
Greenmyres & Gartly Moor MTB Facility Design Concept Executive Summary



01. Project Background

This project has been completed by CRC Contracting and Collective Trax on behalf of Huntly Development Trust. It investigated the potential for creating various mountain bike facilities as part of a greater project to develop Greenmyres Farm and potentially an area of the nearby Gartly Moor Forest.

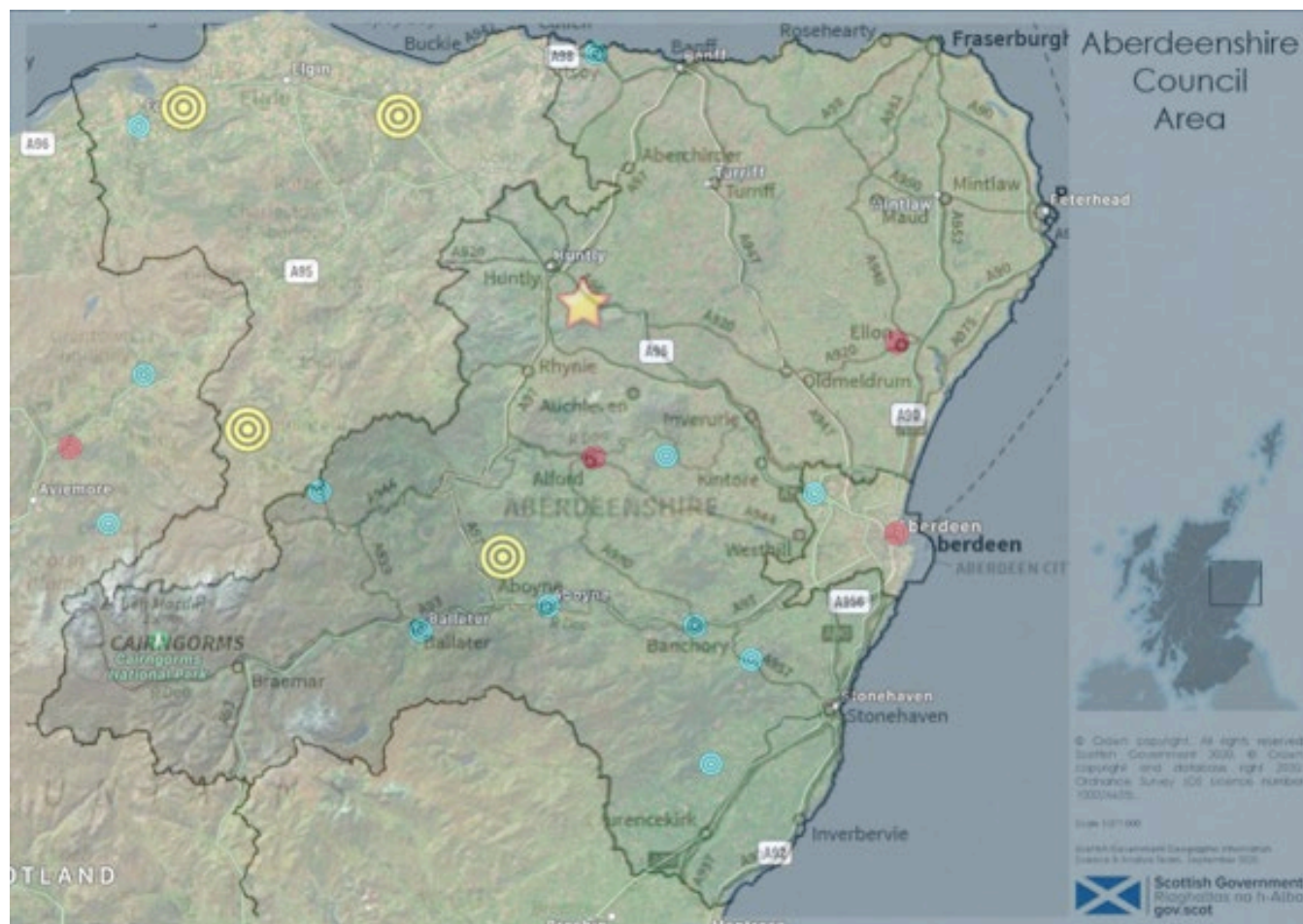
The project designed and costed two different facilities to suit the 2 planned phases of development:

1. A Pump Track at Greenmyres Farm
2. A Mountain Bike Trail Network in Gartly Moor Forest

The MTB Facility Design Concept project was funded by North East Adventure Tourism (NEAT). This project will extend the provision of MTB facilities into the north of Aberdeenshire, complementing those planned or in existence in the south of the region.



