

Table of Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives

March 2023

Updates are highlighted yellow.

Location	Issue Description	Lead/Action	Opened	Closed
Halkirk to Sibster path	<p>Local work has brought two land owners with interests into the discussion and site meeting was very positive. Short gap of unknown ownership to investigate and lease/license agreement drafted up.</p> <p>Draft agreement with Village Council to comment and possible progression of planning consent.</p> <p>Forest and Land Scotland considering land purchase to aid project.</p>	Halkirk Village Council MD	Pre 09/2017	
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> <p>Minister to take decision on Dalwhinnie crossing and then this crossing will also be decided</p> <p>No Update</p>	MD		

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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> <p>Highland Council has had fingerpost delivered and visited with contractor regards gate work. No quote came in despite follow up. In contact with fencer again and awaiting quote.</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> <p>Issue to be closed?</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> <p>Planning Application in progress which may provide a new gate at this location</p> <p>New development almost completed, acceptable gate set up and path signs have been discussed with Access Officer – not followed up. Use of field gate by horses being discussed with site owner.</p>	MD	09/01/2018	
Mireland Access Gates	<p>Locked gates reported on track for Mireland Forest by Quintfall/Lyth</p>		February 2022	

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	First gate unlocked. Side pedestrian gate installed by bridge not suitable for horses but bridge in a poor condition.			
Sandside Cliff Top Locked Gate	No progress with locked deer gate on cliff top from Sandside to Redpoint. Not a quick visit (1hr walk) so not easy to check. Personal contact by other staff hopefully moving matter forward.		February 2022	
Achairn/Camster Wind Farm gate	Installation required of pedestrian gate adjacent to locked field gates. Agreed in principle but no delivery to date. Issue gone backwards as adjacent land owner wants a kissing gate, not acceptable.	MD		
Closed Issues				
Jessan's Bridge	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			14 Jan 2019
Ormlie Moors	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.			23 Oct 2018
Braemore (Dunbeath)	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.			14 Jan 2019
Scrabster to Quarry path	Gate installed			21 August 2021
Coastal path east of John O'Groats	New community path built – core path to be realigned at review			21 August 2021
Mains of Warse	Gates unlocked, signage to be monitored			7 March 2022

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Considerations for Core Path Plan Changes				
Braemore (Dunbeath)	Diversion around dwelling and steading at Braemore		14 Jan 2019	
Coastal path east of John O'Groats	New coastal path		13 Sept 2021	
Keiss Inland Routes	Broch Centre to Keiss to Longreen (not visited by MD)		31 August 2023	