

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	5
Report No	SCC/03/19

Committee: Sutherland County Committee

Date: 25 February 2019

Report Title: Modified Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended

Report By: Director of Development and Infrastructure

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the review of The Highland Council Core Paths Plan in Sutherland with respect to the representations received on the amended core paths plan which was out for public consultation from December 2017 to March 2018.
- 1.2 The Council's responses, proposed positions and action to these representations are set out in **Appendix 1** of this report. 26 objections were received with respect to 17 core path amendments.
- 1.3 Of these, 11 objections to 6 of the core path amendments have been resolved through changes to the amended Core Paths Plan and it is proposed to modify the amended Core Paths Plan as shown in Maps SU 3f Elphin Modified, SU 19c Struie, SU 2g Clashnessie Modified, SU 4c Lochmore and SU26b Glencalvie Modified in **Appendix 2**.
- 1.4 15 of the objections relating to 12 core path amendments have not been resolved and it is proposed to submit the modified amended Core Paths Plan to Scottish Ministers with these objections outstanding. See Maps SU 20b Spinningdale, SU 25 Loch Naver, SU 22c Lairg, SU 14b Helmsdale, SU 21b Ardgay and Culrain, SU 8c Gobernuisgach, SU 18c Embo, SU 16c Dunrobin, SU 17b Rogart and SU 3f Elphin Modified in **Appendix 3**.
- 1.5 1 neutral comment has led to a proposed modification to the amended Core Paths Plan as seen on Map SU 18d Fourpenny in **Appendix 4**.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. approve the modifications to the Amended Core Path Plan which have resolved objections – shown in **Appendix 2**;
 - ii. approve the modification to the Amended Core Paths Plan following a representation shown in **Appendix 4**;
 - iii. approve the Amended Core Paths Plan for a 30 day public consultation on the above modifications; and
 - iv. approve the Amended Core Paths Plan with unresolved objections shown in **Appendix 3** and thereafter to be submitted to Scottish Ministers.

3 Core Paths Plan Review Procedure

- 3.1 The development of the existing Core Paths Plan is 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 it 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 (LDP). The Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan was started in 2014 at which point it was decided to review 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 the existing Core Path Plan to identify a change of line of routes or identify where upgraded/new routes have been constructed or used differently by the public;
 - work with the 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 The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended was approved by the Caithness Committee on the 16 June 2017 and the Sutherland County Committee on 23 June 2017.
- 3.5 The amended Core Paths Plan was published on the 18 December 2017 and was open to public consultation until 30 March 2018.
- 3.6 The responses received from the public, landowners, agencies and other interested parties and proposed actions in Sutherland were considered by the Sutherland Local Access Forum at their meeting on the 5 November 2018.

4. Responses and Proposed Position to Representations to the Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended.

- 4.1 The representations made, with regards to Sutherland, to the amended plan are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 41 representations were made with respect of 27 of the Sutherland core paths proposals.

13 representations were supportive of the amended plan with regard to 8 core path proposals. Replies have been sent to these representations and no further action is required.

2 representations were neutral with respect to 2 core path proposals; one representation has lead to a proposed modification of the amended Core Paths Plan.

26 representations objected to proposals in the Core Path Plan with respect to 17 core path proposals.

A number of core path proposals received supportive, neutral and objection representations.

- 4.3 The responses and proposals set out in this section relate to either proposed modifications to the amended Core Paths Plan or where The Highland Council is proposing to retain a proposal with an outstanding objection. Supportive or neutral comments which have not led to a modification are set out in **Appendix 1**.

Modifications to Amended Core Paths Plan which resolve objections

4.4 SU07.03(C) - Strathrusdale – Glencalvie

- 4.4.1 The estate's land agents have proposed an alternative to the proposed terminus of this core path at Glencalvie. This is accepted as being both a practical alternative and with some benefits for public users. The plan is to be modified to this alternative terminus. See Map SU 26b Glencalvie Modified– **Appendix 2**.

- 4.4.2 It should be noted that the route promoted in the original amended plan is a Public Right of Way and the Highland Council has a duty to protect and assert this route, unless a formal diversion is applied for and approved.

4.5 SU17.07(C) – Uamh an Tartair

- 4.5.1 This core path proposal was based in part on a long established promoted route to the cave and sinkhole at Uamh an Tartair and also a circular route promoted through a historic agricultural scheme by the crofter. The crofter objected to the circular route being a core path in part due to concern over deterioration of the path due to severe weather events and future maintenance of the route. Without the past works done by the crofter (bridges, boardwalks and signs) there would be no route to consider and the route is not known to be particularly well used.
- 4.5.2 The support of the crofter is judged to be required for this route given the route would not be in existence without such support and it is proposed to remove the circular section of route from the amended Core Path Plan. See Map SU 3f Elphin Modified – **Appendix 2**.

4.6 SU23.04(C) – Clashnessie Falls

An objection was received regards this proposal which mainly focused on the terminology of calling a path a 'core path' and the comparison of the two alternative routes to the falls. The objectors concerns have been allayed through discussion and site visit. The site visit has led to a proposal to slightly alter the route as promoted in the amended plan to avoid some rocky/steep ground and also bracken in the summer. See Map SU 2g Clashnessie Modified – **Appendix 2**.

4.7 SU25.05(C) – Kylestrome/Maldie Burn – Loch More

- 4.7.1 The estate's agent has proposed an alternative to the proposed terminus of this core path by Loch More. This is accepted as being both a practical alternative and with some benefits for public users. The plan is to be modified to this alternative terminus. See Map SU 4c Loch More – **Appendix 2**.

4.7.2 It should be noted that the route promoted in the original amended plan is a public Right of Way and the Highland Council has a duty to protect and assert this route, unless a formal diversion is applied for and approved.

4.8 **RC15.10(C) – Admirals Farm – Aultnamain**

4.8.1 This route was included early in the review after a suggestion from the Community Council to consider a core path from Admiral’s Farm to the Struie Road. During the consultation the Community Council, along with a range of other individuals, objected to the proposal as promoted in the amended Core Paths Plan.

4.8.2 Without the Community Council supporting this proposal it is not considered reasonable to pursue this route and it should be removed from the amended plan. See Map SU 19c Struie – **Appendix 2**.

4.9 **RC15.13(C) – Struie Hill Cairn Path**

Despite Community Council support for this proposal, there were road safety concerns upheld by The Highland Council’s Transport Planning team. Therefore this core path proposal is to be removed from the amended path. See Map SU 19c Struie – **Appendix 2**.

Propose to submit to Scottish Ministers the Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended with outstanding objections

4.10 **SU02.01(C) – Grummore SU02.02(C) – Grumbeg**

Objection did not raise any material considerations and none were forthcoming after replying to the objector. See Map SU 25 Loch Naver – **Appendix 3**.

4.11 **SU03.15(C) – Gledfield – Cona Creag**

The core path was supported by the estate in the developing of the amended plan. Concerns over litter and dog fouling, whilst understandable, are not criteria applicable when designating a core path; both activities are managed by other legislation and the Council would not disregard a route due to such widespread concerns. Deer stalking on the estate was highlighted but the core path only affects a small proportion of the estate and large unfenced forest allows deer to be concealed from the public on the core path route without dispersing them widely. See Map SU 21b Ardgay and Culrain – **Appendix 3**.

4.12 **SU09.20(C) – Embo Muir/Tinkers Drive – Railway Line**

This is land that is not excluded from access rights which are outlined in Section 6 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The route links existing core paths and is in good condition when visited in the development of the amended Core Paths Plan. See Map SU 18c Embo – **Appendix 3**.

4.13 **SU09.22(C) – Fairy Glen**

Path has been promoted as part of the local network since 2013 and there is dedicated parking nearby. The cairns are not scheduled, the path passes outside the sites and the features are already promoted on the Council’s own heritage information website. There is no basis to suppose that the promotion of the core path will lead to damage of sites. See Map SU20b Spinningdale – **Appendix 3**

- 4.14 **SU11.13(C) – Gobernuisgach**
Route of the proposed core path is already a public path in that it is a Public Right of Way. As such, when assessing the inclusion of the route in the amended Core Paths Plan the Council does not consider that the interests of the owner would be altered by a core path designation under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Alternatives could be provided by the estate but the current route would still remain open for public use and the Council would have a duty to assert and protect such use. The route was included in the amended Core Paths Plan on basis of a lack of core paths in the area and that the route provides a long distance route on good quality tracks. See Map SU 8c Gobernuisgach – **Appendix 3**.
- 4.15 **SU12.25(C) – Sportmans Walk – A9**
- 4.15.1 This proposed core path was considered by Public Local Inquiry in 2011 and the Reporter recommended its inclusion in the Core Paths Plan. However, Scottish Ministers did not direct the Council to adopt the route on the basis that a review of level crossings by The Law Commission of Scotland (LCS) was in progress.
- 4.15.2 The review reported in 2013 and it reiterated that the Council can designate core paths over railways and that the public would be able to exercise their access rights over a railway as long as that route is a core path.
- 4.15.3 The LCS review did recommend amendments to Section 6 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to confirm that access rights are exercisable at track level by means of a core path. However the review did not recommended new powers, so whilst no enabling legalisation has come from the 2013 LCS review it is considered reasonable for the Council to include this crossing in the amended core paths plan. See Map SU 16c Dunrobin – **Appendix 3**.
- 4.16 **SU13.09(C) – Navidale Cycle Path SU13.10(C) – Navidale Farm Track**
- 4.16.1 The Navidale Cycle Path is on the Council list of adopted roads and is on land owned by Scottish Ministers. The respondent has no power to manage or control use of the route and the representation is judged to not have merit.
- 4.16.2 Navidale Farm Track is an asserted Public Right of Way and the Council has a duty to protect and assert the route. As such when assessing the inclusion of the route in the amended core paths plan the Council does not consider that the interests of the owner would be altered by a core path designation Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. See Map SU 14b Helmsdale – **Appendix 3**.
- 4.17 **SU16.10(C) – Loch Craggie**
Loch Craggie is an attractive location and the fact that the track does not form a circular route does not preclude it from being a core path. The Council does not consider the use of the track for timber haulage as incompatible with public recreational access. See Map SU 22c Lairg – **Appendix 3**.
- 4.18 **SU17.07(C) – Uamh an Tartair**
This path was included in the amended plan on the basis that it has been promoted by the occupier(s) since 2006 and that there are no other core paths within the Elphin settlement. The respondent acknowledges the route is already is well used and has long been promoted in walking booklets (since the late 1980's) and now on line (e.g. walkhighlands.com). The respondent seems principally concerned about the promotion of the route as a formal core path which is not considered reasonable

grounds to reject the path. See Map SU 3f Elphin Modified – **Appendix 3.**

4.19 **SU20.01 – Meall Mor Fire Track**

The existing route and the proposed amendment are within the same fenced area, as such the comments made are not considered relevant to the consultation of the amended plan. The alternative tracks referred to do not meet up with the core path at the top of the forestry block. See Map SU 17b Rogart – **Appendix 3.**

Modifications to Amended Core Paths Plan in response to neutral representation

4.20 **SU09.03 – Embo – Coul Links Railway Track**

The terminus of this route at Fourpenny is not passable due to fences and the area is used for grazing cattle. An alternative is being promoted as part of the John O’Groats Trail and it is proposed to modify the Core Paths Plan to this alternative. See Map SU 18d Fourpenny – **Appendix 4.**

5. Implications

- 5.1 Resource – Advertisement of a modified amended Core Paths Plan consultation, and future adoption, 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, we consider that a period between 5 and 10 years as required.
- 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: 11 February 2019

Author: Matt Dent, Access Officer, Caithness and Sutherland

Sutherland

Overview of proposed action type	Outstanding objection but no proposed change to amended core paths plan
	Modify the amended core paths plan in response to representations received/resolve objection.

