



South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy Annual Review

JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2024





CONTENTS

WELCOME MESSAGE	3
A CULTURE OF DELIVERY TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION PAGE	4
THE VISION	5
STRATEGY OUTCOMES	6
KEY THEMES AND PRIORITIES	7
MILESTONE MOMENTS	8
2024 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRIORITY THEMES & PROJECTS	
INFRASTRUCTURE CASE STUDIES	9
EVENTS	26
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY	33
DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION	41
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY	46
SPORT, RECREATION & WELLBEING	47
CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RISING STARS	54
PARTNERSHIP WORKING	57



WELCOME MESSAGE

(Scottish Borders Council & Dumfries and Galloway Council)



Dear Partners and Stakeholders,

We are delighted to present the 2024 Annual Review of the South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy. This year has been marked by significant achievements which demonstrate our commitment to create and deliver a thriving legacy following on from our outstanding performance as the host destination of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships.

This review shines a spotlight on progress towards our shared vision:

“By 2032, cycling is the most popular choice for shorter everyday journeys and embedded into the daily fabric of the lives of residents and experiences of our visitors.”

2024 has been a remarkable year for cycling in the South of Scotland. The Scottish Borders once again hosted the Tour of Britain, attracting top professional teams and riders, and Dumfries & Galloway saw the first-ever sanctioned British Enduro Championships in Ae Forest. Our region's inclusion in the UCI Bike Region family has opened new opportunities, allowing us to display our cycling ambitions on international platforms like the Euro Velo Cycling Conference and the UCI Mobility & Bike City Forum.

We have also made strides in infrastructure development, with significant investments in pump tracks, active travel projects, and cycling facilities along the Kirkpatrick C2C route and the 7Stanes trail centres. The official launch of the Kirkpatrick C2C in May 2024 was a significant milestone, further enhancing our cycling infrastructure with the placement of 450 new waymark signs which offer the less experienced rider visual support along the entire length of the route.

This year also saw the successful funding of 30 projects as part of the South of Scotland Cycling Infrastructure Fund, which has improved cycling facilities across the region. Additionally, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland chose Glentress to host the Women in the Bike Industry Summit, fostering connections and community within the cycling industry, and we welcomed the return of the Scottish Mountain Biking Conference to the region after a decade, highlighting our commitment to innovation and sustainable growth in mountain biking.

Our collaborative efforts have been recognised globally, with the South of Scotland being shortlisted for the UCI Cycling for All & Sustainability Awards. These achievements reflect our dedication to fostering a cycling culture that benefits our communities, economy, and environment.

The South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy boosts cycling through six key themes, with partners leading specific workstreams and reporting progress. Regular meetings and an annual review ensure accountability and effective resource use, creating unique opportunities through collaboration.

As we continue to build on these successes, we remain committed to advancing our goals and creating a vibrant cycling community. We thank all our partners for their dedication and look forward to another year of progress and innovation.



Cllr Maureen Johnstone,
Chair of Education, Skills & Community Wellbeing Committee, Dumfries and Galloway Council



Cllr Euan Jardine,
Leader, Scottish Borders Council



A CULTURE OF DELIVERY TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

The Strategy and Priority Action plan were created to specifically support the VISION.

The strategy has a 10-year timeframe and covers all aspects of cycling in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, which sit under six themes:

- Infrastructure
- Sport, recreation and wellbeing
- Sustainable economy and communities
- Innovation and technology
- Destination development and promotion
- Events

The Priority Action Plan has three distinct timeframes, with immediate opportunities presented by the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, which has successfully attracted over a million spectators to the events staged across Scotland and more than one billion viewers worldwide, making it one of the top 10 global sporting events.

Medium term, the strategy aims to see improvements in cycling infrastructure and successful implementation of a range of projects.

Over the long term, the partnership will look to deliver on the region's Net Zero commitments and make cycling an inclusive and accessible transport option for everyone living, working and visiting the region.

The strategy will also aim to help strengthen the offering for visitors to the South of Scotland, with cycling presenting a significant opportunity to build on the natural capital of the region.



The Vision

By 2032 our South of Scotland communities are shaped around and include ALL of our people and cycling is the most popular choice for shorter everyday journeys and embedded into the daily fabric of the lives of our residents and experiences of our visitors.

REPER
South of Scotland
Regional Economic Partnership



STRATEGY OUTCOMES

EVENT DESTINATION OF CHOICE

Host Destination of Choice by UK, EU & International Cycling Governing Bodies

HAPPINESS & WELLBEING

Health & Wellbeing has improved across all tracked metrics including happiness, serious diseases & mental health

ACCESS FOR ALL

Cycling is inclusive
Access to bikes is available to all

ACTIVE TRAVEL

10 Year Infrastructure Plan
Transport Priority: People Over Cars
Integrated Cycling & Transport Networks enhance accessibility
Connected Communities using Active Travel
Paths For Daily Commute

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES

Cycling Industry Business Support Strategy
Sustainable Net Zero Inward Investors
Businesses set-up, scale-up and accelerate growth
On-shoring of Bike Manufacturing to South of Scotland
Tourism, Events & Investments Support Fragile Communities

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS FOR ALL

South of Scotland supplies next generation of world class cycling athletes across all disciplines & genders

BEST CYCLING HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Scotland's Leading Cycling Holiday Destination
European Destination Cycling Destination of Excellence
Global Recognition for Quality of Cycling Holiday Experiences
Destination Promotion supports Scotland's Transition to Net Zero, Protection & Considerate Enjoyment of cultural & natural assets





CYCLING PARTNERSHIP THEMES AND PRIORITIES

Infrastructure

10 Year Cycling Infrastructure Plan including E-Bikeprovision
CivTech Challenge – Technology Opportunity
Measure all investments against:
Cycling as Transport, Major Events, Sport,
Industry, Tourism & Participation

Sport, Recreation and Wellbeing

Next Gen Sporting heroes from South
Decrease of serious diseases diagnosed
Exercise by bike incorporated into daily lives
Happiness Indicators Increased
Competitor Diversity & Inclusion Increased

Sustainable Economy and Communities

Cycling is inclusive and access to bikes is available to all.
Increase Diversity of Skills
Facilitate New Economic Opportunities
Investments for Tourism, Events & Support Fragile Communities
Quality of Life Improvements
Appreciation of Place

Innovation and Technology

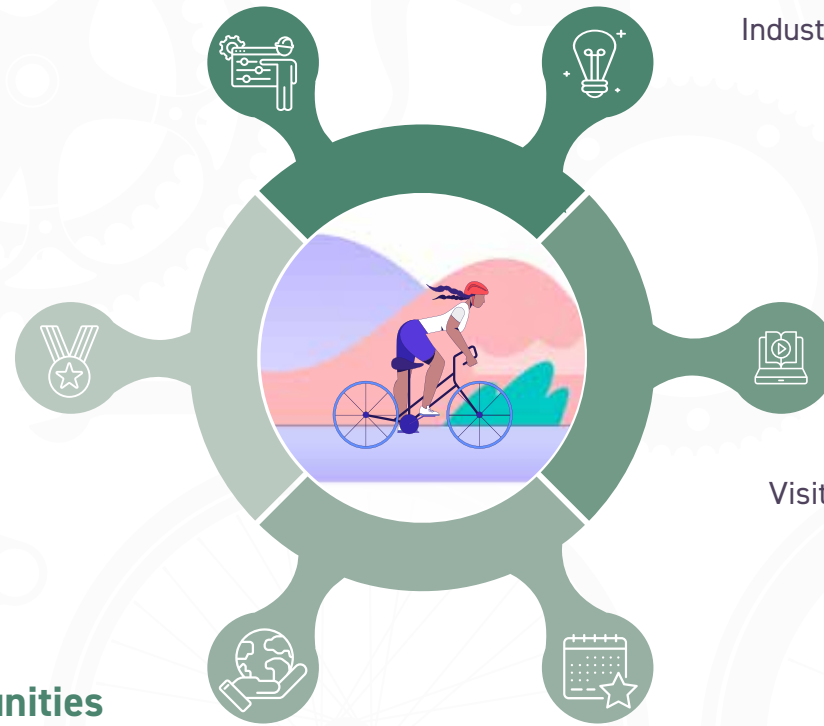
Mountain Biking Innovation Centre & Bike Park (National R&D
Cycling Centre of Excellence)
Product Development Pipeline
Industry Investment – existing supply chain & inward
Thriving Clusters
Stimulate Start-Ups & Scale-Ups

Destination Development and Promotion

Bookable Product Development
Cycle Friendly Destination Accreditation
Consumer Brand Recall
Visitor Dispersal using bikes for unique adventures
High Performing ROI in Campaign Activity

Events

Host destination of choice – UK, Ireland & Int'l community
Catalyst for Behavioral change through participation
Supply Chain Build
Community & Economic Impacts (Long Term Legacy)
Reputational & Happiness Impacts
All events staged in the region are fully inclusive





MILESTONE MOMENTS

CATALYST OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORTED BY PARTNERS

MOUNTAIN
BIKING INNOVATION
CENTRE & BIKE PARK
BORDERLANDS

KIRKPATRICK
C2C, SOUTH OF
SCOTLAND COAST
TO COAST

UK LEVELLING
UP BID

CIVTECH
CHALLENGE

ACTIVE
TRAVEL
STRATEGY

SOS
EVENTS
STRATEGY

DESTINATION
TWEED
BORDERLANDS

7STANES
BORDERLANDS

UCI CYCLING
WORLD CHAMPS
2023

UK
SHARED
PROSPERITY



2024 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRIORITY THEMES AND PROJECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE

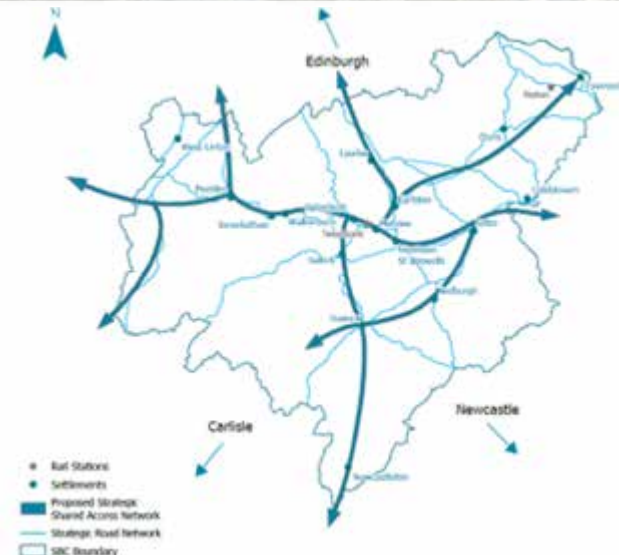
Scottish Borders Council Active Travel Strategy & Implementation

- Promotes walking and cycling to cut car use, lower emissions, and improve air quality.
- Boosts local economy by enhancing accessibility and connectivity.
- Encourages physical activity for better public health.
- Creates a user-friendly travel network through various projects and partnerships.

