

The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Report July 2019

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Non-technical Summary

Purpose and objectives of the Environmental Report

As part of the preparation of the West Highland and Islands Amended Core Paths Plan, the Highland Council is required to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This provides a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of any new plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) and for achieving the following aims:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making
 - improve PPS and enhance environmental protection
 - increase public participation in decision making
 - facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making
- The Environmental Report is an important stage in the SEA process. It outlines the contents of the Main Issues Report and highlights how the SEA process has influenced the proposals within the Plan.

Purpose and objectives of the Plan

The review of a core path plan aims to;

1. Assess, and increase where necessary, the connectivity of the current plan by utilising existing paths, tracks and other routes.
2. Assess that 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, proposed and extensions 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 Council's first core paths plan.

State of the environment summary

The tables below show a summary of statistics relating to each of the key SEA topics:

Table 1.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population
Some of the country's most important natural environments which are protected under international designations: SSSI (142), SAC (45), SPA (19), NNR (14), RAMSAR (3). Also 3,184 Ancient Semi-natural woodland sites.	Population of Plan area in 2013 was 39,201. The population is expected to increase between 2012 and 2037 to 37,020 by 2031. Current population density is 3.9 people per km ² (compared to Highland at 8.7 people per km ² and 67.4 for Scotland).
Soil	Water
Large parts of the plan area, particularly Skye and Wester Ross comprise of nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats, Geological SSSIs and in addition un-notified Geological Review (GCR) sites, all of which are either likely to be of high conservation value or potentially high conservation value and have restoration potential. Two of Scotland's three UNESCO European Geoparks lie within the Plan area. These are the Lochaber Geopark and a southern part of the North West Highlands Geopark.	The quality of the water environment is generally good in the Plan area. SEPA has identified ten 'potentially vulnerable areas' within the Plan area where the potential impact from flooding is sufficient to justify further assessment and appraisal of Flood Risk Management. These are concentrated largely in coastal areas, including north Skye, Ardamurchan, Fort William and Appin.
Material Assets	Cultural heritage
897km of core paths. 2875km of public rights of way	Within the Plan area there are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 conservation areas • 5 Historic Battlefield areas • 274 scheduled monuments
Landscape	Air
The West Highland and Islands area includes 11 National Scenic Areas, 16 Wild Land Areas and 15 Special Landscape Areas.	The air quality in the West Highland and Islands is generally very good. The plan is unlikely to have a significant negative effect on air quality
Climatic factors	Human Health
Some core paths and associated infrastructure are located in exposed and remote locations which are prone to coastal, fluvial and pluvial flooding.	Healthy life expectancy in Highland is just above Scottish average 82.2 for female and 77.7 for male against 81/76.9 for Scotland. Some 19.2 per cent of the plan's population reported a limiting long-term illness or health problem that affected their day-to-day activities

Expected Environmental Implications without the Plan

A do nothing approach may lead to a core paths plan that contains routes which are not used as intended/expected, been replaced by an alternative route or lost through natural processes. Over time this may lead to a loss of confidence of the public to use the paths plan or as a reference for promoting recreational access.

Assessment approach and key findings

SEA objectives relating to the key topics were identified and are shown below;

Table 2.

SEA Topic	SEA Objective
1 - Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	To conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity and accord to the protection of valued nature conservation habitats and species
2 - Population & Human Health	To improve the living environment for all communities and promote improved health of the human population. (POPULATION SCOPED OUT OF THIS SEA)
3 - Soil & Peat	Safeguard the soil quality, geo-diversity and improve contaminated land.
4 - Water	Avoid, manage and reduce flood risk and protect the water environment.
5 - Air	Maintain and, where possible, improve air quality.
6 - Climatic Factors	Reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to the adaptation of the area to climate change
7 - Material Assets	Manage, maintain and promote sustainable use of material assets. (SCOPED OUT OF THIS SEA)
8 - Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	Protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.
9 - Landscape	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and unique qualities of the landscape. (SCOPED OUT OF THIS SEA)

The aims of the review of the core paths plan, which has led to the amended plan, were assessed against these objectives, see Table 11. Baseline environmental data on each of the SEA topics is shown in Appendix 1. Individual core paths have been assessed within a standard pro-forma Appendix 2. The core path assessment have identified environmental impacts both positive and negative, none have been assessed as significantly negative.

Monitoring the effectiveness of the plan

The core paths in the core paths plan are actively monitored by The Highland Council with physical visits made by officers to ensure promoted paths in the plan are accessible. Other monitoring indicators are listed in the monitoring section on this report.

Next Steps

This Environmental Report will be subject to a 15 week consultation from the 8th July 2019 to 18th October 2019, where expressions of opinion on the report will be welcomed. The Environmental Report will be available on the Council's website and paper copies will be available at the main Council Offices in Portree, Fort William and Dingwall as well as at the Headquarters in Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. Electronic copies will be sent to the Consultation Authorities via SEA Gateway.

Introduction

Purpose of this Environmental Report and Key Facts

As part of the preparation of The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended (the PPS), the Highland Council is required to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This provides a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of any new plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) and for achieving the following aims:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making
 - improve PPS and enhance environmental protection
 - increase public participation in decision making
 - facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making
- The Environmental Report is an important stage in the SEA process. It outlines the contents of the Main Issues Report and highlights how the SEA process has influenced the proposals within the Plan.

SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key **SEA** stages are:

Screening	determining whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required
Scoping	deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report - this is done in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Environmental Report	publishing an Environmental Report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report
Adoption	providing information on: the adopted PPS; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS
Monitoring	monitoring significant environmental effects in such a manner so as to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- provide information on The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended (the PPS);
- identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the PPS and its reasonable alternatives;
- provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report.

The key facts relating to The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended are set out in the table below.

Name of Responsible Authority	The Highland Council
Title of PPS	The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended
What prompted the PPS	Review of Local Development Plan for area
Subject	Path Network Plans for non-motorised access.
Period covered by PPS	At least 5 years, possibly longer.
Frequency of update	5 years or as ordered by Scottish Ministers
Area Covered by PPS	West Highland and Islands. 1148571 ha.
Purpose and/objective of PPS	To review The Highland Core Paths Plan for the West Highland and Islands area as permitted by Section 20 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and produce an amended plan where required.
Contact Point	Donald Kennedy, Access Officer, The Highland Council. 01478 613811 donald.kennedy@highland.gov.uk

SEA Activities to Date

This section sets out the SEA activity to date in terms of work carried out and the consultations authorities' response at each stage where it was applicable.

1. Screening report submitted to SEA Gateway – July 2016
2. Responses received to Screening opinion received July 2016
3. Scoping Report submitted to SEA Gateway – July 2018
4. Comment received from Consultation Authorities – July/August 2018

Context

Aims and Objectives of the PPS

Aims of the West Highland and Islands core paths plan review which has led to The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended.

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, proposed and extensions 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 Council's first core paths plan.

Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives

Table 3.

Name of PPS/Environmental Objective	Objective/Requirements of PPS	How it affects or is affected by The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended
International		
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe.	Recreational access use of core paths which leads to interaction with wild birds, potential disturbance/change of use of habitat
Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance	Recreational access use of land which supports the promotion of the natural habitats and wild species listed in the Annexes to the Directive.
Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework Directive	Commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies.	This directive led to the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) which may apply to the management/development of land including core paths.
National		
Scottish Planning Policy	The purpose of the SPP is to set out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land.	Core paths can help achieve the subject policies of the SPP, primarily 'Valuing the National Environment', 'Maximising the Benefits of Green Infrastructure' and 'Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Travel'.
Lets Get Scotland Walking – The National Walking Strategy	The National Walking Strategy outlines our vision of a Scotland where everyone benefits from walking. It contains recommendations from a working group.	The core path plan will help achieve all 3 strategic aims of this PPS.
National Transport Strategy	To create a transport system fit for the 21st century, one that meets the needs of everyone in Scotland, providing them with integrated, modern, reliable and environmentally efficient transport choices.	Non-motorised access as provided by the core path plan will target the key issue of reduced emissions as stated in this PPS.

Name of PPS/Environmental Objective	Objective/Requirements of PPS	How it affects or is affected by The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended
Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2013	This PPS sets out 19 actions for how Scotland can work in partnership to achieve our shared vision that by 2020, 10% of everyday journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike.	A number of the action points are met or partially met by the core path plan.
Regional		
Single Outcome Agreement between Highland Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government	This Agreement with the Scottish Government sets out our joint ambitions not only for the Highlands, but also for the Highlands as a region contributing to the growth and development of Scotland.	Core paths can help achieve the outcomes associated with Physical Activity and access to the Natural Environment
Green Networks Supplementary Guidance	Supplementary Guidance is to help promote greenspace linkages and to safeguard and enhance wildlife corridors in and around new and existing developments.	Core paths can promote access to greenspace.
Highland Council Access Strategy 2015-18 (unpublished/draft)	This strategy has a vision statement stating the Council will continue to develop a high quality and renowned access network, based on local and visitor needs and aspirations, which respects and reflects local character and provides clear social, health, economic and environmental benefits.	Core paths highlight the resources that can help meet the aspirations of this PPS.
Highland Local Transport Strategy (currently out of date)	The strategy will guide policy and investment on transport within Highland Council and also within partner bodies involved in the delivery of transport infrastructure and transport services throughout the Highland area.	The core path plan can help to implement policy statement 4 of this PPS, Pedestrian and Cycle Network
Highland Tourism Action Plan 2020	The strategy targets those markets that offer Scotland the greatest growth potential and promises to collaborate within and across Scotland's tourism assets to develop the authentic experiences today's visitors seek, delivered to the consistently high quality they expect.	Access to the Highland environment via core paths help to achieve the vision of this PPS.

Name of PPS/Environmental Objective	Objective/Requirements of PPS	How it affects or is affected by The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended
Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)	This plan aims to guide development and investment in the area over the next 20 years, while safeguarding the areas important assets – natural, built and cultural.	Access to the Highland environment via core paths help to achieve the vision of this PPS.
Local		
West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan	The West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan (WestPlan) focuses on where development should and should not occur in the West Highland and Islands area over the next 20 years and will be used to guide decisions on planning applications. Green Space and Green Networks are highlighted within the plan.	Change in land use may effect needs for public access, both for recreational and active travel. Core paths may affect how such land may be developed but also provide opportunity for enhancement of access resource and connectivity. Green Networks offer opportunities to reinforce links between settlements and the natural environment which with access via core paths can enhance local opportunities.
Active Travel Plans – Fort William	The overall aim is to assess where best to apply available funding in order to increase the potential for active travel and ideally to see an increase in the number of people choosing to walk or cycle.	Core paths can provide further material evidence for the support of active travel plans.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans: Wester Ross Skye and Lochalsh Lochaber	A Local Biodiversity Action Plan attempts to set out what is important and valued about the natural environment, in terms of broad habitats and species, and to identify a number of actions and projects that could be undertaken to help protect or enhance it.	The plans aim to encourage wildlife based tourism for which core path provide a valuable resource.

Relevant Aspects of the Current State of the Environment

General

The Core Path Plan within West Highland and Islands covers an area of 11,485 sq km. This is 14.6 % of Scotland.

This section of the SEA environmental report is split by SEA Topic as defined by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. A table and maps showing baseline data can be found in Appendix 1.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Natural heritage designations cover a range of habitats in the Plan area. In designated sites there are:

Table 4.

Designation	Number of Sites	Area Covered (Hectares)	Percentage of Plan Area
Site of Special Scientific Interest	142	12,516	3.55%
Special Area of Conservation	45	213,735	18.61%
Special Protection Area	19	292,821	25.49%
National Nature Reserve	14	40,788	18.8%
Ramsar	3	3,743	0.33%

There are also a number of forestry designations across West Highland and Islands:

Table 5.

Designation	Number of Sites	Area Covered (Hectares)	Percentage of Plan Area
Ancient Semi-natural woodland	3184	35,123	3.06%
Native Woodland and Nearly Native Woodland	9561	39,352	3.43%
Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites	726	7,635	0.66%
Tree Preservation Orders	21	146	0.01%

The following habitats occur in Highland and are priority habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK):

- Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows
- Maerl beds
- Blanket bog
- Maritime cliffs and slopes
- Blue mussel beds
- Mestotrophic lakes
- Calaminarian grasslands
- Mountain heaths and willow scrub
- Carbonate mounds
- Mud habitats in deep water
- Cereal field margins
- Mudflats

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Native pinewood
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Oligotrophic and dystrophic lochs
- Coastal sand dunes
- Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land (brownfield sites)
- Coastal vegetated shingle
- Ponds
- Deep sea sponge communities
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Estuarine rocky habitats
- Reedbeds
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Rivers
- Fens
- Saline lagoons
- File shell beds
- Seagrass beds
- Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities of subtidal rocky habitats
- Seamount communities
- Inland rock outcrops and scree habitats
- Sheltered muddy gravels
- Intertidal boulder communities
- Tidal rapids
- Limestone pavements
- Traditional orchards
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Upland calcareous grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Upland flushes, fens and swamps
- Lowland heathland
- Upland hay meadows
- Lowland meadows
- Upland heathland
- Lowland wood pasture and parkland
- Upland mixed ashwoods
- Machair
- Upland oakwood
- Wet woodland

The protected species known to be found in Highland are listed in Appendix 2 of the Statutorily Protected Species Supplementary Guidance.

Much of the West Highland and Islands area's coastline is important for its marine environment; with much of it designated by areas of unspoiled coast, special protection areas, special landscape areas and four marine protected areas.

Wild Deer are an important element of Scotland's biodiversity and ecology, an economic asset and valued as an iconic species. They are present across West Highland and the Islands.

Green networks help to create natural, resilient places which function to create connections for both people and wildlife, enhancing accessibility, well-being and rural identity, to achieve high quality places. Green networks should be a facilitating feature which enables the delivery of high quality development which integrates with the natural features of the site to aid the protection and enhancement to a corridor connection to other spaces and to the wider countryside.

Population and Human Health

The population of the plan area in 2013 was 39,201. Its population density of 3.9 people per [sq. km](#) is significantly lower than the Highland and Scotland averages of 8.7 and 67.4 respectively. The area has witnessed steady growth over the past 30 years. However levels of growth differ throughout the Plan area – populations have grown in Lochaber and Skye whilst they have remained fairly static in Wester Ross. The population is projected to increase by 5% between 2012 and 2037. The percentage of people aged under 65 projected to continue to fall and there are likely to be notable increases in the 65 to 74 and 75 plus age groups of 33% and 132% respectively.

The census is one of the most effective methods of gathering information on the health of our population. Some 19.2 per cent of the plan's population reported a limiting long-term illness or health problem that affected their day-to-day activities (Highland 18.6%, Scotland 19.6%)

Soil

Given the scale of the Plan area and the diversity of its landscape and uses there are a wide range of soil types. Large parts of the plan area, particularly Skye and Wester Ross comprise of nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats, Geological SSSIs and in addition un-notified Geological Review (GCR) sites, all of which are either likely to be of high conservation value or potentially high conservation value and have restoration potential. Two of

Scotland's three UNESCO European Geoparks lie within the Plan area. These are the Lochaber Geopark and a southern part of the North West Highlands Geopark.

