

Action!

A lot's going on to improve access to the outdoors and encourage more sustainable travel. This newsletter summarises the key projects underway.

Monitoring implementation of access legislation :

Every 6 months the Scottish Executive asks local authorities to provide monitoring information on what they're doing to implement the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. You can access the results here.

<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Countryside/16328/corepaths>

The key points for Aberdeen are that since this monitoring began in 2005, the total length of waymarked paths in the City has risen from 51 miles to 64 miles.

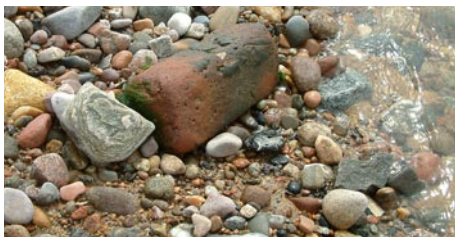
Last financial year (April 06 – March 07), Aberdeen City Council spent around £508,000 on path projects. Most of this funding came from the Scottish Executive for Sustrans projects, City Growth Fund, Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) and NESTRANS.

Some of the projects this money funded include:

River Don Path

A study into creating a new off-road, high quality path was completed in 2005. £225,000 has been obtained for this year from Sustrans for implementing some sections of the route. Further funding is being sought for the rest of it.

Following full implementation of this route, it will be possible to walk / cycle / ride all the way from Seaton (Aberdeen Beach) to Dyce, and on to Fraserburgh or Peterhead.



Aberdeen to Westhill Cycle Path

NESTRANS has provided £338,000 for the construction of most of the route from Aberdeen (Hazlehead) to Kingswells. The work is due to start in October and be complete by March 2008.

North Sea Trail

Signs and interpretation panels have been installed along the route and sections of the paths have been upgraded. Although the initial North Sea Trail (Nortrail) project has now concluded, a possible European sequel is being considered, which will focus more on the economic opportunities of the route.

Safe Routes to School

Around five paths were created or improved for encouraging children to walk or cycle to school last year.

River Dee Path

Work has been underway to reinstate public use of the Wellington Suspension Bridge. Initial design has been carried out for creating a high specification path between Torry and Robert Gordon's University, Garthdee.

Deeside Way

A Promotion and Marketing Plan is currently being developed jointly between Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorm National Park Authority, Scottish Enterprise Grampian and Sustrans. This will complement the £350,000 invested to enhance the route in the City over the past few years.

Kingswells to Bucksburn

An initial design and feasibility study is being commissioned currently to create a new off-road, high quality path between Kingswells and Bucksburn. The consultants will carry out consultation with stakeholders and recommend a route and specification.

The path will mean that children from Kingswells, zoned to the new Bucksburn Community School, will be able to cycle or walk to and from school.

March Stones Trail

The final leaflet in the current series of Heritage Trail leaflets has recently been published. We've also recently re-printed most of the earlier ones due to their continuing popularity. Over 200,000 Trail leaflets have been picked up by residents and visitors since 2005.



Explore Aberdeen

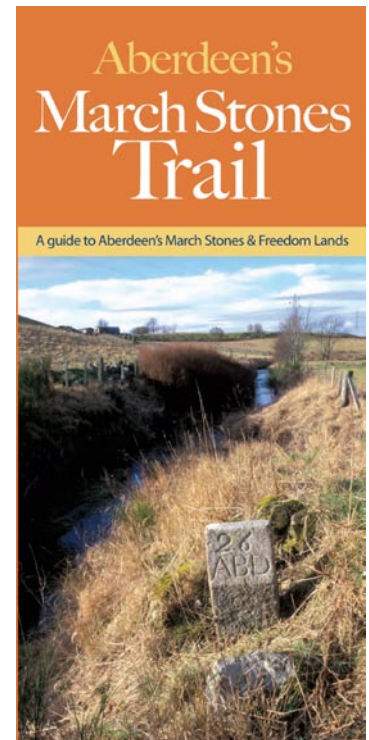
is a project being set up to deliver a range of access projects. The partnership between bodies like Aberdeen Countryside Project, Scottish Natural Heritage, Aberdeen City Council and others will mean that priority projects can be agreed, funded and implemented in a joined-up and co-ordinated way. Funding of £70,000 has been approved from Aberdeen City Council's City Growth Fund so far.

Fresh face

The full time, permanent Planner (Access) post is due to be advertised any day now as part of a major Planning and Infrastructure Service recruitment campaign. Filling this position will mean that you'll see much more happening on access, more path projects and things like the Core Paths Plan happening faster.

Health Walks

A Health Walks Co-ordinator has recently been employed jointly by NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City and Shire Councils to encourage walking for health.



Strategic Leadership Planning & Infrastructure

Aberdeen City Council
St Nicholas House
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1BW

Phone: 01224 523316
E-mail: PI@aberdeencity.gov.uk

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk