



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney Core Paths Plan



Supplementary Guidance
April 2011

Planning in Orkney

The Orkney Local Development Plan (the Plan), together with any Supplementary Guidance, sets out the policies and criteria against which planning applications submitted in Orkney will be considered.

All of the policies in the Plan will be afforded equal weight in the determination of planning applications, and so it is important to ensure that your proposal accords with all policies that are relevant to your proposal.

This Supplementary Guidance sets out detailed advice to help you meet the requirements of the Plan. It is therefore recommended that it is read in conjunction with the policies in the Plan and any other Supplementary Guidance relevant to the type of development proposed.

The Council's Development Management Officers deal with planning applications and they would welcome the opportunity to discuss ideas for development before an application is submitted. The following means for contact and advice can be followed:

Copies of this document

This document is available in hard copy as well as on the internet. Please see: www.orkney.gov.uk

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Contents

Foreward	ii		
1 Introducing Core Paths	1	3 Appendix 1: Core Paths Network Maps	23
1.1 What is a Core Paths Plan?	1	North Ronaldsay	24
1.2 Aims of the Core Paths Plan	2	Papa Westray	25
1.3 Preparation of the Core Paths Plan	2	Westray	26
1.4 Selecting Core Paths	3	Sanday	27
		Eday	28
		Rousay	29
		Egilsay and Wyre	30
2 Core Paths Networks for each island and parish in Orkney	5	Stronsay	31
		Shapinsay	32
2.1 North Ronaldsay	6	Kirkwall and St Ola	33
2.2 Papa Westray	7	Kirkwall	34
2.3 Westray	8	Tankerness	35
2.4 Sanday	9	Deerness	36
2.5 Eday	10	Holm	37
2.6 Rousay	11	Hoy	38
2.7 Egilsay and Wyre	12	North and South Walls	39
2.8 Stronsay	12	Burray	40
2.9 Shapinsay	13	South Ronaldsay	41
2.10 Kirkwall and St Ola	14	Flotta	42
2.11 Tankerness	15	Graemsay	43
2.12 Deerness	15	West Mainland 1	44
2.13 Holm	16	West Mainland 2	45
2.14 Hoy	17	West Mainland 3	46
2.15 North and South Walls	18	West Mainland 4	47
2.16 Burray	19		
2.17 South Ronaldsay	20		
2.18 Flotta	21		
2.19 Graemsay	21		
2.20 West Mainland	22		

Foreward

The Orkney Core Paths Plan presents Orkney Islands Council's proposals for a Core Paths Network for Orkney.

Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Orkney Islands Council has a duty to prepare a Core Paths Plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify a system of key routes for outdoor access in Orkney.

This document has been developed through extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders including local communities, access user groups, local organisations and agencies, land managers and visitors to our islands. The Core Paths Plan also accompanies the Orkney Local Development Plan as statutory Supplementary Guidance.



Introducing Core Paths



1.1 WHAT IS A CORE PATHS PLAN?

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 created a new right of responsible access over most land and inland water. As well as establishing this wider access right the legislation acknowledged that paths play a very important role in managing outdoor access and the majority of people do prefer to use defined paths. As a result one of the key duties in the Act is for local authorities to produce a Core Paths Plan.

The purpose of the Core Paths Plan is to identify a framework of paths which will provide local residents and visitors with reasonable access throughout their local authority area. Core Paths will form the basic network of paths that allow people to enjoy and get around the countryside. This framework of routes will link to, and support, other networks of paths and the wider countryside. The Core Paths Plan should include a wide range of routes suitable for different types of users, including walkers, cyclists and horse riders, as well as providing access opportunities for people of varying ability.

The majority of Core Paths will be existing, well established and popular routes such as public rights of way and paths currently managed by the Council or landowners. However, the Core Paths Plan can also include new routes and any other routes that will help the public to access the outdoors. Paths will vary in character depending on their location and who needs to use the path. So there will be natural grassy paths, as well as hard surfaced multi-user paths and even some quiet roads can be included as Core Paths. The paths will also be well managed, signposted and promoted to ensure that the public can fully use and enjoy them.



While Core Paths will be an important part of non motorised outdoor access, it is important to remember that this basic framework of paths is only one element of the access rights created by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Three interlinking levels of access will be available for the public:

- the basic framework of Core Paths
- the wider path network linking to the Core Paths and including all other formal and informal routes
- the general right of responsible access which is not restricted to paths.

It is intended that the provision of Core Paths will improve outdoor access in Orkney – whether it is for enjoying our remarkable natural and historical heritage, taking the dog for a walk or getting to school. They will also provide opportunities for managing public access in a way that reduces the impact of access users on farming activities.

1.2 AIMS OF THE CORE PATHS PLAN

The vision for outdoor access in Orkney as identified in Orkney's Outdoor Access Strategy is: *'To promote enjoyment of the outdoors by providing high quality, sustainable access provision, which satisfies the needs and aspirations of the local community and visitors to the islands.'*

The aim of the Core Paths Plan is to help achieve this vision. The following objectives outline how the Core Paths Network will contribute to the improvement of outdoor access in the islands:

- by providing a co-ordinated, actively promoted and well maintained network of paths
- by providing a range of opportunities suitable for different user groups and people of all abilities which are safe, welcoming and enjoyable
- by working with land managers to achieve a balance between the needs of access users and the needs of those living and working on the land.
- by promoting sustainable access which safeguards the natural, built and cultural heritage.

1.3 PREPARATION OF THE CORE PATHS PLAN

Countryside access in Orkney has been developing over many years, to the extent that we now have a variety of paths throughout the islands. Paths have been developed in conjunction with various community groups, landowners, organisations and agencies. Through this work the Council has built up considerable knowledge of access needs and requirements in Orkney. This background work has been



a useful tool to support the consultations required as part of the development of the Core Paths Plan.

Guidance on the development of Core Paths Plans suggests that extensive informal consultation is undertaken before the draft Core Paths Plan goes out to formal consultation. In Orkney there have been two informal consultation phases. In the first phase the aim was to gather information on the current provision for access, future demand for access and the key access issues for each area of Orkney. In addition to gathering this useful background information, this consultation also focussed on identifying key paths in each island or parish.

During this phase public meetings were held in all the islands and parishes of Orkney. There were also meetings with key organisations and agencies, especially members of the Local Access Forum. Other methods were also used to gather information about outdoor access and key paths. Questionnaires were sent out to a wide range of user groups, land managers and tourists to get their views. Information was displayed at key locations, such as the public library.

Following this first phase Council access staff undertook an assessment of the suggested Core Paths against certain selection criteria and began to develop maps showing candidate Core Paths. At this stage it was also important to check paths 'on the ground', by surveying each route to assess its condition and identify any relevant issues.

The second phase of consultation was geared towards confirmation of the paths that would be included in the draft Core Paths Plan. A 'Core Paths Planning Information Pack' was developed to help the public respond to the consultation, maps were displayed at prominent places on the mainland and the isles and 'drop in' sessions were held at key locations. The Local Access Forum played an important role in this phase with forum representatives consulting extensively with members of their organisations and groups. Island development trusts, tourist associations and community councils also played a very active part, organising Core Paths

Planning displays and meetings in their areas.

A suite of maps was compiled as a result of these consultations and with input from experienced officials within the Council. These maps, plus accompanying text, formed the basis of the draft Core Paths Plan.

