

Agenda item	<b>10</b>
Report no	<b>RC/006/19</b>

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** **Ross and Cromarty Committee**

**Date:** **30 January 2019**

**Report Title:** **West Highland and Islands Amended Core Paths Plan,  
Wester Ross and Lochalsh Areas**

**Report By:** **Director of Development and Infrastructure**

### **1 Purpose/Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a Draft Amended Core Paths Plan for the Wester Ross and Lochalsh area.

### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the Wester Ross and Lochalsh areas of the West Highland and Islands Amended Core Path 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 a Public Local Inquiry (PLI).
- 3.2 The review and amendment of the Core Path Plan is to be undertaken by the local authority when considered appropriate. The review for the West Highlands and Islands area commenced in 2016.
- 3.3 The review aims to consider:-
- paths that have been built, or will soon be built, since the first Core Path Plan;
  - routes suggested through public consultation;
  - the recommendations of the Public Local Inquiry report on The Highland Council's first Core Path Plan to include more long distance, strategic routes;
  - where there might otherwise be gaps in the sufficiency of the Core Path network; and
  - the removal of routes or sections of routes that have disappeared, become overgrown and where better alternatives are available
- 3.4 The list of candidate core paths and changes to core paths (the Amendments) for Wester Ross and Lochalsh have been approved by the Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh Local Access Fora respectively.
- 3.5 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 Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) 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 If any objection is made and not withdrawn, the Plan must not be adopted unless directed by Scottish Ministers, who may call a public local inquiry. The consultation is on the Amendments only, not existing core paths.

### 4. The Amended Core Paths Plan

- 4.1 The West Highland and Islands Amended Core Path Plan is a series of maps showing where Amendments are proposed. The Plan for the Wester Ross and Lochalsh areas are attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. The each map has been presented at a scale to show clarity. For the consultation there will be greater consistency in scales used and in presentation.

The existing Core Path Plan can be viewed on the Highland Council website at [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/379/countryside\\_facilities\\_and\\_wildlife/161/outdoor\\_access/4](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/379/countryside_facilities_and_wildlife/161/outdoor_access/4).

There are no associated policies or implementation timescales.

- 4.2 The Highland Council has a duty, under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act to notify owners and occupiers of land where a core path is proposed for the first time.
- 4.3 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. Any further changes as a result may require further consultation as a Modified Amended Core paths Plan.

4.4 After the formal consultation and a period of time to resolve objections, the Amended ( or Modified)Core Paths Plan will be put to the Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee for approval to adopt (where there are no objections) or approval to submit to Scottish Ministers (where there are outstanding objections).

## **5. Implications**

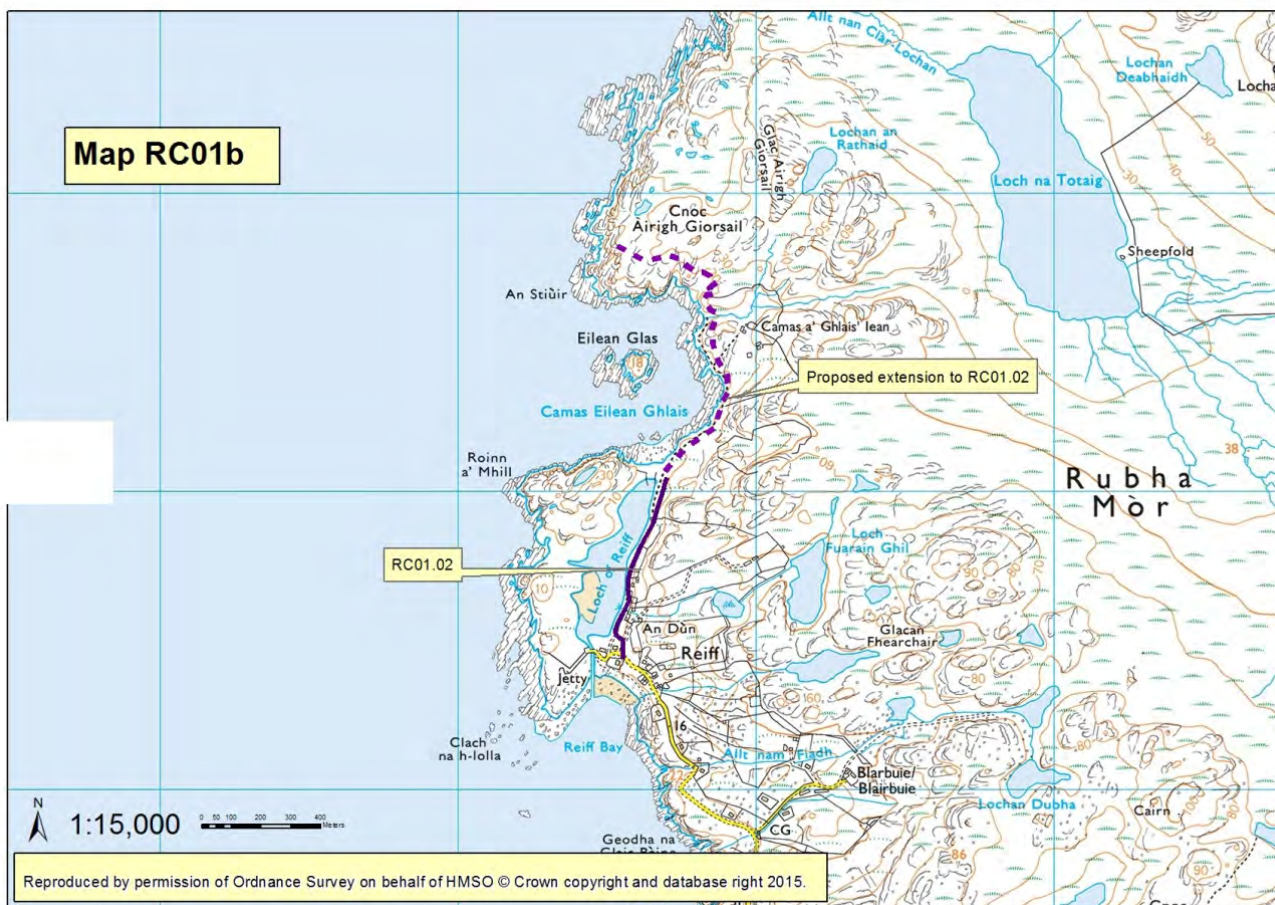
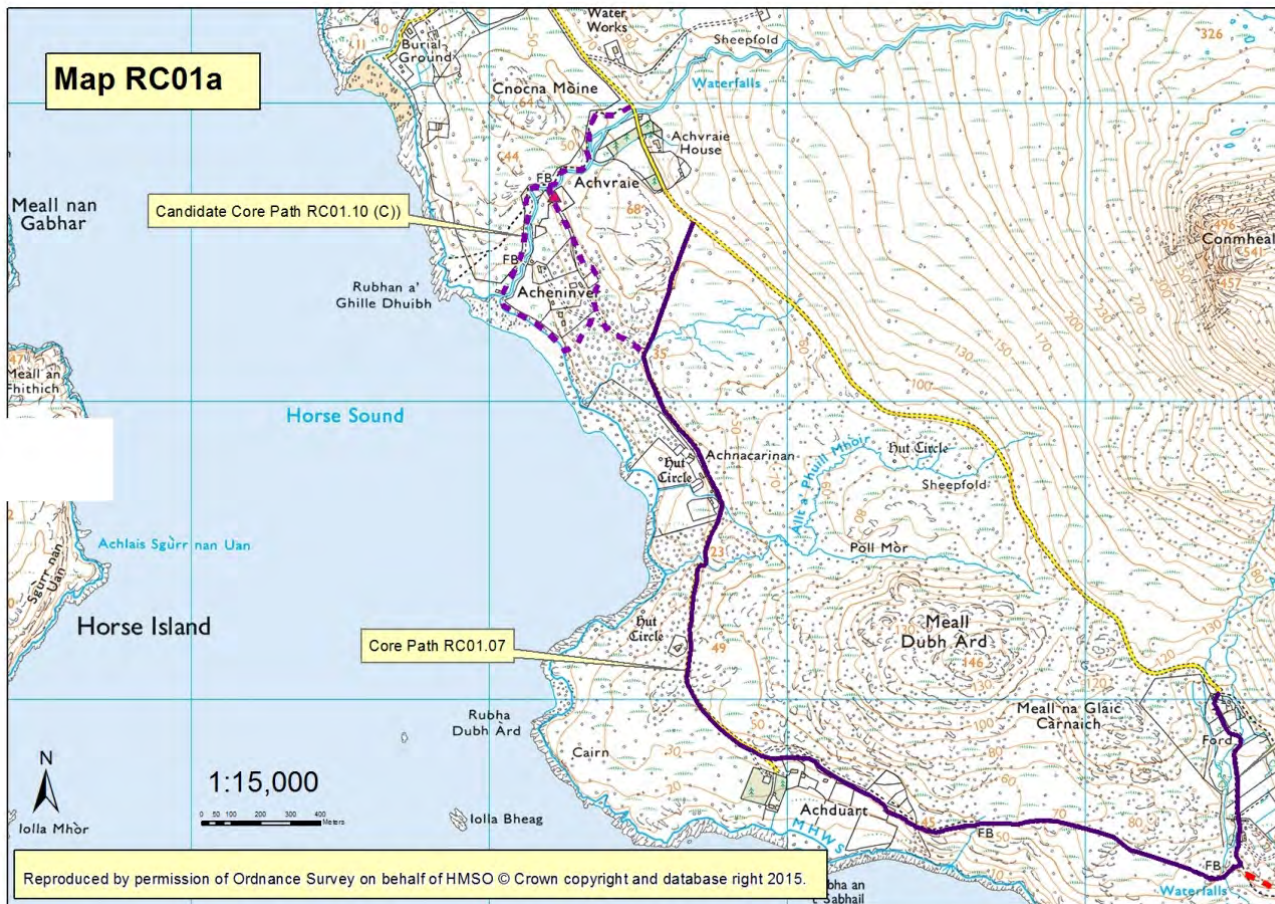
- 5.1 Resource – advertisement of the formal consultation, notifying landowners, adoption notice and publication of the amended core paths plan are statutory duties and will incur costs and staff resource to the Council. Further implementation of the core paths plan is discretionary.
- 5.2 Legal - The 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.

