



# Ian Findlay Path Fund

## Evaluation Report 2023/24



FOR A HAPPIER,  
HEALTHIER SCOTLAND



Improving walking environments within  
and between communities across Scotland



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**Improving  
walking environments  
within and between  
communities  
across Scotland**



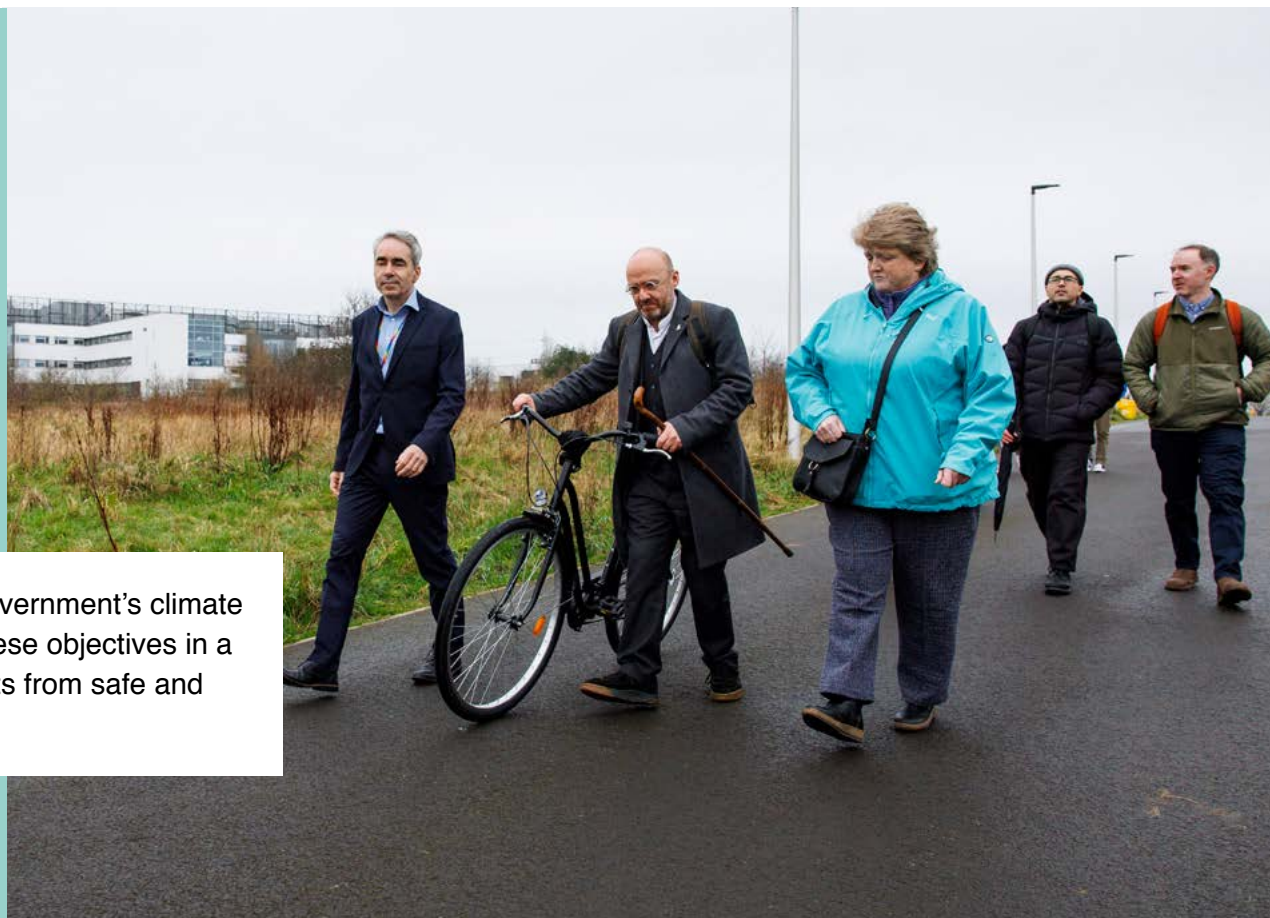
# Overview

**In May 2023, Transport Scotland confirmed £1.839 million in funding for the second round of the Ian Findlay Path Fund (IFPF), with £1.5 million allocated for grants. This marked a £206,847 increase in grant funding from the previous year. The application period for this round opened on June 6, 2023, and closed on March 8, 2024.**

Grants were awarded to 21 new projects across Scotland, aimed at improving their local active travel networks. These projects will be completed by Spring 2025. Additionally, 21 projects funded in the previous round (2022/23) concluded throughout the year.

