

Modified Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended

Plana Phrìomh Cheuman Mion- atharraichte (Gallaibh agus Cataibh) air Atharrachadh

April 2019



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1 Introduction

1.1 Preface

Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, The Highland Council, as the Access Authority, has a statutory duty to produce a core path plan to cover its area.

The first core paths plan for Highland was adopted by the Planning, Environment and Development Committee on 21st September 2011.

Core paths aim to satisfy the basic needs of local people and visitors for general access and recreation and will provide links to the wider path network throughout the Highland region. These core paths comprise a mixture of existing paths with some new paths close to where people live or visit and can range from routes worn into natural ground to high specification constructed paths.

The Highland Council Core Paths Plan has been developed and published in six parts covering the following areas;

- Ross and Cromarty
- Inverness and Nairn*
- Skye and Lochalsh
- Sutherland
- Caithness
- Lochaber*

*- Note: The Cairngorm National Park Authority is an Access Authority in its own right. Those parts of Badenoch and Strathspey to the North and South West of the Park Boundary are attached to the respective core path planning and access forum areas.

The existing adopted core paths plan is available for viewing at www.highland.gov.uk/corepathplans

Introduction 1

After the completion of the first Highland Council Core Paths Plan it was decided to review the core path plans along side the cycle of the Local Development Plans.

The Highland Council has three Local Development Plans across the region; Caithness and Sutherland, West Highlands and Islands and Inner Moray Firth. An amended Core Paths Plans for the Caithness and Sutherland area was published for formal consultation from December 2017 to March 2018. The modified plan promotes a number of changes to this amended path and it is these modifications only which are open to representations in this consultations.

An amended plan is being developed for the West Highland and Islands area for formal consultation in 2019. The Inner Moray Firth area of the existing core paths plan has not being reviewed but a review is expected to be started in 2019.

This document is for the formal consultation of only the modifications to the amended plan for the Caithness and Sutherland area.

1 Introduction

1.2 Aims

The aims of the review of the Caithness and Sutherland area of the Core Paths Plan was to;

1. Improve connectivity of the current plan by utilising existing routes.
2. Ensure current routes can be used, at a minimum standard of pedestrian use without significant impediment, by the general public.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Consider the recommendations of the Public Local Inquiry report on The Highland Councils first core paths plan.

1.3 What is a core path?

There is no strict definition of what a core path should be from the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (LR(S)A 2003), the act does however describe a core path plan as a system of paths sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area. With this in mind it should be understood that the existing plan was designed to fulfil this sufficiency of path network.

Core paths do not provide the public with any increased recreational rights on land where such access rights already exist as a consequence of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The public will continue to be able to exercise their access rights, in a responsible manner, on other paths and tracks as well as on open land, hills, woodland etc.

The adoption of a path or route as a core path places no duty on The Highland Council to carry out new path construction, upgrading works or maintenance of the route. The Highland Council does have powers to carry out works on a core path but these are discretionary and are aimed at ensuring routes remain free from obstruction and are not intended to be used for new path construction.

As well as the sufficiency of network the council shall have a statutory regard to the following points when reviewing the core path plan.

- the likelihood that persons exercising rights of way and access rights will do so by using core paths;
- the desirability of encouraging such persons to use core paths; and
- the need to balance the exercise of those rights and the interests of the owner of the land in respect of which those rights are exercisable.

1.4 Formal Consultation

Changes are proposed to the Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended in order to resolve/take note of a number of objections/representations. The modifications are to both propose new or altered core paths from the amended plan or deletion of proposed core paths from the same plan.

The Highland Council Modified Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended shall be available for public inspection from 26th April 2019 to 31st May 2019 at the following locations during normal office hours;

Office	Opening Hours
Caithness House, Market Square, WICK, KW1 4AB	Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm
Drummuie Council Office, GOLSPIE, KW10 6TA	Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX	Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

The Highland Council Modified Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended will be available for viewing on the Councils Consultation Portal <http://consult.highland.gov.uk> where representations can be made. A link through to this consultation page is available at www.highland.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

The existing adopted core paths plan will also be available for inspection at www.highland.gov.uk/corepathplans.