“The [NEAT] project will encourage more visitors to stay in the region longer because of the range and quality of adventure activities on offer.”



BLUE CIRCLES: SMALL FACILITIES
YELLOW CIRCLES: LARGE FACILITIES
RED CIRCLES: PUMP TRACKS (PLANNED)

02. Location

Greenmyres Farm is accessible directly off the A96 trunk road, giving easy access to the site for a large population.

Although a few miles from Huntly town centre, it is accessible via a traffic free path that Huntly Development Trust have recently completed.

Visitors to Huntly can rent an e-bike in the town and easily reach Greenmyres.

The facility will need to be a significantly appealing destination to encourage visitors to make the journey.

Gartly Moor Forest is accessed via a short path from Greenmyres Farm and enjoys fantastic views of northern Aberdeenshire.



02. Location



03. Policy Context

The project is aligned with multiple local, regional and national strategies, and contributes to many of the Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes.

Sport and Recreation

- Active Scotland Delivery Plan (Scottish Government, 2018)
- The Strategy for Scottish Mountain Biking 2019 – 2025 (DMBinS) Developing a Nation of Cyclists (Scottish Cycling 2019)
- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (Aberdeenshire Council 2018 – 2028)
- NE Adventure Tourism Project (2020)
- Huntly: A Campus for Learning and Play, a Community Led Place Plan (Huntly and District Development Trust 2021)
- Huntly: Room To Thrive Strategy To Do Lists. (Huntly Town Team and Aberdeenshire Council 2019)

"The physical environment is an important factor in encouraging and enabling us to live active lifestyles. The availability and accessibility of sport and exercise facilities, our transport infrastructure, and our built and natural environments all have a significant bearing on how readily we can take part in physical activity and sport."

Scottish Government – Active Scotland Delivery Plan

Public Health and Wellbeing

- Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (Transport Scotland, 2017)
- Active Scotland Delivery Plan (Scottish Government, 2018)
- Healthy Eating Active Living: An Action Plan to improve diet, increase physical activity and tackle obesity (Scottish Government 2008)
- Outdoor Access Strategy (Aberdeenshire Council 2018 – 2021)
- Huntly: Room To Thrive Strategy To Do Lists. (Huntly Town Team and Aberdeenshire Council 2019)

"Physical activity is about getting people moving. Daily walking, playing in a park, going to a gym, training with a team or aspiring to win a gold medal – it doesn't really matter how people get active, it just matters that we do."

Being physically active contributes to our personal, community and national wellbeing."