As Scotland's National Walking Charity, we remain dedicated to empowering communities to improve their local active travel infrastructure, ensuring that walking becomes the easiest and most convenient choice for short journeys.

We also recognise our role in supporting the Scottish Government's climate targets and commitments. Our goal is to help achieve these objectives in a fair and inclusive manner, ensuring that everyone benefits from safe and accessible walking environments.



# Overall Results

**The Ian Findlay Path Fund, supports the improvement of local path networks within and between communities, making it easier for people to choose to walk, wheel or cycle for everyday journeys.**

The fund supports projects that clearly show how they will make it easier for people to engage in active travel. Each project must also meet at least one other outcome specified by the programme.

## These are:

- > To Improve accessibility of existing paths
- > To improve resilience of paths
- > To improve use of existing local path networks through development of new link paths
- > To improve safety and increase community confidence
- > To increase community of core path and local path networks

The outcomes of the IFPF are intentionally aligned with Transport Scotland's Active Travel outcomes, ensuring that every project supported advances the goals outlined in the Active Travel Outcomes Framework.

This alignment means that every initiative we back through the IFPF directly contributes to Transport Scotland's objective of increasing the number of people who choose to walk, wheel and cycle in Scotland.

## Specifically, our projects aim to:

- > Increase the proportion of short everyday journeys by walking, wheeling and cycling
- > Improve attitudes towards walking, wheeling and cycling
- > Increase the frequency of walking, wheeling and cycling for pleasure/exercise



Additionally, the projects we support also advance the outcomes of making walking, wheeling and cycling safer for everyone and ensuring these options are accessible to all.

# 2022/23 in Numbers\*

The figures below relate to projects funded in 2022/23 that were completed during 2023/24.



## 15 construction stage projects

- > 8 Registered Charities
- > 4 Constituted Community Groups
- > 2 Community Councils
- > 1 Educational establishment

## 11 local authority areas covered

- > Aberdeen City
- > Aberdeenshire
- > East Lothian
- > Edinburgh
- > Glasgow
- > Highland
- > Moray
- > North Ayrshire
- > Perth and Kinross
- > South Lanarkshire
- > Stirling

## Improved accessibility of shared use paths

- > 8 barriers removed
- > 38 seats installed
- > 233m of restrictive gradient removed
- > 1550m of path created around barriers
- > 13413m of path surface upgraded to improve accessibility

## Improved path resilience

- > 754m of path upgraded to improve resilience
- > 44m of drainage channel created
- > 389m of drainage channels improved
- > 100m<sup>2</sup> of green infrastructure features installed



### New path links developed

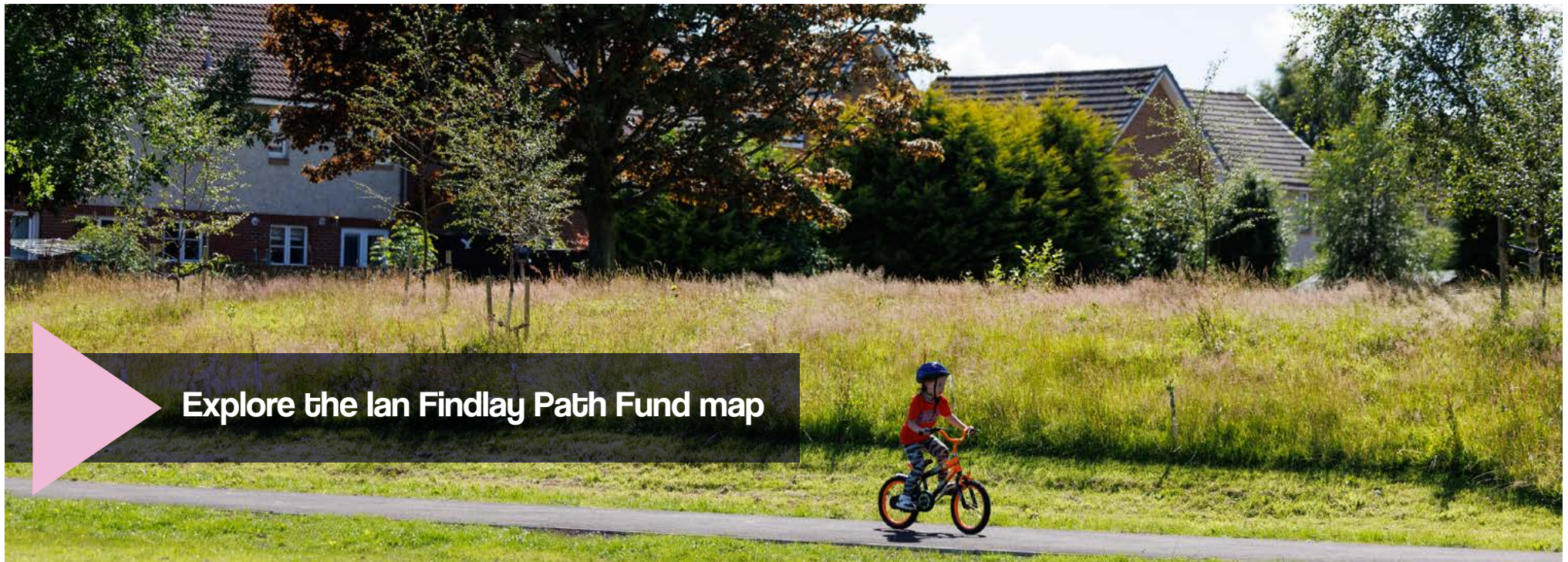
- > 3445m of path created that improve access to local amenities and connect with existing active travel routes.
- > Improved path safety
- > 4 path information panels installed
- > 72 lights installed
- > 682m of path where overgrown vegetation has been maintained to increase path corridor

