

Oban to Fort William Path – Summer 2010

Part of The Caledonia Way

When completed, the Oban to Fort William route will be approximately 46 miles long, the majority traffic-free path. It will become part of **Route 78 of the National Cycle Network** running from Campbeltown to Inverness. The whole route (228 miles in total) will be called *The Caledonia Way / Slighe na h-Alba*.

NOTE: The route is still under construction. Where no traffic-free path has been built, the only alternative may be the A828 trunk road.

Partnership Working

The Oban to Fort William Path is being developed in partnership and is divided into three main sections: Oban to Connel (Argyll & Bute Council), Connel to South Ballachulish, based around the disused railway and old road (Sustrans) and Glencoe to Fort William (Transport Scotland).

Where are we now?



New path at Appin

In early 2010, Sustrans completed the path between Inverfolla and Appin and the Ballachulish to Glencoe path will be completed by Transport Scotland by the end of June. *See the map overleaf to see what we plan to build in 2010.*

We continue to look

at route options in the remaining sections. Due to the uncertainty of negotiations with landowners, it's not possible to say when the route will be complete, but we hope it will be by 2014.

Community Links

This cycle, walking and horse riding route will link numerous small communities along the trunk road corridor, providing not only a recreational resource, but also safe links for all journeys, including those to school, the shops and work, enabling everyone to travel sustainably, safely and healthily.

Tourism Potential

The sections that already exist are proving highly popular. The route runs through an area with outstanding scenery and many historic associations. The completed path will be a high quality, memorable route for tourists and visitors: an enjoyable weekend outing (using the railway stations at Oban and Fort William) or part of a longer cycling trip. Meanwhile, the existing traffic-free sections are ideal for short trips for families and young and inexperienced cyclists. We hope to work with tourism organisations to promote the route, the facilities along it and to encourage people to get to it using sustainable transport.

Interpretation Project

Differentia Design (www.differentia.co.uk) developed an interpretation management plan for the route between Oban and Ballachulish and designed the logo to be used for the Caledonia Way. Interpretation panels, seating, shelters,

poetry rocks and artworks will be installed in 2010 along completed sections of the route. This project is funded by SNH.

Access Controls



Prototype access controls

Access controls, gates and bollards have also been designed and developed by Differentia and Chris Brammall. Some have already been installed at road crossings and path entrances. The gates reflect the shape of a 'Bhirlinn', or Highland Galley, the Viking-like ships that were used in medieval times for transport and war-making along the west coast of Scotland.

Partners

Argyll & Bute Council
The Highland Council
The Scottish Government
Transport Scotland
HITRANS (the Regional Transport Partnership)
Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)



Get Involved!

If you have any queries, suggestions or ideas relating to the route, please contact:

Clary Elliott, Engineering Manager, Sustrans Scotland. Tel: 0131 539 8122

Email: clary.elliott@sustrans.org.uk

As the route develops, we will also be looking for volunteer rangers to help maintain and promote it. Contact derek.mullins@sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans and the National Cycle Network

Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. Our vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment.

In Scotland, the National Cycle Network consists of 1,800 miles of opened route, with further miles still to complete.

For more information about Sustrans, visit www.sustrans.org.uk

Oban to Ballachulish Status – Summer 2010

Status

Built 17 miles / 25km completed
Planned for 2010 Benderloch to Barcaldine Castle Road;
 (+ Ballachulish to Glencoe)
Future 15.5 miles to go approximately (+13
 miles from Ballachulish to Fort William)

Key

- Open
- To be built 2010
- - - - Proposed Route
- Circular Routes