Scottish Government – Active Scotland Delivery Plan

04. Pump Track

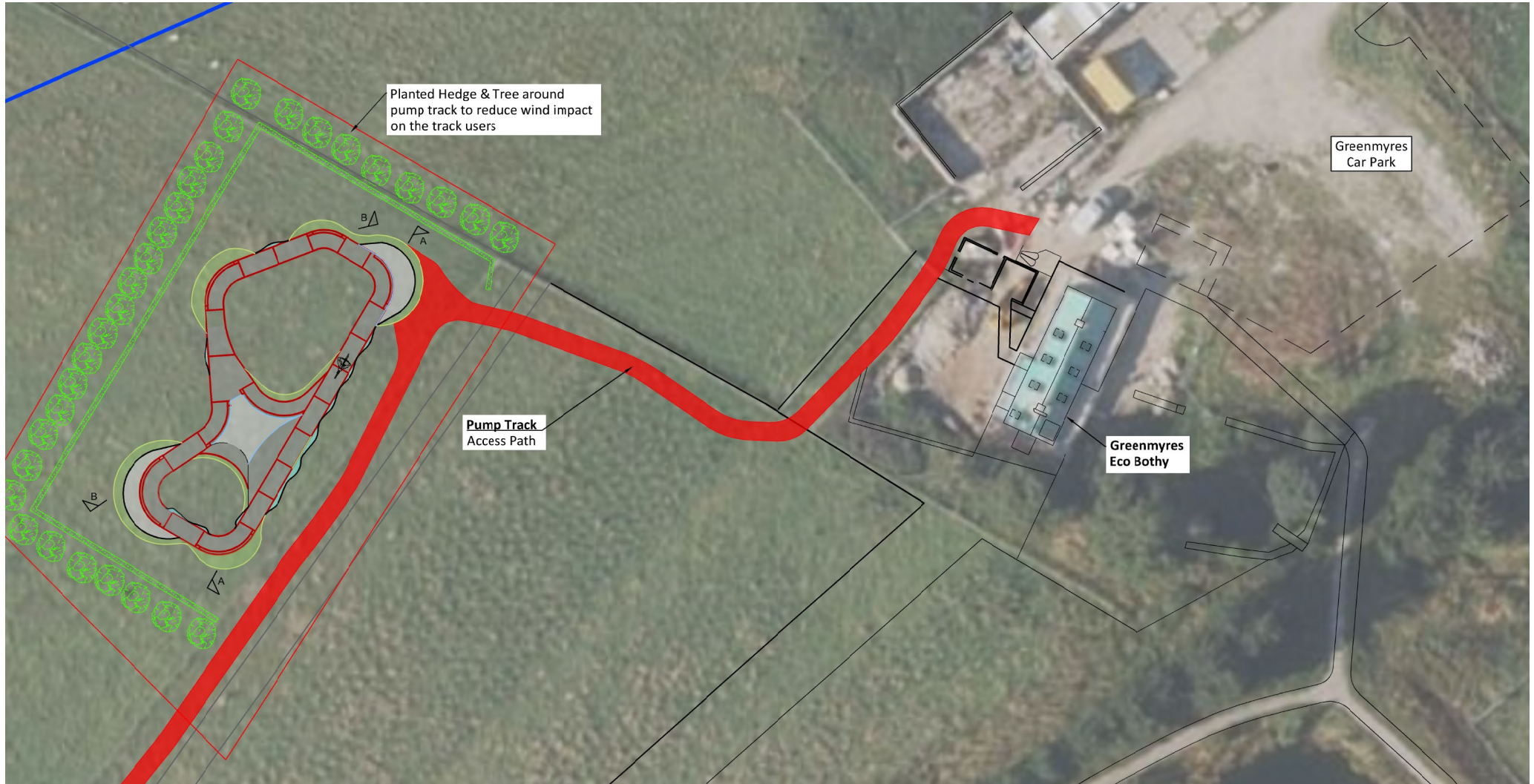
The pump track will be scaled in order to complement the other facilities at Greenmyres, it will be of modern asphalt surfaced construction and designed to provide an exciting, feature-rich, and progressive facility that will appeal to all wheeled sports enthusiasts.

The continuous loop design can be ridden both directions and allows riders to create new transfer lines and combine features for more advanced riders. It will be rideable by all levels of mountain biker, from small children on balance bikes, right up to riders of the highest skill level, as well as being suitable for skateboards, scooters etc.

Shelter and floodlighting must be considered to provide year-round usability and appeal.



