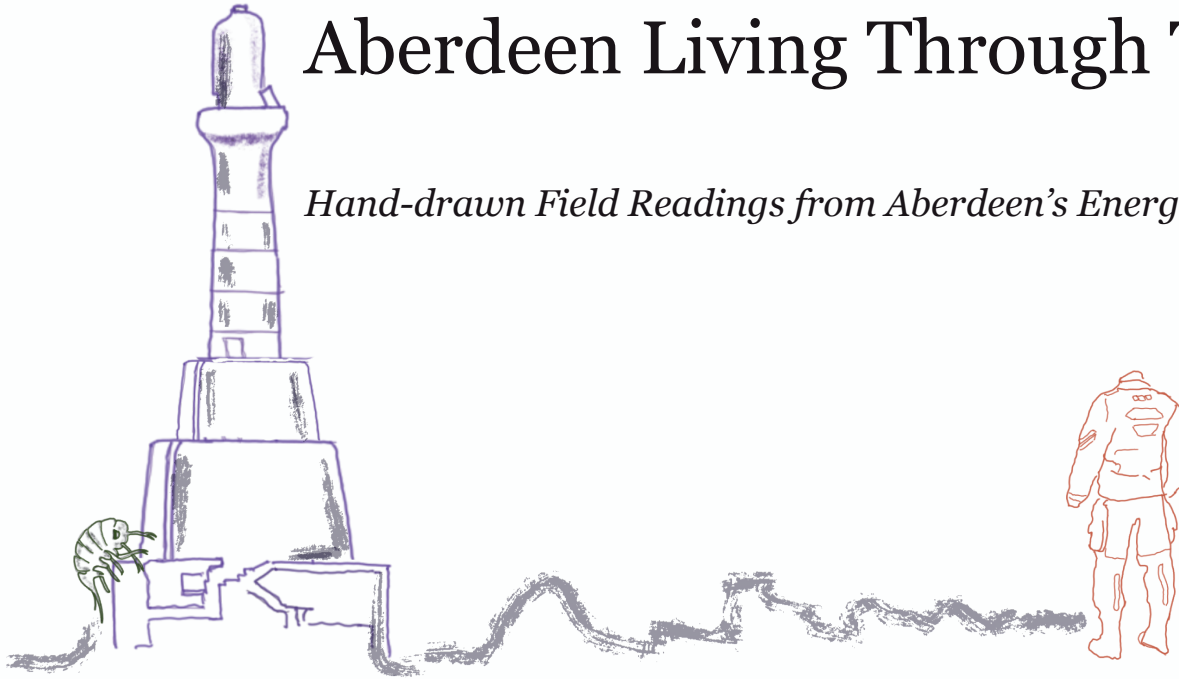


# Aberdeen Living Through Time

*Hand-drawn Field Readings from Aberdeen's Energy Transition*



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*RiDraw Intelligence Series · Volume 1*

# Introduction

Aberdeen has always been in transition. Granite shaped harbours across centuries. Fish from the sea. Oil from the seabed since 1965. The current wave of energy transition, offshore wind, carbon capture, decommissioning is the next chapter, not a rupture. Aberdeen is a city of resources and resource-connections. Each era a different resource, the same city as platform.

Aberdeen sits at the convergence of major infrastructure programmes. Tens of billions in capital are committed across airport expansion, harbour deepening, energy transition zones, offshore wind, hydrogen production, carbon capture. Each justified on its own. None assessed in relation to the others.

This volume holds seventeen field readings. Each is a self-contained visual argument drawn from the field, structured by observation, supported by institutional records and ecological data. Together they map what no single report currently shows. How these programmes interact. Where they compound. Where the gaps in accountability sit.

The drawings are the evidence. Not illustrations added to a report. The primary record. Hand-drawn in the field or after research. Structured through the Five Elements framework. Purpose, Place, Habitat, Environment, Organisation. Every observation connects to a proof chain that can be checked, questioned, and updated over time.