### Increased community use of the core path network

- > 2 core paths upgraded
- > 1376m of core path upgraded
- > 16 signs installed

### 6 design stage projects

- > 5 Registered Charities
- > 1 Not-for-profit company
- > 5 local authority areas covered: Dundee, Edinburgh, Fife, Perth and Kinross and South Lanarkshire
- > 5 projects satisfactorily completed the design stage of their projects, one was unable to complete their project



Explore the Ian Findlay Path Fund map

# Community Impact

## Ardnish Path Restoration Project, Isle of Skye

The Ardnish Path Restoration Project, funded by the Ian Findlay Path Fund (IFPF), revitalised a historic community path on the Isle of Skye, connecting Upper and Lower Breakish to Waterloo and Broadford. The path, used for generations by crofters and families, had deteriorated over the years due to poor terrain, vegetation, and flooding. This deterioration limited its use, especially for individuals with reduced mobility, forcing the community to rely on the busy A87 road for travel.

A community survey conducted by the Lower Breakish Grazings Committee showed strong support for restoring the path, as its condition discouraged 70% of respondents from using it. The project aimed to provide a safer, accessible and sustainable off-road route, promoting active travel modes like walking, cycling, and wheeling.

### Technical detail

#### The project involved:

- > Widening the path from as narrow as 30cm to a minimum of 1.5m
- > Resurfacing 960 meters of the path using a whin dust wearing course
- > Installing a new bridge over the flood-prone Allt Linnidal burn, replacing the previous bridge with a recommissioned railway bridge
- > Addressing the restrictive gradients by cutting the path across an embankment, reducing the slope to 10% or less
- > Improving drainage with ditches, culverts, and path verges to ensure the path remained usable during flooding
- > Installing seating, signage, and a self-closing gate to improve accessibility for all users



## Community impact and benefits

The reopening of the path was celebrated as a community event and local people from all corners of the community quickly began using the upgraded path for daily travel.

### Key benefits include:

- > Enhanced accessibility: The new path allows for safer travel by children, families and individuals with reduced mobility, including those using mobility scooters, prams or pushchairs
- > Improved safety: The wider path enables cyclists, including parents and children, to travel side by side, improving confidence and safety
- > Increased usage: The path has seen greater use by the community, including older residents who particularly appreciate the seating installed along the route

The project's most significant achievement is the creation of a safe, dry and accessible path that benefits the entire community. The funding from IFPF, amounting to £60,000 (69% of the project cost), was crucial in making this transformation possible. The remaining funds were secured through match funding from the Pebble Trust and the National Lottery.

## Lessons for future projects

The case study outlines critical steps for future applicants to the IFPF, such as stakeholder engagement, community involvement and ensuring inclusive design.



**The fund offers grants between £10,000 and £100,000, covering up to 70% of total project costs**





# Carnie Woods Path Restoration Project

The Carnie Woods Path Restoration Project, supported by the IFPF, restored a vital 1km route in Carnie Woods, located in Westhill, Aberdeenshire. Following the severe damage caused by storms Arwen and Malik in the winter of 2021/2022, the woodland area was closed to the public due to fallen timber and destruction of the existing paths. The Westhill and Elrick Community Council (WECC), in collaboration with Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council, aimed to reinstate the woodland route to improve accessibility for all users, especially as it forms part of the Westhill Orbital Trail, an 11.5km active travel circuit.

## Community engagement and support

The community strongly supported the restoration effort. WECC collected 548 survey responses demonstrating overwhelming backing for the project. Feedback highlighted the importance of Carnie Woods and being able to access the area as both a safe commuting route and a place for leisurely walks. A critical aim was to make the path accessible for users of all abilities, offering an alternative to busy roads.