Key Projects: Projects that received support & resource contribution in 2024 include:

- Borders Greenway: New path from Tweedbank to Eyemouth.
- Peebles to Penicuik Route: Extending the travel route.
- Eddleston Water Path Extension: Extending the travel route.
- Maintaining the Network: Upkeeping current paths.
- Partnerships: Working with local organisations for new opportunities.
- Behaviour Change Projects: Encouraging active travel habits.

These projects collectively aim to enhance accessibility, reduce car dependency, and promote healthier lifestyles within the Scottish Borders.





INFRASTRUCTURE

Scottish Borders Regional Transport Strategy

In 2024/25, Scottish Borders Council is receiving SEStran funding to support the Regional Transport Strategy, enabling local Active Travel and Behaviour Change projects.



Scottish Borders: Projects, Programmes & Investments

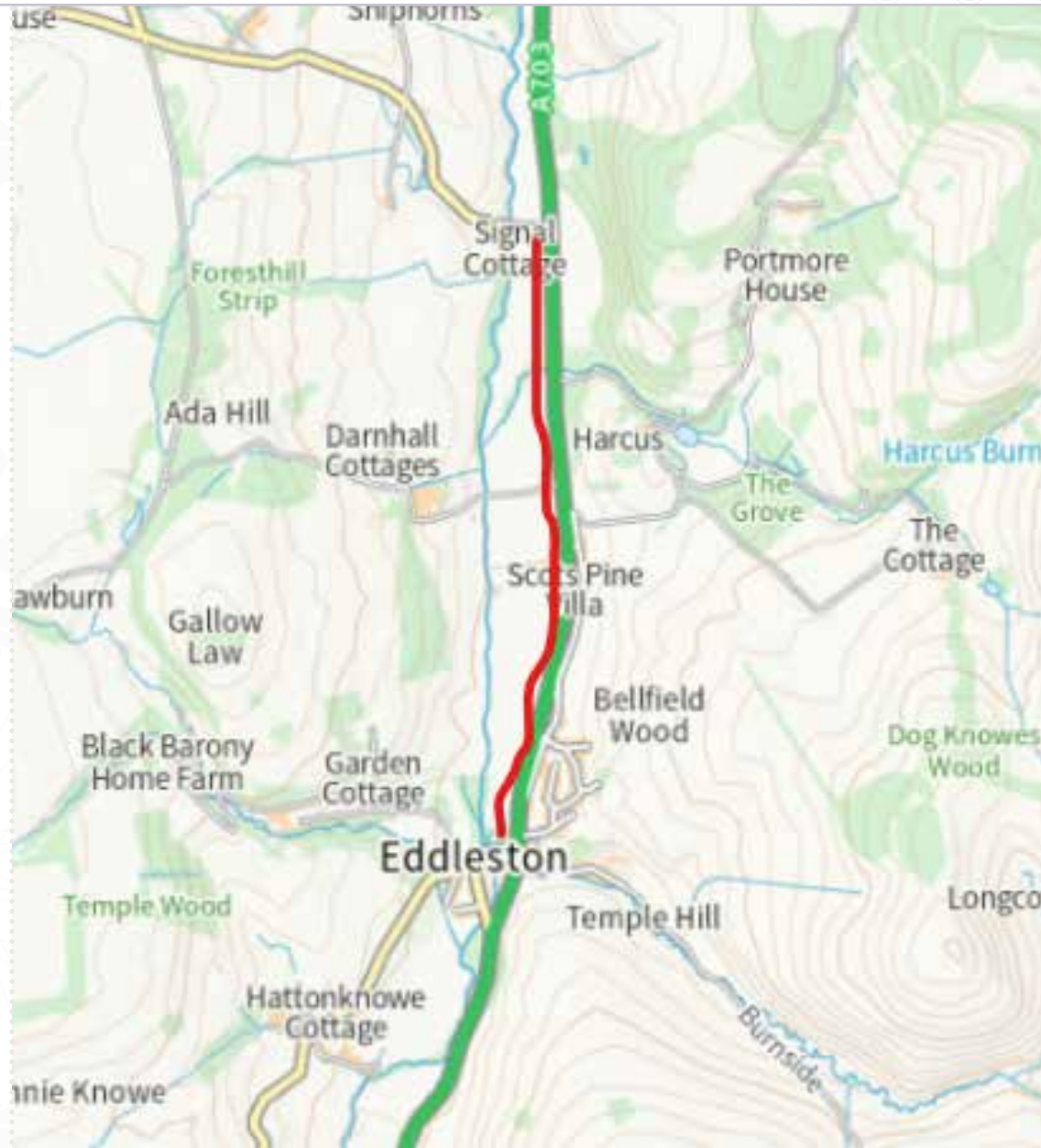
Theme	Budget	Scottish Borders Council Projects – Cycling
Encouraging Active Travel: Young People	£70,000	Bikeability/Play on Pedals Supplement and Bike School
Access to Bikes: Young People	£50,000	Access to Bike Programme
Street Audits and Enabling Facilities	£68,800	Active Travel Audits for Hawick and Jedburgh from Dec 2024 – March 2025.
		Interventions under the 'Street Audits and Enabling Facilities' People and Place Programme that aim to enable audits of areas with high pedestrian, wheeling and cycling potential.
Encouraging Active Travel: Communities	£210,000	Ebike Hubs are being supported to provide free access to e-bikes and e-trikes to encourage active travel and to purchase new ebikes. This includes Teri Bikes, Sea the Change, Stow Cycle Hub, Ebikes for Borderers and Kelso Mens Shed.
Access to Bikes	£60,000	Just Cycle and Sea the Change – supporting access to bikes for adults and reducing barriers.



CASE STUDIES

Eddleston Water Path Extension

The 1.1-mile extension to the Eddleston Water Path, completed by the Scottish Borders Council, connects the village to the main route along the A703 to Shiplaw Road. This cycle, horse, and pedestrian-friendly path enhances local connectivity, promoting active travel and reducing car dependency. Funded by £600,000 from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Transformation Fund, the project underscores the importance of creating safe and accessible routes to support sustainable transportation and improve community well-being.





Destination Tweed Supporting Responsible Tourism and Active Travel

Project Overview:

The Destination Tweed Peebles Path is a newly completed section of the River Tweed Trail in the Scottish Borders, designed for walking, wheeling, and cycling. This path connects key points in Peebles, including Priorsford Bridge, Gytes Leisure Centre, Whitestone Park, and the Glentress Mountain Biking Hub. The project is part of the larger 113-mile River Tweed Trail, set to launch in 2028.

Key Features:

- **Connectivity:** The path links popular locations in Peebles, providing a seamless route for active travel.
- **Infrastructure:** Includes a new toucan crossing over the A72 at Peebles Hydro and connects to the wider Tweed Valley Railway path.
- **Amenities:** Minor ongoing works include the installation of signage and benches along the track for users to enjoy the scenery.

Funding and Support:

The £220,000 project was funded by the Scottish Government and Sustrans. This financial support has been crucial in delivering the new infrastructure and ensuring its integration into the larger River Tweed Trail.





CASE STUDIES

Community Impact:

- **Reduces Car Emissions:** Encourages active travel, lowering the number of cars on the road and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Supports Responsible Tourism:** Provides sustainable travel options, reducing visitors' environmental footprint.
- **Visitor Dispersal:** Helps disperse visitors more evenly across attractions, preventing overcrowding and promoting lesser-known sites.
- **Health Benefits:** Promotes physical activity, contributing to better health and well-being for residents and visitors.
- **Enhanced Experience:** Allows travellers to experience the local scenery and culture more intimately.

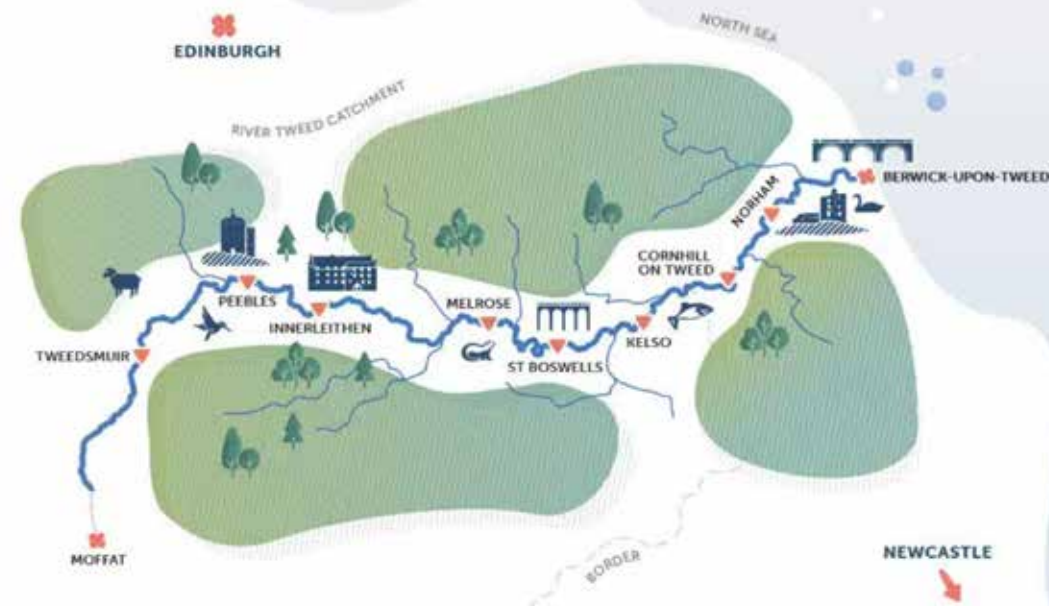
Current Status:

The path is now open for use, with minor ongoing works to finalise signage and bench installations. The larger River Tweed Trail is set to launch in 2028.

The Destination Tweed Peebles Path is a significant addition to the active travel infrastructure in the Scottish Borders. It enhances connectivity, promotes sustainable tourism, and offers numerous health and environmental benefits. This project exemplifies the positive impact of well-planned active travel routes on local communities and visitors alike.



RIVER TWEED TRAIL





CASE STUDIES

Hawick Active Travel Network

Project Overview:

The Hawick Active Travel Network is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity and promoting active travel within the town of Hawick. The project, which began in 2017, includes the development of new and upgraded infrastructure to facilitate walking, cycling, and wheeling.

Key Features:

- **Footbridges:** The network comprises four footbridges, with three upgraded and one new footbridge in Weensland, providing a much-needed river crossing.
- **Paths:** The project includes the creation and upgrading of 4-meter-wide paths, ensuring safe and accessible routes for all users.
- **Public Spaces:** New public spaces have been developed in Common Haugh and Wee Haugh, along with several smaller pocket parks, enhancing the town's recreational areas.

Funding and Support:

The project received funding from the Scottish Government through the Sustrans Places for Everyone programme. This financial support has been crucial in delivering the extensive upgrades and new infrastructure.



Community Impact:

The Hawick Active Travel Network aims to reduce car use and promote healthier, more sustainable modes of transport. By providing safe, traffic-free pathways, the network encourages residents and visitors to engage in active travel, benefiting their health and the environment.