Formal public consultation on the draft Orkney Core Paths Plan was undertaken from 8 February to 10 May 2008. The draft plan consultation was advertised in the local press, on the Council website and on the Orkney Local Access Forum website.

In total there were only 4 formal objections to the plan. It has been possible to resolve each of these objections and the Core Paths Plan maps have been amended to take account of the changes required to address the issues. Overall, changes to the Plan have been minimal, with the routes of only 3 paths being altered.

In line with the new Orkney Local Development Plan it is necessary to formally establish the status of the Core Paths Plan as statutory Supplementary Guidance. The Core Paths Plan will be subject to a further round of consultation alongside the Proposed Plan.

The total length of the Core Paths in the final Orkney Core Paths Plan is 378 miles.

1.4 SELECTING CORE PATHS

Criteria were used to help select paths for inclusion in the Core Paths Plan. These criteria were developed to reflect the objectives of the plan and also with reference to the information gathered at public consultations. Each path identified as a candidate Core Path in the consultation, has been scored against these criteria.

An assessment has also been made of the proposed network for each area, ie considering all the candidate paths in a particular area and whether together these paths provide sufficient access for the needs of that island or parish.

The selection criteria used are as follows:

Is there community demand for the route?

- demand for the route was identified during consultations
- there is a high level of current usage
- it is an already promoted path

Is it safe and fit for purpose?

- path design and infrastructure is adequate for the intended usage
- major improvements are not needed to make the Core Path safe and fit for purpose

Is it consistent with access strategy?

- Core Paths should contribute to the aims of the Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy

Is there potential for multi use?

- a reasonable percentage of Core Paths in an area should be suitable for more than one use
- Core Paths should be as barrier free as possible to permit usage by a wide range of users eg gates instead of stiles.

Does the path provide access to amenity sites and/or sites with heritage interest?

- there is a high demand in Orkney for access to coastal sites, including beaches
- there is a high demand for access to sites of natural, historical or cultural heritage.

Does the path avoid/mitigate land management or privacy issues?

- Core Paths over enclosed farmland should help to reduce conflicts between access users and land management, especially where there are livestock
- Core Paths should not interfere with local resident's privacy and peace of mind.

Does the path assist management of the heritage of the area?

- Core Paths and/or access users should not have a negative impact on the natural, cultural or built heritage

- where possible they should have a positive management effect on the heritage.

Does it link and support wider path networks or wider access rights

- Core Paths should link with other Core Paths and/or wider path networks
- Core Paths may provide links through enclosed farmland to open areas where access rights apply eg hill ground.

Does it provide links for the community?

- where settlements exist there should be Core Paths which are easily accessible from the town or village, without the use of a car
- in settlements Core Paths should help people to access local amenity sites
- in villages and towns Core Paths should help residents to access facilities such as schools, colleges, shops, sports centres etc.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

There were a number of suggestions and ideas that came forward during the consultations, which do not form part of the current suite of proposed Core Paths. These were generally routes that required considerable planning and implementation works before they could be considered fit for purpose, or where significant issues remained unresolved. If these routes were felt to be key routes for development in the future they have been included on the plan maps as 'aspirational' routes.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is carried out to assess the effects that the Core Paths Plan could have on the environment. An Environmental Report was produced to accompany the draft Core Paths Plan. The SEA process played a key part in developing the Plan and ensured that environmental considerations were fully taken into account.

Core Paths Networks for each island and parish in Orkney

2



2.1 NORTH RONALDSAY

SUMMARY

The most northerly of the Orkney Islands, the small island of North Ronaldsay is an ideal size for a whole island coastal walk. One of the features of the island is the stone dyke which follows the coastline and keeps the North Ronaldsay sheep on the shore.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- the coastal path follows the shoreline around the whole island
- a variety of short paths link the coastal path with the island's roads, providing a range of circular paths of different lengths.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
Nr1	Coastal Circular walk	An 18 km whole island coastal path.	The path follows the sheep dyke around the shore of the island.
Nr2 – Nr5		Short paths in the north of the island	These routes provides links between the coastal route and the island's roads.They create a series of short circular routes in the north.
Nr6	Tor Ness	A short linear path to Tor Ness	A link from the road to open land at Tor Ness and to the coastal path.
Nr7 –Nr10	South East	Short paths in the south of the island	These paths provide a variety of links across the south east corner of the island.They link with the coast path and provide a range of circular routes.





2.2 PAPA WESTRAY

SUMMARY

Papa Westray is one of the smallest of Orkney's north isles, being only 4 miles long and 1 mile wide. This makes it an ideal size for exploring on foot for both residents and visitors. Despite its small size it has a wealth of natural and historical heritage to explore.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- the coastal path follows the shoreline around the whole island
- the coastal path links to the island's quiet roads creating a variety of routes of different lengths
- the paths provide access to key natural and built heritage sites eg wildlife on North Hill and archaeology at the Knap of Howar.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
PW1	Papay coastal circular route	A 16 km route following the coastline around the whole island.	Cliffs, sandy bays, lochs, archaeology and wildlife.
PW2	North Hill link	A 1 km linking path creating a short circular route on North Hill.	A useful circular loop over North Hill.
PW3	North Hill circular	A 1.4 km linking path creating a circular walk around North Hill.	Access to RSPB reserve of North Hill.
PW4	North Wick link	A short path linking the road to the coast at North and South Wick.	Access to two attractive sandy bays.
PW5	St Boniface's Church	This short route provides access to the restored St Boniface's Church and the coastal route.	The church and its setting.
PW6	Knap of Howar	A 0.7 km path passed Holland Farm to the Knap of Howar and the coastal path.	Neolithic dwellings, the traditional steading and museum of Holland Farm.
PW7	South Wick	A link to the coastal path and the shore at South Wick from a residential area and the school.	Provides easy access to the coast.
PW8	St Tredwell's Chapel	A short link from the coastal path to the chapel ruins and the Loch of St Tredwell	The chapel ruins and wildlife on the loch

2.3 WESTRAY

SUMMARY

Westray is the most north-westerly of the Orkney Islands. Its spreading shape provides it with a huge 80km coastline, with stunning cliff scenery and sandy bays. The Core Paths traverse much of this coastline, with grassy lanes across the farmland and quiet roads helping people to access the coast.