## Technical detail

The project, which received £89,910 from the IFPF (70% of the project cost), was managed by Aberdeen City Council, with the remainder of the funding provided by the council. Key technical improvements included:

- > Widening the path to 2m and constructing it with a durable granite dust wearing course
- > Removing damaged sections of obsolete boardwalk and addressing poor drainage with open ditches and piped culverts
- > Elevating the path above the ground level to improve drainage and longevity
- > Installing seating areas along the route, including a central gathering point, and adding wooden directional signage to guide users



### Impact on the community

The re-opening of the path in February 2024 was celebrated and a visitor counter installed soon after showed an average of **200** daily users. The restored path now offers a safer, more accessible route for walking, cycling, and using mobility aids such as scooters. The improvements have made the path more inclusive, with more elderly users feeling confident in navigating the smoother, barrier-free route.

The restoration also formalized 1.1km of rough paths, creating a hard surface that connects residential areas to business parks and public transport links. This has enhanced commuting options and provided an alternative to car travel for many residents.

### Key outcomes and success

Gordon Prentice, Treasurer of WECC, emphasised the project’s success in creating an inclusive, accessible path that serves both leisure and practical commuting needs. He noted how the project allowed a local resident with a mobility scooter to enjoy the woods for the first time in years, underscoring the social value of the improvements. WECC confirmed that barriers were removed at all entrances, and new signposts encourage active travel by indicating distances to local amenities.



### Gordon Prentice, Treasurer of WECC, said:

“The Ian Findlay Path Fund was critical to leveraging the balance of funding and support from the two neighbouring local authorities, Aberdeen City Council [ACC], landowner of the woods, and Aberdeenshire Council, landowner and planning authority for neighbouring land connecting into the woods. In addition, ACC provided project management and procurement services free of charge. It was a truly collaborative effort.

The funding formalised 1.2km of rough paths that had been devastated by storms Arwen and Malik in the winter of 2021/22, so that they can now be used by residents and visitors of all abilities, all year round. For many, the work restores leisure routes, but for others, the new routes provide a peaceful and safe link between home and work.

Thanks to the installation of a visitor counter, we can now see that user numbers are around 200 per day, 7 days a week, which is fantastic. Thanks must also go to the contractor for the quality of the finish.”



The project’s most significant achievement is the restoration of an essential active travel route that is now fully accessible year-round, fostering greater community use and engagement with the local path network. The collaborative effort between the community, councils and IFPF team was crucial to the project’s success, transforming Carnie Woods into an inclusive space for all.



## Projects awarded funding in 2022/23 and delivered in 2023/24:

Project name	Status	Applicant group	Applicant category	Local authority area	Length of path upgraded or created
<b>Deadman's Lane &amp; St. Kentigern's Improvement Works</b>	Delivery Complete	Lanark Community Development Trust (LCDT)	Third Sector/Charity Organisation	South Lanarkshire	20m
<b>Repair and maintenance of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail</b>	Delivery Complete	The Rural Access Committee for Kinross-shire	Third Sector/Charity Organisation	Perth & Kinross	5500m
<b>Westhill Orbital Trail - Broadshade Avenue to Golf Club Upgrade</b>	Delivery Complete	Westhill & Elrick Community Council	Community Council	Aberdeenshire	300m
<b>Westhill Orbital Trail - Carnie Woods</b>	Delivery Complete	Westhill & Elrick Community Council	Community Council	Aberdeen City	1100m
<b>Aboyne Deeside Way Improvements</b>	Delivery Complete	Aboyne Path and Tracks Group	Community Group	Aberdeenshire	134m
<b>Community and Residential Centre Path and Lighting</b>	Delivery Complete	The Three Kings Cullen Association	Third Sector/Charity Organisation	Moray	100m
<b>Glen Tanar to Aboyne Link Path</b>	Delivery Complete	Aboyne Path and Tracks Group	Community Group	Aberdeenshire	1112m
<b>Beeches Path Improvement Project, Gargunnoch</b>	Delivery Complete	Gargunnoch Community Trust	Third Sector/Charity Organisation	Stirling	520m
<b>A Short Path With a Big Impact: removing floods, mud, and a motorbike inhibitor from active travel journeys</b>	Delivery Complete	Queen Margaret University	Educational Establishment	East Lothian	100m
<b>Coalie Park Improvement Project</b>	Delivery Complete	Water of Leith Conservation Trust	Third Sector/Charity Organisation	Edinburgh City	130m