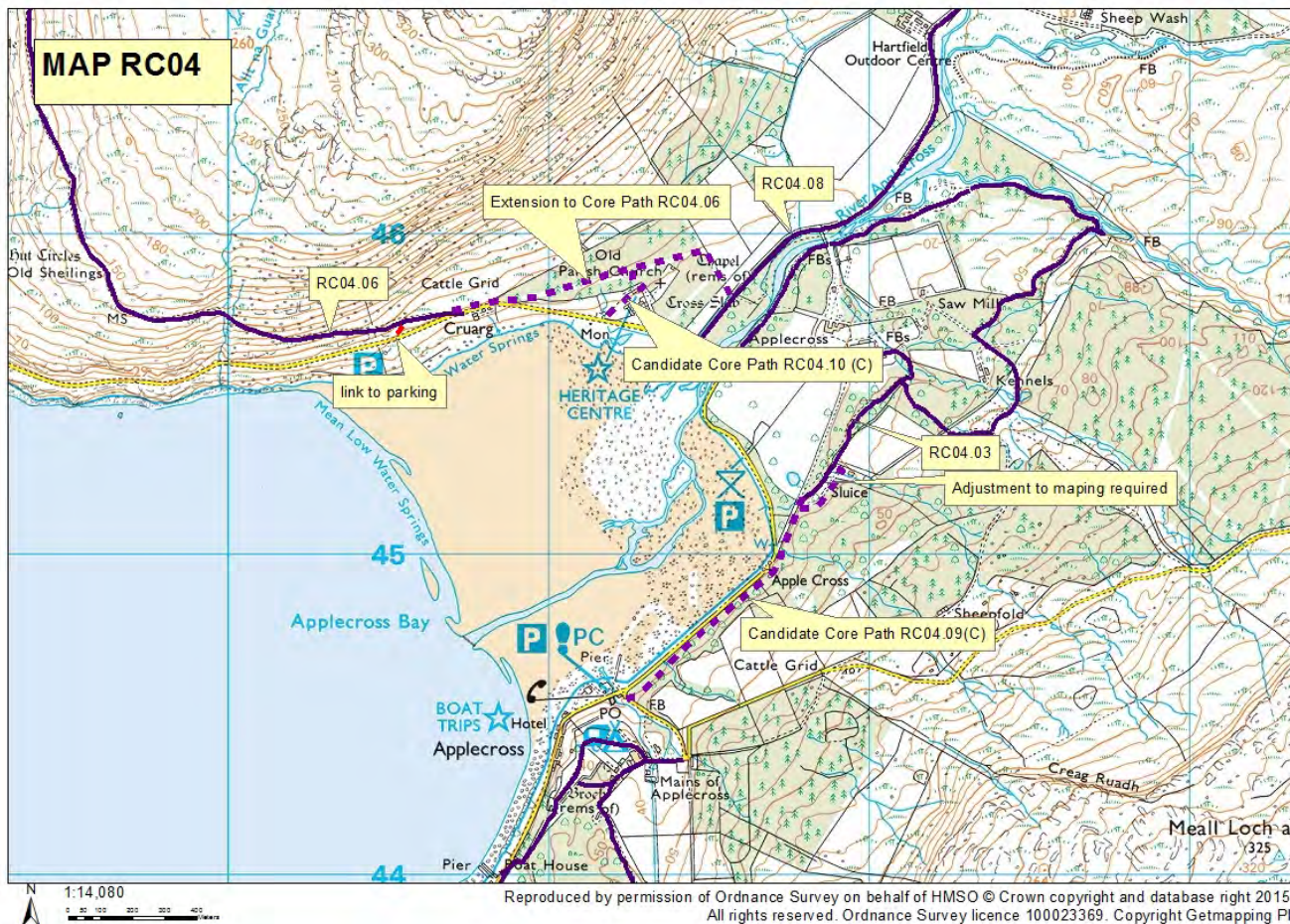
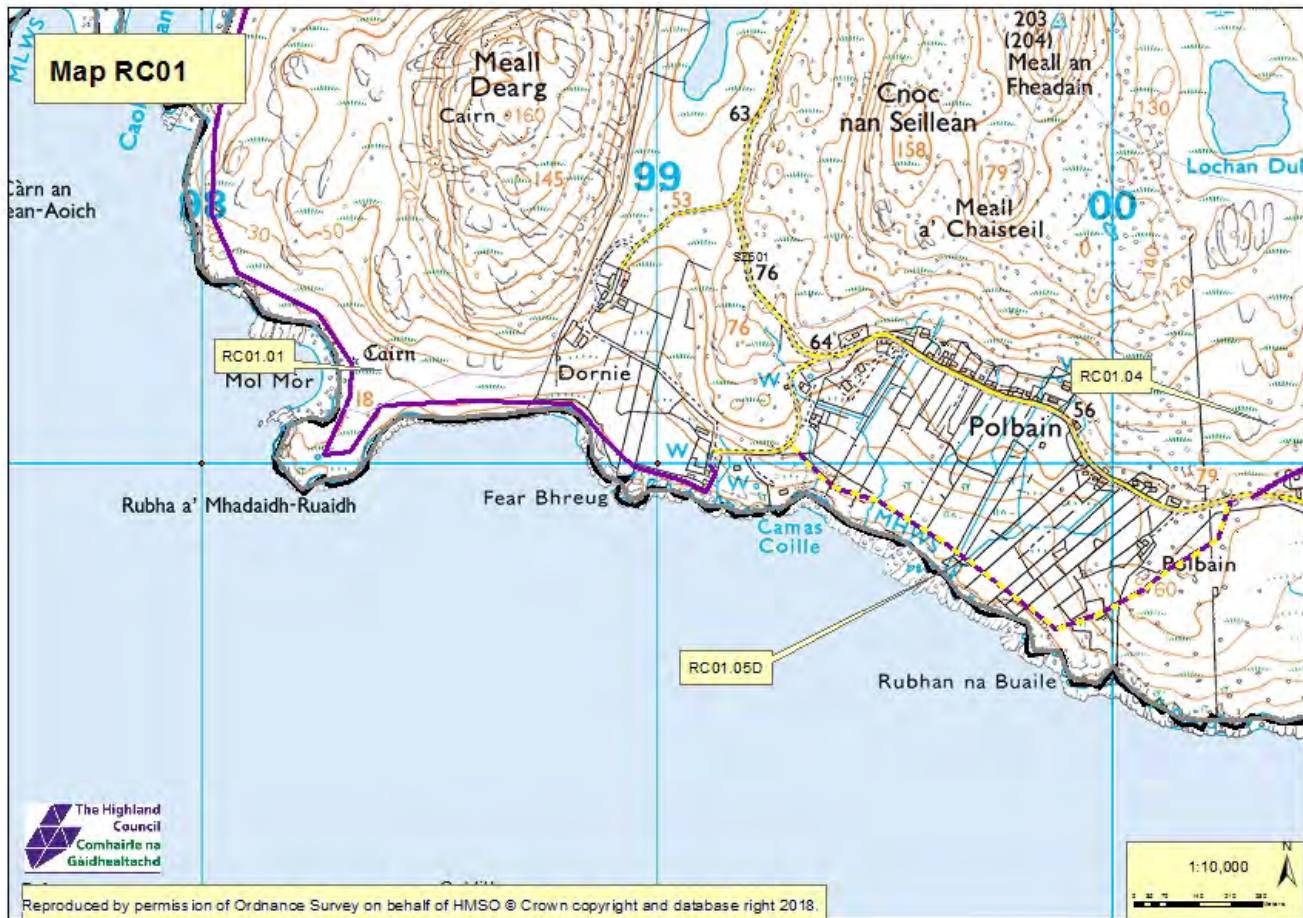
Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 16 January 2019

Author: Philip Waite, Access and LDR Manager

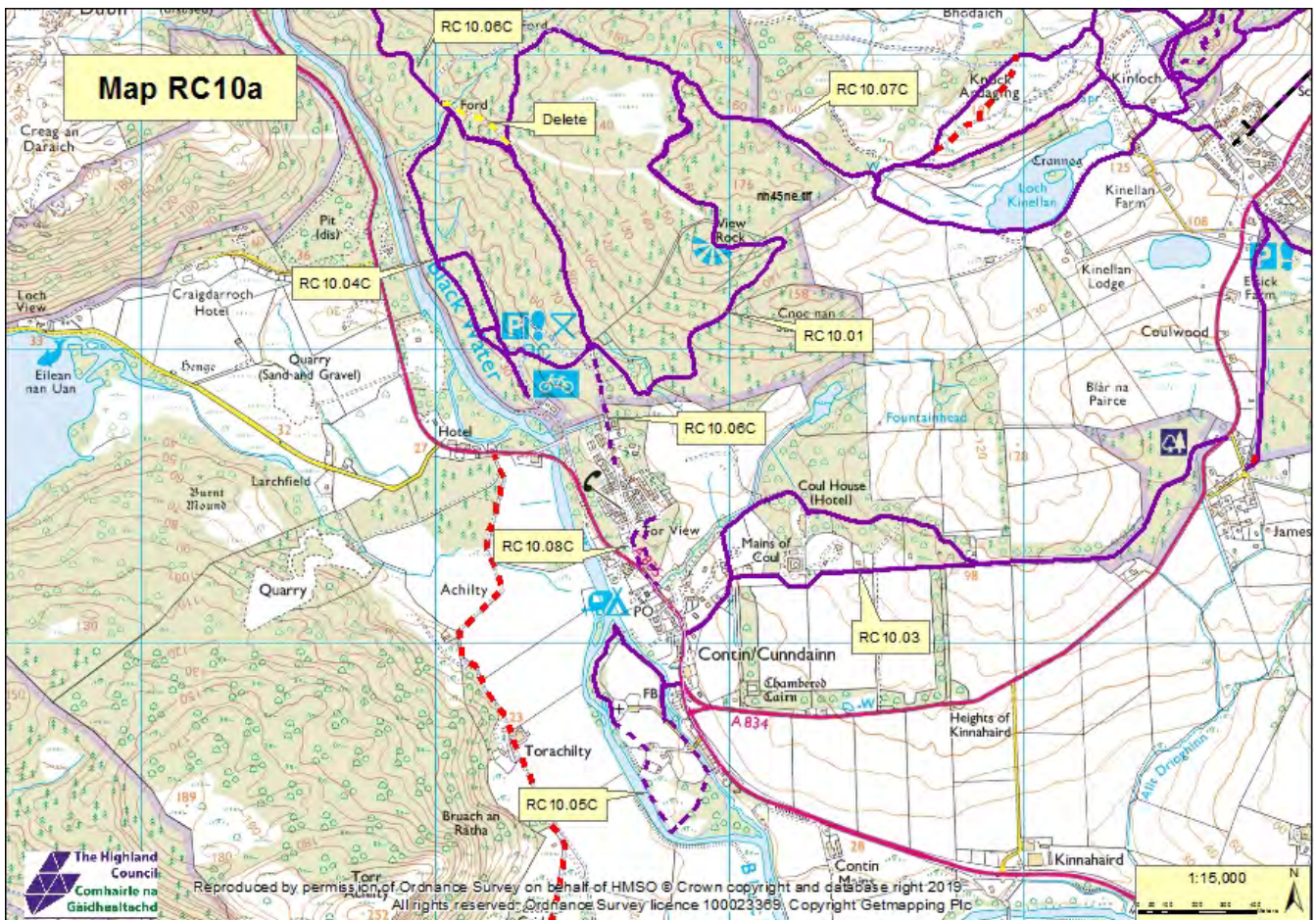
APPENDIX 1 – West Highland & Islands Amended Core Path Plan - Wester Ross Area



