

Amended Orkney Core Paths Plan

September 2018



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL



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Foreward

The Amended Orkney Core Paths Plan presents the Core Paths Network for Orkney.

Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Orkney Islands Council had a duty to prepare a Core Paths Plan. This was published in December 2008. The purpose of the plan is to identify a system of key routes for outdoor access in Orkney.

This document constitutes a review of the existing Orkney Core Paths Plan and has been developed through extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders including the Orkney Local Access Forum, local communities, access user groups, local organisations and agencies, land managers and visitors to our islands. This review has been conducted in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016.

Contacting the Council

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the Amended Orkney Core Paths Plan, contact the Council's Rural Planner on 01856873535 extension 2541 or email ross.irvine@orkney.gov.uk

1. 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 network 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 are 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 help the public to access the outdoors. Paths vary in character depending on their location and who needs to use the path. So there are natural grassy paths, as well as hard surfaced multi-user paths and even some quiet roads have been included as part of the Core Paths network. It is intended that 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. Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy and Core Paths Plan – Vision, Aims and Objectives

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.

The Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy identifies the following key issues for path networks in Orkney:

- The need to manage access over enclosed farmland to the benefit of land managers and access users.
- A demand for the development of a well-managed consolidated Core Paths Network that includes the routes most valued by local communities and visitors.
- OIC has a duty to keep open and free from obstruction existing public rights of way and uphold the right of responsible access created by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.
- The consolidation of the network of core paths in Orkney in order to make it more conducive to the Outdoor Access Strategy objectives.

Orkney Core Paths Plan Review

The Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy identified Proposal 7:

‘The Council will review and prepare an updated Core Paths Plan in consultation with land managers, access users, local communities and other stakeholders. The resulting path network will provide a reduced and better-managed group of higher quality paths. This will enable available funds to be better targeted’.

The Orkney Core Paths Plan Review was carried out following these steps:

Step 1 – A qualitative assessment of the existing core path network:

This assessment highlights the best performing core paths and underperforming paths that require further consideration as part of the review process. The qualitative assessment incorporates the views of the Orkney Local Access Forum – Completed.

Step 2 – Consultation with OIC Roads Support:

To consider any potential changes to the core path network identified through the ongoing programme of maintenance surveys – Completed.

Step 3 – Assess the impact of the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme:

To assess the delivery of aspirational core paths, new connections achieved and potential to consolidate the core path network when better alternative path routes have been developed – Completed.

Step 4 – Informal consultation with Orkney Local Access Forum (Participation Statement and Consultation Report):

The views of individual members of OLAF are set out and actioned in the Participation Statement and Consultation Report. A joint OLAF response to the informal consultation on the CPP review was provided to the Council in April 2014 – Completed.

Step 5 - Outdoor Access in Orkney Workshop - Orkney Local Access Forum and OIC Elected Members, September 2015:

In response to the OLAF's views provided in their consultation response, a workshop took place to allow OLAF to share their views and aspiration for outdoor access with OIC Elected Members. The workshop highlighted a number of issues to inform the Core Paths Plan review - Completed.

Step 6 – Identify potential amendments to the existing network, removals and additional core paths:

The consultation with OLAF, OIC Roads and the qualitative assessment have informed the identification of changes to the core path network which form part of the current informal consultation – Completed.

Step 7 – Informal consultation with landowners, community councils and the wider public – Current stage:

To seek feedback from stakeholders on the proposed changes to the Core Paths network identified through the review process. This is taking place in advance of the formal statutory consultation on the Revised Draft Orkney Core Paths Plan and will involve all statutory and wider stakeholders – Current Stage.

Step 8 – Analyse the responses to the informal consultation and take appropriate action:

Respond to the views provided by landowners, community councils and the wider public etc. on the draft Orkney Core Paths Plan and the proposed changes to the core path network – September and October 2017.

Step 9 - Draft the revised Orkney Core Paths Plan:

Prepare a final Draft Orkney Core Paths Plan for formal consultation under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 – November 2017.

Step 10 – Deposit plan for 12 week statutory consultation:

Work with consultees to address any issues raised through the formal consultation – 15 March until 7 June 2018.

Step 11 – Adopt the Orkney Core Paths Plan:

Provided there are no unwithdrawn objections to the plan, submit finalised plan for Council approval. Give public notice of adoption and notify plan to Scottish Ministers in Summer 2018.

1.3. Selecting Core Paths

Criteria were used to help select paths for inclusion in the Core Paths Plan 2008. These criteria were developed to reflect the objectives of the plan and also with reference to the information gathered at public consultations carried out in 2008. Each path identified as a candidate Core Path in the consultation, was scored against these criteria.

An assessment was also made of the proposed network for each area, i.e. 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 e.g. 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.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is carried out to assess the effects that implementation of a Core Paths Plan could have on the environment. When the original Orkney Core Paths Plan was prepared in 2008 it underwent a full SEA and an Environmental Report was prepared which detailed the likely environmental effects.

The amendments that are included in the updated Plan have been screened for their likely effects on the environment and the findings are set out in an SEA screening report. The report concludes that the proposed amendments are unlikely to lead to significant environmental effects; therefore further environmental assessment of the Plan is not required.