A large proportion of the Plan area is characterised by Podzol soils which are generally at the lower end the land capability range, mostly ranging between class 5 and 6. There are no areas of prime agricultural land within the plan area. These soils are generally infertile and principally used for forestry, recreation, grass production and stock rearing. Severe climates also contribute to inhibiting agricultural capability, although with mechanical intervention it can be possible to allow seeding, rotavation or ploughing. Crofting is common place in the Plan area, much of the area is characterised by crofting townships and individual crofts.

Other soil types generally located closer to coastal areas comprise of a mixture of Gleys soils, Brown Earths and some areas of Blanket Peats. Some areas of Regosols soils are present, particularly in the mountainous areas of the Isle of Skye.

No areas of land within the Plan area have been identified as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However potentially contaminated sites are expected to be found clustered near areas such as Ballachulish, Fort William, Kyle of Lochalsh, Portree, Kinlochleven and Ullapool where there would more likely be a historical legacy of industrial use, for example pulp mills, timber yards, smelters and landfills. In the wider predominately rural and mountainous areas of the Plan there are

unlikely to be potentially contaminative sources given the difficult terrain for a historical industrial use to exist.

Water

The quality of the water environment is generally good in the Plan area. River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) Area Management Plans provide valuable baseline information on the quality of water in Highland. The Plan area falls within the North Highland and Argyll advisory groups areas (2013 revised boundaries). The condition of surface waters reported in the Area Management Plans (original boundaries) that include the plan area found significant proportions to be of good or better status, particularly in West Highland. Achmelvich, the only designated bathing water in the Plan area, was classified as guideline (pass of Directive's Guidelines Standards) in 2014.

SEPA has identified ten 'potentially vulnerable areas' within the Plan area where the potential impact from flooding is sufficient to justify further assessment and appraisal of Flood Risk Management. These are concentrated largely in coastal areas, including north Skye, Ardamurchan, Fort William and Appin. These areas are particularly vulnerable to coastal as well as fluvial flooding and in some areas surface water flooding.

Air

The air quality in the West Highland and Islands is generally very good. The plan is unlikely to have a significant negative effect on air quality

Climatic Factors

In Highland one of the main contributors to climate change is transportation due to the emissions of carbon dioxide, high levels of CO₂ and other "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere that are thought to accelerate the Earth's natural warming. Warming is predicted to have a variety of environmental consequences including increased frequency and severity of storm events, as well as rises in sea level, which may have an affect on the coastal communities throughout the plan area. Changes in rainfall patterns could lead to increased erosion and pollution associated with surface run-off.

The plan will seek to promote energy efficiency at micro scale for day-to-day activities within the plan area, through provision of greener transport and active travel by seeking to implement more sustainable and diverse connections through walking, cycling

Material Assets

The Highland area has a diverse transportation network encompassing one of the longest road networks in Scotland. Generally the transport infrastructure across Highland comprises of:

- 6,730km/4,182 miles of locally adopted road;
- 1400 bridges (span greater than 3 metres) and 700 structural culverts (up to 3 metres);
- 951km of trunk road;
- 108 harbours, slipways and piers; and
- 2 airports

In terms of access to the outdoors the Council's Local Transport Strategy 2010/11 – 2013/14 provides the key information on this valuable material asset including the level of access infrastructure as set out in the table below:

Table 6.

Access Resource*	Distance (km)	%
Public Rights of Way	3,362	11.6
Promoted Paths	3,959	13.6
Other Paths	8,331	28.7
Roads	13,401	46.1
Total	29,053	100

*Highland-wide

Cultural Heritage

There are a number of cultural and built heritage features in the Plan area. These are set out in the table below:

Table 7.

Designation	Number of Site	Area Covered (Hectares)
Schedule Monument	274	473
Gardens and Designated Landscapes	18	869
Conservation Areas	4	60
Inventory of Historic Battlefield	5	2,347

Landscape

The plan area contains many of Scotland's finest landscapes. Much of it is dominated by rugged mountains, remote glens and long steep straths bordered by a coastline of sea lochs, with sections of unspoiled coast, combined these landscape features offer outstanding scenery. This is evidenced by the proportion of landscape designations within the Plan area – it contains over a quarter of Scotland's National Scenic Areas; almost 40% of Scotland's Wild Land Areas and over half of Highland's Special Landscape Areas. Three Landscape Character Assessments cover the Plan area – Ross and Cromarty; Skye and Lochalsh and Lochaber.

A break down of the landscape features in the Plan area is shown in the table below.

Table 8.

Designation	Number of Site	Area Covered (Hectares)
Special Landscape Area	15	302,503
National Scenic Area	11	480,700
Wild Land Area	16	553,085

Environmental Impacts Relevant to the West Highland and Islands Core Path Review

The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental problems will affect or be affected by the West Highland and Islands Core Path Review and whether the PPS is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect existing environmental problems.

Table 9.

SEA Issue	Potential Environmental Impact resulting from The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended	Implications for The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	Increased pressure from public recreational access may impact on sensitive habitats and species.	To assess existing core path plans to highlight any pressure on designated sites/species. New core paths to be assessed for impact on designated sites and also where removal of a core path may lead to increased user pressure on another site/species that is designated.
Population	It is unlikely this plan will have any effect in population.	n/a
Human Health	Increased opportunity for partaking in positive activities leading to improved health.	To highlight access resource close to where people live and provide a fulfilling amenity experience and be accessible to a wide range of users.
Soil	Increased pressure from public recreational access may lead to erosion.	To assess existing core path plans to highlight any pressure on soil. New core paths to be assessed for impact and also where removal of a core path may lead to increased user pressure on another site.
Water	Assets within the plan may be at risk of flooding	Limit the selection of core paths that are at risk of flooding.
Air	Potential reduction in the emission of contaminants from a reduction in car journeys by improved non-motorised access provision.	To highlight potential core paths that provide links between settlements, safe routes to school or community/service facilities.
Climatic factors	Potential reduction in the emission of greenhouses from a reduction in car journeys by improved non-motorised access provision.	May highlight potential core paths that provide links between settlements, safe routes to school or community/service facilities.
	Climate change may result in damage	Limit the selection of core paths that are

	to exposed core paths from severe weather events.	at risk of severe weather events.
Material Assets	It is likely that the plan will increase the number of core paths within the area.	n/a
Cultural Heritage	The plan will provide opportunities for public engagement by visiting scheduled sites.	The plan will increase promotion of access resource to scheduled sites.
Landscape	Any impacts on landscape from the plan will be minor and localised and are not considered to be significant.	n/a

Likely future of the area without the PPS

The current core paths plan for The Highland Council area would remain in place should there be no review and subsequent amended core paths plan. This may lead to a core paths plan that contains routes which are not used as intended/expected, been replaced by an alternative route or lost through natural processes. Over time this may lead to a loss of confidence of the public to use the paths plan as a reference for recreational access.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 allows for single amendments of core paths where the Local Authority considers it appropriate. This approach may be usefully used where only a small number of core path changes are expected within a longer period of time. Whilst each individual core path would be assessed for potential environmental impact, there would be no cumulative/strategic overview against other core paths amended during the longer period of time.

It is expected for this first review there will be a significant number of amended, removed or new core paths.

SEA Objectives

This section will layout the objectives of this SEA. The SEA objective are:

Table 2.

SEA Topic	SEA Objective
1 - Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	To conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity and accord to the protection of valued nature conservation habitats and species
2 - Population & Human Health	To improve the living environment for all communities and promote improved health of the human population. (POPULATION SCOPED OUT OF THIS SEA)
3 - Soil & Peat	Safeguard the soil quality, geo-diversity and improve contaminated land.
4 - Water	Avoid, manage and reduce flood risk and protect the water environment.
5 - Air	Maintain and, where possible, improve air quality.
6 - Climatic Factors	Reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to the adaptation of the area to climate change
7 - Material Assets	Manage, maintain and promote sustainable use of material assets. (SCOPED OUT OF THIS SEA)
8 - Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	Protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.
9 - Landscape	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and unique qualities of the landscape. (SCOPED OUT OF THIS SEA)

Assessment of Environmental Effects and Measures Envisaged for Prevention, Reduction and Offset of Any Significant Environmental Effects

The purpose of this section is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of this PPS and its reasonable alternatives (Section 14 of the Act) and to set out measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment (Schedule 3 paragraph 7 of the Act). The baseline information from the previous sections is applied to consider whether the PPS and its alternatives are likely to have significant environmental effects (positive and negative).

Alternative to the PPS

Alternative Approach 1 - Review the core paths individually

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 allows for single amendments of core paths where the Local Authority considers it appropriate. This approach may be usefully used where only a small number of core path changes are expected within a longer period of time. Whilst each individual core path would be assessed for potential environmental impact, there would be no cumulative/strategic overview against other core paths amended during the longer period of time.

Alternative Approach 2 – Do nothing

A do nothing approach may lead to a core paths plan that contains routes which are not used as intended/expected, been replaced by an alternative route or lost through natural processes. Over time this may lead to a loss of confidence of the public to use the core paths plan as a reference for recreational access.

Alternative Approach 3 – Review of Core Paths over a Wide Range of geographical area

This approach considers a wide geographical area and allows for assessment of the whole range of current core paths currently adopted by The Highland Council and new proposals. The range of core path types over the plan area means assessing and reviewing individual core paths or small numbers would not be feasible in ensuring a consistent approach or sufficient network specified by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Assessments of Alternatives

Assessment of Environmental Affects of the PPS

The assessment process requires for the PPS aims and proposals to be scored against SEA Objections and Topics. Individual core paths within the core paths plan will also be assessed against the SEA Objectives. Each matrix will use the following coding to score likely degree of environmental impact and a commentary will be included to provide comments, mitigation and where feasible detail of how positive impacts can be maximised.

Scoring Symbol	Likely Degree of Environmental Impact
++	The PPS will have a significant positive environmental impact on the environment
+	The PPS will have a positive environmental impact on the environment
0	The PPS will have a neutral environmental impact on the environment
?	The PPS will have unknown or unclear environmental impact on the environment
-/+	The PPS will have both positive and negative environmental impact on the environment
-	The PPS will have a negative environmental impact on the environment
--	The PPS will have a significant negative environmental impact on the environment

Assessment of Alternatives

Table 10.

Core Path Plan Alternative	SEA Objectives						
	Biodiversity	Human health	Landscape	Water	Soil	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage
Preferred Approach – review large area of plan	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
Review core paths individually	+	-	-/+	0	-/+	0	-/+
Do nothing	-	-	-	-	-	0	-

Chosen Approach – 3

The Councils preferred approach is to review the Core Path Plan over a wide geographical area. The current plan was the first drawn in 6 lots based on the old district structure of Highland Region. This followed the Local Development plan structure at the time. Since adopted in September 2011 the core path plan has had time to bed in, be promoted and allow the Council to understand the public use (and expectation) of the paths within the plan. The geographical area of this amended plan mirrors that of a change to the areas of the local development plans, in this case, West Highland & Islands. The Highland Council wishes to use this knowledge to ensure the core path plan meets its statutory definition of providing a sufficient network.

Assessment of PPS

Assessment of PPS Aims against SEA Objective

The review of a core path plan aims to;

1. Assess, and increase where necessary, the connectivity of the current plan by utilising existing paths, tracks and other routes.
2. Assess that 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, proposed and extensions 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 Council's first core paths plan. Table 11.

SEA Objective	Aims of The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended					Potential cumulative impact of PPS
	1	2	3	4	5	
To conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity and accord to the protection of valued nature conservation habitats and species	-/+	+	0	0	0	Specific sites to be monitored
To improve the living environment for all communities	++	+	0	+	+	Core Paths should be sign posted and maintain to increase benefits to this SEA objective.
Safeguard the soil quality, geo-diversity and improve contaminated land.	-/+	+	0	0	0	Specific sites to be monitored
Avoid, manage and reduce flood risk and protect the water environment.	0	0	0		0	No effect
Maintain and, where possible, improve air quality.	+	+	+	+		Improved connectivity and confidence improves non-motorised use of access resource
Reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to the adaptation of the area to climate change	+	+	+	+	+	" "
Protect and where	0	+	0	0	0	No effect

appropriate enhance the historic environment.						
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Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

The proposed core paths and changes to existing core paths as proposed in the amended plan have been assessed within a template as shown in Table 12. Core paths have, where practical, have been grouped together so as to reduce the number of assessments. Assessments have been completed by Settlement area, the results are given in Appendix 2.

Population, Material Assets and Landscape were scoped out of this SEA. Where a receptor does occur which affect these SEA objectives, e.g. National Scenic Areas, then an assessment will be made against those core paths or proposed core paths but not for all core paths assessment in the plan or amended plan.

Generally the impact of the core paths plan and the amended plan is slightly positive regards likely environmental impact on the SEA objectives. There are a large number of receptors for European designated sites, Ramsar/SAC/SPA but this is to be expected given the large area covered in the plan area.

Table 12.

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (existing, new, deletion, diversion)	Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors					
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact							
Overall Impact							
Comments/ mitigation							
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)							

Monitoring the effectiveness of the plan

Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan. This must be done in such a way as to also identify unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate action.

It is considered good practice for monitoring:

- fit a pre-defined purpose, help to solve problems, and address key issues;
- is practical and is customised to the PPS;
- is transparent and readily accessible to the public;
- is seen as a learning process and a cyclical process relating closely to the collation of the environmental baseline.

For this monitoring to be effective it will need to be linked to both the SEA Objectives and the Plan Objectives. The baseline data set out earlier in this report sets the scene for any monitoring which is to take place. Below is a monitoring framework. The core paths in the core paths plan are actively monitored by The Highland Council with physical visit made by officers to ensure promoted paths in the plan are accessible.

Table 13.

Environmental Parameter	SEA Objective	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation and when	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Protect, enhance and where necessary restore designated wildlife sites and protected species	Latest assessed condition of features of designated site	SNH - as and when site assessed	Use of Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Section 29 powers where recreation or disturbance is the pressure of the feature
	Provide appropriate opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wild life and wild places.	Proportion of population living within 200m of a core path or promoted route	THC - after and before any core paths review	Review sufficiency of core paths network or other promoted path in relation to populated areas.
Population and Human Health	Provide appropriate opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wild life and wild places.	Proportion of population living within 200m of a core path or promoted route	THC - after and before any core paths review	Review sufficiency of core paths network or other promoted path in relation to populated areas.

