

# Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path Kincardineshire Update

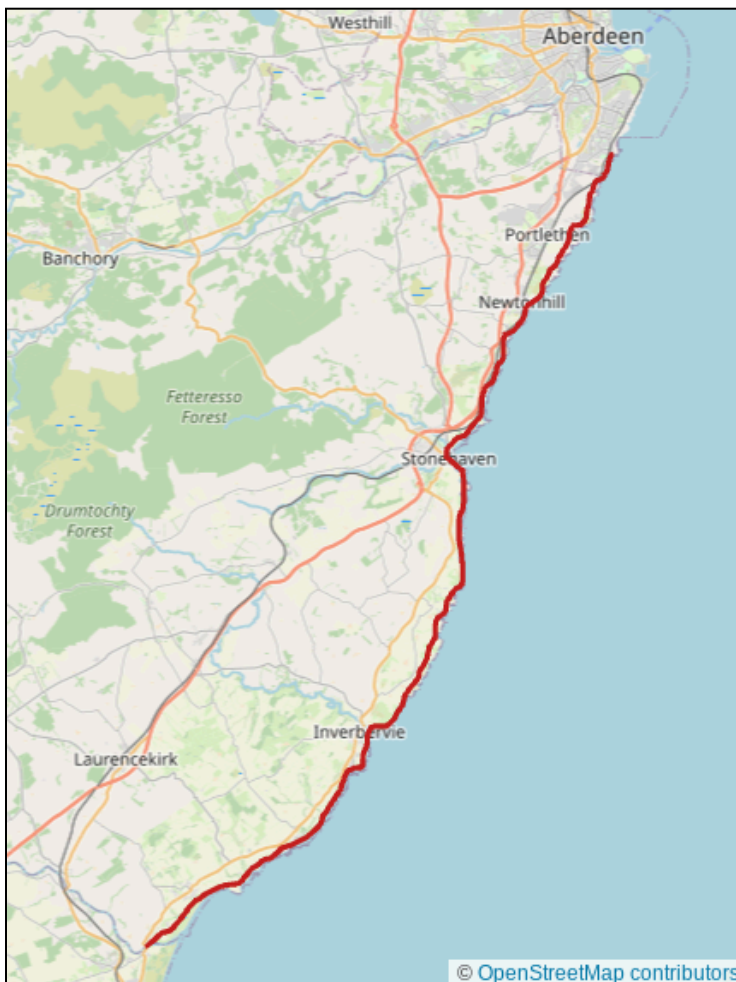
Summer 2024

If you wish to receive further updates and / or would like to get involved then please sign up using the following link. <http://eepurl.com/ia0e1n>

If not, please let us know by emailing [platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com](mailto:platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com)

Please forgive us if there is some repetition of some parts of the Update. Our readership is growing each time we produce these Updates and we are keen to send out some key messages, especially regarding community engagement.

## Path Progress...



Despite the recent Summer weather, we have not been able to spend a significant amount of time on the actual path.

Although we have walked the entire proposed route we are still in discussions with various landowners and agencies about the final route and the various works we may have to carry out along the route.

This map is simply a reminder of where we have walked and the extent of our Kincardineshire section.

But this is not to say that we have been idle!

Read on for more news ....

## **But it's not just about the route survey ...**

### **Volunteer Days**

Volunteers are absolutely key to the success of these longer distance paths. For example, the South West Coastal Path in SW England has over 100 volunteers and 7 paid staff covering the 630 mile route. Community involvement is central to the aims and purposes of the Aberdeenshire coastal path.

We have, so far, had 12 volunteers come forward to offer their services as “Rangers”; with development and maintenance; and with other skills such as writing interpretation boards and sourcing items of cultural, historical and environmental interest.

On 9 June, we were able to meet 6 of these volunteers. We discussed plans for the path; preferred volunteering roles; and had some fun at the same time.

Fun, in this case, involved clearing a passage through some gorse to open up where the path had clearly once been.



We are looking forward to working with this group further. In fact, some of them have been very helpful already with other maintenance work; route planning; background information and community connections.

We are planning a similar meet with the rest of the Volunteer group in the next few weeks.

If you would like to consider joining our group of volunteers, please simply get in touch with us via [platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com](mailto:platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com)

## **Request for Information**

First of all, to everyone who has sent us information already, thank you very much. We are filing it ready for use in our planned interpretation boards, website and guidebook. There is a huge amount of information from our coastline rich in culture, history, ecology and geology and so we plan to use QR Codes on the boards (as well as displayed information) in order to enable access to all this information.

We are, however, still particularly keen to gather more historical, cultural, geographical and environmental information relating to the coastal communities through which the path will pass.

Should you have any information which you would like to share with us, please email us at: [platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com](mailto:platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com) Thank You.

## **Councillors' Walk**

We are currently working with the Aberdeenshire Councillors from our local coastal communities to arrange a date for a Councillors' Walk. The local councillors have been very supportive of the coastal path project and the Councillors' Walk is a chance for them to see the path and where some of the funds are being put to good use. The plan is to walk from Inverbervie to St Cyrus on a date to be decided but probably in the late summer or early autumn. We will let you know once a date has been set.