2. Core Paths Networks for each island and parish in Orkney

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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
NR1.	Coastal Circular Walk.	An approx. 11.5 mile whole island coastal path.
NR2.	Easting track.	Short path in the north of the island.
NR3.	Track round Loch of Garso.	A short path round the Loch of Garso.
NR4.	Track south of Loch of Garso.	A short path round the Loch of Garso.
NR5.	Ancumtoun track.	Short path in the north of the island.
NR6.	Hower to South Ness.	A short linear path to Tor Ness.
NR7.	Howatof to Viggay.	Short path in the south of the island.
NR8.	Bride's Ness.	Short path in the south of the island.
NR9.	South East.	Short path in the south of the island.
NR10.	Northmanse.	Short path in the west of the island.

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 e.g. wildlife on North Hill and archaeology at the Knap of Howar.

Route Descriptions

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
PW1.	Papay Coastal Circular Route.	An approx. 11 mile route following the coastline around the whole island.
PW2.	North Hill Circular.	A 1 mile linking path creating a short circular route on North Hill.
PW3.	North Wick link.	A short path linking the road to the coast at North and South Wick.
PW4.	St Boniface's Church.	This short route provides access to the restored St Boniface's Church and the coastal route.
PW5.	Knap of Howar.	A 0.5 mile path past Holland Farm to the Knap of Howar and the coastal path.
PW6.	South Wick.	A link to the coastal path and the shore at South Wick from a residential area and the school.
PW7.	St Tredwell's Chapel.	A short link from the coastal path to the chapel ruins and the Loch of St Tredwell.

2.3. Westray

Summary

Westray is the most north-westerly of the Orkney Islands. Its spreading shape provides it with a huge 80mile 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
W1.	West Westray Walk.	An approx. 6 mile coastal route along the west coast of the island, with wild seas and dramatic cliffs.
W2.	Noup Head Circular.	An approx. 2 mile circular route including part of the West Westray Walk.
W3.	Pierowall to Grobust.	A variety of circular routes from Pierowall to Grobust.
W4.	Broughton.	Public rights of way through farmland to the bay of Tuquoy.
W5.	Fitty Hill.	Hill route linking with the West Westray coastal walk.
W6.	Tuquoy and Mae Sands.	An approx. 5 mile circular route along a rocky coastline to the beach at Mae Sands and returning by quiet roads.
W7.	Skelwick.	Circular route traversing from one side of the island to the other.
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.

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 Lady Village.
- Core Paths in all areas of the island.

Route Descriptions

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
SA1.	Burness and the Holms of Ire.	A circular route, which can be divided into two shorter loops.
SA2.	Whitemill Circular.	An approx. 3 mile circular route from Whitemill to Ortie.
SA3.	Scuthvie Circular.	An approx. 3 mile circular route and a short link to Start Point.
SA4.	Tresness.	An approx. 4 mile linear route to Cata Sand and Tresness.
SA5.	Lady Village to Newark.	An approx. 4 mile linear route.
SA6.	Canker to Peedie Trove.	An approx. 0.7 mile path.
SA7.	Elsness.	An approx. 4 mile route to Elsness including a shorter circular route south of lady village.
SA8.	Hammerbrake.	A short route to Little Sea.
SA9.	Over-the-Water.	A linear route to the Little Sea from the school.
SA10.	Backaskaill Circular.	An approx. 3 mile route along the shore, farmland tracks and rural road.
SA11.	Broughtown Circular.	A network of paths around Broughtown.

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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
ED1.	Eday Heritage walk.	An approx. 5 mile circular route in the north of the island over open heath to the Red Head.
ED2.	Linkataing.	A route linking to the Eday Heritage Walk and accessing the cliffs on the west side.
ED3.	Cusbay.	A route linking to the Eday Heritage walk from Cusbay.
ED4.	Stephen's Gate.	A coastal, circular route with a variety of alternative links.
ED5.	Newark.	A linear walk to Newark Bay and the Bay of Doomy.
ED6.	Sands of Mussetter.	Access to the beaches of Mussetter and Doomy.
ED7.	Leenisdale Hill	A circular hill route, following old peat tracks.
ED8.	Ward Hill.	A short path to the summit of Ward Hill.
ED9.	Warness Walk.	An approx. 2 mile circular coastal path around War Ness.

2.6. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
ST1.	Whitehall to St Catherine’s Bay.	An approx. 1.5 mile route linking the village to the beach at Ayre of the Myers and St Catherine’s Bay.
ST2.	Rothiesholm Circular.	An approx. 1.5 mile circular route including beach, loch, rocky shore and historic sites.
ST3.	Vat of Kirbister Circular.	A short walk to the Vat of Kirbister and a longer circular walk (approx. 7.5 miles) around Odin Bay and the Bay of Houseby.
ST4.	Holland Circular.	A circular walk starting at Holland Farm.
ST5.	Tor Ness	A longer walk from Holland Farm to Tor Ness.

2.7. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
R1.	Trumland RSPB Reserve.	Two circular routes, reaching Knitchen Hill and Blotchnie Field.
R2.	Knowe of Yarso.	A short linear path to the chambered cairn.
R3.	Frotoft.	A short linear path following the route of a burn.
R4.	Midhowe.	A linear route accessing the monuments on the Westness coast.
R5.	Sacquoy Head.	An approx. 2 mile coastal walk in the north west of the island.
R6.	Faraclett Head.	An approx. 2 mile circular path around this headland in the north east of the island.

2.8. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
EG1.	Egilsay RSPB reserve.	A linear route across the island from the pier.
EG2.	St Magnus Church.	A short path to the church and centotaph.
WY1.	Cubbie Roo's Castle.	An approx. 1.5 mile linear walk past the island's key points of interest, to the coast.

