



Social Value Analysis

LOUGH ERNE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP (LELP)

PROGRAMME 2019 - 2024

Undertaken by



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WHO WE ARE.



Rose Regeneration is a leading rural and coastal evaluation firm with nearly 20 years of experience supporting voluntary and community organizations, as well as funding bodies. Founded by Ivan Annibal, the business is known for its deep expertise in driving impactful change. This report has been crafted by Conor McGale, our Evaluation and Impact Manager in collaboration with Ivan Annibal.

OUR PARTNERS.



LOUGH ERNE
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



The Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP), running from 2018 to 2024 and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, was a collaborative initiative to celebrate and preserve the built, natural, and cultural heritage of Lough Erne. The programme tackled ecological challenges, reconnected communities with their heritage, and delivered economic and social benefits while fostering sustainable landscape management.

Led by RSPB NI, LELP partners included Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Fermanagh Rural Community Network, Lough Erne Heritage, National Trust, Upper Lough Erne Region, and Waterways Ireland to create a lasting legacy for the region.





LOUGH ERNE
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

Projects

- Spiritual Trail and Great Island Meadows
- Padding on the Lough
- Nature Trail, Bird Hide and Youth Conventions
- Accessing the Natural Heritage of Clough Lough Erne at Castle Crum
- Walkway to the Lough
- Community Footpath in Enniskillen

- Lough Erne Invasive Species
- Landscape Restoration for Breeding Waders
- Farmers and Midlanders for Biodiversity
- Lough Erne's Amazing Pollinators

- Volunteer Nature Development
- Young Ambassadors
- Naturalists Club
- Science Project
- Heritage Skills Programme
- ELP Curriculum Engagement
- Farming Field School programme
- Maritime Link to Heritage of the Lough
- Heritage Trail
- Historical Research
- Historical Churches

LOUGH ERNE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

Protecting, Promoting and Enhancing Your Heritage

BUILT HERITAGE

NATURE

LANDSCAPE

Waterways Ireland
The National Rivers Authority
www.waterwaysireland.org

Let's give nature
rspb.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

Rose Regeneration has carried out a Social Value analysis of the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP) programme 2018-24.

The analysis found that LELP delivered a Social Return of Investment (SROI) of £5.35 for every £1 invested. This reflects a very high Value for Money Ratio as stated within the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in England's Appraisal Guide (2023).

The programme demonstrated clear positive social impacts in a number of ways. This includes:-

- Improving access to and promotion of heritage work and sites around Lough Erne;
- Significant health and wellbeing benefits for people by participating in social and outdoor opportunities;
- Development of skills and access to training specifically around heritage and the natural environment;
- Substantial environmental and conservational impact of various projects supported;
- An effective community engagement process throughout the programme duration;
- A hugely valuable contribution made by local volunteers and the community;
- A body of work that has created a substantial legacy and example of best practice in making an environmental and heritage programme successful.

The programme also delivered a number of significant impacts when measured against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These include:

- Good Health and Well-Being
- Quality Education
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Climate Action
- Life On Land
- Partnerships for the Goals

INTRODUCTION.

Rose Regeneration were commissioned by Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP) to carry out a Social Value analysis of the programme undertaken from 2018 to 2024.

This work was completed by working closely with LELP staff, carrying out desk research of available monitoring & evaluation information captured by the programme, interviewing a

number of organisations that received support and funding, and using the Social Value Engine (<https://socialvalueengine.com/>), an online measurement tool which has assisted over 400 organisations within the UK and 100 organisations and projects across the island of Ireland to determine the social impact of the work they do.

This is a final report based on that data submitted up to the end of the programme in December 2024.



CONTEXT.

The Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP) was a 6-year partnership programme, which ran from January 2018 – December 2024. Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the focus of the programme was to promote and preserve the unique built, natural, and cultural heritage of Lough Erne and the people who surround it.

The programme addressed ecological issues, reconnecting communities with their heritage, bringing economic and social benefits to the area, and creating links between stakeholders to realise a longer-term goal of the coordinated management of the landscape.

The LELP programme was led by RSPB NI, and other partners included Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Fermanagh Rural Community Network,

Lough Erne Heritage, National Trust, Upper Lough Erne Region and Waterways Ireland.

LELP focused on the following objectives:

- To connect and engage people with their unique landscape by developing skills, improving confidence, and providing opportunities to learn about it, change perceptions and influence its management.
- To improve and protect biodiversity and conserve the built heritage of our unique landscape, and involve communities in its protection, interpretation, and conservation.
- To create and improve physical and intellectual access to and around the Lough making it a better place to live, work and visit.
- To engage with communities to generate pride in their unique cultural heritage, celebrate it and be emotionally and physically involved with it.





WHAT IS SOCIAL VALUE?

Measuring the tangible costs and outputs of an activity is relatively straightforward. We may know what our inputs are (e.g., the funding, equipment, or volunteers we need to run our activity) and the outputs expected of us (e.g., a target for the number of people participating in our activity); the greater challenge is quantifying the wider social, economic, and environmental outcomes we are delivering. This is what social value does. It asks the question 'if £x is spent on delivering an activity, what is the value of that same £x in terms of wider benefits for the local community?'