If no objections are received, or any made are withdrawn, then The Highland Council will adopt the modifications.

Only modifications to the amended core paths plan in the Caithness and Sutherland area are being consulted upon. No representations on existing core paths or other proposals in the amended plan will be accepted.

1 Introduction

1.5 Representations

The Highland Council is inviting objections and representations to the Modified Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended

The Highland Council is using an on-line based system to provide the public with access to view the amended plan and also to make representations and objections. The consultation portal is available at <http://consult.highland.gov.uk> . Representations are being accepted up to 1700hrs on the 31st May 2019.

Objections and representations are only being accepted on the modifications proposed to the Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended . These modifications are referenced in the published plan with a unique reference number and name. Objections and representations should indicate a proposed modification by the reference number(s) and be used in any response.

The online consultation portal is been used to aid the collection of public comments and representations, it will aid the Council by ensuring comments are made against specific referenced core paths and removes opportunity for misrepresentation. Using the consultation portal also allows the Council to more easily keep in contact with parties making representations for this consultation but also for future consultations related to this topic. If you wish to make representations by other means then you may email representations to access@highland.gov.uk or by post to The Highland Council, Development and Infrastructure, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX

Only modifications to the amended core paths plan in the Caithness and Sutherland area are being consulted upon. No representations on existing core paths or other proposals in the amended plan will be accepted.

1.6 Contact Details

For any questions relating to The Highland Council Modified Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended please contact

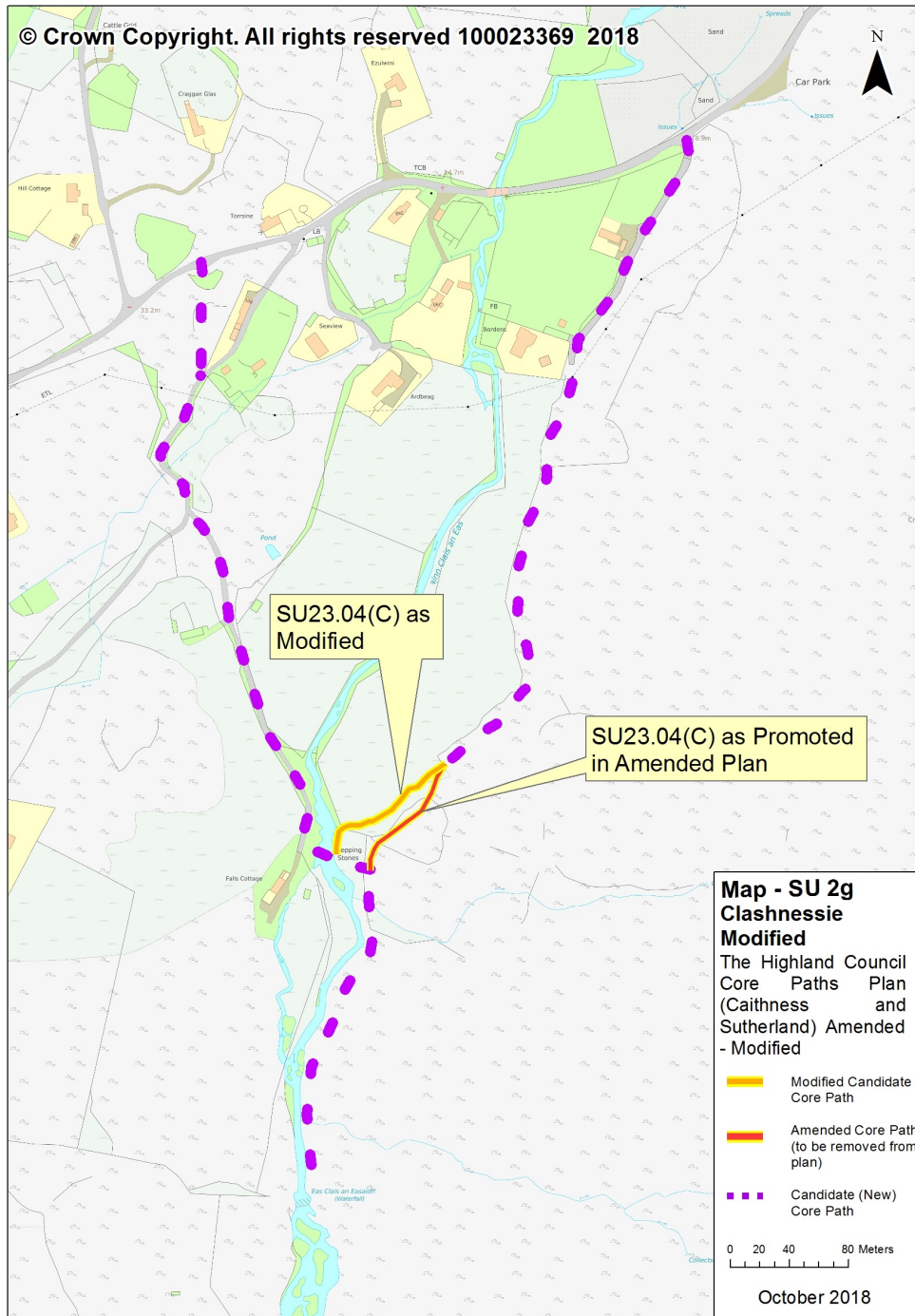
Matt Dent, Access Officer, Caithness and Sutherland
The Highland Council Drummuie GOLSPIE KW10 6TA
matt.dent@highland.gov.uk
01408 635377