Comment ID	Core Path Ref.	Respondee	Approve of the plan.			Summary of Comments	Response - Stance	Proposed Action
			Support	Neutral	Object			
23	SU08.05(C)	Ian A Duncan	X			Supports proposed core path running partly on his holding at Creagan Breaca.	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
44	SU09.23(C)	Royal Dornoch Golf Club (Mr Neil Hampton)	X			Supports proposed core path at Embo Links	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
16	SU09.22(C)	Emeritus Professor E David Morgan			X	Disturbance and damage to historic sites. Duplicate and alternative paths available. Lack of car parking.	Path has been promoted as part of the local network since 2013 and there is dedicated parking within walking distance. The route is ideally suited to creating a circular route. The cairns are not scheduled, path passed outside the sites and they are promoted on the Councils own heritage information site, no basis that promotion of path will lead to damage of the sites.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU20b Spinningdale
63	SU09.03	Friends of the John O'Groats Trail (Mr Jay Wilson)		X		Western terminus of this core path is obstructed.	Alternative route, suggested by the respondee, has been investigated and is suitable for consideration.	Divert existing core path to alternative route at Skelbo/Fourpenny. See Map Fourpenny SU 18d.
18		Knockan Common Grazings (Margaret J M Strang)			X	Deterioration of the path due to severe weather. Encouragement of walking with dogs in an area used for livestock and lambing.	This path was included in the amended plan on the basis that it has been promoted by the occupier(s) since 2006 and that there are no other core paths within the Elphin settlement. Discussions with the occupier during the drawing up of the amended plan suggested there was continued support for this route. Concerns relate primarily to the in-bye areas of the proposed core path.	Remove the circular section of proposed core path that passes through in-bye croft. See Map SU 3f Elphin Modified
43	SU17.07(C)	Ledmore & Keanchulish Estate			X	Suggests that the route (from Blar a Chuail to Uamh an Tartair caves) is already well used but is of limited interest only for cavers and pot holers, so insufficient public interest to justify as a core path. Area is potentially dangerous due to collapsed caves and sudden drops, so without significant infrastructure works it would be irresponsible to promote on the grounds of public safety. Furthermore path itself is very rough or non-existent and unsuitable for increased footfall. Designation could result in increase in potential liability for the landowner. In addition the route, if promoted, could cause additional disruption and problems for deer population movements and deer stalking operations. Increased disturbance is likely to push deer SW potentially down to the public road at Knockan or Langwell. Disturbance could be exacerbated if enhanced public access result in walker seeking a return via Knockan Crag.	This path was included in the amended plan on the basis that it has been promoted by the occupier(s) since 2006 and that there are no other core paths within the Elphin settlement. The respondee acknowledges the route is already well used and given the route has been long promoted in walks booklets (since the late 1980's) and now on line (walkhighlands.com etc.) the respondee only seems concerned about the promotion of the route as a formal core path not promotion in its own right, such unease about the core path status does not seem reasonable. Concerns relate only to the hill area of the proposed core path to Uamh an Tartair.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU 3f Elphin Modified

Comment ID	Core Path Ref.	Respondee	Approve of the plan.			Summary of Comments	Response - Stance	Proposed Action
			Support	Neutral	Object			
2 & 3 (repeated comment)	RC15.13(C)	Ted Venn		X		Improvements required at western end so that walkers can safely traverse a ditch. Unsure why it should be included in core paths plan as route already promoted in guide books etc.	Consultations with Transport Planning in Highland Council led to an objection from them about the inclusion of this route in the amended core paths plan	Remove core path from amended plan. Route objected to by Transport Planning Team. See modified Map SU 19c Struie.
33		Mr Michael Brown	X			This would be an excellent addition to the local network. However access point demand formal safe parking at both ends, in particular the B9176 where is also a road side ditch to be bridged.		
38		Edderton Community Council	X			ECC promotes the creation of this core path, however suitable parking facilities at both ends of this linear route need to be formally established. It is also important that a safe means of crossing the roadside ditch are provided. There are some sections where steps or switchback need to be put in place to avoid erosion and so safety.		
55		Mr Simon Andrew Lockwood			X	Route does fulfil basis strategy of linkage on a strategic scale; core paths should provide all ability routes giving strategic links on safe paths and this would be expected by the public. As exists this route does not offer a safe walking environment due to precipitous terrain of crags, scree, bogs and ditches. The exit onto the busy B9176 end is ridiculous in the extreme, there is no formal parking. Much modification to the route and to provision for parking would be required in order to allow suitable use at a disproportionately high cost.		
4		Mr Ted Venn			X	Interaction with the public on track used for timber lorries. Risk of accidents on B9176. No car parking facilities. Proposal of alternative to suggested core path route.		
6	Fountains Forestry UK Ltd (Mr Douglas Murray)			X	Object on grounds on public safety, no space on track for HGVs and pedestrians. Risk of accidents on B9176. No car parking facilities	Consultations with Transport Planning in Highland Council led to concerns from them about the inclusion of this route in the amended core paths plan	Remove core path from amended plan. Route not supported by Community Council or Transport Planning Team. See modified Map SU 19c Struie.	
30	Mr Michael Brown			X	Interaction with the public on track used for timber lorries. Risk of accidents on B9176. No car parking facilities. Proposal of alternative to suggested core path route.			
41	Edderton Community Council			X	Proposed core path uses a route upgraded for timber haulage which would mean timber lorries using route past the primary school. Inappropriate to promote recreational use of this route. No parking on B9176 leading to blocking of the bellmouth. Alternative route proposed.			
57	Mr Simon Andrew Lockwood			X	Proposal is totally against the principals of the core path and national guidance, hinders the safe use of the countryside and impacts directly on the effectiveness of land management operations. There are no provisions for access takers to safely use this route due to limitations of width, inclines, bends, 44tonne lorries, ditches and deep peat. Within the adjacent forest harvesting and extraction equipment with 150m+ risk zones. The B9176 has no facilities for safe public use or parking, it is unsuitable for walking and risk of cars blocking access to the track for forestry purposes.			
45	Ms Eleanor O'Hara			X	Objects on grounds of obstruction of landowners business operation; failure to engage with landowners per best practice guidelines; conflict with strategic timber; safety concerns; financial penalty for landowners and alternative route available.			

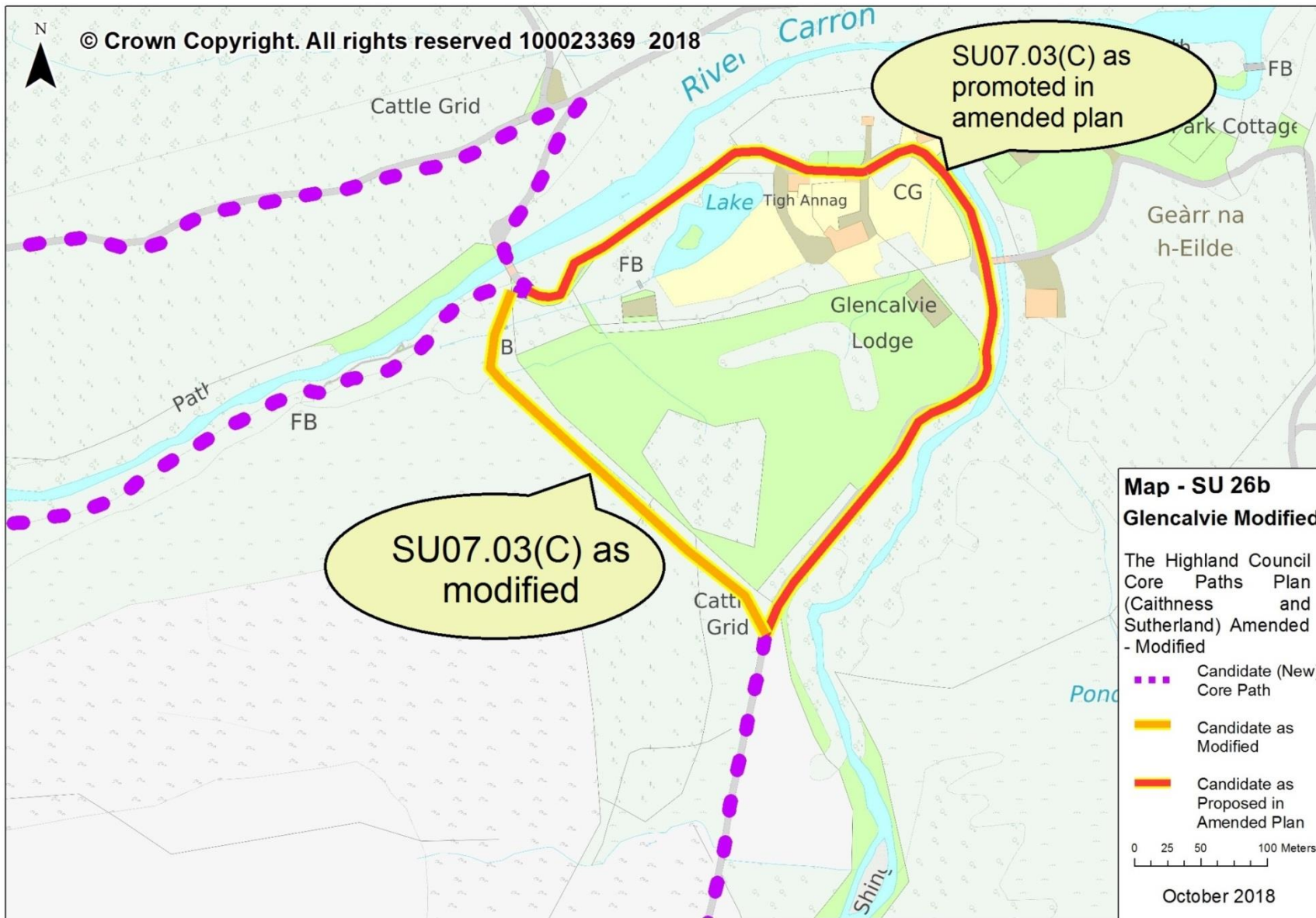
Comment ID	Core Path Ref.	Respondee	Approve of the plan.			Summary of Comments	Response - Stance	Proposed Action
			Support	Neutral	Object			
61	SU07.04(C)	Ms Betty Wright	X			Pleased to see additions to the core path network but notes inappropriate signs are in place.	Acknowledgement sent, signs to be discussed with land owner.	n/a
20	SU23.04(C)	Roger G Kershaw			X	Concerns over term "core path" and comparison of the two alternative routes to the falls from the public road.	Following discussion and installation of previously installed map sign at car park objection withdrawn. After site visit there is a proposal to modify the route taken close by the stepping stones, this is to avoid a steep section, an area of bracken growth and utilise a pre-existing gap in the old boundary wall.	Alter proposed core path to avoid steep ground, bracken and utilise gap in old boundary wall. See Clashnessie SU2g Map
21	SU02.01(C)	Greens Chartered Surveyors (Sebastian Green)			X	Wishes route to remain as a permissive path and not classed as a core path.	Objection does raise any material considerations and none were forthcoming after initial letter sent.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU25 Loch Naver
22	SU02.02(C)	Greens Chartered Surveyors (Sebastian Green)			X	Wishes route to remain as a permissive path and not classed as a core path.	Objection does raise any material considerations and none were forthcoming after initial letter sent.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU25 Loch Naver
17	SU16.10(C)	Highfield Forestry Ltd (Mr Iain Pedie)			X	Route does not meet criteria as a core path because it is an "in and out" route. Conflict with future timber haulage and public.	Loch Craggie is an attractive location and the fact that the track does not form a circular route does not preclude it from being a core path. The Council does not consider the use of the track for timber haulage is in compatible with public recreational access.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU22c Lairg
26	SU13.10(C)	Philip Davidson			X	Track passes through an animal control area and farm yard. Proposed deer farm for the track. There are alternative paths.	The proposed core path is already a public right of way and hence a public path. The concerns may be reasonable but the designation of a core path does not alter how the land should be managed or the public exercise their rights of passage or rights of recreational access.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU14b Helmsdale
27	SU13.09(C)	Philip Davidson			X	This old road is proposed to become a deer farm and used for access to the hill grazing.	The proposed core path is an adopted cycle path and it owned by Scottish Ministers, the respondent has no control over the management or use of this land.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map SU14b Helmsdale
40	RC15.11(C)	Edderton Community Council	X			ECC supports the creation of this core path but is aware that a considerable amount of work will be necessary before this path can be used.	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
31		Mr Michael Brown	X			Considers this a useful extension to the core path plan	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
39	RC15.12(C)	Edderton Community Council	X			ECC in general support the creation of core paths where there is benefit to the local community and to the promotion of tourism providing they are appropriately promoted and funds are available to maintain them	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
32		Mr Michael Brown	X			This is already a well established and used path. A core path status would help to further promote its popularity.	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a