Examples of social value might be the value community members experience from increasing their confidence or living near green space; or it could be the value of the time the community group has spent collaborating with other organisations to improve health services in a local area.

The Social Value Engine (<https://www.socialvalueengine.com/>) helps organisations identify and measure the social value of the outcomes achieved by their activity.

This information can then be used to:

- understand where an organisation is having the most impact.
- make decisions about where to invest resources internally or externally.
- demonstrate the value of an activity to funders and other stakeholders.

Whilst Social Value has been embedded in legislation in England & Wales since 2013, and Scotland in 2014, that has not been the case in Northern Ireland. However, from 1 June 2022 public sector tenders must include a minimum of 10% of the total award criteria to score social value. This minimum will apply to contracts for services and works above the threshold where the Procurement Regulations apply (i.e. service contracts valued above £122,976 and consultation contracts valued above £4,733,252). Where appropriate, Government Departments can also score for Social Value on contracts outside of these thresholds. They can also give greater weight to social value than the 10% minimum.

It is expected that Social Value will become a key component for service delivery contracts and funding arrangements for many groups in the Community, Voluntary & Social Enterprise sector in Northern Ireland going forward.

THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL VALUE.

Social Value International, the international network for organisations working in social value & impact, have developed 8 principles of social value. These are the basic building blocks for anyone wanting to take social value into account, and to be embedded into any methodology used to calculate the work of a project or organisation.

The principles are

1. Involve stakeholders

People and organisations involved in your work can help you to identify outcomes and determine if change has occurred.

2. Understand what changes

Understanding the links between your context, activity, outputs, inputs, outcomes, and impact you are making.

3. Value the things that matter

Capturing what matters most from the perspective of your stakeholders.

4. Only include what is material

Only include what is relevant and significant within your analysis.

5. Do not overclaim

You will need to take account of five factors, what are called ‘deflators’ to understand your unique contribution to the outcomes you are measuring.

6. Be transparent

Be clear about the scope of your calculation including duration and timeframe.

7. Verify the result

Check your data and analysis with stakeholders, peers, and a third-party verification provider.

8. Be Responsive

Pursue optimum Social Value based on decision making that is timely and supported by appropriate accounting and reporting.

These 8 principles are inherent in all Social Value analysis that Rose Regeneration carries out and were adhered to during this analysis.

ABOUT THE SOCIAL VALUE ENGINE.

The Social Value Engine (<https://socialvalueengine.com/>) has been developed by Rose Regeneration and is only one of two Social Return of Investment tools accredited by Social Value International. To date it has been used by over 100 projects and funders within the island of Ireland, and over 400 throughout the UK.

The SVE provides:

- A systemised and academically robust assessment of social value to forecast, plan and evaluate activities.
- Nearly 400 peer-reviewed financial valuations/proxies derived from reliable sources and tagged against several widely recognised evaluation frameworks
- A description of how a project or activity creates value and a ratio that states how much social value (in £) is created for every £1.00 of investment.
- Information about how activities are making a place better to live in – by tagging outcomes and financial proxies against one of the seventeen aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).



APPROACH TO SOCIAL VALUE.

There are six steps to the standard Social Return of Investment (SROI) process namely:

1. Establishing scope and identifying key stakeholders to identify impacts.
2. Mapping project outcomes with stakeholders.
3. Evidencing project outcomes and giving them a financial value.
4. Establishing project impact – accounting for leakage, attribution, deadweight, displacement and drop off.
5. Calculating the SROI.
6. Reporting the findings from the assessment process.



Additionally, this analysis has focused on how Lough Erne Landscape Partnership outcomes relate to the local place, a sustainable community where people want to live, work, and invest. To do this, our approach involves relating each of the organisation’s impacts to improvements in the sustainability of local areas.

We do this by cross referencing each of the proxies/valuations within the Engine into the 17 themes of the Sustainable Development Goals. This approach enables us, not just to offer a financial Social Value of this work, but to set out the contribution that it has made to the relative sustainability of the area where the organisation operates in and are based.

This approach is particularly powerful in supporting a narrative element to social value reporting which brings a local context to the Social Value process to accompany a financial value.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

For this analysis and with the agreement of Lough Erne Landscape Partnership, we analysed the Social Value of the programme's outcomes against the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework.

On September 25, 2015, global leaders adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to protect the planet, fight against, and attempt to eradicate poverty to build a more prosperous world for future generations. These goals were established as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 17 SDGs aimed to engage governments, companies, civil society, and individuals. Each goal includes a series of targets, each with their own indicators to determine whether the objective has been achieved.

The complete list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is as follows:



OUR METHODODOLOGY.

Rose Regeneration has worked with the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership team to identify the social and economic values which can be applied to their work.

This has been undertaken using a Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology based which the Social Value Engine is based on.

