

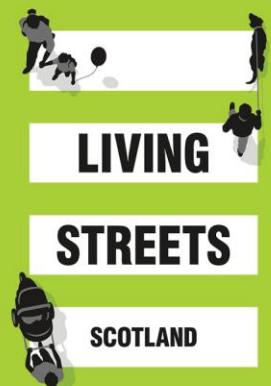
Living Streets

Community Street Audit Report

Macduff
March 2018



We are Living Streets Scotland, part of the UK charity for everyday walking. We want to create a walking nation where people of all generations enjoy the benefits that this simple act brings, on streets fit for walking.



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Executive Summary

We are Living Streets Scotland, (LSS), a part of the UK charity for everyday walking. We are working with Aberdeenshire Council Transport team, to help develop the Integrated Travel Town Masterplan, (ITTM), specifically looking at walking. We have previously worked with residents, groups and organisations in Inverurie. This year we have been working in Macduff as part of a larger suite of work taking in Stonehaven, Banchory, Banff, Oldmeldrum and Westhill.

The Transport team are working to produce an ITTM and LSS is supporting this work by looking at barriers and assets to walking, especially for the more vulnerable pedestrian. We have considered routes to key local trip generators within a town including amenities such as shops, schools, post office and GP. We considered the ease of access to public transport links on foot, e.g. bus stops and Rail stations where applicable.

Background to Macduff audit

The Community Street Audit in Macduff followed on from a workshop with representatives from Aberdeenshire Council Transport Team and Grampian Public Health. The workshop attendees identified assets and barriers to walking around Macduff and their top priorities for change. This information was used to identify an audit route, which included the Harbour area and Duff Street. The turnout for the workshop was low and only one local resident attended the audit.

Barriers to walking on this route include:

- The narrow footways and a lack of dropped kerbs along Duff Street.
- The volume and speed of traffic at the top of Duff Street near the school, GP surgery and shops.
- Maintenance of footway surface and lack of dropped kerbs on Shore Street.
- Parking on double yellow lines and double parking.

Recommendations for improvements include:

- Maintenance and repair of footways on Duff Street and Shore Street.
- Enforcement of parking on Duff Street.
- Installing dropped kerbs at Church Street, Duff Street and Institution Street.

Living Streets Scotland

We are Living Streets Scotland, part of the UK charity for everyday walking. We want to create a walking nation, free from congested roads and pollution, reducing the risk of preventable illness and social isolation and making walking the natural choice. We believe that a walking nation means progress for everyone. Our ambition is to enable people of all generations to enjoy the benefits that this simple act brings and to ensure all our streets are fit for walking.

