

**Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan
Consultation Draft
(June to September 2009)**

**Settlement and Route
Information**

**(for use with Main Consultation
Document/Area and Settlement Maps)**

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Background to the use of the Settlement and Route Information

The aim of the Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan is to ensure that there is at least one path for settlements with a population over 100 (2006 population statistics). The focus on routes close to settlements provides access for the largest numbers of people and has the added benefit of encouraging more physical activity, which in turn improves health and discourages car use for shorter journeys.

The current population of Aberdeenshire is 241,460 (June 2007). The total length of the proposed core paths, including an estimate for indicative new routes, is 771 kilometres of paths and tracks.

There are a number of proposed Core Paths that extend beyond the boundaries of the Settlement Maps and/or are routes such as Long Distance Routes that are part of the proposed Core Paths Network and which are not specific to individual settlements. Sections of proposed Core Paths falling outwith the settlement maps are shown on the Area Maps. The route information relating to Area Maps is listed below.

Additional routes added since the 1st Informal Consultative Draft Plan are shaded in grey and routes that have been removed from the Plan as a result of the 1st Consultation responses are now in italics.

Long Distance Routes – (Extend over more than one Area)

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
7LD.01	North Sea Trail - Coastal Path	Also known as the NORTRAIL. This Coastal Path extends from St Cyrus in the south up the east coast up to Fraserburgh and then west to Cullen. Not all the route is currently in place but development of this route will continue, where possible, over the next few years to create a continuous route round the coast of Aberdeenshire. Some sections of this route are only suitable for pedestrian use.	146.0
7LD.02	Deeside Way	This route is also currently under development and the sections from the City boundary to Banchory and Aboyne to Ballater are in place. The current focus is to identify a route to complete the missing link between Banchory and Aboyne. Route is suitable for all user types.	22.0
7LD.03	Formatine and Buchan Way	The Formartine and Buchan Way has provided an important recreational route for north east Aberdeenshire for a number of years. The route runs from Aberdeen City through Ellon and Maud where it splits to a route east to Peterhead and eventually north to Fraserburgh. At present the section from Maud to Brucklay Bridge is undeveloped, awaiting finalisation of agreements with neighbouring landowners. Route is	84.0

		suitable for all user types.	
7LD.04	Gordon Way	The Gordon Way runs west to east across central Aberdeenshire from Suie Hill to the Bennachie Centre at Chapel of Garioch. It is hoped to extend this route in the future to Huntly and Inverurie. Some sections of this route are only suitable for pedestrian use.	17.0
NCN.01 (1 in red square on settlement maps)	National Cycle Network Route 1	This is part of the Sustrans Network running the length of the East Coast of Scotland.	178.0

Water Access Points (blue arrows)

Water Access Point	Description	Grid Ref	Comments
Marr			
Dee –Aboyne 8WA.01	Opposite Boat Inn north east side of the Bridge	NO 52426 98016	Voluntary code not to park vehicles in front of Boat Inn
Dee – Potarch 8WA.02	From north east bank – parking in lay-by at Potarch Bridge	NO 60818 97445	Within SSSI – Park in layby to west of bridge road.
Dee – Red Tractor 8WA.03	From north bank – parking in lay-by east of Potarch (with Red Tractor)	NO 61500 96400	
Dee – Banchory 8WA.04	From public road north west of Bridge of Dee	NO 69700 95317	Vehicles tend to park at Scout hut. Need drop off point at roadside and steps from river.
Feugh – Feughside 8WA.05	From picnic area opposite Feughside Inn on south bank of Feugh	NO 64229 92360	
Don – Alford 8WA.06	Haughton Country Park - South bank	NJ 582172	Access via caravan site so drop off craft and park in Country Park Car Park
Don – Alford 8WA.07	Bridge of Alford – North west bank from bridge	NJ 55947 17118	Access via fishers path
Don - Brux	Access just off A944 at	NJ 49113	Access via Burn

junction 8WA.08	junction with minor road	18512	not Don riverbank
Deveron – Huntly 8WA.09	From parking area at junction of A920 and Glass road	NJ 48733 40626	
Deveron – Huntly 8WA.10	From layby next to Gibston Bridge north west of Huntly	NJ 51758 40802	
Kin & Mearns			
Dee – Park 8WA.11 (if included)	Park Bridge north east of bridge – 200m downstream via football park	NO 79714 98338	
Garioch			
Don – Inverurie 8WA.12	From Port Elphinstone playing field south west of bridge	NJ 77533 20583	
Don – Burnherve 8WA.13	From car park downstream of Shakkin Brig	NJ 73533 19017	
Don – Kemnay 8WA.14	From Alehousewells riverside/	NJ 72502 16600	
8WA.15	south west of Kemnay Bridge – sewage works	NJ 72887 16811	

Cross Border Routes

Path Ref.	Path Name	Area	Other LA	Comments (if any)
7CB.01	Crannoch Hill, Cullen	Banff & Buchan	Moray	Short section requested by Moray Council to complete route on their Plan.
7CB.02	Link from village to Tyrebagger [Caskieben]	Garioch	City	Agreed with City. (CP 1) Blackburn - Kirkhill Forest
7CB.03	Westhill to Aberdeen (cycle path)	Garioch	City	Agreed with City. (CP 91) Aberdeen – Westhill.
7CB 04	Westhill to Brimmond Hill Path Network	Garioch	City	New proposed link to City. Line of route still to be identified

7CB.05	Viaduct Montrose to St Cyrus	Kincardine & Mearns	Angus	Crossing viaduct and joining NCN 1
7CB.06	Edzell to Edzell Woods	Kincardine & Mearns	Angus	Agreed with Angus Council
7CB.07	Deeside Way, Aboyne to Dinnet	Marr	CNPA	Extends to Ballater and included in CNPA Plan
7CB.08	The Burn, Edzell	Kincardine & Mearns	Angus	Agreed with Angus Council
7CB.09	The Fungle	Marr	Angus	Requested by Angus and local community (BCT). Route at Birse Castle currently subject to discussion with landowners and may change as a result
7CB.10	Coastal Path Blackdog	Formartine	City	City (CP 18) North Sea Trail (North).
7CB.11	Coastal Path Cullen	Banff & Buchan	Moray	Coastal Path - Cullen
7CB.12	Formartine & Buchan Way	Garioch	City	City (CP 5) F&B Way

Information relating to

Area Maps

This section details routes that are only found on the Area Maps and also highlights settlements that are lacking in proposed Core Paths or have aspirational routes listed in Section 5 of the main Consultation Draft Plan.

The population allocations are based on 2006 Local Plan figures and so it is appreciated that due to the extent of new housing development in Aberdeenshire in recent years these figures will be dated.

Buchan Area

Auchnagatt – (Population 108). A former station village, Auchnagatt is conveniently situated on the Formartine and Buchan Way within easy cycling distance of Maud and Ellon. The proposed path on the Old Aberdeen Road, with a proposed path on the A948 verge, will facilitate a circular route.

Auchnagatt: Proposed Core Paths			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
201.01	Old Aberdeen Road	Part of circular route with 201.02	0.4
201.02	A948 verge	Part of circular route with 201.01	0.3

Forest of Deer Paths - The paths in Forest of Deer lie between Mintlaw, Fetterangus and Strichen, and have the potential to contribute to links between these communities, as well as being popular routes in their own right. Parts of these routes can be found on Map 16 Mintlaw and Fetterangus.

Forest of Deer: Proposed Core Paths			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
205.02	Drinnie's & Loudon Woods	Southerly loop with access to Observatory and stone circle	3.8
205.03	Race course	Link to White Cow Wood	4.4
205.04	White Cow Wood	Circular route with car park	5.3

Maud: Proposed Core Path			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
209.01	Clackriach path	Link to Formartine and Buchan Way creating circular route	1.0

Formartine Area

Tipperty – (Population 154) is a settlement that is unfortunately split by the A90 and is surrounded by agricultural land. The Community Council have been consulted but to date no routes have been identified for this settlement.

Ythanbank – (Population 120) is a linear settlement to the north east of Ellon there is a range of informal routes in the area and the community have been active in creating a picnic area at the riverside where the footbridge crosses the River Ythan.

Ythanbank - Proposed Core Paths			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
316.01	Bridge link to Craigmuir Wood	The key to this route is the footbridge over the River Ythan that links the settlement with Craigmuir Wood and on to Haddo Country Park.	0.5

Garioch Area

Bennachie provides a rich wider network of paths for users with proposed Core Path entry points at Auchleven, Inch and Oyne, each of which are also provided with at least one circular path proposal, whilst the Gordon Way links the Bennachie Range into Marr.

There is a further proposed new link with Aberdeen City, as route 7CB.04 between Westhill and CP 34 Brimmond Paths.

No paths were identified in Sauchen at the time of the 1st publication but there are ongoing investigations over links between Sauchen and Cluny School. One route has since been identified to the west of the village. This is only shown on the Area Map.

Sauchen – Proposed Core Paths			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
417.01	Former Sauchen Farm to A944	Linear route using track from western edge of village to A944	1.8

The path from Comers to Midmar Primary (413.01) does not appear on any of the detailed maps but provides a link between a settlement and school and provides a starting point for burnside walks.

Comers – Midmar - Proposed Core Paths			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
413.01	Comers to Midmar Primary	Route between settlement of Comers and Midmar School. Part constructed track and part tarmac. Would facilitate access to paths along the side of the burn. Suitable for multiuse and suitable for all abilities in part.	0.87

Kincardine and Mearns Area

Catterline (Population 115) A small conservation village lying on the coast between Stonehaven and Inverbervie. Continuation of the long distance promoted Coastal Path north and south of the village is aspirational

Catterline - Proposed Core Paths			
Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (m)
502.01	Harbour Road	Quiet road from clifftop village to harbour	0.28

Roadside of Kinneff - (Population 168) A small settlement on the main A92 Stonehaven to Montrose road. No routes were identified during the 2006 consultation process and none has been identified to date. Provision of a safe route to the primary school to the east is aspirational.

Information relating to

Settlement Maps

Banff and Buchan

Map 1 – Portsoy and surrounding area

This area is dominated by the coast to the north and agricultural land inland. Of the settlements on this map, Portsoy is the largest (pop.1678) while Sandend (pop.266) and Fordyce (pop. 149) are considerably smaller.

The proposed core paths for Portsoy and Sandend are dominated by coastal routes as these are the most popular and heavily used. In Portsoy the old railway line is also popular and provides an alternative through agricultural land. Sandend has a large sandy beach which is a popular attraction and also provides good access to the sea for surfers and kayakers. Fordyce is 1¼ miles inland and the route proposed here links the village to the coast in the north.

Durn Hill is a prominent feature lying between Portsoy and Fordyce. There is an informal access from the Portsoy side of the hill however there is no link from there over to Fordyce so a longer term project would be to develop this.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
7LD.01	Coastal Path	This is part of the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path. This section links Portsoy and Sandend with Cullen (in Moray). Managed by the Council, it is a very popular tourism resource. Although small sections are suitable for all abilities, overall it is ideally only suitable for walkers.	See long Distance Routes
105.01	Fordyce - Sandend	Route through agricultural land linking Fordyce to the coast. Follows a right of way in part, then roadside paths. Part maintained by the Council it provides an alternative off road link between the villages.	2.76
113.01	Portsoy railway line	Existing paths along old railway line. Suitable in part for all abilities.	1.67
7CB.01	Crannoch Hill	This has been included at the request of Moray Council as it is a small section of a route in their area which is being proposed as a Core Path.	0.75
7LD.01 (new)	Coastal Path to Whitehills	New path required between Boyne Bay and Whitehills. Agreement in place with landowner.	
NCN.01	National Cycle Network Route 1	Mainly on-road cycle route through Aberdeenshire that passes through Portsoy and Fordyce.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 2 – Banff & Macduff

The population of Banff is 3831 and Macduff is slightly smaller with a population of 3744.

