

ANGUS COUNCIL**ROADS COMMITTEE****11 JUNE 1998****NORTH SEA CYCLE ROUTE****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS****ABSTRACT**

This report outlines the proposals for a Cycle Route running through the countries which border the North Sea.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree that Angus Council should support the proposal for a North Sea Cycle Route.

2 INTRODUCTION

During early 1997 Angus Council were approached by the North Sea Secretariat for Culture and Tourism in Stavanger, Norway with regard to a proposal to try and establish a Cycle Route round the North Sea. The proposal had been initiated by the County Council of Rogaland, Norway. This report explains what the proposal involves and suggests what Angus Council's involvement should be.

3 DETAILS

3.1 The proposal envisages a cycle route round the North Sea and passing through Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, England and Scotland. The route will be called the North Sea Cycle Circuit (NSCC), and will follow

the North Sea coastline. It will predominantly be based on existing and planned national, regional and local cycle routes - see Appendix 1.

- 3.2 The main target group will be adults from the North Sea countries looking for a high grade, active outdoor holiday in other countries of the North Sea region. Domestic tourists and families with children will form important secondary target groups. Ferry and rail links will be important elements in the trips.
- 3.3 Many sections are already open to cyclists but others will require to be upgraded with respect to surfacing, safety, speed, signing and services. It will be up to individual authorities however to provide the necessary funding although some NSCC funded signs will be available.
- 3.4 The partnership will publish a general map and guide on the whole circuit in 6 languages for promotional and route planning purposes.
- 3.5 The route will be launched on 30 June 2001.
- 3.6 The project will be managed by an International Management Group, comprising two members from each country. Funding will be based on the length of the route in each area. Stuart Knowles of Fife Council is the main partner in the Group for Scotland with Lynda Johnston of the Scottish Tourist Board as his assistant.
- 3.7 Benefits from the route will include:-
 - 3.7.1 An influx of cycle tourists which will create and sustain long term job opportunities in small scale tourism.
 - 3.7.2 Construction and maintenance jobs.
 - 3.7.3 Additional facilities for local cyclists and more local cycling.

- 3.7.4 Facilities for cyclists from the larger cities on the route.
 - 3.7.5 Higher profile for cycling as a viable mode of transport.
 - 3.7.6 Stimulation of tourism and encouragement of people to visit coastal resorts.
 - 3.7.8 Health benefit.
 - 3.7.9 Greater use of local hotels and cafes.
 - 3.7.10 Greater access to cultural, scenic and wild-life areas.
- 3.8 As far as Angus is concerned, Report No. 215/96 'The National Cycle Network-The Angus Leg' which was approved by the Roads Committee in April 1996 gave details of the proposed network through Angus. Although programmed for after the year 2000, the route through Angus is readily achievable by signing along existing minor roads as shown on the plan in Appendix 2. The route would start in the south at City of Dundee's Green Circular route and continue northwards to the boundary with Aberdeenshire in the north. The route is generally along minor routes and requires to avoid the A930 Monifieth to Carnoustie road. It is proposed to construct a purpose built track from Montrose northwards to the boundary with Aberdeenshire. The route offers pleasant cycling and fine views and passes through Monifieth, Carnoustie, Arbroath and Montrose. The timing of the provision of the route will have to tie in with other parts of the route, particularly with Aberdeenshire's sections.
- 3.9 The North Sea Cycle Circuit follows this route throughout its proposed length.
- 3.10 In addition, it is intended to provide a new cycle track along the coastal side of the A92 in conjunction with the proposed dualling (PFI) scheme. This will be 3 metres wide and separated from the westbound carriageway by a 1 metre

hard strip and a 2.5 metre grass verge. This would provide a high standard facility between Dundee and Arbroath but it will be important to ensure that suitable links to Carnoustie are also catered for.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The only costs involved in establishing the route on the ground are nominal signing costs and these can be met from the normal Roads Revenue Budget or the Capital Budget for Cycling/Pedestrian Facilities.

4.2 In order to promote and market the route however Angus Council are required to pay a share of the costs based on the percentage length of the route in Angus. This will amount to £1000 per year over the next three years and this can be funded from the Traffic Revenue Budget. European funding is also being sought for the overall project.