	Physical activity and active travel	Information on physical activity	SG via the Scottish Household Survey – annually	Further promotion access resource in core paths plan
Water	Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment.	Number of rivers/lochs in good Ecological Condition.	SEPA	Ensure path erosion is not exacerbating poor conditions
		Indicative River and Coastal Flood map	SEPA	Promote alternative routes to core path within flood zone
Climatic Factors	Reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to the adaptation of the area to climate change.	Monitor travel patterns and reductions in car usage	THC (Information and Research) - Biennially	Further promotion access resource in core paths plan; access team to work with Active Travel projects
Material Assets	Protection and enhancement of public access	Number of planning applications granted which affect paths identified in the core paths plan	THC (Information and Research facilitated by access officers) - Annually	Promotion of Section 208 orders only where positive outcome to public access.
Cultural Heritage	There is no known monitoring on the condition of Scheduled Monuments across the plan area or any indicator that may be monitored. THC will liaise with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) where public recreational access is a pressure on scheduled sites where HES do not manage the monument.			
Landscape	Landscape impacts were scoped out of this SEA so there is no intention to attempt to monitor landscape impacts by this plan.			

Next Steps

Timescales for the Core Paths Plan (West Highland and Islands) Amended and SEA

This Environmental Report will be subject to a 15 week consultation from the 8th July 2019 to 18th October 2019, where expressions of opinion on the report will be welcomed. The Environmental Report will be available on the Councils website and paper copies will be available at the main Council Offices in Portree, Fort William & Dingwall as well as at the Headquarters in Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. Electronic copies will be sent to the Consultation Authorities via SEA Gateway.

Following this consultation the views will be collated and, where appropriate, alteration will be made to the report. A timetable for the next steps is below;

Table 14.

Timescale	Core Paths Plan (Caithness and Sutherland) Amended	SEA/Habitat Regulations Appraisal
8 th July 2019 to 18 th October 2019	Consultation of Amended plan	Consultation of Environmental Report
October 2019 to January 2020	Period of time to resolve objections	Update ER after considering any expression of opinion and CA's comments
		Undertake HRAs
March 2020	Report to Local Access Forum and area committees if modified plan required	
April /May	Consult on Modified amended core path plan (if required)	
September 2020	Committee approval to submit to Scottish Government	Complete SEA ER and HRA
December 2020	Where no objections remain adopt the amended plan, otherwise await Minister Approval to adopt the plan or direct a public local inquiry to be held.	-
Beyond this date the adoption of the plan is not dependent on THC and is reliant on action of Ministers and any independent reporters appointed by them. So no timescale are proposed in this ER.		

Appendix 1 – Baseline Data

The information in this appendix shows baseline data for West Highland and Islands. It consists of a series of maps and links to sources used in the preparation of this Revised Environmental Report. Data has been taken at either Highland wide level or, when available, West Highland and Islands level.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Key information	Data Source
Protect, enhance and where necessary restore designated wildlife sites and protected species	There are currently 142 SSSI's, 45 SAC's, 19 SPA's, 14 NNR's, 3 RAMSAR in the Plan area.	SNH website for information on designated sites, site condition and qualifying interests/features: https://www.nature.scot/ Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands; 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity)
	Two of Scotland's three UNESCO European Geoparks lie within the West Highland and Islands Plan area. These are the Lochaber Geopark and the southern part of the North West Highlands Geopark. These areas boast the best geology in the world with the UK's highest mountains, deepest lochs and stunning natural scenery. These areas cover about 4,000km ² and home to a rich variety trees and woodland and priority habitats.	Scotland's National Peat Plan (2014)
Improve biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses.	Highland region supports 192 of the 238 priority species in Scotland and 40 of the 42 priority habitats. 455 of the priority species of conservation importance are found in Highland.	Highland Biodiversity Action Plan www.highlandbiodiversity.com Habitat and Birds Directive – Annex 1
Provide appropriate opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wild life and wild places.	Core Paths and Rights of Way	THC Core Paths Scotways
Fisheries and Aquaculture	Natural Resources of the Seas around Highland.	https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/13403/aquaculture_supplementary_guidance
Protected species		THC's Statutorily Protected

[Species Supplementary Guidance.](#)

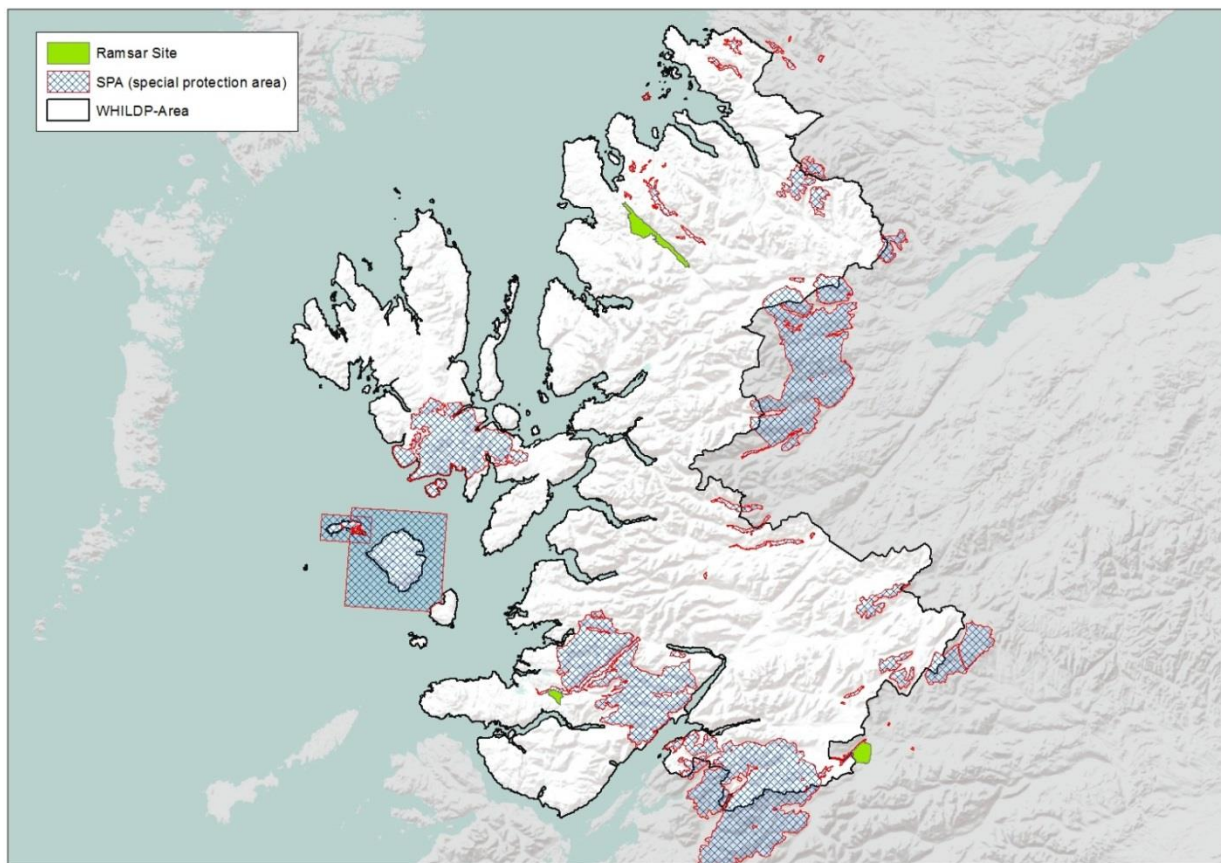
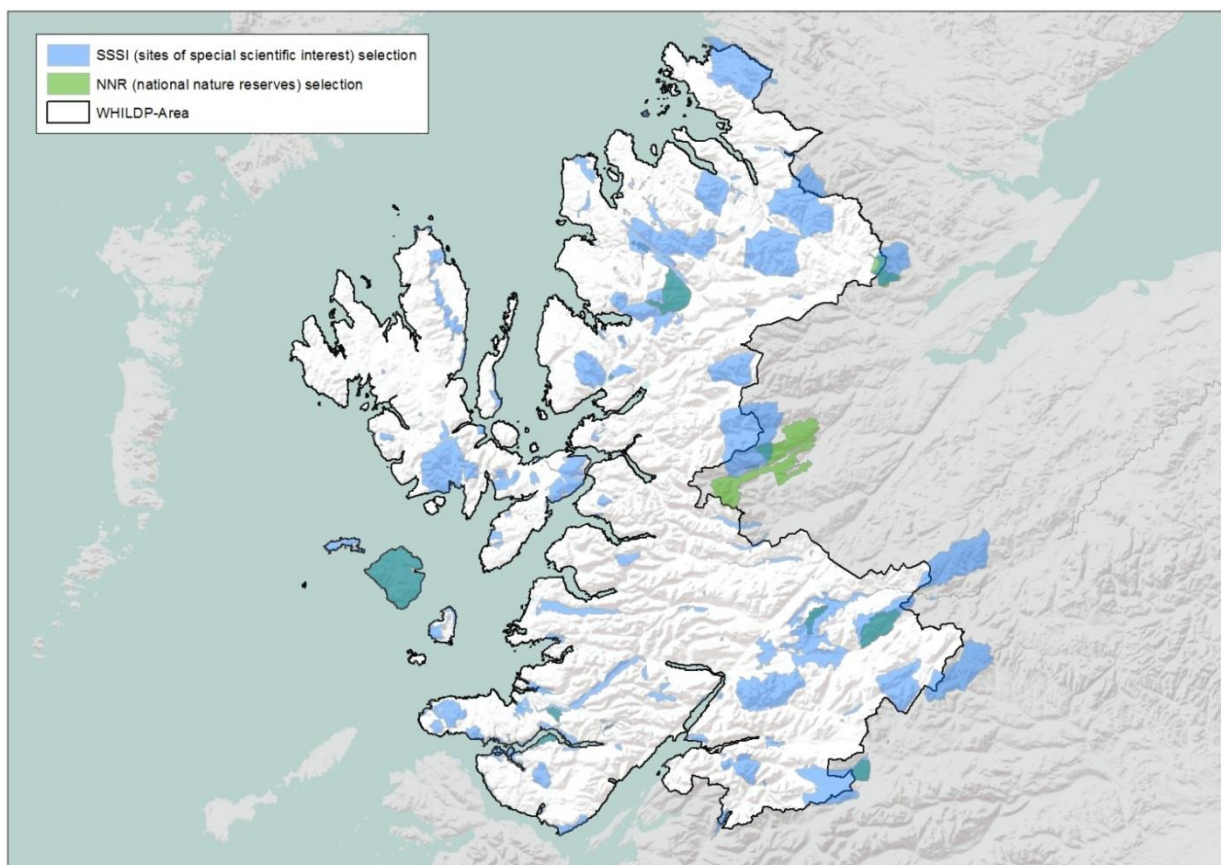
SNH website

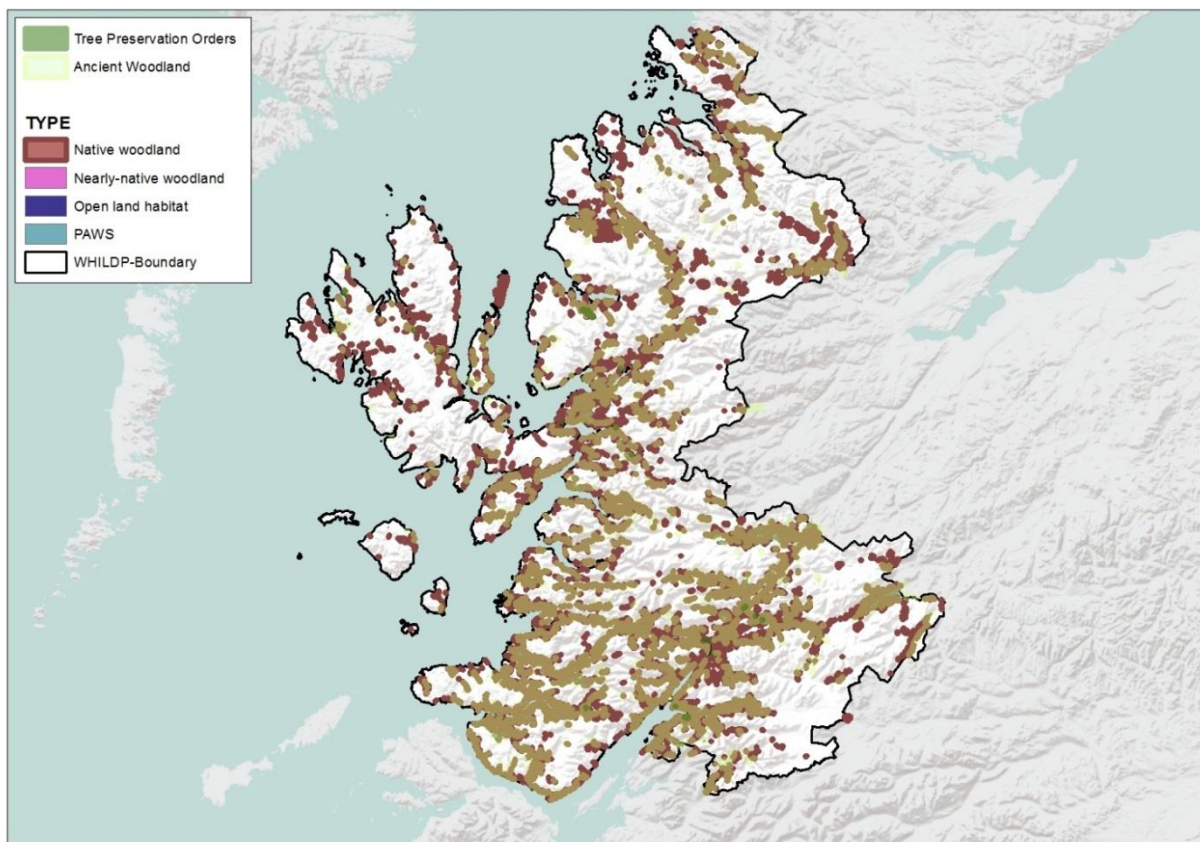
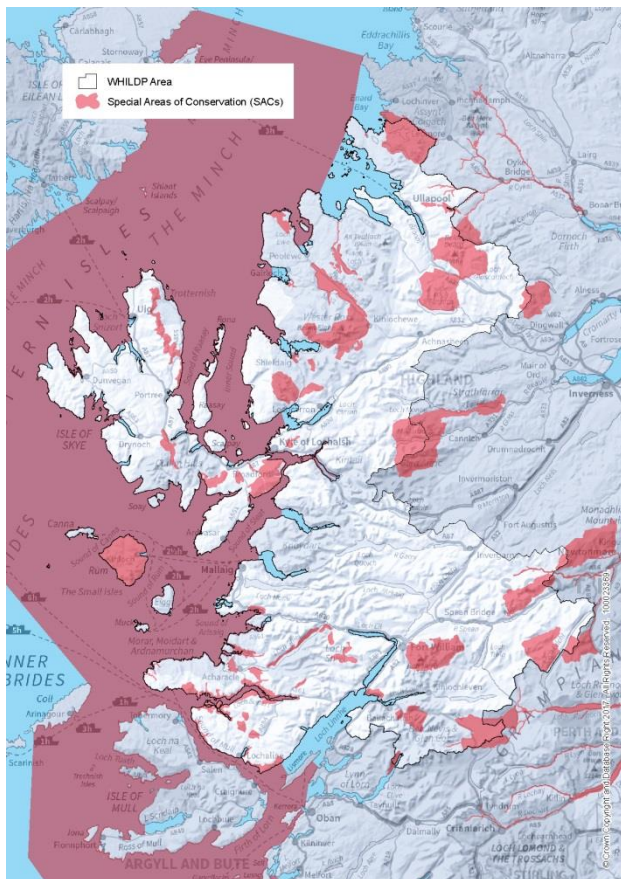
<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/safeguarding-protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/protected-species-z-guide>