Access in this area is concentrated on the coast, which is the main attraction. Walks inland from Duff House are also well used and Temple of Venus on Hill of Doune is also a popular focal point for visitors and locals. The beach at Boyndie Bay (between Banff and Whitehills) provides good access to the sea for surfing and kayaking. The suggested Core Paths for this area are a mixture of coastal and woodland routes

Currently there is no coastal path link between Macduff and Gardenstown. It is proposed to start investigating the feasibility of developing this.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
102.01	Bridge of Alvah circular, Banff	This is a very popular route from Duff House which passes through woodland and agricultural land and is also part of a network of paths within the Wrack Woodlands. It largely comprises constructed track, with some sections of tarmac and a section of grass track. It is suitable for multi-use and much of it would be suitable for all-abilities although some steep gradients and sections of loose stony surface may restrict this.	7.09
102.02	Lusylaw Woods, Banff	This provides a sheltered network of walks at the highest part of Banff which links with quiet minor roads. The paths are unsurfaced which may make them difficult for all abilities use.	1.15
108.01	Hill of Doune, Macduff	The Temple of Venus on top of Hill of Doune is a key focal point in Banff and Macduff. The routes here are popular recreational routes, but also provide an alternative, off-road link between the two towns. The paths are unsurfaced and some sections are very steep which may restrict access.	1.4
108.02	Barnhill, Macduff	This links Macduff with the A947, and also link with the Hill of Doune routes. It comprises some grassy, unsurfaced paths as well as sections of made up track. Although sections can be soft and wet in winter it is suitable for multi-use and has the potential to be an all ability route with some work.	0.9
118.01	West End, Whitehills	This right of way comprises an aggregate surfaced track which was upgraded by the community. It is currently used as a recreational route, but will also form part of the cycleway link to the Ladysbridge development.	0.65

7LD.01	Coastal Path	This is part of the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path and links Banff with Whitehills. This section is made up of stretches of old railway line, tarmac and some sections of constructed track. It is a popular recreational route which is suitable for multi-use and for all abilities. It also provides a safe off-road commuter link between the two settlements.	See long Distance Routes
7LD.01 (new)	Coastal Path to Whitehills	New path required between Boyne Bay and Whitehills. Agreement in place with landowner.	
NCN.01	National Cycle Network Route 1	Mainly on-road cycle route through Aberdeenshire that passes through Banff and Whitehills.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 3 – Gardenstown & surrounding area

This area is characterised by settlements tucked in at the base of steep cliffs, with agricultural land inland. Gardenstown is the largest of the settlements in this area with a population of 753. The small village of Crovie faces Gardenstown across Gamrie Bay while New Aberdour (pop. 329), to the east, is within an agricultural area.

The presence of the steep cliffs makes the development of routes from these settlements very difficult. As a result the routes are largely at the top of the cliffs through agricultural land, but with stunning views of the coastline. The small village of Pennan (pop. 98) is a significant visitor attraction and the coastal path link between Pennan and New Aberdour has been included as a potential Core Path. However it is surrounded by very steep cliffs which has made the identification of additional routes impossible. The new RSPB Reserve at Troup Head is also becoming a significant visitor attraction and links to this require some work.

Currently there is no coastal path link between Macduff and Gardenstown. It is proposed to start investigating the feasibility of developing this as a long term project. Both Cullykhan and the RSPB reserve at Troup Head are popular places for visitors. Developing a link between these two points would also fill in part of a missing section of the coastal path.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
107.01	The Sneuk	This route links the village of Crovie with Gardenstown. It comprises made up path (aggregate and concrete sections) and a section across shingle beach. In winter it can provide the only access between the two settlements.	0.64
107.02	Five Farms	This route was developed by the community as a recreational route. Part of it can be used as a safe off-road link to the RSPB reserve at Troup Head. It is suitable for multi-use although some very steep sections may make it difficult for all abilities use.	4.77
110.01	Mains of New Aberdour	This short track provides an alternative link from New Aberdour to the coast. Although it takes people on to a public road it is a very quiet road with little traffic. It is suitable for multi-use and has the potential to be suitable for all-abilities.	1.01
7LD.01	Coastal Path	This right of way forms part of the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path and links the settlements of Pennan and New Aberdour. Much of it is on farm tracks with a short section along the side of a field.	See long Distance Routes
7LD.01 (new)	Coastal Path	There is an informal path along the coast from Dundarg Castle to Rosehearty. Some sections are maintained by the farmers under the Land Management Contract Menu Scheme. Work is required to negotiate the agreement of owners to upgrade this as a coastal path.	

Map 4 – Rosehearty & Sandhaven

The settlements on this map are on the coast and this is largely reflected in the proposed Core Paths. Rosehearty (pop. 1169) and Sandhaven (pop. 770) are both medium sized villages on the coast, with agricultural land to the south. The proposed Core Paths predominantly comprise links between the two settlements, along the coastal path.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
115.01	Cairnhill	This route is the only way to the village war memorial, making it a key route for this settlement. It comprises predominantly surfaced farm track, with a short, narrow section of grass path. It is suitable for multi-use and has the potential to be an all-abilities route.	0.67
117.01	Corn Roadie	This route provides provides access around the landward side of Sandhaven and links with minor public roads. It is made up of stone/gravel track, with sections of tarmac and is suitable for multi-use.	0.76
7LD.01	Coastal Path	This is part of the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path and links Rosehearty and Sandhaven to Fraserburgh. This section is along the roadside path beside the B9031. Some parts have been upgraded to shared walkway/cycleway standard.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.01 (new)	Coastal Path	There is an informal path along the coast from Dundarg Castle to Rosehearty. Some sections are maintained by the farmers under the Land Management Contract Menu Scheme. Work is required to negotiate the agreement of owners to upgrade this as a coastal path.	

Map 5 – Fraserburgh & St Combs

Fraserburgh is the largest settlement within the Banff and Buchan area with a population of 11974 and has the sea to the north and east. There are three major roads radiating out from the town making it very difficult to identify routes and links that do not involve crossing or using the roads. However the Formartine and Buchan Way multi-use route to Peterhead and Aberdeen starts in Fraserburgh, and Fraserburgh Bay comprises a 2 mile stretch of sandy beach and dunes system, which is a valuable asset for the town. The bay is also very popular for surfing.

To the east lie the small villages of **Cairnbulg, Inverallochy** (joint pop. 1334) and **St Combs**. The Core Paths for these are concentrated on the coast as this is the principal attraction.

It has not been possible at this stage to find links to the countryside west/southwest of Fraserburgh. However, in the longer term any development proposals in this area will be used to try and ensure that links are developed. The Fraserburgh dunes/beach and the Formartine & Buchan Way are both key access areas for Fraserburgh. Currently it is not possible to link the two apart from at Fraserburgh itself.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
106.01	Philorth House	This links the Formartine and Buchan Way to the roadside pavement next to the A90 and provides a good circular walk from Fraserburgh. The route has a good hard surface and, being largely flat, has the potential to be suitable for all-abilities.	1.41
106.02	Watermill	This right of way provides a useful link from the west side of Fraserburgh to the coastal path and Sandhaven. It comprises a firm grass surface over stone.	0.31
106.03	A90 roadside path	Roadside footpath that provides a link from Fraserburgh to Philorth House and allows a circular route to be created when linked to the Formartine and Buchan Way.	1.02
106.04	Boothby Road	Shared use walk/cycleway that has been completed around Boothby Road and provides a safe route around the edge of Fraserburgh for non-motorised use.	3.69
106.05	Marconi Road	This path provides a link from the redevelopment at Marconi Road and the coastal path. It is of shared use/walk/cycle standard.	0.44
7LD.01	Coastal Path	This is part of the Aberdeenshire Coastal Path and links Fraserburgh to Cairnbulg/ Inverallochy and then to St Combs. Part of this route is an unmade path through the sand dunes, the remainder is stone track and tarmac. There are a couple of missing sections within Fraserburgh, however these are the subject of planning applications and are likely to be in place within the period of this plan. There have been requests from the community for a bridge across the	See long Distance Routes

		<p>Philorth at a former fording point. This route has not been included in the plan as no path/bridge currently exists and it is unlikely to be resolved during the period of this plan. Routes from Fraserburgh and Cairnbulg to the Philorth are included. There is an existing bridge crossing at the B9033 which can be reached via a former railway line.</p>	
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Map 6 – Rathen and Memsie

This is predominantly an agricultural area with a scattering of hamlets and several small settlements. Of these Rathen and Memsie are the largest. Access opportunities for these settlements are limited due to the major roads that adjoin or pass through them.

Memsie (pop. 154) is on a crossroads with two busy roads, which limits safe access opportunities that don't require the installation of new roadside paths. The proposed link to Sinclairhills/Witch-hill gives a safe area for access, and in the much longer term could form part of a safe off-road link to Fraserburgh, although this would require a considerable amount of work.

Rathen (pop. 94) is located next to the A92, which limits access opportunities to the west. The routes proposed are from the east/north-east of the village to provide a link to the Formartine and Buchan Way.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
109.01	Sinclairhills	This route provides a link from Memsie to Sinclairhills/Witch-hill, and gives safe access to a wider network of paths within these woods. It comprises a grass/stone track and would be suitable for multi-use.	1.48
114.01	Gallows Hill	This track gives safe off-road access from Rathen towards the Formartine and Buchan Way. A short stretch of minor public road is also used. The majority of the route is a sand/stone farm track, part of which is currently maintained under the Land Management Contract Menu Scheme.	1.62
114.02 (new)	Hill of Concraigs	This route would provide a more direct link to the Formartine and Buchan Way from Rathen. There is evidence of this route on the ground; however it is impassable in sections due to gorse which would require to be cleared or bypassed. Sections of this route are maintained under the Land Management Contract Menu Scheme.	

Map 7 – Aberchirder and Cornhill

This is an agricultural area of farms and crofts with relatively few settlements. **Aberchirder** (pop. 1103) and **Cornhill** (pop. 228) are the only settlements of any size within this area. Although they are surrounded by agricultural land, both communities have woodland adjoining them, and the suggested Core Paths are therefore concentrated in this as it provides safe off-road access.

The Moss Road in Aberchirder is a historic route where access is now difficult. The community are keen to see this re-opened, however Aberchirder already has good access opportunities and there are other settlements nearby with virtually no routes available so this has to be a lower priority however it can be investigated as project with the community and considered in future versions of the plan.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
101.01	Cleanhill Woods	This is a mature community woodland managed and maintained in partnership by the local Community Association and the Council. It is a very popular area, particularly for walkers although it does also get some equestrian use.	1.8
101.02	Little Haven/ Quarryhill	This is a young plantation next to village which is very well used by locals. Currently maintained under the Land Management Contract Menu Scheme, and was previously included in the Forestry Commission "Walkers Welcome" scheme. The paths within the wood are unsurfaced, being strimmed routes. Several soft boggy areas may not make this a suitable route for horses in wet conditions.	2.21
104.01	Silverhillocks, Cornhill	Owned by Cornhill Community Association this woodland contains very basic earth paths. There is some evidence of work to create burn crossings, however the area is in need of work to upgrade and improve the paths and create a better facility for the village.	1.03

Map 8 – New Byth & Cuminestown

These settlements are within an area dominated by agriculture. Their layout in relation to the main roads coming in to them makes safe access to the countryside more difficult.

At **New Byth** (pop. 247) there are no particular areas such as woodlands or railway lines where access is generally taken. As a result the routes proposed largely utilise quiet farm tracks near to the village. An old track within the village, which has become overgrown, is also suggested.

Cuminestown (pop. 432) to Garmond is considered the most important link to establish as a Core Paths options are to use quiet roads and shelter belts of Auchry Home Farm. The Sustrans National Cycle Network runs through the village.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
111.01	Blackhill, New Byth	This route is largely on farm tracks, with a short section along the side of a field. It provides a good recreational loop from New Byth	2.62
111.02 <i>Removed</i>	<i>Redburn, New Byth</i>	<i>A longer loop from the village, this route comprises quiet minor public road and farm tracks. It provides very good views over the village</i>	2.14
111.02	New Byth Village	This is a short route around the outskirts of the village. The track is currently overgrown with vegetation, however it could be brought back into usable condition relatively easily and has the potential to be an all-ability route due to the easy gradient.	0.48
303.01 (new)	Cuminestown to Garmond	Part of this route uses existing tracks through Auchry Home Farm linked by minor road from Cuminestown. However to establish the complete route a new section of path will need to be established along the public road to Garmond.	1.0 plus new section
NCN.01	National Cycle Network Route 1	The section from Maud to Turriff that passes through Cuminestown is all on-road	See Long Distance Routes

Buchan

Map 9 – New Pitsligo

Population 1033. One of the larger historic “planned villages” of the north-east. Scope for minor improvements to existing, well-established recreational paths network which affords views of the surrounding countryside of hills, fields and woodlands.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
213.01	Turlundie	Pleasant circular trackway round Turlundie Hill on west side of village with good views and three access points from village.	1.8
213.02	Den path	Tarred path crossing wooded den near the centre of the village. Links two parts of village.	0.25
213.03	Duncan’s Brae	Interconnected trackways linking with east side of village. Drainage improvement necessary at one location. Proposed core path includes new road verge path sections.	2.0

Map 10 – New Leeds

Population 110. Historic planned village in quiet farmland setting just off A952. There is long-term interest in a path link to Mormond Hill which dominates the northward view from the village. In the shorter-term the village would benefit from a local circular route.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
212.01	A952 path	New path on west verge of A952, linking to quiet road.	0.4
212.02	North Lane	Existing lane leading to quiet road	0.3