04. Pump Track

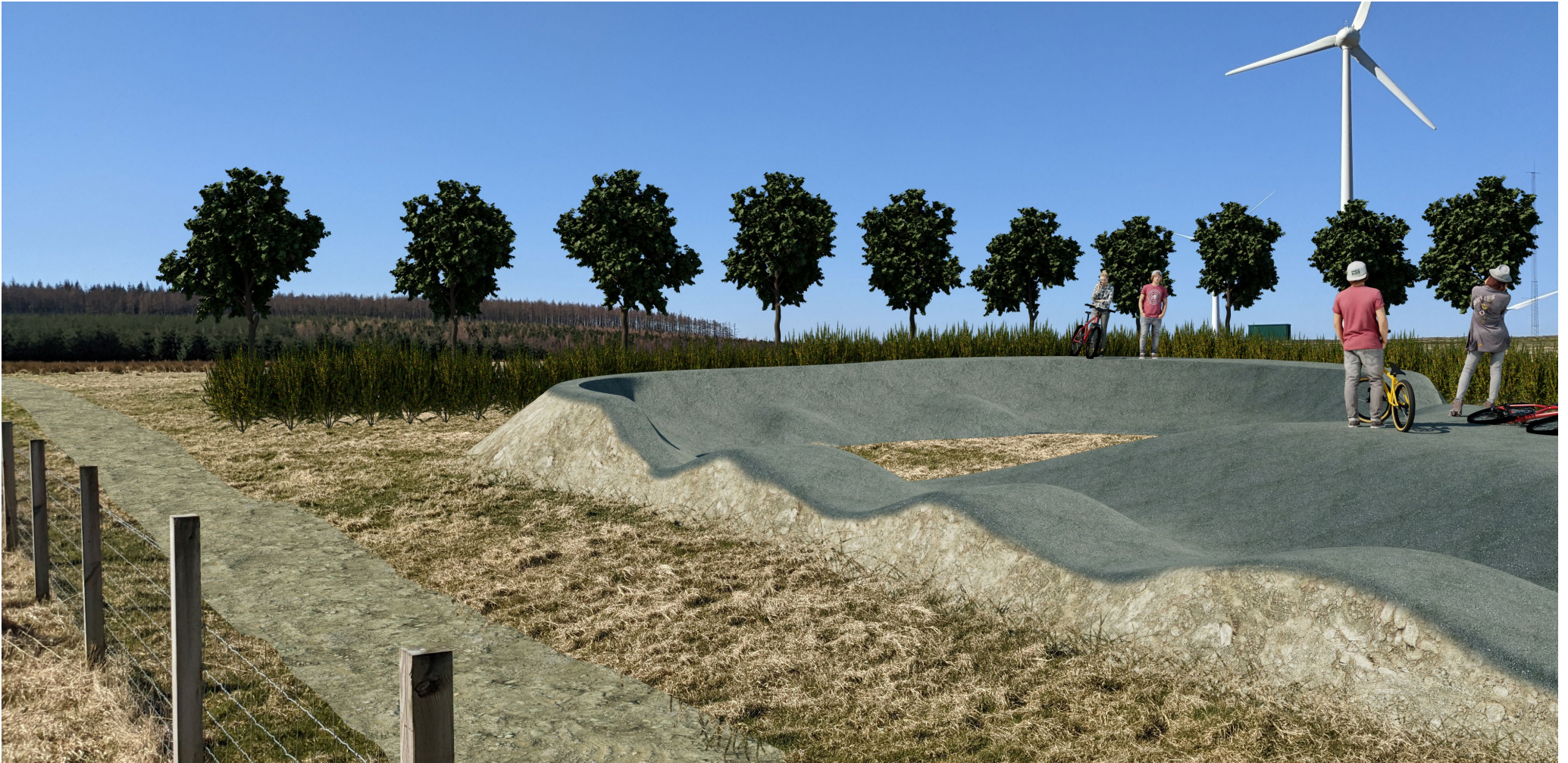


04. Pump Track



Artist impression

04. Pump Track



Artist impression

04. Pump Track



Artist impression

05. Mountain Bike Trail Network

The first phase of mountain bike trails will be located in the northern block of Gartly Moor Forest, on Wind's Eye. This development is subject to a CATS process having taken place first to confirm ownership or lease of the land required.

Designed predominantly for the beginner – intermediate market but fun for all riders they will consist of:

- A beginner flow trail
- An intermediate flow trail
- An intermediate jump trail

Approx. 3Kms of MTB trails will be linked with existing forest roads plus existing and new paths, and start from a view point at the summit of Wind's Eye. The basic network leaves a lot of space for future development.

Easy to access, fun, repeatable trails that put a smile on your face and encourage progression.

A further phase could see development of more advanced trails on the Wishach Hill area of Gartly Moor Forest – evaluated as very suitable for a modern bike-park style facility that would expand the offering at Greenmyres much further.



05. Mountain Bike Trail Network



Intermediate Flow Trail

05. Mountain Bike Trail Network



Artist impression

05. Mountain Bike Trail Network



Artist impression



Artist impression

06. A True Mountain Bike Hub

To succeed as a mountain bike hub, Huntly Development Trust should consider a holistic approach to the experience of visiting riders, ensuring that they are catered for in the same way as other visitors.

Some simple additions such as the following should be considered. Some will generate an income, all will add value:

- A Featureless Skills Area. This can be used for coaching beginners, and as a multi-purpose event space
- Changing Facilities / Showers. Important for a Scottish winter!
- Cafe / Hot Drinks. Could be supplied from a simple vending machine initially
- Spares Provision. A vending machine can be utilised here too
- Bike Hire / Bike Library scheme. Ensuring that the facility is available to all
- Bike Stands. Essential for visiting riders
- Route Cards. Signposting rides in the area and connections to longer rides
- Bike Wash and Maintenance Facilities. Allowing visitors to look after their bike, or wash it before leaving.
- E-Bike Charging Station. Simple bike stands with additional power sockets for charging visiting e-bikes.

The creation of a mountain bike club that is based at Greenmyres is also considered as key to the long term sustainment of the project.



E-Bike Charge Station

Costs have been calculated using today's prices for materials and operating costs.

Pump Track including access path.

Grand Total:
£133,730 + VAT

Wind's Eye Trail Network including new shared viewpoint path.

Grand Total:
£252,586 + VAT