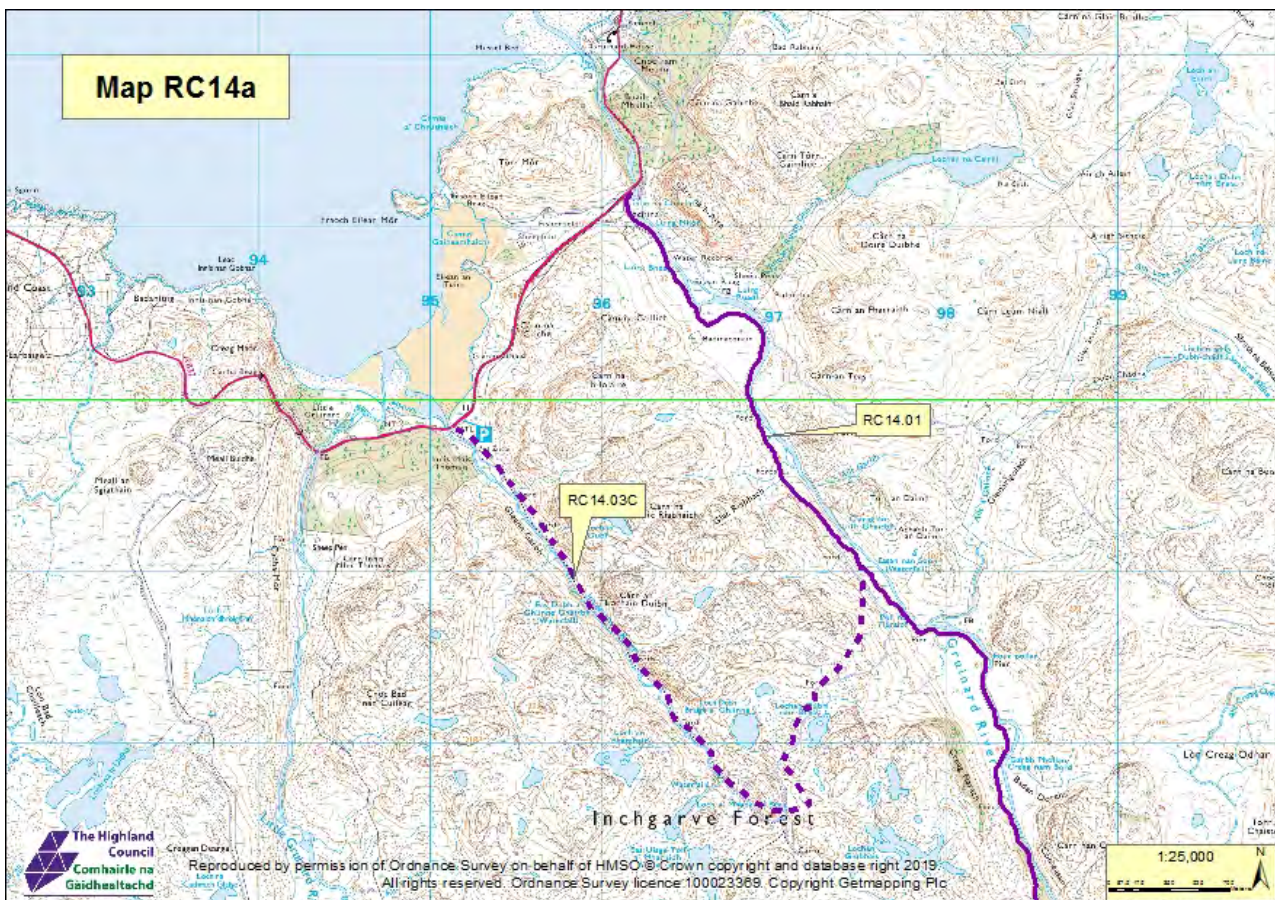
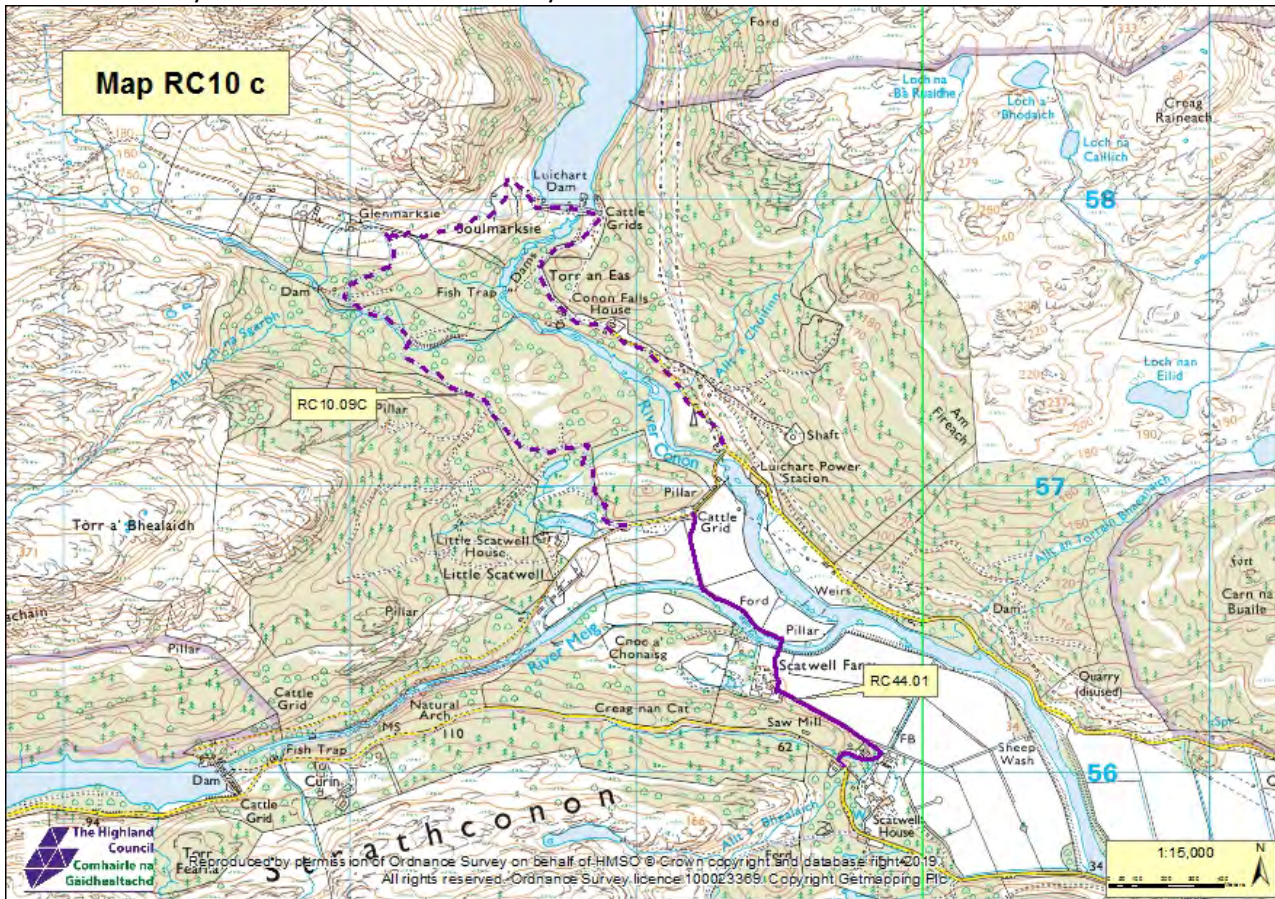


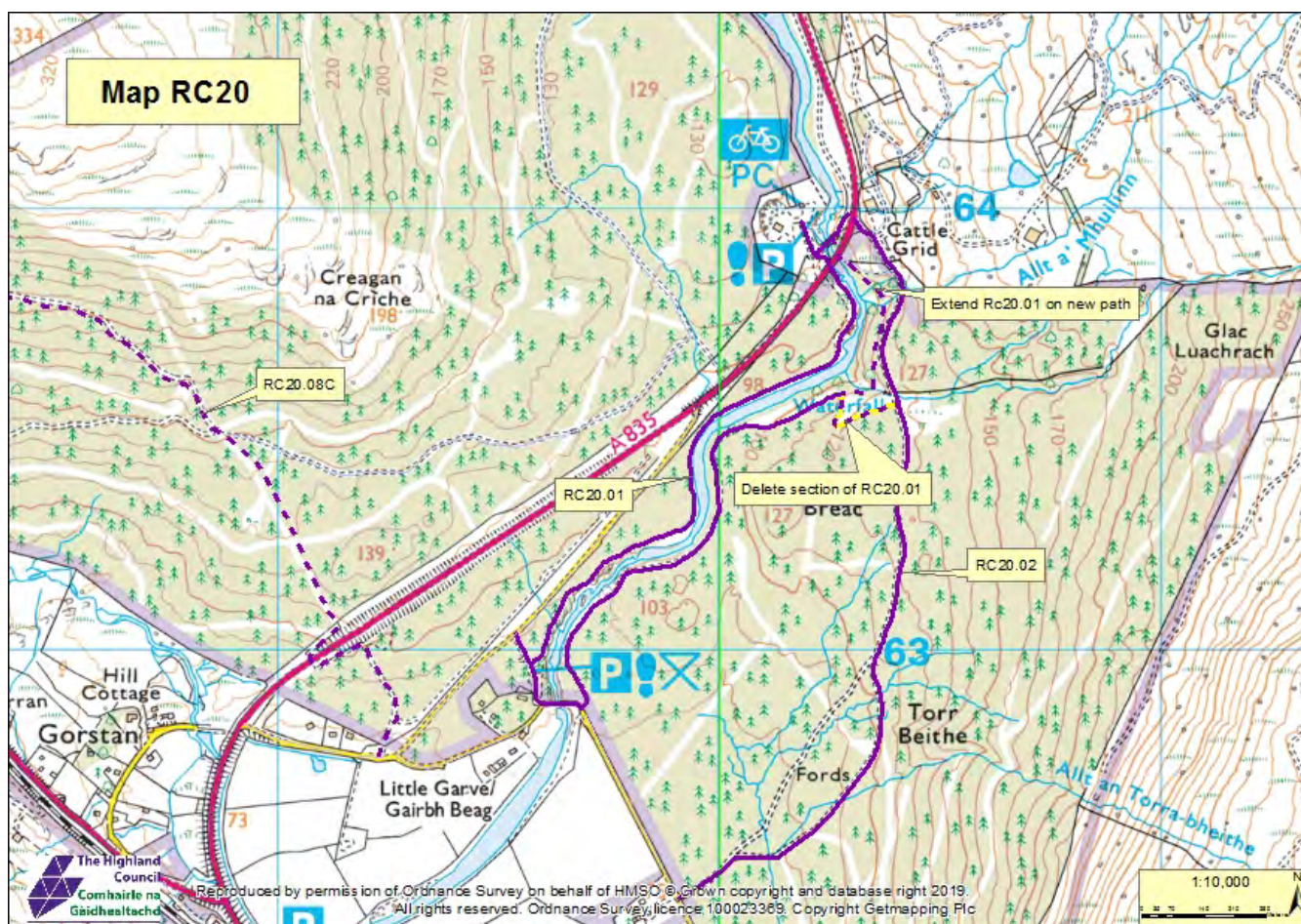
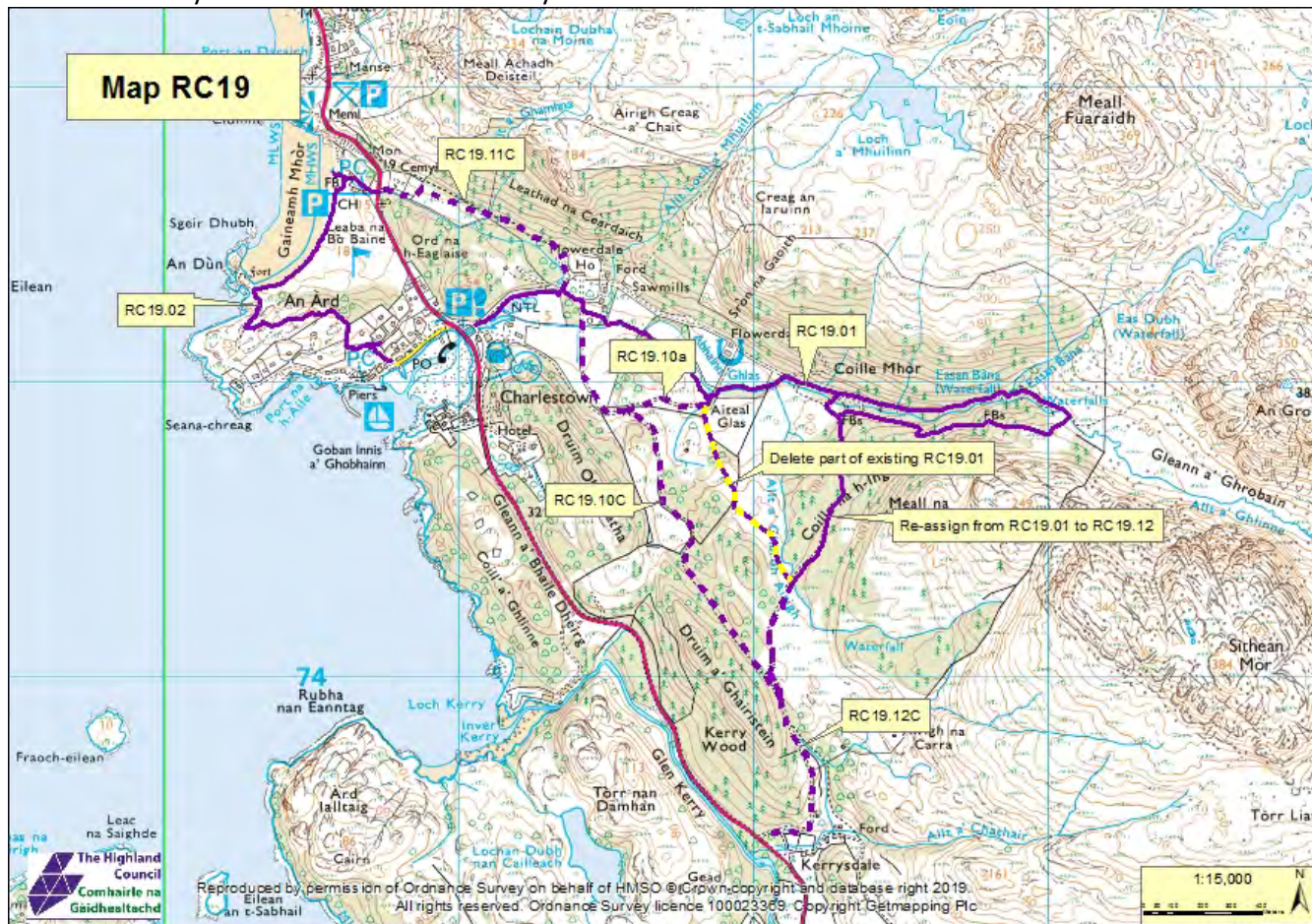


