

Item 6 - Table of Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives

September 2021

Updates are highlighted yellow.

Location	Issue Description	Lead/Action	Opened	Closed
Halkirk to Sibster path	<p>Land Owner now not interested. SSEN track 0.4 of a mile from village boundary. Would local Community Council or Village Council be interested in taking this project forward? KR to take forward.</p> <p>January 2019 – being addressed but will take time</p>	KR	Pre 09/2017	
Scrabster to Quarry path	<p>Locked gate still in place although sometimes the gate is unlocked but not on a regular basis. WM would contact farmer. WB suggests that a stile may be more favorable. MD – stile not suitable, gate has been agreed by agent and this will be followed up by MD</p> <p>August 2019 – materials sourced, installation costs to be agreed with land owner</p> <p>Works ordered to install the gate - January 2020</p> <p>Gate installed</p>	MD	Pre 09/2017	Aug 2021
Coastal path east of John O'Groats	<p>Camp site landowner objects to path through site. MD has kept this in the ACPP and plan will go to ministers to resolve objection.</p> <p>February 2019 – agreed at Caithness Area Committee to retain as proposed core path. To be sent to Scottish Ministers August 2019</p> <p>Proposed Core path is with Reporter, site visit (unaccompanied expected March 2020)</p> <p>Local Development Trust are collecting funds from car parking donations – possible to look at capital works to shore route in the future?</p> <p>New community path built – core path to be realigned at review</p>	MD (BM)		Aug 2021

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Altnabreac railway crossing	<p>This was removed by Ministers. Highland Council want to promote to put this back in the plan. 2013 white paper on level crossings has still to be debated by Scottish Government.</p> <p>February 2019 – agreed at Caithness Area Committee to retain as proposed core path. To be sent to Scottish Ministers August 2019</p> <p>Proposed Core path is with Reporter, site visit (unaccompanied expected March 2020)</p> <p>Reporters has submitted opinion to Scottish Ministers July 2020, awaiting Minister direction. MD has followed up with civil servant, but fear issue is stuck in the system due to Dalwhinnie Crossing closure.</p>	MD		
Yarrows	<p>This is a core path but in bad condition due to cattle, horses and lack of maintenance. The occupier has received funding to upgrade a portion of the path to disabled access but no works have taken place.</p> <p>Seek feedback and comments from Cllr Bremner, possible site visit in 2019</p>	IM		
Whaligoe	<p>The landowner to the north of the cafe has placed a 6 foot barbed wire fence across a section of stock fence where walkers had previously taken access. Originally was a spiked barrier.</p>	MD	15/08/2017	
Keiss Shore Sign	<p>The path north from the harbour road to Old Keiss Castle has a sign posted which states “Please note ‘Right to Roam’ does not permit entry onto fields with livestock.”</p>	MD	09/01/2018	

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	<p>Planning Application in progress which may provide a new gate at this location</p> <p>New development almost completed, to follow up pedestrian gate and signage</p>			
Closed Issues				
Jessan's Bridge	<p>Bridge washed away in October 2006. Landowner resistant to replacement due to liability issue. Question as to whether Castletown Community Council would take this project forward. MD has passed details of land ownership and some back ground information to Cllr Mackie and chair of CC</p>			14 Jan 2019
Ormlie Moors	<p>As of 2/2017 there was still evidence of vehicles misusing the land, but the LAF judged this is not an access issue relevant to the Land Reform Act and closed the item.</p>			23 Oct 2018
Braemore (Dunbeath)	<p>The Estate has built a diversion around the cottage but has not applied for planning. MD says CP will not be changed until planning is approved and estates are not willing to retrospectively apply for planning permission. No complaints to date. Consider diverted route when core paths plan when next reviewed.</p>			14 Jan 2019
Considerations for Core Path Plan Changes				
Braemore (Dunbeath)	<p>Diversion around dwelling and steading at Braemore</p>		14 Jan 2019	
Coastal path east of John O'Groats	<p>New coastal path</p>		13 Sept 2021	