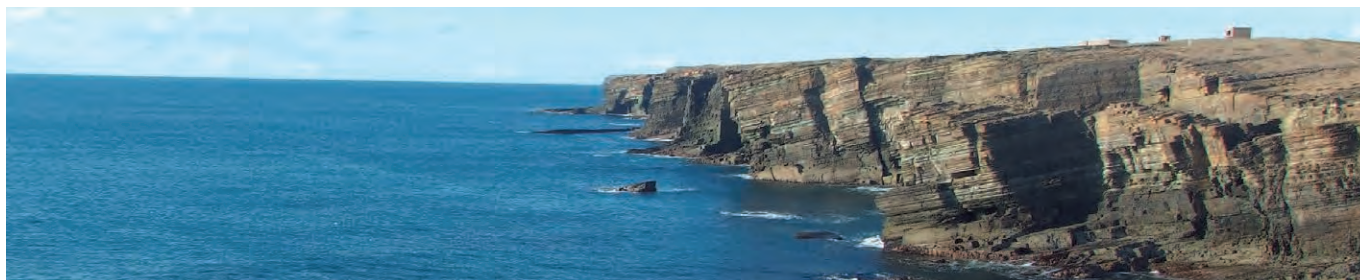
KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- a variety of circular loops which can be accessed from the main town of Pierowall
- access to key sections of coastline including cliffs and beaches.
- access to important areas of natural and built heritage.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
W1	West Westray Walk	A 9 km coastal route along the west coast of the island, with wild seas and dramatic cliffs.	Provides access to sea bird colonies at Noup Head and stunning cliff scenery.
W2	Noup Head circular	A 6 km circular route including part of the West Westray Walk.	Enables access users to do a shorter stretch of the longer, linear coastal walk.
W3	Pierowall to Grobust	A variety of circular routes from Pierowall to Grobust (Longest route about 6 km)	Allows access to the links and beach at Grobust . It also accesses key built heritage eg Noltland Castle
W4	Broughton	Public rights of way through farmland to the bay of Tuquoy.	Links Pierowall with the viewpoint at Ayre of Roadmire, which is good for birdwatching.
W5	Fitty Hill	Hill route linking with the West Westray coastal walk.	Provides a link to the West Westray walk from the road. The views from the hill are spectacular.
W6	Tuquoy and Mae Sands	A 6 km circular route along a rocky coastline to the beach at Mae Sands and returning by quiet roads.	Provides access to an attractive sandy beach and to the Norse Cross Kirk.
W7	Skelwick	Circular route traversing from one side of the island to the other.	Two coastlines, farmland, museum and shop.
W8	Castle o' Burrian and the Bay of Tafts	Circular route past the Castle o' Burrian and Stanger Head, then across the peninsula to the sandy beach at the Bay of Tafts.	Enables the public to view puffins at the Castle O' Burrian.





2.4 SANDAY

SUMMARY

Sanday derives its name from the Old Norse for 'sand island' and it is well known for its beautiful sandy bays and sand dunes. Not surprisingly the Core Paths focus on providing access to the coastal landscapes.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to a range of sandy beaches and other areas of attractive coastline
- access to key historical sites
- a range of circular routes from LadyVillage
- Core Paths in all areas of the island.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
Sa1	Burness and the Holms of ire	An 8 km circular route, which can be divided into two shorter loops.	Access for residents in the Burness area and to the tidal Holms of Ire.
Sa2	Whitemill Circular	A 4.4 km circular route from Whitemill to Ortie.	Access to the lovely beach at Whitemill and around the coast to the crofting village at Ortie.
Sa3	Scuthvie Circular	A 4.8 km circular route and a short link to Start Point.	A useful circular walk for the north east of the island and access to the tidal island at Start Point.
Sa4	Tresness	A 6 km linear route to Cata Sand and Tresness.	Access from lady village to the beautiful sand dunes and beach at Tresness.
Sa5	LadyVillage to Newark	A 5 km linear route to the Bay of Lopness near Newark.	Access from Lady village to the sandy beach at Newark.
Sa6	Elsness	A 6.6 km route to Elsness including a shorter circular route south of lady village.	Access to the Quoyness chambered cairn at Elsness, from Lady village.
Sa7	Hammerbrake	A short route to Little Sea.	A useful link to Sa6 and access to the Little Sea.
Sa8	Over-the-Water	A 1 km linear route to the Little Sea from the school.	A useful linking route to the school and to Sa10.
Sa9	Backaskaill Circular	A 5.5 km route along the shore, farmland tracks and rural road.	Access to the sandy beach at Backaskaill. This route also links to Sa10.
Sa10	Broughtown Circular	A network of paths around Broughtown. (Main route 3.1 km)	A useful local network of paths for residents in the area.
Sa11	Doun Helzie	A 2 km linear route to Doun Helzie.	Access to the stunning beach, dunes and cliffs at Doun Helzie.

2.5 EDAY

SUMMARY

Eday's heather clad hills offer panoramic views over sea and islands and the coast has sheer cliffs and long sweeping beaches. The island has a rich archaeology and wildlife which can be enjoyed from its Core Paths.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to the open heath in the north and south of the island
- access to the coast, including high cliffs and sandy beaches
- access to important Neolithic monuments
- predominantly circular walks, of varying length



ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
Ed1	Eday Heritage walk	An 8 km circular route in the north of the island over open heath to the Red Head.	The route passes Mill Loch and Neolithic chambered cairns on its way to the spectacular cliffs of the Red Head.
Ed2	Linkataing	A route linking to the Eday Heritage Walk and accessing the cliffs on the west side.	Geology, bird cliffs and panoramic views are of interest along this path.
Ed3	Cusbay	A route linking to the Eday Heritage walk from Cusbay.	By incorporating the quiet road this link creates a shorter circular route including the chambered cairns.
Ed4	Stephen's Gate	A coastal, circular route with a variety of alternative links.(Longest 5km).	The various links create paths of different lengths. Cliffs with arches, stacks and nesting birds.
Ed5	Newark	A 2 km linear walk to Newark Bay and the Bay of Doomy.	The path starts at the visitor and heritage centre.
Ed6	Sands of Mussetter	Access to the beaches of Mussetter and Doomy.	This large sandy bay is a key amenity site on the island.
Ed7	Leenisdale Hill	A circular hill route, following old peat tracks. (Longest 4.4km)	A route over open hill with links to Ed8 and Ed9. It is within walking distance of the ferry terminal and provides access for the community in the south of the island.
Ed8	Ward Hill	A short path to the summit of Ward Hill.	Ward Hill is the highest point on the island with spectacular views. This route links Ed7 and Ed9.
Ed9	Warness Walk	A 2.8 km circular coastal path around War Ness.	An easy circular walk in the south of the island, accessible from the pier.

2.6 ROUSAY

SUMMARY

Rousay is an unusually hilly island for Orkney, with extensive open moorland in the centre of the island. It also has a rich history of settlement and important monuments such as Midhowe Broch. The paths explore the hills, the coast and the history.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- each settlement area of the island has paths
- the paths provide access to the open hills and moorland
- the paths provide access to important archaeology.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
R1	Avelshay	A circular route of about 2km	Easily accessible from the ferry terminal. Good views across to Egilsay and Wyre.
R2	Trumland RSPB reserve	Two circular routes, the longer (6 km) path reaching Knitchen Hill and Blotchnie Fiold	The routes provide access to the wildlife and habitats of the reserve avoiding sensitive breeding areas.
R3	Knowe of Yarso	A short linear path to the chambered cairn	This path provides access to the Knowe of Yarso chambered cairn.
R4	Frotoft	A short linear path following the route of a burn	A short, but attractive walk with views across to Eynhallow.
R5	Midhowe	A 1 km linear route accessing the monuments on the Westness coast	The path provides access to Midhowe Broch and Midhowe Cairn.
R6	Sacquoy Head	A 3.5 km coastal walk in the north west of the island	The path provides access to attractive coastal scenery in this region of the island.
R7	Faraclett Head	A 3.2 km circular path around this headland in the north east of the island	A wild headland with abundant wildlife and good views to the north isles.



