



From mountain to sea

# Coastal Communities Buchan

## Progress Report

Year 2 - 2023-2024

16 April 2024



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## 1 About Coastal Communities Buchan

Crown Estate Scotland generates income from a range of marine assets (aquaculture, offshore renewables, moorings, and other coastal income). Aberdeenshire Council receives a proportion of this income and allocates Buchan Area Committee a percentage of the overall allocation annually to be used for coastal community benefit such as support for local projects or initiatives.

A five-year commissioning strategy (2022 – 2027) has been agreed by Buchan Area Committee for the locally decided distribution of Crown Estate funds within the Buchan area. This complements the North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group (NESFLAG) Challenge Fund. Both funds are in line with Aberdeenshire Council's overall approach to distributing funds to support our Coastal Communities.

In line with the Aberdeenshire Council Crown Estate Scotland Framework, Buchan Area Committee has prioritised:

- Supporting the development of active travel routes along, to and from the coastline
- Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism
- Creating or enhancing community, leisure, and recreational facilities
- Safeguarding, restoring, or enhancing the coastal environment

Eligible locations are based on the Aberdeenshire's Coastal Zone, as defined in the Local Development Plan, and any settlement which borders this zone. Projects taking place outside of this area and up to two miles from the coastline may be considered where they can demonstrate a strong and tangible link with the coast or sea. Buchan settlements within or on the edge of the coastal zone are:

- Boddam
  - Crimond
  - Cruden Bay
  - Longhaven
  - Peterhead
  - St Combs
  - St Fergus
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## 2 Year Two Projects (2023-2024)

Fourteen projects were supported through the Buchan Coastal Commissioning Strategy in year two. One project focussed on Buchan-wide activity in coastal communities, others were specific to a location or settlement. This section sets out the projects supported in year two of the strategy organised by place.

### 2.1 Buchan Coast

This project was delivered across the whole of coastal Buchan.

#### 2.1.1 *Seasonal Access Countryside Ranger – Buchan Coast*

During the 2023 season the Seasonal Access Countryside Rangers undertook patrols in key Buchan locations. These included Cruden Bay and Scotstown Beach.

Positive feedback on the support provided by the Seasonal Access Countryside Rangers was provided by landowners and land managers, including Harbour Trustees. Particular attention was paid to Scotstown Beach in order to develop a more robust understanding of visitor use.

During the season there were 15 patrols of Scotstown beach, directly welcoming and engaging with 60 visitors to promote responsible access and raise awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC). During these patrols there were four litter picks undertaken removing six bags of litter from the site as well as larger items such as clothing, nets and tyres. One fire scar was dismantled and repaired.

During the period of the project, the Seasonal Access Rangers made a specific focus to engage with and, where necessary educate, those visiting the Scotstown site with dogs. This included raising awareness and understanding on responsible dog ownership, proper dog control at countryside sites, the impacts of reckless disturbance of wildlife and the potential consequences of dogs worrying livestock.

### 2.2 Longhaven

One project was commissioned in Longhaven. The lead for this project was Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Service.

#### 2.2.1 *Longhaven Playpark Equipment Replacement*

One community facility was improved through the purchase of replacement play equipment. Due to an issue with the availability of the installation contractor the completion of this project had been delayed from year one. The final element of installation was completed in year two.

### 2.3 Cruden Bay

There were two projects supported in Cruden Bay.

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### 2.3.1 Cruden Bay former Congregational Church Building – transfer of ownership

This grant-based commission was led by Cruden Bay Community Association and will see the transfer of the former Church into the ownership and management of the association. The Coastal Communities Buchan grant contributed to the conveyancing costs of both organisations to enable the transfer, although the transfer will not complete within the 2023-24 year it has made significant progress. The transfer is phase one and longer-term project to bring the building into new community use is likely to extend over a number of future phases.

### 2.3.2 Port Errol Harbour - Safety improvements to ladders

This project led by the Port Errol Harbour Trustees has replaced several harbour ladders with new galvanised units and added top handrail section to all ladder to ensure users can safely access the quayside from berths. This project is part of an ongoing programme of works planned and being undertaken by the Harbour Trustees to improve this community run facility for berth holders and other Harbour users.

