

## Big Vision – The Long Distance Route Strategy

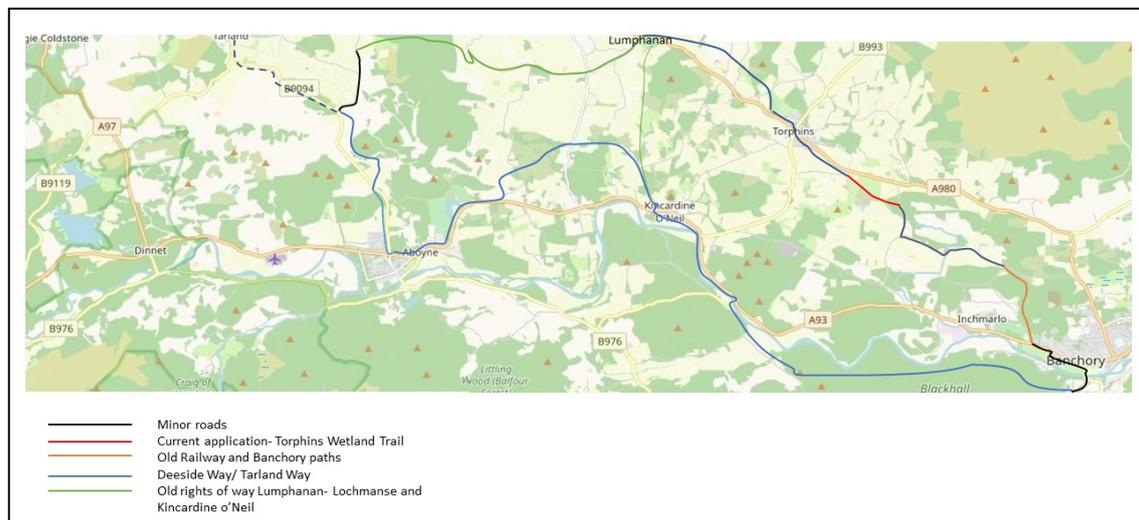
TPG has joined with the paths groups in neighbouring communities to form the Marr Paths Forum. The purpose of this forum is share experiences and best practice and to collaborate in joint projects where that makes sense. While we are all busy with individual projects day to day, as resources allow, it is important that we don't lose sight of the bigger picture. A network of paths and trails throughout our area is a valuable resource for recreation and tourism. With this in mind, TPG has proposed to the forum the idea of a circular trail connecting Torphins and neighbouring communities from Banchory and Aboyne to Lumphanan and Tarland.

This Big Vision is for a long distance path network proposed by Torphins Paths Group and other local paths groups, a proposal recognised by local authorities, and aligned with long distance tourist route and adventure tourism strategies.

The Torphins - Banchory route will connect with The Deeside Way in Banchory and potentially to the Hill of Banchory residential and business developments, which include developed shared use path networks through well populated residential areas.

The Torphins - Lumphanan route will provide a link to the documented and publicised routes from Lumphanan to Kincardine O'Neil, and to the long distance walking route from Lumphanan to Tarland via The Comply and rising over Craiglich to meet the Tarland Way. Connecting Tarland and Aboyne, the Tarland Way provides a multi user path south to Aboyne and The Deeside Way.

These connecting routes provide the prospect of a long distance circular via the Deeside Way in the south and a new northerly route through the area of Torphins, Lumphanan and Tarland, to widen access possibilities; enable long distance travel; and encourage visitors and tourism.



Approximate distances are as follows:

Longer Route		Shorter Route	
Torphins – Banchory	10 km	Torphins - Banchory	10 km
Banchory – Aboyne (Deeside Way)	25 km	Banchory – Kincardine O'Neil (Deeside Way)	15 km
Aboyne – Tarland (Tarland Way)	10 km	Kincardine O'Neil – Lumphanan	6 km
Tarland – Lumphanan	15 km	Lumphanan – Torphins	5 km
Lumphanan – Torphins	5 km		
<b>Total Circular</b>	<b>65 km</b>	<b>Total Circular</b>	<b>36 km</b>