

Community Heritage Activity, Traditional Skills Training and Interpretation Plans

OVERVIEW

September 2026





Introduction

This document is a summary of the detailed plans for community heritage activities, traditional skills training, and interpretation that will be delivered by the Buckhaven Heritage project over the next five years.

The plans were prepared by icecream architecture for Buckhaven Heritage, and cover the Buckhaven, Denbeath and Muiredge area.



2

Consultation and Engagement

The plans were developed in close collaboration with the communities of Buckhaven, Denbeath and Muiredge, ensuring the heritage themes, project strands and aims reflect the values of the local residents.

Consultation and engagement was carried out in 2025 through conversations, surveys and pilot activities.





Community
members engaged

I like the beach and the park going walking

I see Buckhaven as a great place with lots of nature

On the way to the beach there are lots of apple trees, I go apple picking with my dad every year

- Pilot activity pupil responses



Heritage survey
responses

My granny used to tell me about playing outside when she was wee with her friends and seeing all the miners finishing their shifts ...

- Survey response



Pilot activities
and events



Schools
engaged

Those pupils who struggle to thrive in a traditional classroom environment really achieved a lot out of the [traditional skills demo] sessions

- Pilot activity teacher response



Local volunteers
and staff engaged

Interested in roofing and joinery, as live in a old house. Would be great to have these DIY skills

- Survey response

[the best thing about the pilot activity was] Sensory based - tailors to the learning needs of the pupils in our school

- Pilot activity teacher response



Activity and event
feedback responses

My gran told me about Buckhynd Links. I'd really like it to be excavated. She said that in some instances only the roofs of the houses were removed and the walls were left standing. It would be exciting to find evidence of this.

- Survey response

Buckhaven has a lot of history and [learning about] the train makes me think what it was like in the past!

- Pilot activity pupil response

3

Target Audiences

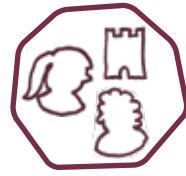
Through the consultation and engagement, target audiences for the activities, training and interpretation were identified.

An inclusion strategy was prepared to consider and address the barriers that might prevent people from engaging with the project.

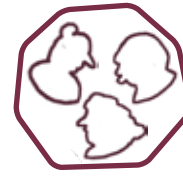
Buckhaven Heritage will continue to work in partnership with local groups and organisations to reach a broad range of audiences and to listen to the needs of these groups.



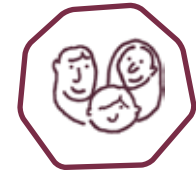
Target Audiences



Local groups engaged in heritage



Local groups not currently engaged in heritage



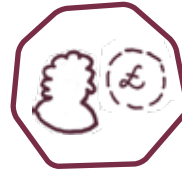
Families



Primary school aged children



High School and College aged young people



Employment & income deprived residents



Buckhaven property owners



Local contractors and specifiers



Local construction professionals interested in heritage



Tourists & visitors



Themes

Five interpretive themes were identified via the community engagement and pilot activities.



Fishing & Industrial Heritage

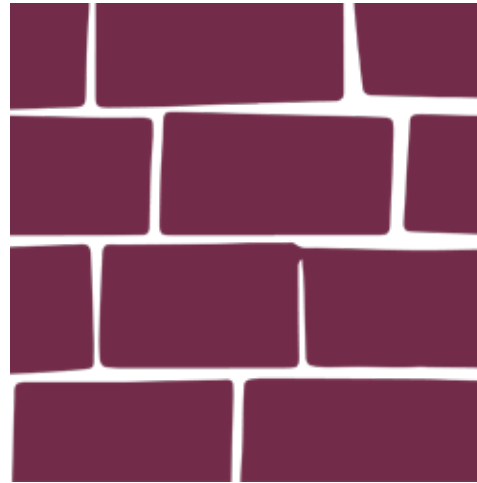


Industry defined Buckhaven's communities and landscape over the centuries, including fishing, mining, netmaking and weaving.

The rise and fall of industries can be seen in Buckhaven's landscape today. Archive materials and photographs also show this history.

This theme will be addressed through storytelling, public art, and interpretation, building on existing interpretation in the areas. Archive material, particularly about fishing and mining industries, will be included in heritage activities.

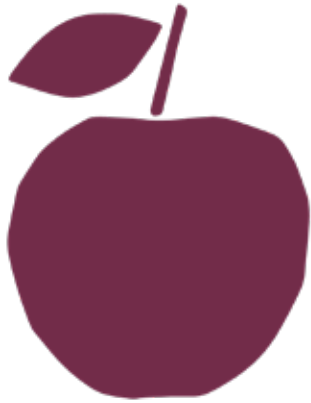
Traditional Skills and Crafts



There are several groups in Buckhaven training local people, building skills and sharing knowledge and craft skills. There is a strong desire to preserve skills within the community, increase training opportunities for local people, and for more craft-based social activities for those who may be isolated in the community.

This theme will be addressed through training and activities that build knowledge of traditional skills and the heritage of the local built landscape. Relevant craft activities will be incorporated into engagement and heritage activities.