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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
SH1.	Mill Dam Circular.	An approx. 6 mile circular route along tracks and quiet roads, with an extension to Salt Ness.
SH2.	Veantrow Bay.	A linear path to Veantrow Bay.
SH3.	The Ouse.	A linear route to the Ouse.
SH4.	Ward Hill.	An approx. 2.5 mile circular route including Ward Hill.
SH5.	East Hill.	An approx. 2.5 mile route along tracks and out to East Hill.
SH6.	Skenstof.	An approx. half mile linear route to the beach at Skenstof.
SH7.	Burroughston Broch and Sandy Geo.	An approx. 2 mile route accessing Burroughston Broch and the north east coast.

2.10. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
WM1.	Hobbister to Waulkmill Bay.	An approx. 2.5 mile path.
WM2.	Gyre Circular.	An approx. 2 mile path.
WM3.	Fea to Nearhouse.	An approx. 3 mile path.
WM4.	Ward Hill, Orphir.	An approx. 4 mile path.
WM5.	East Linnadale to Hill of Midland.	An approx. 1.5 mile path.
WM6.	Pullan Path.	An approx. 3.3 mile path.
WM7.	Keelylang Hill.	An approx. 2.5 mile path.
WM8.	Cuween Paths.	An approx. 1.5 mile path.
WM9.	Binscarth wood and Loch of Wasdale.	An approx. 2 mile path.
WM10.	The Ouse.	An approx. 0.2 mile path.
WM11.	Lochside.	An approx. 1 mile path.
WM12.	Lochside Viewpoint.	An approx. 0.8 mile path.
WM13.	Brodgar.	An approx. 2.3 mile path.
WM14.	Burn of Vinden.	An approx. 1.8 mile path.
WM15.	Cottascarth.	An approx. 0.7 mile path.
WM16.	Bay of Puldrite to Hall of Rendall.	An approx. 2.5 mile path.
WM17.	Knowes of Trotty.	An approx. 1 mile path.
WM18.	Netherborough Circular.	An approx. 5.5 mile path.
WM19.	Dale of Corrigal.	An approx. 1.7 mile path.

WM20.	Upper Bigging.	An approx. 2.3 mile path.
WM21.	Dounby/The Shunan to Kame of Corrigall.	An approx. 5 mile path.
WM22.	Merkister to Greeny Hill.	An approx. 7 mile path.
WM23.	Nisthouse.	An approx. 0.7 mile path.
WM24.	Sands of Evie.	An approx. 2 mile path.
WM25.	Costa Hill.	An approx. 0.6 mile path.
WM26.	West Coast Path.	An approx. 22 mile path.
WM27.	Quarrybanks Track.	An approx. 0.4 mile path.
WM28.	Garson.	An approx. 1 mile path.
WM29.	Innertown and Outertown.	An approx. 2.9 mile path.
WM30.	Brinkie's Brae.	An approx. 1 mile path.
WM31.	Ness to the Outertown Road.	An approx. 2.6 mile path.
WM32.	Citadel View Point, West Mainland.	An approx. 0.15 mile path.

2.11. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
K1.	Ayre Road	An approx. 0.5 mile walk around the Peedie Sea.
K2.	Peedie Sea.	A short route close to the Peedie Sea.
K3.	Junction Road to Glaitness Road.	An approx. 0.5 mile walk.
K4.	Muddisdale and Wideford Hill.	An approx. 3 mile path to Wideford Hill, including shorter routes around Muddisdale.
K5.	Orkney College.	A path near the Army Reserve Centre and Orkney College.
K6.	KGS and Papdale.	A short route linking the school with the town.
K7.	Berstane Road.	Various routes around the primary and secondary schools.
K8.	The Willows.	Various routes around the primary and secondary schools.
K9.	Papdale.	An approx. 0.7 mile path.
K10.	Seatter Bridleway.	An approx. 1 mile linear route near Seatter Farm.
K11.	Tradespark.	An approx. 0.8 mile path.
K12.	Crantit Trail.	An approx. 1 mile path to Scapa Bay.
K13.	Scapa Bay.	An approx. 1.2 mile route along Scapa Beach and the adjacent cliffs.
K14.	Wideford Farm.	An approx. 3 mile path from Inganess to Scapa.

2.12. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
EM1.	Airport coastal.	An approx. 1.5 mile path along the coast in the south west of the parish.
EM2.	Tankerness Loch.	A linear public right of way, alongside Tankerness Loch in the centre of Tankerness.
EM3.	Rerwick Head.	A circular path around Rerwick Head in the north east of the parish.

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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
EM4.	Howequoy Circular.	An approx. 2 mile circular path around the coast of Howequoy Head.
EM5.	St Marys.	An approx. 1.5 mile walk linking with EM127.
EM6.	Graemeshall Circular.	An approx. 1.5 mile circular route around East Breckan.
EM7.	Roseness.	A linear coastal route to the point at Roseness.

2.14. 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 Gloup at Mull Head.
- Access to popular beaches and stretches of coastline.

Route Descriptions

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
EM8.	Mull Head.	An approx. 4.3 mile circular path around Mull Head.
EM9.	Mull Head link.	A linear path between Mull Head and the Covenanter's Memorial car park.
EM10.	Covenanter's Memorial.	An approx. 1.5 mile route to Covenanter's Memorial and along the coast towards Mull Head.
EM11.	Newark Bay	An approx. 1.15 mile linear route including Newark Bay and the coast to Aikerskaill.
EM12.	Dingieshowe	An approx. 2 mile path from Dingieshowe to Newark.

