







Discover Maps Project: East Grampian Coastal Partnership

Discover Maps:

'Our impressive landscapes and seascapes play a significant role in reciting the history of Scotland. capturing tales of cultural heritage and natural significance as they document the changing relationship and attachment between society and nature.'

Several years ago, Ian Hay, an East Grampian Coastal Partnership (EGCP) Project Manager, developed a partnership project: Discover the Aberdeenshire Coast resulting in webpages about the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coastline. Whether looking for ecofriendly accommodation, places to watch dolphins or a walking route to explore the coast, the webpages provided information and ideas for an exciting 'green' visit to the region; from puffins to whales, to deserted beaches and bustling harbours.

A natural evolution of this initiative is the current Discover Maps Project now nearing completion timed, originally, to link with Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters. Funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Funds (EMFF) this involved the creation of three

annotated and illustrated maps covering the coastline between Fraserburgh and St Cyrus, but excluding Aberdeen. These maps contain a wealth of interesting information about the coast including the people, the history, environment and activities that make this stretch of coast so unique.

The brainchild of one of

EGCP's Directors, John

Watson (Editor of the maps), the graphic illustrations and maps are the work of Foyer Graphics (Creative Director, Julie Wemyss and her team) with map cover illustrations provided by local artist lan Thomson. Information for the maps was collected and edited with the help of Dr Fiona-Jane Brown, a native of Peterhead and Director of Hidden Aberdeen Tours, local author and historian who acted as the principal researcher for the project. Having completed extensive research into the local culture for various previous projects (Formartine Oral History Project (2006-2008)), the North-East Cultural Heritage and Tourism Project (2019-2020) and written her doctoral thesis on the fisher communities of Grampian, she was the ideal person to 'dig' for hidden gems and forgotten memories to populate these new maps. A short video - with the help of Avcimmedia in Aberdeen (Angus Turner and his team) has been made to accompany the map. A fourth map for Aberdeen has now also been added to the map series.

Both the film and the maps are available free of charge on the EGCP website: www. egcp.scot/discover-maps. A0 posters of the maps are also being printed and will be donated to libraries, schools and other public spaces for feedback and further information gathering for the second issue of these maps.

We hope this project will continue to grow and become a social story of the region. Further memories and short stories of residents, and visitors who have spent time in the area, and its people, are already being sought to support EGCP's health and well-being initiative. If you have memories of a favourite place to share, have seen anything special, interesting or just mundane, worked on or around this coast, or just remember some favourite holidays or pastimes, and 'tall stories' that might be true or just legends, then please let us know!

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www.abdn.ac.uk / www.egcp.scot / www.egcp.scot/discover-maps (on behalf of: John Watson (Director EGCP), Mike Skitmore (Vice-Chair and Director EGCP), Derek MacDonald (Aberdeenshire Council), Ian Hay (Project Manager EGCP), Fiona-Jane Brown (Hidden Aberdeen Tours, and Angus (AVCiMmedia)) EGCP would like to thank everyone who

contributed to these maps.

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