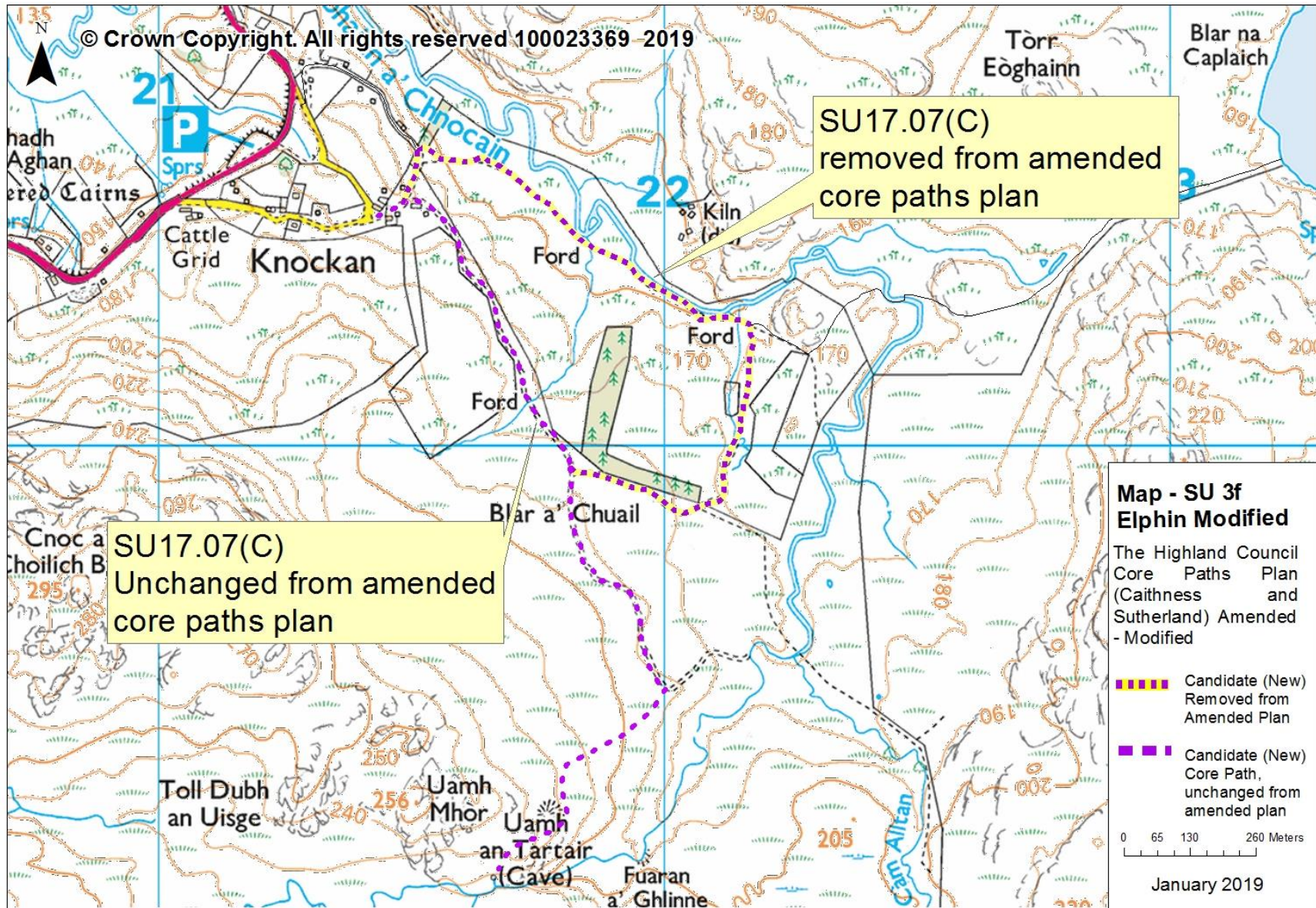
Comment ID	Core Path Ref.	Respondee	Approve of the plan.			Summary of Comments	Response - Stance	Proposed Action
			Support	Neutral	Object			
37	RC15.14(C)	Edderton Community Council	X			ECC in general support the creation of core paths where there is benefit to the local community and to the promotion of tourism providing they are appropriately promoted and funds are available to maintain them	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
34		Mr Michael Brown	X			This route is in regular use by both pedestrian and equestrian use which indicates it is suitable for nomination as a core path.	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a
35	SU25.05(C)	Reay Forest Estate (Mr Dougal Lindsay)			X	The estate does not object to the principle of a core path to Achfary however it would request the western leg at Kylestrome is removed to leave only the Maldie Burn track. Also the section terminating at Lochmore is altered to a new forest track between Achfary and Lochmore Cottages	The Western leg of the proposed core path from Kylestrome to the Maldie Burn Junction provides a circuit from Kylestrome and it is proposed to retain the route as promoted in the amended core paths plan. The alternative terminus at Lochmore is potentially an option but need to be assessed against the Councils duty to assert, protect and keep open the existing public right of way that terminates at Lochmore Cottages.	Modify the amended core paths plan to promote an alternative terminus at Lochmore. See Map Lochmore SU4c.
36	SU11.13(C)	Reay Forest Estate (Mr Dougal Lindsay)			X	For reason of privacy and amenity we submit that the proposed route is unacceptable.	Route of the proposed core path is already a public path in that it is a public right of way, as such when assessing the inclusion of the route in the amended core paths plan the Council does not consider that the interests of the owner would not be altered by a core path designation Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Alternatives could be provided by the estate but the current route would still remain open for public use and the Council would have a duty to promote and protect such use. Route was included in the amended core paths plan on basis of lack of core paths in the area and that the route provides a long distance route on good quality tracks.	Retain modified core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map Governuisgach SU 8c.
52		Mr Robert Woods			X	Track is already covered by access legislation, marked on OS maps and is known about by the hill walking community. Nobody has explained to us what benefits it would bring to designate this a core path and why it needs to be designated as such. There is full public access and we believe there is no need for The Highland Council to assume extra responsibilities.		
56		Mrs Carol March			X	Path already has unrestricted access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and is obvious to those exploring the area. Track runs through what is effectively our garden and brings people very close to the both the Keepers House, Lodge and outbuildings. We feel that it would not be reasonable to class this a core path and undoubtedly increase the number of visitors unless we would identify an alternative route avoiding the properties.		