Presence of protected species may be able to be derived from the NBN Gateway

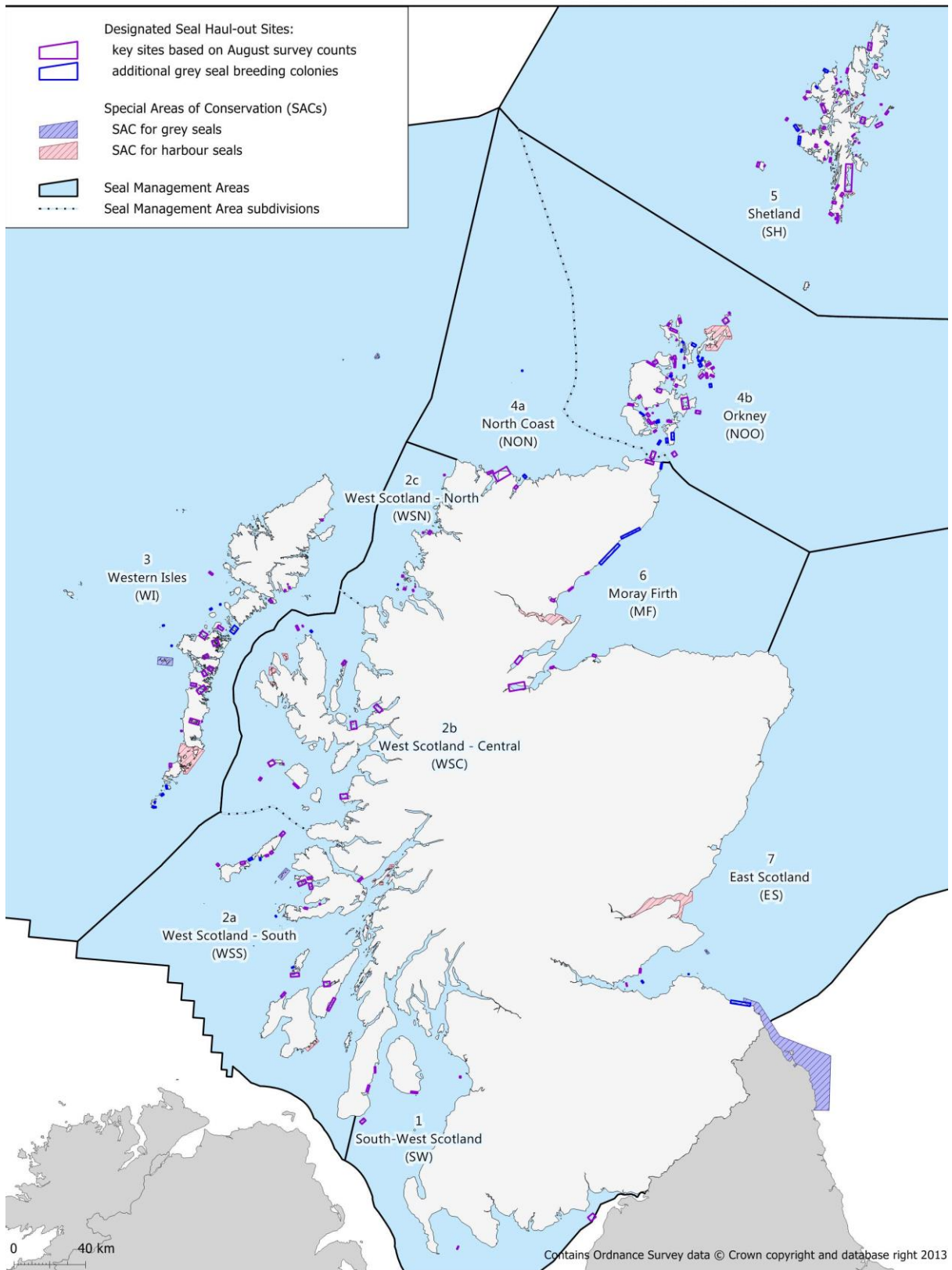
<https://scotland.nbnatlas.org/>
(although absence of any record is not conclusive that the species is not present).

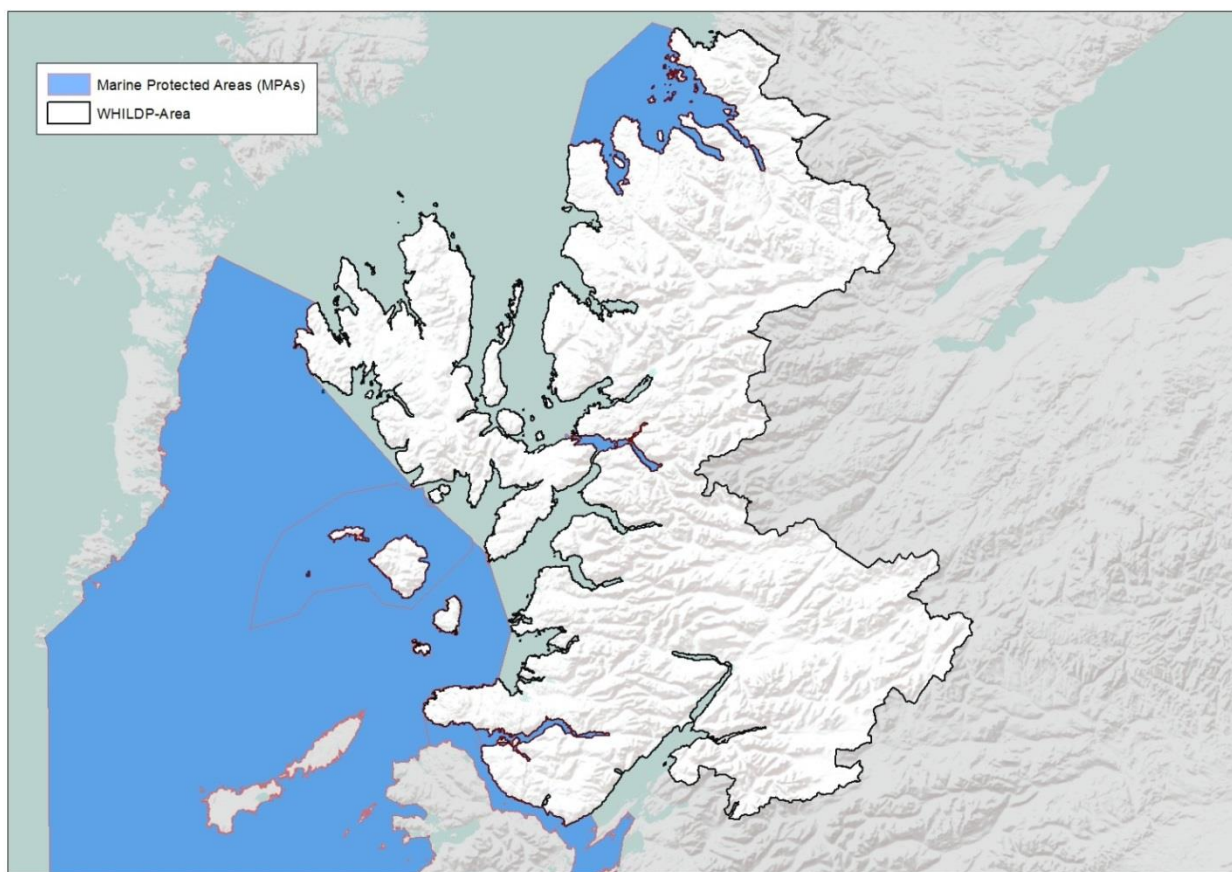
Forest and Woodland	<p>The forestry map below shows the key features within the existing forestry industry across Highland.</p> <p>In the Plan area there are 3184 Semi-natural woodland sites, 9661 Native and nearly native woodland sites and 21 Tree Preservation Orders.</p>	<p><u>The Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy</u></p> <p>Forest and Land Scotland: <u>https://forestryandland.gov.scot/</u></p> <p><u>Native Woodland Survey of Scotland</u></p>
Protect and enhance the connectivity of green networks	<p>Mapped extent and mapping methodology for identification of green networks in Highland</p> <p>Green Networks will be identified through the WHILDP.</p>	<u>Green Networks Supplementary Guidance</u>
Marine Protected Areas	4 Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas	<p>SNH website for information</p> <p><u>Marine Protected Areas</u></p>
Seal Haul-out Areas	<u>10 Seal Haul-out areas</u>	<u>Seal Haul-out Areas</u>





Designated Seal Haul-out Sites in Scotland
as set out in an order made under section 117 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

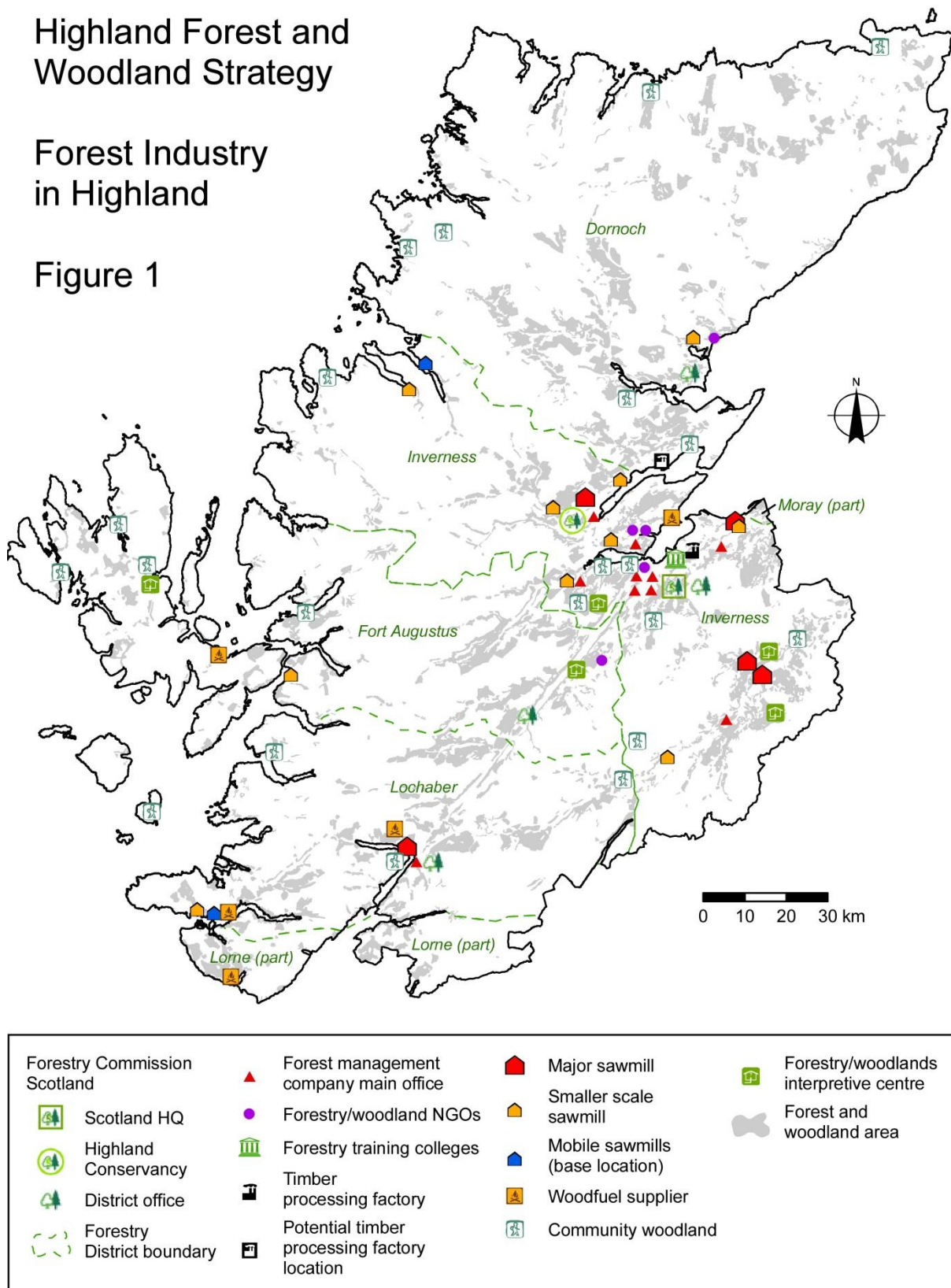




Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy

Forest Industry in Highland

Figure 1



Population and Human Health	Key Information	Data Source
Population and demographics	<p>Information on the current situation and forecasts for future demographic changes at local, regional and international levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of Highland increased from 208, 914 to 232,132 between 2001 and 2011 (11% increase) Population is projected to increase by 15% by 2035. There is expected to be 16, 029 more people of retirement age and 5507 fewer children than in 2004. Therefore the population is expected to age. 3 data zones in highland Region fall within the 5% most deprived zones in Scotland. 2 data zones fall within the top 5% least deprived. A large proportion of Highland Region is referred to as “Fragile” in terms of remoteness and scarcity of population. An average of 8 people live per sq km, throughout the region, reducing to 2 people per sq km in some parts. <p>In the West Highland and Islands area the population was 39,201 in 2013. In the decade to 2013 the population grew by 1,936 people, an increase of 5.2% which compares with increases of 10.1% and 5.1% for Highland and Scotland respectively. The population is expected to increase by 5% between 2012 and 2037.</p> <p>Current population density is 3.9 people per km² (compared to Highland at 8.7 people per km² and 67.4 for Scotland).</p>	<p>Census statistics and analysis www.ons.gov.uk</p> <p>Scottish Household Survey 2012 http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002</p> <p>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Highland Council Deprivation and Fragility Informaton Highland Council Deprivation and Fragility Informaton</p>
Health and well-being	<p>Baseline information on the current situation and forecasts for future trends on a variety of topics including health, crime, environmental health.</p>	<p>www.isdscotland.org</p> <p>Transport Scotland: Household Survey 2012 www.audit-scotland.gov.uk http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/news/scottish-household-survey-travel-diary-2012</p>
School rolls	<p>Many of the primary and secondary schools are significantly under capacity.</p>	<p>School roll forecasts</p>
Physical activity and	<p>Information on physical activity</p>	<p>2017 Scottish Household Survey</p>

active travel

organisations and current and planned active travel projects.