Current Status:

While most of the infrastructure is complete, some landscaping works are scheduled for completion in March to ensure optimal conditions for planting shrubs, grass, and trees.

The Hawick Active Travel Network represents a significant enhancement to the town's infrastructure, promoting active travel and improving the quality of life for its residents. The project showcases the positive impact of community-driven initiatives supported by government funding.



CASE STUDIES

Dumfries & Galloway Council Active Travel Strategy & Implementation

Project Overview:

Dumfries & Galloway Council Active Travel Strategy aims to

- Create accessible, reliable, and safe routes that connect communities.
- Promote active and sustainable travel in both urban and rural areas.
- Improve infrastructure for walking, cycling, and wheeling.
- Encourage behaviour change towards more active travel habits.
- Foster partnerships with local organisations and stakeholders.
- Enhance public health through increased physical activity.
- Reduce carbon emissions by decreasing car usage.
- Support local economies by improving connectivity and accessibility

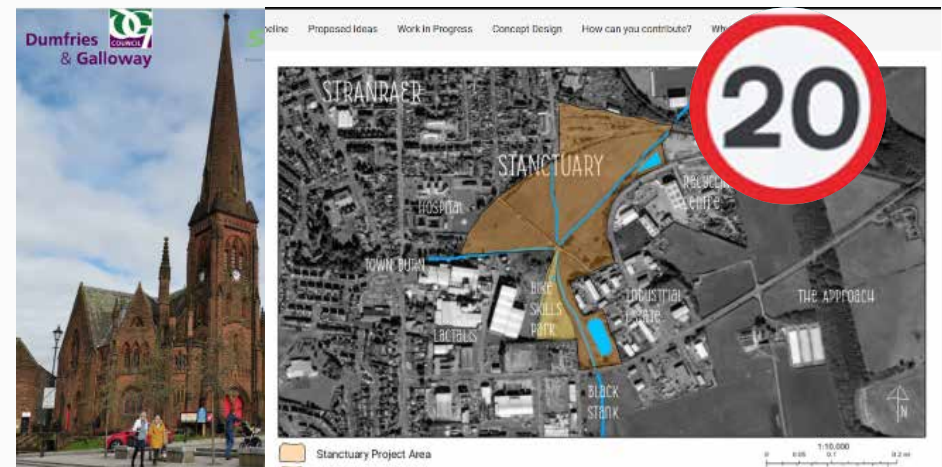
Key Projects that received support & resource contribution in 2024 include:

Active Travel Schools: Budget £350,000

- Ibike
- Bikeability

Active Travel Access and Inclusion: Budget £200,000

- Ibike Communities
- Dalbeattie Initiative Ebike Project
- Scottish Cycling RUAR with the Galloway Hillbillies
- Cycling UK's 'Cycle Access Fund' and Cycling Scotland's 'Access to Bikes' programme
- Penpont to Thornhill Cycle Path





CASE STUDIES

Dumfries & Galloway – Regional Transport Strategy

SWestrans has introduced a new Regional Transport Strategy in Dumfries & Galloway, focusing on walking, wheeling, and cycling. Now, active travel is funded regionally, with Transport Scotland shifting from funding national partners to supporting Regional Transport Partners for more localised projects.

Theme	Budget	Dumfries & Galloway -- Cyclin Investment Projects
Ibike Schools Programme	£97,000	IBike Schools Programme
Rock Up and Ride	£79,700	Delivered in partnership with Scottish Cycling Rock Up & Ride Schools.
Access to Bikes for Young People	£62,500	Delivered in partnership with Cycling Scotland to increase access to bikes for young people in the Dumfries & Galloway region through work with local organisations.
Access to Bikes - Schools	£90,000	Delivered in partnership with Cycling Scotland this increases funding available for small-scale cycling infrastructure, including cycle parking and storage to make it easier for pupils and staff to cycle to school.
Active Workplaces	£20,000	A package of infrastructure interventions to improve active travel storage across workplaces.
Access & Inclusion Programme	£310,000	Bike Libraries in Newton Stewart and Dalbeattie including bikes and storage facilities, E-Bike programme and guided coaching events.
Community Small Grants	£74,000	Local community cycle hubs, bikes and storage for the hubs and eBike Programme & Events.



In 2024, Dumfries & Galloway Council, in partnership with SWestrans, invested in several active travel projects to promote walking, cycling, and wheeling. These projects, funded by approximately £780,000, aim to improve infrastructure and encourage active travel across the region. Notable locations include Dumfries Town Centre, Stranraer, and Lockerbie, where enhancements to pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, new cycle paths, and safer crossings are being developed.



CASE STUDIES

Penpont to Thornhill

Project Overview:

The Penpont to Thornhill Active Travel Path is a newly completed initiative in the Nithsdale area, designed to provide a safe, traffic-free route for walking, wheeling, and cycling. This project aims to enhance connectivity between the villages of Penpont and Thornhill.

Key Features:

- **Pathway:** The path stretches 4 kilometres, connecting Penpont to Thornhill, with Phase 1A already completed from Penpont to the Drumlanrig access road.
- **Infrastructure:** Includes benches and bike stands at placemaking areas along the path, funded by Sustrans Scotland's ArtRoots programme.
- **Environmental Enhancements:** Hedge planting and wildflower under-sowing along the path to boost local biodiversity.

Funding and Support:

The project is led by the Keir, Penpont and Tynron Development Trust (KPTDT) and funded by £1,557,806 from the Scottish Government through Sustrans Scotland's Places for Everyone programme.

Additional match funding was secured from SWestrans, South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway Council Communities Committee, SSE Renewables, and Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company (ANCBC).



Community Impact:

- **Connectivity:** Provides a safe route for residents to access retail, leisure, and medical facilities, as well as educational opportunities.
- **Health and Well-being:** Encourages active travel, promoting physical activity and reducing car use.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Enhances local greenspace and biodiversity through landscaping efforts.

Current Status:

Phase 1A of the project is complete. Efforts are ongoing to secure funding for the completion of phases 1B and 1C. £420,000 has been secured in December 2024 from Transport Scotland to complete a further phase of a popular path linking Nithsdale villages of Penpont and Thornhill. Construction of the path has been a multi-stage project,

The Penpont to Thornhill Active Travel Path is a significant development for the Nithsdale area, offering numerous benefits for residents and visitors. It enhances connectivity, promotes health and well-being, and supports environmental sustainability, showcasing the positive impact of community-driven projects supported by government funding.



CASE STUDIES

Trail Maintenance and Dig Days

Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS) 2024 roundup highlights the importance of maintaining a world-class trail network, including the renowned Glentress trails. The Glentress Trailfairies, a dedicated group of volunteers, work closely with Forestry and Land Scotland to keep the trails in top condition. In 2024 they have organised monthly dig days, which has equated to 71 volunteer days, where volunteers can join in to help with trail upkeep, addressing issues like drainage, erosion, and general wear and tear.

DMBinS advocates for our trail networks across Scotland and states that “the trail network is essential. To be truly world-class, it must be varied, well-mapped and maintained, easily accessible, suitable for riders of all abilities, and located in key destinations across Scotland.”





CASE STUDIES

Tweed Valley Trails Association

Project Overview:

With support from Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBiS) via the Scottish Borders Trail Development Coordinator, the Tweed Valley Trails Association (TVTA) has made significant progress in community-led trail stewardship. Their efforts have been recognised by the UK riding community, awarding the TVTA-maintained “Golfie” as the top MTB destination.

Key Features:

- **Volunteer Engagement:** Hundreds of volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to maintain and develop the trail network across the Tweed Valley.
- **Collaboration:** TVTA works closely with Forestry Land Scotland, original trail builders, local businesses, and individuals to sustain and enhance the trails.

Notable Projects:

1. **“Flat White Reimagined”:** This project involved a complete top-to-bottom rebuild by hand of the ½ mile, 63 corner trail, resulting in a six-fold increase in traffic.
2. **Way Marker Posts:** Installed on all TVTA-adopted trails, these posts help users navigate the network, provide emergency information, and remind riders that the trails are shared spaces.





CASE STUDIES

Funding and Support:

The creation of two contractor roles to manage trail maintenance is funded by donations from supporters and businesses. This financial support ensures the trails can handle the increased traffic and remain in top condition.

Community Impact:

- **Recognition:** The “Golfe” trail’s accolade highlights the success of TVTA’s community-led approach.
- **Increased Usage:** Projects like “Flat White Reimagined” have significantly boosted trail traffic.
- **Safety and Navigation:** Way marker posts enhance user experience and safety.

Current Status:

The TVTA continues to develop and maintain the trail network, supported by volunteers and funded by community donations. The popularity of the trails has necessitated the creation of dedicated maintenance roles.

The Tweed Valley Trails Association exemplifies the power of community involvement in trail stewardship. Their collaborative efforts with various stakeholders have not only sustained but also enhanced the trail network, making the Tweed Valley a premier destination for mountain biking.





CASE STUDIES

Pump Track Investments – Inspiring the Next Generation Through Legacy Investments

Investing in pump tracks across the South of Scotland is crucial due to the substantial financial backing from the £8 million Cycling Facilities Fund, match funding from Scottish Borders Council extended the impacts made by the Scottish Government and sportscotland. This initiative focuses on creating accessible pump tracks for all community members, encouraging participation from people of all ages and abilities. Following the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, there is heightened interest in cycling, which these investments aim to sustain and grow. Pump tracks in areas like Jedburgh, Stow and Walkerburn provide local communities with new recreational opportunities, promoting physical activity and social interaction. The goal is to establish a legacy of accessible cycling infrastructure, fostering a culture of cycling and active travel in Scotland.

***Read more detail on each of these investments in the Sustainable Communities & Economy Section**



SOSE Cycling Infrastructure Fund

The £300k South of Scotland Cycling Infrastructure Fund aims to make the South a leading cycling destination by attracting tourists to the Kirkpatrick C2C and 7Stanes centres. Since 2023, it has made 30 strategic investments, including 15 in 2024, providing up to £25k in grants for cycling facilities like bike storage, charging sockets, and repair stations. The fund's core purpose is to meet and exceed customer expectations. This initiative involves social enterprises, community groups, and private businesses, enhancing our global reputation and securing South of Scotland place as part of the UCI Velo Region network. Investments made by Scotland Cycling Infrastructure Fund in 2024/25 financial year are [here](#).





CASE STUDIES

Solway View Caravan and Campsite

Neil and Patricia Picken of Solway View Holidays near Kirkcudbright received funding from the South of Scotland Cycling Infrastructure Fund. This investment has enabled them to enhance their facilities, making their site more attractive to cycling enthusiasts.

Key Features:

- **Secure Bike Storage:** Facilities for up to 20 bikes.
- **Electric Bike Charge Points:** Convenient charging stations for electric bikes.
- **Bike Racks:** Space for 20 units.
- **Bike Repair/Pump Tool Facility:** On-site tools for bike maintenance and repairs.
- **Ramped Entry:** Easy access for wheelchairs and bikes

Funding and Support:

The project was supported by the South of Scotland Enterprise through the Cycling Infrastructure Fund. This funding has been crucial in providing the capital needed to improve the cycling facilities at Solway View Holidays.