For the project, the approach to analysis involved:

1. Discussion with the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership staff involved in project delivery and/or project monitoring.
2. Analysis of available monitoring information (i.e., Business Plan, Market Research, Project Numbers, Monitoring & Evaluation data etc)
3. Identifying the outcomes achieved by the organisation over a particular time period.
4. Assigning a gross £ value to each of these outcomes, using the range of nearly 400 valuations/proxies contained within the Engine.
5. Via external research, review of internal evaluations that programme participants completed, staff conversations and interviews with collaborative partners, applying a range of 'deflators' to produce a net £ value:
 - **Leakage:** How much of an outcome might have delivered an impact outside of the area that the project originally intended.
 - **Deadweight:** How much of the outcome might have been achieved without the project's intervention.
 - **Attribution:** What proportion of an individual's outcome might be attributed to others because their activity contributed to it.

- **Drop-Off:** What proportion of the outcome will diminish over time.
- **Displacement:** How much of the outcome has displaced other outcomes.

The deflators include:

6. Calculating the input costs – i.e. the organisation's operating costs that it takes to deliver all the activities that are subject to this analysis, as well as any other costs that may be involved.
7. Producing a Social Value figure for the project by dividing the net value of the outcomes by the input costs.

This SVE approach is based on the methodology (and the accreditation it has achieved assessed against) contained within the HM Treasury Green Book.

We identified the outputs delivered by Lough Erne Landscape Partnership through analysis of their core documentation including their annual reports, and review of the type of project data that they normally capture.

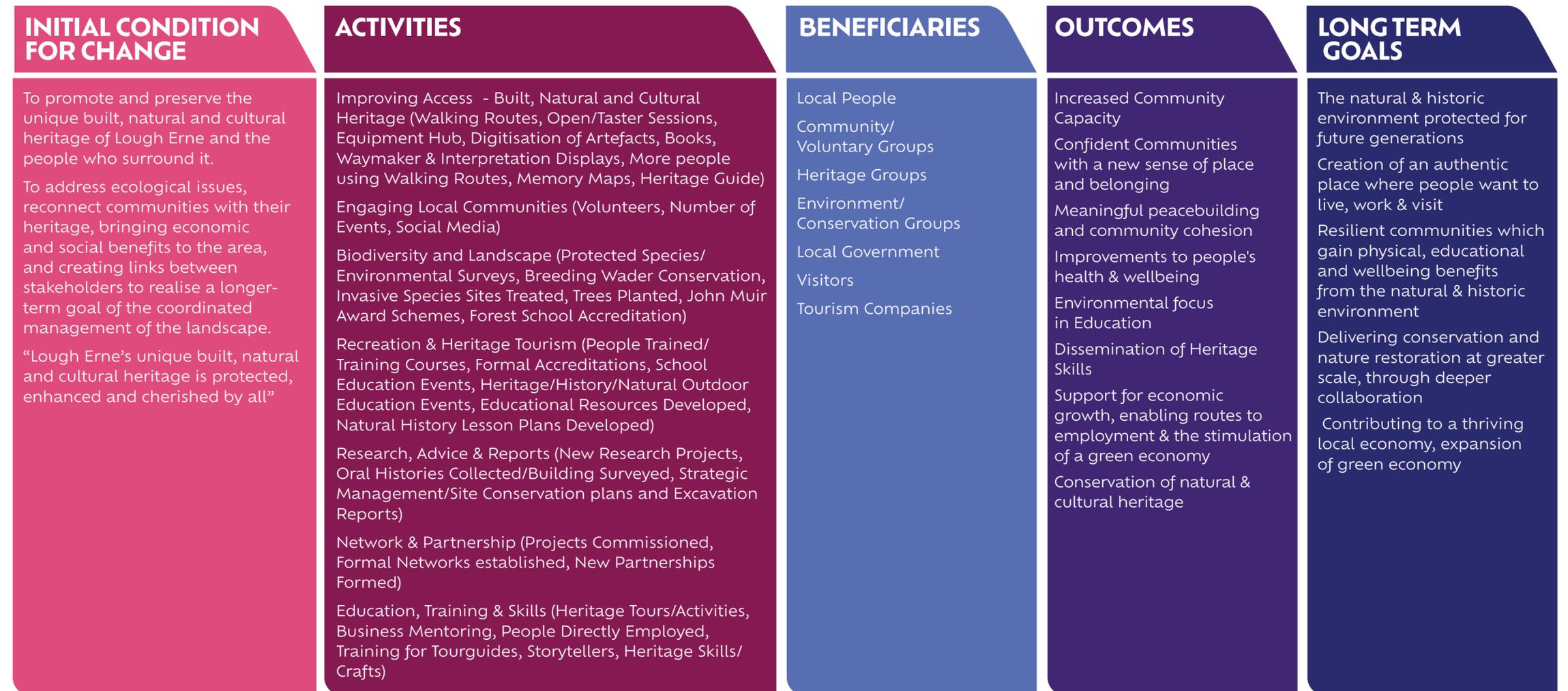
This enabled us to develop a Theory of Change which we were able to discuss and validate with key staff involved with the organisation and delivery of services.

THEORY OF CHANGE.

We identified the outputs delivered by Lough Erne Landscape Partnership through analysis of their core documentation including their progress reports, funding applications, and review of the type of project data that they capture.

This enabled us to develop a Theory of Change which we were able to discuss and validate with key staff involved with the organisation and delivery of services.