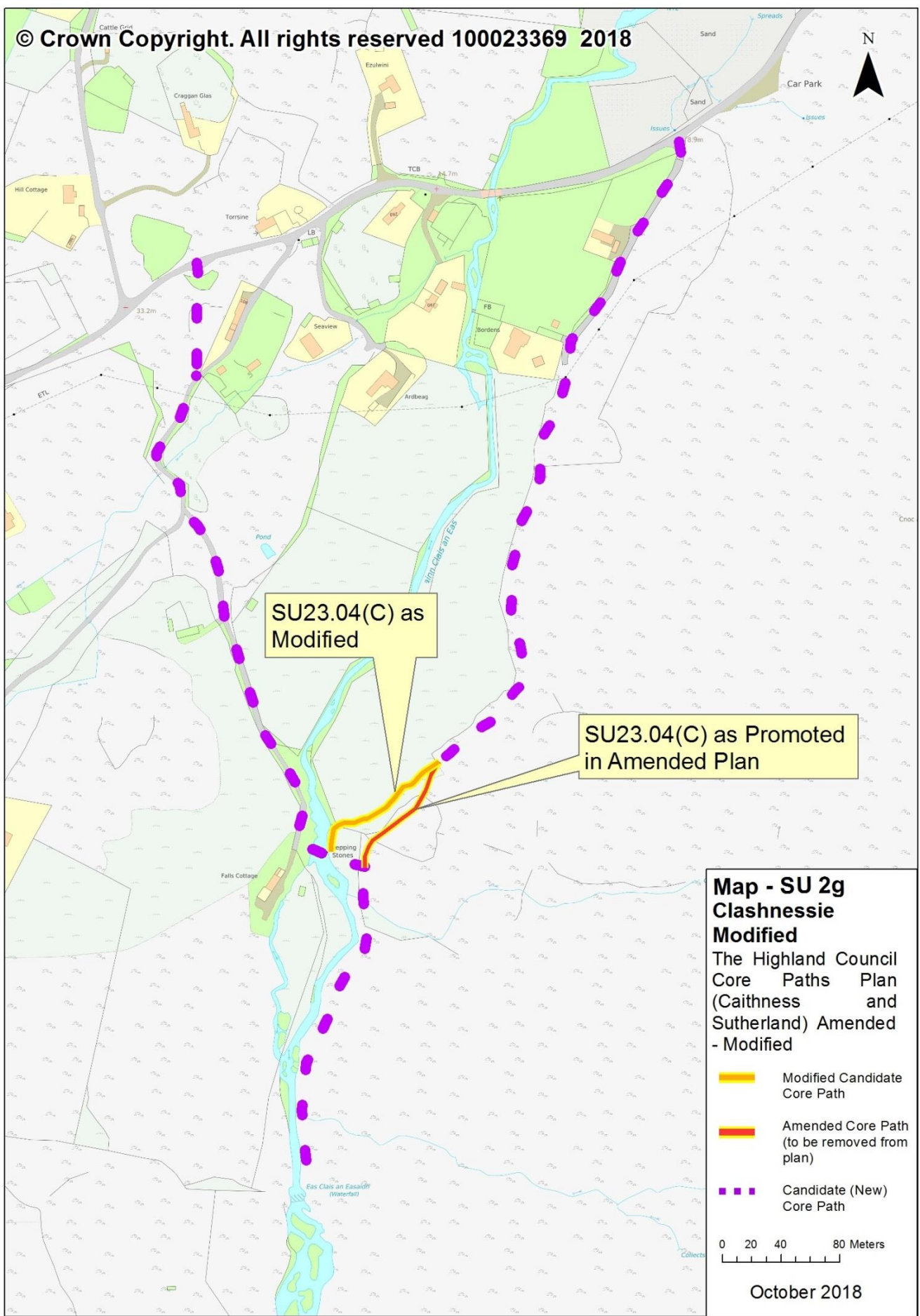
Comment ID	Core Path Ref.	Respondee	Approve of the plan.			Summary of Comments	Response - Stance	Proposed Action
			Support	Neutral	Object			
48, 49, 50 Multiple Comments	SU09.20(C)	Trustees for Firm of Embo Mains Farm (John Mackenzie Mackintosh)			X	That the proposed core path is land over which access rights are not exercisable, part of the proposed core path runs in close proximity to a piggery and lies with the curtilage of a group of buildings. Route of core path is not used regularly by the public and is a heavily used farm track not suited to promotion of public access. Route is in a poor condition and there is not parking provision in proximity to the proposed core path. Proposed core path would impact on how the land could be managed and hinder ability to use the piggery.	Land is not that covered by provisions of Section 6 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, areas where access rights are not exercisable. Route links existing core paths and was in a good condition when visited in the development of the amended core paths plan.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map Embo SU 18c.
7	SU03.05	Gledfield Estate (Mr Gernot Langes-Swaroski)	X			This changes takes the core path down a plantation boundary and could be used as a loop route with the Eastern Badvoon path. Public will need to be aware of imminent felling activities and regular culling activities.	Comments noted	n/a
8	SU03.05	Gledfield Estate (Mr Gernot Langes-Swaroski)			X	No provision for parking or collection of dog litter. The low ground is popular for hinds to congregate in winter months, estate has concerns over public safety in this area and difficulties of land management should it be a core path.	Core path passes through small part of holding with significant adjacent area of deer feeding, including large areas in unfenced forestry for deer to use. Dog fouling and litter are very general concerns which would not limit the promotion of a recreation route. Parking to be monitored.	Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map Ardgay & Culrain SU 21b.
60	SU07.03(C)	Bell Ingram LLP (Alastair Harrington)			X	Request that The Highland Council consider an alternative route to that which passes through the grounds of Glen Calvie Lodge. Would avoid a number of cattle grids and close proximity to operational deer larder.	Proposed route is a public right of way so the Council considers the route to a public path and the Council has a duty to assert the route. Alternative route would be to be constructed but would provide an improved path for dog walkers, those with young children and equestrian users. Not withstanding the Councils duty to assert the public right of way the alternative is acceptable	Modify the amended core paths plan to promote an alternative terminus at Glencalvie. See Map SU 26b Glencalvie Modified
51	SU19.09(C)	RSPB (Scotland) Ms Abi Ball	X			Whilst the society is supportive of the promotion of the Forsinain Trail, it concerned over the potential timing of the core path confirmation and impact of this on the planning forestry operations within Forsinain plantation. The proposed core path passes adjacent to and through forestry coupes to be felled as well as the forming part of the extraction haul route. This is one-off felling followed by peatland restoration and the society will work constructively with the Council.	Acknowledgement sent, no further action required.	n/a

Comment ID	Core Path Ref.	Respondee	Approve of the plan.			Summary of Comments	Response - Stance	Proposed Action
			Support	Neutral	Object			
54	SU12.25(C)	Network Rail (Mrs Lisa Cameron)			X	<p>Network Rail previously objected to this route being included in the core paths plan and the reporter noted that it was premature to direct core paths over railway line until the legal review of level crossings by the Scottish Law Commission was completed. NR object to this proposal on the grounds of Prematurity and Lack of Force of Law. Recommendations of the law commission report expressly state legislation is required to make changes.</p>	<p>The Scottish Law Commission report clearly states that Local Authorities can designate a core path over land which falls within Section 6 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, which includes railways. The draft bill, to which the Scottish Law Commission report leads, does not propose to give Local Authorities this power. This is clarified in para. 5.60 of the report; stating the proposed bill confirms this position (as opposed to creating such a power or new form of access rights). As directed by Scottish Ministers in July 2011 the Council has only reconsidered the above routes inclusion into the core path plan after the Scottish Law Commission report has been published. The Highland Council has reconsidered these routes and has concluded there is still a requirement for their inclusion in the core paths plan in order that the core path plan provides a sufficient network for the public in that area.</p>	<p>Retain proposed core path as promoted in the amended plan. See Map Dunrobin SU16c.</p>
58		John E Moodie			X	<p>Objected to the inclusion of the existing path in the Core Paths plan. The ground is not suitable to have a footpath through it on the grounds of animal welfare, public safety and general biosecurity. Request route uses tracks which do not have stock on them.</p>	<p>Objection to the existing core path was made verbally in December 2013 after the route had already been adopted by the Council in September 2011. The existing route and the proposed amendment are within the same fenced area, as such comments made are not considered relevant to the consultation of the amended plan. The alternative tracks referred to do not meet up with the core path at the top of the forestry block.</p>	
59	SU20.01	Tressady Sporting Estate (Archie Maclellan)			X	<p>Track was built to assist in land management. Whilst the public has a right to use the track it is irresponsible to do so when there is a suitable alternative.</p>		

Appendix 2









SU23.04(C) as Modified

SU23.04(C) as Promoted in Amended Plan

Map - SU 2g Clashnessie Modified
The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended - Modified

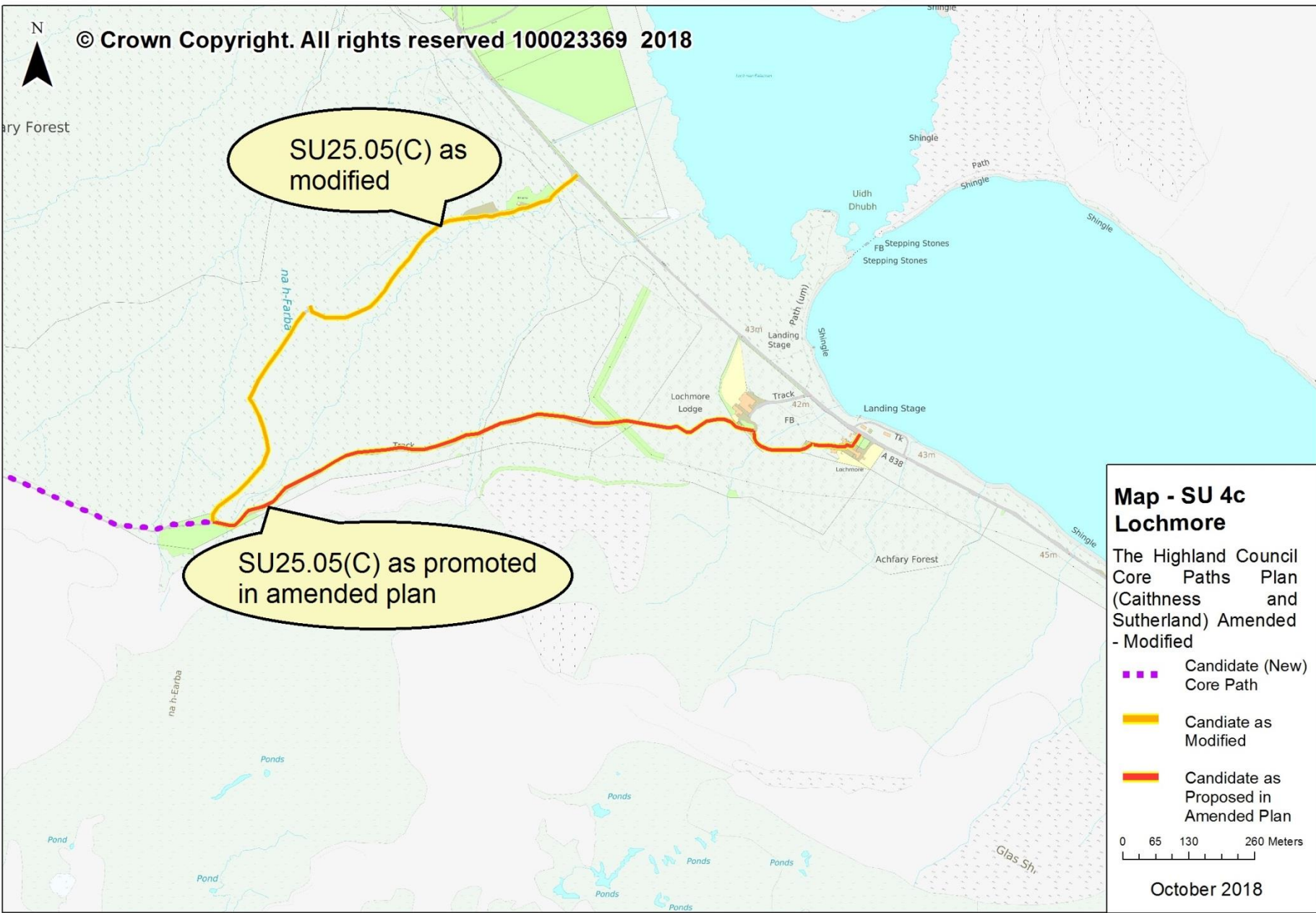
-  Modified Candidate Core Path
-  Amended Core Path (to be removed from plan)
-  Candidate (New) Core Path