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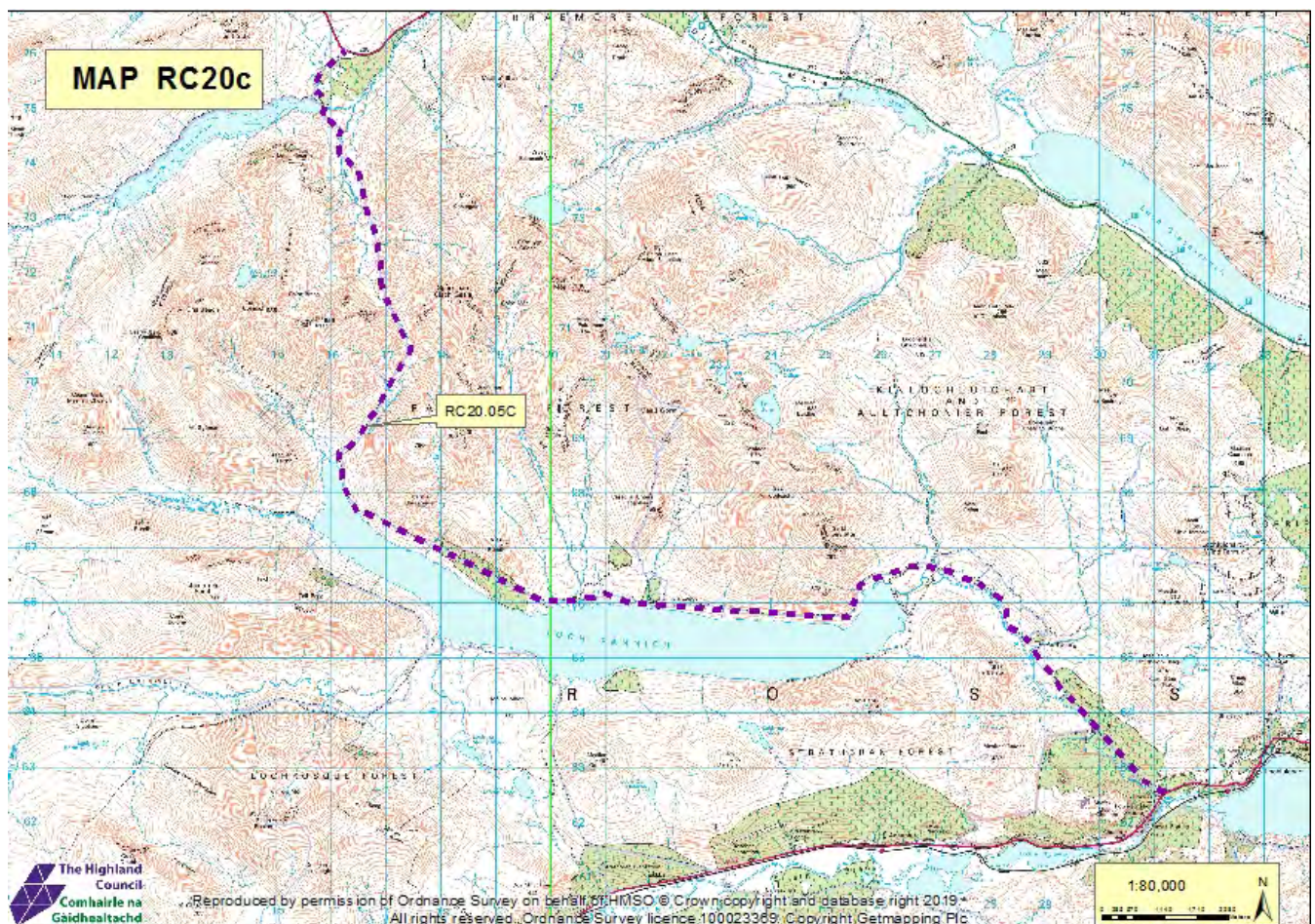
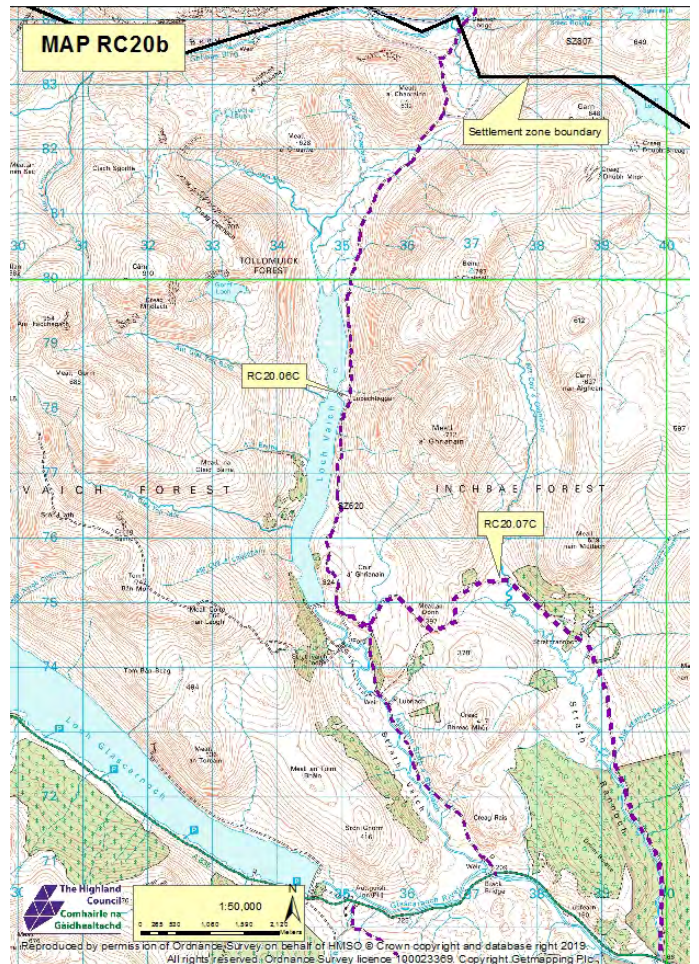
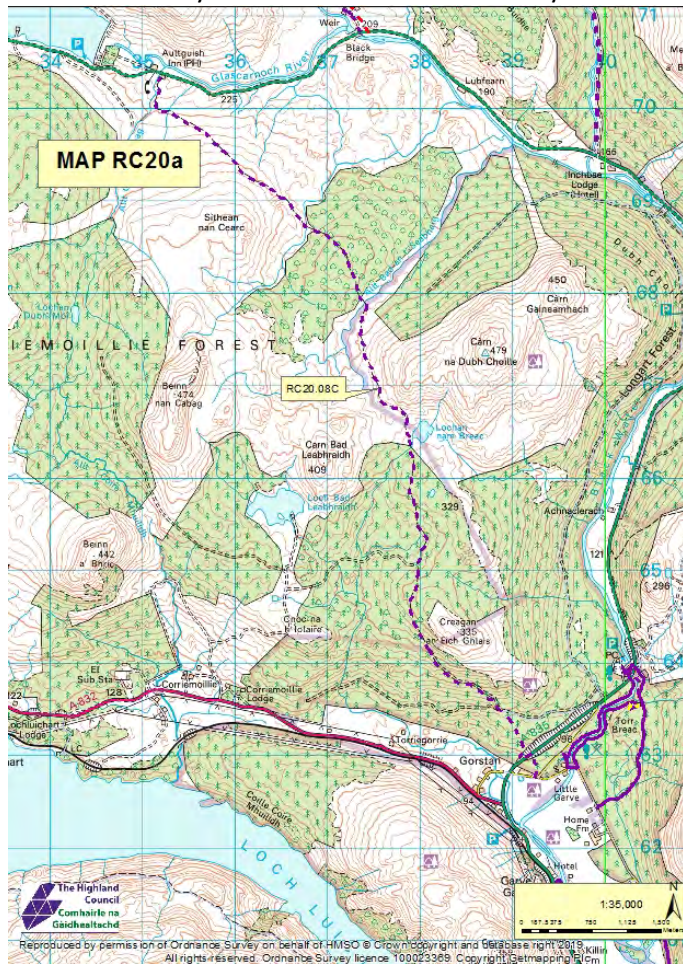