2.15. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
G1.	Graemsay Central Circuit.	A circular route around the centre of the island on a quiet road.
G2.	Fillets Circular.	An approx. 1.5 mile circular route linking with G1.
G3.	Kirk and Crow Taing.	An approx. 2 mile circular route starting from near the pier.
G4.	Ramray Circular.	An approx. 0.8 mile route.

2.16. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
H1.	Moaness to Rackwick.	An approx. 2.5 mile route from Moaness Pier to Rackwick.
H2.	Old Man of Hoy.	An approx. 2.3 mile walk to the Old Man of Hoy.
H3.	Rackwick Beach.	A short walk to the bothy and the beach at Rackwick.
H4.	Dwarfie Stane.	A short walk to the Dwarfie Stane.
H5.	Scad Head.	Two alternative routes to Scad Head which can be linked into a circular route.
H6.	Betty Corrigan's Grave.	A short walk to Betty Corrigan's Grave.

2.17. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
H7.	Wee Fea.	An approx. 1 mile track to Wee Fea.
H8.	Melsetter.	An approx. 2 mile path from Melsetter to Torness.
H9.	Brims.	An approx. 1 mile path around the coastline of Brims.
H10.	Hill of White Hammars.	An approx. 1.3 mile linear path along the south coast.
H11.	Snelsetter.	Circular paths (approx. 2 miles) around the Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve.
H12.	Cantick Head.	An approx. 1 mile linear route to Cantick Head lighthouse.

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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
F1.	West Hill Circular.	An approx. 4 mile circular coastal path on the west side of the island.
F2.	Stanger Head.	An approx. 1.8 mile linear path to Stanger Head.
F3.	West Hill Circular Stanger Head Link.	A short walk linking F1 and F2.

2.19. 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

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
B1.	Glimps Holm.	Access along the beach at Glimps Holm.
B2.	North Field.	An approx. 1.5 mile circular walk around the headland at North Field.
B3.	Bu Sands.	A path leading from the cemetery along Bu Sands.
B4.	Hillside.	An approx. 2.5 mile network of paths around Hillside.
B5.	Westhill to Littlequoy.	A path from the village to the west of the island.
B6.	Burray Village.	An approx. 0.8 mile walk.
B7.	Fourth Barrier.	A short route along the Fourth Barrier beach.

2.20. 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

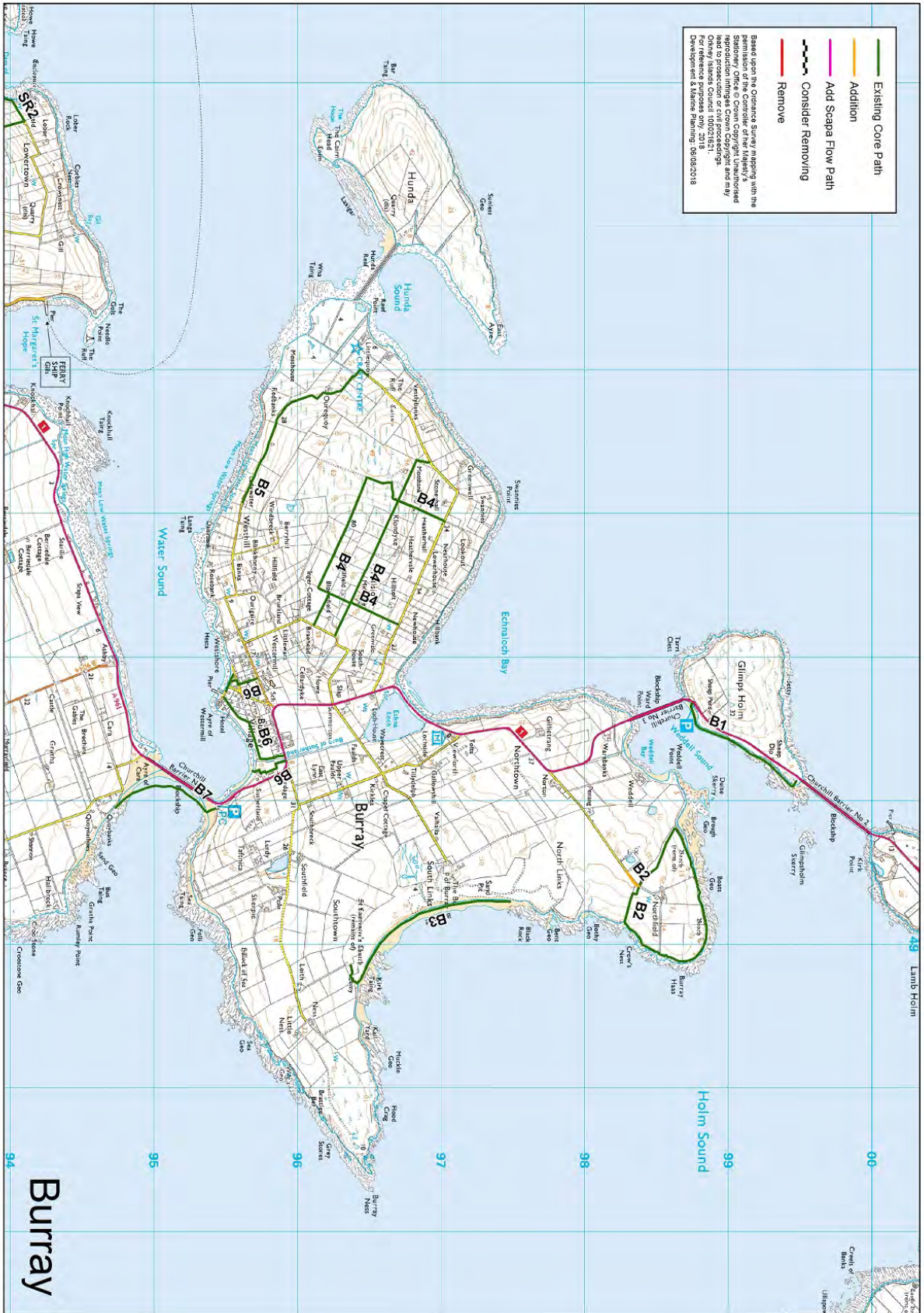
- A long distance coastal path.
- Paths linking to the coastal route.
- Access to beaches such as Newark and the Sands of Wright.
- Access to wartime heritage at Hoxa Head.

