

## Table of Caithness Access Issues and Initiatives

Septemeber 2026

Updates are highlighted yellow.

| Location                       | Issue Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Lead/Action                   | Opened      | Closed |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Halkirk to Sibster path</b> | <p>Local work has brought two land owners with interests into the discussion and site meeting was very positive. Short gap of unknown ownership to investigate and lease/license agreement drafted up.</p> <p>MD has re-engaged with Halkirk Village Council, fresh commitment to delivery of project. A number of calls/emails to HVC but no progress</p>                                                                                                                  | Halkirk Village Council<br>MD | Pre 09/2017 |        |
| <b>Yarrows</b>                 | <p>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.</p> <p>Gates and signs in store awaiting installation. MD met with Yarrows Heritage Trust to discuss path works on section of the trail. Access Ranger undertook some trail work on lifting the existing Caithness slabs and re laying them, was successful so plan to do more in 2027</p>                  | IM                            |             |        |
| <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 – not followed up. Use of field gate by horses being discussed with site owner.</p> | MD                            | 09/01/2018  |        |

| Location                              | Issue Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Lead/Action | Opened        | Closed      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                                       | No Update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |             |               |             |
| <b>Mireland Access Gates</b>          | <p>Locked gates reported on track for Mireland Forest by Quintfall/Lyth</p> <p>First gate unlocked. Side pedestrian gate installed by bridge not suitable for horses but bridge in a poor condition.</p> <p>Mireland area in location for new underground electric cable, bridge may be improved to access these works?</p>  |             | February 2022 |             |
| <b>Sandside Cliff Top Locked Gate</b> | <p>No progress with locked deer gate on cliff top from Sandside to Redpoint. Not a quick visit (1hr walk) so not easy to check.</p> <p>Personal contact by other staff hopefully moving matter forward.</p> <p>No Update</p>                                                                                                 |             | February 2022 |             |
| <b>Closed Issues</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |             |               |             |
| <b>Jessan's Bridge</b>                | <p>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</p>                           |             |               | 14 Jan 2019 |
| <b>Ormlie Moors</b>                   | <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                              |             |               | 23 Oct 2018 |
| <b>Braemore (Dunbeath)</b>            | <p>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.</p> |             |               | 14 Jan 2019 |

| Location                                         | Issue Description                                                                                                                                                                        | Lead/Action | Opened       | Closed         |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 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  |
| 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 2025     |
| Achairn/Camster Wind Farm gate                   | Installation of bridle width gate at entrance to Camster forest from Achairn                                                                                                             |             |              | September 2026 |
|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                          |             |              |                |
| <b>Considerations for Core Path Plan Changes</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                          |             |              |                |
| 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 |                |

| Location            | Issue Description                                     | Lead/Action | Opened         | Closed |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------|
| Keiss Inland Routes | Broch Centre to Keiss to Longreen (not visited by MD) |             | 31 August 2023 |        |