5 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

6 CONCLUSION

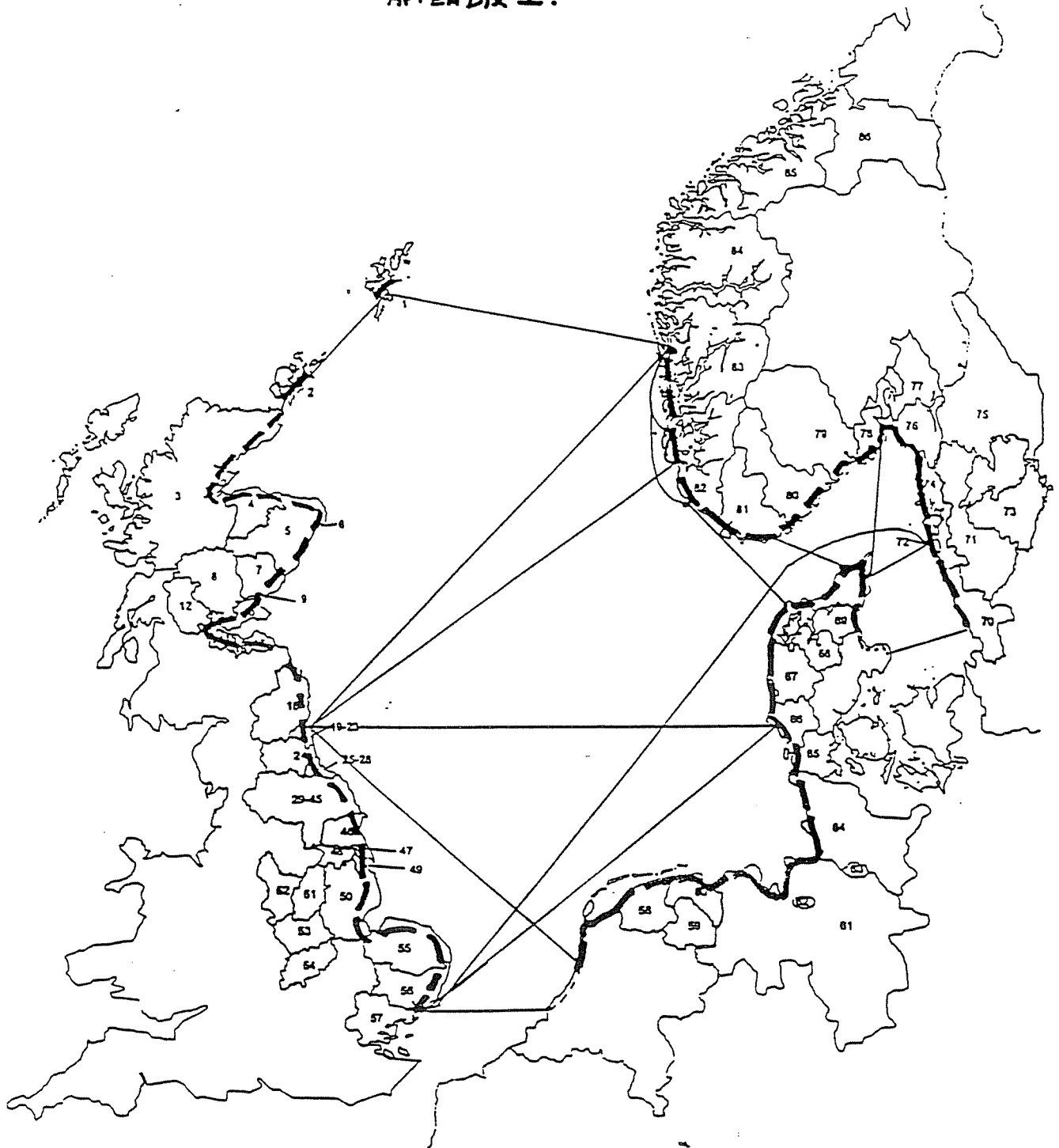
The North Sea Cycle route is a bold concept and it is important that all the authorities along its length play their part in its provision. At little cost Angus can be part of the proposal which has the potential to provide considerable benefits. Angus Council should therefore support the initiative.