## **Charitable Trust**

Along with the growth of our volunteer base, the other big news for us is the imminent formation of a Charitable Trust, the Board of Trustees of which will oversee the development and management of the whole Aberdeenshire and City Coastal Trail. The formation of this Charitable Trust is yet to be approved by OSCR (Charity Regulator in Scotland) and so we do not want to get ahead of ourselves but we hope that the North East Scotland Coastal Trust and its Board of Trustees will give identity, purpose, substance and guidance to the ambition to see a coastal path developed along the coast from the Angus border to Cullen in Moray.

To answer a few questions you may have:

*Why North East Scotland?* This was deliberately chosen to avoid any confusion which may arise if and when regional and local government boundaries change, as they sometimes can. And, anyway, Cullen is in Moray!

*Why a Charitable Trust?* There are lots of legal options available but we wanted to be able to have a structure which, in due course, can involve the coastal communities to some extent and will enable the Trust to source funding from the widest possible range of sources.

*What are the Purposes?* Clearly the development and management of the coastal path is our primary purpose and this will be our priority. But the Trust intends to extend its activities into: Heritage and Culture; People and Communities; Recreation, Health and Wellbeing (this includes the path itself); Environmental Conservation, Protection and Improvement; Education; Charitable and Economic.

*Who are the Trustees?* The Lords Lieutenant of Kincardineshire; Aberdeenshire and Banffshire who were behind this latest iteration of the coastal path, have persuaded 7 volunteers to take on the role of Board Member of the Trust. They come from the four main stretches of the path: Kincardineshire (2), Aberdeen City (1), Aberdeenshire (2) and Banffshire (2).

*Community Engagement:* While the Board of Trustees will start off as a single tier Trust with a Board and a CEO, it is hoped that it might be able to extend to two tier, which means that there can be some level of involvement of various stakeholders such as the various coastal communities and other agencies.

### **Path Development north of Aberdeen**

Great work is being done by our colleagues in the north of the shire with significant progress being made on stretches between Cullen and Fraserburgh. We, on the Kincardineshire section, enjoy an ever closer relationship with Peter and Murray, who are Environmental Planning Officers with Aberdeenshire Council. Peter (who played a central role in setting up the Hebridean Way) has a specific role engaging with the coastal communities in the north of the county to encourage them towards taking a role in the development and management of the coastal path in their area. Murray is an EPO in the Kincardineshire and Mearns area. Both have continued to be incredibly supportive of our work in the south. Our relationship with Peter and Murray can only be strengthened by the formation of the Trust.

### **Volunteering**

We are actively looking for volunteers to help with the development, maintenance and management of the Path. Our hope is that this project will focus on Community use and engagement. To this end, we are keen to recruit a number of volunteers to help with the following:

- a. Path Ranger - to undertake to walk a local (to you) section of the path to keep an eye on the use and condition of the path and share observations and concerns with the Project Officers.
- b. Path development and maintenance volunteers - to join in with volunteer days when we will work on remedial work. The evolving path will need work on various stretches and,

especially after storms and high tides - very topical - we will need to work on any damage.

- c. Behind the scenes - there will be a need for help with a whole range of things: writing press pieces and guides etc; collating the huge range of cultural, historical, environmental and geographical material we are already receiving from people along the coastal communities.
- d. And, I have little doubt, other, as yet unforeseen, activities.

Thank you very much for the many offers of support which we have already received from up and down our coastal communities, it is much appreciated. And, of course, many thanks to all of you who are already active, largely with maintenance work.

Should you be keen to volunteer, please do not hesitate to make contact with me, James Ferrier, or Caspar Lampkin via [platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com](mailto:platinumjubileecoastalpath@gmail.com) We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Mill of Benholm Enterprises**

We were delighted to be invited to the formal handover of the keys, the Asset Transfer, from Aberdeenshire Council to the Mill of Benholm Enterprises on 8th June.

We are very pleased to be supporting MoBE ([Mill of Benholm](#)) who are close neighbours of ours. There is a well established path running from the coastal path near Johnshaven up to the Mill of Benholm and it is just such coastal enterprises that we want to connect with as it will undoubtedly be of significant mutual benefit to both organisations.

### **Nature Scot**

As part of the development of the route we have been in discussion with Nature Scot regarding our responsibilities towards the natural environment along the coast. There are two National Nature Reserves (St Cyrus and Forvie) and numerous SSSI's as well as other designations along the 140 miles of the proposed route.

### **Johnshaven Primary School**

We have had two really productive meetings with the Head Teacher of Johnshaven Primary School, who is really keen to incorporate the coastal path and its educational opportunities into the school's plans. It is essential to the sustainability of the path that we engage as much as we can with the young people who live in the coastal communities; this project is, after all, a legacy for future generations to enjoy and develop.

With this in mind, we have also been in contact with the Air Cadets and hope to make similar contact with the Sea and Army Cadets.

### **Other potential connections**

We have also been in contact with a number of diverse bodies as we try to ensure that we meet all our obligations to all stakeholders and agencies who are connected to this project. These include: HM Coast Guard, Aberdeenshire Ranger Service, the Railway Paths Group, Sustrans, the RSPB, East Grampian Coastal Partnership. We see it as essential that we develop and maintain a strong, constructive relationship with all these organisations as we progress towards making this path a reality right around our Aberdeenshire coastline.