

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	RES/09/17

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Caithness Committee

Date: 16 June 2017

Report Title: Caithness and Sutherland Amended Core Paths Plan

Report By: Director of Development & Infrastructure

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a Draft Amended Core Paths Plan for the Caithness area.

2

Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to approve the Caithness area of the Caithness and Sutherland Amended Core Paths Plan to be published for formal consultation.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 The development of the existing Core Paths Plan was part of The Highland Council's duties provided by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (LR(S)A 2003). The existing plan was adopted by the full Council in September 2011 after the plan had been through the statutory consultation process and also a Public Local Inquiry (PLI).
- 3.2 The Core Paths Plan was expected to be reviewed alongside the Local Development Plans. The Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CaSLDP) was started in 2014 as was the review of the Core Paths in this LDP area
- 3.3 The review aims to
- improve connectivity of the current plan by utilising existing routes;
 - ensure current routes can be used, at a minimum standard of pedestrian use without significant impediment, by the general public;
 - review mapping of existing plan to identify change of line of routes or identify where upgraded/new routes have been constructed or used differently by the public;
 - work with Local Development Plan team to identify new routes within Settlement Development Areas (SDA), specifically those associated with a specific site in the SDA, these routes could be aspirational; and
 - consider the recommendations of the Public Local Inquiry report on The Highland Council's first Core Paths Plan submitted to the Scottish Government in 2011.
- 3.4 A consultative report was prepared by officers in November 2014 and this was promoted at drop in events at the initial stages of the CaS LDP. The consultative report was promoted by direct mailing to owners and occupiers affected by the proposals
- 3.5 The consultative report has been considered by the Caithness and the Sutherland Local Access Forums.
- 3.6 The formal consultation period for an amended core paths plan is 12 weeks after which, subject to no outstanding objections, the amended core paths plan can be submitted to The Highland Council Places Committee for adoption. If any objection is made and not withdrawn, the Plan must not be adopted unless directed by Scottish Ministers, who may call a public local inquiry.

4. The Amended Core Paths Plan

- 4.1 The Caithness and Sutherland Amended Core Paths Plan is a series of maps showing where changes or new Core Paths (the amendments) are proposed. The Plan for the Caithness area is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. There are no associated policies or implementation timescales.
- 4.2 The formal consultation seeking approval in this report is on the Core Path amendments only; existing Core Paths not subject to an amendment are not open for consultation, though a copy of the existing Core Paths Plan will be available for examination.
- 4.3 The Highland Council has a duty, under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, to notify owners and occupiers of land where a core path is proposed for the first time. Where, after reasonable enquiry, it is not possible to identify an owner or occupier a copy of the notice may be left of the affected land.

- 4.4 The formal consultation period for an Amended Core Paths Plan is 12 weeks, the original plan and the amended plan shall be available for public inspection at the main Council offices in Caithness (Caithness House, Wick), Sutherland (Drummuie, Golspie) and Inverness (Glenurquhart Road). The amended plan will be available for viewing and comment through the Council's consultation on-line portal.
- 4.5 Any objections received during the formal consultation will, after having been assessed as competent, be addressed directly by officers to try and resolve the reasons for the objection.
- 4.6 The Local Access Forum(s) shall be consulted on any outstanding objections. After such consultation with the Forum(s), the Council may seek to resolve outstanding objections by producing a Modified Amended Core Paths Plan. The Council must notify and consult such persons as they consider appropriate on any Modified Amended Core Paths Plan. Minor modifications will not be brought to the local committee but any deletions or significant changes will be.
- 4.7 After the formal consultation and a period of time to resolve objections, the Amended Core Paths Plan will be put to the Places Committee for approval to adopt (where there are no objections) or approval to submit to Scottish Ministers (where there are outstanding objections).

