



Case Study Supporting Projects from

Turning ideas into action

The DR Company has worked with hundreds of local, rural projects in the South West providing business support and access to funding. With the wide experience this gives the DR Company team, it means they are able to support a project from concept to completion. DR Consultants worked with Richard Haddock on his Churston scallop shell crusher project for over four years.

Richard Haddock is a farmer and the owner of the thriving Churston Traditional Farm Shop situated near Brixham. Richard saw an opportunity to turn fishing industry waste into a highly effective and economical product for agriculture. The DR Company built Richard's proposal into their Coastal Communities Funding programme, and Richard's project was allocated £98,000 to be paid on completion. Richard hoped this money could be spent on building a pioneering machine that would crush crab shells in large quantities and turn them into a 100% organic soil fertiliser for use in agriculture.

The crab shell crusher project ran into technical difficulties when a specialist piece of equipment needed to crush the crab shells was not available, and the planned project was untenable. This meant that the funding allocation of £98,000 could not be drawn on. Tim Beavon, consultant with the DR Company, was keeping in close contact with Richard and they discussed the problem together.

Tim's many years of experience with project support meant that he understood that all projects meet with challenges. Tim was convinced that the innovative idea had the potential to bring significant benefits to farmers, the fishing industry and the environment and on this basis he negotiated a budget reallocation and a time extension for the funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government. As such The DR Company were able to invite proposals for new seafood waste recycling projects, and Richard applied for this. Independent evaluation determined that Richard's revised plan was the best option for using the funding available, that it would provide positive results for the local area and was a sound project concept. On this basis, Richard was this time allocated a grant of £64,000 also



to be paid on completion of the project.

Richard now had more time and an alternative form of funding to reinvent the crab shell crusher as a scallop shell crusher which posed less technical challenges and stood a stronger chance of success.

One year on, the scallop shell crusher is fully functional. It provides benefits to the fishing industry, the local environment, and agriculture. By bringing the shells to the crusher rather than the landfill, fishermen and seafood processors are paying significantly less to dispose of their waste than if they take the shells to landfill. In addition, trials conducted so far show that the scallop fertiliser has produced significantly increased barley yields and the cost of this 100% organic product are so far working out to be half the cost of standard agricultural fertilisers. There is a great deal of interest in the scallop shell fertiliser, including from several large organic farm suppliers.

"This project wouldn't have happened without the support of DR and the grant funding."

Richard Haddock



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