Map 11 - Strichen

Population 958. 18th-century historic “planned village” situated at the foot of Mormond Hill with its White Horse landmark. The proposed core paths will extend and consolidate the existing local paths network, and also include the Formartine and Buchan Way (F&BW) which links the village to Maud in the south and Fraserburgh in the north. There is local interest in the possibility of re-establishing a route over Mormond Hill, recalling the historic “Coffin Route”, which may be investigated in the longer-term future. A link to the Forest of Deer is also noted as an “aspirational route”, as this would provide a continuous paths network from Strichen to Mintlaw.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
218.01	White Horse & Hunters Lodge	Popular route through grazing land to the White Horse (a stone hill figure) and Hunters Lodge, on the western end of Mormond Hill.	2.7
218.02	Link to F&BW at Council Depot	Existing convenient link from south end of village to the Formartine and Buchan Way.	0.60
218.03	Wateringstone	Local circular route enhanced by proposed link to paths 218.01 and 218.04.	1.3
218.04	Hunters Lodge via Newseat	Completes a circuit with 218.01 via the Old Strichen Road and a track to Hunters Lodge.	3.1
218.05	Link to F&BW at Community Park	Will provide a formal, shared-use link at a location where there is a desire to access the Community Park from the F&BW, and vice versa.	0.50
218.06	Strichen Mains	Completes a circuit with the F&BW, to which it is linked by a path ramp constructed during earlier development of the local paths network.	2.6
218.07	Stone Circle	Access to stone circle from local quiet road and Formartine and Buchan Way.	0.5
7LD.03	F&BW north to Fraserburgh	Part of long-distance shared-use path.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.03	F&BW south to Maud	Part of long-distance shared-use path.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 12 – Crimond and St Combs

Crimond (pop. 785) lies within a predominantly agricultural area with limited opportunities for access, although the RSPB reserve at Loch of Strathbeg is only a mile from the village. The A90 trunk road splits the village which restricts safe access opportunities.

No routes for the village were identified from the public consultation workshops, therefore contact was made with the Community Council for their input. From this a key route identified as making a significant improvement to access opportunities in the village was a roadside link along the A90 from the Millhill junction to the existing roadside path. This would allow greater use to be made of the network of quiet roads to the north east of the village towards Loch of Strathbeg and the old cemetery.

The proposals include a revised route for the Coastal Path, bringing it closer to Old Rattray. The route of the Coastal Path will be defined on the Back Bar section between Rattray and the historic fishing village of St Combs, situated at the north end of the RSPB Loch of Strathbeg Reserve.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
203.01 (new)	Millhill roadside link	New path along the edge of the field. It will provide an important link between the Millhill road junction and the existing roadside path.	0.38
7LD.01	Coastal Path	Part of long-distance path, via beach from St Fergus Gas Terminal to Rattray Head, thence inland of dunes to St Combs via Back Bar.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 13 –Boddam and Longhaven

Boddam, population 1192, has a strong fishing heritage and today has a seafood processing industry. Granite quarrying has been an important local industry on nearby Stirling Hill. The village also functions as a residential area for nearby Peterhead. The existing path over Stirling Hill is a proposed core path.

Longhaven is a small roadside settlement on the A90, with nearby granite quarrying. Nearby sea cliffs and old quarries are a popular rock-climbing venue. The proposals will improve links between the Coastal Path and the A90.

Both settlements are located on or near the Coastal Path.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
202.01	Stirling Hill	A scenic walk combining extensive views, quarrying interest and farmland.	2.9
<i>202.02 Removed</i>	<i>Hill of Sandford</i>	<i>Access to the Flint Mines, with a proposed footpath connection to path 202.01 at the Den.</i>	1.2
202.02	Lendrum Terrace link	Access to 202.01 from Lendrum Terrace	0.5
202.03	Sandford Bay link	Link between path 215.04 and shore at Sandford Bay.	0.5
207.01	Link to Coastal Path	Links settlement and bus route to coast. This will benefit local residents and visiting rock-climbers.	0.8
<i>207.02 Removed</i>	<i>Link to Bullers of Buchan</i>	<i>New southward route partly utilising the dismantled Ellon – Boddam railway line.</i>	1.1
207.03 (also on Map 22)	Bullers of Buchan Car Park link	Existing link from Car Park, much used by visitors. Also functions as access road to settlement at the Bullers.	0.1
7LD.01	Coastal Path north to Peterhead	Part of long-distance path, via rocky shoreline and beach at Sandford Bay to Lido and centre of Peterhead.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.01	Coastal Path Boddam – Longhaven	Part of long-distance path, with dramatic cliff scenery.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.01	Coastal Path Longhaven – Bullers of Buchan	Part of long-distance path, with granite-quarrying heritage, clifftop heathland, and dramatic cliffs.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 14 – New Deer

Population 616. Historic “planned village” in farming countryside, well-known for its annual agricultural show. Nearby Culsh Monument gives excellent views over Buchan. Opportunities for off-road paths are limited.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
211.01	Kirk Walk & Culsh circular	Short circular route from village, passing Recreation Ground. Partly on proposed road verge footway.	2.1
211.02	Culsh Monument link	Proposed road verge path from village to Cemetery and Culsh Monument	0.6

Map 15 - Longside

Population 821. A historic but expanding settlement near the South Ugie Water on the main road west from Peterhead. Situated beside the Formartine and Buchan Way long-distance path. The proposed improvements to path 208.01 will provide a roadside path route from the new school on the south side of the village to the popular Harvest Hill path, and also a complete path route from the village to the Cemetery.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
208.01	Harvest Hill	Existing route through fields around west side of village. Proposed new verge and field-edge path on section between village and Cemetery.	1.7
208.02	Link to Station Terrace	New link with F&BW to benefit equestrian users by avoiding low underpass.	0.30
7LD.03	F&BW east to Peterhead	Part of existing long-distance path with potential for encouraging its use as a commuting route for cyclists.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.03	F&BW west to Mintlaw	Part of existing long-distance path, linking to shops at Mintlaw and onward to Aden Country Park.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 16 – Mintlaw & Fetterangus

Mintlaw (population 2632) is an expanding settlement, with its own Academy, within a short drive of Peterhead and Fraserburgh and within commuting distance of Aberdeen. It is set amid attractive wooded countryside of estates, farms and smaller villages. It is served by the Formartine & Buchan Way long-distance path, with a variety of interconnecting paths, and lies adjacent to Aden Country Park, to which direct path links are currently under construction or at the advanced planning stage.

Fetterangus (population 425) is a “planned village” near the extensive Forest of Deer woodlands. The community has waymarked several local paths in conjunction with landowners, and hopes to continue this work.

The proposed core paths utilise some existing routes and also seek to improve path links between Mintlaw and Fetterangus.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
205.01	Green Roadie	Alternative route west from Fetterangus, avoiding part of the direct road towards the Forest of Deer.	0.3
205.02	Drinnie's & Loudon Woods	Forest of Deer route with access to Observatory viewing tower and a stone circle.	3.8
205.03	Race Course	Forest of Deer route linking to White Cow Wood from Fetterangus direction .	4.4
205.05	Fetterangus - Mintlaw	Link between settlements, largely off-road along field-edges.	1.3
210.01	Mintlaw - Aden	Link under construction from Mintlaw Academy and north side of Mintlaw to Aden Country Park and F&BW.	0.4
210.02	Nether Aden Road	Link from south side of Mintlaw to Aden Country Park.	2.3
210.03	Aden – Old Deer	Link from Old Deer to South Ugie Water and Aden Country Park (unsuitable for equestrian use).	0.4
210.04	Twin Lodges	Shared-use link from south to Aden Country Park.	0.8
210.05	Aden south wood	Off-road route parallel to Nether Aden Road. Continuation of 210.02, improving existing route and subject to integration with woodland design plan.	1.0
210.06	Balring	A popular existing route forming a circular route with F&BW; and used by local residents for links to Mintlaw.	1.7
210.07	Links to F&BW near Dunshilloch	Links to F&BW which, when combined with each other, avoid narrow bridge on public road which pedestrians would otherwise have to use	0.2

210.08	Chapelpark	Link from Mintlaw to Forest of Deer path 205.02, largely off-road.	2.1
210.09	Link to F&BW from Cartlehaugh path	“Missing link” accessing F&BW via road verge and field edge from local woodland path.	0.2
214.01	Link to F&BW from Old Deer	Existing path on glebe land. Important link established by local Community Association and the only safe and convenient route from Old Deer to the F&BW.	See Map 17
7LD.03	F&BW east to Longside	Part of long-distance path, continuing beyond Longside to Peterhead.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.03	F&BW west to Maud	Part of long-distance path.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 17 – Stuartfield & Old Deer

Old Deer (population 190) is located to the west of Aden Country Park and near the Formartine and Buchan Way. The proposals will help to consolidate the existing paths network.

Stuartfield (population 711) is a “planned village” c.1 mile (1500m) south of Old Deer. The local Community Association has assisted the Council in identifying potential core path routes. In addition, part of the road between the two settlements lacks any path provision. Although the current Plan proposes limited extensions to existing sections of path, a complete, direct connection between the villages is unlikely to be deliverable within two years of the adoption of the Plan. This proposal is therefore listed under “Aspirational Routes”.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
214.01 (also on Map 16)	Link from Old Deer to F&BW	Existing path on glebe land. Important link established by local Community Association, providing the only safe and convenient route from the village to the F&BW.	0.4
214.02	Aikey - Parkhouse	Existing route with access to stone circle, and proposed new link (largely on road verges) with F&BW.	1.70
214.03	Beechy Walk extension	Proposed road verge route avoiding carriageway leading to safer crossing point for return path to village.	0.1
219.01	Beechy Hedgings	Existing trackway, plus proposed path beside Knock Street within new development and continued along road verge.	1.8
219.02	Burnside path	Existing village lane and path beside burn. Path section suitable for foot traffic only.	0.4
219.03	Cemetery link	Proposed field edge path completing link to Cemetery.	0.1
219.04	Mill Park link	Existing woodland path to be extended to Windhill Road via field.	0.3
219.05	Knock View link	Existing green lane, recently extended to join 219.01.	0.5
7LD.03	F&BW Mintlaw - Maud	Part of long-distance route providing an east-west spinal route through the area.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 18 – St Fergus

Population 608. A kirktown now much expanded due to its proximity to Peterhead and oil/gas-related employment centres. Nearby Scotstown Head is a popular coastal recreation area. In the longer-term future it is hoped to develop a more direct route, inland from the seashore, for access to Peterhead.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
217.01	Scotstown road	Car park access and path to beach.	0.4
217.02	Recreation ground track	Existing popular track enabling a short circular route.	0.4
7LD.01	Coastal Path north to Fraserburgh	Part of long-distance route via seashore.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.01	Coastal Path south to Peterhead	Part of long-distance route via seashore.	See Long Distance Routes

Maps 19 & 20 – Peterhead North and Peterhead South

Population 17,673. Aberdeenshire's largest town and Europe's largest whitefish port as well as a major player in the oil industry. The built-up area, which continues to expand, is served by an extensive network of shared pedestrian/cycle paths (termed "cycleway" in the table below). These serve a variety of access purposes in addition to recreational use. Two long-distance routes, the Coastal Path and the Formartine and Buchan Way, converge on the town. It is hoped to improve access from the Inverugie area in the longer-term future.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
215.01	Ugieside	Scenic path beside Ugie estuary and infrastructural cycleway beside part of North Road.	1.5
215.02	A90 cycleway	Cycle route parallel to bypass, linking various radial path routes and forming an "outer ring" route.	4.8
215.03	Dales Road	Cycleway with access to Dales Industrial Estate.	0.5
215.04	Boddam Cycleway	Cycleway south from Peterhead (see also Map 13). Boddam is partly a dormitory settlement for Peterhead.	3.0
215.05	North Road	Cycleway with access to Blackhouse Industrial Estate.	0.6
215.06	Geordie Murray's Roadie	Traditional right of way protected within residential development	0.4
215.07	Collieburn Park path	Cycleway between North Rd and Inverugie Rd.	0.7
215.08	Inverugie Road	Part of road east of A90 to be re-designated as a pathway west of path 215.07.	0.5
215.09	West Road	Cycleway from west edge of Coplandhill to A90.	0.5
215.10 <i>Removed</i>	<i>Kinmundy Road</i>	<i>Cycleway from west edge of built-up area to A90.</i>	0.6
215.11	Old road	Rural link from A90 to Kinmundy Road west of A90.	0.5
215.12	Dales Park School link	Link to primary school and forming part of north-south route	0.4
215.13	Coplandhill path	Link between west Rd and Kinmundy Rd, with access to ASDA.	0.7
7LD.01	Coastal Path north to Fraserburgh	Part of long-distance route following seashore for much of the way.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.01	Coastal path south to Boddam	Part of long-distance route but provides alternative off-road route to Boddam for pedestrians. Consideration is being given to extending the route towards Peterhead Harbour by means of the smith Embankment.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.03	F&BW	Part of long-distance route west to Longside, Mintlaw and Maud. Eastern end is close to Peterhead Academy. Much-used for access within the town.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 21 – Hatton

Surrounded by agricultural land, Hatton lies to the west of the A90 trunk road, which creates a barrier to safe access opportunities to the east of the village. A route that was identified by the community as being very important to them was the old railway line to the south of the village. This provides a safe off-road route that links into quiet minor public roads.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
206.01	Old Railway	This route provides a link from the village to minor public roads, creating opportunities for circular walks. It would be suitable for multi-use, and has the potential to be an ability route. The majority of the line is currently maintained under the Land Management Contract Menu Scheme.	2.52

Map 22 – Cruden Bay

Population 1596. Coastal village with rugged cliffs, sandy beach, and acclaimed golf course. Nearby Slains Castle is associated with Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula". Dormitory village for Peterhead and Aberdeen.