5. Implications

- 5.1 Resource – Advertisement of the formal consultation, adoption notice and publication of the amended core paths plan are statutory duties and will incur costs and staff resource to the Council. Further implementation of the core paths plan is discretionary.
- 5.2 Legal - The Highland Council has a statutory duty to produce a core paths plan sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area. The Plan must be reviewed and amended at such times as appropriate, a period of between 5 and 10 years is deemed appropriate.
- 5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - Improvement and promotion of Core Paths increases community connectivity, encourages healthy lifestyles and are available to all users equally.
- 5.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever - Improvement and promotion of Core Paths can contribute to reduced car usage.
- 5.5 Risk – Risk to The Highland Council is minimal, Scottish Ministers will decide whether to direct the Council to adopt the plan where there are outstanding objections or they may cause a Public Local Inquiry to be called at their cost. The existing Core Paths Plan remains in place and used to promote and protect the public's access rights.
- 5.6 Gaelic - Where installed, signs to direct users to core paths will be bilingual subject to consultation with Community Councils.

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 1 June 2017

Author: Matt Dent, Access Officer, Caithness and Sutherland

Background Papers: Appendix 1 – Caithness Amended Core Paths Pan

Caithness Core Paths Plan (existing)			Amended Caithness Core Paths Plan		
Area	Map Number	Core Path Change	Area	Map Number	Core Path Reference and Name
Reay, Crosskirk and Westfield	1a-c	Extension and New	Reay, Shebster	CA 1d	CA11.05(C) - Achins/Helshetter CA13.32(C) - Baillie Windfarm Circuit
Thurso	2	New core path	Scrabster	CA 2b	CA13.30(C) - Holburn Head - Scrabster Quarries
		New core path	Geise	CA 2c	CA13.31(C) - Geise
Castletown, Dunnet and Brough	3a-b	Extension and New	Dunnet	CA 3c	CA13.13(C) - West Dunnet Links Paths CA13.22(C) - Peedie Sands - Chapel Geo CA13.21(C) - St Johns Pool
Dunnet Head, Barrock, Hill of Odrig, Bower	4a-d	Extension to existing core path	Hill of Odrig	CA 4e	CA03.05(C) - Hill of Odrig
Mey and Canisbay	5	Extension and New	Mey	CA 5b	CA05.17(C) - Castle of Mey Coast CA05.20(C) - Loch of Mey
John O'Groats and Stroma	6a-b	Change to existing and New	John O'Groats	CA 6c	CA07.10 - John O'Groats Shore CA07.15(C) - Windy Ha CA07.16(C) - John O'Groats - Ness of Duncansby
Freswick and Auckengill	7a-b	No Changes	-	-	-
Keiss and Reiss	8a-b	Extension to existing core path	Keiss	CA 8c	CA08.02(C) - Keiss Shore North
Castle Sinclair Girnigoe, Ackergill & Watten	9a-c	No Changes	-	-	-
Wick	10	Extension and New	Wick	CA 10b	CA15.01(C) - North Head CA15.31(C) - Newton Hill Croft CA15.32(C) - Seaview Farm - Pint o the Ord - Trinkie CA15.33(C) - March Road - Castle of Old Wick CA15.34(C) - Harrow Road - Carnaby - Harden
Blingery, Thrumster & Sarclet	11	No Changes	-	-	-
Camster & Yarrows	12	No Changes	-	-	-
Lybster & Forse	13	Extension, and deletion of section, of existing core paths	Lybster	CA 13b	CA10.01(C) - Coastguard Lookout and Brethen Well CA10.01(D) - Coastguard Lookout and Brethen Well
		New core path	Achavanich	CA 13c	CA10.02(C) - Shelligoe Inland CA10.16(C) - Achavanich Stone Setting
Rumster & Achavanich	14a-b	Extension to existing core path	Rumster	CA 14c	CA10.02(C) - Rumster
Dunbeath	15	Extension, changes and new core paths	Dunbeath	CA 15b	CA04.01(C) - Dunbeth Strath CA04.08(C) - Balcladich and the Sandy Pools CA04.19(C) - Camel Humps CA04.20(C) - Balintra Wood CA04.21(C) - Dunbeath Broch
Latheronwheel, Berridale, Badbea & Braemore	16a-d	Extension to existing core path	Berridale	CA 16e	CA04.14(C) - Berridale Pier
		New core path	Latheronwheel	CA 16f	CA10.17(C) - Latheron Cliff (Braehead Walk)
Dalnawillan	17	New Core Path	Altnabreac	CA 17b	CA01.05(C) - Altnabreac - Forsinain
Dirlot, Spittal & Causeymire Wind Farm	18a-d	Extension to existing core path	Dirlot	CA 18e	CA06.12(C) - Dirlot Gorge egress
Halkirk, Loch Calder & Dorrery	19a-c	New core path	Geogremass Junction	CA 19d	CA06.14(C) - Sibster Trails

