Luppitt community lab

Project overview

Location: Luppitt, Honiton

Grant award: £1820.00

Items funded: Renovation of a redundant building, installation of furniture and laboratory equipment, and community training to support self-surveying of dung samples

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) themes: Nature and Place

The Luppitt Community Lab is a collaborative facility created to support sustainable livestock management among farmers in and around Luppitt. The project was initiated by a local farmer with the support of six others, reflecting a shared ambition to improve animal health practices while reducing environmental impact. Funding from the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme enabled the transformation of an unused room beside the village pub into a fully equipped laboratory.

The lab provides a space for farmers to carry out faecal egg counts (FECs), helping them make informed decisions about parasite management in line with the national Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) principles. By supporting targeted use of anthelmintics, the facility helps reduce resistance in livestock and minimise unintended harm to wider biodiversity.

Project Rationale

For decades, anthelmintics (wormers) have been widely used in livestock systems to control internal parasites. However, long-term reliance on these products has led to increasing anthelmintic resistance, reducing their effectiveness and raising concerns for soil and water health. Sustainable parasite control now depends on alternative strategies including:

- **Faecal egg counts** to determine actual worm burdens before treatment
- **Rotational and mixed grazing** to minimise exposure to parasite larvae
- **Selective treatment** to avoid unnecessary chemical use

The Luppitt Community Lab was established to give farmers an accessible, affordable means of monitoring parasite levels in their livestock and adopting more targeted treatment approaches.

Impact and Future Opportunities

The Luppitt Community Lab has already demonstrated strong potential to:

- Support **sustainable parasite control** and reduce unnecessary anthelmintic use
- Build **local capacity** through shared skills and resources
- Strengthen **community collaboration** among farmers
- Contribute to **nature-friendly farming practices** within the protected landscape

Before -

After -