Community Impact:

- **Increased Tourism:** The enhanced facilities have encouraged more guests to bring their bikes on holiday, leading to an increase in cycling visitors of all ages.
- **Sustainable Visitor Dispersal:** The improved cycling infrastructure helps disperse visitors more evenly across the region, reducing congestion at popular sites and promoting the discovery of lesser-known areas
- **Proximity to Routes:** Solway View is ideally located near the Kirkpatrick C2C route, the Sustrans 7 route, and various gravel and mountain bike locations, making it a perfect base for cyclists.

Current Status:

The new facilities are already in use, and the business is seeing a positive response from guests. The improvements have made Solway View Holidays a top choice for cycling holidays in the region.





Tweed Valley Pods

Project Overview:

Margot & Eric Smolenska, Tweed Valley Pods received a grant from the Cycling Infrastructure Fund, which has significantly enhanced their business, and the facilities offered to guests. The improvements have been well-received, with guests leaving five-star reviews and appreciating the cyclist-friendly provisions.

Key Features:

- **Gear Washing, Drying, and Storage Area:** Created within the existing secure cycle store to provide a more cycle-friendly site.
- **E-Bike Charging Area and Bike Wash:** Located within the site car park for added convenience.

Funding and Support:

The project was supported by the South of Scotland Cycling Infrastructure Fund. This funding has been crucial in providing the capital needed to improve the cycling facilities at Tweed Valley Pods.

Community Impact:

- **Positive Guest Feedback:** Guests have left five-star reviews, highlighting their appreciation for the cyclist-friendly facilities.
- **Longer Stays:** The enhanced facilities have encouraged guests to book longer stays, knowing they can wash and dry their muddy kit, wash their bikes, and store them securely.

Current Status:

The new facilities are already in use, and the business is seeing a positive response from guests. The improvements have made Tweed Valley Pods a top choice for cycling holidays in the region.

The grant from the Cycling Infrastructure Fund has had a very positive impact on Tweed Valley Pods. This project demonstrates the positive effect of targeted funding on local tourism businesses, encouraging active travel and supporting the local economy.





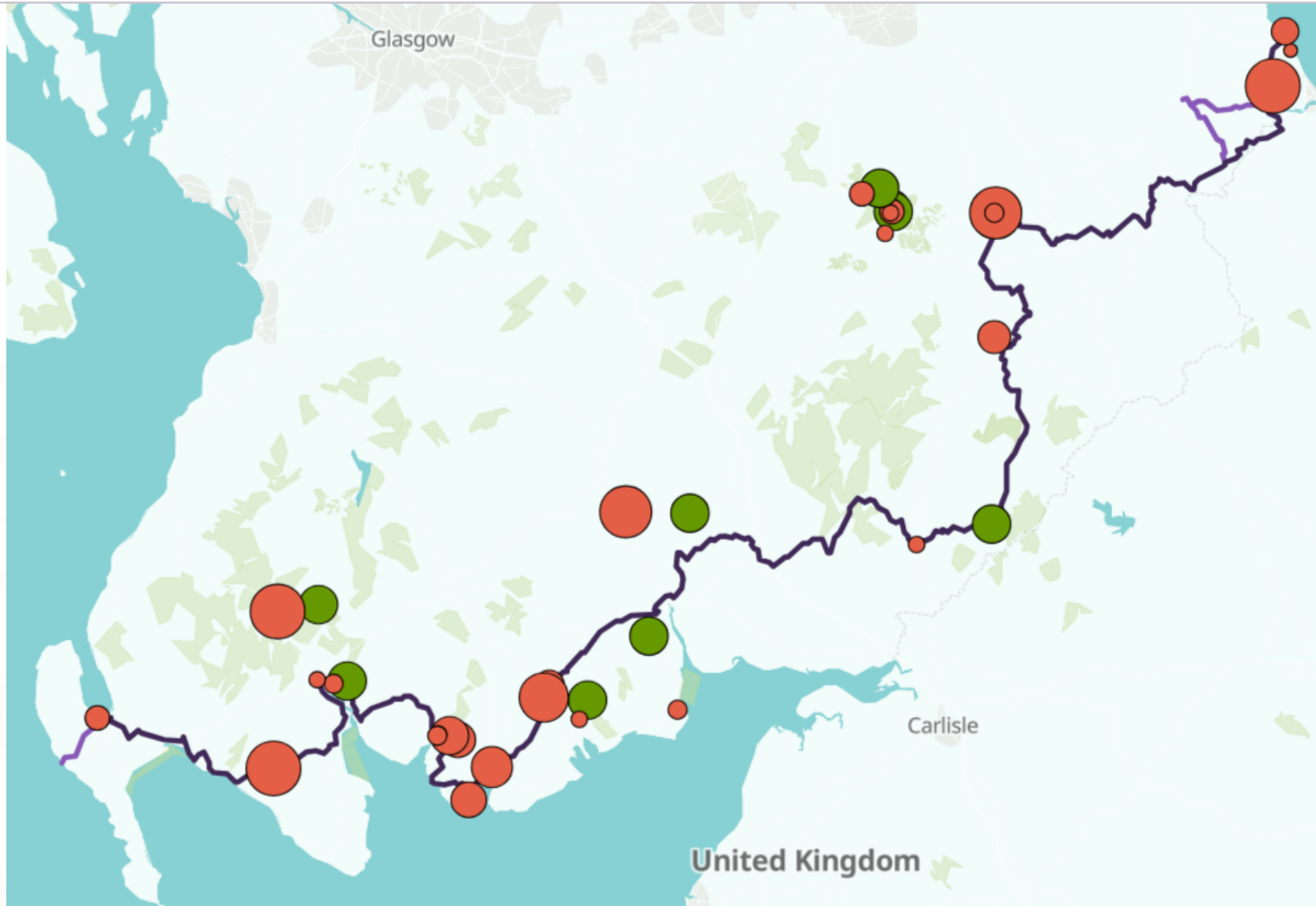
CASE STUDIES

South of Scotland Enterprise Cycling Infrastructure Fund – Grant Awards

Region	Recipient Business	Years covered	Region	Recipient Business	Years covered
Dumfries and Galloway	Galloway Holidays Ltd	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Calgow Cottages	2023/24
Scottish Borders	Shepards rest campsite	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Ewes Water and Caravan Park	2023/24
Dumfries and Galloway	Glentool Campsite	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Fleet View Self Catering Accomidation	2023/24
Scottish Borders	The Salmon Inn	2023/24	Scottish Borders	Cleikum Mill Lodge.	2023/24
Dumfries and Galloway	Oakbank farm campsite	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Stables Guest House	2023/24
Dumfries and Galloway	High kirkland Holidays	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Kirkennan Estate Holiday Cottages	2023/24
Dumfries and Galloway	Gallager propery limited	2023/24	Scottish Borders	The Annex - Kirkhouse	2023/24
Dumfries and Galloway	Solway View Holidays	2023/24	Scottish Borders	By the Sea Accomidation	2024/25
Dumfries and Galloway	Gatehouse Luxury Lodges	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Stranraer Development Trust	2024/25
Scottish Borders	Stouslie Snugs Luxury Farm	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Eskdale Hotel	2024/25
Dumfries and Galloway	Ermespie Farm	2023/24	Scottish Borders	Sea the Change	2024/25
Scottish Borders	Tweed Valley Pods	2023/24	Scottish Borders	Newcastleton Bunkhouse	2024/25
Scottish Borders	Room in the Borders - Innerleithan	2023/24	Scottish Borders	Gunsgreen House	2024/25
Scottish Borders	Glentress Forest Lodges	2023/24	Dumfries and Galloway	Galloway Vlew	2024/25
Dumfries and Galloway	The Auld Kirk B&B	2023/24	Scottish Borders	Room in the Borders - Galashiels	2024/25
Dumfries and Galloway	SJH Inns Limited	2023/24			



MAP OF GRANT RECIPIENT LOCATIONS



Name
By the Sea Accommodation
Calgow Cottages
Cleikum Mill Lodge and Bike Valley Trails G.C.A Services Ltd, Cleikum Mill, Innerleithen
Ernespie Farm Centre Ltd
Eskdale Hotel
Ewes Water and Caravan and Camping Park
Fleet View Self Catering Accommodation, Gatehouse of Fleet
Gallagher Property Limited
Galloway Holidays Ltd / Wigwam Holidays Wigtown
Galloway View
Glentress Forest Lodges
Glentrool Campsite Bowmans Leisure
Gungreen House Trust
High Kirkland Holidays
J DODDS & CO PROPERTY LIMITED Gatehouse Luxury Lodges
Kirkennan Estate Holiday Cottages
Let's Go Property (Scotland) Ltd
Let's Thrive Property
Newcastleton & District Community Trust
Oakbank Farm Campsite
Sea The Change
Shepherd's Rest Campsite, Lamins Farm, Fouden
SJH Inns Limited
Solway View Holidays Balmangan Farm
Stables Guest House
Stouslie Snugs Luxury Farm Glamping
Stranraer Development Trust
The Annex - Kirkhouse
The Auld Kirk B&B
The Salmon Inn, Galashiels
Tweed Valley Pods Ltd

7stanes Biking Trail Centres

C2C Route

C2C Spur

Grant Recipient

Scottish Mountain Biking Conference 2024, Tweed Valley, Scottish Borders

The Scottish Mountain Bike Conference 2024, held at MacDonald Cardrona in Tweed Valley, was a resounding success, attracting 200 delegates from a global audience base, including industry leaders, public sector partners, journalists, and mountain biking enthusiasts from the UK and beyond. The event featured the launch of three groundbreaking initiatives: First Tracks, the UK's first cycling and outdoor business incubator; the Scottish Enduro Association; and the UK Trails Report, which provides crucial insights into the state of the UK's mountain bike trail network.

The conference emphasised collaboration and innovation, highlighting Scotland's leadership in mountain biking. It highlighted the region's potential for sustainable growth and strategic investment, drawing on global best practices to enhance local development.

The event also facilitated knowledge exchange and networking, fostering partnerships that will drive the future of mountain biking in Scotland and internationally.

Delegates at the Scottish Mountain Bike Conference 2024 highlighted several key takeaways:

- **Collaboration and Innovation:** Essential for sustainable growth.
- **Trail Development:** Ongoing investment and support for local associations are crucial.

- **Economic Impact:** Strategic investments boost local economies and communities.
- **Sustainability:** Balancing development with environmental conservation is vital.
- **Networking:** Valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and partnerships.

These points reflect the conference's success in promoting the importance of collaboration, investment in trail development, economic and community benefits, sustainability, and networking are hugely encouraging for the future of mountain biking in the South of Scotland.