Route Descriptions

Route.	Name/Location.	Description.
SR1.	Hoxa Head.	An approx. 1.5 mile circular walk around Hoxa Head.
SR2.	Dam of Hoxa.	An approx. 2 mile path from the Sands of Wright, past the Dam of Hoxa and back towards St Margaret's Hope.
SR3.	St Margaret's Hope.	A short walk from St Margaret's Hope.
SR4.	Oyce of Quindry.	A linear route along the shore of the Oyce of Quindry.
SR5.	Oyce of Herston.	A short path linking two roads.
SR6.	East Coast Path.	An approx. 7.5 mile linear route along the east coast of South Ronaldsay.
SR7.	East Coast Links Brain to Manse Bay.	2 paths linking with the East Coast Path.
SR8.	Ward Hill Circular.	An approx. 1.5 mile path.
SR9.	South Coast Link.	A short path.
SR10.	West Coast Path.	An approx. 5 mile linear path along the west coast.
SR11.	South Coast Path.	An approx. 2.7 mile linear route along the south coast of the island.

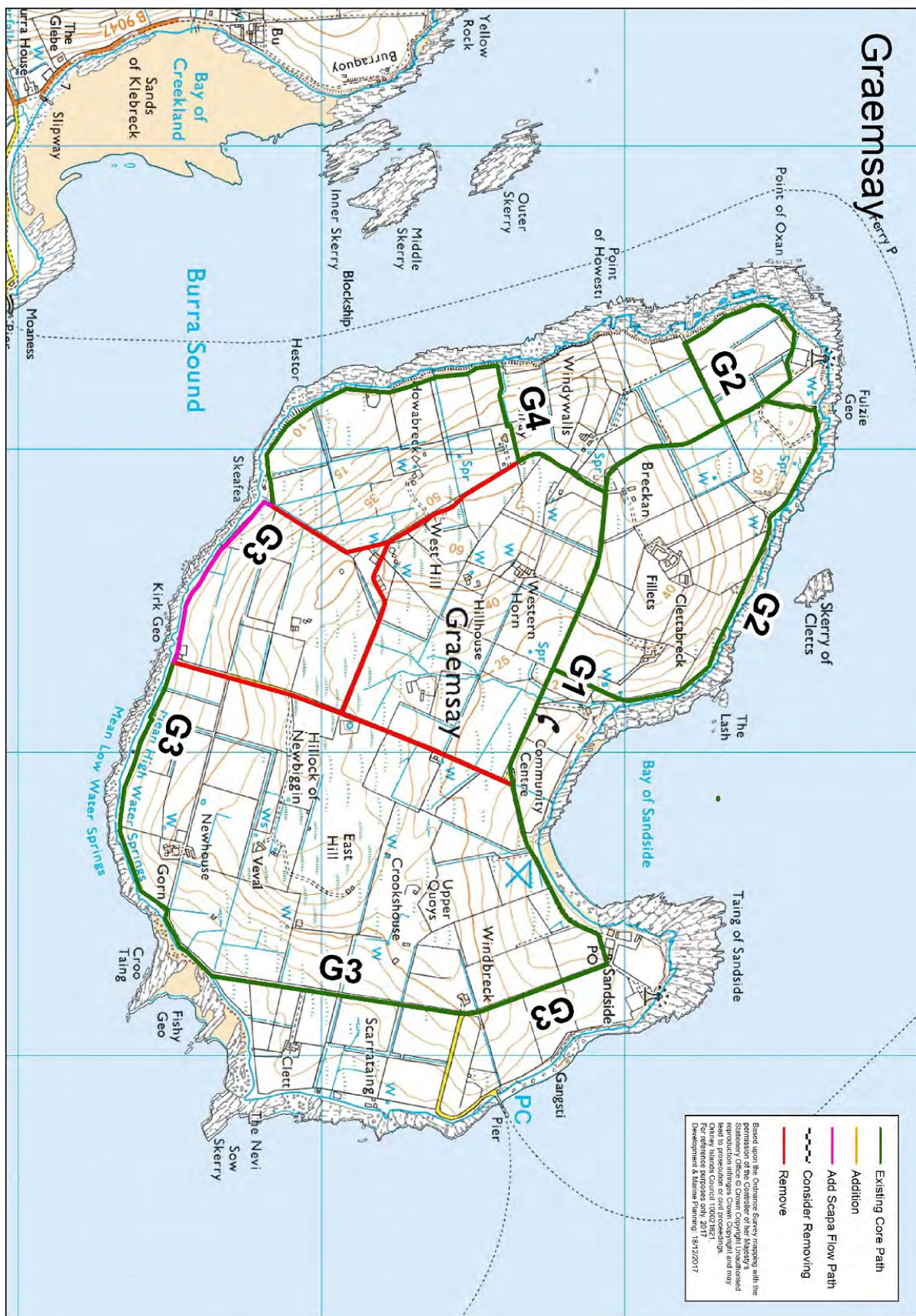
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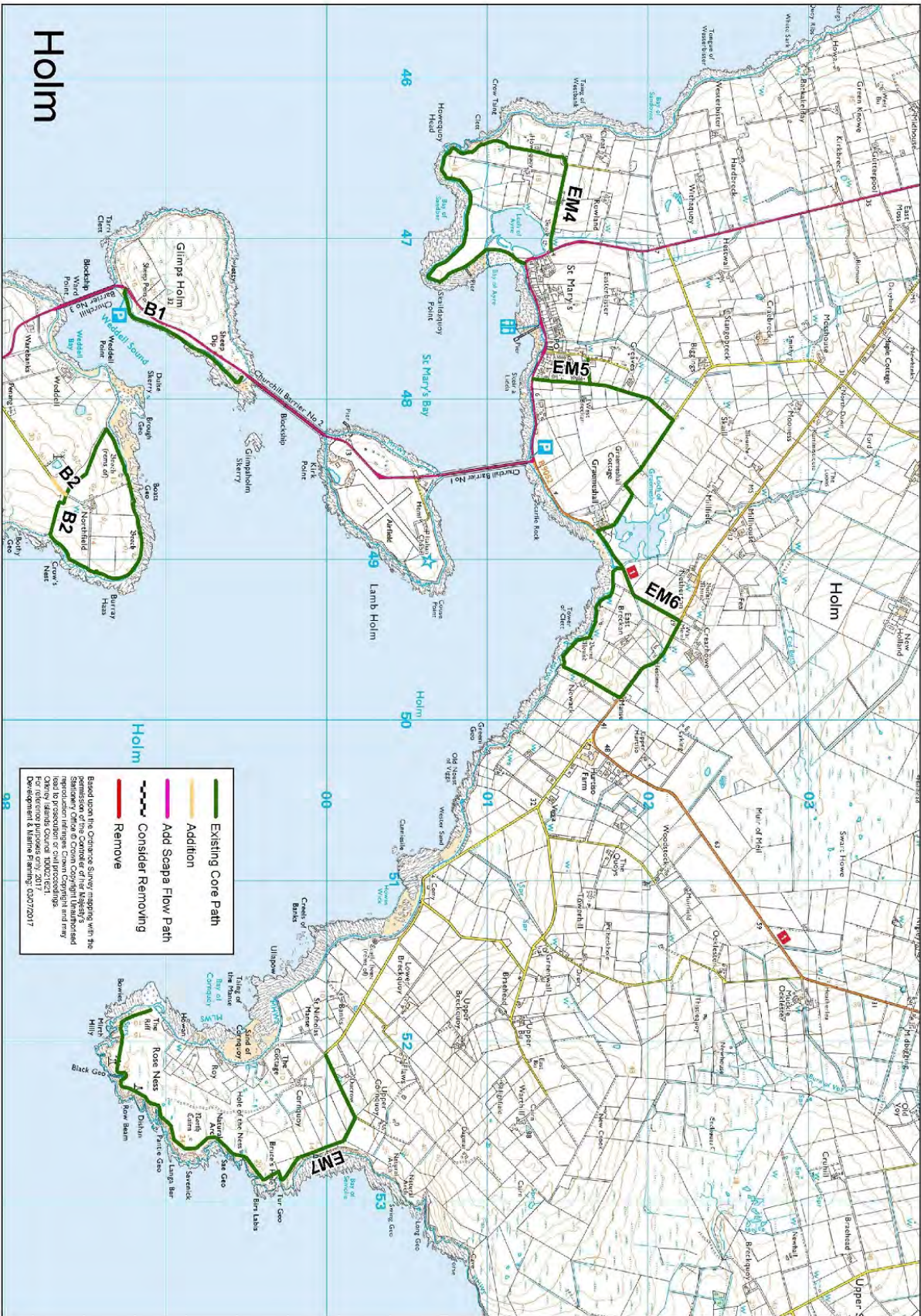
Appendix 1 – Maps