A copy of the Theory of Change is set out below:



THE NEXT STAGE.

For this report, we analysed the impact of the work carried out by the LELP programme from 2018 to 2024.



I CANNOT SPEAK MORE HIGHLY OF LOUGH ERNE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP AND THE SERVICE THEY PROVIDE. IT HAS HAD A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR SERVICE USERS, AND I AM VERY KEEN TO COMPLETE FURTHER PROJECTS

Key elements of this analysis include:

- Identifying a series of credible financial valuations/proxies which can be applied to the impacts identified with LELP – the Social Value Engine has approaching 400 curated financial valuations which provide a nationally relevant suite of measures in this context.
- Assessing the impact achieved by applying volumes to the relevant financial proxies and deflating them to take account of external factors namely: deadweight, attribution, displacement and drop off and dividing it by the cost of the

intervention to give a social value and a social return on investment figure. The outcomes from discussions we had with LELP, reviewing official documents provided to us by the programme, having access to project data and monitoring & evaluation reports as well as a number of stakeholder interviews, have been used to set the deflators for the activities being analysed.

- Reporting the impact in its wider context: the Social Value Engine aligns the impact achieved against the UN Sustainable Development Goals to provide international comparability.



ANALYSIS.

Leakage (L) / Attribution (At) / Deadweight (DWT) / Displacement (DISP) / Drop Off (DOFF)

OUTPUT TITLE	VALUATION/PROXY	QUANTITY	YEARS	VALUE	LEAKAGE (%)	ATTRIBUTION (%)	DEADWEIGHT (%)	DISPLACEMENT (%)	DROP-OFF (%)	IMPACT £
No's of documents digitised and preserved for the future	Cost of Digitising an Artefact (Photo)	30871 items	1	£4	0	10	10	0	10	£100,022.04
	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Cost	56 Surveys (3project days per survey)	1	£700	0	10	10	0	10	£127,008
No's of Oral/ video Histories collected/ buildings surveyed	Average costs of Oral History Work Per Day	192 items (3project days per survey)	1	£400	0	10	10	0	10	£186,624
Protected Species Surveys/ Environmental Surveys / new Site Species Surveys	Life satisfaction increase from visiting heritage (including marine or maritime environments)	4484 people	1	£2,167	10	20	25	10	20	£4,722,378.41
No's of people receiving training	The value of feeling more confident in being with family and other people as a result of taking part in an adult learning course	2722 people	1	£231	10	20	20	10	20	£325,960.59
No of children/adults engaged through outdoor learning/ citizen science/built heritage/history learning	Cost of a community wellbeing programme with a network approach	11,410 people	1	£42	10	20	20	10	20	£248,427.65
No's of people attending public engagement events	Cost of a community wellbeing programme with a network approach	49,031 people	1	£42	10	20	20	10	20	£1,067,542.16
No's of schools events (hours)	Cost of mentor training supporting young people	531 hours	1	£258	0	10	10	0	20	£110,968.38
No's of training accreditations achieved	Cost of small course accreditation (initial assessment)	593 people	1	£2,484	0	20	20	0	20	£942,727.68
No's of people access walking routes	Tourism value of heritage	87,073 people	1	£379	20	35	35	20	25	£8,923,380.36
No's of hours of business mentoring provided - experience development	Cost of a mentor per hour	150 hours	1	£100	0	15	15	0	10	£10,837.50
Persons employed in the Heritage Sector	Average spend on tourism to create a job	19 people	1	£48,420	0	20	20	0	20	£588,787.20
No's of volunteer hours logged	Value placed by a local authority on volunteering	53,765 hours	1	£15	0	20	20	0	20	£516,144
No of training courses/ sessions provided	Access to specialist environmental knowledge	157 courses	1	£1,799	0	20	20	0	20	£180,763.52
Hectares (HA) of Scrub/ tree clearance for breeding wader conservation/Sward Management / Management of regrowth	Value of an ecological status by hectare	38 Hectares	1	£1,843	0	5	5	0	5	£63,205.69
Number of Trees Planted	Average cumulative benefit over 50 years per tree planted	1305 Trees	1	£1,195	0	15	20	0	15	£1,060,443
No's of CEFF applications for new projects	Cost of inefficient collaboration	28 Projects	1	£9,180	0	20	20	0	20	£164,505.60
Total										£19,339,725.78

ANALYSIS.