2 Maps

2.1 Clashnessie Modified - SU 2g

SU23.04(C) - Clashnessie Falls

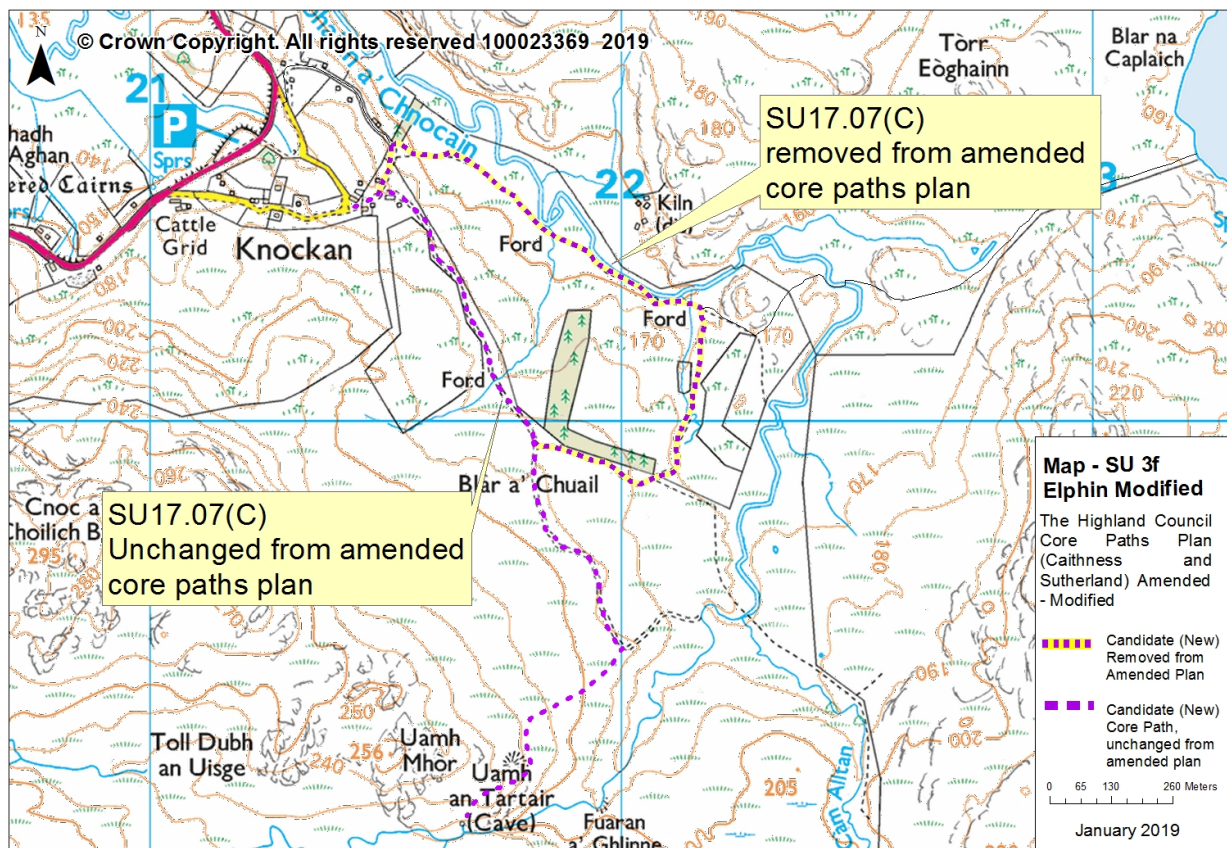
Site visits during the discussions have suggested an alternative route for the proposed core path which avoids some steep/rocky ground and an area of dense summer bracken.