Introduction

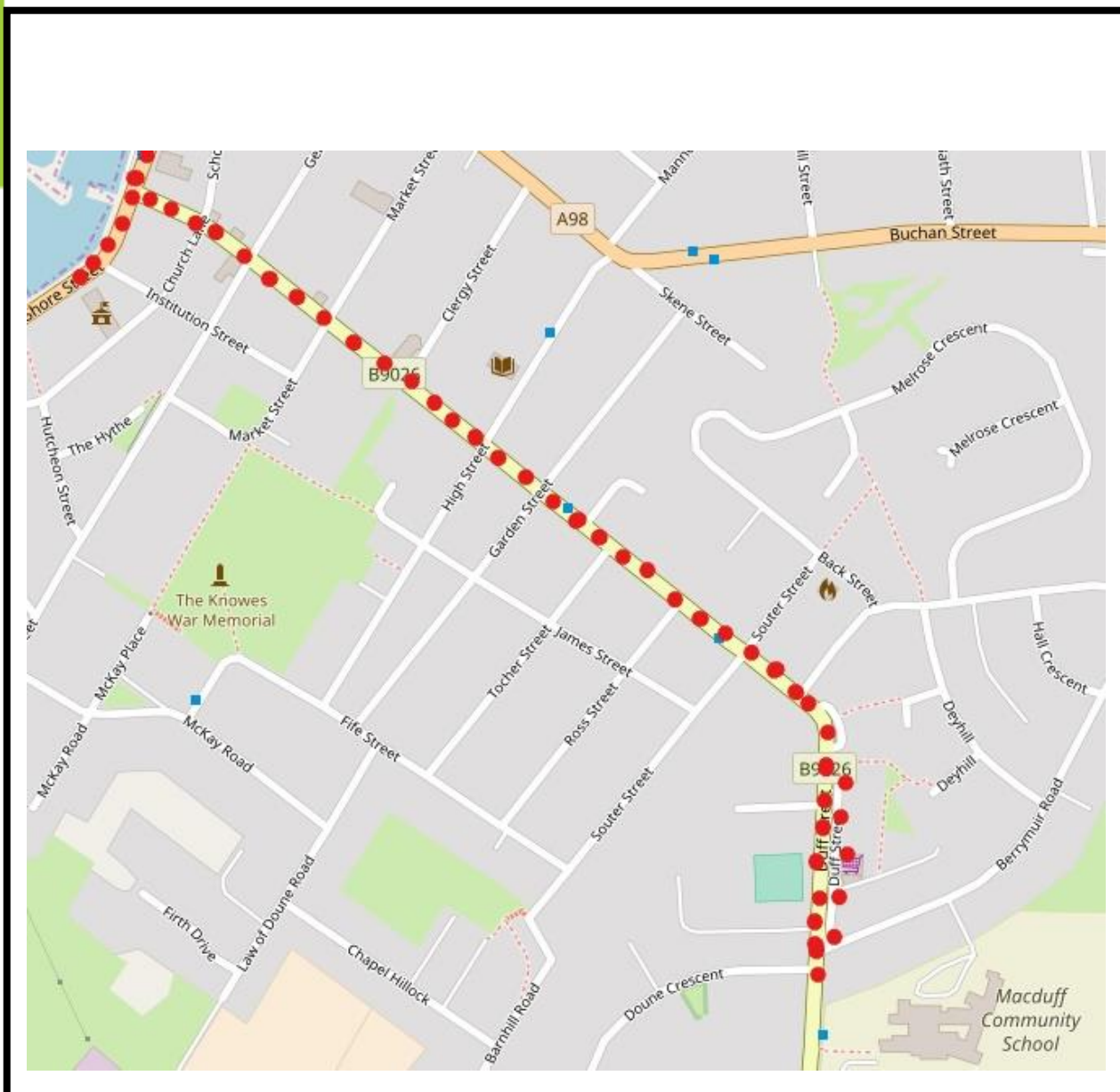
Living Streets Scotland, LSS, was initially asked to speak to local communities in Aberdeenshire to gather evidence for their Integrated Travel Town Masterplan. The Masterplan considers different aspects of active travel and public transport across Aberdeenshire.

The Masterplan considers different aspects of active travel and public transport across Aberdeenshire, identifying actions to improve access to these travel choices and ensure they are better integrated, with the aim of encouraging fewer local journeys by car and an increase in journeys undertaken sustainably. Walking is the most popular active travel mode, and is always a stage in any journey undertaken by public transport. For this reason, Aberdeenshire Council asked LSS to take forward a small number of Community Street Audits examining barriers and assets for walking journeys on key routes in each community. Ensuring all members of a community are able to walk on local streets is a priority for both LSS and Aberdeenshire Council, and as such we focused much of our activity on engaging more vulnerable groups, the elderly, the young and those with physical and/or sensory impairments.

The workshop was carried out on 29th November 2017, with 3 people in attendance. These included a representative from the Transport team and Public Health practitioner. Assets and barriers were identified and priorities were discussed. A route along Duff Street and the Shore was identified to audit.

The Street Audit was conducted in January 10th 2018 by the Communities Coordinator from LSS and a local resident from MacDuff.

Map of area



© OpenStreetMap contributors

The red route indicates the route reviewed

Macduff & Area profile

The town of Macduff is situated about 45 miles north of Aberdeen. Macduff is situated on the coast and has an historic harbour and a Marine Aquarium, that attract visitors. As the town moves inland it is built on a steep hill with many narrow streets, this can make walking to local services difficult for less able pedestrians. Local services include shops, Post Office, GP surgery, primary school, Arts Centre, Community and Leisure Centre and Library.

It has a population of approximately 4000 of which nearly half are over 45 years. Macduff is about one and a half miles from Banff and residents will rely to some extent on amenities in Banff. There will therefore be some travel between them to access these.

Area findings

What Works Well

There are areas of Macduff that are attractive for residents and visitors around the harbour and Shore Street. There are benches, litterbins and information boards. Although Duff Street is steep in places with narrow footways it has a couple of areas with benches to stop and rest.



What Doesn't Work So Well

The general steep topography of Macduff can be a barrier to walking for some pedestrians, along with the fact that it is an historical town built with narrow streets. There are also a lot of empty buildings along the audit route which make parts of the audit route feel neglected.

1 – Road layout and space allocation

Duff Street is on a steep slope with very narrow footways on the bottom half nearest Shore Street. The footway is not wide enough to use if you use a wheelchair or pushchair. The close proximity to the traffic and parked cars can make walking up the street quite intimidating. Often if meeting pedestrians in the opposite direction someone will have to step onto the carriageway.



