

Item 6 - Table of Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives

February 2022

Updates are highlighted yellow.

Location	Issue Description	Lead/Action	Opened	Closed
<b>Halkirk to Sibster path</b>	<p>Land Owner now not interested. SSEN track 0.4 of a mile from village boundary. Would local Community Council or Village Council be interested in taking this project forward? KR to take forward.</p> <p>January 2019 – being addressed but will take time</p>	KR	Pre 09/2017	
<b>Altnabreac railway crossing</b>	<p>This was removed by Ministers. Highland Council want to promote to put this back in the plan. 2013 white paper on level crossings has still to be debated by Scottish Government.</p> <p>February 2019 – agreed at Caithness Area Committee to retain as proposed core path. To be sent to Scottish Ministers August 2019</p> <p>Proposed Core path is with Reporter, site visit (unaccompanied expected March 2020)</p> <p>Reporters has submitted opinion to Scottish Ministers July 2020, awaiting Minister direction. MD has followed up with civil servant, but fear issue is stuck in the system due to Dalwhinnie Crossing closure.</p> <p>Requested update from Scottish Government (Dec 2021 and Feb 2022)</p>	MD		
<b>Yarrows</b>	<p>This is a core path but in bad condition due to cattle, horses and lack of maintenance. The occupier has received funding to upgrade a portion of the path to disabled access but no works have taken place.</p>	IM		

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	<p>Seek feedback and comments from Cllr Bremner, possible site visit in 2019</p> <p>Highland Council has ordered fingerpost signs to promote the start of the route from the old car park, also gate information signs.</p>			
<b>Whaligoe</b>	The landowner to the north of the cafe has placed a 6 foot barbed wire fence across a section of stock fence where walkers had previously taken access. Originally was a spiked barrier.	MD	15/08/2017	
<b>Keiss Shore Sign</b>	<p>The path north from the harbour road to Old Keiss Castle has a sign posted which states "Please note 'Right to Roam' does not permit entry onto fields with livestock."</p> <p>Planning Application in progress which may provide a new gate at this location</p> <p>New development almost completed, acceptable gate set up and path signs have been discussed with Access Officer.</p>	MD	09/01/2018	
<b>Mireland Access Gates</b>	Locked gates reported on track for Mireland Forest by Quintfall/Lyth		February 2022	
<b>Sandside Cliff Top Locked Gate</b>	No progress with locked deer gate on cliff top from Sandside to Redpoint. Not a quick visit (1hr walk) so not easy to check.		February 2022	
<b>Closed Issues</b>				
<b>Jessan's Bridge</b>	Bridge washed away in October 2006. Landowner resistant to replacement due to liability issue.			14 Jan 2019

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	Question as to whether Castletown Community Council would take this project forward. MD has passed details of land ownership and some back ground information to Cllr Mackie and chair of CC			
<b>Ormlie Moors</b>	As of 2/2017 there was still evidence of vehicles misusing the land, but the LAF judged this is not an access issue relevant to the Land Reform Act and closed the item.			23 Oct 2018
<b>Braemore (Dunbeath)</b>	The Estate has built a diversion around the cottage but has not applied for planning. MD says CP will not be changed until planning is approved and estates are not willing to retrospectively apply for planning permission. No complaints to date. Consider diverted route when core paths plan when next reviewed.			14 Jan 2019
<b>Scrabster to Quarry path</b>	Gate installed			21 August 2021
<b>Coastal path east of John O'Groats</b>	New community path built – core path to be realigned at review			21 August 2021
<b>Considerations for Core Path Plan Changes</b>				
<b>Braemore (Dunbeath)</b>	Diversion around dwelling and steading at Braemore		14 Jan 2019	
<b>Coastal path east of John O'Groats</b>	New coastal path		13 Sept 2021	