The elements are interpretive lenses, not exclusive categories. A chapter is filed where its argument lands, not where its imagery comes from. For this volume the lenses pair as follows. Purpose to strategic intent and stakeholder trust. Place to site, geography, and operational footprint. Habitat to ecological context and biodiversity. Environment to carbon, noise, air quality and performance. Organisation to governance, institutional accountability and regulation.

Each observation in this volume is structured and traceable. Readers, institutions, and operators who want to question or extend the record are invited to write in. Aberdeen is the start of a longer conversation.

What you hold is a first instalment. Seventeen field readings from a living record that grows as the city changes. The method is transferable. Aberdeen proves it works. The next volume could be your city.

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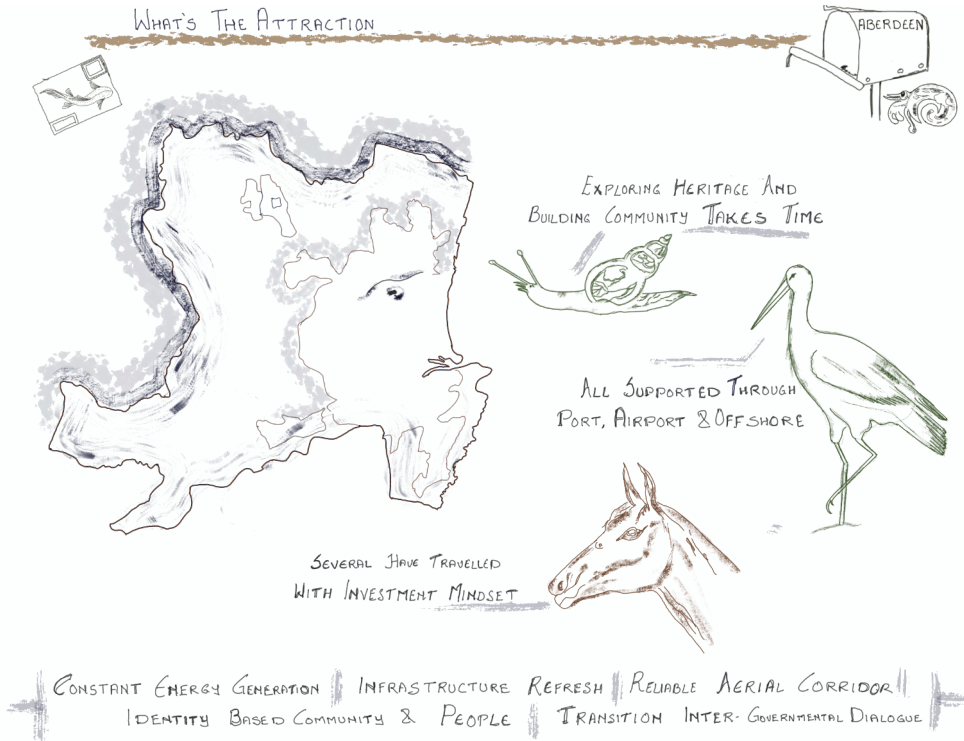
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*Frame*

Aberdeen presents one face. Capital is told it has returns to give. So are the people who live here.

*Effort*

Three locals stand and look. Land, water, and the one who refuses to choose.

- Aberdeen population 231,780 in 2024, up 1.1% on 2023 (NRS)
- North-east Scotland economy around 10% below pre-pandemic levels in 2023 (Fraser of Allander Institute)
- North Sea Transition Deal commits up to £16bn for UK oil and gas decarbonisation, Aberdeen-anchored (DESNZ)
- Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire host the largest concentration of UK oil and gas employment (OEUK)

*Look Into*

The face is one face. The returns are not. The third figure does not choose, and asks what it costs to keep both worlds in view.

## Returns

Investment in Aberdeen compounds. The standoff between sectors keeps the proof invisible.

Aberdeen Living Through Time is the first volume in the RiDraw Intelligence Series. A visual evidence methodology that maps infrastructure convergence, ecological pressure, and institutional accountability for cities navigating long-term change.

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Drawn in the field. Structured by evidence. Built to be checked over time.