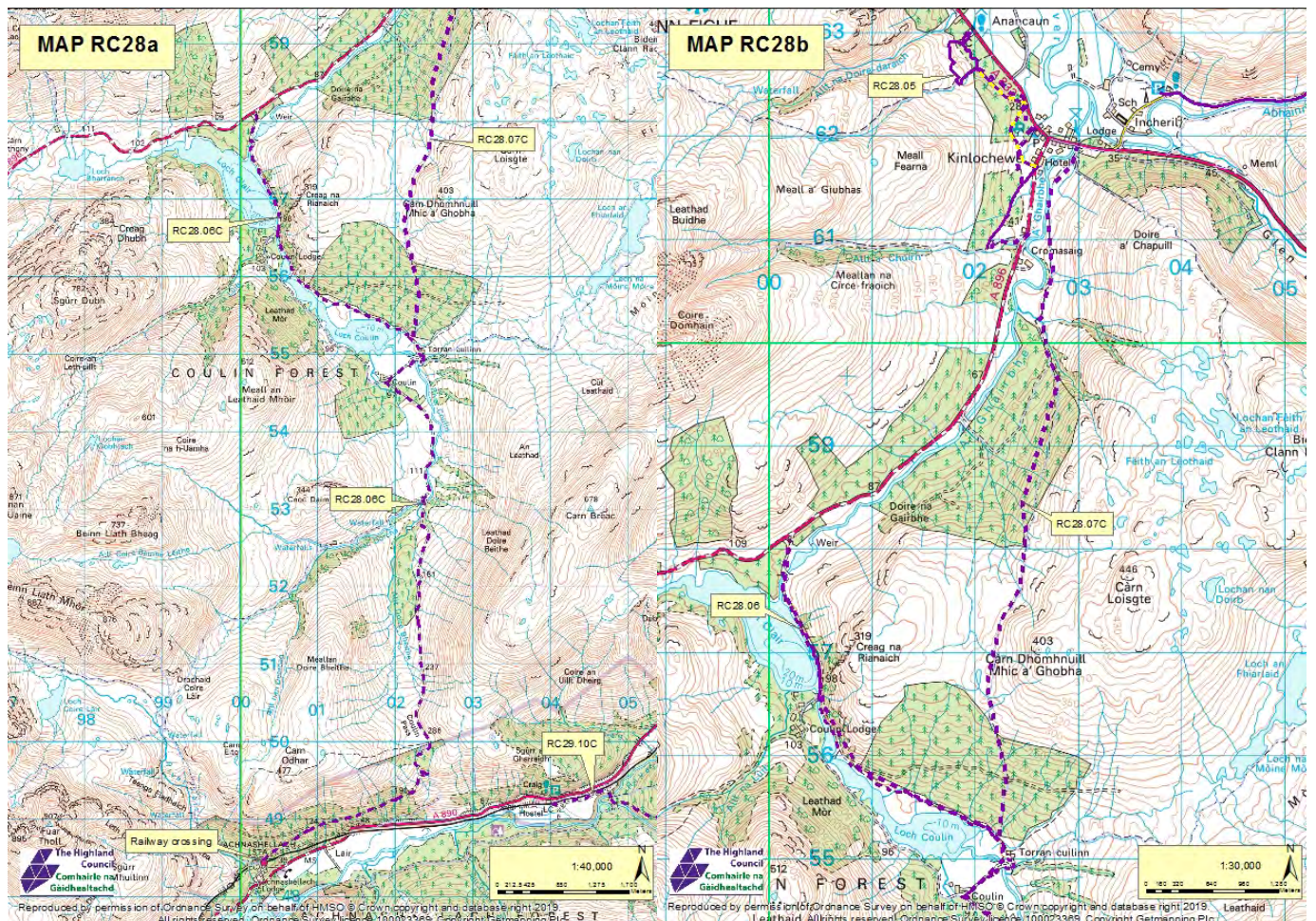
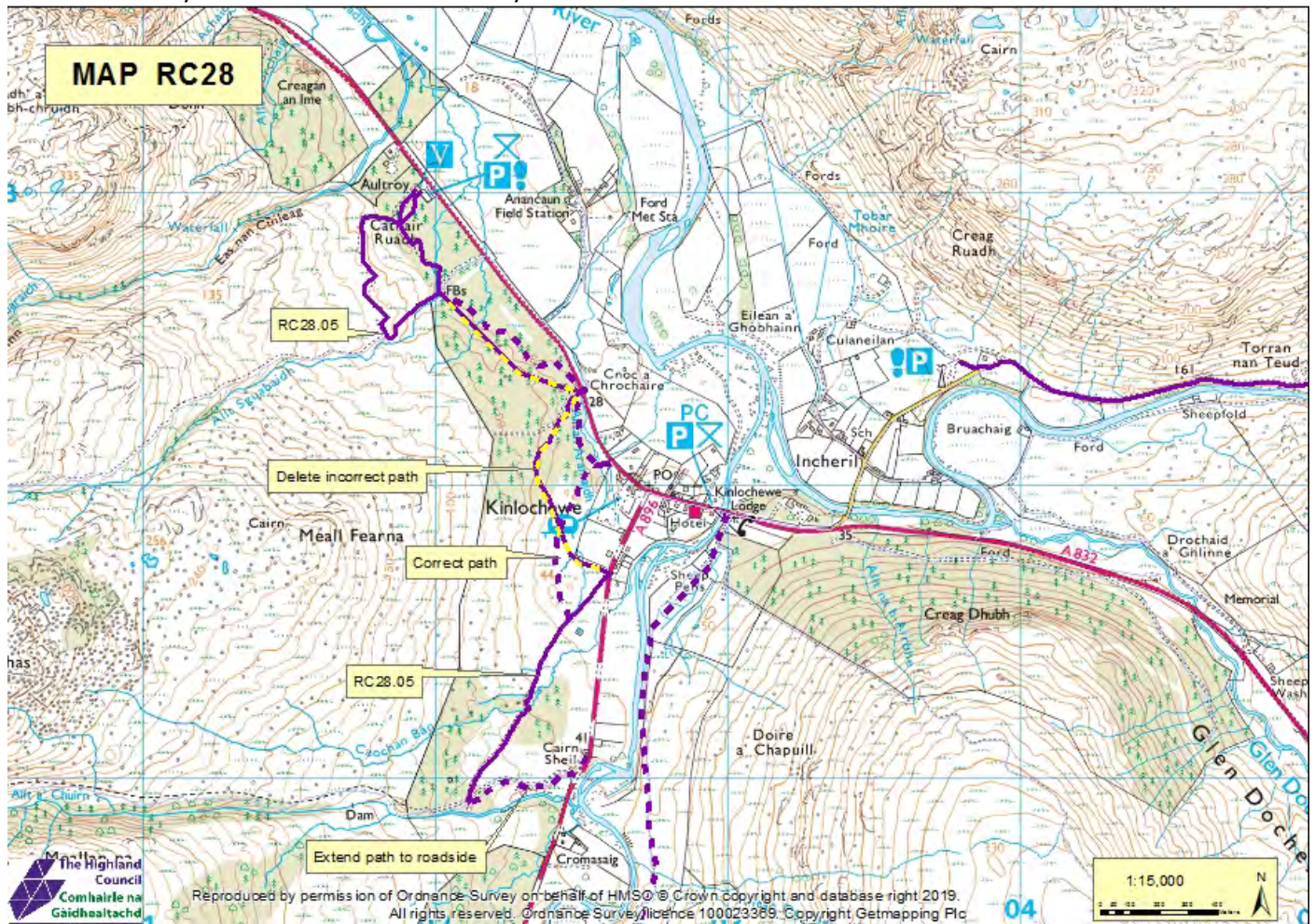
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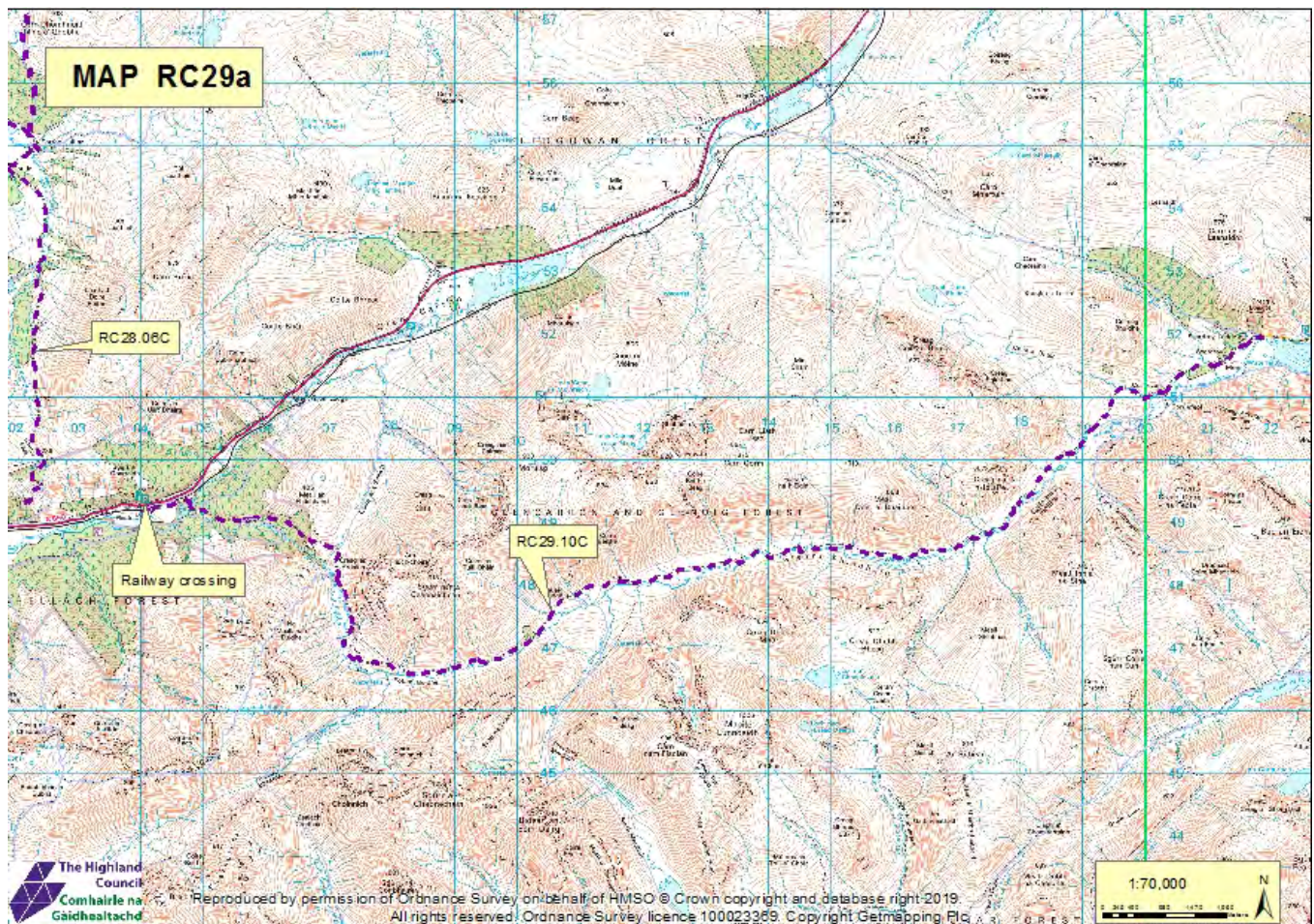