Duff Street at Church Lane

2 – Crossing points and desire lines

The GP surgery and chemist are at the top off Duff Street, on each side of the road. There is no crossing point between them. If you are a pedestrian with reduced mobility or a wheelchair user, in order to get from the GP, you would need to cross from the entrance road to the GP Surgery in a diagonal line up to the junction with Berrymuir Road before turning left down towards the shops. This means pedestrians are forced to walk on the carriageway and take a long detour.

For able pedestrians there is a cobbled area to cross, there is a desire line worn into this area, where people have avoided crossing the cobbles or steps.

If there was an obvious crossing point across Duff Street to link the GP surgery and the shops, with dropped kerbs, enabling ease of access for pedestrians. Installing a zebra crossing would make it even safer, especially for school children travelling to and from school.



Top of Duff Street near the GP and shops





Top of Duff Street near the GP and shops

3 – Footway surfaces and obstructions

Some of the footways on Shore street and Duff street have poor surfaces, these could be a trip or slip hazard for pedestrians. Pedestrians walking up Duff Street and along Shore Street may have difficulty at crossing points due to a lack of usable dropped kerbs. Many of the dropped kerbs have upstands that are too high for a wheelchair or mobility scooter to easily access, the width of the dropped section is often too narrow to allow wheelchair access. These include Institution Street, Church Street, Old Gamrie Road and Market Street.

In addition to the narrow width of the footways on Duff Street there are often wheelie bins obstructing movement and further reducing pedestrian space and access to dropped kerbs.

At the Top end of Duff Street near the GP surgery there is a small crescent. The footpath between both sides is on a slope meaning that there are steps at each end to access shops and the rest of the area is cobbled. This means if you are unable to navigate the steps or cobbles you are forced to walk a long detour to access the shops.

Bins obstructing the footway.



Duff Street



Duff Street corner with Church Lane

Lack of dropped kerbs and footway surface.



Gellymill Street and Duff Street



Institution Street on Shore Street



Market Street and Duff Street



Shore Street footway

Cobbles and steps at shops



Top of Duff Street



4 – Facilities and signage

Although there are information signs on Shore Road near the harbour, there is a lack of directional or information signage further away from the harbour.

5 – Maintenance and enforcement

There are double yellow lines in places along Duff Street, these are often ignored by motorists and illegally parked vehicles can cause congestion on the road. When there are events on at the Macduff Arts Centre cars often double park; in the past police have had to stop events in order for people to move vehicles as they were blocking the road for emergency vehicles. It was also noted that there is double parking at the school during school run times.



Duff Street double yellow lines

6 – Personal Safety

A local resident reported that the harbour area was intimidating in the summer evenings. This was due to the number of younger people and cars that congregated there. He felt that the noise and driving behaviour created an uninviting area for older residents.

7 – Aesthetics

Along the length of Duff Street there are several empty buildings that make the area look derelict and uninviting for pedestrians.



Corner of Gellymill Street and Duff Street

8 - Traffic

At the top end of Duff Street near the school and the GP surgery there is parking on both sides of the road. Although the parking narrows the width of the carriageway the traffic speed still feels quite fast. It may be worth looking at extending the 20mph speed limit from school drop off and pick up to all times.



Top of Duff Street

Recommendations

Area/Issue	Recommended Action	Level of Action Quick Win/ long Term	Responsibility/ Involvement
1 - Obstructions	1 – Work with refuse collection to reduce obstruction caused by bins.	1 – Quick win	Aberdeenshire Council
2 – Footway Surfaces	1 – Extend and lower dropped kerb at the corner of Duff Street and Church Lane. 2 – Extend and lower dropped kerb at the corner of Gellymill Street and Duff. 3 - Extend and lower dropped kerb at the corner of Institution Street and Shore Street. 4 – Repair the footway surface on Shore Street between Nicol’s Brae and Institution Street. 5 – Install a flat surface on the desire line across the cobbled area near the top of Duff Street at the Shops.	1 – Medium term 2 – Medium term 3 – Medium term 4 – Long term 5 – Long term	Aberdeenshire Council
3 – Crossing Points	1 – Install a crossing point on Duff Street between the GP and the shops	1 – Long term	Aberdeenshire Council
4 – Maintenance and Enforcement	1 – Enforce the double yellow lines on Duff Street and connecting streets. 2 – Work with school and parents to reduce double parking at drop off and pick up times. 3 – Feasibility of 20mph limit on Duff Street, especially near the school and shops.	1 – Quick win 2 – Medium term 3 – Medium term	Aberdeenshire Council and Police Scotland
5 – Road Layout	1 – At the lower end of Duff Street near the harbour, the street is narrower than at the top. Increase the footway width on one side of the road.	1 – Long term	Aberdeenshire Council
6 – Personal Safety	1 – Work with Police Scotland to reduce anti-social behaviour around the Harbour area.	1 – Medium term	Aberdeenshire Council and Police Scotland