2.2 Elphin Modified - SU 2f

SU17.07(C) - Uamh an Tartair

Remove section of proposed core path from the amended path. A section of the same proposed core path from the amended plan is unaffected by this modification.

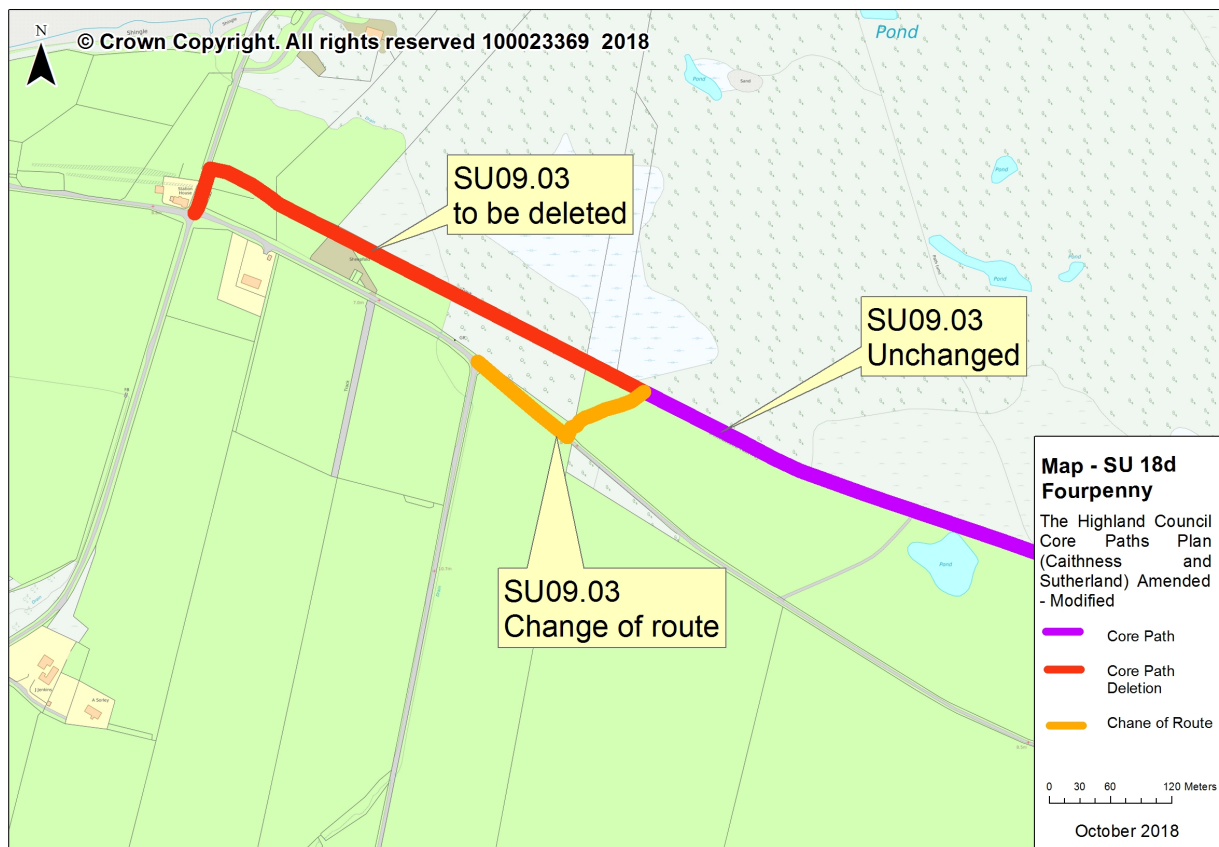


2 Maps

2.3 Fourpenny SU 18d

SU09.03 - Embo - Coul Links Railways Track

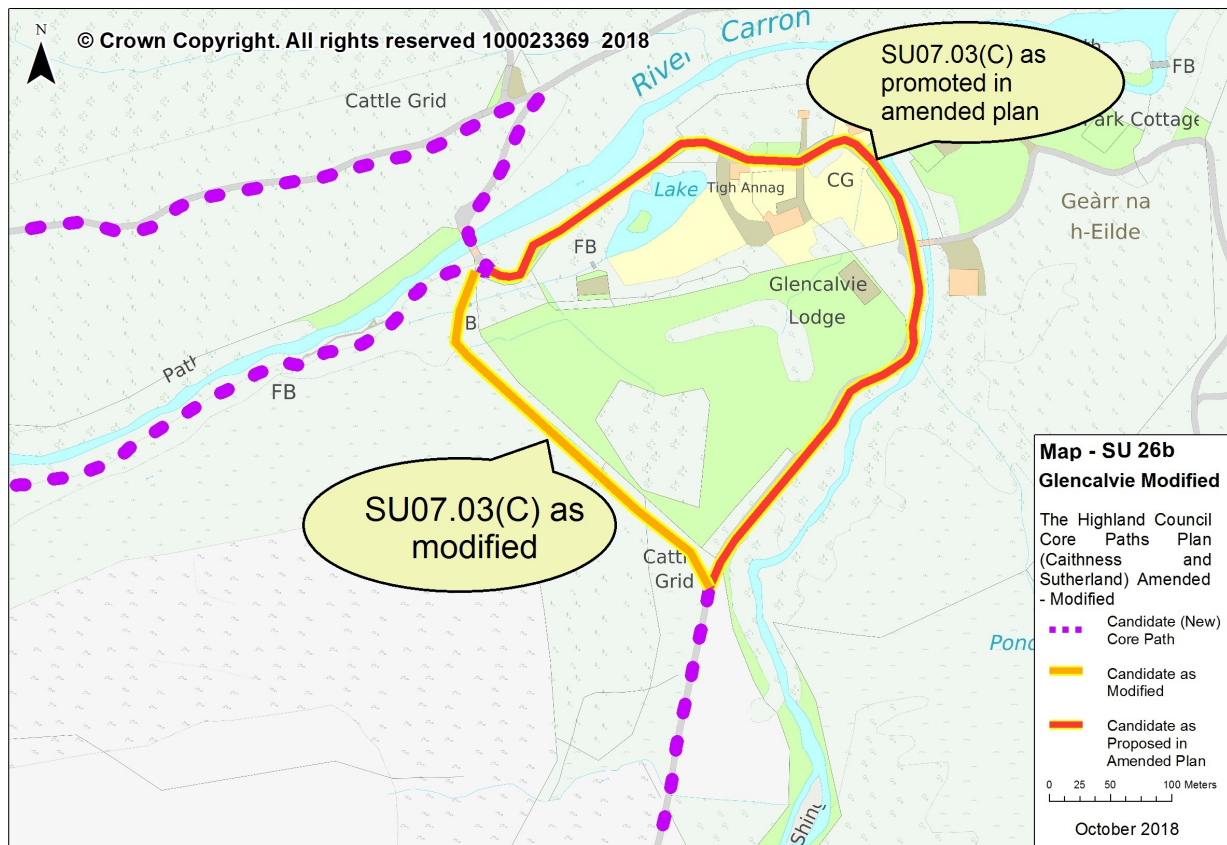
Alternative terminus for existing core path at Fourpenny.