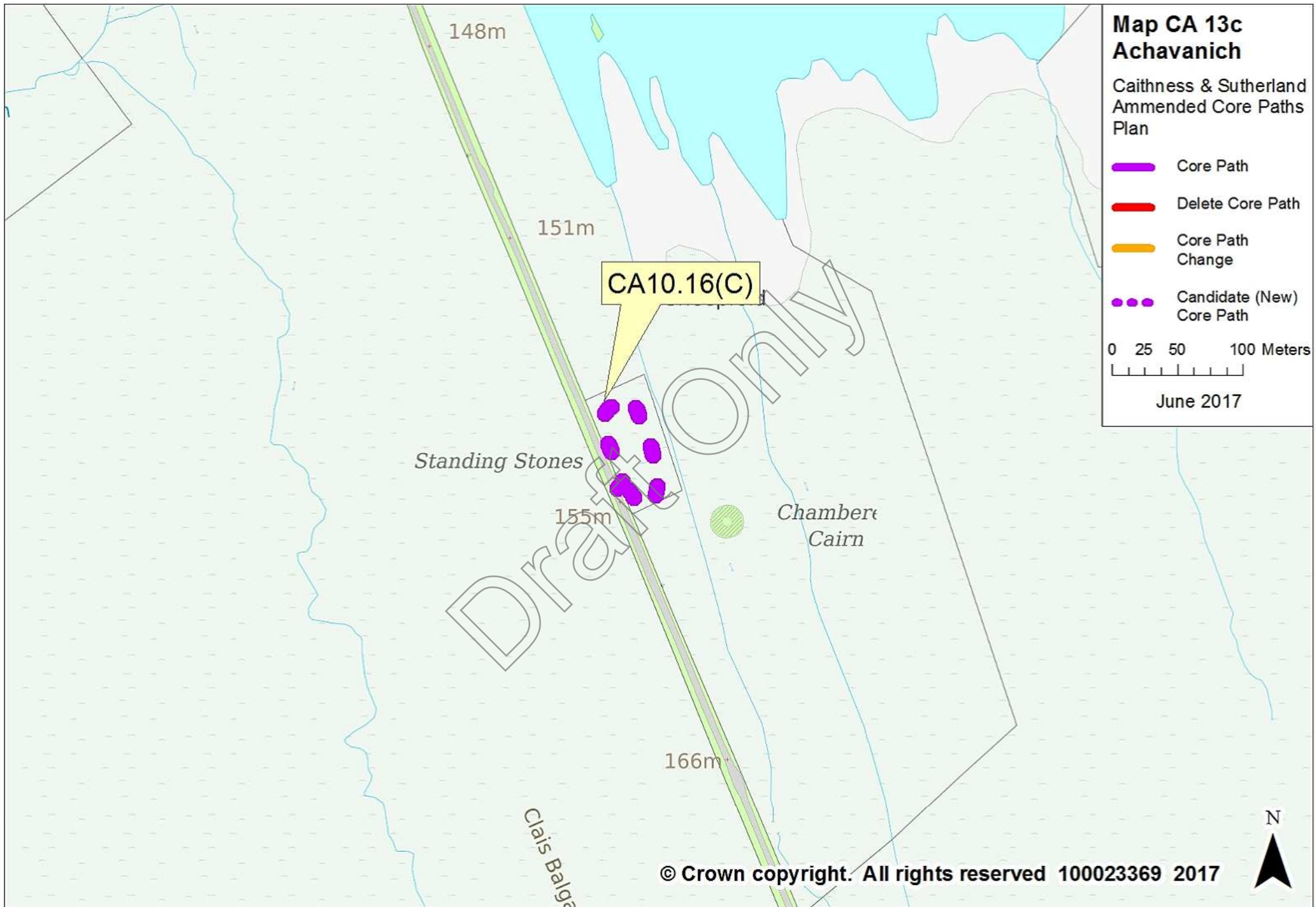
Map CA 13c Achavanich

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



0 25 50 100 Meters


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Map - CA 17b Altnabreac

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path

0 195 390 780 Meters

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CA01.05(C)



Map - CA 16e Berriedale

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



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Map - CA 18e Dirilot

Caithness & Sutherland Amended Core Paths Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path

0 50 100 200 Meters



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Map - CA 15b Dunbeath

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path

0 90 180 360 Meters

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CA04.01(C)

CA04.01(C)

CA04.21(C)

CA04.20(C)

CA04.19(C)

CA04.08(C)

Draft Only





CA05.22(C)

CA05.13(C)

CA05.21(C)

Draft Only

Map - CA 2c Geise

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Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path
Change
-  Candidate (New)
Core Path



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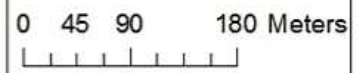
CA13.31(C)