2.7 EGILSAY AND WYRE

SUMMARY

Egilsay and Wyre are two of the smallest of Orkney's inhabited islands but are rich in wildlife and history.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- the paths access key natural and historical features on the islands
- the paths are easily accessible from the ferry terminals

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
E1	Egilsay RSPB reserve	A 2 km linear route across the island from the pier.	The path crosses the RSPB reserve and ends at an attractive beach.
E2	St Magnus Church	A short path to the church and centotaph.	An easy walk to the island's key built heritage.
WI	Cubbie Roo's Castle	A 2 km linear walk passed the island's key points of interest, to the coast.	The path provides access to Cubbie Roo's Castle, the chapel, heritage centre and onto the coast by Cavit.

2.8 STRONSAY

SUMMARY

Stronsay is often described as being 'all arms and legs' because of the large bays which bite into the island. The Core Paths access these bays and the cliffs and rocky shores between them.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- disabled access to the Vat of Kirbister
- access to beautiful beaches and cliff scenery
- circular routes.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
S1	Whitehall to St Catherine's Bay	A 3 km route linking the village to the beach at Ayre of the Myers and St Catherine's Bay.	Beautiful sandy beaches easily accessible from Whitehall village.
S2	Rothiesholm Circular	A 6 km circular route including beach, loch, rocky shore and historic sites	Rothiesholm Sands is a key amenity site.
S3	Vat of Kirbister	A short walk to the Vat of Kirbister and a longer circular walk (10 km) around Odin Bay and the Bay of Houseby.	Spectacular cliff scenery including the gloop at the Vat of Kirbister.
S4	Holland circular	A 2 km circular walk starting at Holland Farm	Provides access to two hides – one for seals on the coast and the other for birds on Lea Shun
S5	Tor Ness	A longer (3.5 km) walk from Holland Farm to Tor Ness	Low cliffs, a sandy beach, and circular kelp pits

2.9 SHAPINSAY

SUMMARY

Shapinsay has a variety of tracks criss-crossing the farmland which can be used to access the countryside and the coast.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- a good selection of tracks across farmland that link with quiet roads to make circular routes
- access to the main beach on the island
- access to Burroughston Broch
- access from Balfour village and the ferry pier.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
Sh1	Mill Dam circular	A 9 km circular route along tracks and quiet roads, with an extension to Salt Ness.	Access to the RSPB bird hide at Mill Dam. A circular route accessible from the village and the ferry pier.
Sh2	Veantrow Bay	A 1.8 km linear path to Veantrow Bay.	This is one of three routes which provide access to the long sandy beach in the bay.
Sh3	The Ouse	A 1.4 km linear route to the Ouse.	Another access to the beach and also the Ouse at low tide.
Sh4	Ward Hill	A 3.7 km circular route including Ward Hill.	Ward Hill is a good viewpoint on the island.
Sh5	East Hill	A 4.7 km route along tracks and out to East Hill.	East Hill is an attractive area of open heath.
Sh6	Skenstoft	A 0.7 km linear route to the beach at Skenstoft.	This route accesses the beach at Skenstoft.
Sh7	Burroughston Broch and Sandy Geo	A 3.5 km route accessing Burroughston Broch and the north east coast.	Burroughston Broch is the key historical site on the island.



2.10 KIRKWALL AND ST OLA

SUMMARY

Kirkwall is surrounded by attractive countryside and coastline which is easily accessible from the town. The Core Paths focus on access to key amenity sites and on getting around the town.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to key amenity sites such as Scapa Beach
- access from the town to nearby countryside
- access between schools and residential areas



ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
K1/K2/K3	Peedie Sea	3 short routes close to the Peedie Sea.	These routes access the harbour front, the Peedie Sea and provide links for the Glaitness area..
K4/K6	Muddisdale and Wideford Hill	A 4.5 km path to Wideford Hill, including shorter routes around Muddisdale.	A useful multi-user path through Muddisdale for local residents, plus access to the Wideford Hill Cairn.
K5	Sunnybank	A short link off the Sunnybank Road	A useful local linking path.
K7	Orkney College	A short route linking the college with the town.	An off road link to Orkney College.
K8/K9	KGS and Papdale	Various routes around the primary and secondary schools.	Useful links between Papdale primary school, Kirkwall Grammar School and the Papdale housing area.
K10	Seatter Bridleway	A 1.5 km linear route near Seatter Farm.	A very popular path on the edge of the town. It can be linked to K9 by a quiet road.
K11	Head of Work	A 2.2 km path onto the headland passed Work.	Access to an attractive headland near the town.
K12	Tradespark	Access tracks around the Tradespark area.	Useful links between the town and K15.
K13	Crantit Trail	A 1.5 km path to Scapa Bay.	Multi-user access to a very popular beach.
K14	Scapa Bay	A 2 km route along Scapa Beach and the adjacent cliffs	The beach is a key amenity site for Kirkwall and the cliff path is well used, with good views of the bay.
K15	Wideford Farm	A 4.3 km path from Inganess to Scapa	Good countryside access close to the town which can be linked with K12 and K13.

2.11 TANKERNESS

SUMMARY

Tankerness forms part of the East Mainland of Orkney and is almost entirely enclosed farmland, with the large Loch of Tankerness in its centre.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to wartime heritage
- access to the coast
- access to the Loch of Tankerness

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
T1	Airport coastal	A 2.3 km path along the coast in the south west of the parish.	This path provides access to the beach at Inganess Bay and links with K15.
T2	Tankerness Loch	A linear, 1.4km public right of way, alongside Tankerness Loch in the centre of Tankerness.	The loch is good for bird watching and the wetlands are colourful with wild flowers in summer.
T3	Rerwick Head	A 1km circular path around Rerwick Head in the north east of the parish.	The path provides access to a wartime coastal battery, interesting geology and good views to the north.

2.12 DEERNESS

SUMMARY

Deerness is joined to the rest of the East Mainland by a narrow isthmus at Dingieshowe and St Peter's Pool. The Core Paths network begins with the lovely sandy beach at Dingieshowe and includes other popular stretches of the coastline.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to the local nature reserve at Mull Head.
- disabled access to the Gloop at Mull Head.
- access to popular beaches and stretches of coastline.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
D1	Mull Head	A 5.6km circular path around Mull Head.	This route provides access to Orkney's local nature reserve.
D2	Mull Head link	A 1.2 km linear path between Mull Head and the Covenanter's Memorial car park.	An important link between D1 and D3.
D3	Covenanter's Memorial	A 2.5 km route to Covenanter's Memorial and along the coast towards Mull Head.	An important route linking with D1 and D3 and providing access to the memorial.
D4	Newark Bay	A 1.8 km linear route including Newark Bay and the coast to Aikerskaill.	Newark Bay is a popular beach.
D5	Dingieshowe	A 3.4 km path from Dingieshowe to Newark.	An important path providing access to Dingieshowe and along an attractive coast. It links to D4.

2.13 HOLM

SUMMARY

The parish of Holm forms the southern part of the East Mainland. The village of St Marys is the main settlement area and lies on the south coast, which is the main focus of the Core Paths.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- outdoor access opportunities directly linked to the village of St Marys
- access to the wartime heritage of the area
- access to natural heritage and coastal scenery

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
H1	Howequoy Circular	A 3.2km circular path around the coast of Howequoy Head.	A path directly accessible from the village of St Marys.
H2	St Marys	A 2.2 km walk linking with H3.	The path starts at the village of St Marys and links the village with H3.
H3	Graemeshall circular	A 2.2 km circular route around East Breckan.	This route provides access to the Graemeshall wartime battery.
H4	Roseness	A 3km linear coastal route to the point at Roseness.	This route provides access to a popular headland and coastline.