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

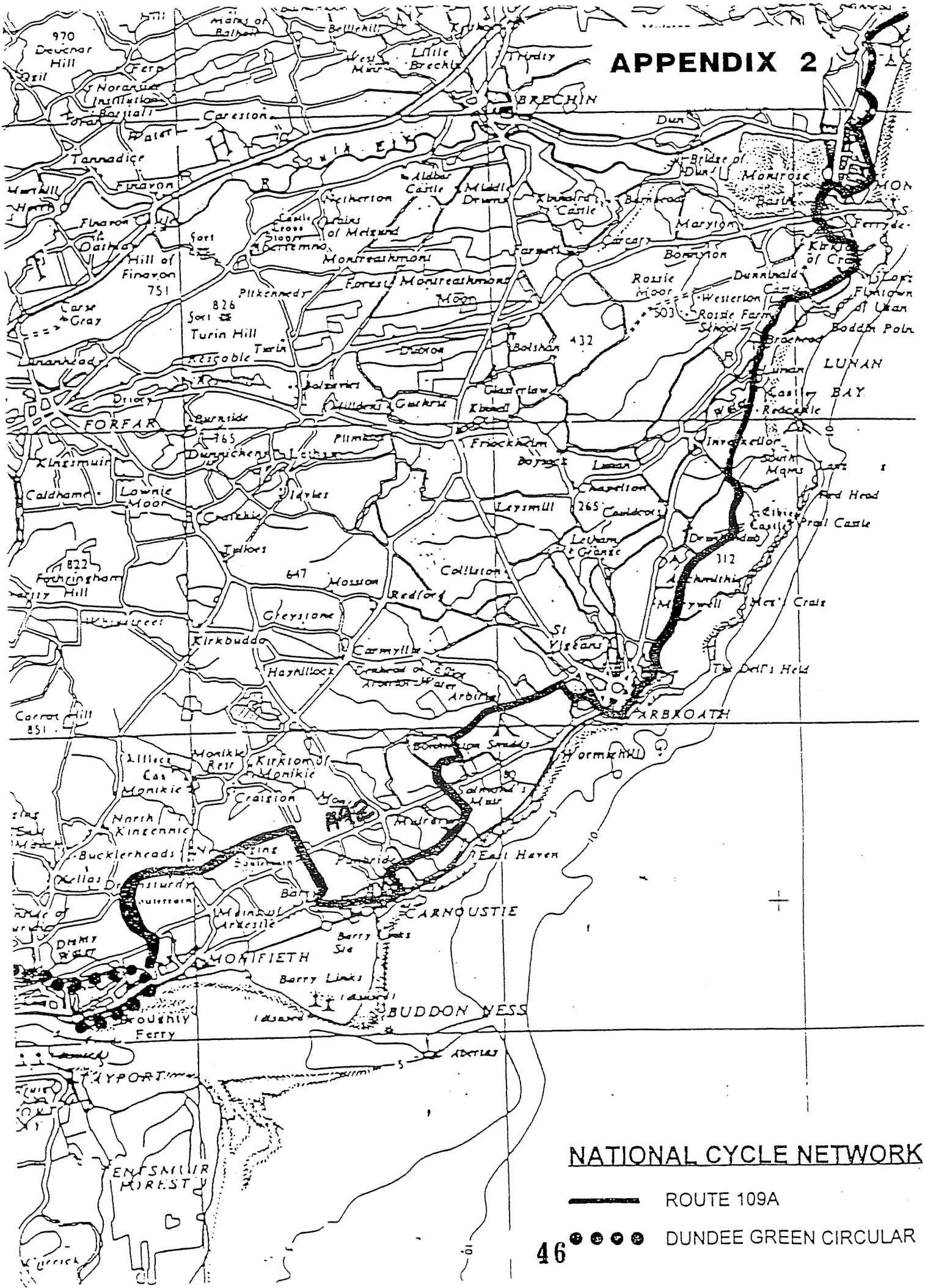
Report No. 215/96 - The National Cycle Network - the Angus Leg - Roads Committee - 25 April 1996.

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- — — — The North Sea Cycle Circuit
 - - - - Areas outside the INTERREG IIC North Sea Region connecting the cycle route with convenient international ferry crossing. These areas have existing cycle routes and will not receive funds in connection with this project.
 - International Ferry Crossing
- No.1-86: North Sea Commission Members

APPENDIX 2



NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK

ROUTE 109A

DUNDEE GREEN CIRCULAR