- 47.7% of Highland has not walked as a means of transport in the past week and only 40.5% walked for pleasure in the last week.
- 49% of Highland population has access to a bicycle (second only to Moray at 49.6%

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002

Sustrans National Cycle Network Map;

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/national-cycle-network>

Active Travel audits are available for Fort William and Dingwall

THC Core Paths

Scotways

Footpath networks – Highlights the proportion of population living within 200m of a footpath.

Open Space

Highlights the proportion of population who live within 200m of open space

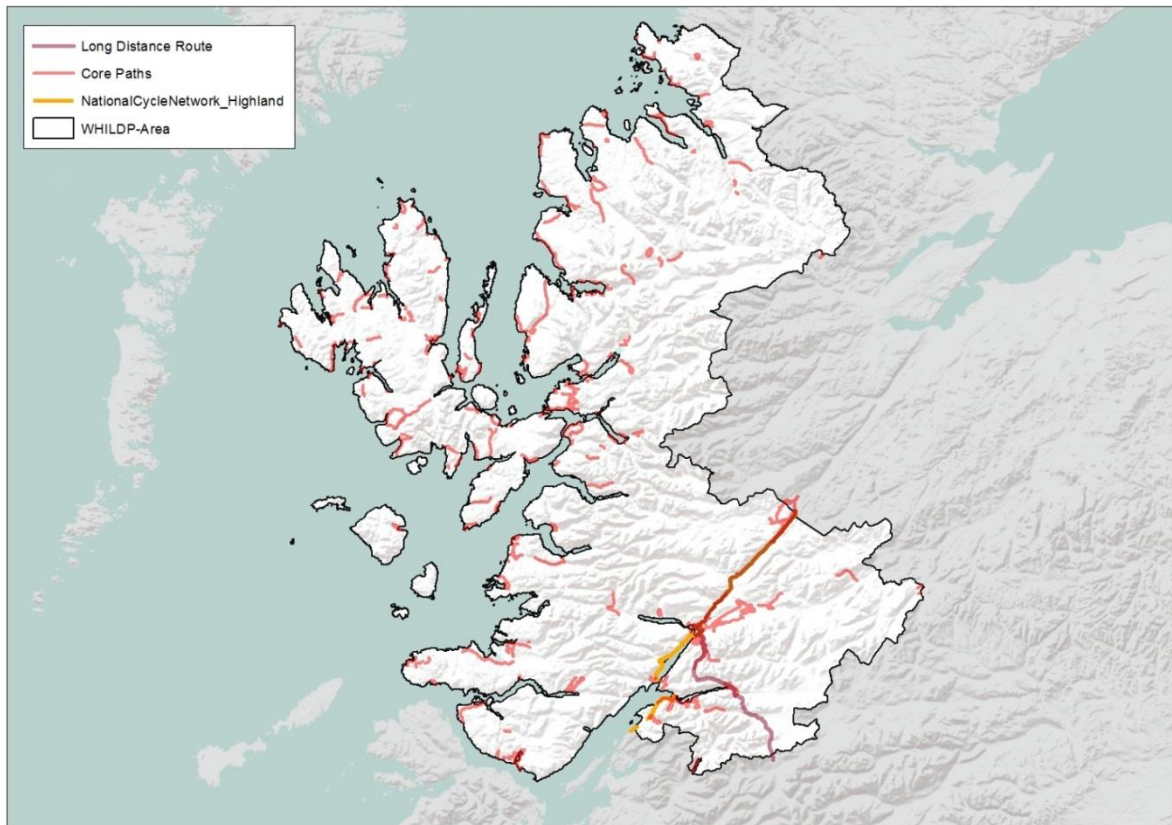
https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/2966/open_space_in_new_residential_development_supplementary_guidance

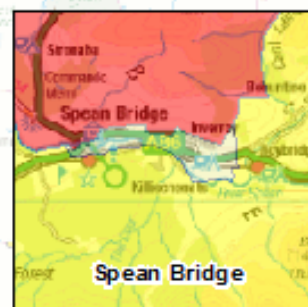
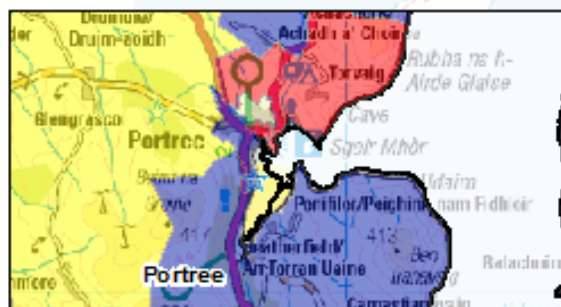
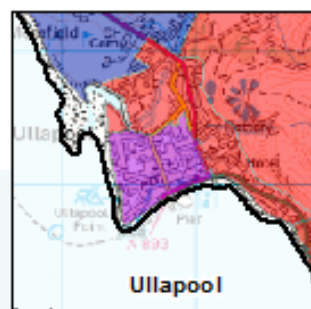
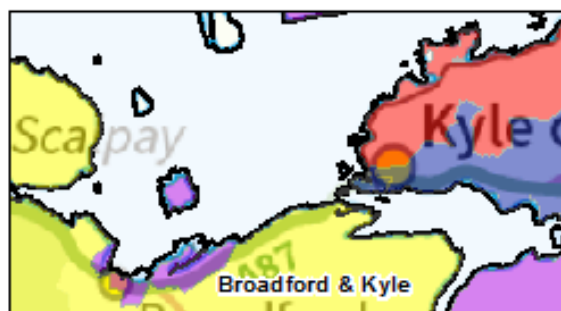
Greenspace Scotland

<http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/audits-and-strategies.aspx>

Scottish Household Survey 2012

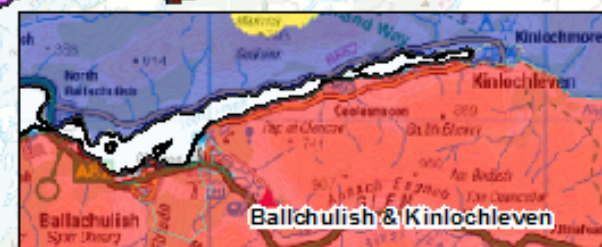
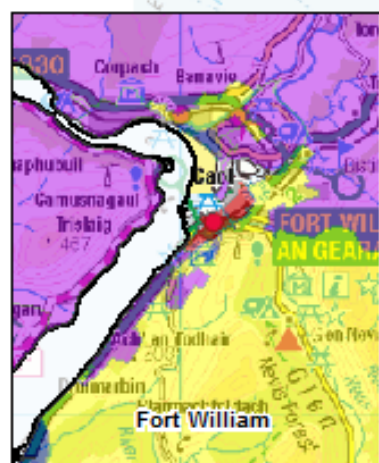
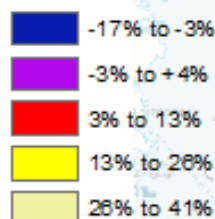
www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002





Legend

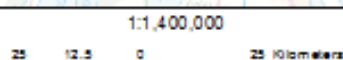
population change
percent



**Percentage Change in the
Total Population, 2003 to 2013
by Data Zone**

431

Date: 19/02/16



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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Development, Infrastructure Services

Air	Key Information	Data Source
2013 Air Quality Progress Report	<p>Generally the air quality in the Highland Council area is good.</p> <p>It is however considered that significant effects are most likely in the Fort William area as this is a relatively industrial town, with a number of existing businesses having air stack discharges, and it has a relative concentration of traffic.</p>	Air Quality Progress Report (2013)
Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Highland	None at present	http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/

Water	Key Information	Data Source
Flooding likelihood	Within nearly all the main towns and villages there are areas which are at risk of flooding and that both coastal and fluvial flood risk can be an issue in the WHILDP area.	SEPA flood risk management maps
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Skye- contains 16 'high' quality classified water bodies; 28 'good' status water bodies and 1 'moderate' water body. • Fort William Coastal- contains 1 'good' quality water body. • Appin Coastal- contains 1 'high' quality water body; 6 'good' quality classified water bodies and 2 'moderate' water bodies. • Ardgour Coastal- contains 7 'good' quality water bodies; contains 5 'moderate' quality water bodies. • Ardnamurchan Coastal- contains 2 'high' quality water bodies; 13 'good' quality water bodies; 4 'moderate' water bodies. • Minch Coastal- contains 14 'high' quality water bodies; 43 'good' quality water bodies; 3 'moderate' quality water bodies and 5 'poor' water bodies. • Rum Coastal- contains 1 'high' quality water body. • River Broom- 5 natural water 	<p>River Basin Management Plans</p> <p>SEPA</p> <p>http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/monitoring</p> <p>SEPA Water Quality Classifications</p>

bodies; 3 good status; 1 moderate and one poor.

- River Carron- 9 natural water bodies; 1 high status; 6 good status and 2 moderate status.
- River Etive- 5 natural water bodies; 5 good status.
- River Ewe- 22 natural water bodies; 5 high status; 13 good status; 2 moderate status; 1 poor status.
- River Laxford- 8 natural water bodies; 1 high status; 7 good status.
- River Leven- 8 natural water bodies; 6 good status; 1 moderate status and 1 bad status.
- River Ling- 3 natural water bodies; 1 good status; 1 moderate and 1 poor.
- River Lochy- 52 natural water bodies; 2 high quality status; 40 good quality; 3 moderate; 3 poor and 4 bad.
- River Morar- 7 natural water bodies; 1 high quality status; 5 good and 1 moderate.
- River Shiel- 10 natural water bodies; 6 good status; 1 moderate and 2 poor.

Hydro-power	<p>Over 80 hydro-powered stations in Highlands and Islands</p> <p>More than half of Scotland's 145 hydroelectric schemes are in the Highlands and Islands area</p>	<p>Hi Energy http://www.hi-energy.org.uk/hydroenergy.html</p>
Wave and tidal renewable energy	<p>Around 10% of Europe's total wave resource flows in the seas surrounding the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It is estimated that 14 gigawatts of recoverable energy lie off the area's western and northern flanks.</p>	<p>Hi Energy http://www.hi-energy.org.uk/Renewables/Tidal-Energy.htm www.hi-energy.org.uk/Renewables/Wave-Energy.htm</p>
Ground Water and River Levels		<p>SEPA River Levels http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_levels.aspx</p> <p>Centre for Hydrology and Ecology. National Water Archive; https://www.ceh.ac.uk/data</p> <p>Scotland's River Basin</p>

		management plan https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/river-basin-management-planning/the-current-plans/#plans
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Climatic Factors	Key Information	Data Source
Vulnerability to effects of climate change		<p>The Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership</p> <p>https://adaptationscotland.org.uk/</p> <p>Consideration of Climatic Factors within Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</p> <p>www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/18102927/0</p> <p>SEPA flood risk management maps</p> <p>Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership</p> <p>UKCP09 The climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends.</p> <p>http://www.sniffer.org.uk/</p>
Energy consumption	Highland Council energy consumption is 22, 250GWH per annum.	<p>THC energy consumption</p> <p>www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/354/energy_consumption</p>
Energy from renewable sources	<p>Renewable Energy installations in Highland Council Building is 1200KWh</p> <p>Promotion of renewable energy.</p>	<p>Renewable energy in THC buildings</p> <p>www.highland.gov.uk/info/1034/land_and_property/271/renewable_energy_in_our_buildings</p> <p>Highland Council Renewable Energy Strategy</p> <p>www.highland.gov.uk/info/198/planning - long term and area policies/15</p>

		2/renewable_energy Community Benefits from Renewables Highland Council Wind Turbine Map
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)	None at present in the West Highland and Islands area.	http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/
Travel	<p>44% of people within Highland taking public transport or active travel means to work and study.</p> <p>Active travel audits for Wick and Thurso which includes a variety of baseline information.</p>	Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Plans www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/121/local_transport_planning
Improve the use of sustainable building techniques	Promotion of Sustainable design in the Community.	Designing for Sustainability in the Highlands



Highland Windfarm Activity November 2015

Material Assets	Key Information	Data Source
Vacant & Derelict Land Register		Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey
Waste Generation and		Scotland's Zero Waste Plan

Management

[Scotland's Environmental Waste Data](#)

[Scottish Waste Sites and Capacity Tool](#)

[Household Waste Summary Data](#)

THC Waste Data Report

www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/13531/annual-waste-data-report-2011-to-2013

Core Path Plan & Rights of Way

The Highland Council (THC) /Scotways

[Paths in the Highlands | Outdoor access | The Highland Council](#)

Land Use Plan & Open Space Audit

THC Open Space Supplementary Guidance and Greenspace Audit:

www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/

Soil	Key Information	Data Source
Erosion	Distance and numbers of path where erosion or poor path construction has or is reducing soil quality and quantity. No data available but possible monitoring of core paths in the future can be used.	The Highland Council Core Paths Plan
Contaminated Land		Highland Council Contaminated Land Database. Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey
Agricultural Land	Land use, employment and production information. Crofting in Highland Prime agricultural land (considered to be 3.2 and above)	National Farmers Union Scotland; http://www.nfus.org.uk/facts_index.asp Scotland's Soils http://www.soils-scotland.gov.uk/data/lca250k Crofting Commission Annual Report http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/annual-report-and-accounts
Soil Quality	Key indicators of soil quality	Soil Indicators for Scottish Soils

Carbon Rich Soils

Peat soils make up 22.5% of Scotland's soil.

Scottish soils are estimated to contain approximately 3000 million tonnes carbon, which is the majority of the soil carbon stock of the whole of the UK.