2.14 HOY

SUMMARY

The island of Hoy is more reminiscent of the highlands of Scotland than the green islands of Orkney. As a result access over the hills is not something to be taken lightly. The weather can change rapidly and unless walkers are well prepared and able to read a map it can be dangerous. Therefore the core paths on the island are focused on providing safe access to the beautiful landscape and key heritage sites. From these paths it is possible for the serious walker to access the open hills.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to the Hoy RSPB reserve
- access to the Old Man of Hoy
- access from the ferry pier to Rackwick

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
H1	Moaness to Rackwick	A 7 km route from Moaness Pier to Rackwick.	A very popular route for visitors to the island.
H2	Old Man of Hoy	A 4 km walk to the Old Man of Hoy.	This route provides access to one of the most well known features in Orkney.
H3	Rackwick Beach	A short walk to the bothy and the beach at Rackwick.	The beach is a very important amenity site.
H4	Dwarfie Stane	A short walk to the Dwarfie Stane.	This path provides access to a very well known Neolithic monument.
H5	Scad Head	Two alternative routes to Scad Head which can be linked into a circular route.	These paths provide access to the wartime heritage at Scad Head.

2.15 NORTH AND SOUTH WALLS

SUMMARY

The moorland hills of North Walls are wild and open and can be difficult to navigate for walkers. The Core Paths which access the southern hills provide safe access to this landscape and offer some lovely views. For experienced walkers these routes can act as a starting point for exploring further.

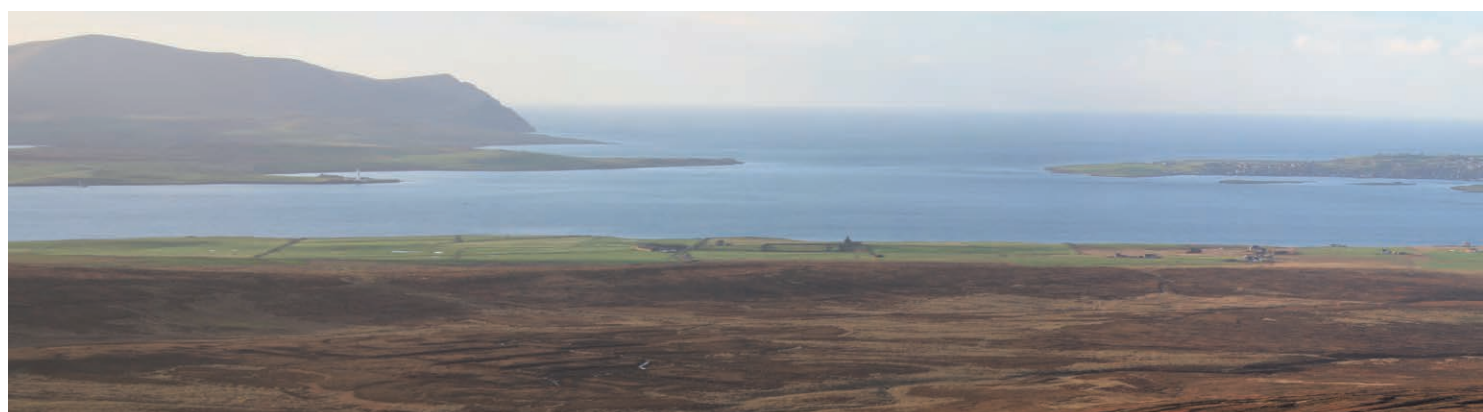
In contrast South Walls is a low lying peninsula with a coastline of cliffs, bays and links. The Core Paths focus on this stunning coast.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access to the hills
- coastal paths
- access to historical and natural heritage.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
Wa1	Wee Fea	A 1.5 km track to Wee Fea.	Wee Fea is a good viewpoint, provides access to wartime heritage and is accessible from the Lyness ferry pier.
Wa2	Heldale Water	A 3 km peat track route to Heldale Water and Binga Fea.	These tracks provide access to the southern hills.
Wa3	Melsetter	A 2.6 km path from Melsetter to Torness	Access to an attractive stretch of coastline and a starting point for longer walks along the west coast or into the hills.
Wa4	Brims	A 1 km path around the coastline of Brims.	Good access for residents in this area.
Wa5	Hill of White Hammars	A 2 km linear path along the south coast.	A beautiful coastline and the path links to Wa6.
Wa6	Snelsetter	Circular paths (approx 4 km) around the Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve.	These routes provide good access to the nature reserve.
Wa7	Cantick Head	A 1.8 km linear route to Cantick Head lighthouse.	The lighthouse is a key point of interest in South Walls.



2.16 BURRAY

SUMMARY

Burray is linked to the Mainland and South Ronaldsay by the Churchill Barriers, but still retains its island feel. It has beautiful beaches to explore and plenty of natural and built heritage.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- access opportunities from Burray village
- access to important amenity sites, especially beaches



ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
B1	Hillside	A 3.6 km network of paths around Hillside.	A useful network for residents in this area.
B2	Westhill to Littlequoy	A 1.3 km path from the village to the west of the island.	A useful link between the village, Hunda and B1.
B3/B4/B5	Burray Village	Three short routes around the village.	These paths provide access between different areas of the village and link to the coast.
B6	Fourth Barrier	A short route along the Fourth Barrier beach.	The Fourth Barrier beach is a key amenity site for Burray.
B7	Bu Sands	A path leading from the cemetery along Bu Sands.	Bu Sands is a key amenity site for Burray.
B8	Northfield	A 2.4 km circular walk around the headland at Northfield.	Access to wartime heritage and a broch, as well as good views across to the Churchill Barriers.
B9	Glimpsholm	Access along the beach at Glimpsholm.	Glimpsholm beach is a popular amenity site.