Map 22 Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (m)
204.01	Castle Road	Direct route from village to Slains Castle.	0.8
204.02	North access	Direct route from Meikle Partans Car Park to Slains Castle.	0.7
204.03	Meikle Partans link	Link from Meikle Partans Car Park to Coastal Path.	2.0
204.04	Castle Woods link	Existing field-edge path enabling a short circular route	0.2
204.05	Braehead path	Existing paths linking riverside amenity area with school and Braehead Drive.	0.6
207.01	Coastal path link	Link from Longhaven to Coastal Path.	0.8
<i>207.02 Removed</i>	<i>Link to Longhaven</i>	<i>New northward route to Longhaven from Coastal Path.</i>	
207.03	Bullers of Buchan Car park link	Existing link from Car Park.	0.1
7LD.01	Coastal path north to Longhaven	Part of long-distance route.	See Long Distance Routes
7LD.01	Coastal path south to Whinnyfold	Part of long-distance route.	See Long Distance Routes

Formartine

Cuminestown – see Banff and Buchan Map 8 (New Byth and Cuminestown)
303.01 Cuminestown to Garmond

Daviot – see Garioch Map 36 (Whiteford, Durno and Daviot)
304.01 Village to House of Daviot circular
304.02 Village to Stone Circle

Map 23 – Turriff

The 19th Century saw Turriff emerge as an important market town and service centre for the farming hinterland. The population today, is around 4,575 There are a number of paths mainly to the west of the town following the riverside of the Deveron and linking to The Haughs recreational park. A key missing link is a route to the east linking Turriff with Delgatie Castle and Forestry Commission woodlands and its network of paths.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
314.01	Old railway route north of town.	This path, part of a former railway line was originally developed by the local Rotary Club. Some sections are currently maintained under Land Management Contracts. The majority is multi-use and is well used by the local community.	3.55
314.02 (New)	Turriff link to Delgatie Castle /Wood of Delgaty	There is currently no obvious route between the village and Delgatie Castle but it has been highlighted by the community as a desirable link.	
314.03	Haughs and Deveron Riverside circular	This is a well used and easily accessible series of looped paths along the riverside, sections of which are suitable for all abilities.	3.92
314.04	Prospecthill link	An important link to the north east of the town that the community and Council developed some years ago. Narrow in places.	0.54
314.05	North village path link	Mixture of beaten earth path and farm tracks. Provides link to route 314.01	1.03
NCN.01	National Cycle Network Route 1	Mainly on-road cycle route through Aberdeenshire that passes through the centre of Turriff.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 24 - Rothienorman

Rothienorman is a medium sized settlement with a population of 572 but expanding. It is surrounded by farm and forested land and access opportunities are limited. The community are keen to see a link from Rothienorman to Fyvie and the dismantled railway may provide an opportunity and so has been included as an aspirational route, as has investigating a circular north returning via the pleasant minor road alongside Cranna Wood.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
311.01	Community Woodland circular	A pleasant but short grassy circular on the outskirts of the village. The paths in the young woodland are suitable for multi-use and are currently managed by the Council.	0.69
311.02	Old Railway walk and links	A short section of the old railway is currently well used and runs north to south proving a safe route to school for children in the village. The steep embankment however makes it difficult to access from the path that runs under the old railway.	1.28

Map 25 – Fyvie and Woodhead

Fyvie is a village that sits on the banks of the River Ythan (pop. 473). Fyvie Castle, a National Trust for Scotland (NTS) property is one of the popular visitor attractions in the area. The Castle is easily reached on foot or bike from the village and so provides plenty of access opportunity.

As mentioned above the local community is keen to see a route from Fyvie to Rothienorman and the possibility of using the dismantled railway is being considered.

Woodhead and Windyhills (pop. 115) – Close to Fyvie is the Community of Woodhead and Windyhills who have formed a Trust to develop and manage the nearby woodlands as a recreational resource. A key link to establish is between Fyvie and Woodhead, most is already in place but overgrown.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
307.01	Fyvie Castle Circular	Well used by both local people and visitors is the circular route round the lake, within NTS Fyvie Castle. Route is suitable, at least in part, for all abilities	2.58
307.02 (new)	Fyvie to Woodhead via the Long Rig	Most of this route already exists but in parts is heavily overgrown. There is also a section that is currently on-road and due to levels of traffic and lack of verge in places an alternative off road solution will need to be identified.	1.78
307.03	Willie Eddie walkway	A well used route that was developed by the community some time ago. The route uses quiet lanes and roadside pavement.	1.67
307.04	Woodhead and Windyhills walk	Part of the network of paths through mixed woodland, developed by the local community.	2.80

Map 26 - Methlick

Methlick is a small community with a population of 442. It is the Estate village for Haddo. It is therefore close to Haddo Country Park (managed by Aberdeenshire Council) and Haddo House (National Trust for Scotland). The River Ythan runs through the village and there is easy access to the picturesque woods of Gight, part of which are a Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve.

There is plenty of opportunity for all types of access in the area although circular routes tend to be quite long. There is a pleasant circular using the wider network of paths (about 10 kilometres) from the village via Gight Castle (ruin dating from 1560) and the Scottish Wildlife Reserve, across the River Ythan and return.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
308.01 (new)	Link to Haddo Country Park via Community Garden	A new pavement links the village with the Community Garden and the intention is to continue this link through the woodland to the network of paths within Haddo Country Park. A recent consultation by the Haddo Park Project highlighted that this proposal has local support.	2.62
308.02	Village to Gight Woods via Polesburn Wood	Existing route part maintained by the Forestry Commission and part through Land Management Contract. It links to the wider Gight network and is suitable for multi-use.	2.22

Map 27 - Tarves

In the centre of Tarves (pop. 868) is the Square. Many of the routes below link into the Square making it an ideal focal point to start a walk or cycle. There are a number of interesting sites to visit including Haddo Country Park to the north, the Prop of Ythsie to the east and Tolquhon Castle and Pitmedden Garden (National Trust for Scotland), to the south via the Fisher Walk.

A good network of paths and tracks has been developed in and around Tarves over the past 10 years with the support of Haddo Estate and local farmers.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
312.01	Tarves to Haddo Country Park via Mains of Haddo	This route and 312.02 can be used together to create a long circular. The route uses farm and Estate tracks to access the Country Park. Care need to be taken as tracks are also used for vehicular access.	3.4
312.02	Tarves to Haddo Country Park via Raxton	This route also uses farm tracks but there is an on-road section. An alternative route to avoid this is currently being investigated – see dashed purple line.	3.96
312.03	Link to Prop of Ythsie	From the village the 1 st section of route is on-road. From the car park at the foot of the hill there is a pleasant path to the tower which offers superb views over the surrounding countryside on a good day.	1.08
310.02 (also on Map 28)	Tarves to Pitmedden link	Most of the route is a historic route over the Old Aberdeen Road and the Fisher Walk from Pitmedden Garden, a National Trust for Scotland property, to the village of Tarves.	3.9
NCN.01	National Cycle Network Route 1	Mainly on-road cycle route through Aberdeenshire that passes through the centre of Tarves.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 28 – Pitmedden and Udney Green

Pitmedden is the larger of the two villages with a population of 1396. Pitmedden Garden, a National Trust for Scotland property, is conveniently located close to the west of the village providing an excellent local amenity.

Udney Green as its name suggests has a central village green around which the settlement has developed. Current population is 166. A network of paths and tracks was created in the late nineties by the Council in conjunction with the owners of Udney Castle so the village is well served with access routes.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
310.01	Pitmedden to Udney Green	This route links the two villages via paths and tracks through Udney Estate. Suitable for most users.	3.96
310.02 (also on Map 27)	Pitmedden to Tarves	Most of the route is a historic route over the Old Aberdeen Road and the Fisher Walk to Pitmedden Garden, a National Trust for Scotland property to the village of Tarves.	3.9
310.03	Pitmedden Garden Circular	There is a range of short – medium length circular paths within the grounds of the National Trust for Scotland property and neighbouring farm land.	2.92
NCN 1	National Cycle Network Route 1	Mainly on-road cycle route through Aberdeenshire that passes through Udney Green and to the west of Pitmedden.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 29 - Oldmeldrum

Oldmeldrum is a medium sized settlement but growing fast. Current population is over 3000. The current paths provision is poor in relation to the size of population so there are a number of aspirational routes suggested that need to be considered. These include a link to Inverurie, possible using the dismantled railway and a route to the north/east incorporating Den of Gownor.

The new roadside cycleway/footway on the west of the village does however conveniently link up well used routes such as the Parcock Tree Path and Barra Hill.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
309.01	Parcock Tree Circular	Short circular to the north of the village using paths and tracks around the old quarry.	1.92
309.02	Village to Barra Hill and Kirkton of Bourtie	A popular route over the Hill of Barra, promoted by the community which links Oldmeldrum with Kirkton of Bourtie. Care needs to be taken at times on the open hill when cattle are present.	2.04
309.03	Blankets track	A short , but well used track to the south of the village.	1.0
309.04 (new)	Village link to Lochter	A new route linking the village to the Lochter Activity Centre is proposed. This would form the start of the longer aspirational route between Oldmeldrum and Inverurie.	1.19
309.05	Roadside cycle path	Newly created path following the ring road to the west of the village.	3.0
309.06	Den Wood Circular	A pleasant woodland circular a few miles north of Oldmeldrum. Managed by the Woodland Trust.	1.60

Map 30 - Ellon

Ellon is the largest settlement in Formartine, with a population of nearly 10,000. The town is well served with a wonderful collection of paths along the River Ythan and through the various wooded areas within the town.

What Ellon lacks is access out of the town into the wider countryside. Currently the only route that facilitates this is the Formartine and Buchan Way, to the west of the town which forms part of the A'boot Ellon circular.

A number of aspirational routes from Ellon will be considered, these include, identifying a route between Ellon and Ythanbank; investigating the possibility of using the dismantled railway to the north of the town and looking at finding a route to the east along the River Ythan to the Estuary at Newburgh, a route desired by the local community but which to date has been difficult to achieve.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
305.01	Ellon Riverside Path	Existing riverside path, circular in part linking town centre to F&B Way. Managed by Council and suitable in parts for all abilities. Good fit with criteria but not suitable for equestrian use.	3.16
305.02	A'boot Ellon circular	Existing circular route round settlement links Macdonald Park to F&B Way and Riverside Path. Managed by Council and good fit with criteria though only limited sections suitable for equestrian use. Route was developed by the Formartine Partnership.	2.79
305.03	Castlepark Woodland	Existing path link through shelterbelt round Castlepark housing development provides link to Riverside Path. Only suitable for pedestrian use.	1.58
305.04	Balmacassie Community Woodland Path	Newly created circular path with woodland with proposed links through industrial park to A920. Links new housing developments with town centre.	1.0
305.05 (new)	F&B way link to Esslemont Circle	New link required from housing to west of Ellon to F&B Way and rest of Ellon town network.	0.73
7LD.03	Formartine & Buchan Way	Long distance route (84 kms). Multi-use linking Ellon to Aberdeen, Maud and Peterhead	See Long Distance Routes

Map 31 - Collieston

The coastal village of Collieston has a population of 259. The coastal path south from Collieston via Forvie National Nature Reserve is in place. The northern section of path to Whinnyfold is currently one of the missing sections of this coastal route. A safer route needs to be identified from the village to link with this northern leg of the Coastal Path.