## Projects awarded funding in 2022/23 and delivered in 2023/24 Continued

Project name	Status	Applicant group	Applicant category	Local authority area	Length of path upgraded or created
<b>Links Path Nairn: Extension to reach the Pier</b>	Delivery Complete	Nairn Access Panel	Community Group	Highland	150m
<b>Ardnish Path Restoration Project</b>	Delivery Complete	Lower Breakish Grazing's Committee	Community Group	Highland	800m
<b>Gyle Park Path Network Upgrade 2023</b>	Delivery Complete	Friends of the Gyle Park	Charity	Edinburgh City	600m
<b>Castlemilk Park Lighting &amp; Flood Improvements: Increasing Access to a Core Path</b>	Delivery Complete	Cassiltoun Housing Association	Housing Association	Glasgow	50m
<b>Garnock Valley Citizens Service</b>	Delivery Complete	Radio City Association	Third Sector/ Charity Organisation	North Ayrshire	350m
<b>Dunkeld Stanley Hill Community Path</b>	Design Complete	Birnam & Dunkeld Community Arboretum	Third Sector/ Charity Organisation	Perth & Kinross	Design Process
<b>Dreelside Woods, Anstruther Phase 1 Design</b>	Design Complete	Footprint East Neuk	Third Sector/ Charity Organisation	Fife	Design Process
<b>Dalmeny Path Development</b>	Design Complete	Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust	Charity	Edinburgh City	Design Process
<b>WGC Core Path 7 Mid Design</b>	Design Complete	Western Gateway Community Group	Community Group	Dundee City	Design Process
<b>Oakbank to MacRosty Park Link Path</b>	Design Complete	Crieff Community Trust	Community Council	Perth & Kinross	Design Process

## Projects awarded funding in 2022/23 and delivered in 2023/24 Continued

Project name	Status	Applicant group	Applicant category	Local authority area	Length of path upgraded or created
<b>Rannoch Hub</b>	Design Application withdrawn	Rannoch Community Trust	Community Group	Perth & Kinross	-
<b>Southwest Scotland Coastal Way</b>	Construction Application withdrawn due to landowner issue	Southern Uplands Partnership	Third Sector/ Charity Organisation	Dumfries and Galloway	-
<b>Dunnottar / War Memorial Coastal Path, Stonehaven</b>	Construction Application withdrawn due to landowner issue	Stonehaven Town Partnership	Third Sector/ Charity Organisation	Aberdeenshire	-



# 2023/24 in Numbers\*

The figures below relate to projects funded in 2023/24 that will be complete by 31st March 2025.



## 13 construction stage projects

- > 11 Registered Charities
- > 2 Constituted community groups

## 12 local authority areas covered

- > Aberdeen City
- > Aberdeenshire
- > Angus
- > Dundee
- > East Lothian
- > Edinburgh
- > Fife
- > Glasgow
- > Perth and Kinross
- > South Ayrshire
- > South Lanarkshire
- > Western Isles

## Delivery targets

- > Target of 13,140m of path surface due to be upgraded to improve accessibility
- > Target of 16,860m of new link paths to be created
- > Target of 10 core paths due for upgrade
- > Target of 3,660m of core paths to be upgraded

## 8 design stage projects:

- > 5 Registered Charities
- > 1 Constituted Group
- > 2 Community Councils
- > 7 Local authority areas covered: Aberdeenshire, East Dumbartonshire, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Highland and West Lothian



Explore the Ian Findlay Path Fund map





## Projects awarded funding in 2023/24, due for completion by 31 March 2025:

Project Name	Project ID	Project Phase	Applicant Organisation	Applicant Type	Local Authority Area	New Path (lm)	Path Upgrade (lm)
<b>Cadder Woods Connections</b>	IFPF2324001	Construction	Green Action Trust	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Glasgow City Council	725	1395
<b>Repair &amp; upgrade of the section of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail from Findatie to Boathouse, Kinross.</b>	IFPF2324002	Construction	The Rural Access Committee for Kinross-shire	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Perth & Kinross Council	-	8100
<b>Brechin Station to Brechin Path Network Active Travel Link</b>	IFPF2324003	Construction	Caledonian Railway Brechin Ltd	Community Group	Angus Council	360	200
<b>St Leonards Park path</b>	IFPF2324005	Construction	Brucefield Tenants and Residents Assoc	Community Group	Fife Council	500	-
<b>Coalie Park Phase 2</b>	IFPF2324006	Construction	Water of Leith Conservation Trust	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Edinburgh City Council	-	200
<b>Aird, Upper Aird to Sheshader</b>	IFPF2324007	Construction	Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Western Isles Council (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)	1700	-
<b>Melbost to Aignish</b>	IFPF2324008	Construction	Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Western Isles Council (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)	1345	-