EVENTS

Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain

Hosting the Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain in 2024 was incredibly important for the Scottish Borders, bringing an economic boost of £2.5 million. The event featured a new format with 18 professional teams from 12 countries, including six teams from the 2024 Tour de France, and a total of 108 riders. Crowds gathered in Kelso to watch the racers on a 181km route through our picturesque towns and countryside. Local riders Oscar Onley and Callum Thornley, Oscar fresh from an impressive 10th place in the Young Riders classification at the Tour de France, added a special touch as they raced in front of friends and family. Both Onley and Thornley enjoyed fantastic Tours of Britain, with Onley winning the Young Rider classification, whilst Thornley enjoyed himself in multiple breakaways, winning the King of the Mountains classification in the process. Oscar would go on to finish a tremendous 16th place at his first Elite World Championships to round out his season. The season was capped off perfectly for Oscar by being awarded the Scottish Cycling Male Rider of the Year.

The event also included wrap-around activities, such as the sold-out live podcast at Tait Hall, where ITV's cycling commentary team of Ned Boulting, David Millar, and Pete Kennaugh hosted their popular podcast 'Never Strays Far'. This live event featured captivating stories, insightful discussions, and much laughter, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.



Lloyds Bank Tour of Britain (cont'd)

Kelso businesses participated in a window dressing competition, creating a wonderful treasure hunt that encouraged visitors to explore and discover the town. The extensive media coverage and local business promotions further highlighted the region's potential for future events.





British Enduro Championships

The first-ever sanctioned British Enduro Championship in 2024 marked a significant milestone for the South of Scotland, with Ae Forest hosting over 500 competitors across the weekend. This event, the culmination of many years of dedicated effort, elevated Enduro to a sanctioned discipline alongside Gravel for 2025, opening new opportunities for competitive cycling and displaying Scotland's stunning landscapes. Ae Forest also hosted the season opener of the Scottish Downhill series, which doubled as the Scottish National Championships, further highlighting the region's importance in the mountain biking community.

Ae Forest, one of the UK's largest forests, offers a variety of facilities and activities, including world-class 7stanes mountain biking trails, walking trails, picnic spots, a café, and a bike shop with hire services. The British Enduro Championship significantly boosted local tourism, attracting over 500 competitors and numerous spectators. This influx of visitors led to increased revenue for local businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and shops, and highlighted the region's natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities, encouraging future tourism and investment in the area.



RED: ON Group – Raiders Gravel & The Gralloch

Hosting events like The Gralloch and Raiders Gravel in Gatehouse of Fleet and Galloway Forest Park is crucial for cementing our reputation as the UK's premier gravel riding destination. These events not only display our stunning landscapes but also support Gatehouse of Fleet's ambition to become the UK's first bike town.

The Gralloch, delivered by the RED: ON Group, returned in 2024 for its second edition, rapidly gaining international recognition and establishing the South of Scotland as a global hub for gravel riding. As the first UK stop on the UCI Gravel World Series, it attracted 1,926 participants and is expected to welcome over 3,000 participants and 1,000 spectators in 2025. This growth drives cycling tourism, economic development, and global recognition for South of Scotland's world-class off-road terrain.

Similarly, Raiders Gravel, a premier multi-day gravel stage race in Galloway Forest Park, offers riders an unparalleled adventure through South of Scotland's wild terrain. With a strong focus on community engagement, this event enhances its legacy by creating lasting benefits for the region. In 2024, it saw 586 riders participating, further boosting our local economy and community spirit.



Tweed love - A Final Farewell to a Much-Loved Festival



Since its inception, Tweed Love has been instrumental in elevating the visibility and development of the mountain biking (MTB) scene in the Tweed Valley; creating positive impacts and a ripple effect across South of Scotland. Over 14 years, it grew from a small idea to Scotland's only full-time bike event business, hosting hundreds of events and attracting over 70,000 participants. Tweed Love created Scotland's first home-grown bike festival, produced the country's biggest enduro race series, and ran the UK's largest kids' cycling events. 2024 marked the end of an era, with the last events drawing significant participation and emotional farewells from the community. The legacy of Tweed Love includes increased local and international recognition of the Tweed Valley as a premier MTB destination, fostering a strong community spirit and boosting local tourism.

Light Up the Trail (and your hearts!)



On March 1, 2024, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University's School of Arts and Creative Industries, hosted a magical night riding event at Glentress Forest called "Light Up The Trails." This unique event invited families and riders of all ages to experience the forest trails after dark, illuminated by mystical sounds and ethereal visuals. The interactive lighting and ambient music created an enchanting atmosphere, making it a memorable night for everyone involved.

Scottish Borders Community Cycling Fund – 2024 Investments



The Scottish Borders Community Cycling Fund is vital for promoting cycling across the region, providing grants between £5,000 and £15,000 to support a variety of events and activities. Launched in 2024 with £120,000 available, the fund supports enhancing existing events, developing new cycling opportunities, and improving accessibility. It focuses on engaging underrepresented groups, such as children, young people, girls, and women, ensuring inclusive participation. The fund supported several events to promote cycling, including the Borders Bike Festival, Women on Wheels workshops, a Youth Cycling Camp, an Inclusive Cycling Day, monthly Community Bike Rides, a Cycling Innovation Expo, and a Family Fun Ride. These events aimed to encourage cycling participation, promote inclusivity, and celebrate the benefits of cycling success stories. The Hike & Bike Hub in Galashiels, which provided free bike hire sessions to promote cycling cemented how crucial these projects are for building skills and capacity at a grassroots level, significantly boosting local engagement, inspiring new cyclists, and fostering a legacy from the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships.

Dumfries & Galloway Event Strategy - 2024 Cycling Investments



In 2024, the Dumfries and Galloway Events Strategy (DGES 23-27) emphasised the importance of cycling events by providing significant funding: £10,000 to the Galloch UCI Gravel World Cup, £4,000 to the Raiders Gravel Festival, and £2,000 to the Galloway Hillbillies Cycling Club for two events at Kirroughtree. These investments aimed to empower event organisers, support community self-determination, and promote sport, heritage, arts, and culture in the region



EVENTS

Community Cycling Event	Attendees
Berwickshire; Sea the Change,	200
Eildon; Hike and Bike Hub	259
Live Borders Bike Fest	1000
UCI Fanzone	580
Light up The Trails	360
Adaptive Riders	600
TweedLove	8187
Adrenalin Uplift	600
FNY Collective	222
Scottish DH Champs at Ae	259
Enduro Champs at Ae	521
Scottish RR Champs at Newton Stewart	97
British XC at Kirroughtree	488
Innerleithen Hub	1117
Total	14490

Mass participation cycling events	2024
TweedLove Bike Festival	945
Dalbeattie Hard Rock Challenge	251
Raiders Gravel	586
YT Industries TweedLove Enduro Series	554
Muck n'Mac Fest	400
Tour of Britain	108
Ken Laidlaw Sportive	230
Galloway ReCycle Sportive	150
Galloway Hillbillies Duathlon	116
The Gralloch	1926
Scottish Downhill Association events	196
PMBA Enduro -Grassroutes & Hope Womens - Kirroughtree	251
Tweed Valley Womens MTB festival	125
Peebles CC RR	62
Midsumeer Breeze sportive	83
frontier 300 gravel event	400
RAF Downhill	100
DMBInS Festival of Light	200
Funduro - Galloway Hillbillies	107
Glorious Gravel - Glentress	98
Glorious Gravel - Newcastleton/Kielder	109
National MTB Marathon Champs - Newcastleton	132
SDA Round 5 - Innerleithen	213
Total	7342



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

UCI Cycling for All – South of Scotland, Top 3 Finalist



South of Scotland's recognition as a top 3 finalist in the UCI Cycling for All & Sustainability Awards is a thrilling achievement. This nomination highlights the region's dedication to becoming a premier cycling destination. The submission, "Unlocking the Power of the Bike," follows the distinction as the first Scottish region to earn the UCI Bike Region Label. Spearheaded by the South of Scotland Cycling Partnership, this award celebrates initiatives with significant social and environmental impacts. The jury praised the exceptional quality and vision of all submissions. This recognition is expected to further boost local cycling initiatives, enhancing infrastructure, increasing participation, and solidifies the region's reputation as a world-class cycling destination.

Launch of the Kirkpatrick C2C, South of Scotland's Coast to Coast Route and Interactive Sculpture



In May 2024, the South of Scotland celebrated the official launch of the Kirkpatrick C2C, a Coast-to-Coast route named in honour of Kirkpatrick Macmillan, the Dumfriesshire blacksmith who invented the world's first pedal bike in 1839. This significant event was marked by the unveiling of a new interactive sculpture on the West Pier in Stranraer.

The sculpture, a striking representation of Macmillan's velocipede, was crafted by local blacksmith brothers Finn and Sam Barlow from Auchencairn, near Castle Douglas. Standing 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide, the steel structure weighs 300kg and was completed over three months at a cost of £14,500. This project was funded by South of Scotland Enterprise.



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Squiggly Bike in Eyemouth



The installation of the “squiggly bike” sculpture in Eyemouth marks the end of the Kirkpatrick C2C, South of Scotland’s Coast to Coast cycling route. This artwork was unveiled at Eyemouth Harbour, providing a striking visual endpoint for the 250-mile route that begins in Stranraer. The “squiggly bike” is a wonderful reminder of the incredible role the Scottish Borders played as a host destination during the UCI 2023 Cycling World Championships.

Sea the Change – Cycle Shack, Eyemouth



SOSE invested £50,000 to support Sea the Change transform a derelict garage into the Cycle Shack, a vibrant community hub in Eyemouth. This new space, essential for the Kirkpatrick Coast to Coast route, offers bike sales, rentals, and repairs—services previously unavailable within 20 miles.

Since opening in June 2024, the Cycle Shack has energised the local cycling culture. They’ve hosted guided rides, bike workshops, and upcycling projects. Their free children’s bike library has been a hit, and taking care home residents on bike outings is a weekly highlight.



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Just Cycle



Just Cycle, founded in 2015, is a sustainability beacon in the Scottish Borders. Their passionate team of staff and volunteers rescues unwanted bikes from landfill and public donations, refurbishing them for new adventures. In 2024 alone, they saved around 3,000 bikes, with over 1,000 finding new homes through their Tweedbank shop. The rest were sent to Bikes to Africa, transforming lives by becoming wheelchairs and travel aids. Just Cycle not only makes cycling affordable and accessible but also brings the community together with bike maintenance courses and guided rides.

One volunteer shared, "It's incredibly rewarding to see these bikes, once destined for the landfill, being given a second chance and bringing joy to so many people."

IBike Communities Dumfries & Galloway



Sustrans, IBike Communities helps adults embrace active travel and boost their health and wellbeing. They offer a range of flexible activities, from confidence sessions and learn-to-ride to bike loans, E-bike inductions, cycling skills, maintenance, and led rides and walks. Free sessions can be booked individually or as a group, with training tailored to each person.

In 2024, they delivered 241 activities, engaging 724 adults, including 318 newcomers. Volunteers supported 70 of these activities. A major highlight was launching "Active Travel - Cycling for Health" as a referral option.

One participant shared, "The confidence sessions have been life-changing. I never thought I'd be able to ride a bike, but now I can't imagine my life without it."



