



Sustainable Development Fund Application Form

Ref No:	SDF 05-51
Project Name:	Devon Closewool Sheep Promotion Campaign
Project Location:	Exmoor and Greater Exmoor Area

Briefly describe your project:

To improve the viability of the Devon Closewool Breed by increasing the number of flocks, raising the profile of the breed and improving the sustainability of member's business.

To achieve this by better advertising, a fresh promotional programme and a good presentation and representation of the breed at a selection of national and county shows.

The Devon Closewool Sheep originated in the late 19th Century from the crossing of the Exmoor ewe with the Devon Longwool ram as a first step in the stratification of sheep breeding, thus increasing the size of the progeny and therefore the amount of saleable meet from sheep performing on better ground. The resulting cross held its type and conformation such that the Breed Society was formed in 1923, with the original flocks dating back to 1894.

Some 68,000 females were registered with the Society in 1960 and then a massive decline took place in favour of Continental terminal sires so that today a little over 4,000 females are registered, however with the move to a more environmentally friendly, less intensive style of farming, there is a resurgence of interest in the native breeds and the Society is eager to foster this and capitalise on that interest.

Currently around 40 flocks submit annual returns made up of 50% from Exmoor, 21% from the Greater Exmoor Area and 29% from areas mainly in the West Country.

The project would build on the publicity already in being such as the new web site and would portray the breed to potential flockowners as a sheep bred for Exmoor and its surrounds.

The Annual Sale is held at Blackmoor Gate Market which serves the farming community on Exmoor as both an outlet for breeding stock and an opportunity to demonstrate the breed to a wider public. The new purchasers in recent times appear in many cases to be first time sheep keepers so that there are new opportunities for education in sheep breeding and management.

To this end negotiations have been taking place with Rural Enterprise Gateway to further means of Knowledge Transfer and Workforce Development for the members of the Society.

It is envisaged that educational contributions would be made to local schools, colleges and Young Farmers Clubs with a view to increasing knowledge and skills. Contact has already been made with Pilton Community College who have a training centre at Simonsbath.

Briefly show your project costs:	Labour	£16,800	Materials	£9,138
Indicate any matched funding (including 'in kind' and volunteers):	Labour	£8,000	Materials	£
Indicate any money already raised:	£Bid via Rural Enterprise Gateway up to £4,500			
How much money are you applying for?	£25,938			

Sustainable Development Fund Checklist

Projects MUST show that they support at least one National Park purpose (Q1, 2 or 11). Projects eligible for this fund must also answer 'YES' to at least one question in each of the three sections. It is not expected that all of the questions will be answered a 'YES'. Please fill in the form and add any comments in the spaces provided. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

National Park purpose:	<i>To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.</i>		
WILL YOUR PROJECT ...?	YES	NO	HOW \ COMMENTS
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape and features are lost without sustainable agriculture to which the Society subscribes
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A less intensive less pressurised form of agriculture is the ideal context for the Closewool
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Passing on local skills from generation to generation is vitally important
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing the local breed would help reduce the demand for sheep stock from away.g. annual purchases and transfer of stock with all the risks attached
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
National Park purpose	<i>To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public</i>		
WILL YOUR PROJECT ...?	YES	NO	HOW \ COMMENTS
11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	By enabling local residents and visitors the pleasure of seeing one of the traditional breeds in its natural surroundings

12	Be available for everyone to use, including access for people with disabilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Areas where the Devon Closewool are farmed are usually quite accessible
13	Encourage use of public transport, cycling, riding and walking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In terms of visitor access
14	Encourage healthy exercise and diets?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The shepherd by the very nature of his/her job needs to be healthy and lamb and mutton part of a healthy diet
15	Offer new opportunities for learning about Exmoor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Via publicity at shows and locally e.g. in schools
16	Work in partnership with communities/groups in other areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The breed is represented in other areas, even as far as Surrey
17	Encourage involvement of people who would not normally have the opportunity to enjoy or learn about Exmoor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encouraging youngsters in schools to visit farms
18	Encourage the involvement of young people from planning to doing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Especially through holiday work and the YFC movement

National Park purpose: *To seek to foster the economic and social well-being of the local community.*

WILL YOUR PROJECT ...?		YES	NO	HOW \ COMMENTS
19	Provide employment and training opportunities that support the needs of the local workforce?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A higher profile for the Breed will result in greater viability
20	Offer new opportunities for voluntary participation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage exhibiting
21	Help to provide employment all year round rather than seasonally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
22	Use local goods and services wherever possible?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local breeders will spend locally on all their off farm requirements e.g. vets, transport etc. The Society uses local printers
23	Increase awareness and understanding of sustainable development?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	By raising the profile of the breed and its attributes
24	Encourage wide participation in planning and decision making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	By ensuring greater awareness of the breed
ABOVE ALL WILL YOUR PROJECT:				
25	Have a long term view taking into account the needs of future generations as well as our own?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project will be inclusive of the membership and others who keep the breed

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Date Received:	20 June 2006	Date Assessed:	20 June 2006
Exmoor National Park Authority Contact Officer:	Phil Cookson		
Decision:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	Applicant Informed:	
Grant Awarded:		Amount:	£
PROJECT OUTPUTS			
ABOUT YOU / YOUR GROUP			
1. For All Applicants			
You/Your organisation name:	The Devon Closewool Sheep Breeders Society		
Contact person:	Ron Smith		
Address:	The Elms Office Bishops Tawton Barnstaple EX32 0EJ		
Telephone No:	01271 326900		
E-Mail:	Ron@holtomandthomas.co.uk		
2. For Groups/Organisations Only:			
Are you a registered charity:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are you a registered company:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If neither of the above is applicable, what legal status does your group have?	Registered with Inland Revenue		
Please describe your group and what it does:	Breed Society		
Does your organisation have a constitution?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(if yes, please attach)
Does your organisation produce and annual report?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	(if yes, please attach)
Does your organisation have a bank/building society account	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. For All Applicants:			
Who owns the land/building where the project will happen (if applicable)?	N/A		
Is there a lease?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
How long remaining on it?			
Is there written permission from the landowner to carry out the proposed work?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	(If yes, please attach)
Is planning permission required?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Has it been granted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Applicant's signature	By email		Date 20 June 2006