



DORSET

Local Enterprise Partnership

Mary Anning Wing

End of Project Report

December 2018

Project Summary

Dating from 1902, Lyme Regis Museum is a charming Edwardian building. As a very successful business in a scientifically important location (Lyme Regis is the home of palaeontology) the museum receives 25,000 visitors a year and is the most popular Dorset museum for school visits.

The Mary Anning Wing will be an extension providing the museum with the services it lacks. These are:

1. Provide a modern learning space enabling the museum develop a much wider range of activities and learning opportunities.
2. Enable the museum to develop a much wider range of activities for its existing volunteers and to recruit new volunteers.
3. Increase the museum's ability to meet the needs of local people through increased engagement with local pre-school and school groups and community groups.
4. Create a flagship geological gallery situated on the site of Mary Anning's house at the heart of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.
5. Resolve the museum's significant public service issues by providing the currently absent public toilets and lift giving access to upper floors of the museum.
6. Stabilise energy consumption and create a much better environment for the conservation of the museum's varied collections.
7. Improve display of other collections by creating the space needed to run more varied temporary exhibitions.
8. Ensure the museum's economic sustainability by attracting more visitors and provide more retail space for the museum shop.
9. Contribute to the ongoing economic well-being of Lyme Regis.

Project start date	June 2013
Project construction start date	September 2016
Project completion date	July 2017



Review of Business Case

An outline business case was submitted in the call for projects for Growth Deal 3. As part of the due diligence assessment before projects were put forward to Government the project was assessed and received a BCR of 26. This project was included in a collection of four projects made to Government for Productivity in Tourism and Government agreed to fund each of the four projects, who each received £56,250 gap funding.

This contribution from Dorset LEP gave the final funding towards a £1,463,400 scheme. Lyme Regis Museum were successful in a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid as well as further fundraising to raise the remaining funding. Due to the rigorous HLF procedures, Growth Deal 3 initial process and the amount of funding awarded from Dorset LEP this was exempt from an independent business case review.

Due to the timing of the decision on funding, the project was already underway when it was agreed for Dorset LEP to gap fund the last element of the project.

Governance

This project reported straight to Dorset LEP Board through the programme management team.

Change Request

There were no change requests for this projects.

Planned Outputs and Outcomes

It is set out in the business case the outputs of the whole project would be:

- A Learning Space
- A re-configured fossil gallery, making the museum's key story more accessible to more people - including telling the story of Mary Anning, the world's first great fossil hunter and early woman scientist.
- Provide an expanded retail space
- Public toilets and a lift.

As a result of this work it will provide the following outcomes:

- New jobs – 2.5 FTE
- Increase in tourist numbers by 4.5k per annum
- Significant addition to the visitor economy in the Dorset rural economy
- Learning opportunities for local children will be enhanced
- Maintenance of an important, Grade II listed Edwardian building
- Strengthening and extending of an existing business
- Greater stability for existing important cultural charity
- New and extended venue for learning and community events
- It will further enhance the distinct Lyme Regis story as the 'home of palaeontology' and fossil hunting and Mary Anning as a scientifically important international story
- Local people's skills will be enhanced through the museum's comprehensive activities plan (2017-19)
- Volunteer opportunities will be enhanced
- Healthier outcomes for older people through engagement in worthwhile and meaningful activities

Achievement of Outputs

- Mary Anning Wing



- Learning space developed is 26 sqm – which is big enough to get one class in



- Fossil Gallery is 54 sqm



Outcomes

- First year visits (Jun 17 to Jun 18) 30,100, approximately 1,000 more than predicted.
- New jobs created in the first year is 2.2 in the organisation made up of:
 - 1.8 front of house staff
 - .2 marketing support
 - .2 extra caretaking/cleaning
- Jobs safeguarded **2.4**
 - Director
 - Deputy Director
 - Part time teacher
 - Part time geologist

Benefits Realised to date

- As a result of the project completed there has been significant extra work for additional jobs and work across Dorset for people that are brought into the museum
- Additional work for the local design house

Review of Project Objectives

RAG Review of Objectives	Status	Comments
Time		The project started and completed on time.
Cost		The project came in on budget.
Quality		The Mary Anning Wing was completed to a high specification.
Scope		The scope of the project changed before Dorset LEP were involved in the project.
Benefits		
Risk		There were no high risks identified throughout the delivery of this project.

Conclusion

Dorset LEP helped to secure £56,250 towards the cost of the Mary Anning Wing extension of Lyme Regis Museum via the Government's Local Growth Fund.

Lyme Regis Museum welcomed its most famous patron, Sir David Attenborough, to lead a special inauguration ceremony for the extension which opened in July. In the speech to over 200 museum supporters and funders, Sir David emphasised the importance of Lyme Regis to the development of the science of geology, and paid special reference to Lyme's Mary Anning, the world's first and greatest fossil hunter.

David Tucker, Director of Lyme Regis Museum said, "It was splendid that Sir David was able to help us thank the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and other institutions who have funded the Mary Anning Wing. We are immensely grateful for their support and will continue to do all we can to protect Lyme's heritage and contribute to the local economy."

Chair of Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Gordon Page, said: "Dorset LEP is pleased to have secured local growth funding from the Government to support this worthy project to benefit the local area and economy. Tourism is a key sector for Dorset and this impressive addition to one of Dorset's much-loved museums will help to contribute to the wider economic well-being of the region through the creation of jobs, and increased visitor numbers and local spend."

Lyme Regis Museum, a charity, is open all year and its small professional staff is supported by a talented team of trustees and volunteers who provide governance, expert advice on business and academic matters and research into Lyme's history. Volunteers also actively fundraise on behalf of the museum, and operate the museum's admission point and shop. Its auspicious patrons include author Tracy Chevalier, Professor Richard Lane, Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, Sir Crispin Tickell, Sir David Attenborough and previous Honorary Curator Max Hebditch. It is the most used museum by schools in Dorset.

Dorset LEP

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<http://dorsetlep.co.uk/delivery/local-delivery-the-growth-deal/mary-anning-wing,-lyme-regis/>

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