Growing in Buckhaven



There is a strong sense of nature in Buckhaven, with multiple initiatives improving and creating local greenspaces and planting areas.

This theme will be woven into activities and interpretation through the use of landscape, food-growing and fruit-based community events, and sharing stories, learnings, and celebrating the growing initiatives in Buckhaven.

Co-operation and Community



In Buckhaven there are many examples of the community coming together to create events, groups, campaigns and celebrations. There are also several organisations specifically focused on improving the local area and the prospects of community members through skill sharing and social activities.

This theme will be addressed through public art or events, research that celebrates community life, and the sharing and documentation of stories and memories from Buckhaven's past and present community.

Reinvention



There are many repurposed and reinvented buildings and spaces in Buckhaven; for example the Church built in St Andrews and shipped around the coast to Buckhaven which then became the Theatre, the former Co-Op building converted to housing, and the former school site that is now a park.

This theme will be incorporated through activities that involve the community, build awareness of the Buckhaven Heritage capital projects, and highlight the stories of local buildings.

5

Activity, Training and Interpretation Project Strands

Buckhaven Heritage will deliver fourteen separate but interlinked activity, training and interpretation Project Strands.

These are set out in detail in the Community Heritage Activity & Traditional Skills Training Plan and the Interpretation Plan.



Community Heritage Activity Strands



Strand 1
Experiencing
Buckhaven



Strand 2
"Setting
the Stage"



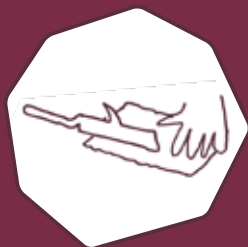
Strand 3
"Out of the
Archive & in
to the Spotlight"



Strand 4
Natural
Heritage
Interpretation

The **Community Heritage Activity & Traditional Skills Training Plan** and the **Interpretation Plan** will deliver fourteen separate but interlinked Project Strands as shown in this diagram and on the following pages.

Traditional Skills Training Strands



Strand 1
"Pick up the
tools; take
up the trade"
(CTH L1)



Strand 2
Community
Trade Hub
Heritage Skills
(CTH L2+)



Strand 3
Small
Improvements
Squad



Strand 4
Traditional
Skills Pathway



Strand 5
Work
Placements



Strand 6
Specialist
Training
Opportunities

Interpretation Planning Strands



Strand 1
Public Art
Centrepiece



Strand 2
Playful
Interpretation
Journey



Strand 3
Telling the
Story of
Buckhaven
Harbour



Strand 4
New Town
Heritage
Stories Trail

Community Heritage Activity Plan: Project Strands

Project Strand 1

Experiencing Buckhaven



Ongoing social history
& community memory
gathering project

Project Strand 2

Setting the Stage Heritage Events Programme



Events-based methods to
engage under-served
groups in heritage activities

Project Strand 3

Heritage Curation and Presentation



“Out of the Archive and into
the Spotlight”

Preserving and reigniting
community stories by
connecting local groups with
local heritage resources and
existing research

Project Strand 4

Celebrating Natural Heritage



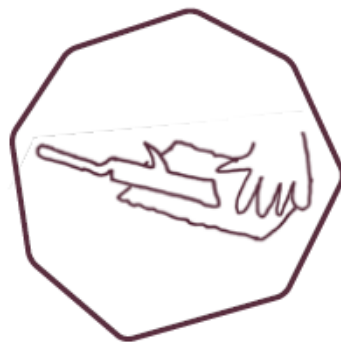
Project celebrating the
natural heritage projects
happening in Buckhaven,
through light-touch/visual
interpretation and activities-
based methods

Traditional Skills Training Plan: Project Strands

Project Strand 1 Awareness sessions/demos

“Pick-up the tools; take up the trade”

Introducing traditional skills pathways to young people through CTH Heritage Skills Level 1 programme



Project Strand 2 CTH Heritage Skills Level 2+

Supporting CTH to deliver in-depth traditional skills introductions



Project Strand 3 Small Improvements Squad

Training a ‘squad’ of locals with heritage/trade skills to help with small improvements to the wider project area



Project Strand 4 Buckhaven to Fife College Traditional Skills Pathway

A portfolio-based traditional skills programme for the Buckhaven area, easing pathways from Levenmouth Academy and CTH programmes to pre-apprenticeship opportunities via Fife College



Traditional Skills Training Plan: Project Strands

Project Strand 5

Work Placements with Contractors/ Consultants



Delivering new traditional skills & heritage taster placements throughout the capital works programme

Project Strand 6

Capital Projects Specialist Training Opportunities



Delivering tailored hands-on CPD for local consultants & contractors throughout the capital works

Interpretation Plan: Project Strands

Project Strand 1

Public Art Centrepiece



Public art and
interpretation in
Buckhaven

Project Strand 2

Playful Exploration



Development of new
interactive / sensory
interpretation trail

Project Strand 3

Story of Buckhaven Harbour



Development & presentation
of Buckhaven Harbour
stories through outdoor
'exhibition'

Project Strand 4

Community Research



Street name themed
community research project



Buckhaven Heritage

Image: Collage created by Levenmouth Academy pupil during Community Heritage zine-making workshop (March 2025)