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Community Spirit at Newton Stewart's Family Fun Day

On July 20, 2024, five local groups came together to deliver Newton Stewart's First Cycling Family Fun Day at Douglas Ewart High School. The event featured a variety of activities and bikes for all ages and abilities. Wigtownshire Stuff brought their accessible bikes, and many attendees enjoyed trying out the handcycle. A family visiting the event appreciated the wheelchair platform bike, which allowed them to cycle together as a family. The event highlighted the physical, social, and economic benefits of cycling and brought the community together in a fun and engaging way.

Cycling Scotland - 2024 Investments in South of Scotland

In 2024, Cycling Scotland shifted from national support through Cycling Friendly Awards to the regional People and Place Programme. In 2024/25, they partnered with SWestrans to continue supporting and advising organisations in the region working towards achieving Cycling Friendly status.

Details of certificate recipients and those currently working towards a Cycling Friendly award are detailed below:

Organisation Type	Organisation Name	Local Authority	RTP Area	Status	Number of Users
Employer	Creatomatic	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	11
Community Group	Dalbeattie Community Initiative	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	146
Secondary School	Dalbeattie High School	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	351
Primary School	Dalbeattie Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	264
Campus	Dumfries and Galloway College - Dumfries Campus	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	1500
Employer	Forestry and Land Scotland - South Scotland Management Office	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	44
Community Group	Galloway Community Transport	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	6600
Community Group	Gatehouse of Fleet Community Centre	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	50
Primary School	Loreburn Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	162
Employer	South of Scotland Enterprise - Carmont House	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	60



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Secondary School	Wallace Hall Academy	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	560
Community Group	Wheels of Fleet	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	15
Community Group	Wigtownshire Stuff	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	50
Employer	WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre	DGC	SWestran	Awarded	11
Campus	Borders College	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	1769
Community Group	Eildon Housing Association	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	-
Community Group	Eildon West Youth Hub	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	-
Community Group	Hike & Bike Hub, Galashiels	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	6
Secondary School	Jedburgh Grammar School	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	-
Secondary School	Peebles High School	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	1250
Secondary School	Selkirk High School	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	375
Employer	South of Scotland Enterprise - Ettrick Riverside	SBC	SEStran	Awarded	70
Employer	Bespoke Support	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	11
Employer	C&C Group - Tennent's Dumfries Warehouse	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	10
Community Group	Castle Douglas Development Forum	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	400
Employer	Castle Douglas Police Station	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	40
Primary School	Castle Douglas Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	-
Community Group	Community Reuse Shop	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	30
Employer	Dumfries - Cornwall Mount (Headquarters)	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	80
Campus	Dumfries and Galloway College - Stranraer Campus	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	231
Employer	Dumfries Police Station - Loreburn Street	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	100
Primary School	Gatehouse and Twynholm Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	144



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Primary School	Hoddom Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	60
Primary School	Johnstonebridge Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	32
Community Group	Keir Penpont and Tynron Community Trust	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	1200
Secondary School	Kirkcudbright Academy	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	404
Secondary School	Langlands School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	27
Primary School	Locharbriggs Primary	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	148
Primary School	Lochmaben Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	308
Employer	New Town Hall & Bunkhouse	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	2
Community Group	Newton Stewart Initiative	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	275
Employer	Newton Stewart Police Station	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	30
Community Group	Nith Valley LEAF Trust	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	90
Employer	Old School Thornhill Community	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	15
Primary School	Rephad Primary	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	260
Community Group	South Machars Community Centre - Whithorn	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	900
Primary School	St Teresa's Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	36
Community Group	Stranraer Development Trust	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	10500
Employer	Stranraer Police Station	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	88
Employer	Stranraer Skills Station Ltd	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	83
Community Group	Summerhill Community Centre	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	400
Community Group	The Crichton Trust	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	4500
Employer	The Frothy Bike Co.	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	8
Primary School	Whithorn Primary School	DGC	SWestran	Working towards the award	117



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Employer	Brightwire	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	-
Primary School	Broomlands Primary	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	250
Primary School	Dunbarney Primary School	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	240
Secondary School	Earlston High School	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	1100
Primary School	Ednam Primary School	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	46
Employer	Enduro Sports Organisation	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	12
Employer	Farne Salmon Ltd	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	750
Secondary School	Galashiels Academy	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	814
Secondary School	Hawick High School	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	960
Community Group	Just Cycle Ltd	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	10
Secondary School	Kelso High School	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	581
Employer	Milestone Garden & Leisure Ltd	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	50
Employer	NHS Borders	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	1500
Employer	RTA Law LLP	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	14
Employer	Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber CIC	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	-
Community Group	Selkirk Regeneration	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	283
Community Group	Stow Community Trust Community Group	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	142
Primary School	West Linton Primary School	SBC	SEStran	Working towards the award	229



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

Organisations funded by Cycling Scotland in the Dumfries and Galloway region through SWestrans' People and Place Programme:

Funding Programme	Organisation
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Wheatley Homes South
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Summerhill Community Campus
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	The Wheatley Foundation
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Lockerbie School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Whithorn School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Twynholm School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Hoddorn School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Locharbriggs School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	St Teresa's School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Lochmaben School
Swestrans People and Place Programme 24/25	Loreburn Primary School

People and Place Programme

In April 2024, a new funding programme for Active Travel was launched by Transport Scotland called the People and Place Programme. This programme replaced the previous behaviour change and Access to Bikes programmes and saw funding allocated to Scotland's seven Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) to target delivery at level suitable for their particular region. The budget for the P&P programme was £19 million in the first year. For the South of Scotland area, grant funding of up to £864,960 was awarded to Swestrans for Dumfries and Galloway. Scottish Borders Council also benefited from £458,800 of funding received from the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (Sestran) under the P&P programme.

The programme was complemented by other funding initiatives aimed at behaviour change; the Community Projects Transition Fund (£2.5m), Local Authority Direct Award (£4.5m) and Bikeability (£1.7m). Transport Scotland's intention for 2025/26 is to see RTP and LA funding joined closer together under the 'People and Place' banner, more decision-making power about how to support communities put into the hands of RTPs, and to continue national support for the Bikeability programme.'



DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION



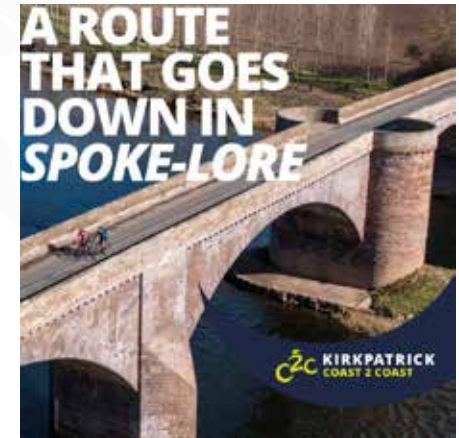
Cycling plays a crucial role in the regional identity of the South of Scotland, as highlighted in the newly launched South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy.

Cycling is not only a nod to the historical legacy of Kirkpatrick Macmillan, the inventor of the pedal-driven bicycle, but also a sustainable travel option that supports visitor dispersal. By promoting cycling, the region can alleviate pressure on popular tourist spots, reduce environmental impact, and enhance the visitor experience by encouraging exploration of lesser-known areas.

Sustainable travel options like cycling will help distribute visitors more evenly across the region, fostering a more balanced and sustainable tourism model.

South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) has reported several positive metrics from their targeted campaign to launch the Kirkpatrick C2C, South of Scotland Coast to Coast route:

- **Significant Traffic Driver:** The Kirkpatrick C2C was a major driver of traffic to the Scotland Starts Here (SSH) website, accounting for 10% of all traffic in 2024.
- **High Engagement:** The SSH website recorded a total of 825,000 views, with 83,000 of these being related to cycling content, events, and businesses.
- **Popular Content:** Most of this traffic was directed to the Kirkpatrick C2C pages, making it the second most popular topic on the site in 2024 with 70,000 visits.
- **Stable Interest:** Additionally, 13,000 visits were divided between gravel, road, and mountain biking content. Despite tighter budgets for PPC activity, traffic to these pages remained stable, indicating organic growth in interest and search queries for the region.



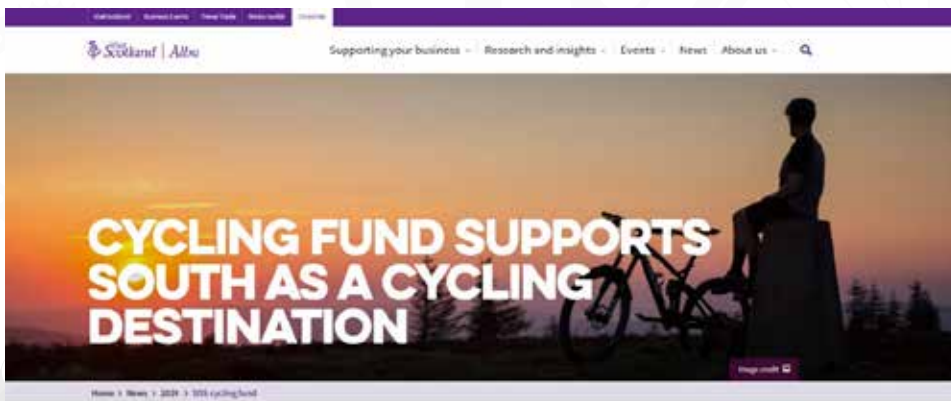
These metrics highlight the success of the SSDA's campaign in promoting the Kirkpatrick C2C route and enhancing the visibility of cycling-related activities in the South of Scotland, demonstrating the effectiveness of recent improvements to the SSH web presence.



DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION

VisitScotland Promotion & Campaign Support

The combined page views for the Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders pages on visitscotland.com from January 1 to December 18, 2024, totalled **44,084 views**.





DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION

VisitScotland, a much-valued supporter and delivery partner of the South of Scotland Cycling Strategy, employs an integrated marketing strategy to promote Scotland as a top cycling destination, targeting key markets like the US and UK. They use a segmentation model to tailor content for specific consumer segments, collaborate with regional and commercial partners to amplify campaigns, and provide a cycling tourism toolkit for businesses. This approach raises awareness, inspires potential visitors, and importantly drives traffic from regional landing pages which enhances the overall visitor experience. A variety of inspiring images are used, showcasing the stunning landscapes and forest parks of the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway. These images feature visitors enjoying the incredible scenery on bike, further highlighting the appeal of Scotland as a premier cycling destination.

Things to do in Dumfries & Galloway

Enjoy the great outdoors with plenty of outdoor activities, wildlife to spot and family-friendly attractions.