2.4 Glencalvie - SU 26b

SU07.03(C) - Strathrusdale - Glencalvie

Proposed alternative terminus of SU07.03(C) at Glencalvie. The alternative route is to be constructed within 2 years of the modified amended core paths plan (Caithness and Sutherland) being adopted. The existing public right of way which utilises the route promoted in the amended plan is unaffected by this modification. The alternative terminus is shorter and avoids two cattle grids which have no gate by-passes.

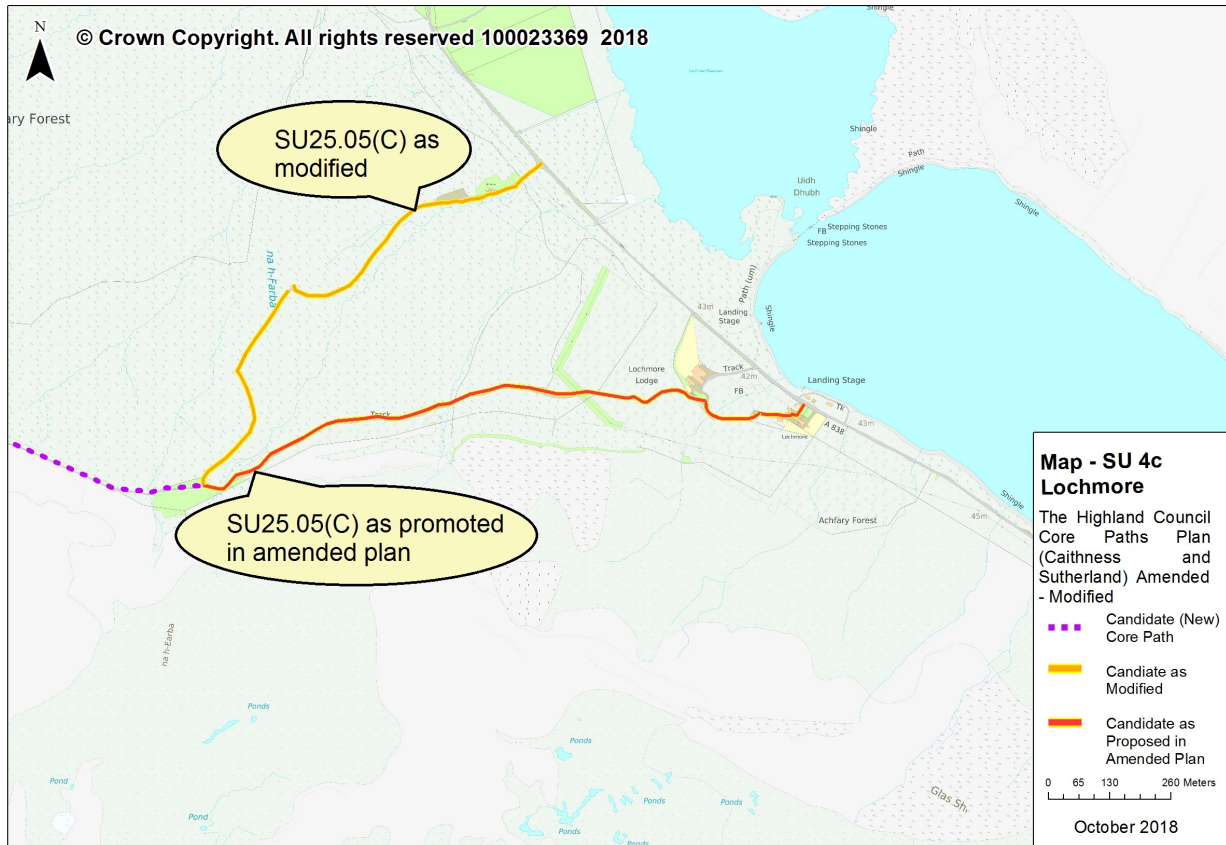


2 Maps

2.5 Lochmore SU 4c

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

Alternative terminus to SU25.05(C) as promoted in the amended plan.



