

## **EYEMOUTH DIVES INTO COMPLETED HARBOUR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Eyemouth Harbour Trust has declared completion of its Dive Infrastructure project, which aims to improve the area's Dive Infrastructure. Supported by Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association members, Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative, the Trust was granted funding from the European LEADER programme to improve the dive tourism offering which will also allow the partnership to generate income for a sustainable future.

The project has made improvements to the shore dive access along the coastline in Eyemouth, including the installation of a designated pay and display car park, the income from which will be split between Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association and Eyemouth Harbour Trust towards future maintenance and development of the shore access facilities. The project has also increased serviced pontoon space for dive boats in Eyemouth.

The project had the following aims:

- Develop and better manage shore access at Eyemouth harbour breakwater for visiting divers improving existing access point
- To develop harbour facilities for visiting/resident dive boats
- To provide ongoing core funding by arrangement with the Harbour Trust for the Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association to continue its ongoing marketing and development plan.

In order to achieve its aims, the project has:

- Upgraded a poorly surfaced shore access track to develop access for divers using the area;
- Created a grasscrete car park to protect area and rationalise parking for visitors and divers;
- Installation of pay and display parking meter to monitor access and provide additional income for the Harbour Trust and the Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association towards future maintenance and development of the shore access area;
- Installation of designated pontoons with associated risers and flotation for dive boats in Eyemouth harbour basin;
- Lengthening of existing gangway in order to reduce gradient at low tide.

The working group appointed local firm Bain Swan as project managers and have been working together to implement the project, which is already benefiting visiting divers as well as the local community.

Harbour Trust Business Manager, Christine Bell, said " We are delighted that the project is complete in time for the 2010 diving season. It has been a long-term aim of the Trust to develop and better manage access of the harbour breakwater for visiting divers and to improve the facilities at the harbour itself. By working together with the Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association, we have been able to improve the facilities surrounding the harbour which presents us with the opportunity to generate income towards a sustainable future, as well as promote this area as a great place to dive."

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*The Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association is a constituted group of businesses that aim to promote the area of St. Abbs and Eyemouth as a “world class diving destination close to home.” Although primarily diving focussed, the group provides a forum to engage with the wider tourism business community and is currently working hard to achieve priority actions set out in an overall marketing and product development plan. Further information at [www.divestabbseyemouth.co.uk](http://www.divestabbseyemouth.co.uk)*

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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