## Projects awarded funding in 2023/24, due for completion by 31 March 2025 Continued

Project Name	Project ID	Project Phase	Applicant Organisation	Applicant Type	Local Authority Area	New Path (lm)	Path Upgrade (lm)
<b>Alloway Tunnel Path Improvements</b>	IFPF2324009	Construction	Alloway Tunnel Art SCIO	Third Sector/charity Organisation	South Ayrshire Council	-	150
<b>Coalburn to NCN74 Active Travel Path</b>	IFPF2324010	Construction	The Rural Development Trust	Third Sector/charity Organisation	South Lanarkshire Council	-	3280
<b>Coalburn to Poneil Active Travel Path</b>	IFPF2324012	Construction	The Rural Development Trust	Third Sector/charity Organisation	South Lanarkshire Council	2030	1400
<b>Gourdie Core path 7 Construction funding</b>	IFPF2324013	Construction	Western Gateway Community Group	Community Group	Dundee City Council	945	-
<b>Tynebank Road - Southern Section</b>	IFPF2324014	Construction	Haddington Athletic Football Club	Community Group	East Lothian Council	450	50
<b>Stanley Hill Path (Shiochie's Hill Path)</b>	IFPF2324018	Construction	Dunkeld and Birnam Comm Arboretum	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Perth & Kinross Council	-	500
<b>Linn Park Active Travel Route - Design Phase</b>	IFPFD2324002	Design	Friends of Linn Park	Community Group	Glasgow City Council	-	-
<b>Ballater Cinder Path</b>	IFPFD2324003	Design	Ballater (RD) Limited	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Aberdeenshire Council	-	-



## Projects awarded funding in 2023/24, due for completion by 31 March 2025 Continued

Project Name	Project ID	Project Phase	Applicant Organisation	Applicant Type	Local Authority Area	New Path (lm)	Path Upgrade (lm)
<b>Culduthel Woods Active Travel Project</b>	IFPFD2324004	Design	Culduthel Woods Group	Third Sector/charity Organisation	Highland Council	-	-
<b>Law Path</b>	IFPFD2324005	Design	Law Primary Parent Council	Community Group	East Lothian Council	-	-
<b>Edinbane Links Path - Phase 1</b>	IFPFD2324006	Design	Edinbane Community Company	Community Group	Highland Council	-	-
<b>Newton to Duntarvie Active Travel Path</b>	IFPFD2324007	Design	Newton Community Company	Community Council	West Lothian Council	-	-
<b>Bishopbriggs Park to the Forth and Clyde Canal Active Travel Route</b>	IFPFD2324009	Design	Bishopbriggs Outdoor Spaces (SCIO)	Third Sector/charity Organisation	East Dunbartonshire Council	-	-
<b>Muirwood Field Path</b>	IFPFD2324010	Design	Currie & Juniper Green/Baberton Mains	Community Group	Edinburgh City Council	-	-

# Communications

Our communications strategy for 2023/24 focused on promoting the availability of the Ian Findlay Path Fund in its second year, as well as developing a series of success stories, content and resources to showcase the community-led projects and the positive impact made within their communities from the first round of funding in 2022/23.

Our communications also highlighted Paths for All’s organisational objective to increase walking, wheeling, and cycling for health, wellbeing and environmental benefits, emphasising the importance of path infrastructure in promoting active travel across Scotland. Promotion was carried out through coordinated social media posts, press releases, newsletters, website content, and success stories.



## In 2023/24 we delivered:



# Testimonials

**Project name:**  
Repair and maintenance of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail

**Project ID:** IFPF2223002

## Was your project a success?

The upgrade and repair of the Trail has been a huge success within the community. There has been a very positive response through our Facebook updates on the work and to our articles in the Kinross-shire Newsletter. The biggest achievement is to have returned the Trail to an all-abilities status.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

Without the IFPF we have not been able to carry out all the improvements.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The IFPF has allowed the Trail to be returned to an all-abilities status providing availability for all users. The valuable link between the communities of Kinross and Milnathort facilities and businesses has been restored. The increased usage of the Trail from 2015 levels as determined through a recent visitor survey demonstrates the value of the Trail.

**Project name:**  
Westhill Orbital Trail - Carnie Woods

**Project ID:** IFPF2223006

## Was your project a success?

We think so, going by anecdotal evidence, plus the evidence of seeing the full range of ages and abilities using it. The project was delivered on budget. The path construction work was completed ahead of schedule, and it looks great. The public consultation ahead of our application was extremely successful. Visitor counter data confirms the success of the project.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

Without it, we wouldn't have been able to leverage the balance of funding from the landowner who happens to be a cash strapped local authority with no responsibility for providing services in Westhill.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

By laying a smooth surface and connecting a housing development [in two places] with a business park that also leads to a Health Centre and Shopping Centre for those that prefer an off-road experience that's closer to nature.