The Forvie National Nature Reserve (NNR), managed by Scottish Natural Heritage provides plenty of opportunity for access, although part of the network is only suitable for walkers due to narrow paths and high cliffs. Due to the wildlife on the NNR, it is preferable for access takers to keep to the paths and keep dogs under close control.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
302.01 <i>Removed</i>	<i>Link to Cransdale Car Park</i>	<i>This is an important short link from the village to the car park and Recycling Centre. The path however requires widening to be suitable as a core path. This could be difficult due to steepness of coastline.</i>	0.24
302.02	Village to Forvie NNR circular	Two short links from the village give access to a short and long circular routes within the Forvie NNR	2.3
302.03	Village to B9003 junction	Route provides a link from the village to public transport at the junction with the B9003	1.1
7LD.01	Coastal Path	Route from Newburgh north to Collieston is in place but section north to Whinnyfold is still to be developed.	See long Distance Routes

Map 32 – Udney Station

Udney Station is a small settlement (pop. 278) that sits to the east of the Formartine and Buchan Way. The Formartine and Buchan Way (F&B Way) provides the village with the majority of local access and is suitable for all user types. The community have been very active in providing the short links from the village to the F&B Way.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
315.01	F&B Way to Thistlyhill circular	Short circular route linking Pettymuick to the village and using the F&B Way and farm tracks to the south of the village and.	1.60
315.02	Chestnut Walk link	Short all-abilities link to the F&B Way from the car park at Chestnut Walk.	0.06
7LD.03	Formartine and Buchan Way	The former dismantled railway provides a multi-use route that runs from Dyce to Ellon and on to Peterhead and Fraserburgh.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 33 - Newburgh

A coastal settlement, with a population of 1352. The Coastal Path runs through the village and to the north links with the wider network and proposed Core Paths that are found on the Forvie National Nature Reserve (NNR).

A route needs to be identified to link the neighbouring settlement of Foveran with Newburgh to enable residents to access the amenities in Newburgh without using their vehicle. The road is currently too fast to accommodate non-motorised use.

Equestrian access to the beach has been accommodated by installing a removable barrier at the car park to the south of the village.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
306.01	Golf Course Links circular	Three bridges provide access from various parts of the village to the Golf Course links and a circular route.	1.16
7LD.01	Coastal Path	The coastal path runs from Foveran Links to the south of the village and to the north over the road bridge and onto Forvie NNR.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 34 – Balmedie, Belhelvie and Potterton

This cluster of settlements, to the north of Aberdeen City is separated by the busy A90. The local Community Council has been active in trying to improved access in the area for a number of years. In 2000 in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen a feasibility report was produced looking at a Belhelvie Parish Path Network.

Balmedie is the largest of the 4 settlements with a population of 2042. Balmedie Country Park, a Council managed site, lies to the east of the village and provides a coastal recreational amenity suitable for all user types.

Belhelvie has a population of 293 and currently has very limited access provision. The community is keen to see a path link between their village and the neighbouring villages of Balmedie and Potterton.

Blackdog is currently the smallest settlement with a population of 211. It does however, have a network of informal paths through the community woodland surrounding the settlement that was created in conjunction with the housing development in the early 2000s.

Potterton (pop. 945) is also currently limited in terms of access provision but the farm road via Middleton Farm is frequently used to gain access to the coast via Blackdog.

The NORTRAIL Coastal Path runs along the shoreline from Aberdeen City to the Ythan Estuary and beyond, linking the villages of Blackdog and Balmedie.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
301.01	Balmedie village to beach north	This link path was constructed a few years ago to enable the less able and mums with buggies to access the Country Park	3.0
301.02	Balmedie village to beach south	Informal path linking the housing new development to the beach. Not suitable for all user types	1.55
301.03	Blackdog to beach	Combination of public road and right of way linking village to beach. Suitable for most user types.	0.72
301.04	Potterton Den link	Fieldside track linking Potterton with the Den	0.63
301.05 (new)	Balmedie to Belhelvie link	New link required between the two villages – at present no specific route identified.	
7LD.01	Coastal Path	The NORTRAIL Coastal Path runs from Aberdeen City to the Ythan Estuary and beyond, linking the villages of Blackdog and Balmedie	See Long Distance Routes

Garioch

Map 35 – Inch and surrounding area

Inch (pop. 1757)

A medium sized settlement with deep archaeological heritage. Proposed Core Paths encompass access to the Hill of Dunnideer fort and settlement, the Hill of Christ's Kirk unfinished fort. Other path proposals are a circular in the former grounds of Drumrossie House and Inch Meadow wildlife habitat and picnic area. Inch has its own railway station.

Old Rayne (pop. 259)

A small settlement lying on the banks of the River Urie. Core Path proposals include a burnside path, a link to Whiteford along the banks of the River Urie and a long circular route.

Oyne (pop. 163)

At the foot of Bennachie, this small settlement provides links to the Bennachie Path network, the Old Aberdeen Turnpike and the Gordon Way. The village is home to Archaeolink and much of the surrounding landscape remains associated with Harthill Castle. Proposals are for two circular routes, both suitable for multi-use.

Auchleven (pop. 223)

Overlooked by Lickleyhead Castle and at the foot of Bennachie, proposals for this small settlement include a multi-use link to Bennachie path network and a circular path. Multi-user issues need to be resolved.

Bennachie

The Gordon Way long distance route bisects a rich network of paths around the hill and to the Bennachie Centre and Mither Tap Iron Age fort.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
401.01	Kirkford circular	Existing circular. Partly constructed track, partly unmanaged track.	0.75
401.02	Auchleven to Bennachie	Link from village to Bennachie path network. Constructed track between Auchleven to Lickleyhead, and unmanaged path along field edge to boundary of FCS Bennachie. Will require formalisation of link into FCS Bennachie path network. Multi-use user group issues under investigation.	1.57
404.02 (also on Map 36)	Whiteford to Old Rayne	Existing route through woodland and along bank of Ury. Comprises of constructed track, constructed paths and short section on road. Suitable for multi-use.	5.81
407.01	Drumrossie Woodland Circuit	Existing path network on constructed tracks and partly on tarmac surface. An inner, shorter ring can be taken by following the wider network.	3.00

407.02	Beatrice Woodland to the Hill of Christkirk	Following an existing network of constructed paths and tracks through woodland and forestry to the unfinished fort on the Hill of Christkirk. Proposal encompasses a loop and the path to the summit of the Hill of Christkirk feeds into the wider path network.	3.60
407.03	Insch Meadow	An all abilities surfaced path through Insch Meadow wildlife habitat and picnic area. Provides a link to Drumrossie Woodland Circuit.	0.36
407.04	Dunnydeer Farm Circular	Part existing, part new circular path encompassing Hill of Dunnydeer Fort, and a recumbent stone circle. The proposal currently comprises an on road section. Off-road alternatives are under investigation.	5.58
407.05	Insch to Bennachie Link	Additional route added after 1 st consultation due to community demand. Links the village of Insch with the Bennachie Forest network	2.5
415.01	Burnside path west of village	Existing constructed path.	0.31
415.02 (also on Map 36)	Jenny's Trees to Old Rayne via Ury riverside path	Existing route on farm road and joining the riverside path between Whiteford and Old Rayne on return to Old Rayne. Linked by road between Jenny's Trees and Old Rayne.	2.19
416.01 (also on Map 36)	Oyne Woodland	An informal track through the woodland plantation with loop at eastern end. Connects to Oyne from the north side of the railway level crossing and from an underpass at Old Westhall. Suitable for multi-use.	2.85
416.02	Oyne Circular	Circular comprising on road sections and constructed track right of way. Links to Back of Bennachie car park, the Old Aberdeen Turnpike and Bennachie promoted path network. Suitable for multi-use.	3.19
416.03	Old Aberdeen Turnpike	This improved section of the Old Aberdeen Turnpike links the three Bennachie Car Parks and so creates a long circular for users of the Bennachie Range	3.8
7LD.04	Gordon Way	Long Distance Route running from Suie Hill to the Bennachie Centre.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 36 – Whiteford, Durno and Daviot

Whiteford (pop. 185)

A small settlement close to the River Urie. Core Path proposals aspire to link Whiteford to Old Rayne with a multi-user path through woodlands of the designed landscape of Logie House and along the banks of the River Urie.

Durno (pop. 115)

For this small settlement, the proposal is to link it via the route between Whiteford and Old Rayne through woodlands.

Daviot (pop. 413)

A small settlement that has recently expanded with the development of House of Daviot, a former hospital. The focus has been to link the village with the new housing to provide access to amenities and a safe route to school.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
404.01	Logie Woods to Durno	Woodland paths and tracks. Section between Gallows Hill and Knowes of Durno yet to be confirmed.	2.60
404.02 (also on Map 35)	Whiteford to Old Rayne	Existing route through woodland and along bank of Ury. Comprises of constructed track, constructed paths and short section on road. Suitable for multi-use	5.81
412.01	Warthill House Circular	Circular path aimed to suit equestrian use on both existing and new sections. Comprises informal woodland trail, renovation of dismantled railway line and existing drive. Will require works to replace missing bridges. Links with aspirational route to Rothienorman.	3.30
415.02 (also on Map 35)	Jenny's Trees to Old Rayne via Ury riverside path	Existing route on farm road and joining the riverside path between Whiteford and Old Rayne on return to Old Rayne. Linked by road between Jenny's Trees and Old Rayne.	2.19
416.01 (also on Map 35)	Oyne Woodland	An informal track through the woodland plantation with loop at eastern end. Connects to Oyne from the north side of the railway level crossing and from an underpass at Old Westhall. Suitable for multi-use.	2.85
304.01 (new)	Daviot Estate village circular	Route currently under development will use a mixture of quiet road, track with some missing links yet to be established.	1.5
304.02	Village to Stone Circle	Route to the north east of the village linking village to the Stone Circle and providing a short circular in the neighbouring woodlands.	0.5

Map 37 – Inverurie

A large settlement with a population of 11,533 providing the focal point meeting of the River Don, the River Urie, the A96 and the Aberdeen to Inverness Railway Line. Inverurie, 'The Historic Heart of the Garioch', is surrounded by historic, built and natural heritage. Port Elphinstone is linked by the Old Kemnay Road to Kemnay and by the roadside cycle path to Kintore, both of which are included in Core Path proposals.

Core Path proposals take advantage of the rich heritage of the Inverurie area, servicing the recumbent stone circle of East Aquhorthies and Newseat woodland. Core Path proposals also include a popular route through the historic grounds of Keith Hall.

There are aspirations for additional Core Paths alongside the River Urie pending the formalisation of the Uryside Park proposals.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
408.01	Port Elphinstone Riverside Circular	Constructed circular path suitable for all abilities. Links to potential water access point.	0.82
408.02	Riverside North Bank	Constructed path along riverbanks of Don and Ury. Will require some repair work or minor deviations to avoid eroded sections.	2.56
408.03	Keith Hall	Route on tarmac drive through grounds of Keith Hall, aspiring to form part of longer circular. Safety and possible upgrade of links to form complete circular with Inverurie under investigation.	2.74
408.04	Inverurie to East Aquhorthies Stone Circle via Newseat woodland	A link to a community woodland path network and a stone circle. Route consists of pavement, public road, unadopted road and constructed track sections. Safe route off the carriageway of public road is under investigation.	3.47
408.05 (also on Map 38)	Inverurie to Kemnay via Roquharold	Link encompassing Roquharold Hill, Aquhythie Wood and Fetternear. Links to Cot-town Wood Circular and Fetternear. Part constructed track, part unmanaged path, part tarmac road. Will be suitable in parts for equestrian and cycle use pending upgrades on unmanaged path sections. Formalisation of section between Backhill of Burnhervie and Aquhythie Wood required.	9.62
408.06 (also on Map 39)	Inverurie to Kintore Cycle Path	Existing cycle link between Port Elphinstone and Kintore. Predominantly an off the carriageway roadside cycle path, the route also comprises of short sections on public road and pavement for all ability users in Port Elphinstone and Kintore.	3.91
408.07	Inverurie to Dillyhill	Using the pavement access network through the Westgate Development to enable access onto Dilly Hill. Details of A96 crossing and crossing between Westgate and summit of Dilly Hill to be confirmed with developers.	0.83

408.08	Druidsfield Circular	Short circular south of the town that is part of the Inverurie Heritage Walk.	0.8
408.09	Souterford Road to The Bass	New link to be created alongside the railway line to create a long circular with 408.03 – Keith Hall route	1.0
408.10	Uryside circular	New route to be created linking the new housing north of the Ury with the town – new bridge to be provided by the Developers.	1.2
408.11	Howford Bridge link	New route to be established in connection with development proposals. Will form part of the aspirational link between Inverurie and Oldmeldrum	2.0
408.12	Davah Hill loop	New circular route to be established through woodland edge of Golf Course and round proposed new developments.	1.9

Map 38 – Kemnay

The rich landscape of Kemnay (pop. 3707) is linked by Core Path proposals, including paths along the banks of the River Don, a path sweeping through Fyfe Park Community Woodland at the foot of the Place of Origin artwork, a path network through Fetternear Estate, and a proposal along the edge of Back Wilderness in the grounds of Kemnay House.