Cycling

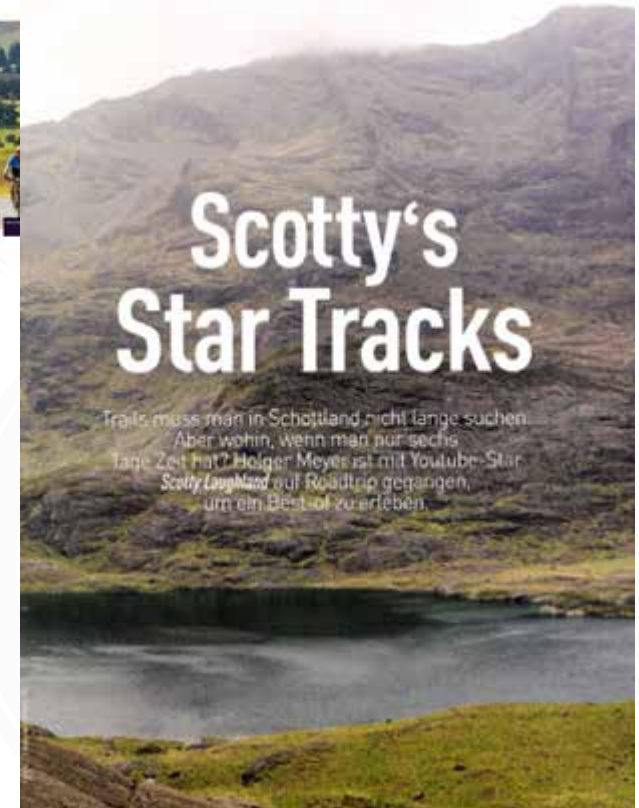
There are trails of all kinds in both the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway including mountain biking, gravel and road biking.



THE SCOTTISH BORDERS



Nach Tweed Valley und Dumfries geht's in den Cairngorms Nationalpark. Ein Mittagspauschen, das sich aber schnell allein erfüllt.



Scotty's Star Tracks

Trails muss man in Schottland nicht lange suchen. Aber wohin, wenn man nur sechs Tage Zeit hat? Holger Meyer ist mit Youtube-Star Scotty Laughland auf Roadtrip gegangen, um ein Best-of zu erleben.



DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION

Visitor Dispersal and Orientation: Gateway signs in Scottish Borders

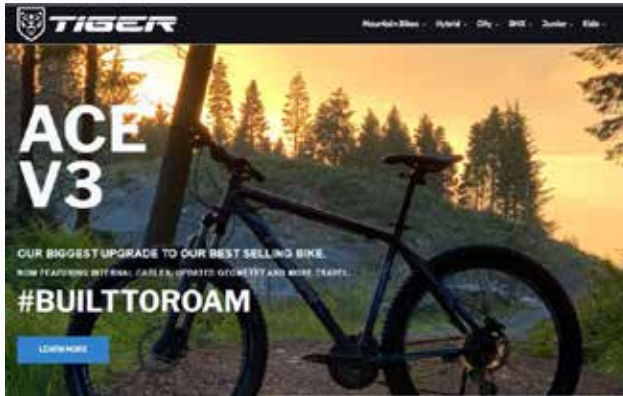
The recent installation of UCI Bike Region signage at 8 new locations across the Scottish Borders highlights the pride we have in securing UCI Bike Region status. This prestigious label, awarded by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), recognises the South of Scotland's commitment to both elite cycling competitions and community cycling initiatives. As the first region in Scotland to receive this honour, we join a select group of world-leading cycling destinations. The UCI Bike Region Label acknowledges our efforts in hosting major UCI events and investing in cycling infrastructure and programs, fostering a vibrant cycling culture and promoting sustainable travel.





INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Tiger Cycles UK Ltd



Project Overview

Tiger Cycles UK, a company with over 18 years of experience in the bicycle industry, received funding from the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) to enhance their business operations and facilities. This funding has been instrumental in supporting their mission to provide high-spec, value-for-money bicycles

Key Features

Product Range: Tiger Cycles offers a wide variety of bikes, including lightweight aluminium framed bikes, BMXs, front suspension mountain bikes, and hybrids.

Business Enhancement: The funding has allowed Tiger Cycles to diversify into wheel manufacture and, more importantly, automate processes to increase productivity. This is particularly significant given the low productivity levels in the UK and Scotland. They are now working with SOSE and the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service (SMAS) to develop a longer-term strategy for growth.

Re-shoring Manufacturing to UK: The company has also focused on bringing manufacturing back to the UK, further supporting local industry

Funding and Support

The project was supported by the South of Scotland Enterprise through their capital grant program. This financial assistance has been crucial in providing the capital needed for business development and growth.

Community Impact

Economic Growth: The funding has helped Tiger Cycles to expand their operations, contributing to the local economy.

Job Creation: The business growth supported by the funding has led to the creation of new jobs within the company.

Cycling Promotion: By enhancing their product range and facilities, Tiger Cycles is promoting cycling as a healthy and sustainable mode of transport.

Current Status: Tiger Cycles continues to thrive, offering high-quality bicycles to customers across the UK. The improvements made possible by the SOSE funding have positioned the company for continued success and growth.

The support from the South of Scotland Enterprise has had a significant positive impact on Tiger Cycles UK. This case study demonstrates the importance of targeted funding in helping local businesses grow, innovate, and contribute to the regional economy.

For more information, you can visit [Tiger Cycles and South of Scotland Enterprise](#).



Empowering Women in the Bike Industry



Forty women from the cycling industry gathered in Scotland for the first **Women in the Bike Industry Summit**, held at Glentress in the Tweed Valley. The event provided a welcoming space for connection, community, and positive action. Delegates heard from a diverse range of speakers, including local development agencies, elite athletes, race mechanics, and academics. Notable speakers included Aneela McKenna (Mor Diversity) Paula Ward (SOSE), Ed Shoote (Mountain Bike Innovation Centre), Dr. Lesley Ingram-Sills (Edinburgh Napier University), and Bex Baraona (Gowaan Girls co-founder). The summit featured networking opportunities, practical sessions in trail maintenance, podcasting, interview skills, and Trail Therapy. Organised by Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS) and expertly delivered on the day by Aoife Glass, Vedangi Kulkarni, Colena Cotter, and Emily Stratton, the event was supported by South of Scotland Enterprise, the UK Government through the Shared Prosperity Fund, Rab, Komoot, and Endura.

Mountain Bike Innovation Centre, Bike Park & Living Labs



The Mountain Bike Innovation Centre has embraced a new direction in 2024, as the Caerlee Mill renovation was deemed unviable. This has led to the application for the building's demolition in 2025. Despite this change, the project is now making excellent progress, with plans to deliver an operational centre by 2027, subject to planning consent. The image shows how the new centre might look.

The Adventure Bike Park continues to advance steadily, with land negotiations ongoing through 2024. A public update is expected later in 2025.

The Trail Lab project has secured proof of concept funding support from the Scotland 5G Centre and will commence on-site testing of digital technology before the end of March, in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University.



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

British MTB Marathon Championships



The British MTB Marathon Championship round in South of Scotland, held in Newcastleton, highlighted the region's demanding yet stunning terrain. Cameron Orr and Anna Flynn secured elite wins on a challenging 90km course that started in the town centre. The route featured tough climbs, technical sections, fire-road ascents, fresh-cut trails, and bike park features, testing riders' skills and endurance. This event delivered thrilling battles, highlighted riders' grit and determination, and underscored the importance of South of Scotland as a premier destination for mountain biking.

Scottish National Road Race Championships



In 2024, Kirroughtree and Newton Stewart hosted significant British Cycling events, including the Scottish National Road Race Championships. Organised by the Galloway Hillbillies Bike Club, these events displayed the region's ability to host high-profile competitions and boosted local tourism. This event, featuring a challenging circuit near Newton Stewart, saw Logan MacLean and Beth Morrow crowned as champions, highlighting the region's capability to host high-profile cycling competitions and boosting local tourism and community engagement.

Having these events locally is crucial for rural cycling clubs and teams, as it mitigates the impact of fuel poverty, reducing travel costs and encouraging greater participation in competitive cycling.



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

Scottish Downhill Race - Innerleithen 2024



The Scottish Downhill Association (SDA) Championship Race at Innerleithen took place from September 6th to 8th, 2024. This event is part of the SDA Series 2024 and served as the final round of the series. The race was held at Traquair Road, Innerleithen, Peeblesshire, and attracted 196 of the UK's best downhill mountain bikers to the Scottish Borders. The course is known for its challenging terrain and technical sections, making it a favourite among riders and spectators alike.

The event had a positive impact on the local economy as it included practice sessions on Friday and Saturday, followed by the main race on Sunday.

Jedburgh Pump Track



The Jedburgh Pump Track and Skate Park, which officially opened on November 8, 2024, is a cutting-edge facility in Jedburgh, Scottish Borders. This unique hybrid park, the first of its kind in Scotland, features a 100-meter asphalt pump track alongside a concrete skate park, catering to various wheeled sports enthusiasts.

The pump track includes berms and rollers with feature heights up to 1.3 meters, making it accessible for beginners while still challenging for advanced riders. The adjoining skate park features a street course with elements such as a flat bank gap, ledges, grind rails, and quarter pipe transitions that link into the pump track. Additionally, the park is floodlit, allowing for year-round use.

The project was designed and constructed by industry leaders Velosolutions and Betongpark. It was funded by the Scottish Borders Council, which allocated £390,000 from its Capital Programme for Play Areas and Community Outdoor Spaces to enhance recreational facilities for both current and future generations.



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

Stow Pump Track



The Stow Pump Track will officially open in spring 2025, but it's been in use since December 2024. Despite no publicity, it's already popular with local children and young people.

The project, driven by Stow Community Trust volunteers, took five years and was funded by various sources, including the Scottish Borders Council and local windfarm funds. Designed by Velosolutions and built by Bikescape, the track has boosted cycling activity in Stow. Children are using it to improve their bike skills, socialise, and have fun. Coaching sessions are planned post-opening to build confidence among users.

Walkerburn Skate & Bike Park



The new Walkerburn Pump Track, officially opened in August 2024, is a fantastic addition to the community. This state-of-the-art facility features a 110-meter pump track and a multi-use games area with basketball hoops, football goals, and a cricket wicket. Funded by Scottish Borders Council and sportscotland, the track is designed for all wheeled sports and caters to beginners and intermediate users. Since its opening, it has been a hit with local children and young people, providing a safe and fun environment to improve their skills and enjoy outdoor activities.



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

Kelso Skate & Bike Park Lights Project



The Kelso Skate Park Lights Project, completed in July 2024, saw the installation of five energy-efficient floodlights to enhance the facility and allow year-round use. This upgrade was driven by a community campaign led by Kelso High School students and supported by Scottish Borders Council. Funded by the Place Based Investment Fund and the Cheviot Area Partnership, the new lights operate on a 30-minute timer during winter months to ensure energy efficiency and low running costs.

Active Health – Cycling for Health, Dumfries & Galloway



April 2024 marked the launch of the Active Travel - Cycling for Health programme in Dumfries & Galloway, introducing social prescribing of cycling activities. This innovative approach to wellbeing leverages cycling to improve mobility, sociability, self-esteem, and independent transport. By reaching a new audience, it makes cycling accessible to a wide range of people. This exciting initiative is a collaboration between Sustrans IBike Communities and the Public Health team in Dumfries and Galloway, showcasing a fantastic new approach to Active Health being rolled out across Scotland.



