

Table of Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives

May 2026

Updates are highlighted yellow.

Location	Issue Description	Lead/Action	Opened	Closed
Halkirk to Sibster path	Local work has brought two land owners with interests into the discussion and site meeting was very positive. Short gap of unknown ownership to investigate and lease/license agreement drafted up. MD has re-engaged with Halkirk Village Council, fresh commitment to delivery of project. Project office left post, no new appointments or progression from HVC.	Halkirk Village Council MD	Pre 09/2017	
Yarrows	This is a core path but in bad condition due to lack of maintenance and some poaching by stock. Gates coming to end of useful life and lack of sign posting. Kissing Gate work has been undertaken by Access Ranger, at the Broch, – start gates and signposting for summer 2026	IM		
Keiss Shore Sign	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.” Planning Application in progress which may provide a new gate at this location New development almost completed, acceptable gate set up and path signs have been discussed with Access Officer – not followed up. Use of field gate by horses being discussed with site owner. No Update	MD	09/01/2018	

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Mireland Access Gates	Locked gates reported on track for Mireland Forest by Quintfall/Lyth First gate unlocked. Side pedestrian gate installed by bridge not suitable for horses but bridge in a poor condition. Mireland area in location for new underground electric cable, bridge may be improved to access these works?		February 2022	
Sandside Cliff Top Locked Gate	No progress with locked deer gate on cliff top from Sandside to Redpoint. Not a quick visit (1hr walk) so not easy to check. Personal contact by other staff hopefully moving matter forward. No Update		February 2022	
Achairn/Camster Wind Farm gate	Installation required of pedestrian gate adjacent to locked field gates. Agreed in principle but no delivery to date. Issue gone backwards as adjacent land owner wants a kissing gate, not acceptable. Camster II started, gates open for pedestrian and cycle use but not equestrian New gate installed Feb 2026	MD		
Stoupster Road to Rockhill Road track at Nybster	Blocking of track with stone/rubble Access Officer does not believe there is a reasonable chance of taking forward.		March 2024	March 2025
Closed Issues				

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Jessan's Bridge	Bridge washed away in October 2006. Landowner resistant to replacement due to liability issue. Question as to whether Castletown Community Council would take this project forward. MD has passed details of land ownership and some back ground information to Cllr Mackie and chair of CC			14 Jan 2019
Ormlie Moors	As of 2/2017 there was still evidence of vehicles misusing the land, but the LAF judged this is not an access issue relevant to the Land Reform Act and closed the item.			23 Oct 2018
Braemore (Dunbeath)	The Estate has built a diversion around the cottage but has not applied for planning. MD says CP will not be changed until planning is approved and estates are not willing to retrospectively apply for planning permission. No complaints to date. Consider diverted route when core paths plan when next reviewed.			14 Jan 2019
Scrabster to Quarry path	Gate installed			21 August 2021
Coastal path east of John O'Groats	New community path built – core path to be realigned at review			21 August 2021
Mains of Warse	Gates unlocked, signage to be monitored			7 March 2022
Whaligoe	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.			18 Sept 2023
Altnabreac railway crossing	Access and Egress to the level crossing have been adopted in the Councils Core Path Plan. The crossing itself is not in the plan, approx. 6m.			November 2024

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