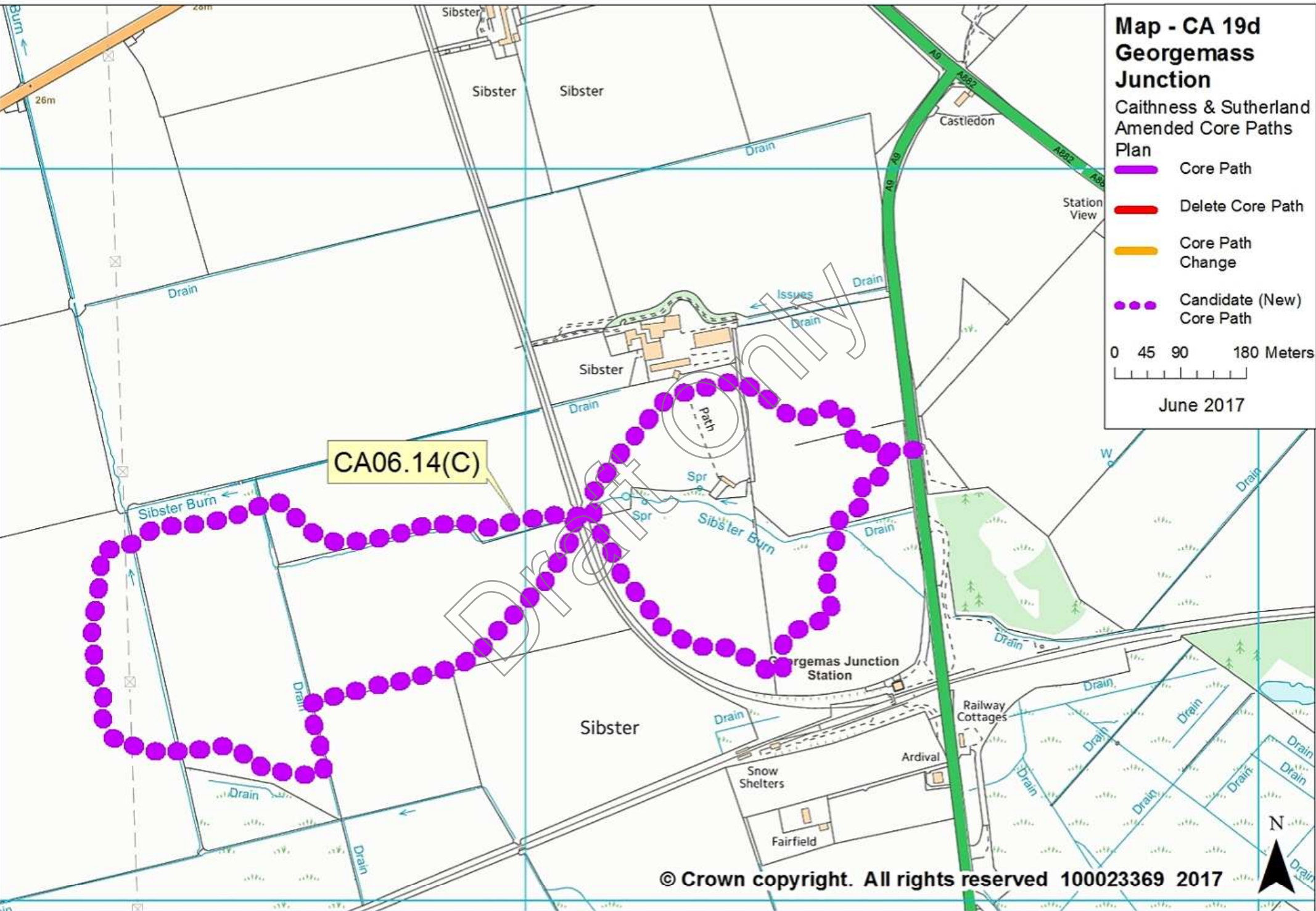
Map - CA 19d Georgemass Junction

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



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**Map - CA 4e
Hill of Orlig**