## 2.4 Peterhead

There were seven project commissions focussed on Peterhead.

### 2.4.1 Peterhead Transport Interchange Mural

Led by the Passenger Transportation Unit in partnership with the Buchan Area Manger's Team this project led to the commissioning of a vibrant mural to enhance the redevelopment of the transport interchange.

The successful artist was selected through a process involving Peterhead Academy pupils, Peterhead Community Council, Nestrans, Stagecoach and Brewtoon, as well as Aberdeenshire Council.

In addition to painting the eye-catching work the artist, Plague Fisher delivered workshop sessions with young people at The Space in Drummers Corner and in partnership with Peterhead Academy.

### 2.4.2 Seafest – Event Equipment Hire

Led by SURF this grant based commission secured event equipment to support the participation of community groups at the first SeaFest event held in Peterhead in September 2023. SURF's Alliance for Action Community Facilitator played an integral role as part of the event team. Many local community groups participated in an event which saw over 9000 people attend.



#### *2.4.3 Field Marshal Keith Monument - Re-lettering of inscription*

Led by the Historic Environment Team at Aberdeenshire Council this project restored the inscription on this prominent Town Centre monument.

#### *2.4.4 Peterhead Reform Tower – Access and safety works*

Led by the Historic Environment Team at Aberdeenshire Council this project will install a secure access door for inspection. It will secure the interior of the structure with heavy gauge mesh in window openings to prevent birds from nesting and roosting. Extensive cleaning has also been commissioned to make the structure safer for inspection. Works are being undertaken at the time of writing and as a result this project has not yet submitted monitoring information.

#### *2.4.5 Peterhead Prison Museum Roofing Project*

A grant-based commission this project is led by Admiralty Gateway the charity operating Peterhead Prison Museum. As well as undertaking repairs the project will allow access for detailed survey work. This work will inform plans to invest in this historic asset and prepare bids for specialist funding. At the time of writing the work is underway and the project is yet to compete and submit monitoring information.

#### *2.4.6 Peterhead Sustainable Tourism and Economic Development - Town Centre redesign*

A landscaping study was commissioned by the Roads Infrastructure Service to inform Member Officer Working Group deliberations for the future pedestrianisation of Marischal Street. This study is a preliminary step that will support a robust process to cost an outline design option. It should also support alignment with landscaping of the wider townscape which will be impacted by projects such as the Peterhead Cultural Quarter. The project was supported under the coastal economy and sustainable tourism criteria. The outline design represents the first stage of a potentially lengthy process, the ambition of which is to provide high quality landscaping solution that supports the economic and social wellbeing of the Town. It was completed across years one and two of the Strategy.

#### *2.4.7 Peterhead Place Vision*

Lead by the Buchan Area Team and the Planning Delivery and Information Team this project was supported in years one and two with dedicated staff time and the delivery of engagement events in February 2024. The project was supported under the coastal economy criteria, but its wide scope means it is relevant to most of the priorities.

### **2.5 St Fergus**

There were two projects in St Fergus.

#### *2.5.1 Scotstown Beach - Amenity improvements*

Led by the Outdoor Access & Countryside Team at Aberdeenshire Council this project is the first phase of a refurbishment of this important access point to the Buchan Coast.

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As part of a shifting dune landscape and with traffic compacting the surface over time this car park required significant repair and refurbishment including drainage works. The project once completed will also realign the parking pays and create bunds to provide more protection to livestock fields in constant use. Future phases should also see interpretation installed and some road repairs undertaken. At the time of writing the work is underway and the project is yet to complete and submit monitoring information.

### 2.5.2 *St Fergus Community Pitch – Drainage and fencing works*

Led by the St Fergus Community Pitch Group this grant based commission saw drainage works completed which should extend the playing season and capacity of the pitch. Fencing works have also improved the amenity of this important community facility.



## 2.6 St Combs

There was one project in St Combs.

### 2.6.1 *St Combs - Play equipment*

Led by Landscape Services working in partnership with local community groups and additional piece of play equipment was selected and installed to improve the playpark beside the community hall in the village.