This medium sized settlement links to Port Elphinstone via Forestry Commission woodland (Aquhythie and Roquharold) and the Old Kemnay Road, whilst the Back Wilderness Circular could provide links into Forestry Commission woodland at Leschangie.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
408.05 (also on Map 37)	Inverurie to Kemnay via Roquharold	Link encompassing Roquharold Hill, Aquhythie Wood and Fetternear. Links to Cot-town Wood Circular and Fetternear. Part constructed track, part unmanaged path, part tarmac road. Will be suitable in parts for equestrian and cycle use pending upgrades on unmanaged path sections. Formalisation of section between Backhill of Burnherve and Aquhythie Wood required.	9.62
409.01	Back Wilderness Circular	Circular encompassing constructed track, on the road section and section along edge of recreation ground. Suitable for multiuse. Could provide links into Leschangie Wood.	2.95
409.02	Fyfe Park Community Woodland	Path through Fyfe Park community woodland with links to the 'Place of Origin' artwork. Suitable for multiuse and all abilities.	0.41
409.03	Riverside Path	Path from the bridge to the side of Kemnay Academy. Constructed multiuse all abilities path along much of the length, the section closest to the bridge is currently an unmanaged path. Links to two potential water access points.	1.41
409.04	Cairnton Wood Link	Multi User route that is part of the route that links Kemnay with Thainstone Mart	0.9

Map 39 – Kintore

This medium sized settlement (pop. 3302) is a key link in the chain of paths between the Blackburn/Aberdeen City interface and Inverurie. Kintore links to the larger infrastructure of Inverurie by a roadside footway/cycleway and links back towards Blackburn by The Skair. Other Core Path proposals include a path up Tuach Hill and a circular route along the banks of the Don, through Deystone and returning on The Skair.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
402.03 (also on Map 41)	The Skair (Blackburn to Kintore)	Constructed track and tarmac surfaces. Suitable for multi-use and all abilities in part. Links to circular route and Old Inverurie to Aberdeen Canal. Links to school, playing field and community hall in Kinellar. Modification of the route required to avoid section through farmyard at Tofthills	4.35
408.06 (also on Map 37)	Inverurie to Kintore Cycle Path	Existing cycle link between Port Elphinstone and Kintore. Predominantly an off the carriageway roadside cycle path, the route also comprises of short sections on public road and pavement for all ability users in Port Elphinstone and Kintore.	3.91
410.01	Track to Castle Farm and Gauchhill Plantation	Multi-use link between Gauchhill Plantation and Kintore Pleasure Park. All abilities in part.	1.50
410.02	Tuach Hill	Track leading to summit of Tuach Hill and informal path which links into proposed circular route and proposed route to Blackburn. Heritage features include the Old Aberdeen Canal and a stone circle.	0.78
410.03 (also on Map 41)	Circular via Lammies Crook, Dalwearie, Deystone and the Skair	Part of a circular which links to the Old Inverurie to Aberdeen Canal and The Skair. Comprises field edge paths and on-road section.	3.01
410.04	Gauchhill Woodland Circular	Woodland walk in Gauchhill Woods to be improved and link through new development and Town Park to MidMill	0.75
410.05	Gauchhill Circular	New return route to be created along roadside to provide short circular with Castle Farm Route – 410.01	0.5

Map 40 – Newmachar and Hatton of Fintray

Newmachar (pop. 2320)

A mid sized settlement sitting on the edge of the Formartine & Buchan Way, Newmachar is safely linked both northwards into Formartine and southwards into Aberdeen City by the all abilities multiuse pathway along the former railway line. The Kingseat Mile is linked to Newmachar and provides an attractive wooded path to the developing community in Kingseat. There is an aspiration for a future link with Beauty Hill.

Hatton of Fintray (pop. 233)

A small settlement with proposals for two circular routes. There is a desire to investigate a safe off the road link with Mill of Fintray.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
406.01	Hill of Hatton Circular	Woodland circular on constructed track, unmanaged track and unmanaged path. Passes close to existing church and remains of former church. Suitable for multiuse.	1.55
406.02	Cowstones Circular	Constructed track circular with short unmanaged path link. Suitable for multiuse in part. An on the road link returns the circular to the village and connects with the Hill of Hatton Circular. Safety of on-road link under review. Pending further negotiations with land manager.	1.86
<i>406.03 Removed</i>	<i>Link to river Don</i>	<i>Short link on existing unmanaged track, providing connection with village and the River Don. Passes close to war memorial. Pending further negotiations with land manager.</i>	<i>0.33</i>
414.01	Newmachar to Kingseat	Comprising an off-road path and constructed track, this provides a link to the Formartine & Buchan Way/Sustrans NCN 1. Suitable for multiuse. The link into the Kingseat development and the Kingseat Mile has yet to be formalised but aspire to link Kingseat with the schools and infrastructure of Newmachar.	1.13
414.02	Kingseat Mile	Constructed track but unmanaged in places. Suitable for multiuse. Potential for formalisation of links with Kingseat development. Kingseat with the schools and infrastructure of Newmachar. Will require some arboricultural work.	1.65
414.0 (new)	Newmachar to Lairshill	Request from the Newmachar Community Council to establish a new link from the village to the path network at Lairshill	
7LD.03	Formartine & Buchan Way And Links	Long Distance – Links with Aberdeen City	See Long Distance Routes

Map 41 – Blackburn

A mid sized settlement (pop. 2142) sitting just inside of the boundary between Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, Blackburn is the interface between a proposed Core Path from Aberdeen City Kirkhill Forest area, and links onwards through Kintore to Port Elphinstone and Inverurie. Blackburn proposals include a circular, partly through woodland shelterbelt and partly along The Skair, and an all abilities link with Glasgoforest.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
402.01	Blackburn to Glasgoego	A tarmac path suitable for all abilities and multiuse, providing a safe link between Glasgoego Forest and Blackburn.	1.14
402.02	Carnmhor Circular	Route comprising of an informal woodland trail which links by an on road section to the The Skair, completing the circular. Suitable for multiuse in part.	1.09
402.03 (also on Map 39)	The Skair (Blackburn to Kintore)	Constructed track and tarmac surfaces. Suitable for multiuse and all abilities in part. Links to circular route and Old Inverurie to Aberdeen Canal. Links to school, playing field and community hall in Kinellar.	4.35
402.04	Burnside Circular	Circular path running parallel with Burn adjacent to the new developments and returning on pavement alongside B979 via new link north of village.	1.5
410.03 (also on Map 39)	Circular via Lammies Crook, Dalwearie, Deystone and the Skair	Part of a circular which links to the Old Inverurie to Aberdeen Canal and The Skair. Comprises field edge paths and on-road section.	3.01
7CB.02	Blackburn to Kirkhill Forest	A constructed field edge path that leads in Aberdeen City proposed Core Path "CP 1 Blackburn – Kirkhill Forest".	0.24

Map 42 – Dunecht and Echt

Dunecht (pop.137)

A small settlement, Dunecht's school is separated from the playing field by houses, and Dunecht Estate workyards. The community and Dunecht Estates are both keen to develop a field edge route across the opposite side of the burn to provide an all abilities link between school and playing field. An aspirational route currently under discussion is for a link to Lyne of Skene across Castlefraser Moss, with a possible link to the remains of Upper Corskie Stone Circle.

Echt (pop. 209)

A small settlement with a circular Core Path proposal and a safe off the road link to informal path network in Kirkton Woods.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
403.01	School to playing field	An aspiration to provide an all abilities country style path link between Dunecht School House and the playing field in the centre of the village. This route could provide the foundation for a future aspirational link to Lyne of Skene.	0.54
405.01	Roadside link to North Kirkton Woods.	A constructed footway between Echt and an informal path network in North Kirkton Wood. Formalises link with Echt School and recreation ground. Forms part of Myriewell Circular.	1.02
405.02	Myriewell Circular	A circular country style route that encompasses part of the roadside link to North Kirkton Woods.	1.12

Map 43 - Westhill

Westhill/Elrick (pop.10,252)

A large and growing settlement on the interface between Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, Westhill is linked to Aberdeen City's Core Path proposals by the off-road cycle path and may be linked in future by a second link to Brimmond Hill Country Park. Natural heritage is key to the Core Paths proposals for Westhill, with proposed circular to the Hill of Keir, a link through Arnhall Moss LNR and links into Carnie Woods District Wildlife Site.

Kirkton of Skene (pop. 245)

Kirkton of Skene is proposed to link to Elrick via the safe all abilities path along the Old Skene Road and a new link to Mason Lodge through the policies of Kirkton House. A Core Path proposal at Gask will provide the foundation of links to informal paths through Garlogie Wood to Garlogie.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
411.01	Kirkton of Skene to Westhill direct	Tarmac all abilities path suitable for multi-use. Integrates with proposed Hill of Keir Circular.	1.22
411.02	Kirkton of Skene to Mason Lodge via Kirkton House	Link between Kirkton of Skene and Mason Lodge and Elrick. Comprises of the constructed drives of Kirkton House and proposed upgrade of roadside path to Mason Lodge. Potential for circular with Kirkton of Skene to Westhill direct path or links with Hill of Keir Circular.	1.41
411.03	Gask	A constructed track linking to informal trails through Garlogie wood to Garlogie. Adjoining road link connects to Loch of Skene. Suitable for multi-use.	1.01
418.01	Arnhall Moss	All abilities path passing through and integrating with path network on Arnhall Moss Local Nature Reserve. Links with Westhill Shopping Centre and Denman Park.	0.51
418.02	Hill of Keir Circular	Circular to the summit of the Hill of Keir, overlooking Westhill. The delineation is subject to pending development but will encompass pavement, tarmac track, constructed track and country style paths. Links with Kirkton of Skene to Westhill direct route.	2.58
418.03	Links to Carnie Woods	Formalisation of links with Carnie Woods (managed by Aberdeen City Council). All abilities links to be formed from new development at Elrick and from Westhill Business Park.	0.19
418.04	Arnhall Cycle path link	Cycle path through Business Park linking A944 and B9119	0.5
7CB.03	Westhill to Aberdeen Cycle Path	Safe off the road cycle path link joining Aberdeen City CP 91 Aberdeen – Westhill Core Path proposal.	0.56
7CB.04 (new)	Westhill to Brimmond	New link – yet to be identified linking Westhill to Aberdeen City Brimmond Hill network.	

Kincardine and Mearns

Map 44 - Drumoak

(Population 857) Drumoak lies astride the main A93 North Deeside Road close to the Aberdeen City boundary. The Deeside Way long distance route passes through the village, providing access to the city but also westwards to Crathes and Banchory. To the north of the village is Drum Castle Estate, owned by the National Trust for Scotland. The quiet direct road from the north eastern edge of the village to Drum Castle Estate has been identified as an important link to the wider network.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
504.01	Deeside Way Link	Provides short circular from centre of village linking to the Deeside Way	0.53
504.02	Woodlands of Durriss to Kirkton of Durriss link	Link through Kirkton Woods and Woodlands Wood	1.8
7LD.02	Deeside Way Crathes to Coalford Aberdeen City	The Deeside Way long distance route extends from the city boundary and passes through Drumoak, thereafter following the line of the former railway to Crathes. All abilities, multi-use route.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 45 - North Kincardine

Findon (Population 132) A small coastal settlement, close to the city boundary. The promoted coastal path currently stops at Findon, although it is hoped that it will eventually extend to the City boundary.

The Sustrans route passes through the village.

Portlethen (Population 6632). A large town lying on the A90 south of Aberdeen. The Sustrans route passes through the town. A link to Old Portlethen village (population 158) and other coastal villages on the coastal path is proposed as one of the core paths. Reinstatement of the historic Causey Mounth route south of the town is aspirational.

Newtonhill (Population 3014) Newtonhill is linked to the town of Portlethen in the north and Muchalls village in the south by an established section of the long distance Coastal Path. Smaller circular routes also exist and there are aspirations to provide a safer route to the Causey Mounth and inland network of quiet roads.