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

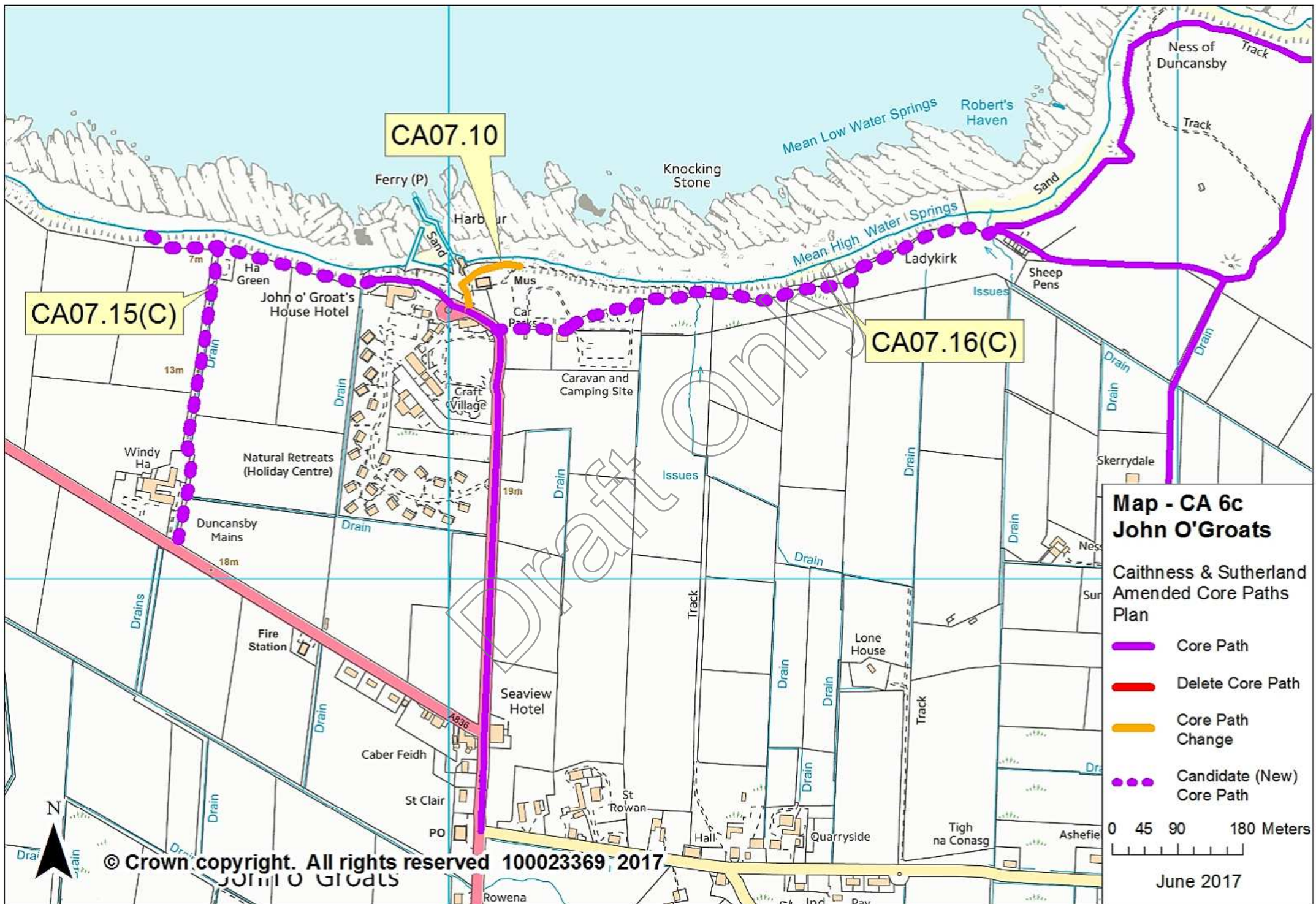
- Core Path
- Delete Core Path
- Core Path Change
- ⋯ Candidate (New) Core Path



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CA03.05(C)

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CA07.10

CA07.15(C)

CA07.16(C)

Ferry (P)

Harbour

Knocking Stone

Mean Low Water Springs

Robert's Haven

Mean High Water Springs

Ladykirk

Sheep Pens

Ness of Duncansby

Track

Track

John o' Groat's House Hotel

Mus

Car Parks

Caravan and Camping Site

Craft Village

Natural Retreats (Holiday Centre)

Windy Ha

13m

Duncansby Mains

18m

Fire Station

Seaview Hotel

Caber Feidh

St Clair

PO

St Rowan

Hall

Quarryside

Tigh na Conasg

Ashefie

Skerrydale

Ness

Sur

A836

Rowena

Ind

Pay



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JOHN O' GROATS



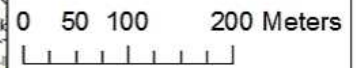
CA08.02(C)



Map - CA 16f Latheronwheel

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Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