SNH

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/natural-heritage-advice-planners-and-developers/planning-and-development-landscape>

Scotland's Soils – survey data

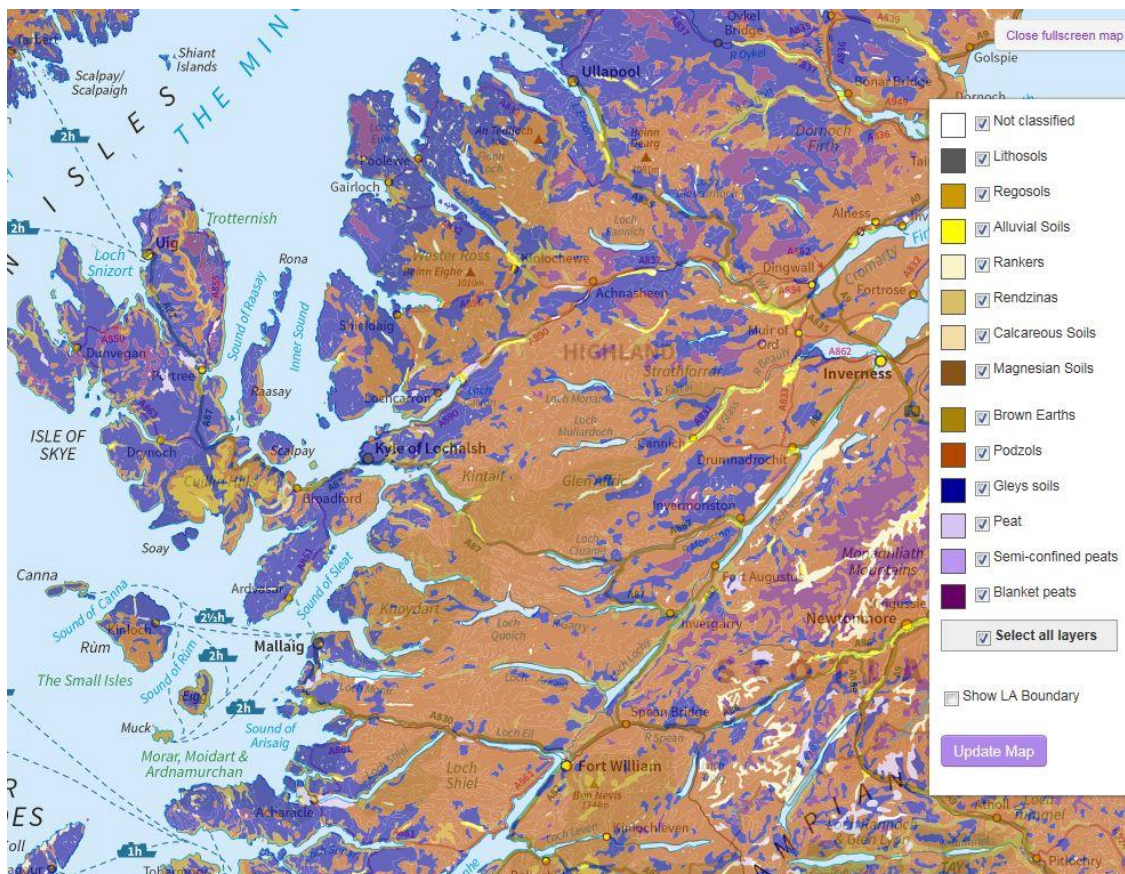
<http://www.soils-scotland.gov.uk/data/soil-survey>

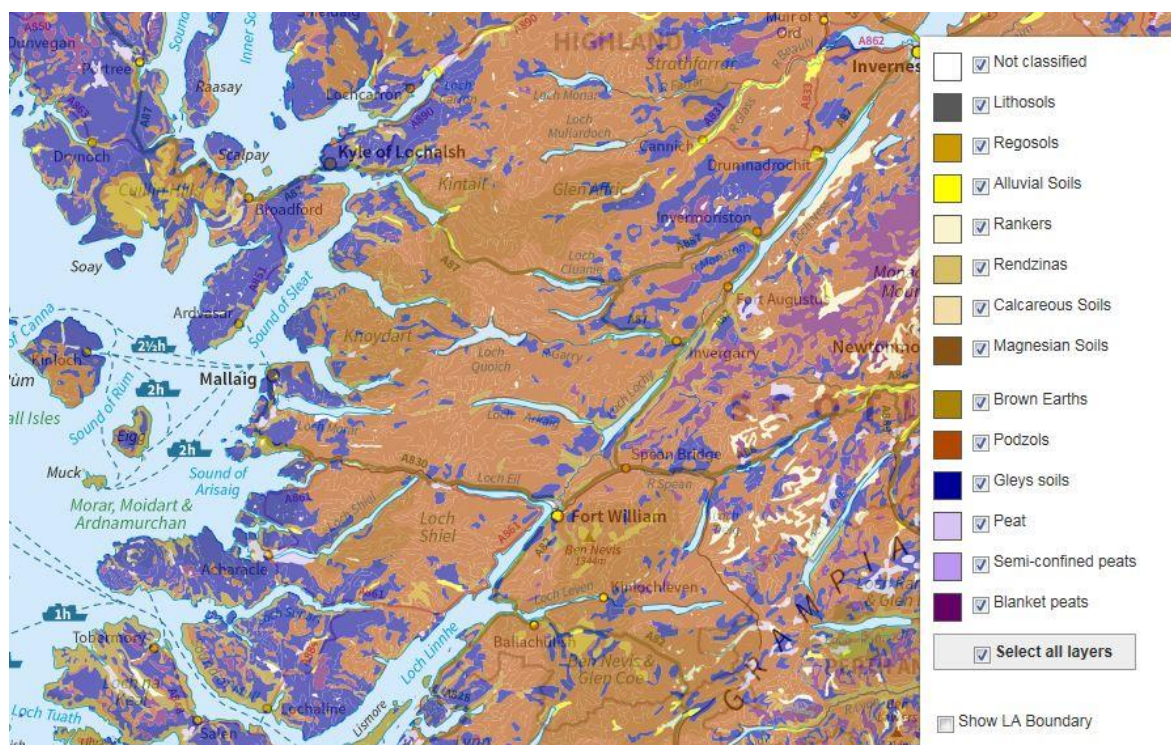
Geology

<http://www.scottishgeology.com/>

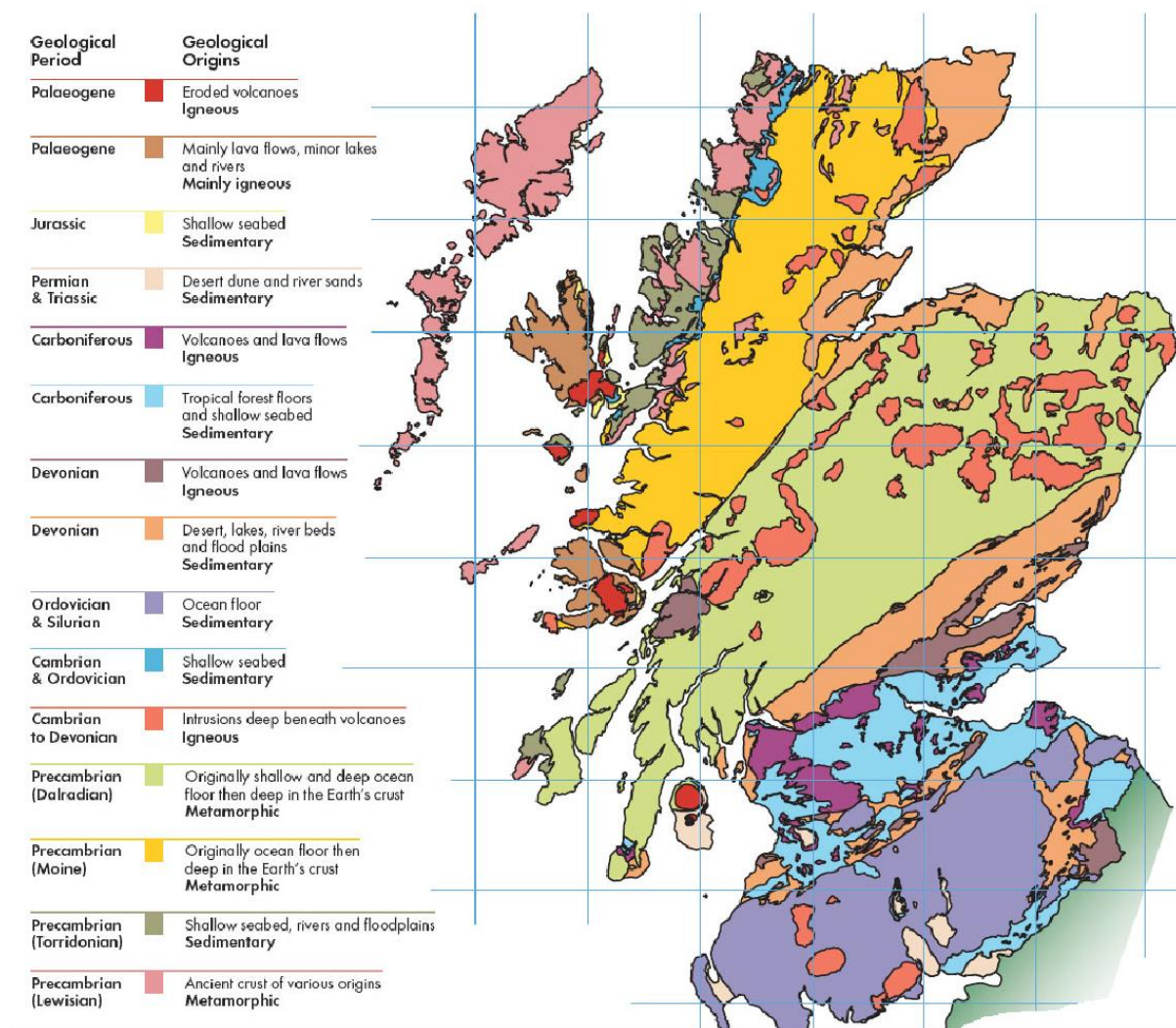
SNH

[GCR Sites](#)





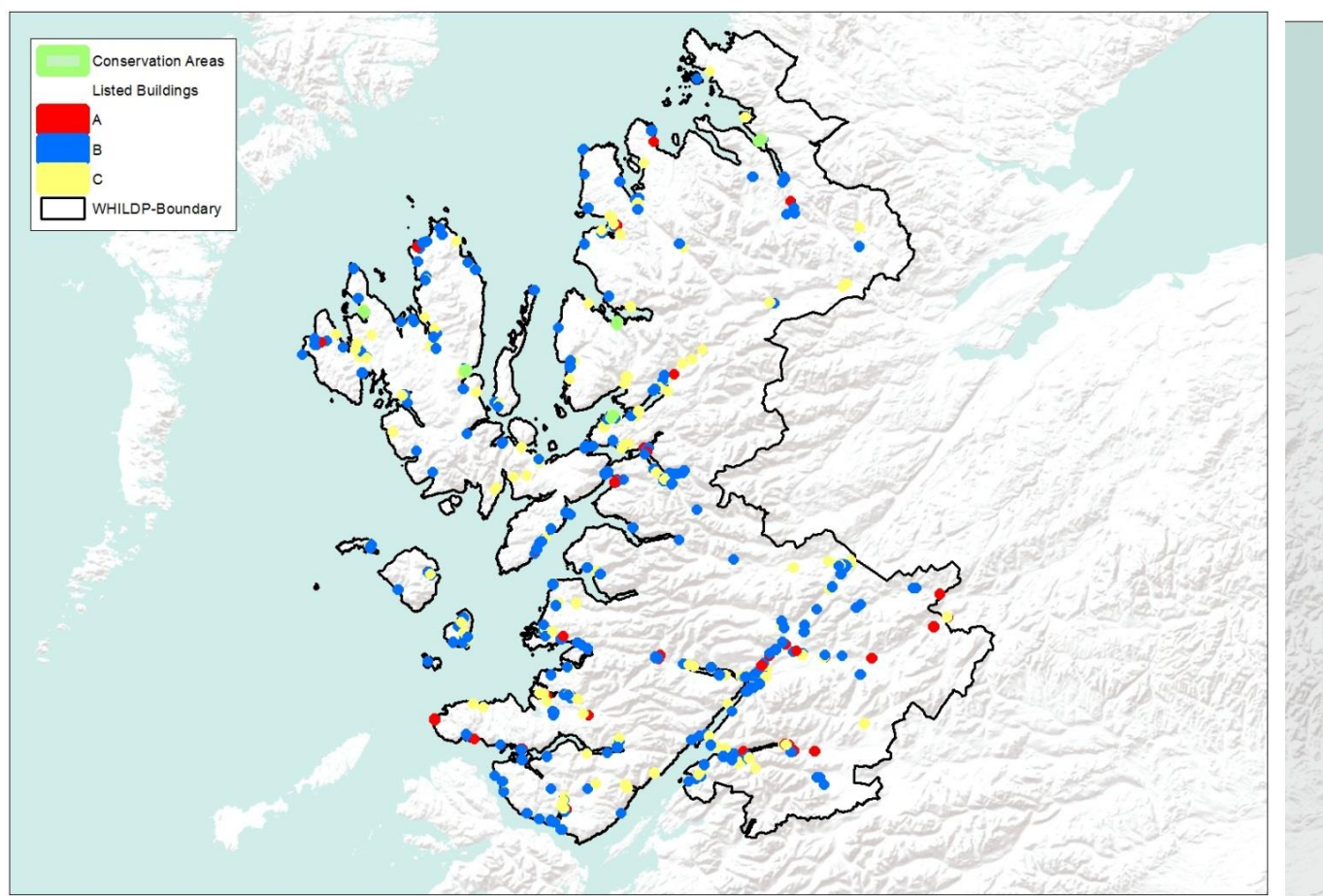
Map: Soil types in the West Highland and Islands area