The Source for each of the financial valuations/proxies used in this analysis (all drawn from peer reviewed and independently published secondary sources) is set out below:

PROXY	SOURCE
Cost of Digitising an Aretfact	https://nickpoole.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/digiti_report.pdf
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Cost	https://ecologysurveys.uk/#:-:text=Preliminary%20Ecological%20Appraisal%20Cost,%C2%A3700%20and%20%C2%A34000
Average costs of Oral History Work Per Day	https://www.ohs.org.uk/budgeting/
Life satisfaction increase from visiting heritage	https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/heritage-makes-you-happy/
The value of feeling more confident in being with family and other people as a result of taking part in an adult learning course	https://www.betterhappy.co.uk/post/how-much-does-workplace-wellbeing-engagement-training-cost-in-2022#:-:text=How%20Much%20Does%20En-gagement%20%26%20Wellbeing,%2D%C2%A35000%2B%20per%20person.
Cost of a community wellbeing programme with a network approach	https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/3012/evaluation-of-the-work-wellness-project.pdf
Cost of mentor training supporting young people	http://social-value-engine.co.uk/calculator/Mentoring%20-%20A%20Cost-Effective%20Intervention.pdf
Cost of small course accreditation (initial assessment)	https://www.the-bac.org/accreditation/inspection-and-accreditation-fees/
Tourism value of heritage	https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/research/20160927_-_the_impact_of_heritage_tourism_on_the_uk_economy_-_final_repo.pdf
Cost of Mentor per hour	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a74c19c40f0b61df47783d4/demand_for_mentoring_among_SMEs.pdf
Average spend on tourism to create a job	https://www.visitbritain.org/research-insights/value-tourism-england
Value placed by a local authority on volunteering	https://www.powertochange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Value_of_Volunteering_Working_Paper_Final.pdf
Access to specialist environmental knowledge	https://web.archive.org/web/2023111105135/https://www.findcourses.com/training-supplier/informa-connect/certificate-in-marine-pollution-prevention-management-1666033
Value of an ecological status by hectare	https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2018/08/value-bathing-waters-influence-bathing-water-quality-literature-review/documents/00539016-pdf/00539016-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00539016.pdf
Average cumulative benefit over 50 years per tree planted	https://www.treeconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/GBU_Street-Tree-Cost-Benefit-Analysis-2018.pdf
Cost of inefficient collaboration	https://www.talk-business.co.uk/2017/06/20/inefficient-communications-and-collaboration-costs-uk-companies-8000-per-employee-per-year/

ANALYSIS.

As stipulated previously, all of the outcomes achieved by the LELP programme are linked back to one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development goals.

The table below outlines the total value of the activities carried out by LELP impact against several of the SDG's.

UN SDG IMPACT AREA	£
Good Health and Well-Being	£6,650,954.85
Quality Education	£121,805.88
Decent Work and Economic Growth	£942,727.68
Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	£9,512,167.56
Sustainable Cities and Communities	£516,144.00
Climate Action	£307,771.52
Life On Land	£1,123,648.69
Partnerships for the Goals	£164,505.60
Total	£19,339,725.78

The table below outlines the total programme value of its outcomes, along with the operating costs to deliver LELP's activities

ACTIVITIES VALUE	£
Programme Benefits (Impact figure minus 3.5% discount)	£18,685,725.39
Costs of Programme Delivery	£3,495,349.00
Social Value SROI	£5.35



BY GOING THROUGH THIS PROCESS, THE PROGRAMME DEMONSTRATED AN IMPRESSIVE SOCIAL VALUE OF £5.35 FOR EVERY £1 SPENT. THIS DEMONSTRATES A VERY CREDIBLE LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT ON THE PART OF THE LELP PROGRAMME.

ANALYSIS

We have assessed these results for sensitivity and materiality. In terms of materiality, it is clear from our discussions with organisations involved in the programme and the responses from all projects that participated, that there is a good justification for including all these proxies including those that may appear to have smaller values than others. Many of these activities were key deliverables for the programme and the projects that it supported, therefore participants place a high value on them.

The highest SDG impact area that the programme achieved was on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, with the lowest being Partnership for the Goals. Whilst there is a substantial difference between both (despite the latter still having a significant impact), we nonetheless feel inclusion is justified as a number of the respondents in our interviews put a significant emphasis on these outcomes.

In terms of this figure, it is worth noting that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in England have updated their Appraisal Guide (2023) which is used by government departments and local authorities as a means of helping to deliver better evidenced-based policy making.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dluhc-appraisal-guide/dluhc-appraisal-guide>

