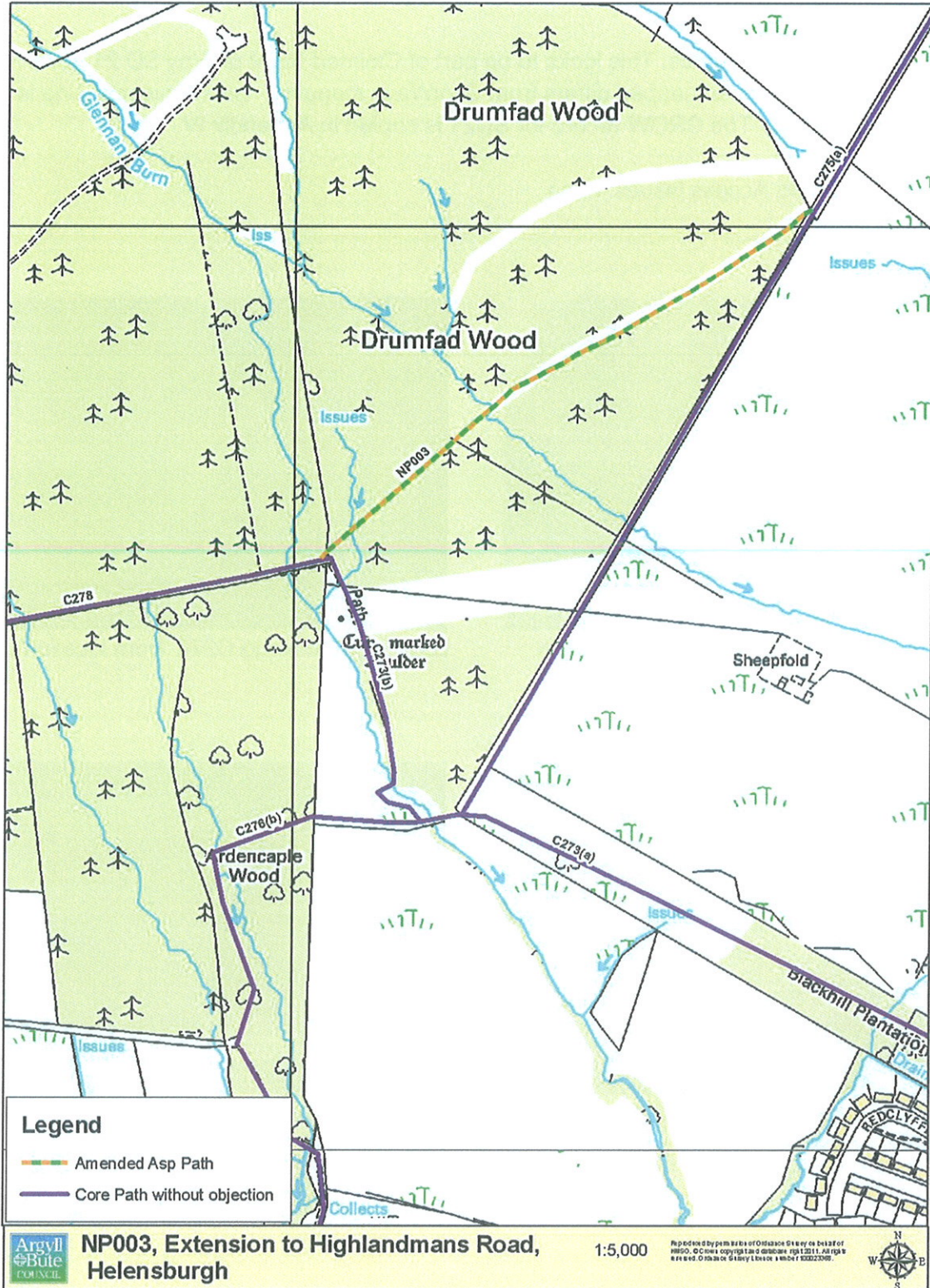


Core Path Report for New Path 003 (HEL) Drumfad Wood, short-cut, Helensburgh

1. Proposed Core Path



2. Summary of Representations Received

Representation	Respondent Name	Organisation/ Group	Objection Summary	Respondents proposed action	Respondent Ref No.	Objection withdrawn
Objection	Alastair MacBeth	Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood	Core Paths Plan insufficient	Include this path as a core path	P194	

