

## **Easter Beltie Wetlands Path**

### **Easter Beltie to Glassel section of proposed Torphins – Banchory Path**

Planning approvals were received in May 2021 for the scenic 2 km Easter Beltie to Glassel road section of the proposed 10 km Torphins – Banchory path. The route along the restored wetlands at Easter Beltie will proceed across Black Linn Burn to traverse Dam Wood to the Glassel road.

TPG obtained approval for a new 2m path alongside the area of the river restoration on the old railway track, through the wooded area to Black Linn Burn, and over a new bridge to traverse the north west side of Dam Wood to the Glassel Road. The landowner obtained planning approval for a new car park at Easter Beltie, and for a new path through the field to connect with the old railway track. The landowner has provided valued support to the path project, as have the managers of the river restoration.

A temporary access is already open through the field to maintain access to the old railway track, which is a popular walk near the Easter Beltie River Restoration site. The old access was closed for safety reasons and access to the wetlands themselves is currently similarly restricted until the area matures.

To fund the planning application surveys, reports and fees, TPG won grants from Aberdeenshire Council Marr Area Committee and King George V Wind Turbine Fund, supplemented by internal funding from public donations and product sales, and a discounted planning fee through the support of Torphins Community Council.

TPG has now applied for a Scottish Rural and Payments Service Improving Public Access grant to fund all the path construction to the Black Linn Burn, plus interpretation boards, finger pointers, and benches. These grants are heavily subscribed so we await the outcome, which will not be known till the end of year.

Forest & Land Scotland have approved our access to the north west section of Dam Wood however they are still developing the formal licence they will give TPG before funding and construction work can commence in Dam Wood.