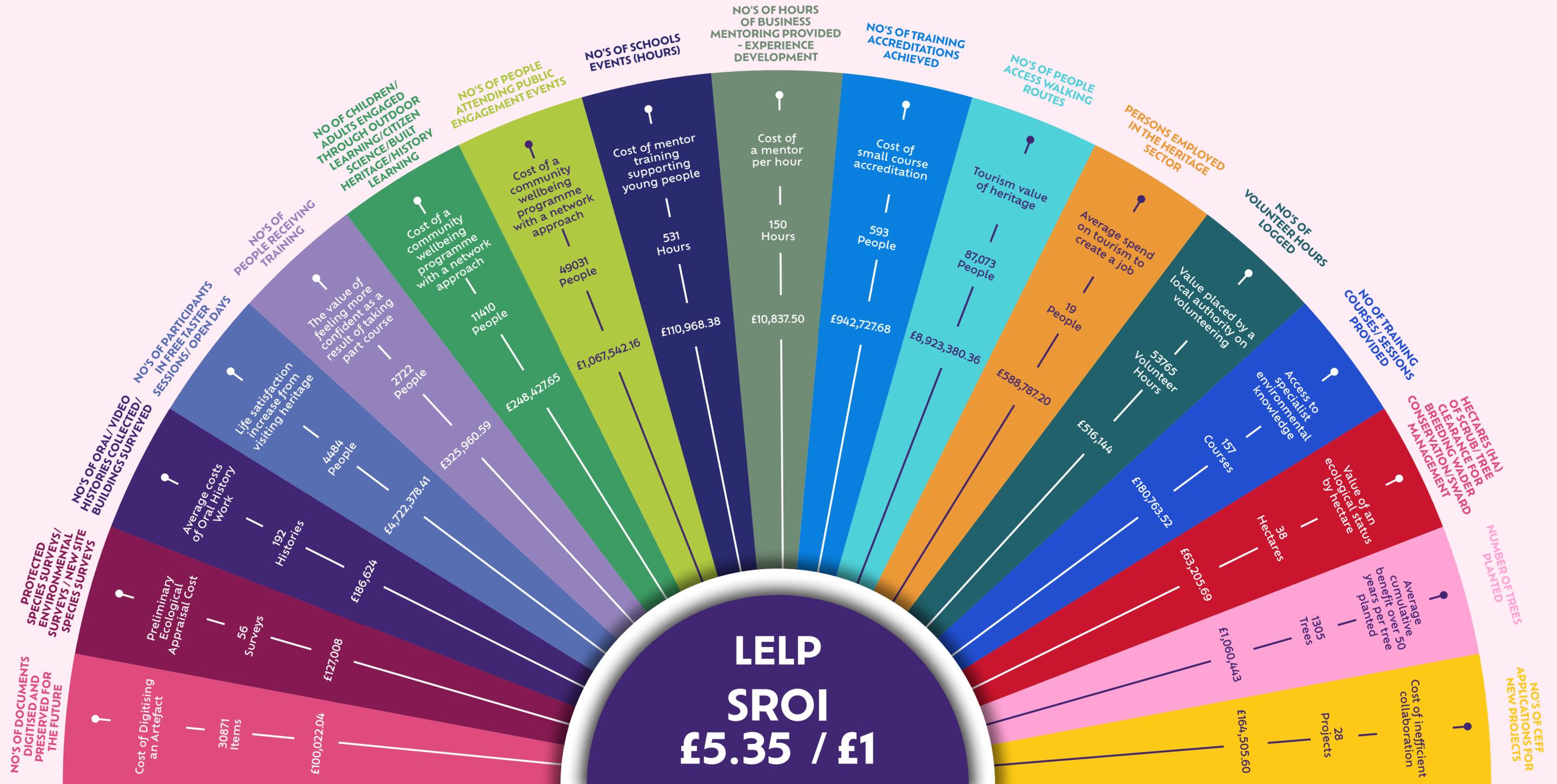
In the guide, it provides information and guidance for Departments in outlining what funded projects are seen as a good “value for money” based on their Benefit Cost Ratio. You can see this in the table below.

VFM CATEGORY	IMPLIED BY...
Very High	BCR greater than or equal to 4
High	BCR greater than or equal to 2 and less than 4
Medium	BCR greater than or equal to 1.5 and less than 2
Acceptable	BCR greater than or equal to 1 and less than 1.5
Poor	BCR greater than or equal to 0 and less than 1
Very Poor	BCR below 0

In summary anything over a value of £4 would be demonstrating a very high value for money return on any potential investment. So the LELP programme would be clearly demonstrating that.

IMPACT MAP

The overall impact of Lough Erne Landscape Partnership can be illustrated in the Impact Map opposite.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

We have considered materiality and sensitivity as part of this analysis. All the outcomes chosen make both a reasonable contribution to the overall total value (i.e., none is disproportionately large or small) and we have good third party (i.e., by the beneficiaries themselves) validation of their materiality.

As part of the Social Value process, the final calculation stage undergoes rigorous scrutiny to ensure that the subject of the analysis is not “overclaiming”. When calculating deflator percentages, not only do we take into consideration the data captured/survey responses/evaluation information we receive, but we also benchmark these figures with other similar social value analysis that we have carried out over the last number of years.

This is done by several members within the Rose Regeneration & SVE consultant team not directly involved with the analysis and involves a detailed “deep dive” into the data capture to ensure that there is no double counting. It also ensures that the deflator percentages are accurate in terms of the nature of the activity being carried out, the age/gender of the programme participants, and the duration of the activity.

This rigorous approach ensures that a robust and accurate Social Value figure for the analysis we carry out are appropriately calculated.

Furthermore, the Social Value Engine has internal safeguards which ensure that project values are not over inflated, double counted, and unrealistic. Using a “traffic light” system when an overall figure may be seen as overly high, the Engine will flag this immediately enabling the user to review all the data inputted to ensure consistency. Again, this adds another layer of scrutiny and robustness to the overall final figures.



FINDINGS

To ascertain the impact of the LELP programme, the Rose project team spoke to a number of organisations and individuals that were supported by and took part in LELP activities during this time period.

As part of the Social Value process, The purpose of these conversations was twofold; - to allow organisations to explain the project that they were funded to deliver, and to determine the importance/value of the overall work of the LELP programme. This, and the review of all of the funded projects monitoring and evaluation data supplied, was the basis for our judgements on the deflators set out previously.