# Testimonials

**Project name:**  
Queen Margaret University active travel route

**Project ID:** IFPF2223012

## Was your project a success?

Yes, the route has been completed to time and budget and a high quality. The route has been well received by the public and there is a planned event to officially open the route in March with MSP Patrick Harvie.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

Without the funding we couldn't have delivered the route in the time and to the standard that we did.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The route is accessible regardless of mobility and weather creating a small but important link that connects homes to places of education employment and national transport links.

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**Project name:**  
Ardnish Path Restoration Project

**Project ID:** IFPF2223020

## Was your project a success?

Yes - providing a safe, dry path accessible to a huge range of people who were previously excluded from using this lovely route.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

We could never have raised the additional £60,000 provided by the IFPF and we are quite clear we would have abandoned the project without this funding. There must be many more communities needing support to increase active travel and encourage more people to leave their cars at home.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The path is now accessible to wheeled transport of many different kinds and is being used by people with walking difficulties who have not been able to set foot on the path for many years due to its deterioration.

The bridge is now safe for all users and the elderly population particularly comment on how safe they feel walking across the new bridge. Children have begun to use the path as a route to school something we expect to increase with the better weather of spring and summer.

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# Testimonials

## Project name :

Deadman's Lane & St. Kentigern's Improvement Works

Project ID: IFPF2223001

### Was your project a success?

Yes, the project has been a success. We achieved exactly what we set out to do. Widen and resurfacing the path along Deadman's Lane. We also have an attractive mural along the length of the path and new planting in place. As well as officially being named we have a history panel and a panel listing organisations that funded the project.

### What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

Without funding from IFPF Lanark Community Development Trust would not have been able to successfully deliver this project.

### How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The funding has allowed the path to be upgraded and allowed more users which allow them a better access route between the transport in the town and residential areas.

## Project name :

Beeches Path improvement project, Gargunnoch

Project ID: IFPF2223016

### Was your project a success?

Without doubt the Beeches Path improvement project has been a major hit with the local community. Just after completion of the main section when it was reopened to the public a resident posted a positive message on the local Facebook page which then received numerous positive comments and over 100 likes clear evidence of the significant impact it has had.

### What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

Having completed this project the Gargunnoch Community Trust has certainly gained much more experience and knowledge of path development which will bode well for future similar projects. In particular the way in which it is important to be in daily communication with the contractor to ensure issues and queries are dealt with efficiently and expeditiously.

### How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The upgraded Beeches path has allowed for the first time wheelchair users to use the path to access the countryside to the west of the village. It has also made it more accessible for cyclists and runners to use the path much more safely than previously because of the much-improved surface and in particular the eradication of the uneven surface due to tree roots and large stones protruding along the original path.

# Testimonials

**Project name:**  
Glen Tanar to Aboyne Link Path

**Project ID:** IFPF2223015

## Was your project a success?

This project has been a huge success and proved very popular with both local people and those travelling from further afield to use the paths particularly those with impaired mobility. We have seen a big increase in disabled & older users accessing the paths which is our biggest achievement.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

The project was well managed by the group and completed to a high standard. Communication between the group and the IFPF team was always clear and constructive. Post project feedback has been extremely positive, and we are pleased with the way that the project has turned out.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

Funding repaired and made accessible an important active travel link in our community and also enabled us to attract more funding for other parts of the project. This increased options by allowing accessible alternatives to an on-road link/footpath along a busy A road.

**Project name:**  
Links Path Nairn Extension

**Project ID:** IFPF2223019

## Was your project a success?

Overall, the project is a great success. The biggest achievement is seeing people with walking aids enjoying the views and reaching the harbour safely without having to use the road. Views that they would never have seen without the construction of this path.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

This path would not have been constructed without the funding and support received from IFPF. Right from the beginning of the process the team was there to help with the processes involved in the application and in the delivery of the project.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The support from IFPF has added the choice of safe route for walking / wheeling to the harbour for anyone who was unable to manage the rough terrain of the desired path prior to the path being constructed.

# Testimonials

**Project name:**  
The Three Kings Cullen Association

**Project ID:** IFPF2223014

## Was your project a success?

The biggest achievement was providing a safe route for the elderly rollators and wheelchairs using the path the young and the mobility scooter users. All these groups can now use the path without the fear of large trucks passing a few feet away.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

People have a safe walking route from the new housing to the shops without having to go near the A98.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

The path has opened up the community centre to a lot more elderly and disabled people. The local care home now attends the community lunches and afternoon tea as the new path is now suitable for their wheelchairs to be easily pushed to the events. More and more people are now using the path to get to the shops. They see this as better option than driving and trying to park especially on the busy weekends. The path also offers a convenient route to the local doctors where parking is always an issue.