0 20 40 80 Meters

October 2018



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SU25.05(C) as modified

SU25.05(C) as promoted in amended plan

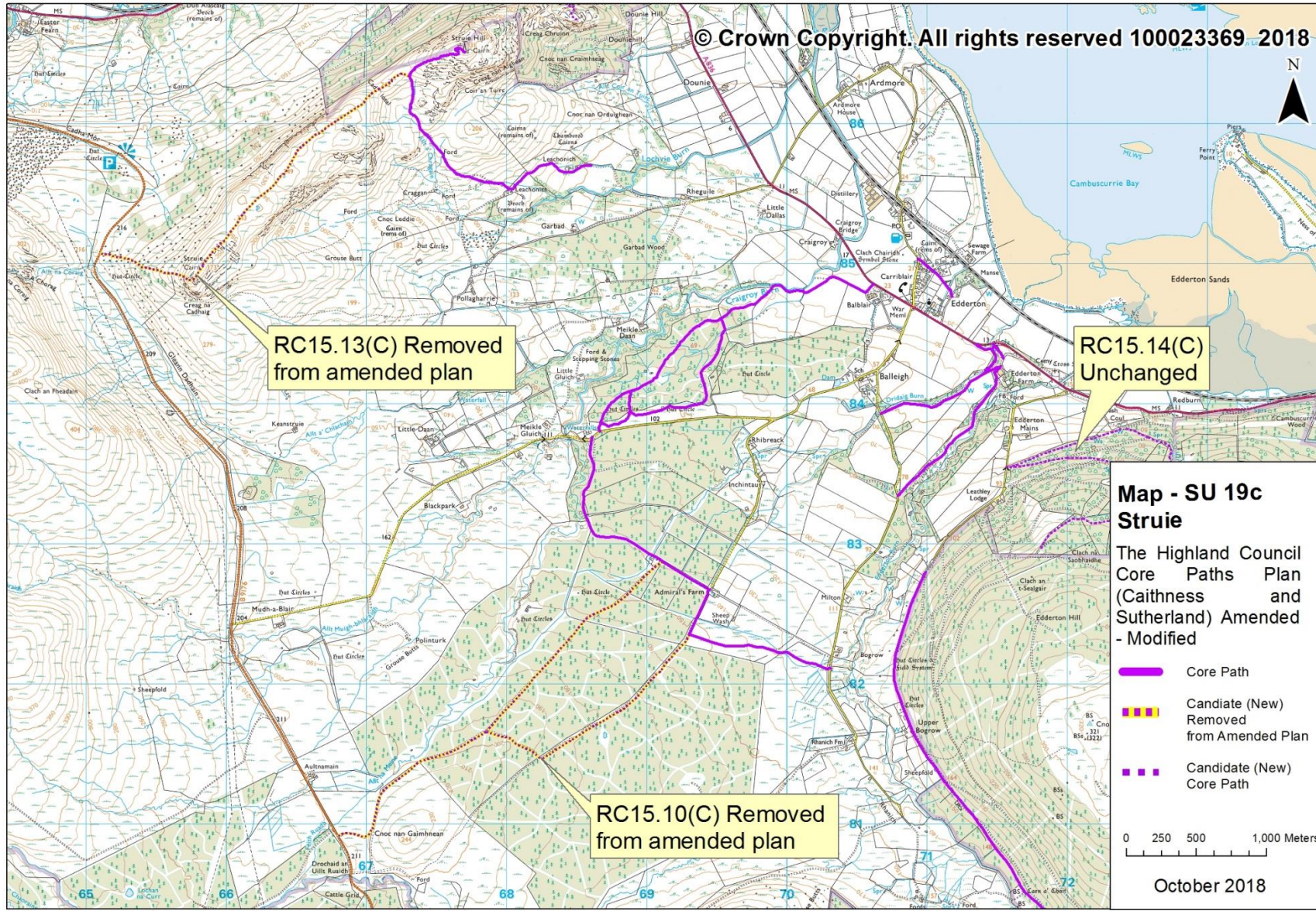
Map - SU 4c Lochmore

The Highland Council
Core Paths Plan
(Caithness and
Sutherland) Amended
- Modified




- Candidate (New) Core Path
- Candidate as Modified
- Candidate as Proposed in Amended Plan

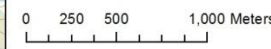
0 65 130 260 Meters

October 2018



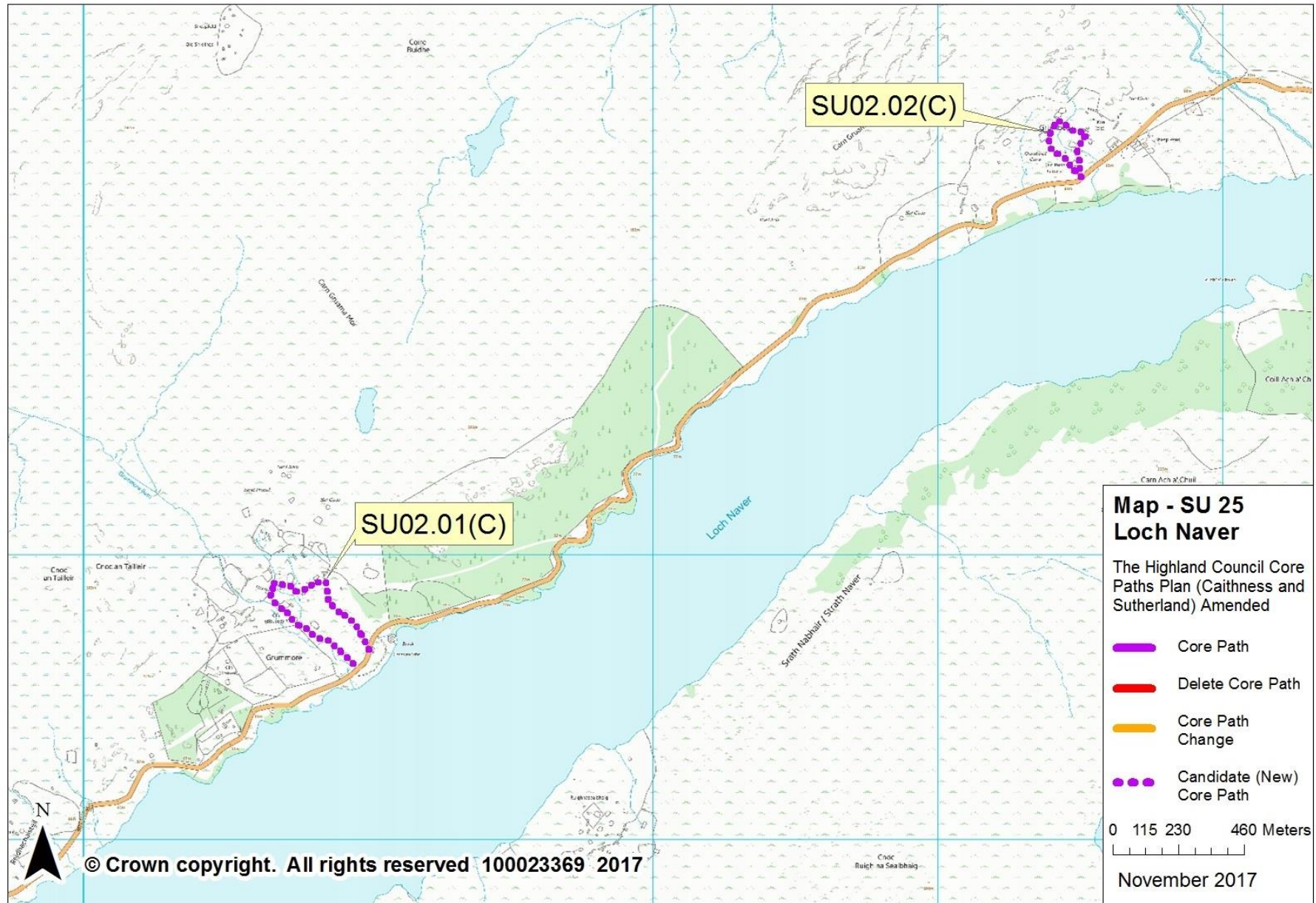
Map - SU 19c Struie
The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended - Modified

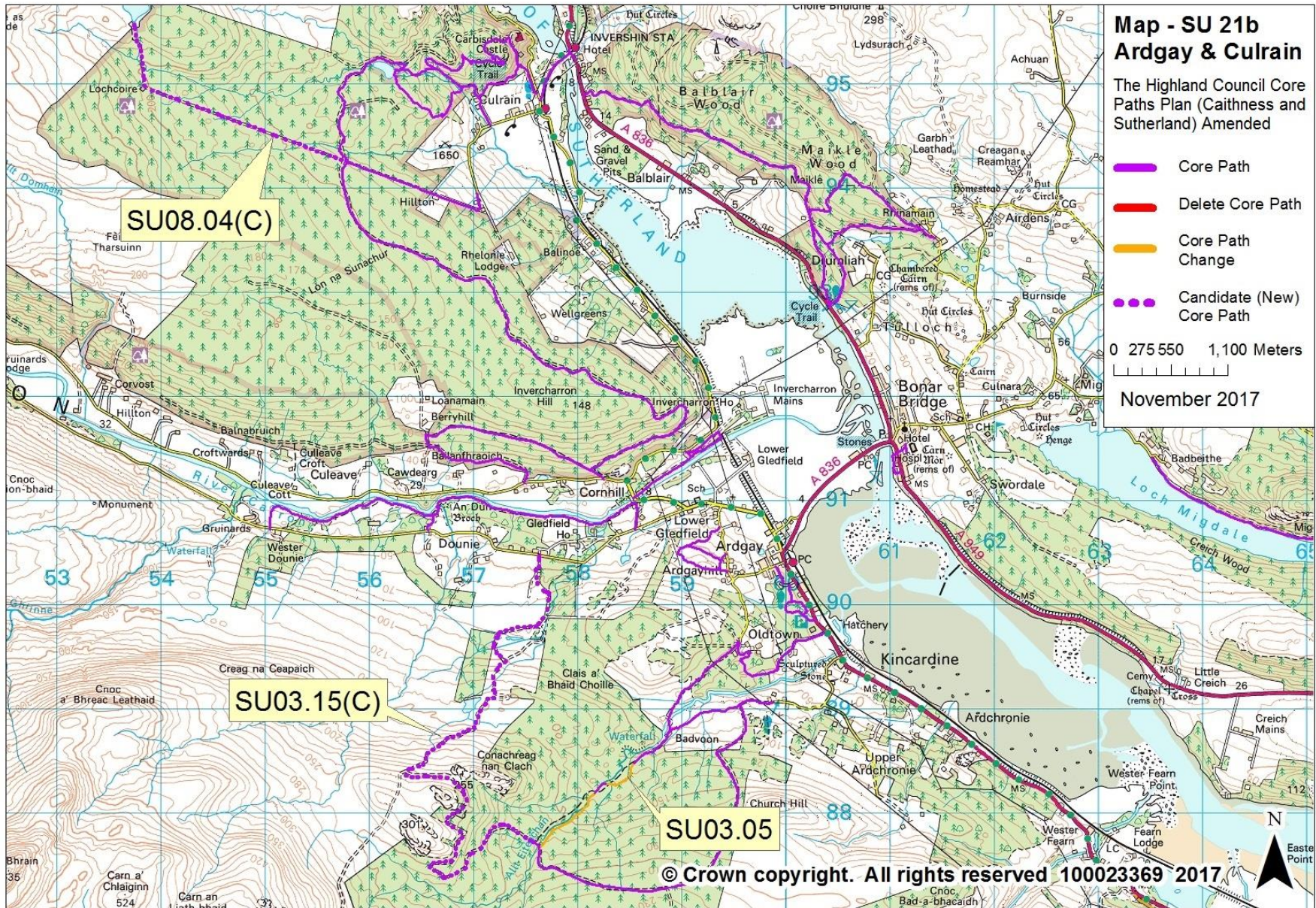
-  Core Path
-  Candidate (New) Removed from Amended Plan
-  Candidate (New) Core Path