3. History of Access

- i. Right of Way Status: This looks to be part of Claimed Right of Way SD 21 however the Core Path route mapped differs from ScotWays mapping. ScotWays mapping is erroneous. The CROW record for SD21 is copied in Appendix IV.
- ii. Recorded Access Issues: none

4. Site Visit



Old Right of Way sign, located approximately where the route joins 278 and 273(b) at its western end



Looking west along C278 from location of sign



The route has some path infrastructure on it, such as this wooden bridge



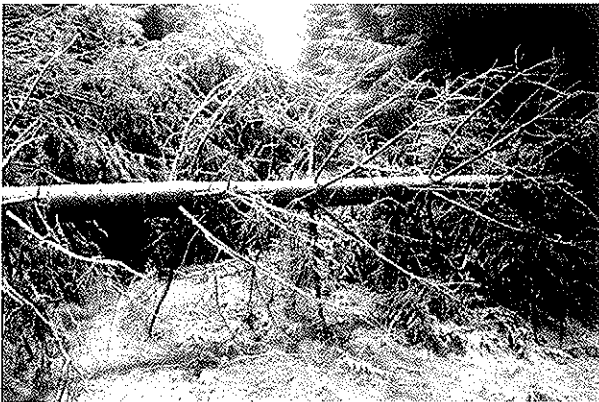
Path is overgrown in places



Sections of the path are very wet and muddy



Another bridge along the path



On the day of visit there were a number
Of trees blocking the route



Another wet and muddy section of the path



A further wet and muddy section which make up
A large proportion of the route



The route joins the Three Lochs Way
C275 just beyond the bridge in the foreground

5. Alternative Route/s

N/A

6. Consultation with Objectors & Other Interested Parties

Link from C278 to C275 (a) include as a core path. The Highlandman's Road should continue as a core path through the forest clearing. That middle section is part of the main walking route from Rhu to Glen Fruin and has a bridge over streams. Although parts are muddy at times, it is a long established and substantially used path. It seems wrong to have a break which is not designated as a core path in such an important path as the Highlandman's Road.

7. Access Officer's Initial Comments

The condition of this path on the day I walked it was not very good, there were several sections of wet and boggy path and a number of trees had fallen across the route making access along it difficult at times.

The Three Lochs Way is a promoted long distance walk Between Balloch and Inveruglas. The section of the Three Lochs way at Drumfad Wood follows the eastern edge of the woodland and is shown as C275(a) on the map.

Conclusion

This route which is less than 300 metres in length offers a shorter and more direct link from C278 and the Three Lochs Way as well as a circular path through Drumfad wood almost halving the distance. However due to its current condition and the proximity of the of the Three Lochs Way as an alternative linear route it is recommended that at this time NP003 be recorded as an Aspirational Path in the Core Paths Plan. If the Helensburgh & District Access Trust members wish to commit to improving this path within the next two years the Council could consider designating it as a Core Path. The path will remain as part of the wider path network for the time being.

At present I am recommending that this path is designated as an Aspirational Path.

8. Advice received from the Access Forum

9. Access Officer's Final Recommendations

10. Appendices

Appendix I. Copies of the representations received during the formal consultation

Grierson, Douglas

P194

From: ALASTAIR MACBETH [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 April 2011 16:01
To: corepathenquiries
Subject: Core paths

CORE PATHS CONSULTATION

Since I cannot find any way to send the core paths consultation form to you electronically, I am providing my submission without the form, but based on it. I hope that is acceptable.

This submission concerns the Helensburgh area.

To : The Outdoor Access Team,
Planning Services,
Argyll and Bute Council,
Manse Brae,
Lochgilphead,
PA31 8RD

From : Alastair Macbeth

Chairman, Helensburgh Study Group

Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood

40 West Montrose Street,
Helensburgh

G84 9PF
[REDACTED]

3.4.11

C417(a) and (b) / C 276(a). Support. Duchess Wood paths as shown by both solid and dotted lines should be designated as core paths. Duchess Wood is one of the most extensively used facilities in Helensburgh both by residents and by visitors. The latter is important for tourism reasons. The periphery path, the link to the car park and the eastern path which joins the round-Helensburgh footpaths network are significant.