**Project name:**  
Aboyne Deeside Way Improvements

**Project ID:** IFPF2223011

## Was your project a success?

This project has been a huge success and proved very popular with both local people and those travelling from further afield to use the paths particularly those with impaired mobility. Our biggest achievement has been in completing a long-held local desire for a link path between 2 communities despite the considerable challenges of negotiating a line across 2 local estates and persuading landowners to support the project.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

Funding repaired a core path made this accessible and created a brand new and important active travel link. Most importantly it also enabled us to attract the match funding from Levelling Up required to complete the project.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

We have seen a big increase in disabled and older users accessing the path.





# Testimonials

**Project name:**  
Coalie Park Improvement Project

**Project ID:** IFPF2223017

## Was your project a success?

YES!! To see the community return to this well-loved but badly neglected space and travel route with such joy and appreciation. The sun shone for 2 weeks after it opened, and we have never seen the space so well used. Children playing where they could not before and more elderly local access without fear of tripping.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

This has been a step change for our organisation we now have internal expertise to deliver big project successfully.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

Slow and faster route riverside and streetside path a range of seating options picnic benches, cycle parking, the removal of irrelevant/obstructive car parking spaces and increase safety - will help people to choose this area as the main connection from Leith to the rest of the city.

**Project name:**  
Gyle Park Path Network Upgrade 2023

**Project ID:** IFPF2223021

## Was your project a success?

The project has most definitely been a success. The work done to resurface the paths was wanted and needed by the local community and they have responded very positively to the end result. The addition of trees and seats to improve amenity and accessibility has been a big bonus and made the park on the whole a much better place to travel through and enjoy. The project has brought new energy to the park and a few new volunteers who wish to join us at Friends of Gyle Park to continue working to improve this space.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

The project would not have happened without the support from the IFPF.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

People walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting can now use the path network in Gyle Park for their daily journeys safely and smoothly, and without getting muddy/wet, in order to get to the local schools and shops etc. as well as to the railway station and bus stops in all weathers. Previously people would avoid these routes in wet/icy weather. The routes are much more accessible and pleasant with more people enjoying the park environment with the new trees and benches. Many people previously wanted to avoid busy traffic on the surrounding roads but couldn't because of the condition of the paths but that choice is now available to them.

# Testimonials

**Project name:**  
Castlemilk Park: Lighting & Flood Improvements

**Project ID:** IFPF2223023

## Was your project a success?

Yes - seeing the lights go in and the pathway clear and watching people walk along the path on a wet day was a joy.

## What difference did the IFPF make to your ability to deliver your project?

We would not have been able to deliver this project without the funding and support from IFPF. The work that has taken place has provided a long-term solution to the problem and has dealt with an issue identified by the community in 2009.

## How did your project increase active travel options and improve accessibility?

This route was inaccessible in poor weather or the winter months and due to this project, it has now opened up - this provides a quick and safe route through the woodland and links up people community services and onward routes to pick up public transport.



# Conclusions

With completed IFPF-supported projects now gaining both local and national attention, the demand for funding, as well as associated advice, guidance and support, continues to grow. This growing demand is a testament to the quality of the programme and the work being delivered by community-led projects on the ground. It is also important to note that there is an absence of alternative sources of support for communities wishing to bring projects forward. This absence of any alternative support has also contributed to increased demand.

Communities with aspirations to improve their local path networks need a platform where their voices can be heard. Their identified needs and requirements are central to developing an active travel network that meets the demands of Scotland's people. Local authorities and other large organisations are not able to provide the focused guidance, support and advice necessary for communities to advance their plans for small-scale infrastructure improvements. These improvements, in turn, support the broader active travel network and offer people more opportunities to walk more and drive less.

During the 2023/24 period, the IFPF team addressed over 100 distinct path-related inquiries that came from community-focused groups. They received and processed 30 Expressions of Interest, attended nearly 40 site visits at various stages of planning and development across Scotland, and provided targeted advice, support and guidance through numerous telephone and video calls.



## Conclusions Continued

The capacity of applicant groups to manage and deliver their proposed capital infrastructure projects was assessed through initial site visits and clarified through subsequent discussions. Support packages were then tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual project. Regular project update meetings were scheduled to address any issues as soon as they arose. This approach ensured consistency in the standard of project delivery, despite significant variations in all other aspects of the supported projects.

The consistency of the support provided has enabled groups to plan and develop their projects in a way that meets the fund's requirements while allowing them to retain ownership of their local active travel infrastructure improvement initiative. Feedback from communities following the completion of projects is overwhelmingly positive.





## How to get in touch

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