2.17 SOUTH RONALDSAY

SUMMARY

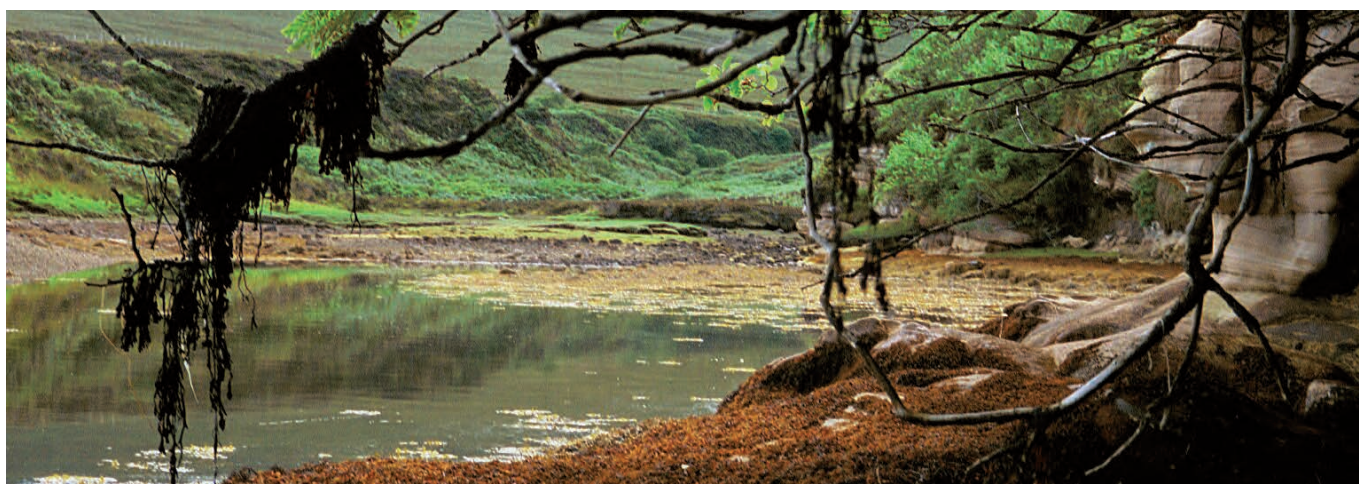
The long, narrow island of South Ronaldsay is linked to Burray at the Fourth Barrier. It has a very extensive and attractive coastline which is much used for outdoor access.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- a long distance coastal path
- paths linking to the coastal route
- access to beaches such as Newark and the Sands of Wright
- access to wartime heritage at Hoxa Head.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
SR1	East Coast path	A 12 km linear route along the east coast of South Ronaldsay.	A long distance coastal route which can be extended to include S2 and S3.
SR2	South Coast path	A 4 km linear route along the south coast of the island.	Forms part of a longer distance coastal path around South Ronaldsay.
SR3	West Coast path	A 7 km linear path along the west coast.	Another important link in the South Ronaldsay coastal path.
SR4/ SR5	East Coast links	2 paths linking with the east coast path	These paths provide exit/entry routes for SR1.
SR6	South Coast link	A short path linking with SR2.	This route enables access users to do a circular walk from Burwick
SR7	Oyce of Herston	A short path linking two roads.	A useful off road route for local residents.
SR8	Oyce of Quindry	A 2 km linear route along the shore of the Oyce of Quindry.	A popular route for residents in the area.
SR9	Dam of Hoxa	A 3.3 km path from the Sands of Wright, passed the Dam of Hoxa and back towards St Margaret's Hope.	A route which can be accessed from St Margaret's Hope and has interesting natural heritage.
SR10	Hoxa Head	A 2 km circular walk around Hoxa Head.	This path accesses the wartime battery at Hoxa.
SR11	St Margaret's Hope	A short walk from St Margaret's Hope.	A useful short path for local residents.



2.18 FLOTTA

SUMMARY

Strategically situated in Scapa Flow the island of Flotta had an important role as a military base in two world wars. This heritage is easily explored by following Flotta's paths.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- a mixture of quiet roads and off road tracks provide a good network of routes.
- the paths access much of the wartime heritage.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
F1	West Hill circular	A 7.5 km circular coastal path on the west side of the island.	An attractive coastal path passing a number of wartime heritage features.
F2	West Hill viewpoint	A short link to a viewpoint from F1.	This link provides a view over the island.
F3	Kirk Bay circular	A 2.5 km circular route in the centre of the island.	This route links with F1 and accesses Flotta Kirk and the war memorial.
F4	Stanger Head	A 2.7 km linear path to Stanger Head.	The path accesses the wartime heritage at Stanger Head and the dramatic cliff scenery.

2.19 GRAEMSAY

SUMMARY

Graemsay is a small, farmed island at the northern entrance to Scapa Flow. It is almost devoid of traffic which makes it ideal for outdoor access.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- circular routes reaching most corners of the island.
- all the circular routes link together.
- most of the circuits include a stretch of coastline.
- routes are easily accessible from the pier for visitors.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Name/Location	Description	Key Features
G1	Graemsay central circuit	A 3 km circular route around the centre of the island on a quiet road.	This path has good views all around, towards Hoy and the mainland.
G2	Filletts circular	A 3.7 km circular route linking with G1.	Access to the coast and a view of Hoy Low.
G3	Kirk and Crow Taing	A 2.5 km circular route starting from near the pier.	Easily accessible for visitors from the pier and links to G1.
G4	Ramray Circular	A 2.3 km circular route including a stretch of rocky coastline.	Links to G1 and allows another stretch of coast to be explored.



2.20 THE WEST MAINLAND

SUMMARY

Rich farmland, hill and moorland scenery and an extensive coastline give the West Mainland a variety of landscapes for outdoor access users to enjoy. The spectacular cliff scenery along the Atlantic coastline, contrasts with the gentler shores of Scapa Flow and all the coasts have their stunning sandy bays. There are also important historic settlements such as Skara Brae and on the Brough of Birsay.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NETWORK

- a long distance coastal walk from Birsay to Stromness, including some of the best coastal scenery on the mainland
- local path networks for Stromness, Dounby and Finstown
- access to key amenity and heritage sites.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Routes	Description	Key Features
West Mainland South East	Core Paths in the parishes of Orphir, Stenness and Firth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to key stretches of coastline in Orphir including Waulkmill • access to the Stenness and Orphir hills, including Ward Hill and Keelylang • access to the World Heritage Site at Brodgar and Stones of Stenness • access to Binscarth Woods
West Mainland North East	Core Paths in Harray, Evie and Rendall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to the Harray and Birsay hills • a network of paths around Dounby • access to Evie Sands
West Mainland North West	Core Paths in Birsay and Sandwick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a coastal path from Birsay to Skaill, including the bird cliffs at Marwick Head • routes linking to the coastal path • access to the Brough of Birsay • Russland Drover's Road linking to Dounby
West Mainland South West	Core Paths in Sandwick and Stromness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a coastal path from Skaill to Stromness • a network of paths around Stromness