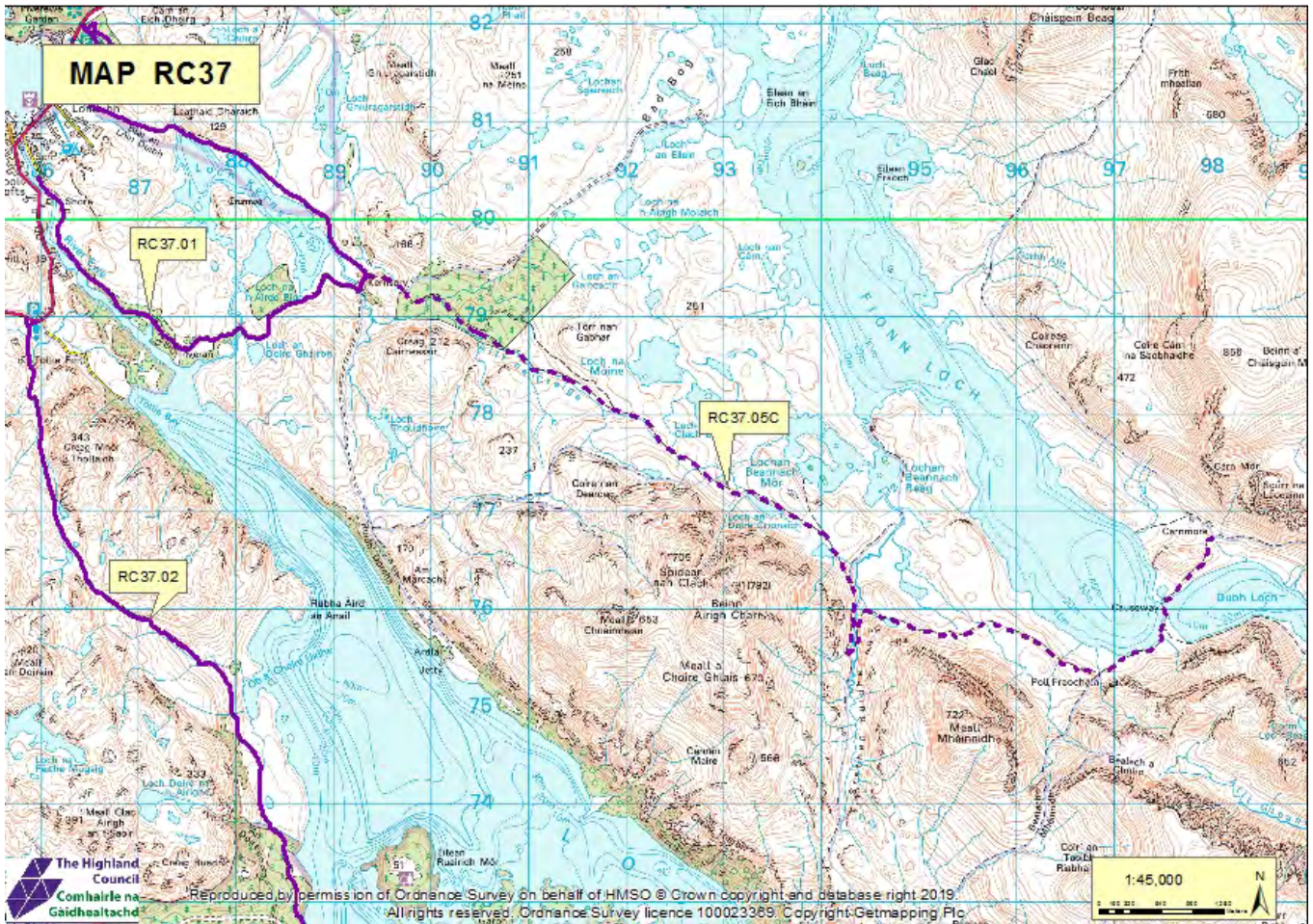


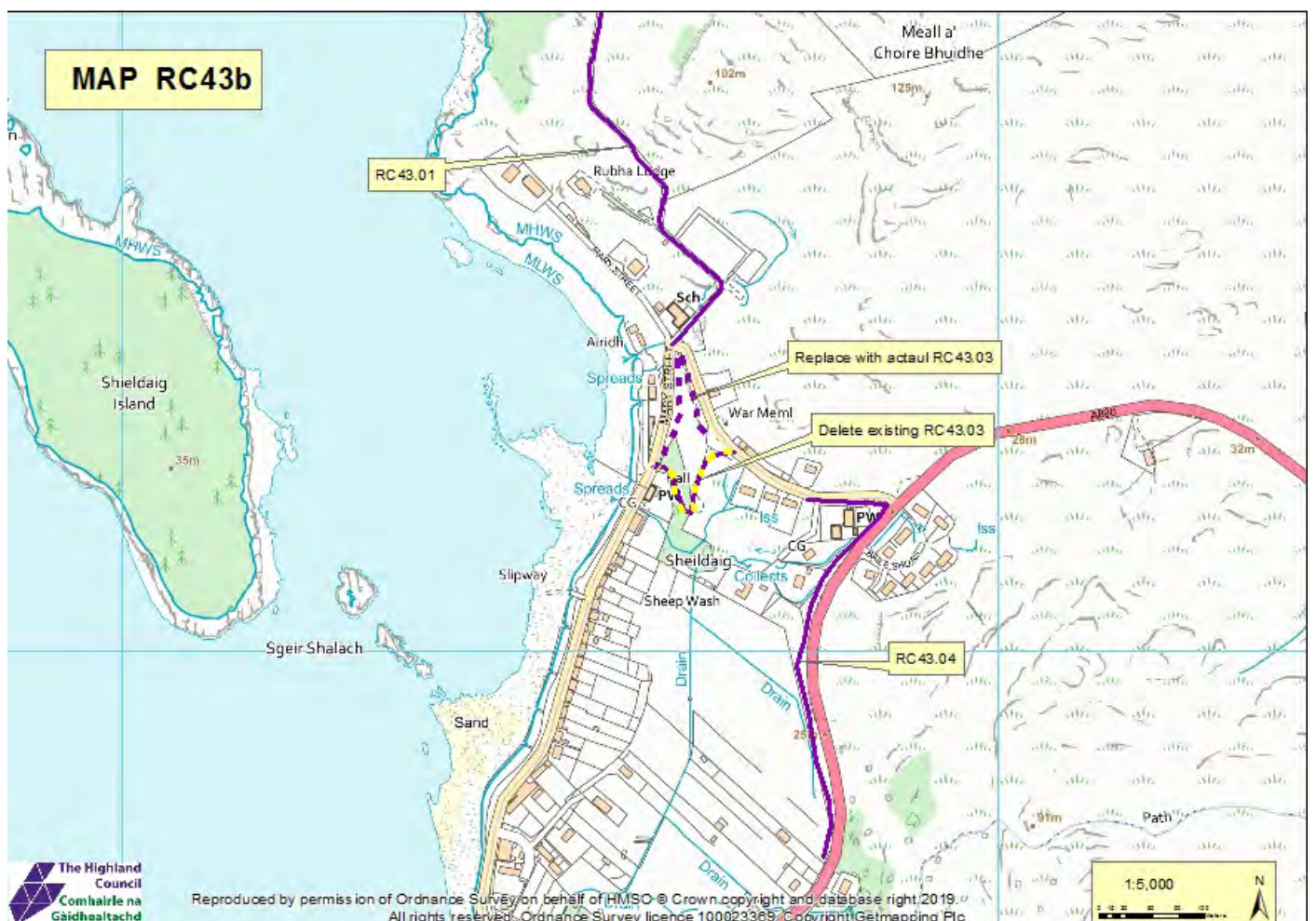


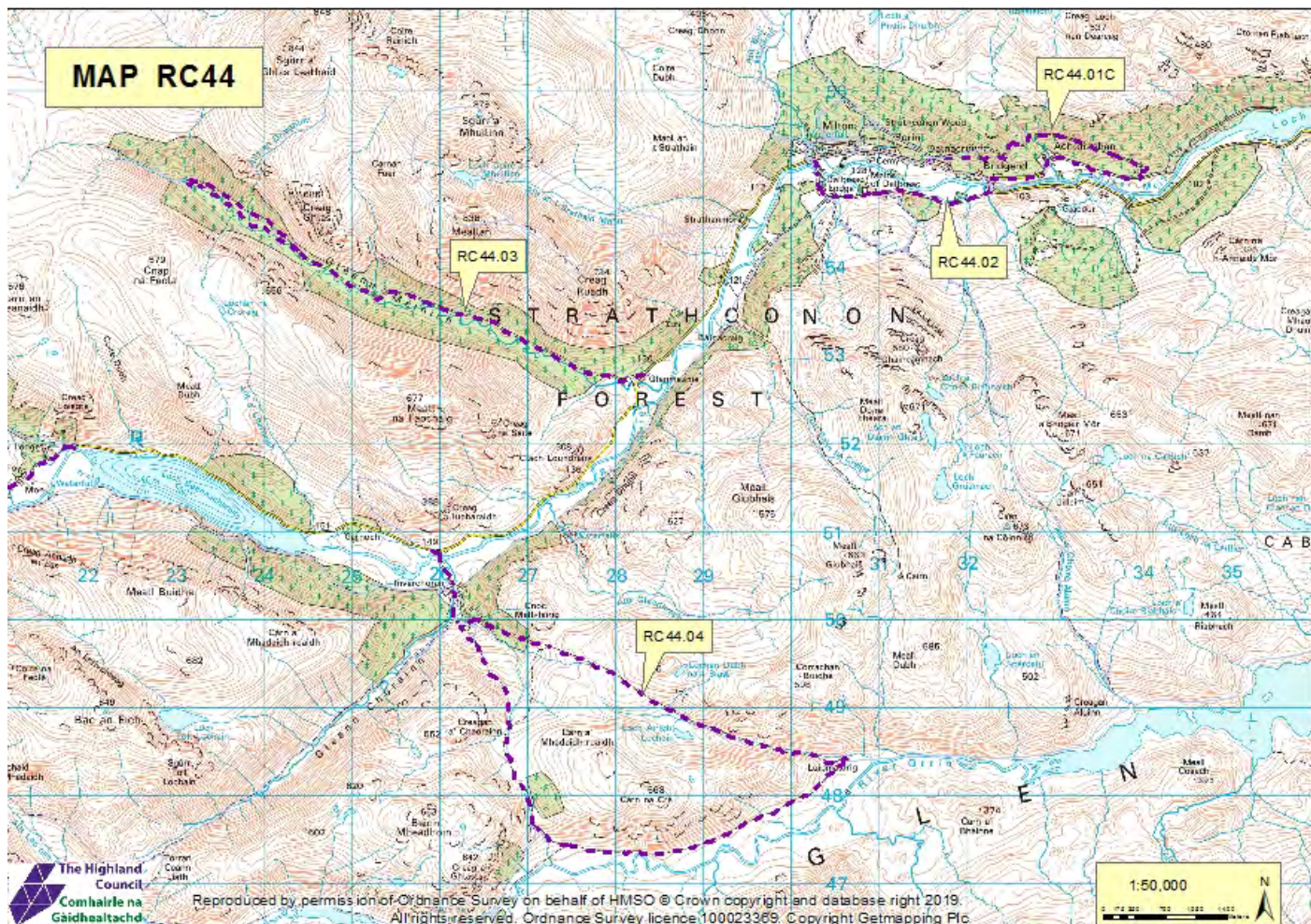
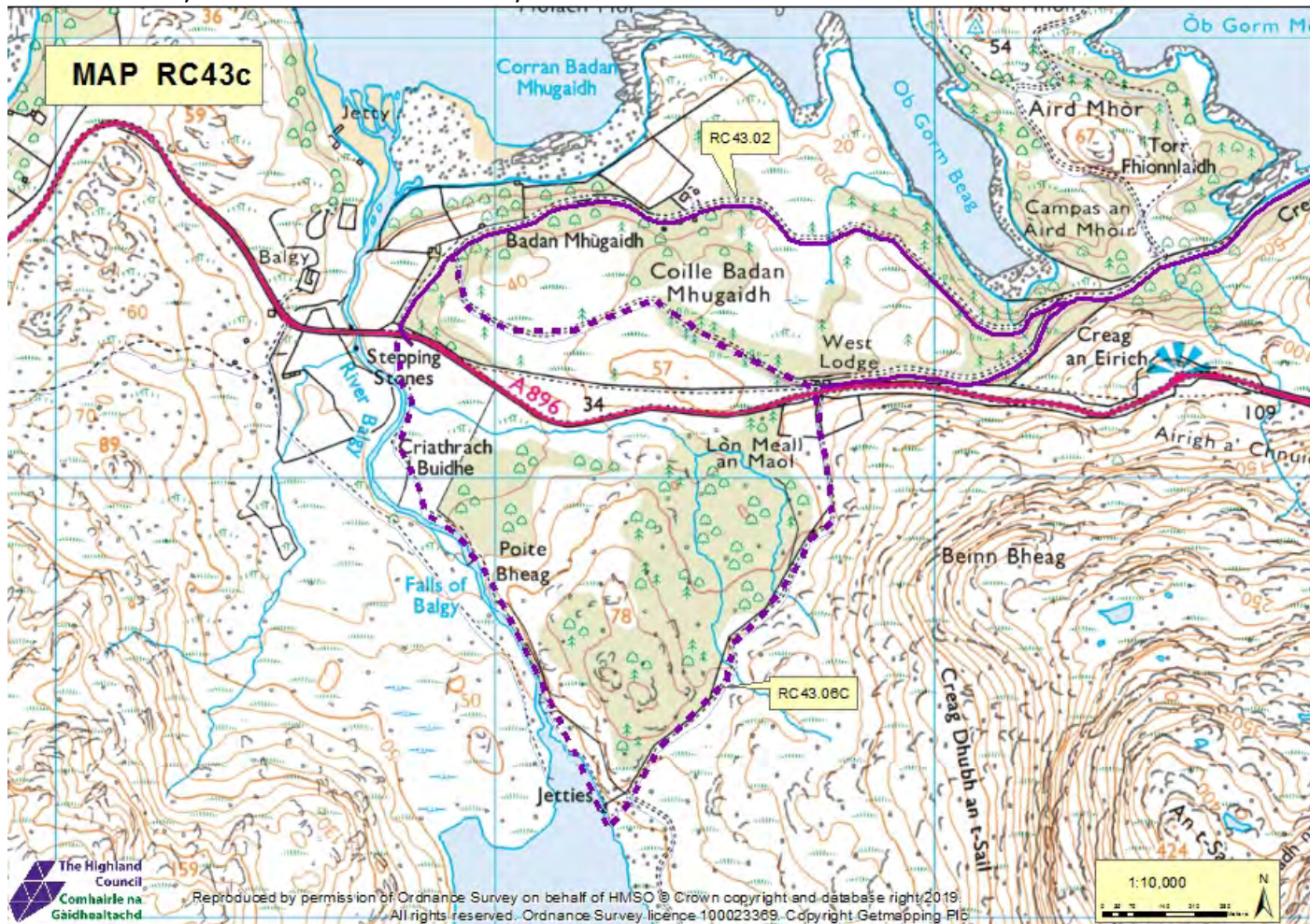
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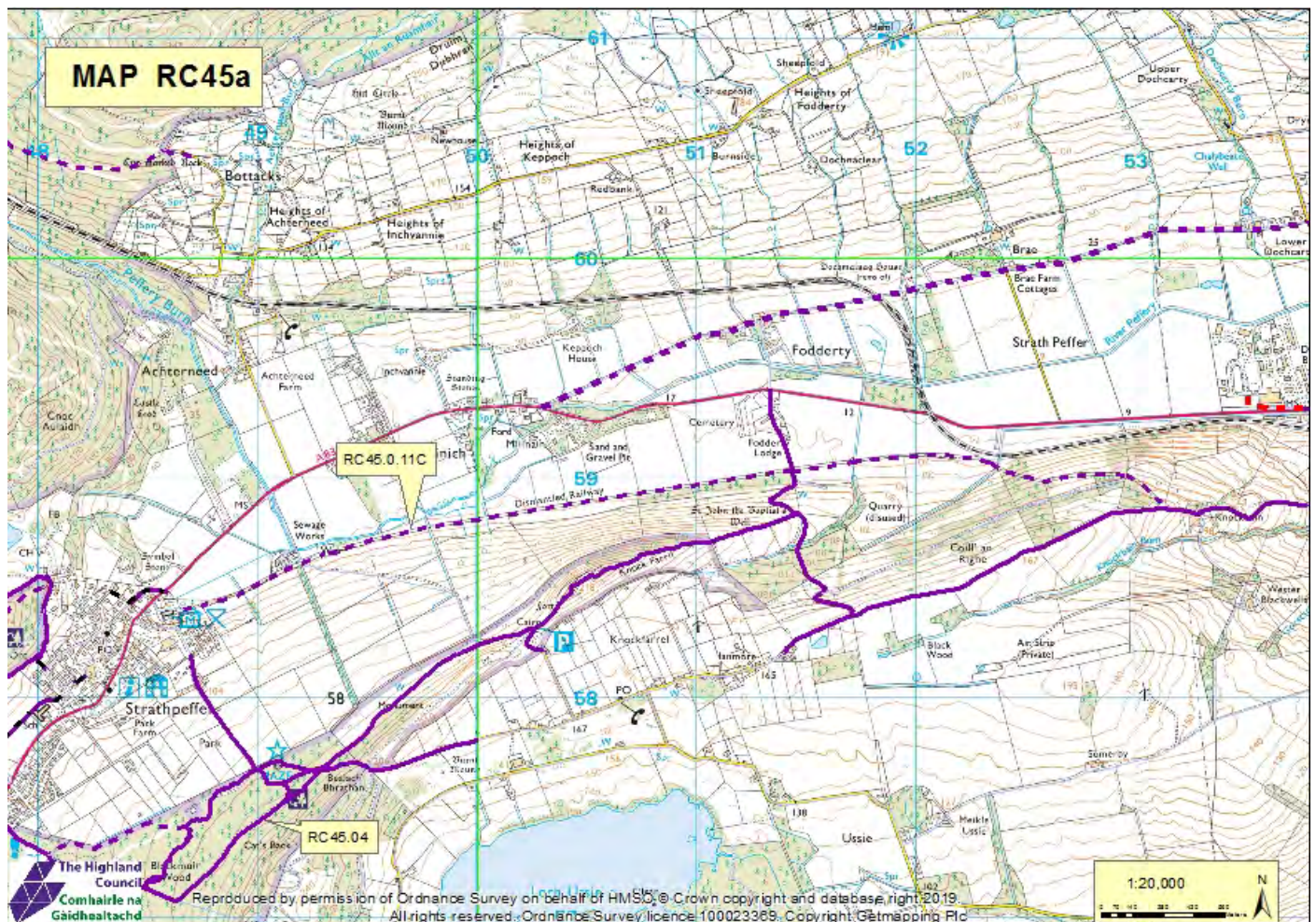
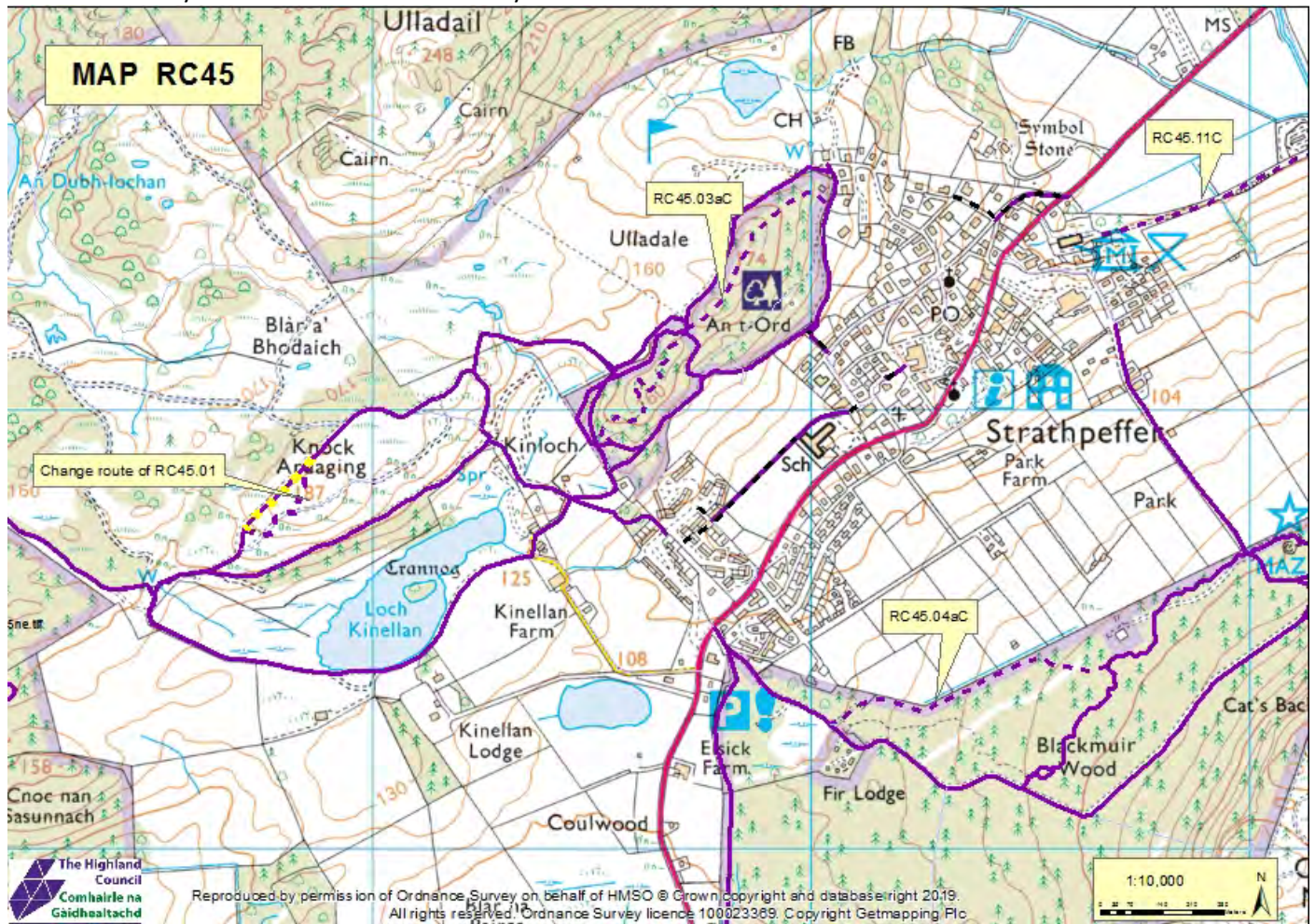