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Wheelie bins in the town centre, work with business and homeowners owners and PKC refuse staff to leave pavements unobstructed where possible.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads and Refuse teams	This financial year
Extend and lower dropped kerb at the corner of Duff Street and Church Lane.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Next financial year
Extend and lower dropped kerb at the corner of Gellymill Street and Duff.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Next financial year
Extend and lower dropped kerb at the corner of Institution Street and Shore Street.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Next financial year
Repair the footway surface on Shore Street between Nicol's Brae and Institution Street.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Await funding source
Install a flat surface on the desire line across the cobbled area near the top of Duff Street at the Shops.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Await funding source
Install a crossing point on Duff Street between the GP and the shops	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Await funding source
Enforce the double yellow lines on Duff Street and connecting streets.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team and Police Scotland	This financial year
Work with school and parents to reduce double parking at drop off and pick up times.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team and Education	Next financial year
Feasibility of 20mph limit on Duff Street, especially near the school and shops.	Aberdeenshire Council Roads team	Next financial year
At the lower end of Duff Street near the harbour, the street is narrower than at the top. Increase the footway width on one side of the road.	Aberdeenshire Council	Await funding source
Work with Police Scotland to reduce anti-social behaviour around the Harbour area.	Aberdeenshire Council and Police Scotland	Next financial year



Contacts

This report is being submitted to:



- Aberdeenshire Council Transport team
- Local Councillors and workshop participants



Contacts:



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Appendix




Community Street Audit Findings



Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
	Duff Street towards harbour	Very narrow footway, hard for 2 to walk 2 abreast	Pedestrians forced on to the road, wheelchair/buggy users will need to go on the road	Road layout and space allocation	
	Duff St and corner with Gellymill Road	Double yellow lines parking on the corner	Shop has broken window as accident caused by DYL parking. Poor visibility makes crossing Rd dangerous.	Crossing points and desire lines	


Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
	Duff Street/Church St, Car park opposite post office	Difficult corner, poor dropped kerbs, on a slope, bad camber.	Wheelchair users/buggy users would find it difficult to navigate.	Footway surfaces and obstructions	
	Shore Street	Wide footway but poorly maintained.	Trip hazard for pedestrians with poor mobility.	Footway surfaces and obstructions	

Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
	Shore Street, crossing to Town Hall	Poor dropped kerbs.	Hard to navigate if	Footway surfaces and obstructions	
	Shore Street	No disabled parking unless at aquarium	Puts disabled people off coming into town if they can't get parked on the flat.	Traffic	
	Harbour (masterplan)	The plan will reduce parking in the Shore area.		Traffic	
	Shore Street, towards scaffolding	Footway narrows after scaffolding.		Footway surfaces and obstructions	
	Harbour	On Friday and Saturday evenings boy racers make the area feel unsafe, especially in summer months.		Personal Safety	

Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
	Duff St, heading up the hill.	Bins blocking narrow footway.	Forces pedestrians onto the road.	Footway surfaces and obstructions	
	Duff Street and Gellymill Street	Abandoned building. Many empty buildings due to retirements and unviable businesses	Makes surroundings unappealing to walk through.	Aesthetics	
	Duff Street, Arts Centre	Many events held in Arts Centre, poorly parked cars can block whole street for emergency vehicles. Police have stopped events in the past to get cars moved.		Maintenance and enforcement	

Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
	Duff Street, Dentist	There is private parking available behind dentist but not often used. Most people park on the main road. There is wheelchair access and AED but footway poorly maintained.		Footway surfaces and obstructions	
	Top of Duff Street	Narrow footways and parking on both sides of the road. 30mph speed limit feels quite intimidating.		Traffic	
	Macduff town centre	There is no tourist information/signage in Macduff		Facilities and signage	
	Library	Wheelchair access, parking limited and no disabled space		Facilities and signage	

Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
	Duff Street, GP Surgery	There is no crossing from GP surgery to the chemist, no dropped kerb. Forces pedestrians/wheelchair users to cross from GP entrance on road at junction and go on road to chemist.		Crossing points and desire lines	
	Duff St CO-OP	Steps from Duff St to Chemist or crossing cobbles	Difficult to traverse, forces wheelchair users on road, wander line created to cross.	Crossing points and desire lines.	

Map Ref	Location	Findings	Effect on walking	Heading	Priority/solution
					
	Primary School	No wheelchair access to Primary School.		Facilities and signage	



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