October 2018

Appendix 3





Map - SU 21b Ardgay & Culrain

The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended

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

0 275 550 1,100 Meters

November 2017

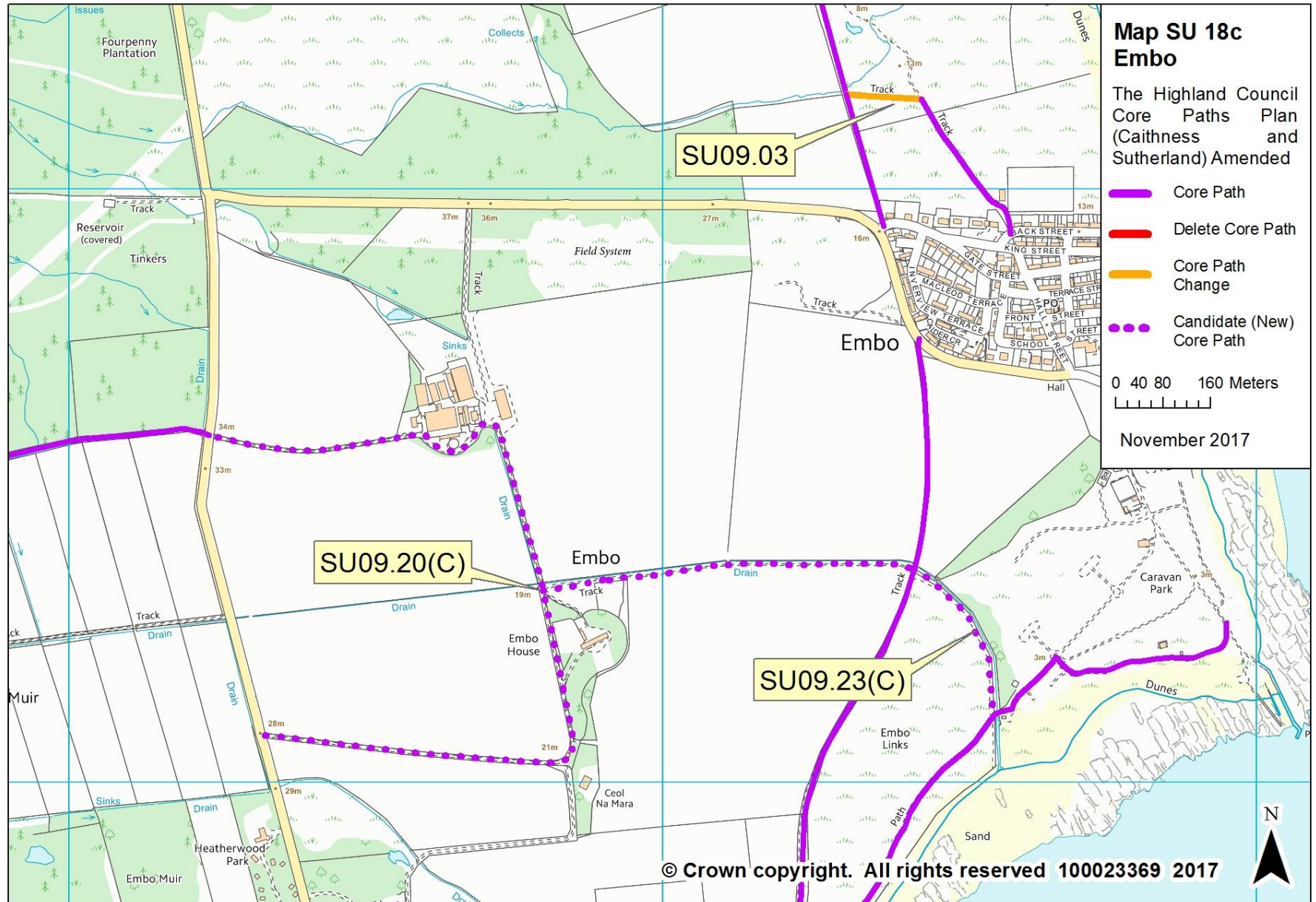
SU08.04(C)

SU03.15(C)

SU03.05

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SU09.03

SU09.20(C)

SU09.23(C)

Embo

Embo

Embo House

Embo Links

Ceol Na Mara

Issues

Fourpenny Plantation

Collects

Reservoir (covered)

