



Together in Health
North Berwick Coastal Area
Public Access Defibrillator Mapping Project
Report

September 2025

1. Executive Summary

As part of a wider program of activity led by the Together in Health (TiH) charity to improve the health and social care of the North Berwick Coastal Area (NBCA) community, a review of the status of Public Access Defibrillators (PAD) was initiated in April 2025.

A team of volunteers conducted a PAD mapping exercise in August which identified the number and location of PADs in NBCA. During this process significant additional information was collected and several recommendations have been submitted.

Many PADs were within premises and therefore not open to the public 24hours a day. Some defibrillators were not on “the Circuit” and therefore not known to the ambulance services. Several PADs were not being adequately maintained and others were not optimally sited to serve the local community. Mapping made it clear that there was a need for additional PADs in specific locations to provide better coverage. There were also requests for training by various PAD holding groups (e.g. golf clubs), as well as the wider community. Further evaluation is underway.

There will be a requirement for additional funds/grants to provide more PAD cover in NBCA.

2. Introduction

Together in Health

Together In Health is the working name for the NBCA Health and Social Care Charity (SC053830). The charity's purpose is to improve health and social care in North Berwick Coastal ward of East Lothian, "over and above" that already available, including, faster access to acute healthcare, improved services for elderly, and provision of local facilities and equipment. *Together in Health* will assist existing charities whose aims align with the purpose of the charity and supports research and education to improve health and provide better experiences for people accessing community health care services.

Real Friends Initiative

Emergency ambulances can take twenty minutes to reach areas in NBCA. The Scottish Ambulance Service train and support local volunteer Community First Responders. Since Covid there has been a drastic reduction in the number of North Berwick CFRs and limited opportunity to train cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and defibrillator use in the community. Resuscitation is going to be most successful where the community can quickly access a functioning defibrillator and are confident enough to use it. In an emergency, the Scottish Ambulance Service can direct public to the nearest defibrillator where the position is known to them on "the Circuit" database.

In January 2025, TiH joined with the North Berwick Community First Responder (NBCFR) charity to establish the "Rural East Lothian First Responders, Information, Education and Defibrillators" (*Real Friends*) Initiative. The aim is to promote and support NBCFR and improve the chance of survival of those who suffer a cardiac arrest by increasing the number of NBCFRs; increasing training opportunities for bystander CPR/defibrillator use and ensuring that defibrillators are more available, easily found, checked regularly, and are on "the Circuit".

In order to evaluate defibrillators, it was deemed critical to have an updated and single set of data across the NBCA identifying the presence and location of the PADs, whether the units were ready for use and information on Guardian's name (who is the responsible person for the regular maintenance of the PAD).

3. Methodology

There are previous reports of PAD location data in North Berwick, Gullane, Aberlady etc collated in previous years, by various individuals. Some of this data was old, incomplete and formats of the data sets were all different. After collation of the different existing datasets into one file, an initial meeting was held to agree the mapping process, scope and to establish a team.

A TiH Defibrillator team of eight volunteers was formed and mobilised in NBCA to review, check and collate the location of PADs in the region. The NBCA was split into four zones:

- i. North Berwick
- ii. Gullane/Archerfield
- iii. Aberlady
- iv. Dirleton/Whitekirk/Drem

TiH volunteers were given TiH ID badges. Two mapping volunteers were assigned to each zone. They conducted the mapping exercise in pairs and visited each PAD unit. A check list of the required information was provided to each volunteer.

Two further team meetings were held in May 2025 to finalise the plan and process. A target timeline of end July 2025 was set to complete the PAD mapping process.

4. Results

The TiH defibrillator team completed the evaluation by end August 2025. A summary is produced in Table 1 and full details in the attached Excel file (Appendix 1) at the end of the report. This is a dynamic process due to the constant changes in PADs in NBCA. Note: names and telephone numbers of all Guardians have been removed for privacy reasons.

	<u>Total number</u>	<u>Inside</u>	<u>Outside</u>	<u>24 access</u>	<u>On the circuit</u>	<u>% on the circuit</u>
North Berwick	28	18	10	12	23	82%
Gullane	12	9	3	3	3	25%
Archerfield	5	2	3	3	4	80%
Aberlady	10	3	7	9	8	80%
Dirleton	3	1	2	2	2	67%
Drem/East Fortune	7	1	6	5	6	86%
Whitekirk	4	2	2	2	3	75%
Total:	69	36	33	36	49	71%
		52%	48%	52%	71%	

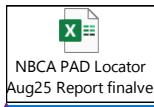
Table 1. Summary of findings of defibrillators in North Berwick Coastal Area

5. Recommendations.

- a) **PAD Map report** – consider uploading data to a website (e.g. a NBCA Defibrillator hub site) and have interactive aspects to assist public identify PAD locations and status. The feasibility of establishing this website is being progressed. (In the meantime, the attached Excel file will be modified to remove any personal information and then issued to some specific locations within NBCA for publishing at specific outlets.)
- b) **Gap analysis** is being conducted within each of the four zones to identify potential locations for additional PAD units. This is being analysed along with ‘padmap.org’ analysis of recommended best positioning of next PAD in an area.
- c) **Relocation of poorly maintained PADs** - Some PAD units are not being maintained adequately. This might be for various reasons, however, there are some specific PAD units that could possibly be relocated to more appropriate locations.
- d) **Funding for new PAD units in NBCA.** On the basis of the gap analysis a successful grant was submitted to Tyne & Esk for 10 PADs with Cabinets across NBCA. Locations should be agreed with Community Councils and Area Partnership and guardians identified. Additional grant applications/fundraising may be required to further improve coverage.
- e) **Funding of Replacement PAD parts.** Some PAD units require replacement parts due to expiry of existing parts (e.g. batteries, pads). It has been reported by some Guardians that some PAD owners are struggling to finance these parts. A clear funding stream for replacement pads and batteries for 24 hour available PADs in key areas is required.
- f) **Training:** during the PAD mapping exercise it became clear there is a need for more CPR and PAD training for some Guardians, as well as others in the wider community. Guardians will be invited to an event at the Glen Golf Club in NB on October 10th. The exercise identified some individuals interested in training to become CFRs.
- g) **Guardians:** It became clear that there is a gap in awareness of the roles and responsibility with some of the Guardians and Supporting Guardians. This could be supplemented by setting up meetings and/or communication processes with the NBCA Guardians/Supporting Guardians.
- h) **Other direct outcomes** from the PAD mapping exercise included:
 - immediate opportunity to request that some PAD units were listed on the Circuit
 - willingness of some organisations to move units outdoors into cabinets (PADs)
 - Monaghan Mushrooms funded a new external PAD in Fenton Barns

6. **Appendix 1**

Defibrillators in NBCA - make, location, availability, whether on circuit and guardian details.



Field Code Changed

Note: names and telephone numbers of all Guardians have been removed for privacy reasons.

7. **Acknowledgments**

The following individuals are thanked for all their energy, enthusiasm, and support in contributing to, or conducting, the NBCA PAD mapping project:

- Kirsty Baron
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- Frank Pratt
- All NBCA PAD Guardians