

Map 6 – Dunnet

The Dunnet area is well known for recreational access with two of the best known recreational areas in Caithness – Dunnet beach and Dunnet forest.

Dunnet forest was the most commented upon area by the public in Caithness. This is an indication of the quality of the recreational access resource provided by the Dunnet Forestry Trust, with all-ability, horse riding, walking and mountain bike users all being catered for with paths and trails in the forest. Specific information and a detailed map can be found at: www.dunnetforest.org. The roadside footway linking the forest to the caravan site and beach access point together with Dunnet village creates a well integrated access resource for locals and visitors alike.

The area of Dunnet beach and particularly Dunnet Head, is noted in the Caithness Local Plan as a 'dramatic and striking' coastline identified as locally important and requiring recreation management. The extensive coastal route between Holborn Head and Dunnet Head, highlighted in the Access Development Plan for Thurso, Castletown and Dunnet, produced by the Highland Access Project, is an important and relevant plan in consideration of potential future recreational access management in the area.

The multiple coastal routes together with access points to the coast by Dunnet e.g. by Dunnet Pavilion, opposite Marymass Green, the fishermen's bothy and Dwarwick Pier, provide for a range of access users. Horse riders, walkers, watersports and other beach activities use the access by Dunnet Pavilion as the main area to base coastal activities due to the provision of good and easy access to the beach, public toilets and good parking facilities.

The wild coastal moorland, dramatic cliffs and the most northerly point on the mainland are an attraction to visitors around Dunnet Head with local use noted of the route by Dwarwick and the House of the Northern Gate to Peedie Sands. The link from this route to the sands is however poor and has therefore been noted as wider access network rather than candidate core path.

Multiple comments were received during the consultative draft stage to alter 205.026 to represent the route linking the mid road and the B855. This route now forms a far wider role in creating links between public roads and creating increased scope for circular routes easily accessible from the main settlement of Dunnet.

At Dunnet Head the cliff viewing point and the remains of the old radar station provide the focus for access locally. The more adventurous and well prepared can explore the cliffs with care, making the link between Dwarwick and Brough via the coast. The track down to Brough Harbour has been noted as a candidate core path whilst the path leading down to the pier is noted as wider access network owing to the impact of erosion on the route. Comment was received through the consultative draft leading to a new candidate core path being identified linking Brough with the coast, together with a coastal route by the Castle of Mey.

Public access to the coast from Brough east, is typically via old fishing havens and piers such as Brough, Ham, Skarfskerry Haven and Harrow Pier. The cliff terrain and field boundaries make following the coastline a scramble in keeping with wider access network rather than candidate core path.

Similar to many other areas in the more populous parts of the County, the unclassified road network is an important and relevant part of the access resource. In most of the smaller dispersed communities such as Brough, Skarfskerry and Barrock the road network serves as the main access resource with links into the countryside and to the wider access network such as along the coast by Brough, Ham, Scarfskerry and Harrow.

The Sustrans National Cycle route from Aberdeen to John O'Groats also features in this area. This route is marked on Ordnance Survey maps as a series of green dots and is a further example of the use of the unclassified road network.

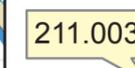
Dunnet – Candidate Core Paths			
Path Ref No.	Path Name/Route	Path Type	Length (kms)
203.002	Battery walk	Track, earth/grass/gravel path	1.9
203.003	Castlehill shore (Jessans path)	Path gravel/sand surfaced	0.5
203.005	Community Woodland and Flagstone Trail	Path gravel surfaced	0.9
203.009	Footway to link with Castlehill & Harbour unclassified road	Roadside footway (tar)	0.4
205.001	Dunnet forest	Gravel, earth, grass, boardwalk sections	6.2
205.002	Dunnet to Dunnet forest roadside path	Gravel path	1.1
205.003	House of the Northern Gate to Peedie sands	Track, earth/grass path	0.9
205.006	Beach access by Dunnet pavillion	Boardwalk	0.2
205.010	Dunnet Sands	Sand	3.0
205.011	Dunnet Head	Gravel path/ track	0.7
205.017	Dunnet to coast via fishermens bothy	Track	0.5
205.019	Dwarwick pier to Peedie sands	Earth/grass path	0.8
205.021	Brough Pier	Track	0.3
205.022	Cliff Viewpoint	Gravel path	0.1
205.026	West Dunnet link	Track, earth/grass path	0.8
205.027	Brough	Track	0.2
205.028	Barrock to A836 via Rosegill	Track	1.3
205.029	Mey link	Track	0.6
205.030	Castle of Mey coast	Tarred road, track	1.4
205.031	Brough to Langypo	Grass/earth path	0.2
205.032	Brough roadside path	Roadside footway	0.5

Map: 6 Dunnet

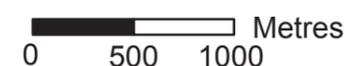
Caithness Core Paths Plan (Draft)

Legend

-  Candidate core paths
-  Wider access network
-  Links on roads\pavements

 211.003 Route code number

Scale: 1:35,000

 Metres
0 500 1000



This map has been produced in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. All routes identified on this map are only proposals and are subject to modification following public consultation.

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