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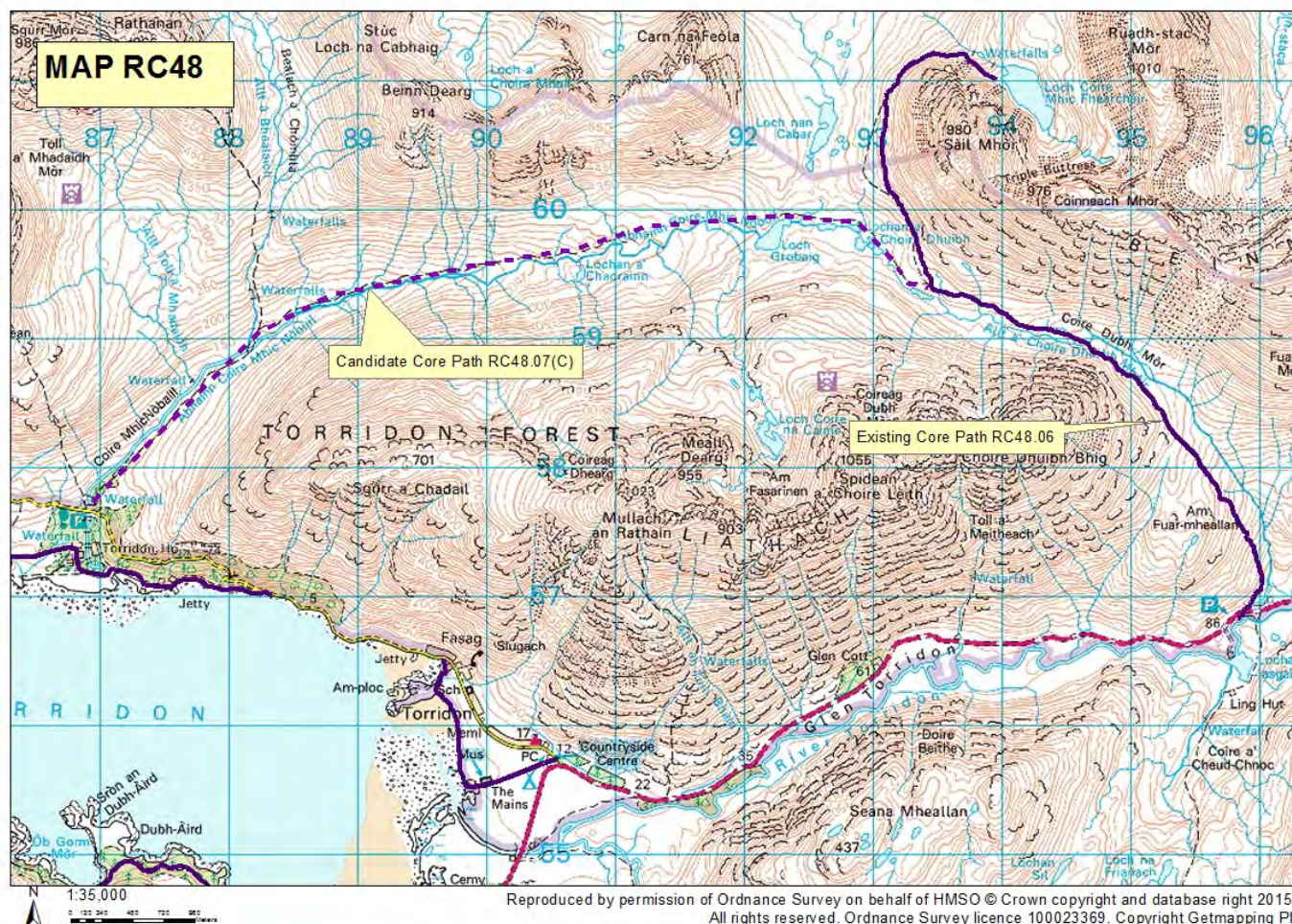
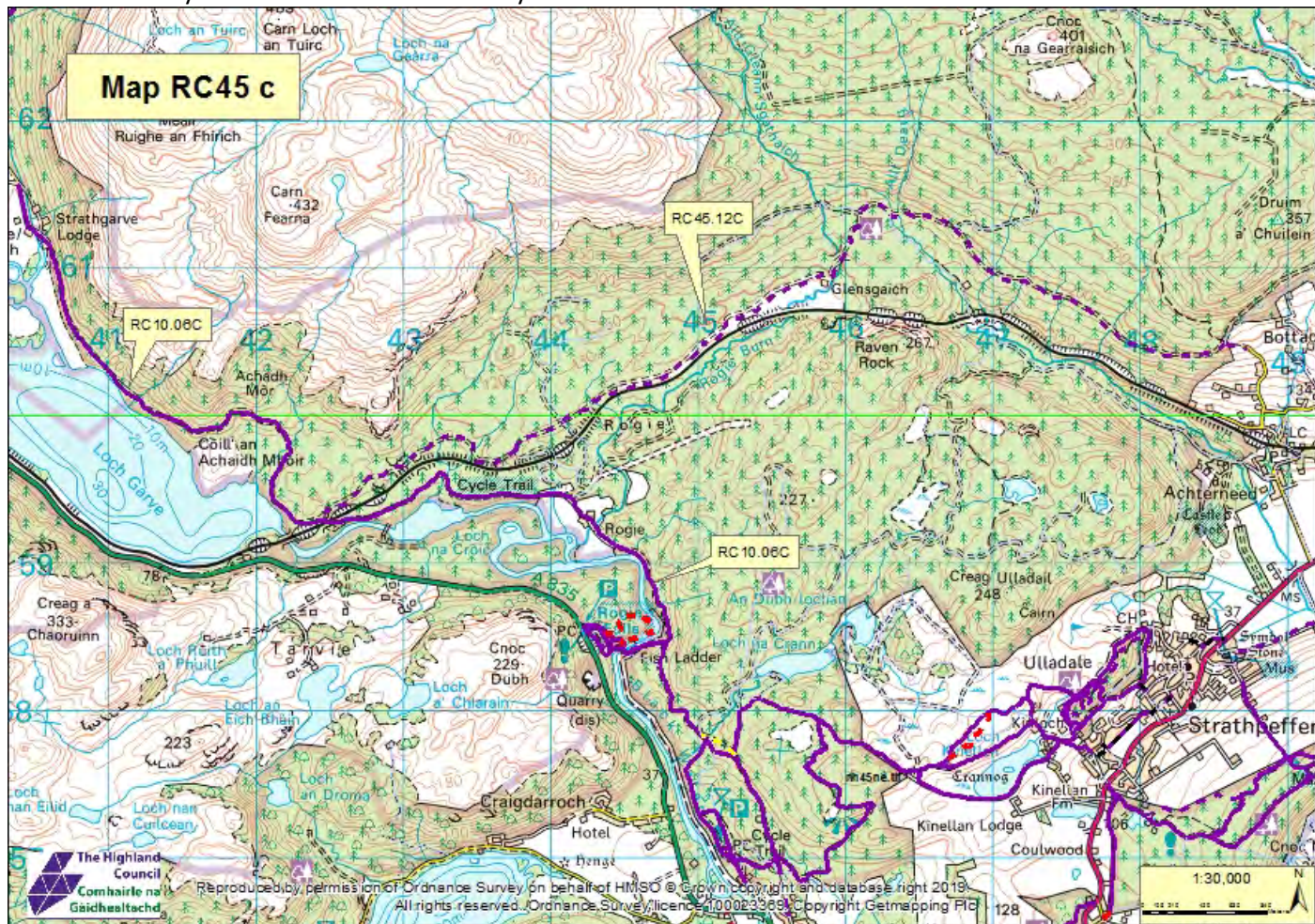