Tinkers

Field System

Sinks

Dunes

BACK STREET

KING STREET

TERRACE ST

MACLEOD TERRACE

POWELL TERRACE

SCHOOL STREET

HALL

Caravan Park

Dunes

Muir

Sinks

Drain

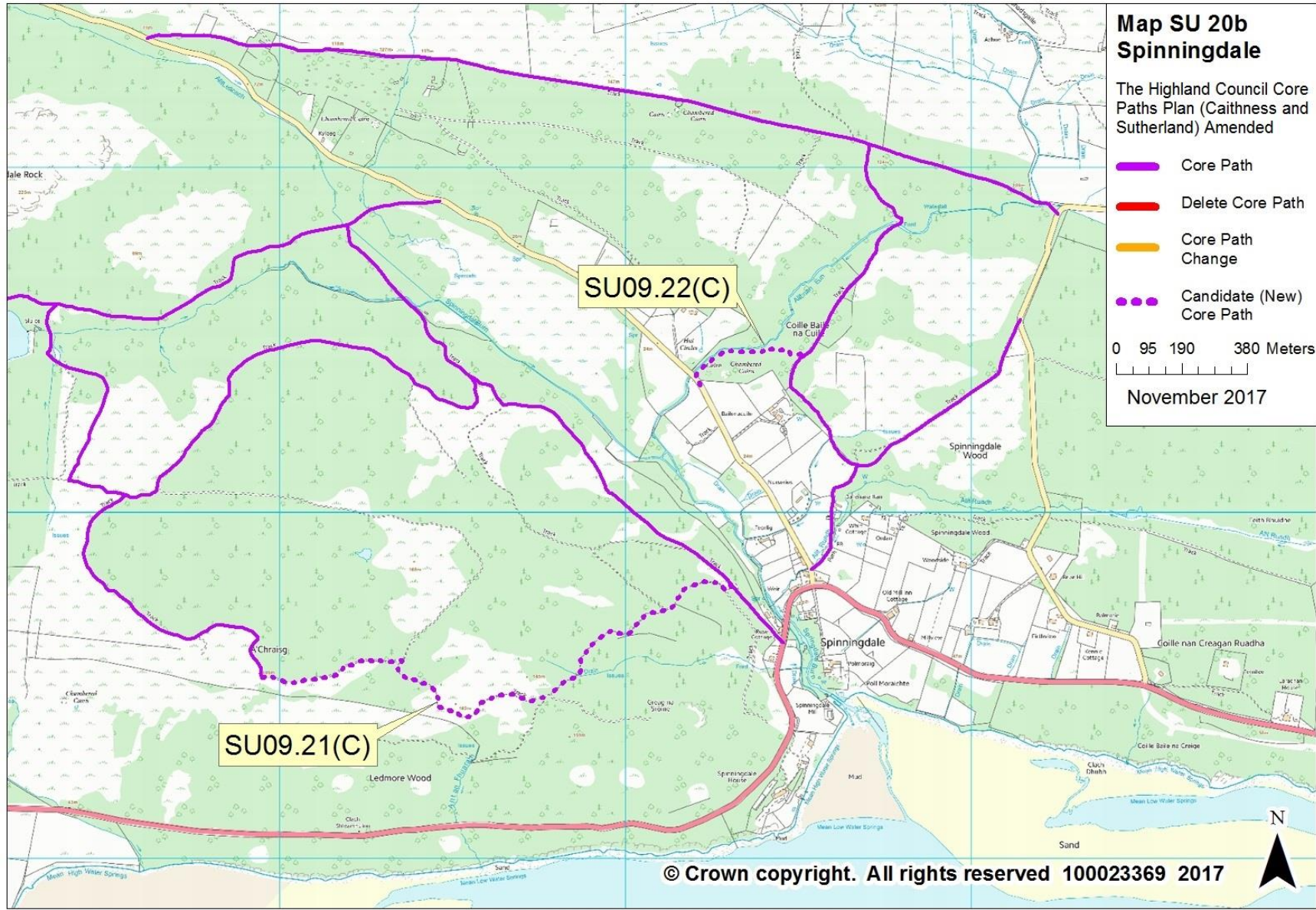
Heatherwood Park

Embo Muir

Path

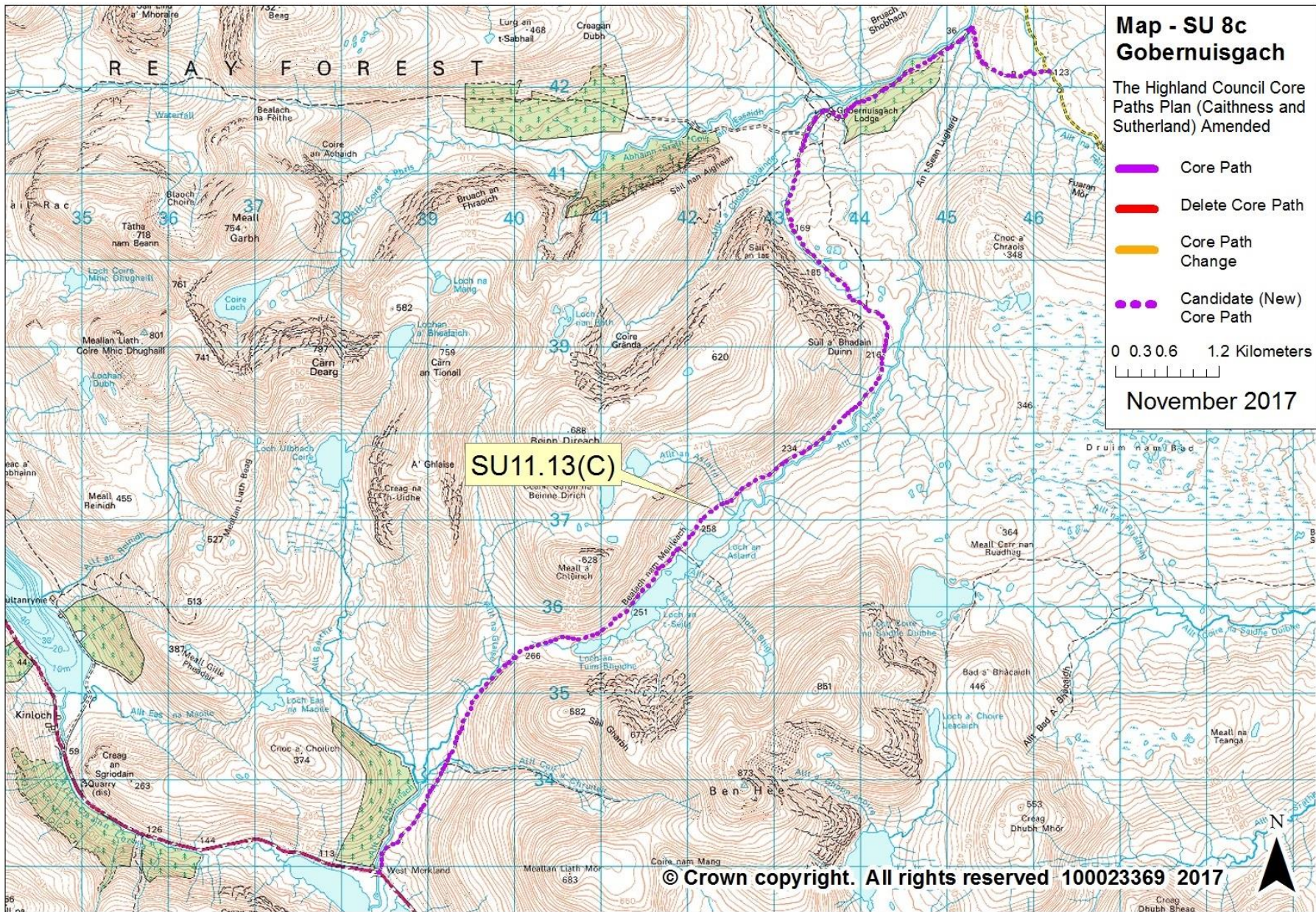
Sand

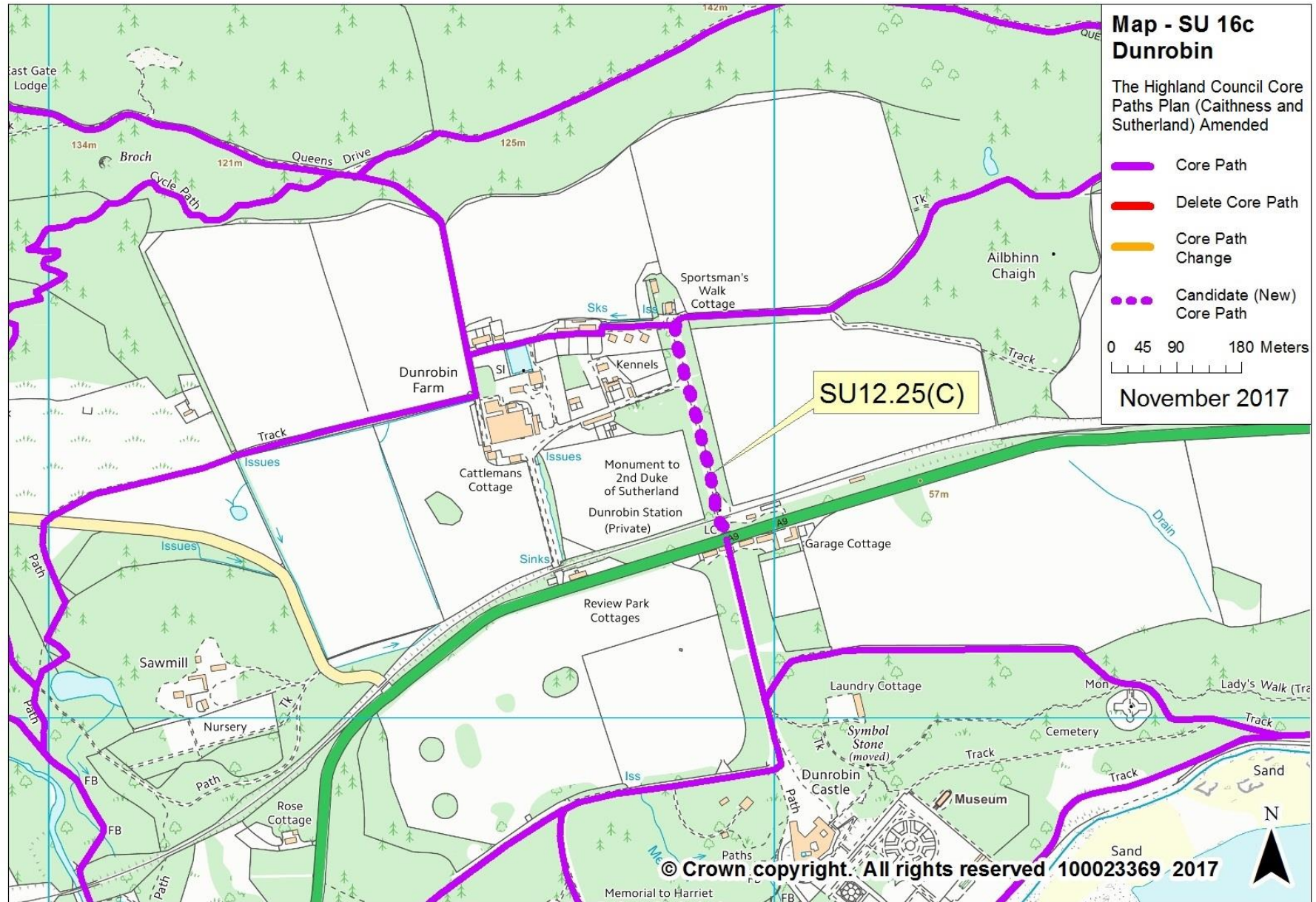
N

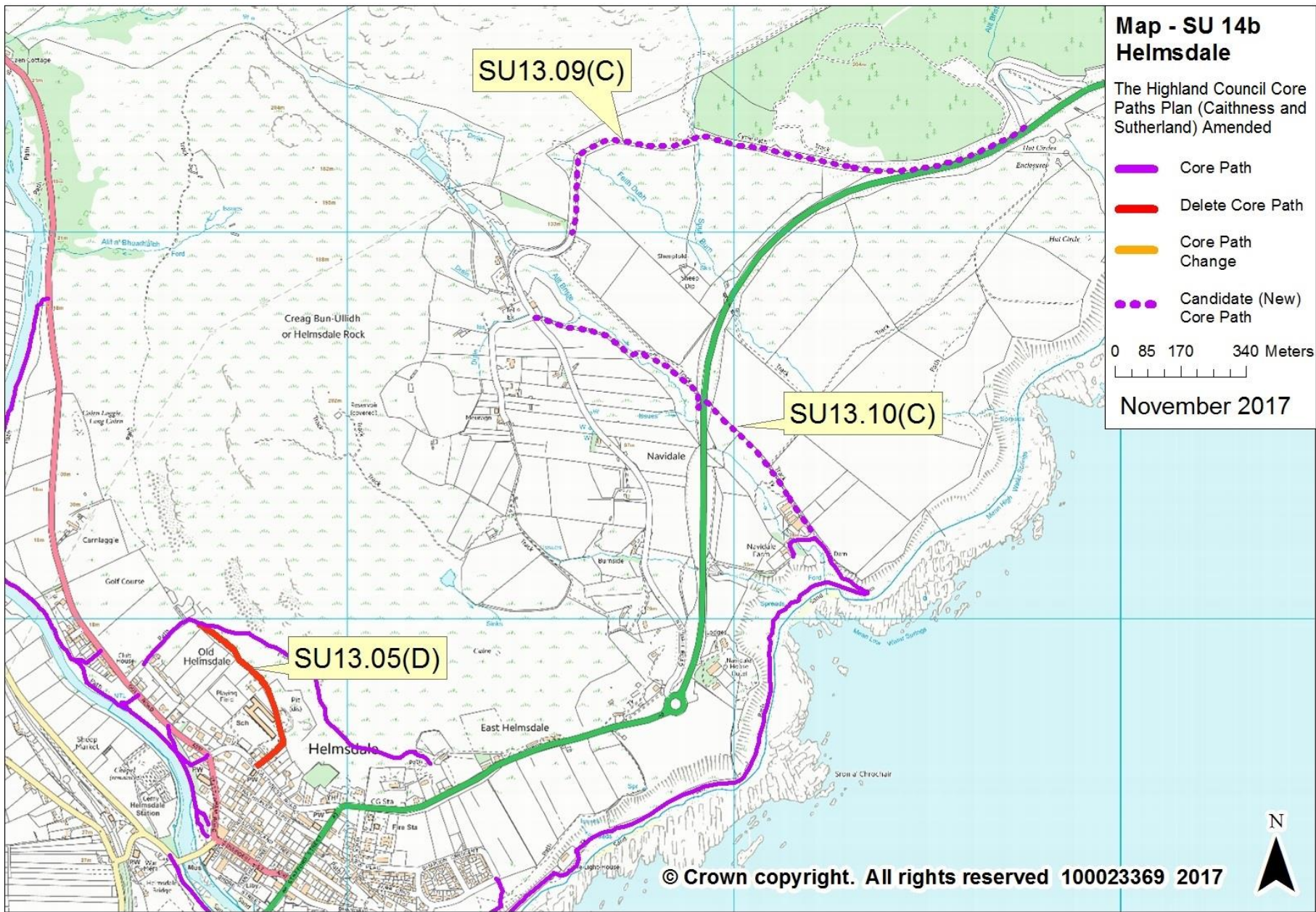


SU09.22(C)

SU09.21(C)







SU13.09(C)


SU13.10(C)

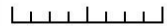
SU13.05(D)



