Launch of Hadrian's Cycleway



Over 100 people joined the sustainable transport charity, Sustrans from 19-22 July to mark the opening of the long-awaited 120 mile section of Hadrian's Cycleway between Silloth on the Cumbrian Coast and South Shields on the North Sea coast.

Following the Roman frontier from Silloth, through the Solway Coast Area of **Outstanding Natural** Beauty, the route heads east from Bownesson-Solway to Carlisle then through the Northumberland National Park. For the final stretch cyclists headed to Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum at South Shields or followed the River Tyne to Tynemouth.

The launch took place outside the Solway Coast Discovery Centre, when over 100 cyclists gathered after a hearty breakfast provided by the Golf Hotel and the Dolphin Cafe in Silloth. Breakfasts were kindly paid for by Silloth Town Council and overnight camping facilities were hosted by Silloth Rugby

After speeches by the Mayor of Silloth, Graham Wilkinson, William Jefferson (Chair of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Solway Coast AONB) and David Gray from Sustrans and ride leader, the tape was cut by the mayor and the cyclists headed off to Bowness on Solway in the scorching heat.

On the hottest day of the year so far, (32 degrees Centigrade), the cyclists were in good humour and made the journey to Bowness in very good time, to enjoy a lunch provided by the Kings Head, Bowness, and the Hope and Anchor in Port Carlisle. The next stage was on to Carlisle via Burgh by Sands and then on to South Shields via Brampton.

Hadrian's Cycleway has been developed by

sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, in partnership with local authorities including Northumberland and Cumbria County Councils, Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership, One NorthEast, Northumberland National Park Authority, the Countryside Agency and tourism organisations. The Hadrian's Cycleway map is available from Sustrans.

It is hoped that an extension to Hadrian's Cycleway along the Cumbrian Coast between Ravenglass and Silloth will be completed in 2007 making the route 172 miles long.

Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. Its vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. It is achieving this through innovative but practical solutions to the UK's transport challenges.

Ever Seen a Penny Farthing?



To complement the official launch of the Hadrian's Cycleway The Solway Coast Discovery Centre

In September 2005 the National Cycle Network celebrated its first ten years and ten thousand miles. The Network now runs within one mile of over half the UK population and last year was used for 232 million trips. A team of 2,000 Volunteer Rangers helps to maintain the Network.

hosted an exhibition of cycling through the years and local cycling memorabilia. A number of cycles spent the week between 13th-21st July in the Centre including a Penny Farthing from 1880 and a wooden 'boneshaker' cycle dating from 1860. The cycles dated from between 1860 and 2006 and were designed to show the developments in cycle design and comfort!

The exhibition also included a series of local photographs of cycle

events in the past, local press cuttings detailing cycle events and news since the beginning of cycling in the County.

The exhibition was made possible by the support of West Coast Cycle Forum, Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Harrisons Cycle Hire; Abbeytown, Arragon's Cycle Centre; Penrith. Without their enthusiasm and support for local cycling the event would not have taken place, thanks to everyone involved.

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