Overleaf we set out some of the insights arising from a qualitative perspective from these discussions as well as direct quotes from those spoken to.



FINDINGS

Improved access to Heritage & Activities around Lough Erne

The LELP programme was instrumental in improving and increasing access to heritage sites around the Lough. This was done by the LELP programme team working closely with

local organisations in supporting projects that promoted this work, as well as organising large scale community engagement events that brought more people together.

“

**THE IMPACT HAS BEEN TWO FOLD -
FIRSTLY ON THE CONSERVATION AND
PROTECTION IN LOCAL WILDLIFE ON
LOUGH ERNE AND THE INCREASED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ENGAGED
IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.**

FINDINGS

Skills Development

A common theme in the discussions was the increased awareness of the environmental importance of the Lough as a result of specific events and activities that the LELP programme and its partners ran. What

was also instrumental in this work was the delivery of specific conservation projects across the whole region, which would have been historically difficult to fund but were able to happen thanks to LELP's support.



RAISING AWARENESS - BASICALLY OUTREACH TO PUBLIC AND MAKING THEM AWARE OF THE INVASIVE SPECIES BECAUSE IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.



THE IMPACT HAS BEEN TWO FOLD-FIRSTLY ON THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION IN LOCAL WILDLIFE ON LOUGH ERNE AND THE INCREASED NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ENGAGED IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES THAT BOTH OURSELVES AND LELP RAN. THIS IMPACT WILL BE LONG LASTING AND CAN BE BUILT UPON.

FINDINGS

Environmental and Conservation

The delivery of the wide-ranging training that was part of the programme was another huge success with many people signing up for workshops and training sessions. This was also evident with the

groups that were funded under the programme with many of them also delivering training within the local group and community.

“

I ATTENDED A SPINNING AND TAPESTRY WEAVING WORKSHOP. I HAVE WANTED TO DO IT FOR A WHILE, AND I RUN A BUSINESS AROUND CRAFTS AND WOOL.

“

WE ATTENDED TWO OF THE TRAINING COURSES (STORYTELLING AND TOUR-GUIDING). THEY WERE BRILLIANT AND WHAT WE LEARNED GETS USED IN OUR DAILY WORK WITH OUR TRIPS ON LOUGH ERNE WITH VISITORS, TOURISTS AND LOCAL PEOPLE.

“

THE GROUP'S SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE HAS REALLY INCREASED DURING THIS PROJECT. HAVING ORGANISED AND DELIVERED HISTORICAL WALKS AND TALKS THROUGH THIS PROJECT, THEY ARE NOW BEING APPROACHED BY OTHER LOCAL GROUPS TO ORGANISE WALKS AND TALKS FOR THEIR GROUP!

FINDINGS

New Partnerships

The LELP programme brought together many organisations from the community, statutory and academia sectors who worked towards the delivery of individual

projects, as well as growing the awareness of heritage across the area and highlighting the environmental issues that the natural area faces.



INVOLVEMENT WITH WIDER AGRICULTURAL PARTNERS AS A RESULT OF THE PROGRAMME WHICH HELPS IN EXPLAINING OUR ROLE AS WELL AS LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEIR PRACTICES PARTICULARLY FARMERS.



LELP HAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO WORK WITH PEOPLE THAT WE NORMALLY WOULDN'T WORK WITH. IT HAS ENSURED THAT PEOPLE'S VOICE HAS BEEN HEARD AS WELL AS FUTURE PARTNERSHIP POTENTIALLY TAKING PLACE BOTH LOCALLY AND CROSS-BORDER.

FINDINGS

Increase in Community Engagement

This was a common impact that all organisations that we spoke to mentioned. Not only on the events that the LELP programme organised throughout

the 6-year period, but also individual organisations had seen more wider community and visitor engagement on their specific funded project.



INCREASE OF VISITORS TO CROM HAS DOUBLED FROM 2022-24 (SCOUTS, SCHOOLS, OTHER HERITAGE GROUPS). AT LEAST 50% OF THE INCREASE IS A RESULT OF THE WORK WE HAVE DONE WITH LELP.



MORE ENGAGEMENT IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. MAINLY THE LOUGH ERNE SCHOOL CONVENTION WHICH BROUGHT 300-500 KIDS TO SHARE CENTRE OVER A NUMBER OF DAYS. IT GOT THEM OUT ON THE WATER, AND WE PARTNERED WITH OTHER ORGS AROUND EDUCATION I.E. CONSERVATION, MARBLE ARCH, WILDLIFE (FERMANAGH BEEKEEPERS, BUTTERFLIES CONSERVATION ETC).



IT HAS LET THE LOCAL COMMUNITY KNOW THERE IS A GREAT ASSET ON THEIR DOORSTEP AND LETTING THEM SEE THAT WE ARE INVESTING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND WANTING TO KEEP THESE AREAS FOR PEOPLE TO ACCESS.

FINDINGS

Health and Wellbeing

By increasing access to the area around Lough Erne, by facilitating taster sessions that allowed people to take part in activities around and on the Lough, and by improving areas locally i.e. walking trails, tours etc, it

has become clear that many of the activities delivered by the LELP programme had a substantial positive impact on people's individual health and wellbeing.

