

# **Platinum Jubilee Coastal Path Kincardineshire**

## **Update**

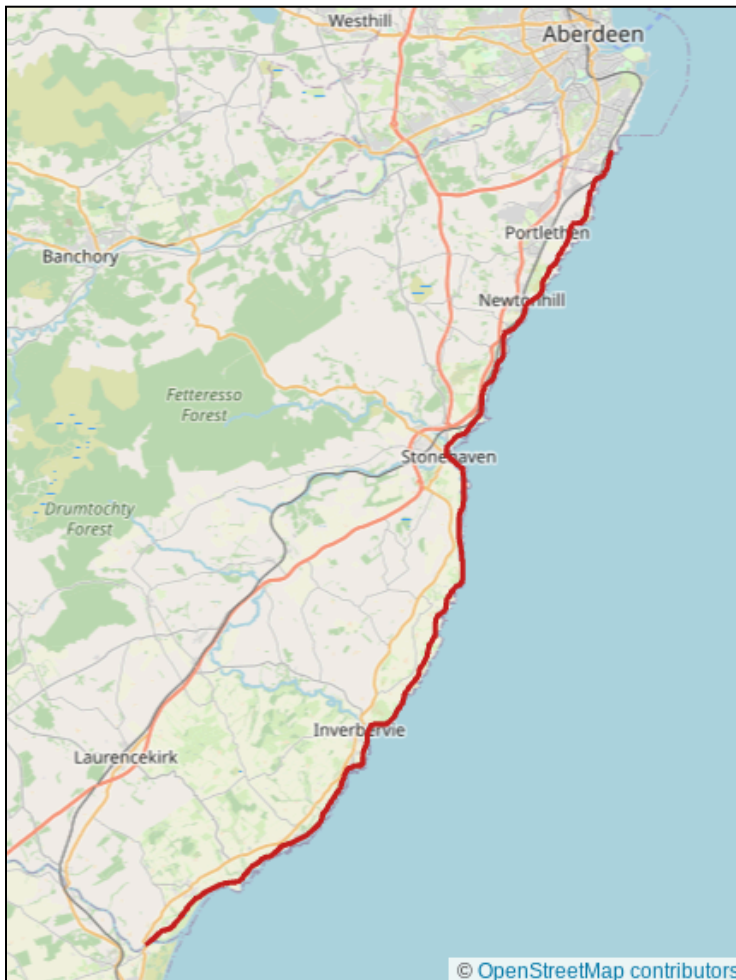
**Winter 2024/2025**

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...**



Now that we have walked the entire coastline from the River North Esk to Cove, we are now mainly concerned with fine tuning various sections. This largely amounts to agreeing route variations with landowners and then, of course, matching them up with the needs of neighbouring landowners.

We have been fortunate to have the help of some of our growing volunteer group in developing a route between Muchalls and Findon. The autumn storms and winter freeze have tried to hamper our efforts but we managed a couple of good day's exploration.

Read on for more news ....

## **Volunteer Days**

We have had a few Volunteer Days with our growing number of volunteers and we now have a What'sApp group keeping us all connected. The group has been proactive not only with essential path maintenance but in helping actively with route finding; landowner connections and the wider cultural and environmental insight which will help to enrich this project.

### **A couple of recent outings in 2025**



The northern group of volunteers braved the early January freeze and explored a possible route from Downies northwards to Findon Moss. Local knowledge is invaluable when seeking our possible

routes which provide an enjoyable and rewarding coastal experience and connecting with local points of interest and amenities.

The following weekend saw a small group from the southern section out doing winter maintenance: vegetation clearance; drain management and removing storm debris. This time just south of Johnshaven around Cove Hill.

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)



## **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:

- 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.
- 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 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.

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.

## **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, please email us.

## **Charitable Trust**

The formation of a charitable trust (North East Scotland Coastal Trust or NESCOLT) has been a major focus of our attention in recent months. In many respects, this takes the development of the whole path project to a new level. We will, of course, continue to develop the actual route; speak and listen to landowners and users, local communities and other stakeholders and develop our growing cohort of volunteers. The Trust will bring together the various regional path groups; provide governance; oversee financial matters including fundraising; develop the project's PR and Communications and provide direction as we explore the wider Aims and Purposes. It is expected that a CEO, who will act as a conduit between the Board of Trustees and the groups working on the paths and with the communities and volunteers, will be sought and appointed when the Trust is formed and the funds permit.



The application for charitable status was submitted to the regulator in early December and we hope to have some positive news on that in the early Spring. The Board comprises a Convenor and, currently, 7 Trustees (which include the Secretary and the Treasurer) drawn from Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire and Banffshire. The Trust will continue to work closely with Aberdeenshire Council and a range of other individuals and organisations.

### **New Project Officer**

As the project has continued to develop almost exponentially, the number, range and variety of tasks have grown and it was clear that another Project Officer would be required. We have been fortunate to have found someone well placed to meet the needs of this diverse role. Luke brings with him several years experience of project management, fundraising and managing stakeholder relationships on a range of environmental projects across the World. He is from an Aberdeenshire farming family (in which he remains active). And he has walked solo to the South Pole. All these attributes will surely contribute very positively to the coastal path project (and make me feel very inadequate!). His work will initially be for a fixed term with a plan, if mutually agreeable and funds permitting, to extend. His remit will be diverse: path development; funding applications; developing a project management database; undertaking a socio-economic impact survey (essential for fundraising) and more. Welcome Luke!

### **Fundraising**

Luke will be assisting Charis and Ali, who bring with them a career in fundraising as part of the previous careers in academic medicine (the principles around funding applications remain the same even if the context is different). This team will continue to explore suitable sources for the various levels and types of funding which will be needed:

1. Path Development and Maintenance: necessarily ad hoc applications as different elements of the project reach the point when funds for path work are needed.
2. Project Management: long term funding to enable and secure the management of the project through to the point where it is self-funding.
3. Securing a sustainable funding source derived entirely from the operation of the Trust.

The fundraising team will explore a range of funding options including on- and off- shore energy and energy transition organisations; the Heritage Lottery Fund and a host of other local and regional funds.

### **Long Distance Trail Forum**

We have established a closer working relationship with the LDTF which is a forum, facilitated by Nature Scot, which brings together a wide range of path organisations from across Scotland, of which there are many. From this we are hoping to be working closely with, in particular, other new, coastal, independently funded paths and sharing experiences and best practice. The John o'Groats Trail, the South West Scotland Coastal Way, the Ayrshire Coastal Path; the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and our Trust will meet to support and share experiences and ideas.