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

Andrew's Journey to Recovery



Andrew's journey with the Active Travel - Cycling for Health program began when his physiotherapist referred him through the Active Lives program. Andrew faced multiple health challenges that made walking difficult, and he had undergone major spinal surgery. Once an avid cyclist, he thought his dream of riding again was out of reach due to balance issues and limited control over his legs and feet.

But with determination and the program's support, Andrew started using an E-trike. Week by week, he made incredible progress, gaining strength and control over his legs and feet. Andrew shared, "The cycle training sessions were a wonderful opportunity to get back to cycling. My confidence and fitness have improved hugely. The training on a tricycle was wonderful, so much so that I managed to purchase a second-hand E-trike and have now started to build up the miles."

Success of the Dalbeattie Initiative Ebikes



The Dalbeattie Initiative Ebikes program offers weekly rides for people to try out e-bikes and see if they can help them cycle more often. Between April and December 2024, the program held 13 taster rides and 110 group rides, covering a total distance of 13,640 km. The program had 53 unique participants, some of whom attended weekly while others only needed a ride or two. The initiative has helped people from the town, including those recovering from injury or health issues, to get back into cycling. One participant shared, "The e-bike program has been a game-changer for me. After my injury, I thought I would never be able to cycle again, but the support and encouragement from the program have helped me regain my confidence and enjoy cycling once more."



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

Youth Engagement through I Bike Schools, Dumfries & Galloway



The I Bike Schools program, run by Sustrans, aims to inspire pupils to travel actively and give them the skills to do so. In 2024, the program introduced cycling lessons during the summer holidays in Moffat, Annan, Dalbeattie, and Dumfries. Fifty young people aged 6-17 took part, with over 30 of them learning to cycle independently because of the lessons. One young participant shared, "I was really scared to ride a bike, but the lessons were so much fun, and the instructors were really nice. Now I can ride my bike to school, and I love it!"

Success stories include Sarah, who overcame her fear of cycling and now rides to school every day, and Jack, who learned to cycle during the summer lessons and now enjoys weekend rides with his family.

Newton Stewart's First Cycling Family Fun Day



On July 20, 2024, five local groups came together to deliver Newton Stewart's First Cycling Family Fun Day at Douglas Ewart High School. The event featured a variety of activities and bikes for all ages and abilities. Wigtownshire Stuff brought their accessible bikes, and many attendees enjoyed trying out the handcycle. A family visiting the event appreciated the wheelchair platform bike, which allowed them to cycle together as a family. The event highlighted the physical, social, and economic benefits of cycling and brought the community together in a fun and engaging way.



SPORT, RECREATION AND WELLBEING

Children’s Participation Programme Delivery – 2024

Children’s cycling programmes	# Kids participating	
	2024	
	SBC	DGC
Rock up and Ride	106	93
Cycle Skool (SBC)	338	
Advanced Rider Development Squad (SBC)	6	
Ibike Schools		3845
Access to Bikes Programmes	115	
Play on Pedals	448	128
Bikeability	1123	1119
MTB Glentress Secondary School Sessions (SBC)	95	
MTB Secondary School Clubs	94	
Sum	2325	5159

Offering a variety of children’s cycling programmes in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway is essential for promoting physical activity and inclusivity. Programmes like Scottish Cycling’s Rock Up and Ride in Dumfries & Galloway, Cycle Skool, and the national Bikeability Scotland programme, managed by Cycling Scotland, help meet kids where they are, providing them with the freedom and joy of cycling. By removing barriers related to social status, these programmes ensure every child has access to bikes and the skills to ride confidently, fostering independence and a sense of community.

DIRTT – Train the Trail Builder Trainer



The DIRTT “Train the Trainer” event in Tweed Valley, Scotland, advanced trail building through international cooperation and knowledge-sharing. From November 11th to 13th, 16 trail building leaders from across Europe gathered at Peel Tower and the TVTA Trails in Innerleithen. Led by Associate Professor Tom Campbell, Tom Cole (a DIRTT tutor and lead designer at CRC Trails), and a support team from Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, participants engaged in classroom instruction and hands-on trail work, focusing on group leadership, organising dig days, assigning roles, and communicating with landowners.



CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RISING STARS

Rising Stars

Josh Stewart, a talented 14-year-old cyclist from Dumfries, Scotland, is making waves in the cycling world. Representing the SteppingStanes Youth Cycling Team, Josh's dedication and hard work have earned him a three-year sponsorship from Cunninghame Housing Association. In the 2024/2025 season, Josh achieved remarkable success, including being the Under 14 overall winner of the British National Trophy series, a bronze medallist at the National Championship in Kent, and the winner of the Under 14 Scottish Cyclocross Series. He also became the Scottish Schools S1/S2 Mountain Bike Champion after winning the race at Comrie Croft in Perth and achieved a top ten placing in the Isle of Man National Youth Tour. Josh's journey is just beginning, and his future in cycling looks incredibly bright.



Callum Thornley

Callum Thornley's star is undoubtedly on the rise in the professional cycling circuit, as the Peebles rider made a striking impression during Stage 1 of the Tour of Britain. Taking the lead in the Mountains classification, he showcased his strength and determination throughout the day, ultimately claiming the prestigious King of the Mountains jersey and the Combativity Award. Thornley exhibited remarkable confidence by starting a breakaway that included Olympic Champion Remco Evenepoel during the challenging climbs, further highlighting his potential. With the South of Scotland nurturing such talent, it's clear that the region continues to produce world-class cyclists across various disciplines.



Oscar Onley

Oscar Onley, a promising cyclist from the Scottish Borders, had a dream year in 2024. Competing in his first Tour de France and Tour of Britain, he showcased his talent and determination against elite riders. Racing on home soil in Kelso during the Tour of Britain, local supporters cheered him on, highlighting his strong connection to the region. Oscar's achievements mark him as a rising star in the cycling world, with a bright future ahead.



Oscar shared, "Racing in Kelso with the support of my hometown was incredible. It reminded me why I love this sport and where my journey began."

Opportunities | Counter Data – Measuring Our Impacts

The data on logged rides across the region shows that cycling for holidays, commuting, and leisure rides on weekends is thriving. This success is a testament to the impact of diverse programmes to increase participation and the creation of new products such as Kirkpatrick Coast to Coast. Having this data provides a solid baseline to measure progress against the vision: by 2032, cycling will be embedded into the daily fabric of our residents' lives and the experiences of our visitors. There are 27 counters across the South of Scotland tracking cycle journeys. The following maps show recorded journeys and over time, these counters will

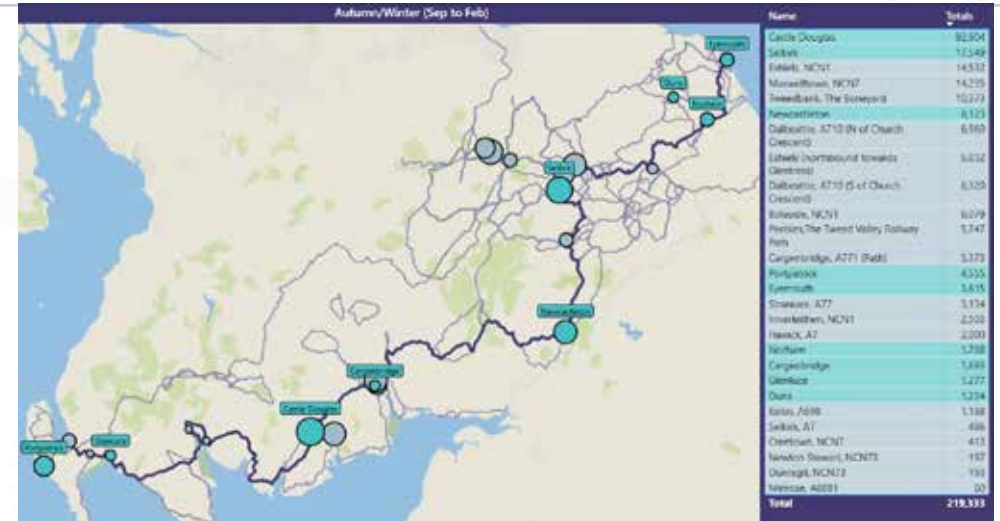
help the partnership understand cycling behaviour changes in the region.



CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RISING STARS



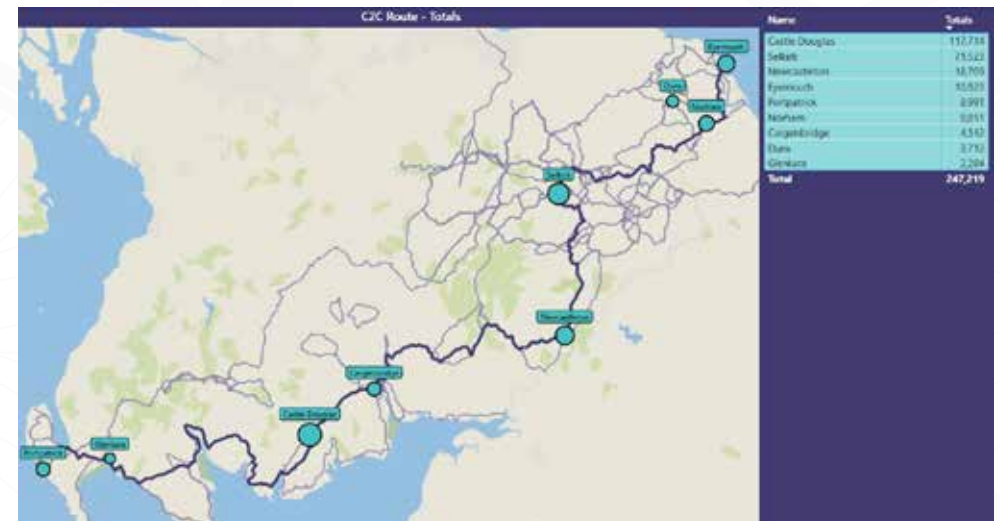
Map 1: Total number of cycling journeys recorded by installed counters in 2024.



Map 3: Total number of cycling journeys recorded by installed counters in Autumn and Winter 2024.



Map 2: Total number of cycling journeys recorded by installed counters in Spring and Summer 2024.



Map 4: Total number of cycling journeys recorded by Kirkpatrick C2C counters in 2024.



CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RISING STARS

Challenges: Delivering a 10-year cycling strategy in the South of Scotland faces several challenges:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Building and maintaining extensive cycling networks requires significant investment and coordination.
- **Funding:** Securing consistent funding over a decade can be difficult, especially with changing economic conditions.
- **Community Engagement:** Encouraging widespread community participation and changing travel habits takes time and effort.
- **Weather Conditions:** The region's weather can be unpredictable, potentially discouraging cycling.
- **Rural Accessibility:** Ensuring that rural areas are well-connected and have safe cycling routes is a logistical challenge.
- Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative approach involving local authorities, communities, and stakeholders.



PARTNERSHIPS Unlocking the Power of the Bike

Working together is key to the South of Scotland Cycling Strategy. By partnering with local authorities, national agencies, and community groups, we can pool resources and share expertise. This teamwork helps create better cycling infrastructure and promotes active travel, making the region Scotland's Leading Cycling Destination.





South of Scotland
Regional Economic Partnership