“
THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMBRACE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT HAS ALLOWED ME TO BOTH HEAL AND CREATE.

“
THE HEALING ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAMMES CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED FOR PEOPLE WE WORK WITH AND MYSELF ALSO.

“
LOVED EVERY MOMENT. IT HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE, CREATIVE AND IT HAS BEEN FUN. IT HAS BEEN SO GOOD FOR ME BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

FINDINGS

Volunteer Contribution

Volunteers were key to the success of the programme. Many of the groups funded are entirely voluntary and it is evident that a substantial time investment was made by everybody who took part in and was

involved in the planning and delivery of activities and projects. Many groups have undertaken a “Volunteer Management Plan” to help safeguard the legacy of the projects funded by the LELP programme.



ALL VOLUNTEERS HAVE A CAREER HISTORY OF JOINERY BUT TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO LEARN HOW TO PLASTER AROUND THE WINDOWS, AND ALSO CLEARED AWAY AS MUCH OF THE BROKEN ELEMENTS AS POSSIBLE. ALL VOLUNTEERS ASSISTED IN ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT. THROUGH THIS PROJECT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPED THEIR SENSE OF PRIDE THE LOCAL AREA AND BUILDING. OUR COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE PRESERVATION OF THE CHAPEL AND THE RESTORATION OF THE WINDOWS AND BUILDING WAS GREAT FOR THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE VOLUNTEER EFFORT FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.



VOLUNTEERS FROM SMALLER COMMUNITY GROUPS WORKED ALONGSIDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM LARGER STATUTORY AGENCIES AND ENGO'S TO SHARE INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOP SHARED FUTURE PLANS AND PROJECTS. VOLUNTEERS HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NETWORK IN FUTURE.



THE LITTER PICKS THAT WERE ORGANISED AS PART OF A PROGRAMME WERE ALWAYS A GREAT SUCCESS. NOT ONLY FOR OUR GROUP IN BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER BUT ALSO KNOWING OTHER GROUPS WERE INVOLVED.

FINDINGS

Local Enabler and Funder

Many organisations that we spoke to highlighted that a contributing factor to the success of the programme was due to LELP being based locally in the Fermanagh area. Their knowledge of local groups and

heritage sites around the Lough and their own technical and facilitation skills that the programme team had, was a significant factor in the success of the programme.



LELP IS THE GO-TO ORGANISATION AND NETWORK HUB FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK. THEY ARE VERY MUCH EMBEDDED IN THIS SPACE. THEY ARE VERY MUCH PART OF THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT APPROACH MADE THIS PROGRAMME WORK BRILLIANTLY.



APPROACHABLE, FRIENDLY, HELPFUL AND THE FACT THAT THEY WERE LOCAL WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA AND HERITAGE WAS CRUCIAL IN HELPING OUR PROJECT BE A SUCCESS.



IT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMATIVE IN MOVING OUR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION FORWARD AND HELPING US DELIVER SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONSERVATION PROJECT ON THE SCALE THAT IS REQUIRED.

FINDINGS

LELP's Legacy

Due to the success of the programme, many organisations expressed their disappointment that it is now ending after 5 years. All organisations expressed the hope

that the work that has been done would be built upon by a new programme and body, whatever that looks like.



IMPACT OF LELP WILL CONTINUE ON FOR MANY YEARS. RELATIONSHIPS WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE THROUGH OTHER FESTIVALS AND EVENTS THAT THEY RAN.



GREAT SHAME THAT LELP IS FINISHING-HAS BUILT A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE AND A GROUNDSWELL OF WORK THAT CAN BE BUILT ON AND CREATE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT IN OUR EYES.



WITH LELP STOPPING, THERE IS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT BY SMALLER COMMUNITY GROUPS IN THE LOCAL AREA. WE WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE A LELP 2.0 BEING MAINTAINED TO HELP BUILD ON THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.



CONCLUSIONS

This analysis clearly reflects the substantial impact that the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership had when working with multiple communities and organisations throughout Fermanagh and beyond.

Delivering £5.35 of Social Value for every £1 spent is a highly credible result and illustrates the obvious value for money that the programme delivered in terms of its funding and activities. What makes this outcome even more remarkable was that the programme was delivered during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the social distancing & public gathering restrictions

that were in place over a prolonged time. And then after emerging from that, that the programme and the many organisations and people that it worked with had to also deal with the Cost-of-Living crisis. To emerge from these challenging scenarios and still deliver an impactful programme, is a substantial achievement for all concerned.

The work carried out by the LELP programme demonstrates clear positive social impacts in many ways. This includes the improving of access and promotion of heritage work and sites around Lough Erne, the significant health and wellbeing benefits by participating in social and outdoor opportunities, the developing of skills and accessing training specifically around heritage and the natural environment, the obvious environmental and conservational impact of the work it carried out, the hugely substantial community engagement that the programme delivered and the highly valuable contribution made by local volunteers and the community. All of these factors contributed to making the programme a substantial success as well as creating a significant legacy of the work carried out.



