skegness to Mablethorpe - Lincolnshire

Amount of Funding: £216,795

The Skegness to Mablethorpe coastline passes numerous seaside villages, from the more traditional resorts towards Skegness, towards the quieter, wilder stretch from Chapel St Leonards onwards. The scenery of low land and dunes, shaped by the wind and sea, allows countless plants, birds, and insects to thrive. In the winter, the beaches are home to large flocks of winter waders such as sanderling and oystercatcher, whilst spring sees flocks of pink-footed geese on the coast and golden plover and lapwing on adjacent farmland. Other sites of interest include the world's first official cloud spotting area at Anderby Creek Cloud Bar, and a submerged forest (Site of Special Scientific Interest) dating from the Neolithic Period occasionally visible at low tides at Chapel Six Marshes and Wolla Bank.

This high-quality, uninterrupted walking route with more accessibility considerations will allow the public to follow a 16-mile path along the North Sea coastline. The construction of a multi-purpose access ramp enables access for mobility scooters and a new concrete raised walkway now links two promenades by the North Sea Observatory at Chapel St Leonards.



Walney Island – Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

Amount of Funding: £77,165

Walney Island is an 11-mile-long island at the tip of the Furness peninsula, at the southwestern corner of Cumbria. In contrast to Walney's main settlement - the planned worker town of Vickerstown - and the industrial and maritime landscape of nearby Barrow, the island's wild open spaces support rare species such as the renowned Walney geranium and the natterjack toad. The island includes the North Walney National Nature Reserve and the South Walney Reserve, the latter of which is famous for its grey seals. These wildlife sanctuaries are also home to the breeding eider duck, great black-backed gull, oystercatcher, ringed plover and shelduck.

This stretch of the England Coast Path provides 16 miles of access all around the island, parts of which are entirely new, encompassing glorious beaches, dunes and saltmarshes. Walkers will witness varied wildlife and dramatic views over the Irish Sea and Morecambe Bay, and across the Walney Channel and Duddon Estuary to the Lake District fells.



Water Environment Grant

Under this scheme
we have contracted
£29m to 76 projects.

The Water Environment Grant Scheme provides funding to improve the water environment in rural England.

It aims to improve designated conservation sites or protected areas; prevent or reverse waterbody deterioration; and to help achieve objectives that protect inland surface waters, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater.



River Keekle Restoration Project - Whitehaven, West Cumbria

Amount of Funding: £1,167,611

This project aimed to restore the River Keekle near Whitehaven in Cumbria, where damage over several decades was creating potential for dire environmental repercussions.

In the 1990s, mine spoil from nearby coal mining was buried across the site and 2.5km of the river lined with a plastic liner. Unfortunately, this liner had become heavily degraded, shedding plastic particles and creating a risk of downstream blockages and flooding, as well as contamination from heavy metals and chemicals. This contamination issue was not only a concern for Keekle, but also the River Ehen which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation.

The project has been a huge success. The plastic liner was removed and recycled. With extra stone to replace the plastic, as well as removing collapsed bed-check weirs and debris, the West Cumbria Rivers Trust has been able to directly improve 2.5km of the river and open up access of a further 4km upstream for fish that were previously prevented from migrating due to plastic debris. This has improved the habitats of salmon, trout, and other fish species, as well as reducing plastic pollution and flood risk.

Delamere Wetland Project, Cheshire

Amount of Funding: £180,600

The aim of this project was to improve four sites across the rural Delamere landscape that were suffering from poor water quality, invasive species, and the drying out of the peat habitat. Thanks to the grant, Cheshire Wildlife Trust were able to employ several techniques to create and restore water-dependent habitats and ecosystems, including creation of reedbeds to alleviate diffuse pollution, and removal of non-native invasive species such as Japanese knotweed.

Invasive species were controlled across 1,050m of watercourse, water quality was improved across 21ha, and 0.36ha of new fen and mere habitat was created. There have also been wider benefits of natural flood management and native species diversity, as well recreational activities and increased local environmental engagement.



European Innovation Partnership

Under this scheme we have contracted £1.5m to 15 projects.

The EIP-Agri England scheme provided £3.5m of funding to build innovation in European Agriculture, by bringing together researchers and farmers/ foresters to apply new approaches, translate research into practice and to exchange knowledge.

Delivery of EIP-Agri was through Operational Groups, comprising a combination of farmers, foresters, researchers, advisers, NGO's and others.

Vining Pea Soil Health Group

Amount of Funding: £81,649.30

The Vining Pea Soil project , involving the British Growers Association, investigated the effects of common cover crop and catch crop species on general soil health and their effects on vining pea crops. Cover crops are planted to cover the soil rather than be harvested, and catch crops are grown between successive plantings of a main crop. Their purpose is to improve soil health, soil structure, and organic matter content, and this study aimed to provide evidence for these benefits as well as see their impact on pea yields.

The project has proven numerous benefits of cover crops on soil health, structure and water balance, and in general has greatly increased knowledge about cover cropping in vining pea rotations. This information is also relevant to other spring crops, so findings can therefore be used to inform a wide variety of crop rotation decisions and further research projects.



Electrical Weeding in Bush and Cane Fruit

Amount of Funding: £124,073.33

This project aimed to test whether Ubiquitek's electrical weeding technology could be developed to provide a practical solution for bush and cane fruit producers, who face pressure to find effective non-chemical alternatives for weed control. On a wider level, it promoted resource efficiency and competitive agriculture through closer collaboration between research and the farming sector.

The project demonstrated that electrical weeding is an effective, versatile option for weed control in bush and cane fruit crops. The grower has the flexibility to use it in weather conditions that would be unsuitable for a conventional sprayer, such as wind or immediately after rain. These extremely promising results for weed control provide the groundwork for future testing that can build on these valuable initial findings.



Thank you to all the Rural Development Programme for England projects who have consented to be part of this case study brochure.



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas.