C518 and C264(b). Support as core paths. It is important to be able to walk from Helensburgh to Ardmore Point. Much of this is beside the main road, but a prepared path exists, though close to the road itself. The Moss Road route to the foreshore enables shoreline access to Ardmore Point as indicated by the dotted red line on the core paths map. Moss Road (C518) was designated as a Public Right of Way by the Dumbarton District Council and is recorded as such by ScotWays. It is important that this public way is unblocked. I am aware that discussions are in progress at national level about railway crossings, but this one has an automatic barrier and the route, in my view, should be clearly defined as a core path.

Link from C278 to C275(a). Include as core path. The Highlandman's Road should continue as a core path through the forest clearing. That middle section is part of the main walking route from Rhu to Glen Fruin and has bridges over streams. Although parts are muddy at times, it is a long-established and substantially-used path. It seems wrong to have a break which is not designated as core path in such an important path as the Highlandman's Road.

Appendix II. Copies of relevant correspondence

Appendix III. Copies of responses additional consultations

Appendix IV. Additional supporting documents

Copy of the Record for this Public Right of Way in the Catalogue of Public Rights of Way published by the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society.

Route Information Sheet

SROWS Code SD21

Local Authority Code: 24

Argyll & Bute

Path Name: Highlandman's Road (Way)

Start: NS 274 844 UCR on NE side of Rhu

Finish: NS 305 865 UCR, Glen Fruin at bridge over Fruin Water

Status: Claimed

Max. Height: Unknown

User Category: Unknown

Length (km): 4

Date Recorded: 22/08/1991

Region/District:

Strathclyde/Dumbarton

Last Updated: 10/02/2010

Location of Information

Organisation:	File Ref:	Quality:	General:	Survey:	Witness Statement:	Landowner Comments:	Declarator:
Dumbarton DC	Rights of Way List	2	Yes	No	No	No	
Dumbarton DC	Rights of Way Map	2	Yes	No	No	No	
SROWS	Local Rep John Harvey	2	No	Yes	No	No	
SROWS	LPA 8/10	2	Yes	No	No	No	
SROWS	1:50,000 map	3	Yes	No	No	No	

Path Cards

1 card recorded on 01/01/1999.

Route Description

01/01/99 Surveyed by John Harvey :

Crosses the West Highland Railway by bridge at 274843 and continues up track initially surfaced, through gate with recent kissing gate, and then unsurfaced to gate into forestry plantation at 280844. Track passable by vehicles continues along bottom of Highlandman's Wood to junction with Helensburgh Upland Walk (established about 1991) at 290846. The RoW then continues through more recent plantation where the surface has been improved and footbridges provided to 295850. Beyond this it is waymarked across open ground and below an ancient wood; although 2 footbridges have been provided in this section, it remains very wet underfoot (at least in winter). Near the NE end the waymarks lead to the UCR at 306862 where there is a green & white sign which now reads "-mu 4.5km" (note: this is about 200m along the road from the finish point given overleaf).

The section connecting the Helensburgh Upland Walk with Rhu is very well used by leisure walkers.

Other information

19/10/09 email from ScotWays to Jonathan Creasey at Woodlands for Sale (jonathan@woodlands.co.uk) re Torr Wood near Helensburgh. ScotWays notes that Torr Wood has recently been added to the Woodlands website and Highlandman's Road has been marked on the site plan. This route is SD21 and has been identified as a Heritage Path by the Heritage Paths Project.

16/05/08 Argyll & Bute Council re path construction and improvement works and installation of signage as part of the three lochs way project. SD21 and 28 are in the area. Scotways has no objections to the proposed scheme.

LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK:

Part of this route, from NS 299 856 (by the 'oblong' conifer plantation) to NS 305 864 (approximately 1.5KM), is within the boundary of the National Park (11 June 2002).

SROWS Code SD21

Letter dated 10/9/91 in LPA 8/10:

Originally a pack-horse track used by the people of Glen Fruin to reach the church at Rhu. (Continued W by ferry over the Garloch & over the Rosneath peninsula).

Reports complain of the disappearance of a sign (not ScotWays) at GR 275 845, indicating way to Glen Fruin.