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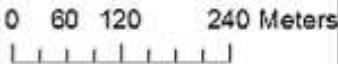
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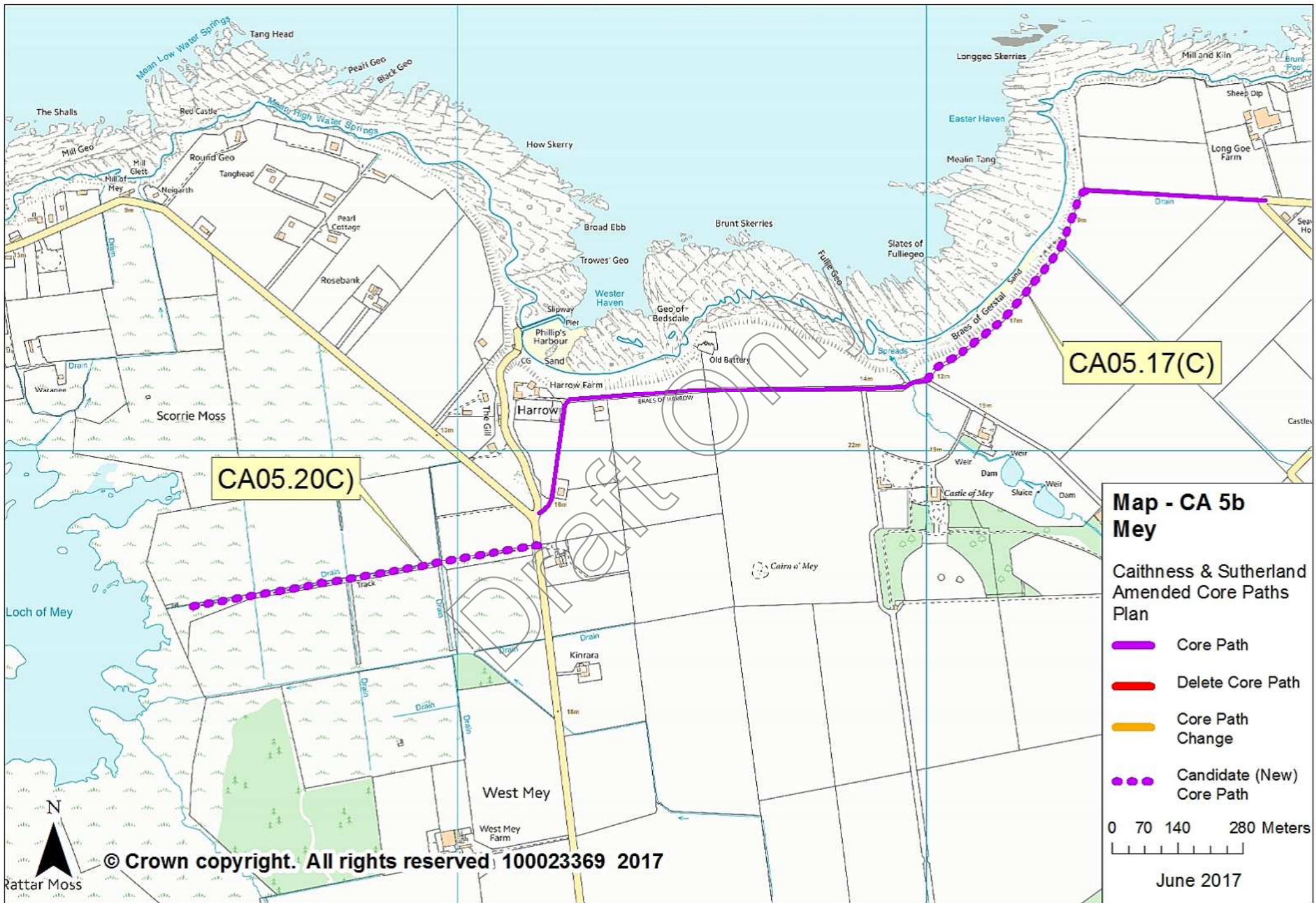
Map - CA 13b Lybster

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



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Map - CA 1d Reay & Shebster

Cathness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path
Change
-  Candidate (New)
Core Path

0 205 410 820 Meters

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CA13.32(C)

CA11.05(C)

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Map - CA 14c Rumster

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path

0 125 250 500 Meters

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Map - CA 2b Scrabster

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



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CA15.01C

WICK

CA15.34(C)





CA15.32(C)

CA15.33(C)

CA15.31(C)

**Map - CA 10b
Wick**

Caithness & Sutherland
Amended Core Paths
Plan

-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path
Change
-  Candidate (New)
Core Path

0 120 240 480 Meters
| | | |

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