



Ninefold Distillery

Dormont Home Farm, Dalton, Lockerbie, DG11 1DJ

T: 01387 840116

M: 07709 452921

www.ninefolddistillery.com

Kit@ninefolddistillery.com

Dumfries & Galloway LEADER – Final Report

Ninefold Distillery aimed to be the first rum distillery in Dumfries & Galloway, building on the interest in small scale spirits production, led currently by the resurgence in gin popularity. A number of dilapidated farm buildings at Dormont Home Farm on Dormont Estate provided an opportunity to reinvigorate and diversify an existing family owned rural business, providing more income to the estate, and eventually creating local, skilled, jobs. To that end, capital expenditure was required to be spent on equipment and installation to facilitate the distillation of rum.

The project was managed by Dr Kit Carruthers (Ninefold Distillery), with occasional assistance from Jamie Carruthers (Dormont Estate). Consulting process engineers Allen Associates designed and specified the required equipment, and obtained quotes from suppliers on behalf of Ninefold Distillery. The bespoke distilling equipment was manufactured and installed by LH Stainless and Speyside Copper Works, with some additional electrical installation carried out by Muirton Control & Automation. All other equipment was sourced from UK suppliers.

The aim of the project was to be the first rum distillery in Dumfries & Galloway. In order to achieve this, Ninefold Distillery had to meet the objections of having the equipment designed, procured, and installed ready for manufacturing.

The project was part-funded by a grant award from LEADER of £49,188.94. This was match-funded by the private investment of £107,264.50 from Jamie Carruthers of Dormont Estate.

The project ran from 29th November 2017 until 31st May 2019.

During this period, initially Allen Associates were consulted to provide a detailed equipment list, with up-to-date costings via quotes obtained from suppliers. Quotes were also obtained for the electrical and mechanical installation works. The equipment was then ordered from the chosen suppliers, much of which was stored in the interim until the bespoke copper still was completed. Once the still was delivered, this and the other purchased equipment was installed by LH Stainless and Speyside Copper Works into the building, and the final electrical installation works followed by Muirton Control & Automation. Some items of stock for rum manufacturing were also purchased during this period, ready for use once the equipment installation was finished.

Under the LEADER local development strategy theme of 'Economy', the capital project has so far returned an old agricultural building to commercial use. Once trading, the distillery will create skilled employment in the region, including apprenticeships for young people. The products from the distillery will be marketed as 'made in Dumfries and Galloway', and the distillery will attempt to collaborate with other distilleries in the region to promote the region as a destination for quality distilled spirits.

The project was delivered by Dr Kit Carruthers as Project Manager, overseeing the supply and fit of the equipment. Jamie Carruthers was on hand to offer advice when required.

Although not yet trading, a decision was made early on in the project to use social media to market the distillery. Followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube have been following the journey of the distillery from an old dairy to a modern distillery for over a year. The traditional press have also reported on progress here at the distillery, with articles appearing in local newspapers and magazines.

The project will benefit local shops, restaurants, pubs and clubs by allowing a high quality spirit to be made to stock on their shelves and menus, which is a local/Scottish alternative to mass produced rum.

Of the £155,106.06 of eligible costs submitted to LEADER, £155,105.06 was spent on the project. This breaks down as £107,264.50 of match funding, and £47,840.56 of LEADER grant.

The project has taught us that capital expenditure can increase significantly as a project progresses, largely due to the cost of items or services that were not known about at the start of the project. Given that we had no experience of establishing a distillery, there were a number of mandatory costs that were not given to us by the consulting engineers. Some equipment also required subsequent modification or adaptation, adding to costs. We also learned that making claims from LEADER is an extremely time consuming and therefore costly endeavour, which wasn't allowed for in terms of staff costs when applying for the grant.

The project will not be transferred or mainstreamed. It is the intention to run the resulting distillery as a family business, providing additional income to Dormont Estate.

As a capital investment in a commercial business, the project should have created a self-sustaining and profitable enterprise. The equipment purchased during the project will allow a product to be made to generate income back into the business. Further products will be added to the distillery offering eventually to keep the business relevant and profitable.