Appendix I

Core Paths Network Maps



North Ronaldsay



Orkney Core Paths Plan
North Ronaldsay
Plan N1

Map Key

- Core Paths
- NR1 Path Reference Number

0 0.1 0.2 0.4
Miles

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Papa Westray



Westray



Sanday



Eday



Rousay



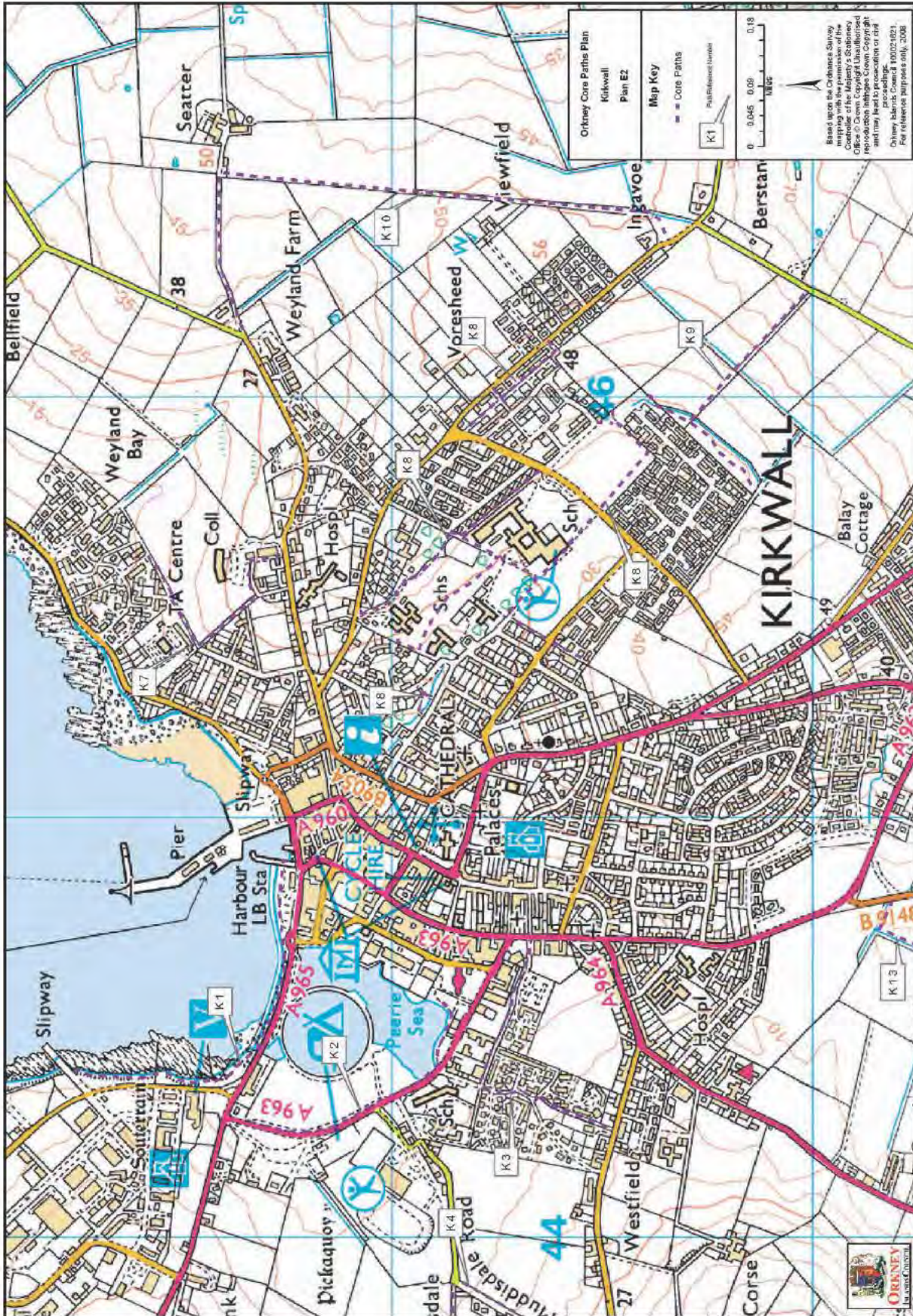
Egilsay and Wyre



Stronsay



Kirkwall



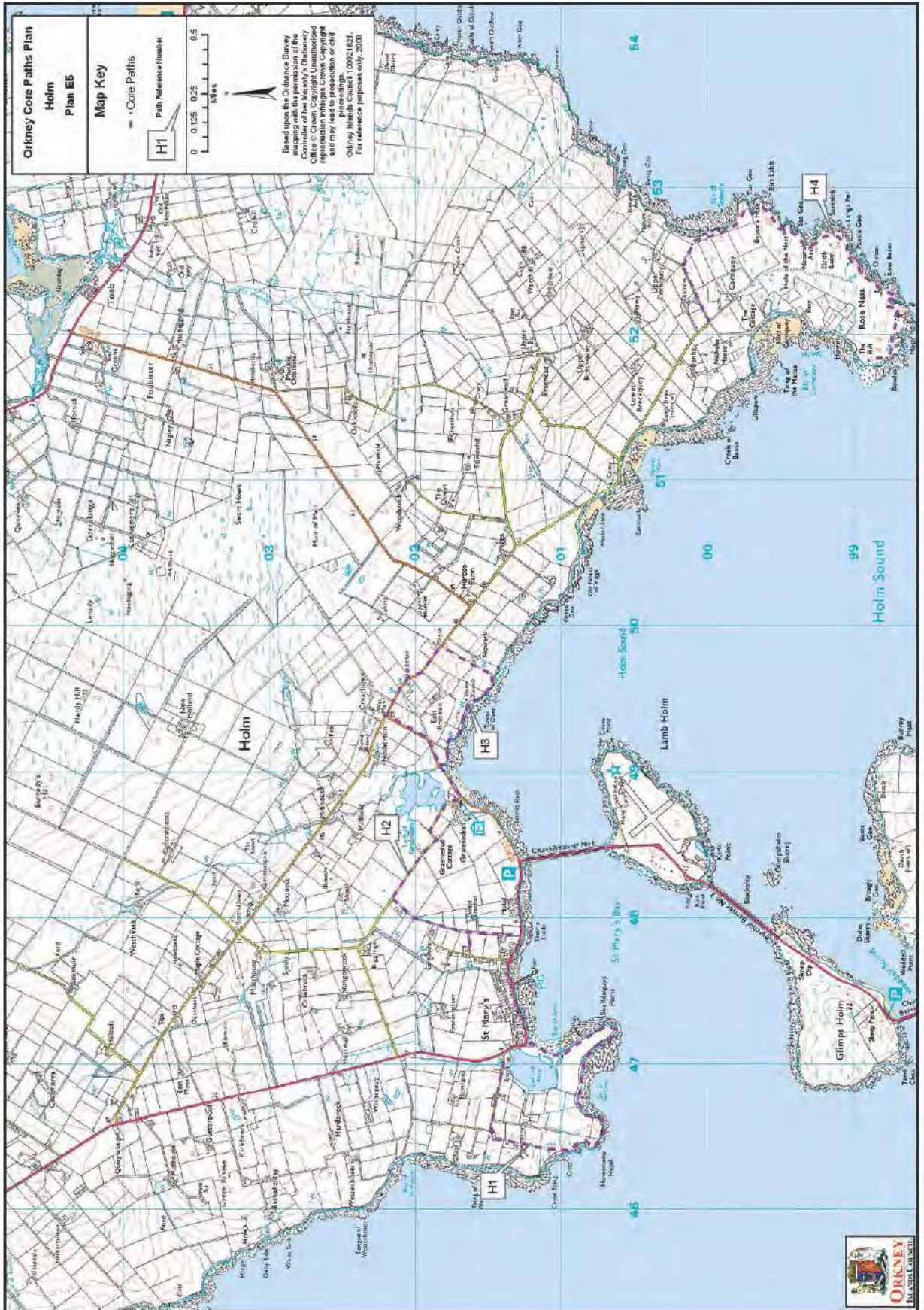
Tankerness