Muchalls (Population 314) This small village lying approximately 6km north of Stonehaven, is linked via the Coastal Path to Newtonhill in the north. An extension of the coastal path south of Mill of Muchalls to provide a link to Stonehaven is aspirational.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
507.01	Findon Moor	Circular route from the village around Findon Moor. Suitable for most abilities.	1.46
517.01	Portlethen village link	Route from Portlethen village using existing tracks and newly formed path through proposed woodland park. Most abilities and provides safe route to Academy. Also links to Coastal Path.	1.06
517.02	Hillhead to Health Centre	Existing track linking north of Portlethen, Health Centre, Church to Portlethen village and Coastal Path.	0.4
517.03	Cemetery	Short link from proposed woodland park past Cemetery to Church car park, linking north and south of town.	0.2
517.04	Mains of Portlethen - Broadhaven Bay	Link from town to Coastal Path, partly on carriageway.	0.54
517.05	Causey Mounth link	Small section of historic Causey Mounth road, linked directly to Portlethen via the flyover.	1.03
517.06	Portlethen Moss	Existing paths on Moss in part upgraded to provide short circular all abilities route	0.77
516.01	Elsick to Beach	Short route linking Elsick Mill with the Coastal Path to form a circular. All ability multi-use.	0.54

516.02	Elsick Mill	Short link from village to Cranhill circular. Potentially part of safe route to school. Most abilities.	0.2
516.03	Cranhill Loop	Farm tracks linking to coastal path to form circular around Cranhill.	1.72
7LD.01	Coastal Path	Promoted route linking most of the North Kincardine villages. Some sections are suitable for all abilities, other sections only suitable for more able users.	See long Distance Routes

Map 46 - Stonehaven

(Population 10731) The largest settlement in Kincardine and Mearns and key administrative centre for the area. The core path routes identified all form part of existing promoted routes and link to the wider path network including Sustrans route and Coastal Path.

Dunnottar Woodland is managed by the community in partnership with the Forestry Commission. The Dunnottar Woodland Park Association has undertaken a series of path improvements to improve a network of routes through the woodland.

The quiet road from Kirkton of Fetteresso to Swanley has been identified as part of the wider network to allow a cycle link.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
520.01	Dunnottar Castle road link to Stonehaven	Link from Castle to Stonehaven, predominantly roadside pavement along quiet road and includes access track to castle from car park. Forms circular with coastal path.	1.75
520.02	Dunnottar Woodland Park	Main circular route around community woodland	3.2
520.03	Mineralwell to Slug Road link	Existing route through Mineralwell Park. Key access for school and to recreational facilities.	1.22
520.04	Ury House East West Link	Link just outwith settlement from Slug Road to Netherley Road. Potential for future links to Fetteresso and Causey Mounth.	2.68
7LD.01	Coastal Path	Coastal path from Dunnottar Castle, through Stonehaven, to Skatie Shore.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 47 - Auchenblae and surrounding area

Three small settlements lie in the northern part of the Howe of the Mearns, north of Laurencekirk.

Auchenblae. (population 528). The community manages and promotes the recreational area in the 'Den' on the east bank of the River Luther, where the paths include the main core path for the village. An existing route, from the village eastwards to Monboddo, provides a link to this small group of houses and to a wider network of paths and quiet roads. The road link from the village to the Cemetery and to the football pitch via the Den has also been identified. Drumtochty Glen and the Forestry Commission lands to the north and west of the village, offer an important recreational resource for the village and the wider area. Where possible, appropriate links to these areas should be identified for future inclusion in the core paths plan. Better links to the historic Mounth routes north and west of the village could also be sought.

Fordoun (population 305) No routes were identified from the 2006 public consultation exercise, nor are any easily identified on the ground.

There is a pedestrian/cycle route via the underpass to the village school, which is cut off from the village by the dual carriageway. It also links to the existing network of quiet roads leading over the Garvock Hill to the coast.

A link from Fordoun to Auchenblae using existing roads and tracks has been highlighted on the map. It is hoped that this route could be extended to avoid busy on-road sections.

Drumlithie/Glenbervie (population 350). The community has created a public garden on the northern edge of the village adjacent to the Drumlithie Burn which provides all abilities access for residents. It is hoped that an additional access point, into the Millennium Garden can be created in the future. It is also hoped that a safe link from Drumlithie to Glenbervie, which lies approximately 1.6 km to the west, can be found perhaps using in part the existing network of tracks and quiet roads to the north of the village.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
501.01	Den Circular	Circular route, suitable for walkers of all abilities, part of existing network of paths around recreational area.	0.74
501.02	Cemetery Link	Route from village to Cemetery and football pitch using quiet road with restricted vehicular access.	0.27
501.03	Monboddo Link	Path from village to Monboddo which links to houses there but also to the network of quiet roads and tracks to south and east of the village to provide circular routes. Also provides a potential link to Fordoun.	1.68
508.01	Underpass	All ability route from village to school and quiet road network utilising underpass.	0.42
508.02	Monboddo Link	Route from Fordoun to Monboddo and linking to Auchenblae. Busy on road section	3.17
503.01	Millennium Garden	Short circular all abilities path around the attractive community garden on the northern boundary of the village.	0.27
503.02	Mid Kinmonth Circular	Circular route to the north of the village using existing tracks and quiet roads and linking to wider network. Most users and abilities.	2.64

Map 48 - Fettercairn and surrounding area

Three small settlements in the south west of the Mearns, lying to the west and south west of Laurencekirk.

Fettercairn (population 437) An attractive conservation village, walkers and cyclists are well served by a network of quiet public and private roads in and around the village, including several tracks and paths within the lands and policies of nearby Fettercairn House and Fasque House.

Fettercairn Estate has worked with the community to provide existing off-road routes in the village.

Luthermuir (Population 312). Existing paths from the village recreational ground and the school through Caldhome Wood are proposed for the main core paths within the village. The extensive forestry plantations of Inverury Wood to the west of the village also provide a wider network of paths for informal recreation. The road from the village to the forest has been shown on the plan to identify this link. There is no direct access into the wood opposite the crossing point.

Edzell Woods (Population 346). A small village lying close to Aberdeenshire Council's southern boundary near to the River Esk. There is a direct link to Edzell via an existing right of way and footbridge. The village is also close to the entrance to Glen Esk and the attractive and popular riverside walks on The Burn Estate.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
506.01	Village circular	Short circular route from village coming off the Cairn O' Mount road through woodland and around the church which also links to the Beechwood walk which runs parallel with the B9120 Laurencekirk Road.	0.4
506.02	Cemetery Path	All abilities path running parallel to the path from village south west along the B966 Edzell Road to the Cemetery.	0.45
506.03	Distillery Road link	Proposed link from Cemetery back to village to provide a circular.	0.57
512.01	Caldhome Wood	Route from village through park and woodland to school, linking to existing network of roads and tracks to provide a circular route.	0.78
512.02	Manse Link	Track linking roads in north and south of village which runs parallel to main street to provide a circular route.	0.33
7CB.06	Suspension Bridge and Edzell	Link from Edzell Woods to the town of Edzell using access roads and paths. Western part not all abilities but potential for use by cyclists. Footbridge jointly maintained by Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils	1.96
7CB.08	The Burn	Popular riverside walk along the eastern bank of the Rver North Esk.	1.94

Map 49 - Laurencekirk

Laurencekirk (Population 2156) The largest settlement in the Howe of the Mearns, is a service centre for the surrounding small villages. The local community helps Forestry Commission Scotland manage Denlethen Wood, a small wood on the southern edge of the town. The wood provides a main focus for informal access in the area and the community has aspirations to extend path links south from the wood to the network of quiet roads between Laurencekirk, Luthermuir and Fettercairn.

There are also aspirations to provide a safe non-motorised link up the Garvock Hill to the Johnston Tower which lies to the south east of the town, and to the existing roads and tracks leading across the Garvock Hill to the coast. Several original routes, farm tracks and quiet roads were cut by the construction of the A90. Although there is a dedicated crossing point, crossing the busy A90 is of concern and a single underpass leads past busy farm buildings. The existing access track and the on-road route up the Garvock Hill have been shown on the map in order to highlight this issue.

Pavements or off-road links are also required along Market Road and Blackiemuir Avenue to provide safer links to existing networks and proposed core paths. The existing routes, highlighted in blue, are not being proposed as part of the network.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
511.01	Denlethen Circular	Principal track through the wood, all abilities and multi-user route providing circular.	2.05
511.02	Old Road Link	A short link from the old road on the southern edge of town to Denlethen Wood, multi-use providing various options for circular routes.	0.56
511.03	Blackiemuir Road and Railway Road Link	Links from the town to Denlethen via Blackiemuir Avenue and Railway Road, providing various options for longer circular routes. Link from Railway Road not all abilities.	0.44
511.04	Market Road to Blackiemuir	Route using Scottish Water access track past Muir of Blackiemuir,	1.21
511.05	Beattie Lodge	Track linking north-eastern side of the town to the school and Kinnear Square in the south.	0.58

Map 50 - Inverbervie and Johnshaven

Inverbervie/Gourdon, (2006) The coastal town of Inverbervie and nearby village of Gourdon form the main coastal settlements south of Stonehaven. This town and village is well served by the Coastal Path and promoted Sustrans route which passes through the settlements.

Consideration to identifying appropriate links inland and along the coast to the north should be given for future core path plans.

Johnshaven/Benholm (625) A conservation village on the coast, Johnshaven is served by the long distance Coastal Path and other existing network of paths which provide options for circular routes both to the north and south of the village. This network also provides links to nearby Benholm and associated paths and facilities.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
509.01	The Lang Rig	Inland route linking Inverbervie south to Mill of Benholm and Old Coach Road. Existing links to provide circular with Coastal Path.	3,575
510.01	Old Coach Road	Link to Mill of Benholm and beyond utilising historic route. Most abilities	2,358
510.02	Old Coach Road link	Direct link from village to Old Coach Road provide circular crossing main A92. Southern part maintained by the Council.	939
510.03	Mill of Benholm link	Link from Coastal Path north of village to Mill of Benholm, again providing options for circular route and links to wider network. In part only suitable for walkers as field edge.	1,408
7LD.01/NCN.01	Coastal Path	Coastal path which currently ends in the town of Inverbervie but runs southwards past Gourdon and beyond. Doubles up as National Cycle Route 1 in part	See Long Distance Routes

Map 51 - St Cyrus and Marykirk

St Cyrus (Population 1034). This coastal settlement lies adjacent to the long distance coastal path which provides a link to St Cyrus nature reserve.

Consideration should be given to identifying an all abilities access route around the village, possibly using Sustrans in part.

Marykirk (Population 276) A small settlement lying approximately 5 kilometres south east of Laurencekirk at the southern edge of Aberdeenshire adjacent to the River North Esk. A main focus for public access for this community is the path along the river bank which provides a circular route from the village. There is also a wide network of quiet roads and tracks particularly to the north and east of the village up onto the Garvock Hill. Improvement to, and extension of, access along the river bank is aspirational.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
513.01	River bank circular	River bank path linking to public roads on western and southern ends of the village to provide circular; really only suitable for walkers, not all abilities.	0.97
513.02	Mains of Kirktonhill circular	Quiet roads and farm access roads providing multi-user, all abilities circular route and linking to wider network of roads and tracks to the north and east of the village.	3.26
519.01	Beach	Path running along foot of cliff linking from Nether Woodston to St Cyrus beach forming a circular with Coastal Path. Predominantly walkers, not all ability. Managed by SNH	2.09
519.02	Cliff top link	On road route linking school and village to coastal path and beach.	0.24
7LD.01	Coastal Path	Long distance coastal path which runs past the village.	See Long Distance Routes

Marr

Map 52 – Huntly

Huntly is a medium sized thriving settlement (pop. 4312) with a rail station and adjacent to a major north-south trunk road. The River Deveron flows west-east on the north side of the town. The Bin Forest is situated immediately to the north and provides recreational access opportunities and there are smaller areas of woodland notably Battlehill to the south and Kinnoir Wood to the east within easy access of the town. Further away to the west is the large forest of Clashindarroch.

The town has many historical links to the Gordon family and the ruined Huntly Castle is their former stronghold.

The local community is actively involved in developing local tourism and recreation opportunities and is currently looking at the feasibility of establishing a long distance route west through Clashindarroch and on to Speyside.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
607.01	Battlehill Circular	Existing path around Battlehill giving good views of the surrounding countryside in places. Easily accessible from the town centre Surface is predominantly natural and only certain sections are suitable for equestrian use. Owned and managed by the Council.	2.2
607.02	Aberdeen Road to Kinnoir Wood	Existing link to Kinnoir Wood wider path network, suitable for all users.	1.2
607.03	Meadows – Riverside Paths	Network of paths around The Meadows and along the River Deveron. Easily accessible popular circular route. Mixed surfaces including some pavement, all abilities certain sections. Unsuitable for equestrian use.	3.33
607.04	Town centre to Bin Forest	Important link between the town centre and the Bin Forest wider path network using an historic public right of way in some sections. Mainly suitable for all users though some sections not suitable for equestrian use.	3.22

Map 53 – Gartly and Kennethmont

Gartly (pop. 154) and Kennethmont (pop. 235) are small settlements both adjacent to the Aberdeen to Inverness railway. **Gartly** is on the banks of the Water of Bogie and has Hill of Kirkney to the west and Hill of Corskie to the east; both hills have the remains of old slate quarries.