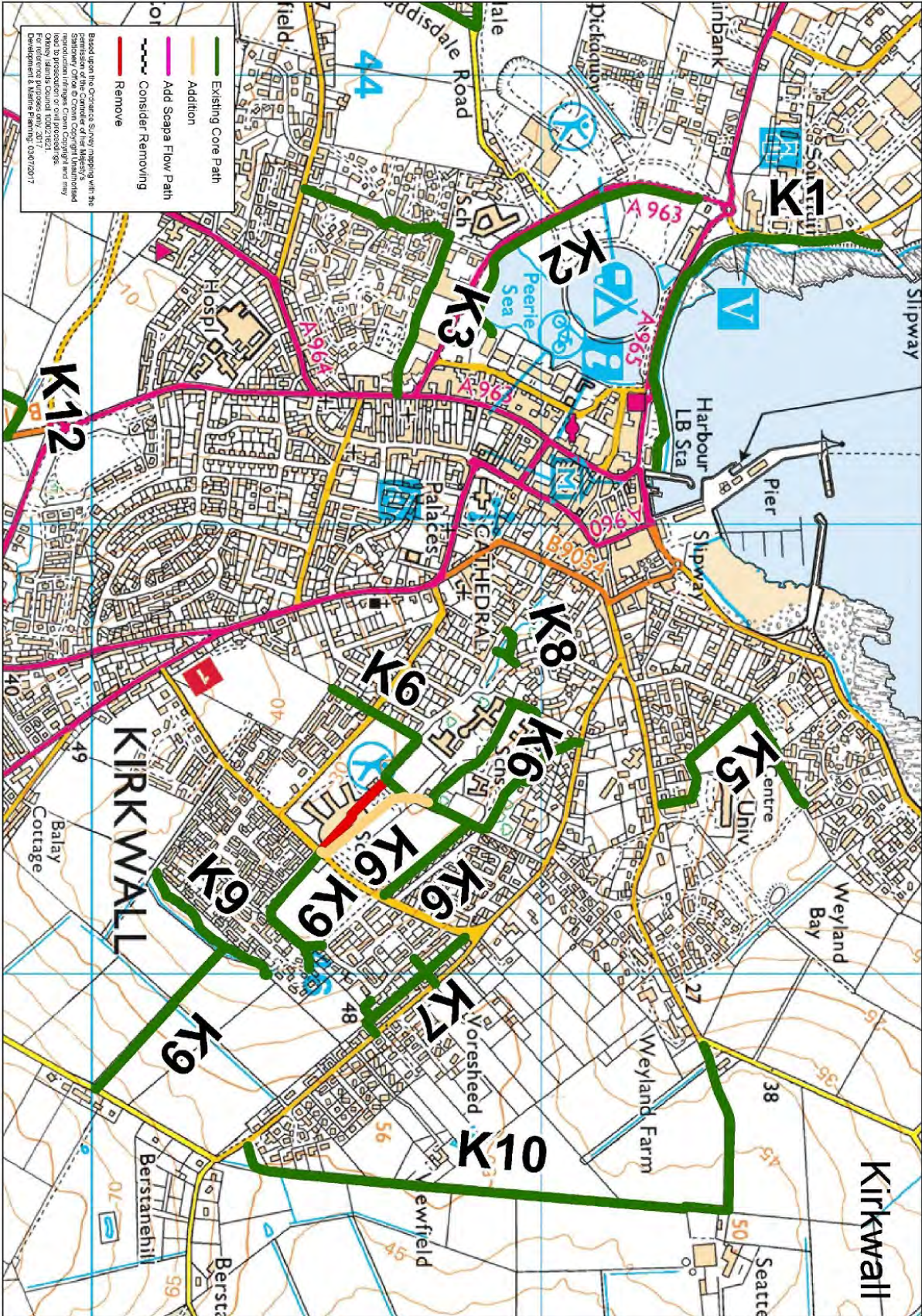