Deerness



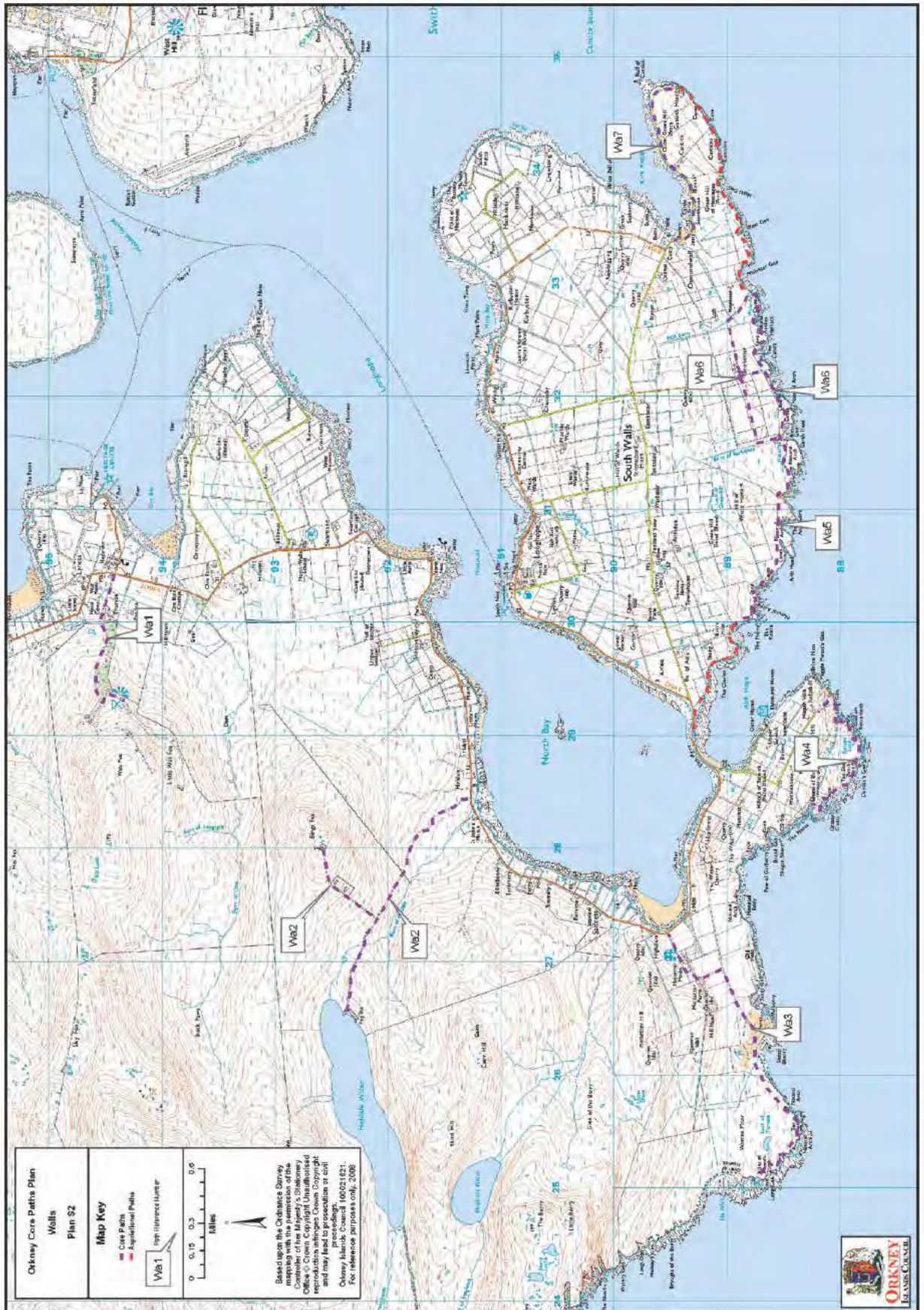
Holm



Hoy



North and South Walls



Burray



Orkney Core Paths Plan
Burray
Plan S3

Map Key
 Core Paths

Path Reference Number
 B1

0 0.1 0.2 0.4
 Miles

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South Ronaldsay



Flotta



Graemsay



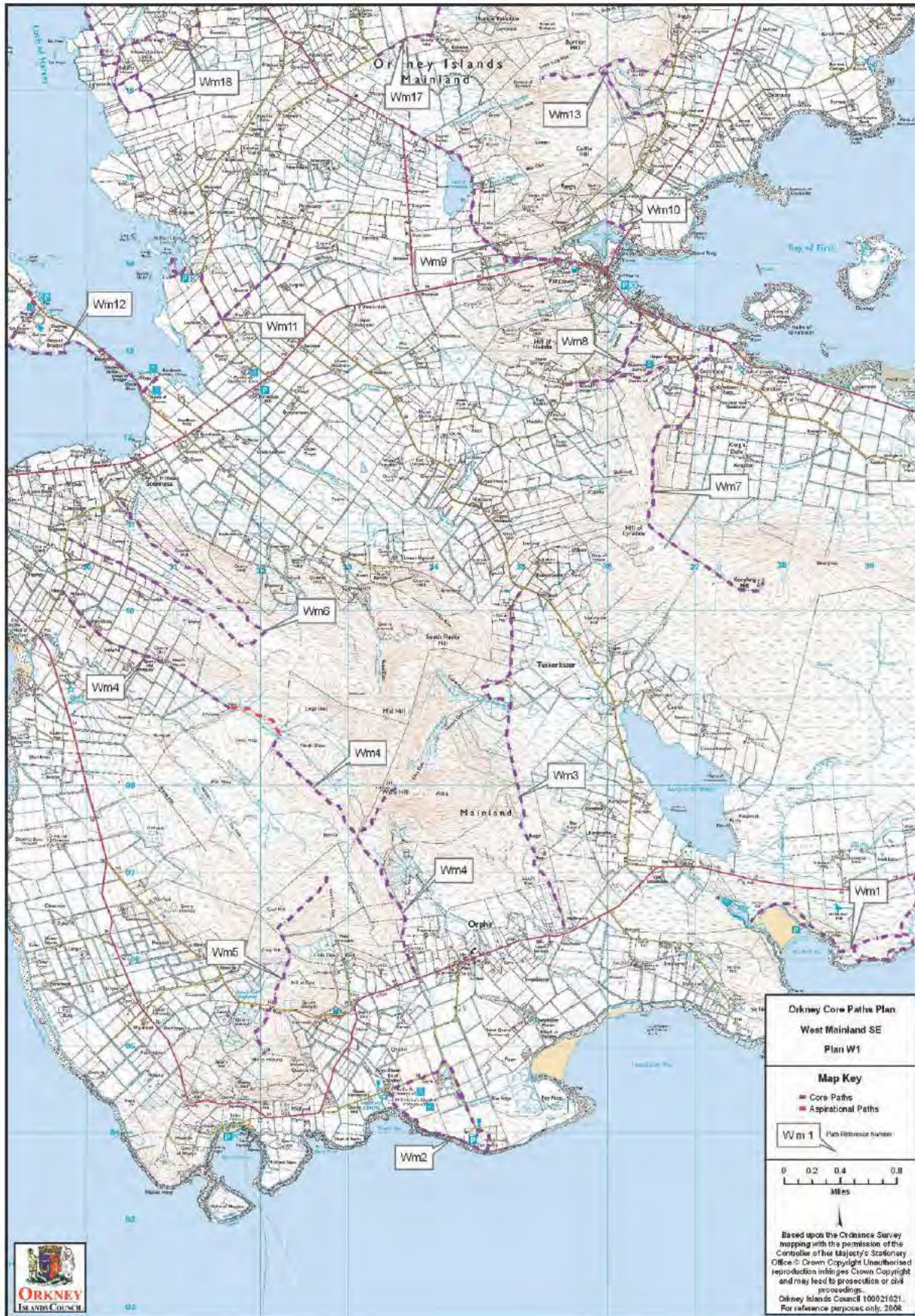
West Mainland I



West Mainland 2



West Mainland 3



West Mainland 4

