



Core Paths Plan January 2012

(Revised December 2017)





Contents

Introduction

What are Core Paths?

Core Path Responsibilities

How were the Core Paths Selected?

Developing the Core Paths Network

Safeguarding the Environment

Reviewing the Core Paths Plan

Understanding the Maps and Paths List

Master Layout and Maps

You can also view this Plan and supporting information:

- online at **www.pkc.gov.uk/corepaths**
- at reception of council offices at Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull St, PERTH PH1 5GD.

Photographs reproduced courtesy of:
VisitScotland, Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, F Berry and J Pritchard.

Introduction

This **Core Paths Plan** has been produced by Perth & Kinross Council as required by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and shows a system of paths (core paths) which the Council believes is sufficient to provide reasonable public access throughout Perth and Kinross (excluding the areas covered by Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms National Parks).

It was formally adopted by the Council on 25 January 2012 and shows a total of 2,045 kms of core paths.

Although there are core paths throughout the whole of the Perth and Kinross, most are around communities and are valued by both locals and tourists.

The Plan includes paths which are:

- *rights of way;*
- *functional link paths within & between communities including selected footways (pavements), quiet roads and promoted cycle routes;*
- *existing popular and promoted paths;*
- *upland & forest paths;*
- *routes to mountains and other points of public interest;*
- *longer distance routes such as the Catheran Trail;*
- *routes to access inland water.*



North Inch, Perth

What are Core Paths?

The Core Paths Plan provides for all non-motorised user groups, although not all core paths are suitable for all purposes. Core paths can help you to enjoy the outdoors without causing unreasonable disturbance to those who live and work in the countryside. You may use the paths to travel to work or school, to increase your physical activity and improve your health, and to further explore and enjoy the outdoors.

There is no specification for core paths, some are desire lines across rough ground while, at the other extreme, others are built paths suitable for all users. Most core paths are established paths and tracks, but some new links are also being created. It is intended that most core paths within Perth and Kinross will be signposted for the benefit of both local people and tourists.

Core paths link into a wider network of paths and, whilst most people prefer to make use of recognised paths, the right of responsible access is not restricted to paths.

Core Path Responsibilities

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) gives guidance on responsible behaviour regarding outdoor access and can be viewed at www.outdooraccess-scotland.org

SOAC makes clear that those taking access accept responsibility for their own actions and safety and that the outdoors is not risk free. Those using core paths should have both skills and equipment appropriate to the terrain and weather.

Land managers generally encourage people to use core paths and the paths should be kept free of any obstructions or deterrents. Any SOAC compliant signage may be used to advise or warn path users of temporary land management operations and such signs should be respected.

How were the Core Paths Selected?

This Plan was drawn up through extensive public consultation at both community and whole council levels over a number of years.

Although community consultation largely guided the selection of paths, various organisations were also involved. These included the Perth & Kinross Outdoor Access Forum, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Paths for All Partnership. At every stage views regarding which paths should be adopted as core paths were taken into account.

After the formal consultation a number of objections remained unresolved and/or were not withdrawn. These issues were referred to the Scottish Government and addressed at a local inquiry. The Scottish Government then directed the Council to adopt the finalised Plan.



Rob Roy Way

Developing the Core Paths Network

The Council is working with landowners and managers, communities and organisations such as the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, to signpost, remove obstructions and improve the core paths. Local communities are encouraged to take a lead role by working in partnership with the Council to improving their own path networks and are best placed to seek funding, set priorities and help ensure their paths are fit for purpose. For further information regarding priorities and progress please visit the website at www.pkc.gov.uk/corepaths

Safeguarding the Environment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was carried out to assess the effects the Core Paths Plan could have on the environment.

The Environmental Report concluded that the core paths network will have positive effects in relation to human health through enabling responsible outdoor access. Solutions to any possible negative effects identified are sought through partnership working with the appropriate consultation bodies, such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland.

Where any potential negative effect could occur on European protected sites (Natura Sites), Appropriate Assessments must be carried out prior to any path developments. This ensures the conservation objectives for habitats and species in these areas will be protected and possibly enhanced.



Ben Vrackie path

Reviewing the Core Paths Plan

This Core Paths Plan will be reviewed periodically to ensure the Plan is kept up to date and accurately reflects the most useful network on the ground.

The first review was carried out in 2017 and resulted in minor diversions to 20 core paths and deletions of 6 core paths.

Understanding the Maps and Paths List

The maps illustrate the core paths marked as purple dashed lines, and on- road cycle routes are marked as green dashed lines. Paths corresponding to linking paths in neighbouring authorities are shown as dashed black lines. Individual routes are identified using codes based on community council areas (eg DUNK/1 being in Dunkeld & Birnam area).

There are 72 pages covering the Perth & Kinross Council area; the first map provides an overview of the Core Path network and acts as a key to individual page maps which are shown at a scale appropriate to the density of paths.

The list of paths gives a description and length for each coded path ordered by community council area. Where part or all a path has a code in the Register of Rights of Way this is indicated, as is a general grid reference for the location of the path.

The maps can also be viewed online using the Council's mapping system at: www.pkc.gov.uk/article/15439/Core-Paths-Plan-interactive-map

Copyright Statement

The Ordnance Survey mapping in this publication has been used by Perth & Kinross Council to publicise and identify the location of the paths featured in the Core Paths Plan. This mapping should not be used for any other purpose. Parties wishing to use Ordnance Survey mapping for their own purposes should contact Ordnance Survey.