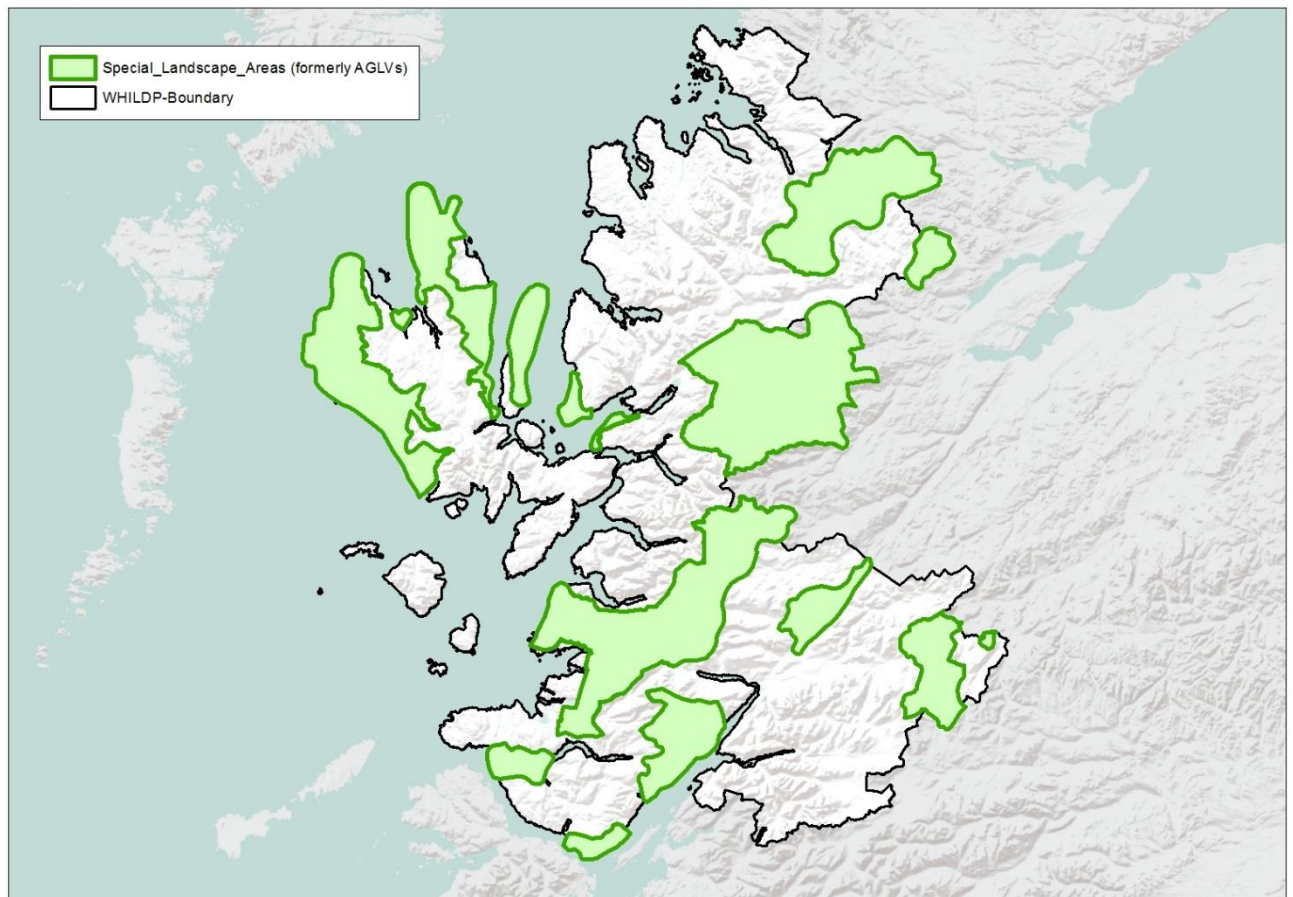
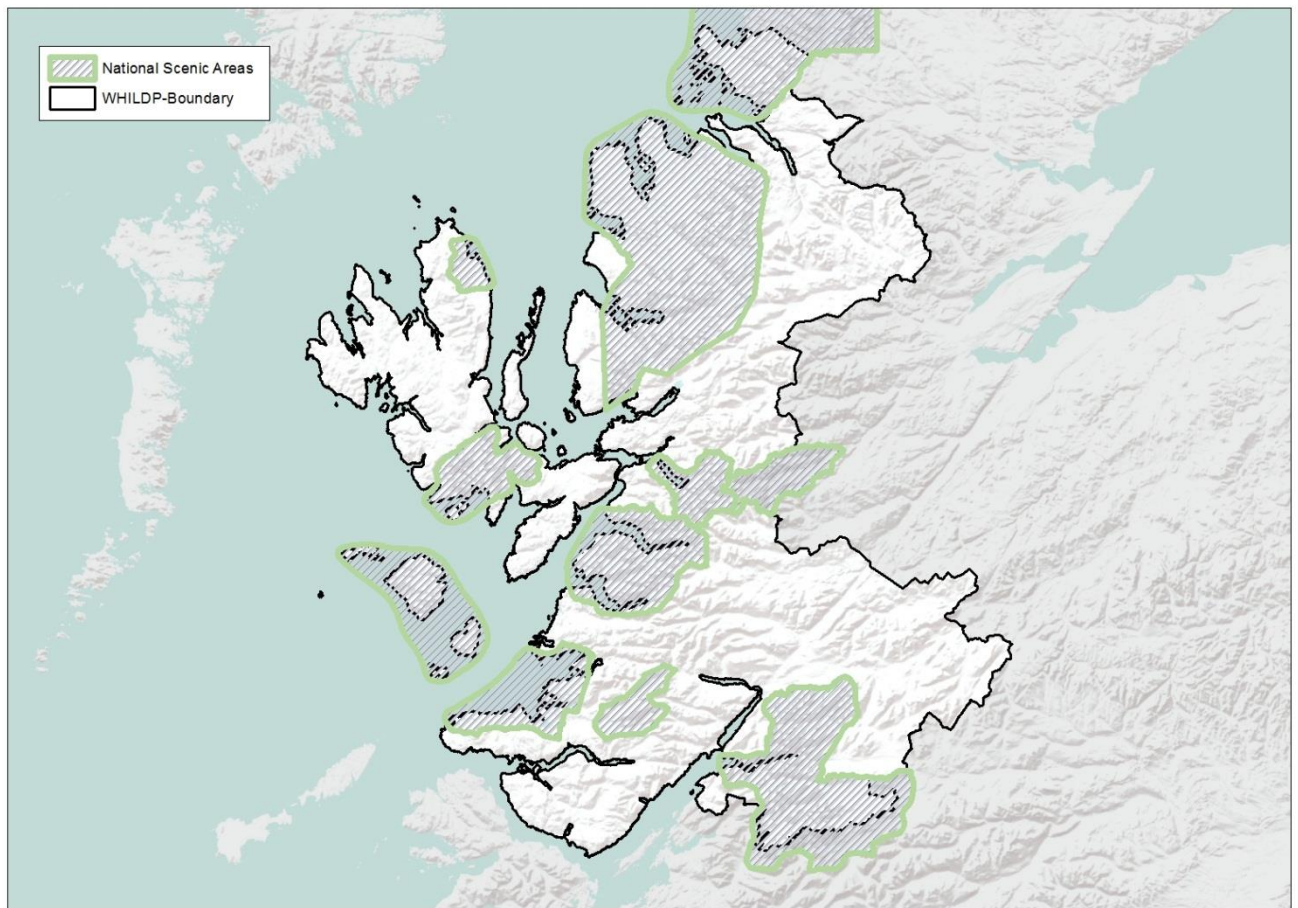
Map: Simplified geological map illustrating the nature, age, origins and distribution of rocks

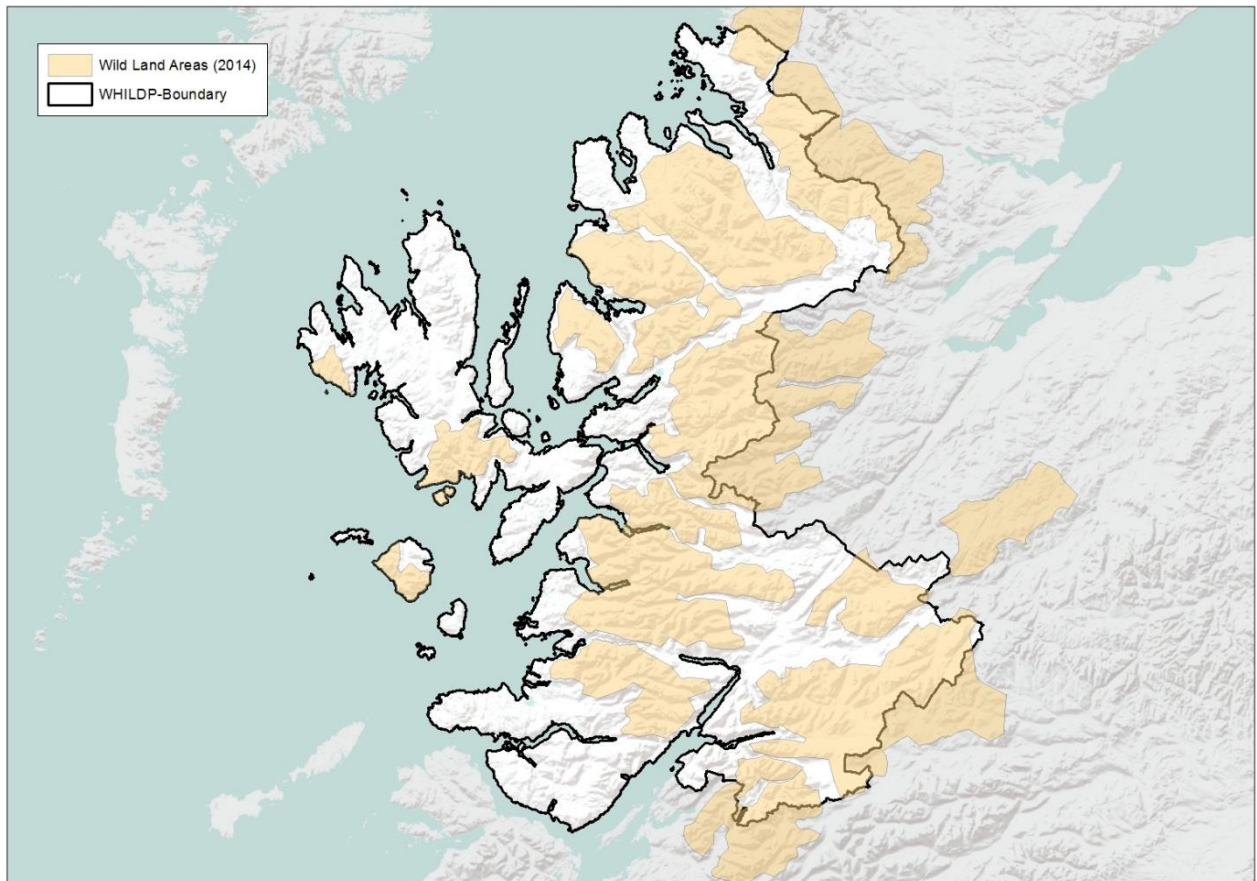
Cultural Heritage	Key Information	Data Source
Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness.	Number of Landscape designations across the West Highland and Islands are: National Scenic Areas – 11 Wild Land Areas- 16 Special Landscape Areas- 15	GIS
Listed Buildings	Number of Listed buildings across West Highland and Islands are: A Listed - 45 B Listed - 347 C(S) Listed - 269	Historic Scotland https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/
Schedule Monuments	Total number of Schedule Monuments in West Highland and Island is 273	Historic Scotland https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/

		designations/scheduled-monuments/
Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes	There are 5 Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes in the Plan area.	Historic Scotland https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/gardens-and-designed-landscapes/
Conservation areas	There are 5 conservation areas across the Plan area.	www.highland.gov.uk/info/192/planning-listed-buildings-and-conservation-areas/167/conservation/2
Building at Risk	There are 175 buildings on the Buildings at Risk register in Highland. Many of these are within the West Highland and Islands.	Buildings At Risk Register http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/



Landscape	Key Information	Data Source
Retain and improve quality and quantity of publicly accessible open space.	There are 15 separate Landscape Character Types identified within West Highland and Islands.	Scottish Natural Heritage: Overview of Scotland's national programme of Landscape Character Assessment (2004) www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-landscapes/lca/
National Scenic Areas	West Highland and Islands includes 11 National Scenic Areas – Scotland's finest landscapes.	SNH National Scenic Areas
Wild Land Areas	There are 16 Wild Land Areas identified in the WHILDP area that make up approx. 48% of the total Plan area.	SNH Wild Land Areas Highland Coastal Strategy
Coast		
Impact of Built development	Visual impact of built development	SNH's visual indicator of built development and land use change – https://www.nature.scot/information-hub/indicators-trends/scotlands-indicators
Special Landscape Areas	There are 15 SLAs wholly or partially within the Plan area.	SLA Citations www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans





Appendix 2- Assessment of Proposed and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Datasets Considered

National Scenic Areas (NSA)

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

Ramsar

Wild Land

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) – where SAC/Ramsar/SPA site are recorded, SSSIs receptors will be discounted given hierarchy of statutory designation.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Core Path Assessments – Skye and Lochalsh

Achmore - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL01.02 SL01.02D	Deletion/Diversion		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Reversion to original recreational route after clearance of windblown trees.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Achmore - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL01.03C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly Positive						
Comments/mitigation	Use of these paths will provide public access provision and associated health benefits of non-motorised recreation.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Balmacara - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL02.09C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Hill path upgraded, promoted and signposted by NTS in 2016. Core path designation should have no negative impact.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Balmacara - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL02.10C	New		Ard Hill SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	SL02.10C is forestry track with a short section within a geological SSSI. There should be no negative impact.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Balmacara - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL02.11C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Well established, signposted , informal but well defined route into the network of core path above Balmacara.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Broadford - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL03.06E SL03.06D	Extension and Deletion		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landsc ape	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0	0	0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	New track built by Scottish Forest and Land/local community company to create circular route.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Broadford - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL03.11C	New		Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	SL03.11C, an old road, goes along the boundary of the SSSI. Used mainly by cyclists, joggers and dog walkers, core path designation should have no impact on the SSSI. The route encourages cycling providing safe access away from the A851						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)							

Broadford - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL03.12C	New		Boirearaig to Carn Dearg SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	SL03.12C is along an established signed coastal walk linking two existing core paths. There should be no new impact from changing status to a core path.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Carbost - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL04.03E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Addition of already promoted section of forest track to existing core circular route.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Carbost - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL04.07C	New		Cuillins SPA Cuillins SSSI The Cuillin Hills NSA Wild Land - Cuillin				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	+		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Moderately positive						
Comments/mitigation	SL04.07C, Fairy Pools path has become the second busiest path in Skye with 180,00 visitors per annum. Core path status will facilitate future funding although most of the monies needed for maintenance is anticipated to come from car parking charges. The Outdoor Access Trust Scotland along with local partners are preparing a detailed programme of works to better manage visitors and arrest the spread of erosion and vegetation loss along the side of the pools and waterfalls.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	HRA to be carried out to confirm no increased/significant environmental impacts.						