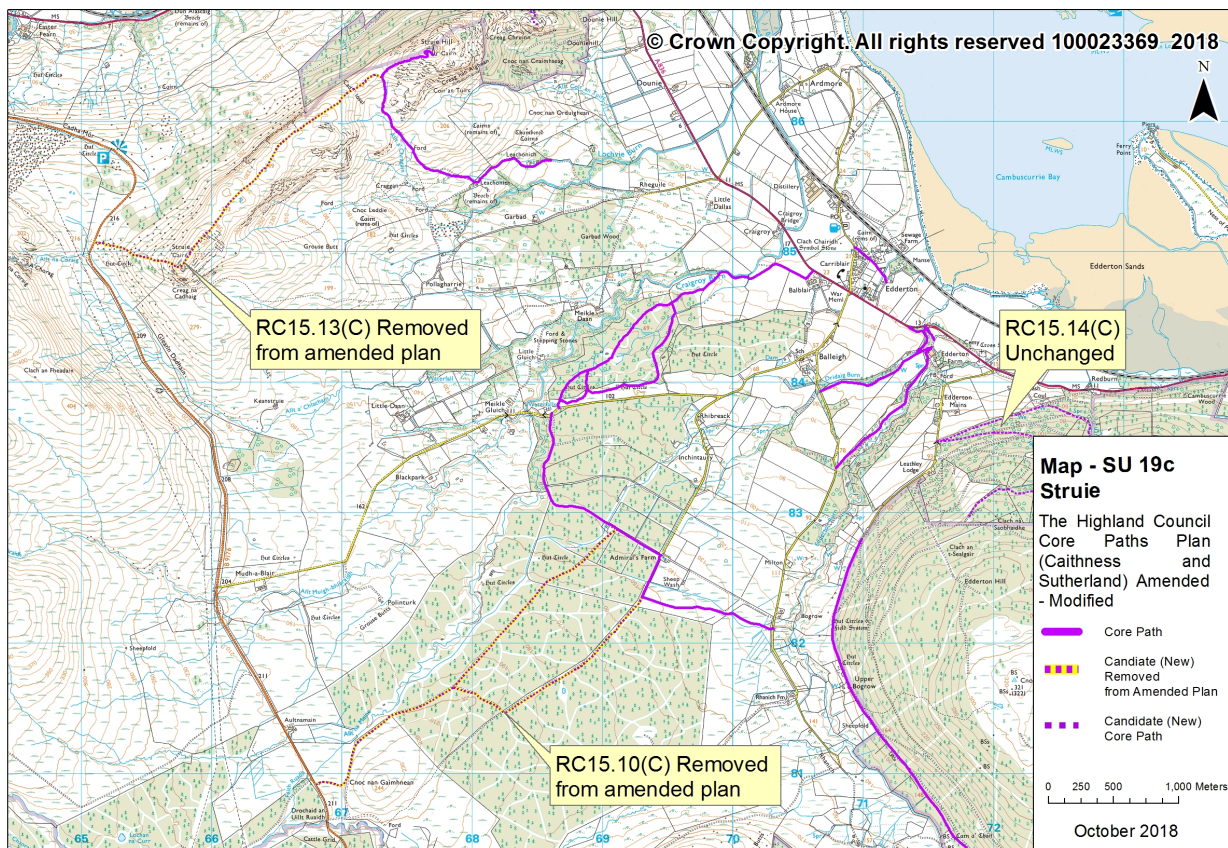
2.6 Struie - SU 19c

RC15.10(C) - Admirals Farm - Aultnamain

Remove RC15.10(C) from amended plan.

RC15.13(C) - Struie Hill Cairn Path

Remove RC15.13(C) from amended plan.



2 Maps

2.7 Swiney Hill - CA 13c

CA10.01 - Coastguard Lookout and Brethren Well

Section of CA10.01 as highlighted on the Map CA13c - Swiney will not be deleted from the core paths plan. It was proposed for deletion in the amended core paths plan (Caithness and Sutherland).

CA10.18(C) - Coastguard Lookout - Achastle-shore

New section of core path leading from the terminus of CA10.01 along the coast to meet existing core path CA10.09.

CA10.19(C) - Coastguard Lookout - Swiney Hill

New section of core path leading from the terminus of CA10.01 towards a track, by Achnacraig, leading to the public road end at Swiney Hill.