Kennethmont is further south and is adjacent to Leith Hall, the former seat of the Leith-Hay family and now owned by the National Trust for Scotland.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
606.01	Village Circular	Farm track and some quiet on-road sections. Local community wish to extend route to gain access to Hill of Corskie and wider network of paths onto Gartly Moor. Sections of this route are currently subject to discussions with land owners and the actual route may change as a result. Currently most suitable for walkers.	2.7
606.02	Whitelumbs to Hill of Kirkney	Field track on other side of A97 but easily accessible from village. Leads west up to Hill of Kirkney and a wider network path to Clashindarroch and Tap O' Noth. Suitable for walkers, cyclists and horses.	0.98
608.08	Leith Hall Circular	Circular route linking village to Leith Hall and its wider network of paths and also to Ardmore Distillery and the old kirkyard. Most suitable for walkers and cyclists.	3.3

Map 54 Rhynie

Rhynie (pop. 454) is a small to medium settlement in Strathbogie, with Clashindarroch Forest to the north and west and also the prominent Tap O' Noth Hill with an ancient fort on the summit. Close to the Correen Hills in the south which along with Clashindarroch Forest have a well developed wider path network.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
613.01	Route to the top of Tap O' Noth (563m)	Starting at the car park at Rumfold the route climbs to the summit of Tap O' North and also links into a wider network path into Clashindarroch and links through to Gartly. Maintained in part by Aberdeenshire Council the route is suitable for walkers, cyclists and equestrian use.	2.69
613.02	Village circular	Circular route starting in the centre of the village, down a quiet road to the river, past the churchyard and up to the Bellknowe Cairn. Return on pavement along main road. Route can be extended to Moss Road.	1.37
613.03	Link route to Cairnmore	Village out to Cairnmore and linking into wider network paths to Coreen Hills and Tullynessle. Part on farm track part on quiet roads, alternative return along road to village from Bankhead via Cottown. Suitable for walkers, cyclists and equestrian use.	2.2

Map 55- Lumsden

Lumsden is a small settlement (pop 331) with the Correen Hills to the east and the Cairngorm foothills to the west. The community is keen to develop a path network in and around the village with links to the upland areas.

A route east of the settlement via the reservoir and Deskie Wood needs to be identified

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
611.01	Village circular	Starts at Queenies Brae, some sections on quiet road, most on access track behind village. Most suitable for walkers and cyclists	1.1
611.02	Circular route around Clova Estate	Start on quiet road north of village then following estate roads and return down estate track to main road south of village. No path to return to Sculpture Walk but possibility of creating off-road path through shelter belts adjacent subject to land owner agreement. If not possible, alternative return to village along quiet road to Queenies Brae. Suitable for walkers and cyclists, some sections suitable for equestrian use	5.2

Map 56 – Alford

Medium sized settlement (pop. 2200) bounded by River Don to the north. The town has a large country park with a well developed path network. The community identified a need for a safe off-road link between Montgarrie and Alford and this is now possible because of the upgrade of the bridge over the Don.

It is recognised that there is a shortage of paths to the south of the town and also an off-road link between Bridge of Alford and Alford and that work will need to be done to identify potential routes

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
602.01	Haughton Circular	Circular route around Haughton Country Park including a safe link to Montgarrie and riverside walk. Suitable for walkers, cyclists and some sections for equestrian use.	4.6
602.02	Gallowhill-Kingsford Circular	Circular route south of Alford out to Gallowhill incorporating a section of right of way. Some sections on quiet road and other sections subject to delivery through development proposals.	6.0

Map 57 – Monymusk

Small conservation village (pop 305) and historic home of the Grant family. Bounded on the north west by the River Don and to the north by Pitfichie Forest which has a well developed network of paths.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
612.01	Village Circular	Starts in centre of village then west to Clyan's Dam on to Pitfichie Rd and then return along river and back to Church. Surface various, small section on road. Sections of this route are currently subject to discussions with land owners and actual route may change as a result. Most suitable for walkers although some sections may be suitable for cyclists and horse riders	3.1

Map 58 – Tarland

Medium sized settlement (pop 535) close to the boundary with the Cairngorms National Park. The local community have developed a comprehensive network of local paths working closely with the local estate and other landowners. The wider path network gives access to the surrounding countryside including Pressendye (619m)

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
615.01	Village – Tomnaverie Stone Circle- Drummy Wood	Leaves village to the south along path parallel to the public road to Tomnaverie Stone Circle then via field paths and farm tracks to Drummy Wood. Woodland path to west of village. Promoted route suitable for walkers and also cyclists and horse riders in part.	4.0
615.02	Alastrean Wood all abilities route	Current project being developed to provide an all abilities circular path in Alastrean Wood with easy access from the village. Not considered suitable for cyclists or horse riders.	1.6
601.05 (new)	Tarland – Aboyne link	See Aboyne (Map 60)	

Map 59 – Lumphanan, Torphins and Kincardine O’Neil

Lumphanan (pop. 602) is a small to medium sized settlement situated just to the north of the Dee Valley. The village has historic links with Macbeth and has the remains of a 13th century earthwork known as the Peel Ring of Lumphanan. This popular tourist site can be visited on foot from the village but not all sections are currently off-road and need to be further developed. The local community are keen to develop tourism opportunities including a local path network.

Torphins (pop. 1108) is a medium sized settlement situated at the foot of Learney Hill and centred on a busy crossroads. The old Aberdeen to Ballater railway passes through the village though many sections of the old line have been lost.

Kincardine O’Neil (pop. 338) is a small settlement on the north bank of the River Dee and is the oldest settlement on Royal Deeside. The local community have produced a leaflet promoting several countryside routes. The final section of the Deeside way is likely to pass through the village linking it to Aboyne and Banchory

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
610.01	Circular route north of Lumphanan	Starting at Macbeth Drive along a section of old railway line then head north on field paths to Cloak House. Cross road then follow track until it joins the Old Military Road (part of the wider path network) then return south to the village. Most suitable for walkers though some sections could be used by cyclists and horses.	3.0
610.02	Lumphanan – Castle Circular	Leaves the village to the west alongside the main road then up to the remains of the castle past Macbeth’s Well. South of the castle the route crosses the main road and returns to the village along a farm road. Most suitable for walkers. Completing the route, an off-road section is being investigated.	1.65
616.01	Torphins Wood Circular	Popular route; leaves the village near the church and then on woodland paths through Torphins Wood. Return along quiet section of road. Most suitable for walkers.	1.48
616.02	Cemetery-Waulkmill Circular	Leaves the centre of the village south to the cemetery then over a footbridge to Waulkmill. Return to village along section of quiet road and then pavement. Most suitable for walkers.	0.58
616.03	Village – Craigmyle Circular	Circular route from village through Kirkbrae and Church Woods Woods and return. Currently subject to discussions with land owner and actual route may change as a result	2.0

Map 60 – Aboyne

Aboyne (pop. 2,200) is a medium sized settlement on the River Dee and a popular tourist destination. There is a comprehensive wider path network easily accessible from the town with the hills south of the Dee, the Cairngorms National Park to the west and Mortlich to the north. Promoted path networks have been developed in and around the town with community involvement and in consultation with local land managers. Aboyne will eventually be linked to Banchory and beyond with the completion of the Deeside Way

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
601.01	Riverside Circular	Joins the River Dee at the Boat Inn and follows the riverbank returning along quiet section of road at Rhu-na-haven. Most suitable for walkers, currently promoted.	1.57
601.02	Aboyne Castle Circular	Popular circular route from the town through the grounds of Aboyne Castle. Can be extended to the Tarland Road. Suitable for all users.	1.80
601.03	Bellwood All Abilities Circular	An all abilities path, part of the community woodland path network. Currently promoted.	1.55
601.04	Bellwood Circular	Part of the community woodland path network around the Bellwood. Suitable for all users. Currently promoted.	3.00
601.05 (new)	Tarland-Aboyne link	Link between Aboyne and Tarland, some sections on quiet roads some sections off road. Currently subject to discussions with land owners and actual route may change as a result	
7LD.02	Deeside Way	Long distance route west from Aboyne to Ballater and eventually east to Banchory. Suitable for all users.	See Long Distance Routes
7CB.09	The Fungle	Historic right of way south from Aboyne linking into a wider network of paths and with Glen Esk in Angus. Route at Birse Castle currently subject to discussions with land owners and actual route may change as a result	12.0

Map 61 - Banchory

Banchory (population 6359) With a rapidly growing population Banchory is the main settlement in lower Deeside, located on the northern banks of the River Dee.

The Deeside Way long distance route provides access directly into Aberdeen City, some 18 miles to the east. Proposals to extend this long distance route west to Aboyne are currently being investigated, as are extensions to the paths along the river and in the northern part of Hill of Banchory.

Forestry Commission woodlands north west, west and south of the river provide a significant resource for access and informal recreation.

Both current proposals for core paths and future aspirations focus on providing better access to these areas. There are additional aspirations to develop access around Lochton of Leys and Hill of Banchory to the north east to eventually provide circular routes round the town.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
604.01	River Bank Golf Course	Attractive walk along north bank of river adjacent to Golf Course. An earth track, it is used mainly by walkers but is not suitable for all abilities.	1.72
604.02	Inchmarlo to Burnett Park	All abilities access route from Inchmarlo into town.	0.53
604.03	Glassel Road to Fayre View	Principal route through Corsee Wood, used by cyclists and walkers and most abilities.	1.89
604.04	Lower Bellswood to Upper Lochton	Well used, most abilities route from town to Upper Lochton, providing safe route to school. Also links to wider network to provide circular.	0.65
604.05	Burn O'Bennie and Hill of Banchory to Primary School	Important access routes through new housing developments providing safe route to school and to town.	1.2
604.06	Upper Lochton to Corsee Wood	Link from Raemoir Road west to FC woodland to provide various options for circular routes. All abilities and users. Partly on road.	1.45
604.07	Hill of Banchory link to Primary School	Important Safe Route to School through woodland	0.49
604.08	Raemoir Road to Burn of Bennie Road	Link through woodlands contributing towards circular route	1.95
604.09	A93 to Deeside Way	Provides access on to Deeside Way and contributes towards a circular route	0.27

604.10	Former Railway Line to Inchmarlo	Contributes towards circular link through Corsee Woods	0.52
7LD.02	Deeside Way	Long distance route from King George Park east to Milton of Crathes. All ability multi-user route. Route runs parallel to reinstated Deeside Railway.	See Long Distance Routes

Map 62- Ballogie, Finzean and Birse

Three small settlement areas which comprise the Parish of Birse. The very active Birse Community Trust has developed several recreational opportunities in the area including path networks and carried out a pilot Core Paths Plan community consultation on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council. The consultation identified a community interest in developing an off-road link between Finzean village and the local primary school via Drumhead and also a link between Birse Kirk, Oldyleiper and Aboyne. The Fungle right of way between Aboyne and Glen Esk lies in the west of the Parish and the River Dee to the north. The final section of the Deeside Way to be completed between Banchory and Aboyne is likely to pass through the east of the parish

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
603.01	Shooting Greens to Corsedardar via Tom's Cairn	Popular route over Tom's Cairn which also provides a between the forest path network at Blackhall in the east and the wider path network in the west. Suitable for walkers, cyclists and equestrian use.	3.86
7CB.09 (on Map 60)	The Fungle	Historic right of way south from Aboyne linking into a wider network of paths and with Glen Esk in Angus.	12.0

Map 63 – Strachan

Small settlement (pop.137) lying to the south of Scolty Hill (299m) and beside the Water of Feugh. The large forest area of Fetteresso with a wide ranging path network is south of the river. The community is active in developing recreational opportunities and the need for a safe link between the village and the Fetteresso Forest via Templeton Croft has been identified.

Proposed Core Paths

Path Ref. No.	Path name/route	Path description/justification	Length (kms)
614.01	Ardlair Path	Popular route developed and promoted by the community with the cooperation of a local farmer linking Strachan to Scolty Hill and the existing wider path network. Suitable for walkers and cyclists and some sections for horse riders on to Banchory.	4.3
614.02	Scolty Hill Path	An existing route to the summit of Scolty Hill on the north side and part of a comprehensive network of paths. A local community group is currently seeking funding to repair and upgrade due to major erosion problems. Mainly suitable for walkers.	0.6