Edinbane - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL07.04E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	SL07.04E extends an old road core path allowing recreational access away from the A850. It is well established and there has been no negative impacts						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Edinbane - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL07.03E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Extension of village linking path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Edinbane - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL07.05C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Village linking path. Core path funding will facilitate future funding for refurbishment/maintenance						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Elgol - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL08.06C	New		Cuillins SPA Sligachan Peatlands SAC The Cuillin Hills NSA Cuillins SSSI Cuillin Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Public right of way, signposted						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Glenelg - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL12.08C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	SL12.08C is part of an already signed route. Changing to core path status will not have an impact.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Glenelg - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL12.09C	New		Knoydart NSA Kinlochhourn, Knoydart, Morar - Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	+/-		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Recently built track may attract more users but will keep them to a better defined line.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Inverinate - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL13.04C	New		Kintail NSA Central Highlands – Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	SL13.04C, part of the Kintail Affric Way, is a well established route promoted and signed. Changing to core path status should have no impact.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Inverinate - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL13.05C	New		Kintail NSA Central Highlands – Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	SL13.05C is part of the route to the Falls of Glomach. Part forestry track and part hill path the route has long featured in walking guides and visitor information. Changing to core path status should have no impact.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kyle - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL17.01E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	New paths adding to existing network						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kyleakin - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL18.02E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Mountain bike trails converted to footpaths seven years ago extending forest network, promoted and well established.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Plockton - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL19.09(C)	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Well established and promoted path by National Trust for Scotland.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Portree - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL21.04E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Extension to nature walk linking to new housing development						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Portree - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL21.13C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	New path through private grounds and forestry ground linking to existing core path. Established for seven years and no negative impacts to date.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Raasay - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL22.12C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Well established and promoted route.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Skeabost Bridge - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL23.01E SL23.07E	Extensions		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Refurbished sections of old roads linking existing core paths keeping non vehicular access away from the A87 and A850.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Sleat - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL24.08C	New						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Long established, signed, recreational route.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Sleat - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL24.09C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Community owned woodland with promoted paths and tracks in variable condition.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Staffin - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL25.05C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	New path built and promoted by community organisation.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Staffin- Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL25.03E	Extension		Trotternish Ridge SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Important alternative route to one of Scotland's busiest footpaths at over 200,000 visitors per annum.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Staffin- Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL25.15C	New		Trotternish Ridge SSSI Trotternish Ridge SAC				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	An eight fold increase in visitor numbers over 15 years has resulted in loss of protected habitats in and around the route. Major funding has been secured to address these problems. Core path designation will not affect visitor numbers but reflect the importance of one of Scotland's busiest footpaths						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)							

Uig- Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL27.01E	Extension		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Short spur to viewpoint from existing core path. Well established, signposted and no negative impacts to date.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Uig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
SL27.06C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly Positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Well established, signed, recreational forestry paths.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Core Path Assessments – Lochaber

Acharacle - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO01.15C	New		Loch Shiel SPA Loch Shiel SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0	+	+
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	The route is well established along the side of Loch Shiel						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Acharacle - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO01.16C	New		Moidart aand Ardgour SPA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	A well defined signposted route						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Acharacle - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO01.17C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Established village link path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Acharacle - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO01.17C	New		Sunart SSSI Sunart SAC				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Established, promoted and well maintained route.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Arisaig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO04.05C	New		Morar, Moidart and Ardnamurchan NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impacts						
Comments/ mitigation	Established riverside path.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Ballachulish - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO05.05C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impacts						
Comments/ mitigation	Established beaten earth path.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Ballachulish - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO05.09E	Extension		Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA Kentallen GCR Kentallen SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	New NCN 78 Cycleway						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Ballachulish - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO05.10C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	New aggregate path.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Ballachulish - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO05.12C	New		Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Existing beaten earth and partially signposted path.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.01E	Extension						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	New aggregate path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.18E	Extension						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Beaten earth path and steps						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.27C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	New aggregate path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.27D	Deletion						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	LO07.27C is a more accessible alternative						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.36C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Beaten earth path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.37C	New core path		Ben Nevis SAC Ben Nevis SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Beaten earth path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.38C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Bitmac, lit path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.39	New core path		Ben Nevis SAC Ben Nevis SSSI Glen Nevis and Allt a Mhuilinn GCR Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Ben Nevis Tourist Path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.40C	New core path		Ben Nevis SAC Ben Nevis SSSI Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	New aggregate path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.41C	New core path		Ben Nevis SAC Ben Nevis SSSI Glen Nevis and Allt a Mhuilinn GCR Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Existing aggregate path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.44C	New core path		Parallel Roads of Lochaber GCR Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI Loch Lochy and Loch Oich Special Landscape Area Scheduled Monument – Caledonian Canal				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Caledonian Canal						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.45C	New core path		Parallel Roads of Lochaber GCR Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.49C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.50C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.51C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Beaten earth path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.52C	New core path		Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA Rannoch Moor SAC Rannoch Moor SSSI Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA Caulfield's Military Road SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Track and path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Fort William - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO07.53C	New core path		Ben Nevis SAC Ben Nevis SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Old railway track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Glenborrodale - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO08.01C	New		Morar, Moidart and Ardnamurchan NSA Sunart SAC				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Established hill path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Glencoe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO09.10E	Extension		Glencoe NNR Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA Glen Coe SAC Glen Coe SSSI Loch Achtriochtan GCR Loch Achtriochtan SSSI Glencoe Visitor Centre				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	New aggregate path – planning permission granted						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Glencoe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO09.12C	New		Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA Rannoch Moor SAC Rannoch Moor SSSI Kingshouse GCR Kingshouse SSSI Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Existing track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Glencoe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO09.13C	Extension		Glencoe NNR Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA Glen Coe SAC Glen Coe SSSI Loch Etive Mountains WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Existing signposted aggregate and beaten earth path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Glenfinnan - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO10.08C	New		Moidart and Ardgour SPA Ardgour Pinewoods SAC Moidart, Ardgour – Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Hill track and path, signed either end						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Glenfinnan - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO10.09C	New		Loch Shiel NSA Moidart and Ardgour SPA Ardgour Pinewoods SAC Moidart, Ardgour – Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Well established signed forest road						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kilchoan - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO12.08C	New		Morar, Moidart and Ardnamurchan NSA Ardnamurchan SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Path established and signposted for five years.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kinlochleven - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO014.01E	Extension		Leven Valley SSSI Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Existing aggregate path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Kinlochleven - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO014.12C	New		Ben Nevis SAC Ben Nevis SSSI Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Track, aggregate and beaten earth paths						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Kinlochleven - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO014.14C	New						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	Existing beaten earth and aggregate path						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Knoydart - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO15.02 LO15.02D	Deletion/diversion		Knoydart NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Diversion on well established and signed network.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Lochaline - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO16.13C LO16.03D	New Deletion		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	New forest track linking existing core paths. Deleted section unused and overgrown						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Lochaline - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO16.16	New		Sunart SAC Sunart SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Circular route, part hill track/path, part coastal track. Hill route already signed. Coastal route within SAC and SSSI. No negative impact anticipated						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	HRA to be carried out to confirm no increased/significant environmental impacts.						

Mallaig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO17.05C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Spur from circular route linking to housing estate						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Mallaig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO17.01E	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Waymarked route linking in to existing core paths.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Roy Bridge - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO21.04C	New						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Existing beaten earth path and tracks						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Roy Bridge - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO21.05C	New		Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Aggregate path and track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.04C	New		The Small Isles NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Well established circular route around settlement						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.05C	New		Eigg – An Sgurr and Gleann Charadail SSSI The Small Isles NSA An Sgurr,fort,Eigg SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slight positive						
Comments/mitigation	Formed by use route, muddy in some sections.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.06C	New		Eigg - An Sgurr and Gleann Charadail SSSI The Small Isles NSA Na Sidheanan, burial mounds 200m N of Laig Farm, Eigg SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Well established track, short sections of route through SSSI follows clearly defined route						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.07C	New		Eigg – Cleadale SSSI Eigg - Laig to Kildonnan SSSI The Small Isles NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	+/-		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Route well established and promoted. Short section of SSSI down to beach could suffer from erosion.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.08C	New		The Small Isles NSA Rum SPA Rum SAC Rum SSSI Harris, settlement, Rum SAM Rum – Wild Land				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	The route is a well established management track. Significant increase in visitor numbers not anticipated. Due to constraints of ferry timetable only accessible by bike for single day visits which make up the bulk of the visitors.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.09C	New		The Small Isles NSA Rum SPA Rum SAC Rum SSSI Kilmory, settlement, old burial ground and cross shaft, Rum SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0	+	+
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	The route is a well established management track. Significant increase in visitor numbers not anticipated. Due to constraints of ferry timetable only accessible by bike for single day visits which make up the bulk of the visitors.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Small Isles - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO22.10C	New		The Small Isles NSA Rum NNR Rum SPA Rum SAC Rum SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Refurbished hill walk from main settlement.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Spean Bridge - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO23.01E	Extension						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive impact						
Comments/ mitigation	Existing forest roads						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	n/a						

Strontian - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO24.09C	New		Sunart SAC Sunart SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Well established, promoted, signed and maintained forest walks						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strontian - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO24.10C	New		Loch Shiel NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	Forest management track						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strontian - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
LO24.11C	New		Loch Shiel NSA Corrantee lead mine, Sunart SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/ mitigation	The route to the mine is already promoted and managed by Forest and Land Scotland						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Core Path Assessments – Wester Ross

Achiltibuie - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC01.10C	New		Assynt-Coigach NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	An existing route to a beach but also links with existing core to the south east. Is to be upgraded by Living Landscape project						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Achiltibuie - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC01.02E	Extension to existing core path		Assynt-Coigach NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Extending the existing core path from Loch of Reiff to the cliffs near An Stuir. This is a popular climbing area and the route is reasonably well defined. No upgrading or construction is planned						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Achiltibuie - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC01.05D	Deletion of existing core path		Assynt-Coigach NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	None						
Comments/mitigation	Deletion of this route for the core path plan. With much local support as it has been proposed for construction twice in the last 10 years but failed due to landowner and another residents resistance						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Applecross - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC04.06E	Extension of existing core path		Monastic settlement SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Extension of the existing core path to Sand to the main Estate track near Applecross House. This path was constructed by the Applecross Living Landscape project approx. 5 years ago						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Applecross - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC04.09C	New		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	A path constructed about 5 years ago by the Living Landscape project that links the village to the Applecross Estate path network						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Applecross - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC04.10C	New		Monastic settlement SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	A new linking path to the existing core path to Sand, it passes the museum associated with the SAM This path was constructed by the Applecross Living Landscape project approx. 5 years ago						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Aultbea - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC06.05C	New		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic tors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	The path was constructed about 8 years ago by a company contracted to Scottish Water. As they used community land the payment was the construction of a path from the village hall to the school.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Contin - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC10.05E	Extension of existing core path		Conon Islands SSSI SAC				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	An existing route on the ground much used by local community. No new path construction is planned without consultation						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Contin - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC10.06E	Extension of existing core path		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	An existing constructed route on the ground much used by local community. This extends the core path into Contin village						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Contin - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC10.08C	New core path		none				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	An existing constructed route on the ground much used by local community. No new path construction is planned without consultation						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Contin - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC10.09C	New core path		Glen Affric to Strathconon SPA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	An existing route on the ground used by local community. No new path construction is planned without consultation. The path enters only a small edge of the SPA						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)							

Gruinard - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC14.03C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA Fisherfield- Letterewe-Fannichs Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	An existing route on the ground well defined along riverside. No new path construction is planned without consultation, but some waymarking required to link with existing core path RC14.01						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Gairloch - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC19.01D RC19.10C	Deletion of part of existing core path replaced by new longer route		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		0	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Wrong path was mapped. Old route was a very faint desire line whilst new route is a forest track and much used part of the Flowerdale path network.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Gairloch - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC19.11C RC19.12C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	An existing route on the ground much used by visitors & local community. Part of the Flowerdale path network						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Garve- Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC20.01D RC20.01	Deletion of part of existing core path and replaced with new route		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route was altered by the Forestry Commission Scotland about 3 years ago. A new route was constructed, whilst the old route, included steps and handrails was removed.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Garve - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC20.08C	New core path		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	An existing route on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Garve - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC20.06C RC20.07C	New core paths		Rhiddoroch- Beinn Dearg- Ben Wyvis Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	Both are existing estate tracks on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Garve - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC20.05C	New core path		Fannich Hills SSSI, SAC Fisherfield- Letterewe-Fannichs Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kinlochewe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC28.04E	Extension of existing core path		Wester Ross NSA. Ardlair- Letterewe SSSI – end point only Fisherfield- Letterewe-Fannichs Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and hydro tracks on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kinlochewe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC28.05D RC28.05E RC28.05	Deletion of part of existing route, replace with actual route and extend existing core path at southern end.		Wester Ross NSA Beinn Eighe NNR Loch Maree Complex SAC Torridon Forest SSSI Flowerdale- Shieldaig-Torridon Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing paths on the ground constructed by SNH, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Kinlochewe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC28.06C RC28.07C	New core paths		Wester Ross NSA Coulin Pinewoods SSSI Loch Maree Complex SAC Coulin & Ledgowan Forest Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	These routes follow existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Lochcarron - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC29.08C	New core path		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing desire through community woodland and common grazing. Some work maybe done by the community group.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Lochcarron - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC29.09C	New core path		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing desire line, some work maybe required for safety.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Lochcarron - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC29.10C	New core path		Affric- Strathconon SPA- endpoint only Central Highlands Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Lochcarron- Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC29.10C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA Coulin & Ledgowan Forest Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, including new hydro track. Some maintenance maybe required as becoming well used by mountain bikes.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Poolewe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC37.04C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows constructed path on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Poolewe - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC37.05C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA Ardlair-Letterewe SSSI Wester Ross Lochs SPA Fisherfield- Letterewe-Fannichs Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Shieldaig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC43.01D RC43.01	Deletion and change of route to existing core path		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	The changes are made as the landowner upgraded the track and change its route about 4/5 years ago.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Shielaig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC43.03D RC43.03	Changes to route of core path		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	Previous route was incorrectly mapped and most of path has been constructed on the ground						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Shieldaig - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC43.06C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strathconon - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC44.01C RC44.02C RC44.03C	New core paths		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	These routes follow existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strathconon - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC44.04C	New core path		Affric to Strathconon SPA Central Highlands Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strathpeffer - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC45.01D RC45.01	Change of route of core path, deletion of old route		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing path on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strathpeffer - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC45.04E RC45.11C	Extension of existing core path New core path		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing constructed path on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strathpeffer - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC45.12C	New core path		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing desire line. Community group is in the process of constructing sections of the route.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Strathpeffer - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC45.13C	New core path						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing forestry track on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Torridon - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC48.07C	New core path		Wester Ross NSA Loch Maree Complex SAC Flowerdale-Shieldaig-Torridon Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing path on the ground, the landowner, NTS do regular maintenance and upgrading of the route may be planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Ullapool - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC49.07D RC49.07	Change of route of core path, deleting linear section to create new circular route		None				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing forest track on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Ullapool - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC49.09C RC49.10C	New core paths		Dundonnell Woods SSSI				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	These routes follow existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned. The Estate has carried out some recent improvement works with SRDP funding.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Ullapool - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC49.01E	Extending an existing core path		Assynt-Coigach NSA Dun Canna fort SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately Positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Ullapool - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
RC49.12C	New core path		Rhidorroch Woods SAC Rhiddoroch-Beinn Dearg- Ben Wyvis Wildland				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Core Path Assessments – Badenoch and Strathspey

Dalwhinnie - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
BS04.01E	Extension		Ben Alder and Aonach Beag SAC Ben Alder and Aonach Beag SSSI Rannoch-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Dalwhinnie - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
BS04.02E	Extension						
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/ mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks on the ground - no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Dalwhinnie - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
BS04.03	New		Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA Rannoc-Nevis-Mamores-Alder WLA				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		0
Overall Impact	Slightly positive						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks on the ground - no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

Laggan - Assessment of Proposed Core Paths and Changes to Existing Core Paths

Core Path Ref	Core Path Status (new, extension, diversion, deletion)		Nature Designations; environmental, physical or materials receptors				
BS09.01	New		Ness Woods SPA Glen Tarff SSSI Corrieayrack Pass SAM				
SEA Objectives	Biodiversity	Population (scoped out)	Human Health	Water	Climatic Factors	Material Assets/Landscape (Scoped out)	Cultural Heritage
Likely Environmental Impact	0		+	0	0		+
Overall Impact	Moderately positive impact						
Comments/mitigation	This route follows existing estate tracks and paths on the ground, no new path construction is planned.						
Impact after mitigation (where applicable)	N/A						

