

Fraserburgh cycle network

Nestrans has spent over £300,000 in Fraserburgh towards the construction of off road cycle paths. This again supplements further investment by Aberdeenshire Council in the area's cycle network.



Westhill – Kingswells – Aberdeen cycle route

Nestrans provided around £800,000 for the route which is mainly off-road and runs alongside a busy commuter route from Westhill via the A944 and B9119 Skene Road to the roundabout at Kings Gate and Queens Road. Advisory cycle lanes have also been installed along Queens Road to the junction with Anderson Drive.

The route has an off road spur link to connect with existing bus and cycle lanes on the A944 Lang Stracht. The new paths provide connections between nearby residential and industrial areas in both City and Shire as well as to/from the Park & Choose site at Kingswells and Hazlehead Park. Early results from a radio beam counter show an average of around 100 cyclists per day.

A nearby shared use path between Kingswells and Bucksburn has also been upgraded and a granite dust-style path installed to complete the link. Although the split between pedestrians and cyclists is not detected, a pressure pad monitoring system on the path suggests an average of over 60 users per day.

West Cults Bridge

Nestrans funded £170,000 for a new bridge on The Deeside Way, which is a well used regional facility for travel and recreation by residents and visitors - with average usage levels of over 500 pedestrians and 200 cyclists per day being recorded by the monitor at the eastern end of the route. The bridge provides greater continuity along the route and improves safety and accessibility standards, as users no longer have to negotiate a steep slope down to cross West Cults Road and then climb back up to rejoin the route.



The new bridge and accessibility and resurfacing work undertaken by Sustrans and core paths development by Aberdeenshire Council will all assist in providing an off-road combined pedestrian/cycleway along most of the former rail line between Aberdeen and Ballater.

Riverside Drive

A high quality shared use path is being delivered to help utilise the River Dee as a formal walking and cycling route. To date Nestrans has funded over £500,000 towards the path on the south side of North Esplanade West between Victoria Bridge and Queen Elizabeth Bridge and then alongside Riverside Drive to King George VI Bridge. This provides linkage with existing cycle lanes on Market Street towards the City Centre, the Duthie Park and Deeside Way, via shared use paths on King George VI Bridge and Inverdee playing fields to Tullos Industrial Estate and along existing riverside paths towards Bridge of Dee and the retail parks and Robert Gordon University complexes off Garthdee Road.

In addition to the above sections of cycle network infrastructure, the opportunity is also taken to incorporate measures for cyclists wherever possible within any strategic corridor improvements works undertaken. Cycle groups are consulted and involved in the development of all infrastructure proposals.

Supporting Measures

As well as making cycling safer and more efficient through the provision of infrastructure measures, it is also important to encourage greater cycle usage through promotion and Nestrans also invests in the following supporting measures:

Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme

Nestrans has developed a Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme, which can provide up to 50% match funding to organisations investing in measures to promote more sustainable travel by their employees or customers. There is an upper limit on any award of £10,000 and schemes have included, among others, contributions towards pool bikes for Woodend Hospital and cycle lockers at Peterhead Academy and Robert Gordon University.

Getabout

Getabout has been developed as the universal brand to promote active, healthy and sustainable transport choices. It is co-ordinated by a partnership that currently consists of Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen College, NHS Grampian and The Energy Savings Trust, with an invitation pending to Grampian Police to join.

All partners jointly own the brand and key tools in promoting the group's aims have been the provision of a website www.get-about.com and staging of various events. The website is fully interactive with a member's area and competitions page. It provides links to cycle maps within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire and to the websites of organisations such as Aberdeen Cycle Forum, CTC Grampian, and Sustrans. It is backed up by Facebook and European mobility management (www.allix.eu) sites and a Twitter account to which members and members of the public can upload photos and text. Details of upcoming events are regularly posted.



Cycle related events have included launches for the new infrastructure listed above, cycle maps and No Excuse Zones in Peterhead and Westhill. Get Cycling roadshows where people can try all types of fun bikes for free have been held across the region in schools, parks, hospital grounds, pedestrianised shopping areas and at Aberdeen University. There have been commuter challenges, guided rides, Doctor Bike Surgeries, sponsorship of Bike Week films, appearances and endorsements from Graeme Obree and Mark Beaumont and

European Mobility Week events. The 2010 In Town Without my Car events were cycle orientated and involved primary school children in Bridge of Don and Inch displaying Go Mountain bike skills acquired over a 6 week course within the road closures outside their school, participation in a Guinness Book of Records bell ringing challenge, a cycle surgery, electronic bike trials, community events and safety courses and security marking by Grampian Police.



A **Getabout** kit with a branded marquee, sixteen 2m high feather flags, café barriers, banners and bunting has been put together for use at events. In addition to this there is a stock of cycle related promotional merchandise that includes branded slap bands, high viz vests and polo shirts in various child and adult sizes, water bottles and bike bells.

Achievements to date

Recent Sustainable Travel Grants have resulted in the provision of shower facilities, cycle maps for six Aberdeenshire areas and cycle storage at NHS Grampian sites, schools and Universities, Rail Stations, private businesses and Aberdeen Airport. An award also assisted with the purchase of bikes, equipment, training and cycle carriers for Grampian Police for use in patrolling Aberdeenshire towns and villages.



This has resulted in 20 bikes currently being used by Community Beat Officers in Aberdeenshire, with plans to train a further fifty Officers. As well as using the bikes on routine patrols they have been used at events such as Turriff Show, Peterhead Wizard Festival, the Braemar Gathering and 10K road races in Inverurie and Balmoral and public feedback has been very positive.

The **Getabout** website is averaging 3,500 hits a year with 10,000 page views and recognition of the brand is increasing, which is having positive effects on the promotional work the partnership carries out.

Results from the Scottish Household Survey 2007-08 show the proportion of journeys to work by bike was up from the previous average across Scotland of 2% to 2.7% for the entire north east and 3.5% within Aberdeen City making it the third highest in Scotland.

Aberdeen Cycle Forum members undertake snapshot surveys of cycle use each April from 07:30 – 09:00 at 11 fixed locations within the City. Results show growth of around 9% between 2008 and 2009 and maintained totals in 2010, which equated to over 650 cyclists being recorded in the AM peak at the 11 sites.

Long term cycle trends will continue to be monitored and continued investment made by Nestrans in cycle infrastructure and promotion to encourage more people to try cycling and help the north east to achieve the benefits this brings.