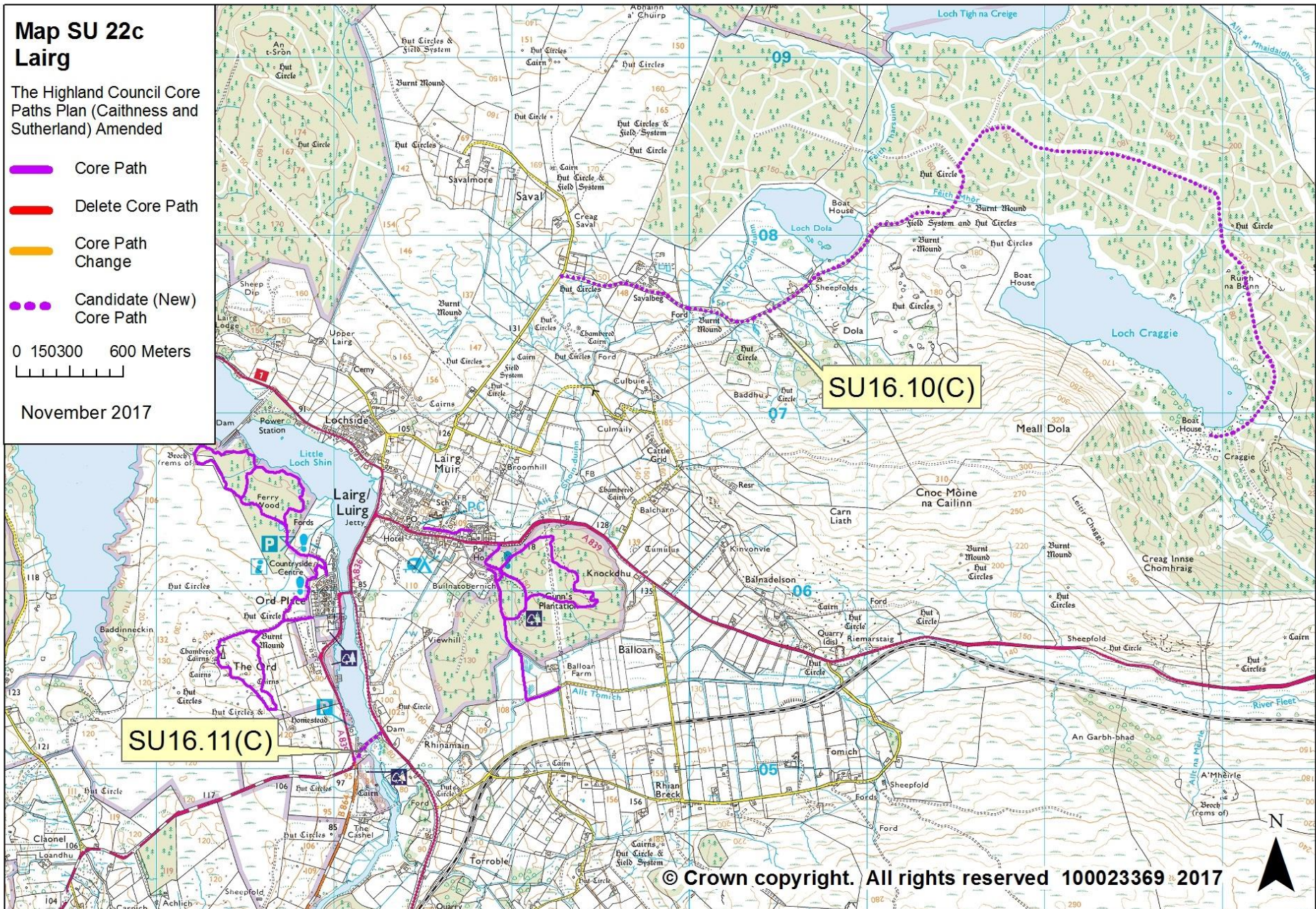
Map SU 22c Lairg

The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended

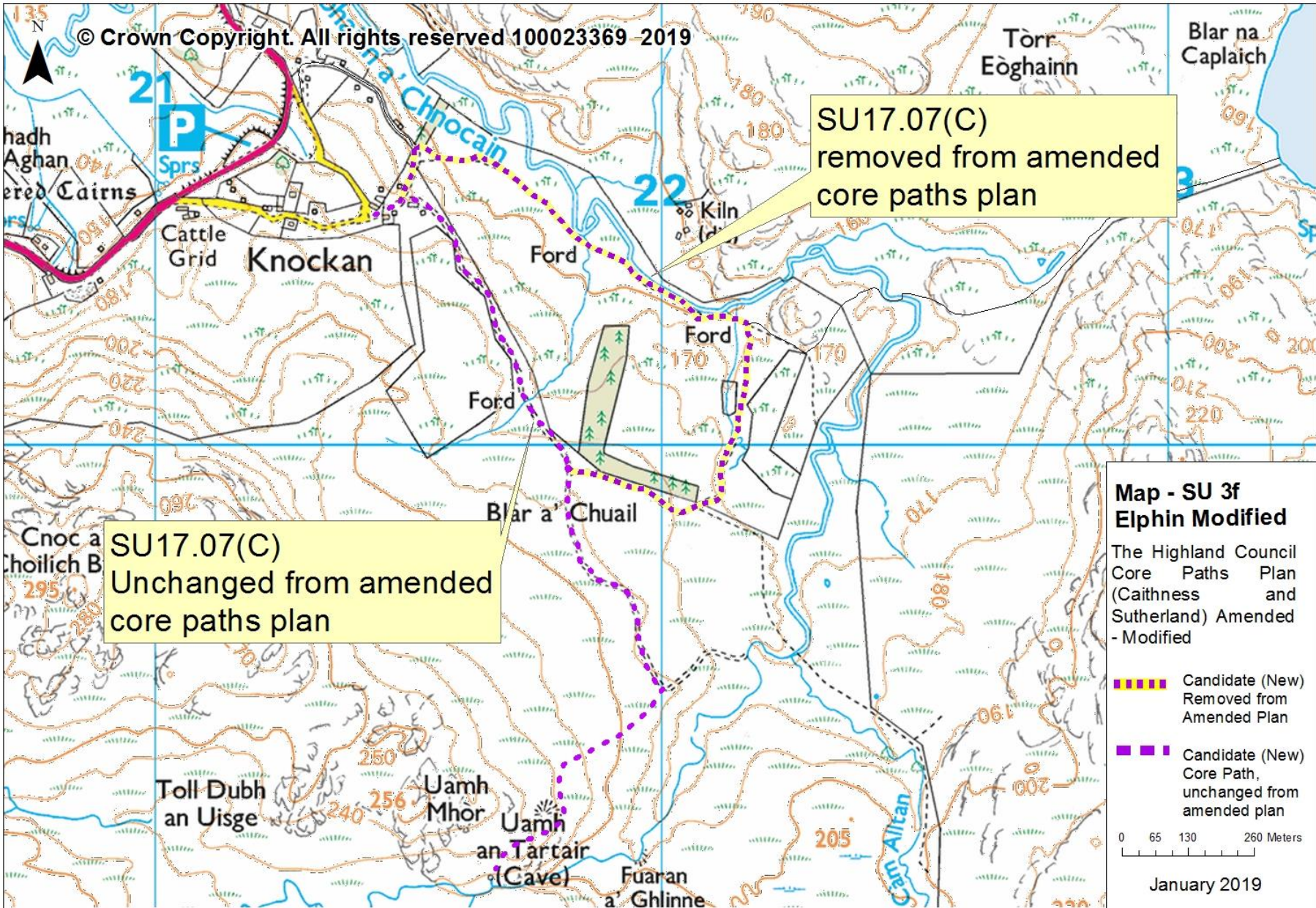
-  Core Path
-  Delete Core Path
-  Core Path Change
-  Candidate (New) Core Path

0 150300 600 Meters


November 2017



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SU17.07(C)
removed from amended
core paths plan

SU17.07(C)
Unchanged from amended
core paths plan

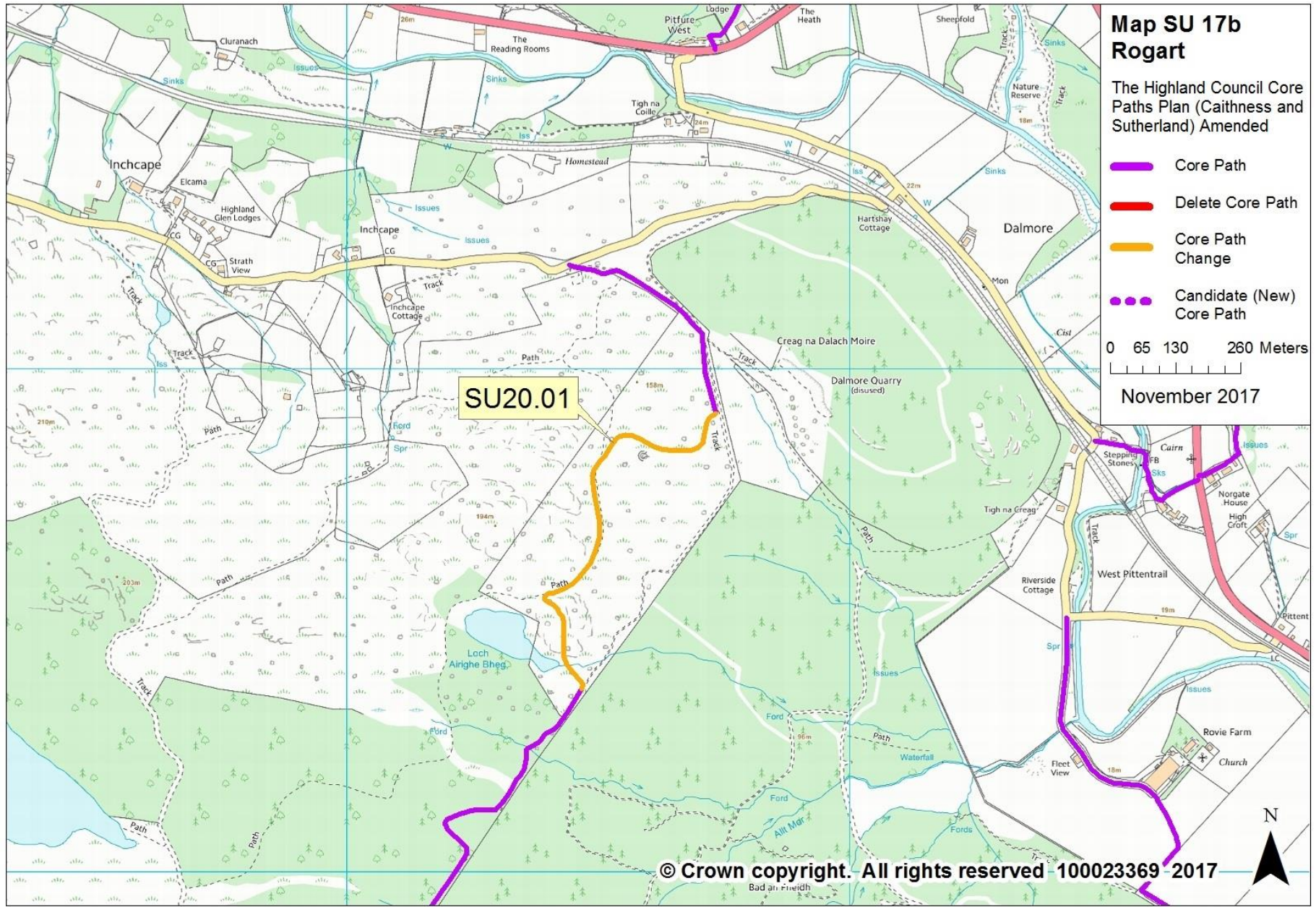
**Map - SU 3f
Elphin Modified**

The Highland Council
Core Paths Plan
(Caithness and
Sutherland) Amended
- Modified

- Candidate (New)
Removed from
Amended Plan
- Candidate (New)
Core Path,
unchanged from
amended plan

0 65 130 260 Meters

January 2019



**Map SU 17b
Rogart**

The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended

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

0 65 130 260 Meters

November 2017

SU20.01



Appendix 4