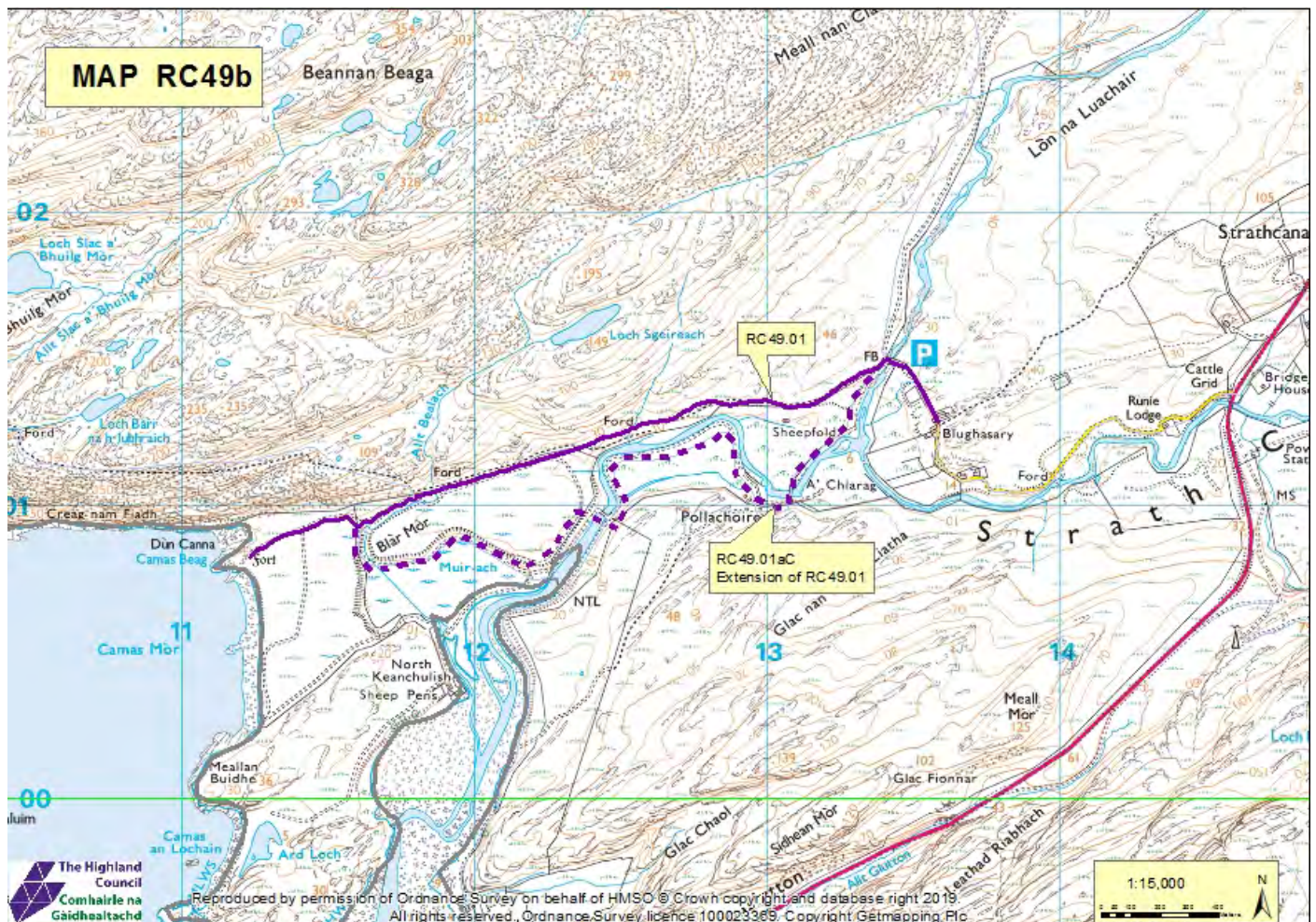
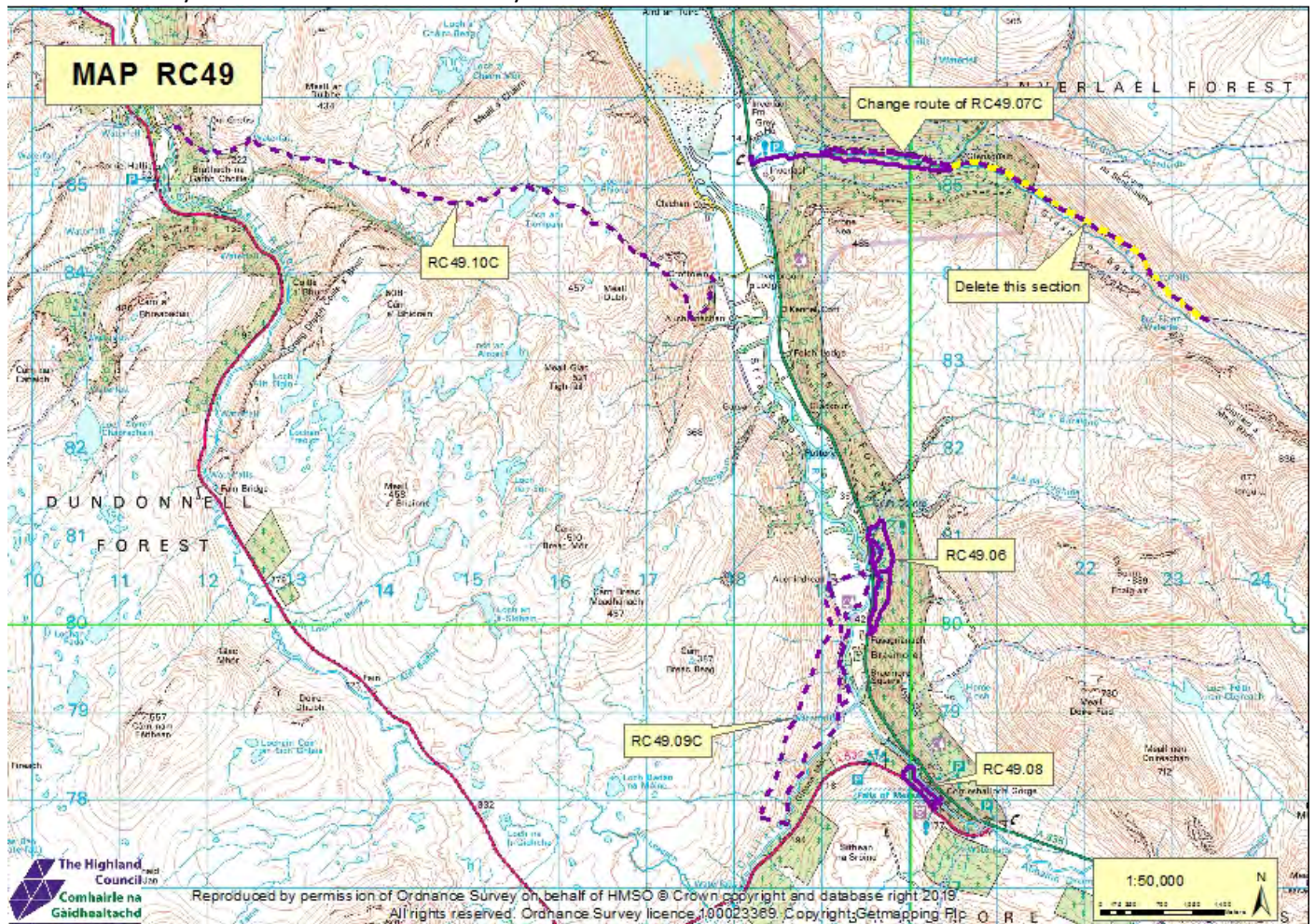




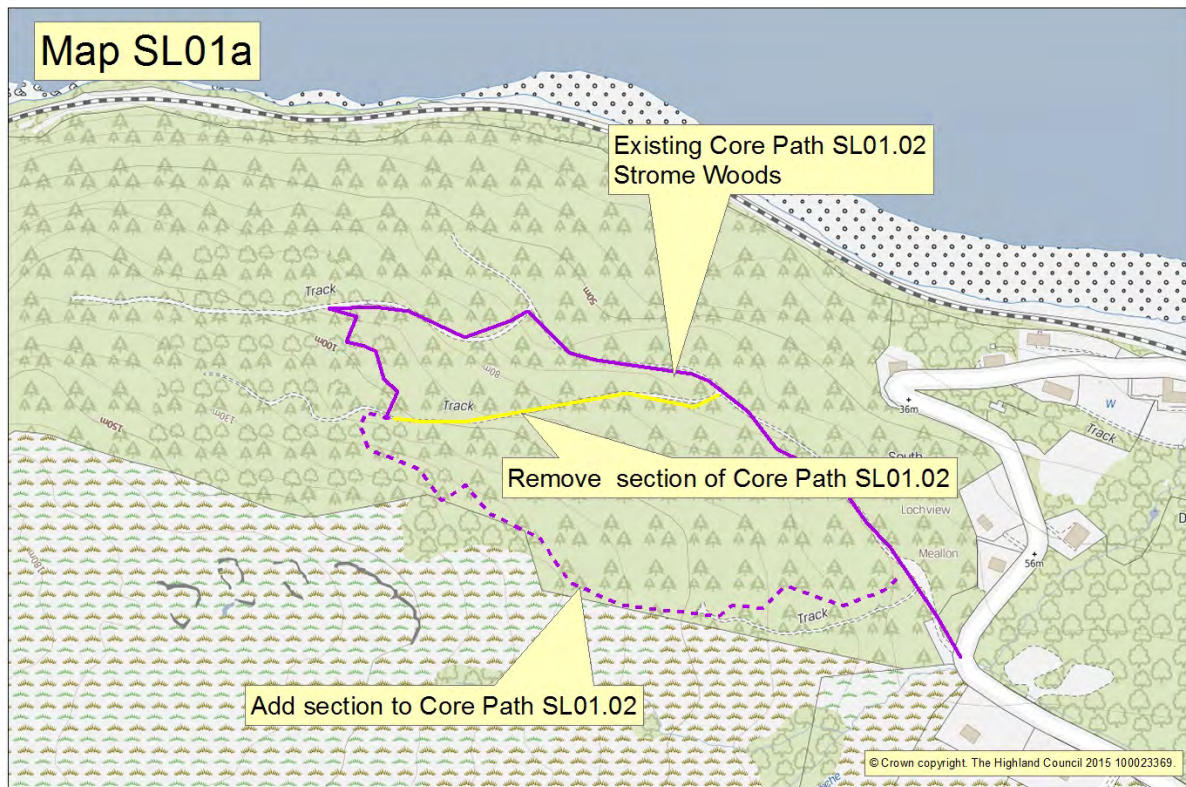




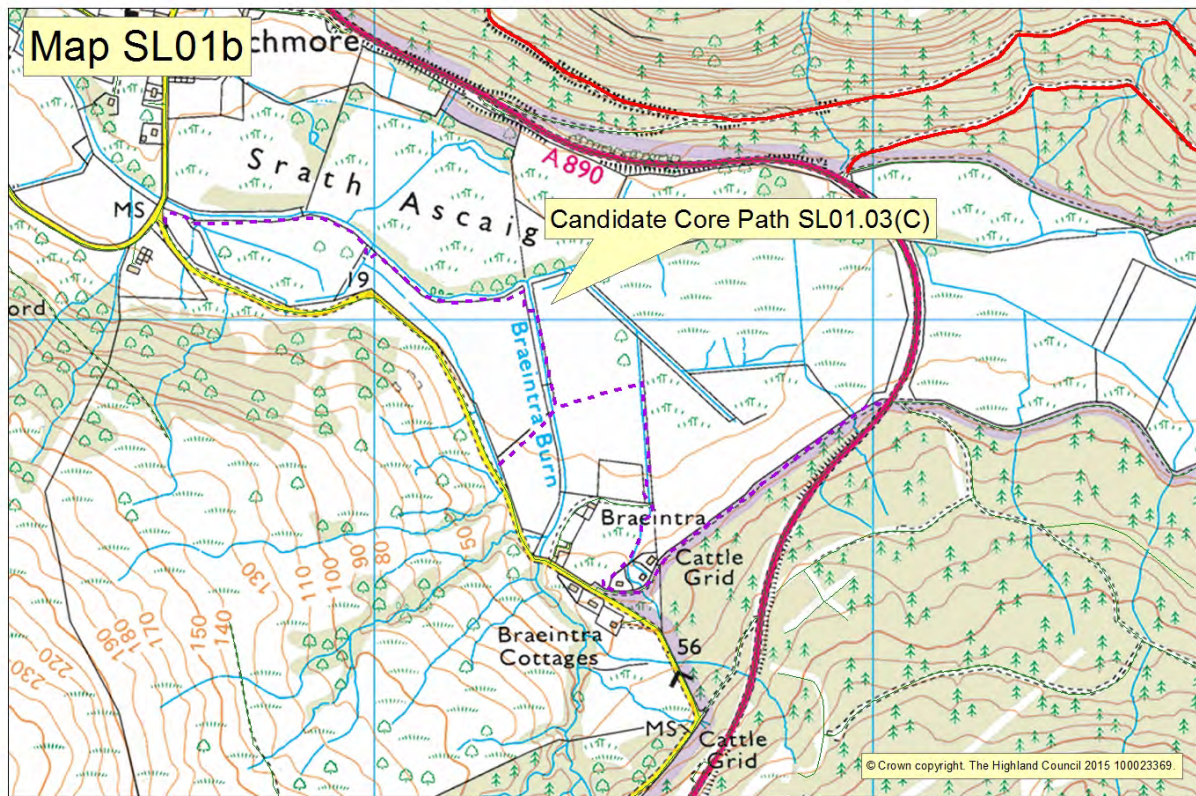








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