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Network

NEWS

Reporting on the creation of the National Cycle Network 



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A MILLENNIUM PROJECT
SUPPORTED BY FUNDS
FROM THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Put out the flags

21 June: The National Cycle Network is born
(Now for the next 5,000 miles)



▲ Left and main picture below: eight sculptural icons on key elements relating to Aviemore have been placed at the entrance of the cycle route to woodland scenery. Created by Joseph Ingleby, the icons have been financed by the Millennium Commission grant and Highland Council.



▲ Left: Brian Jordan, Kevin Rutherford and Derek Foryan from Breedon plc following the installation of Rock Drills by Mike Ivens close to Cloud Quarry, Worthington, Leicestershire, on Route 6. The pieces themselves grew from wondering how a feral version of Sir Jacob Epstein's Rock Drill in the Tate Gallery would live. The sculptures have been well received locally where children call them dinosaur-vultures and a new folklore is springing up that they represent fossils found in the quarry. Funding for the £8,000 artwork was split between the Millennium Commission grant and Leicestershire County Council.

Network

Supporting public art has always been an objective of the National Cycle Network in order to make journeys stimulating and attractive.

Numerous local projects and independently funded works together with more than 70 sculptures and other artworks supported through the Millennium Commission grant combine to make the Network one of the largest sites of public art.

Features are being in locations from Banff to Barnstaple and many have already been completed. Around 40 commissions are due to be finished over the next six months, and several more in the remaining weeks before the official opening of the first 5,000 miles on 21 June.

Transport and the environment have been popular themes, often interpreted in practical ways as seats, drinking fountains, mileposts, earthworks, lights and entry gateways. Artists have worked with a huge variety of funding bodies and have developed close links with schools and local communities, often using local and recycled materials.

The total costs of the artworks within the Network's programme amounts to more than £1.25 million, with a Millennium Commission grant contribution of about £380,000. Donations have often been with materials in kind - concrete, steel and wood.



▲ Left: the fertility of the landscape inspired Mother Earth, by Julia Douglas. The artwork, supported by a Deveron Arts Residency Award and the Millennium Commission, is a permanent textile garment woven out of agricultural materials. It has been placed on the roadside near Banff, Aberdeenshire on Route 1.