

Policy statement on Upholding Access Rights on Core Paths during COVID-19 21.4.20

Responsible public access rights still apply during the COVID 19 emergency when it is vital that people can exercise in their local area. Core paths around settlements are likely to be used more than usual and **must remain open** and available for responsible public access. Where possible gates should be tied open to reduce handling. Perth and Kinross Council's [COVID-19 Outdoor Access Guidance](#) poster can be displayed to inform path users of their responsibilities.

Land managers with concerns should discuss and agree any proposed temporary diversions to core paths with Community Greenspace (eg to avoid key land management / lambing areas). In all cases these diversions must be short and clearly signposted and be accompanied by the relevant SOAC (Scottish Outdoor Access Code) signage. An acceptable short diversion will usually be around a field edge within the same land holding. If there is no obvious short diversion on a core path, space should be roped off to separate land management operations from access takers.

For downloadable SOAC signs and further information see [SOAC Access to the outdoors during the current coronavirus outbreak: guidance for the public and land managers.](#)

Perth and Kinross Council has a statutory duty to uphold access rights and will endeavour to work constructively to encourage good relations with landowners/managers and their wider communities, particularly during this difficult time. Police Scotland has responsibility to investigate reports of illegal or antisocial behaviour and to ensure people observe the guidance on social distancing and essential travel.

If you have any concerns please contact Community Greenspace via the Customer Service Centre at www.pkc.gov.uk Tel 01738 475000