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### 3 Priorities, outcomes and outputs

The following summary highlights the relevant Coastal Communities and Buchan Community Plan priorities for each project. It also includes project outcomes and outputs including North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group indicators where applicable.

Project Title	Organisation	Summary	Coastal Communities Priority	Buchan Priority	Outcome	Output indicator (NESFLAG)	Number
Seasonal Access Ranger - Buchan	Aberdeenshire Council	0.2 of Seasonal Access Ranger Service post to be dedicated to Buchan 2023	4) Safeguarding, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment	2.2) Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities	Provision of information to visitors including Scotland's Outdoor Access Code.  Regular monitoring of sites.	Number of jobs created	0.2
Peterhead Transport Interchange Mural	Aberdeenshire Council	Delivery of a welcoming mural at Peterhead Transport incorporating coastal themes.	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	4.3) Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities	Key town gateway enhanced for public transport users.  Community participation in decision making.  Creative learning opportunity for young people.	Number of existing facilities enhanced	1
Scotstown Beach Car Park	Aberdeenshire Council	Amenity improvements to coastal access car park	4) Safeguarding, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment	2.2) Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including	Important outdoor access point improved for outdoor recreation by local people and visitors	Number of existing facilities enhanced	1



				through physical activities			
St Fergus Community Park Improvements	St Fergus Community Park Group	Drainage improvements and fencing at community managed facility	3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities	2.2) Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities	Community run facility improved to increase capacity	Number of existing facilities enhanced	1
Port Errol Harbour Facility Improvements	Port Errol Harbour Trustees	Safety improvements to Harbour ladders	3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities	2.2) Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities	Community run facility improved to increase user safety	Number of existing facilities enhanced	1
SeaFest	SURF Alliance for Action	Event equipment hire for community participation	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	4.2) Develop a Community Wealth Building approach	Significant participation by Community groups in successful SeaFest event	Number of new products/services created	1
St Combs Play Equipment	Aberdeenshire Council	Enhanced community facilities for St Combs	3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities	2.2) Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including	Facility enhanced with new equipment and safety surfacing.	Number of existing facilities enhanced	1

				through physical activities	Community participation in decision making.	
Cruden Bay Community Facilities	Cruden Bay Community Association	Supporting the transfer of community asset to CBCA	3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities	4.2) Develop a Community Wealth Building approach	N/A – project has yet to complete this phase.	
Peterhead Prison Museum Roofing Project	Admiralty Gateway	Roof repairs and access for detailed condition survey	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	4.3) Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities	N/A – project has yet to complete this phase.	
Field Marshall Keith Monument Re-lettering	Aberdeenshire Council	Re-lettering of inscription on historic town centre monument in Peterhead	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	4.3) Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities	Protection of historic townscape and its features	n/a
Peterhead Reform Tower Access, cleaning and security	Aberdeenshire Council	Installation of secure door. Treatment of accumulated waste, removal and washing down of interior. Fitting of heavy gauge mesh.	4) Safeguarding, restoring or enhancing the coastal environment	1.1) Support the delivery of projects and initiatives which are important to communities	N/A – project has yet to complete this phase.	n/a

Peterhead Sustainable Tourism and Economic Development - Town Centre redesign	Aberdeenshire Council	High level concept design for landscaping Marschial Street	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	4.3) Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities	A final high-level concept design has been provided. Continued from year 1.		n/a concept stage
Peterhead Place Vision	Aberdeenshire Council	Dedicated staffing resource to develop visual materials for engagement (revenue)	2) Developing the coastal economy and sustainable tourism	4.3) Support projects and initiatives for regeneration of our communities	Stakeholder engagement workshops undertaken. Continued from year 1.	Number of new products/services created	N/A – recorded year 1
Longhaven Play Equipment	Aberdeenshire Council	Landscape Services - enhanced community facilities for Longhaven	3) Creating or enhancing community, leisure and recreational facilities	2.2) Explore and develop initiatives to reduce social isolation including through physical activities	Facility enhanced with new equipment and safety surfacing. Continued from year 1.	Number of existing facilities enhanced	N/A – recorded year 1