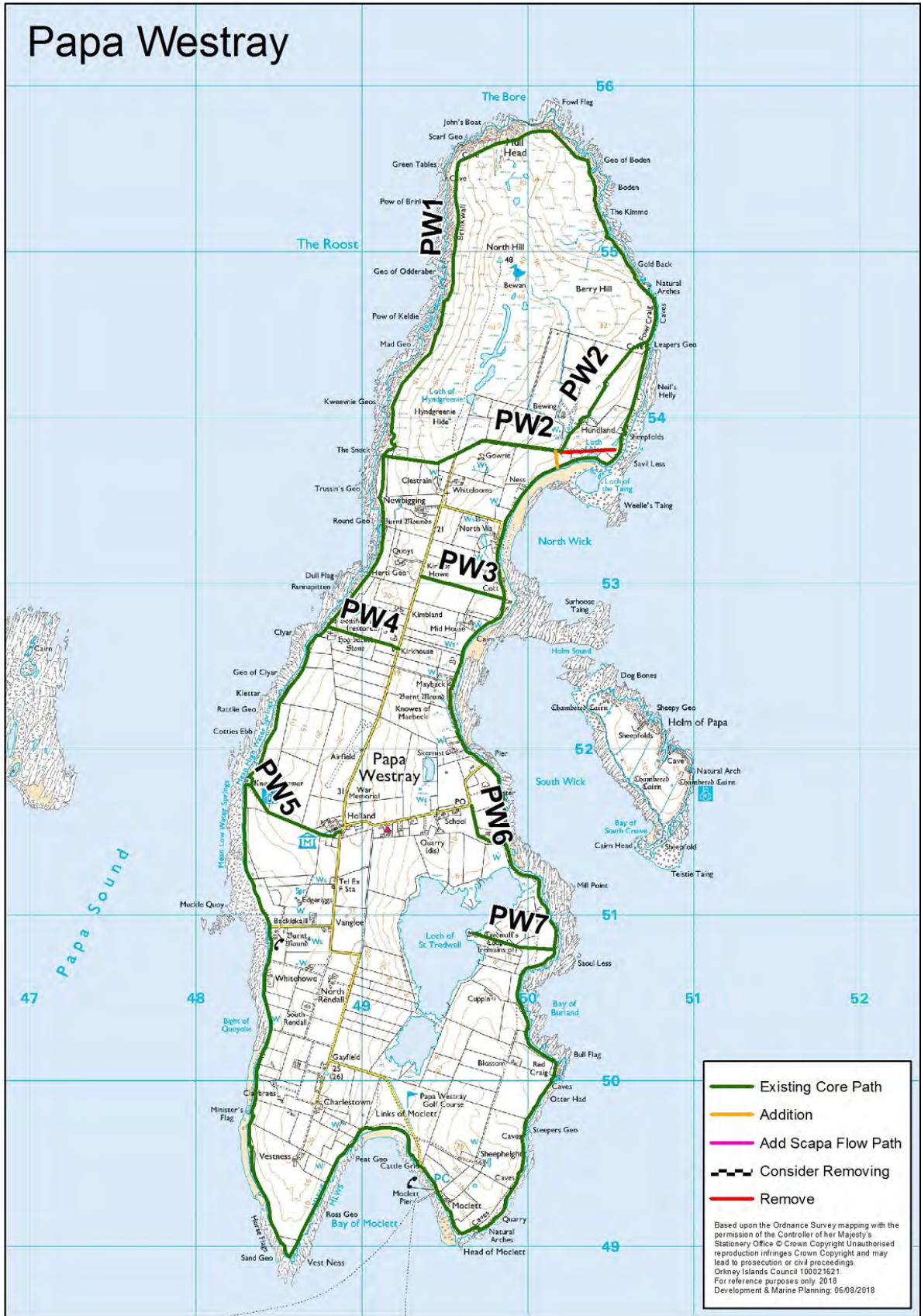


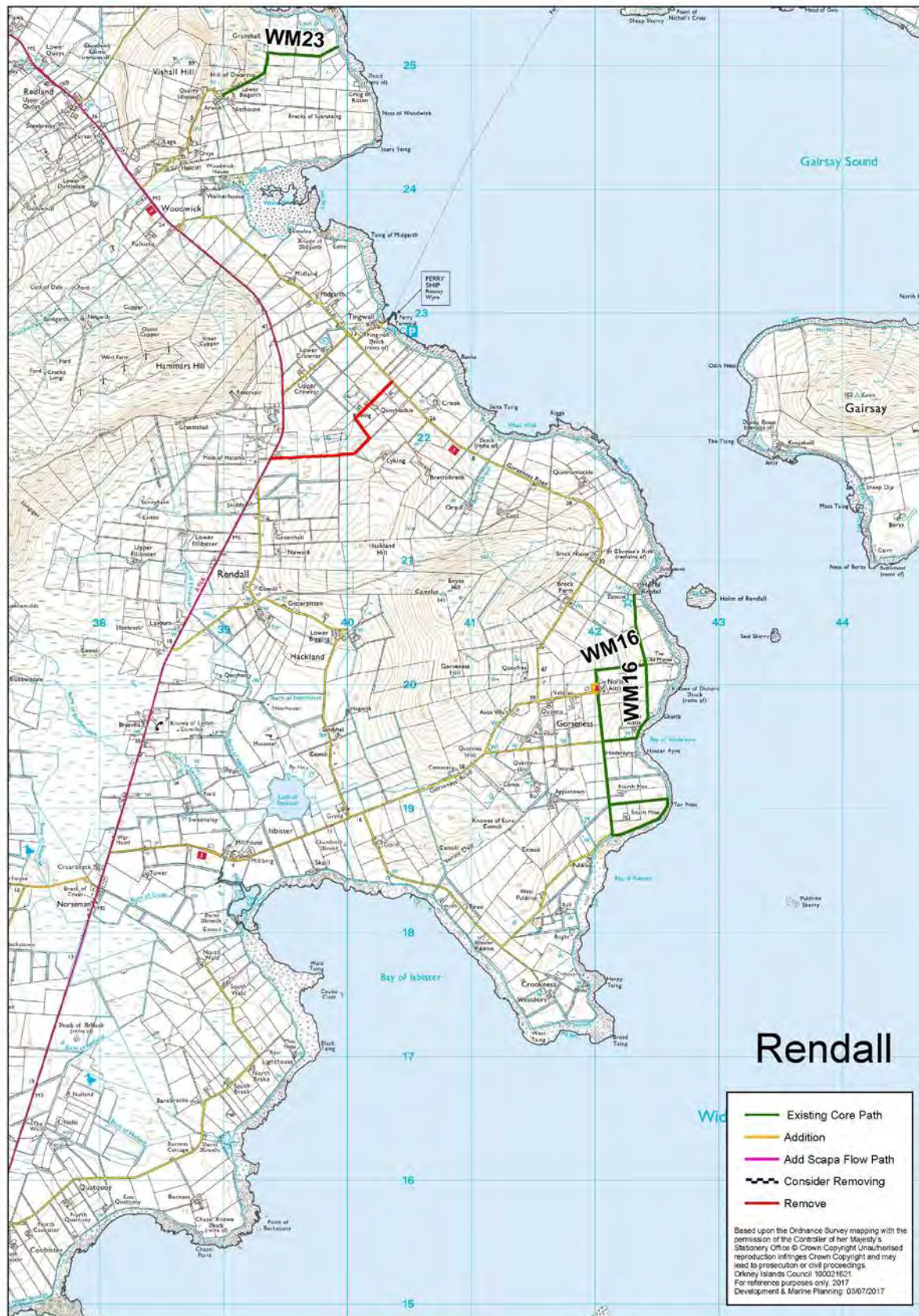


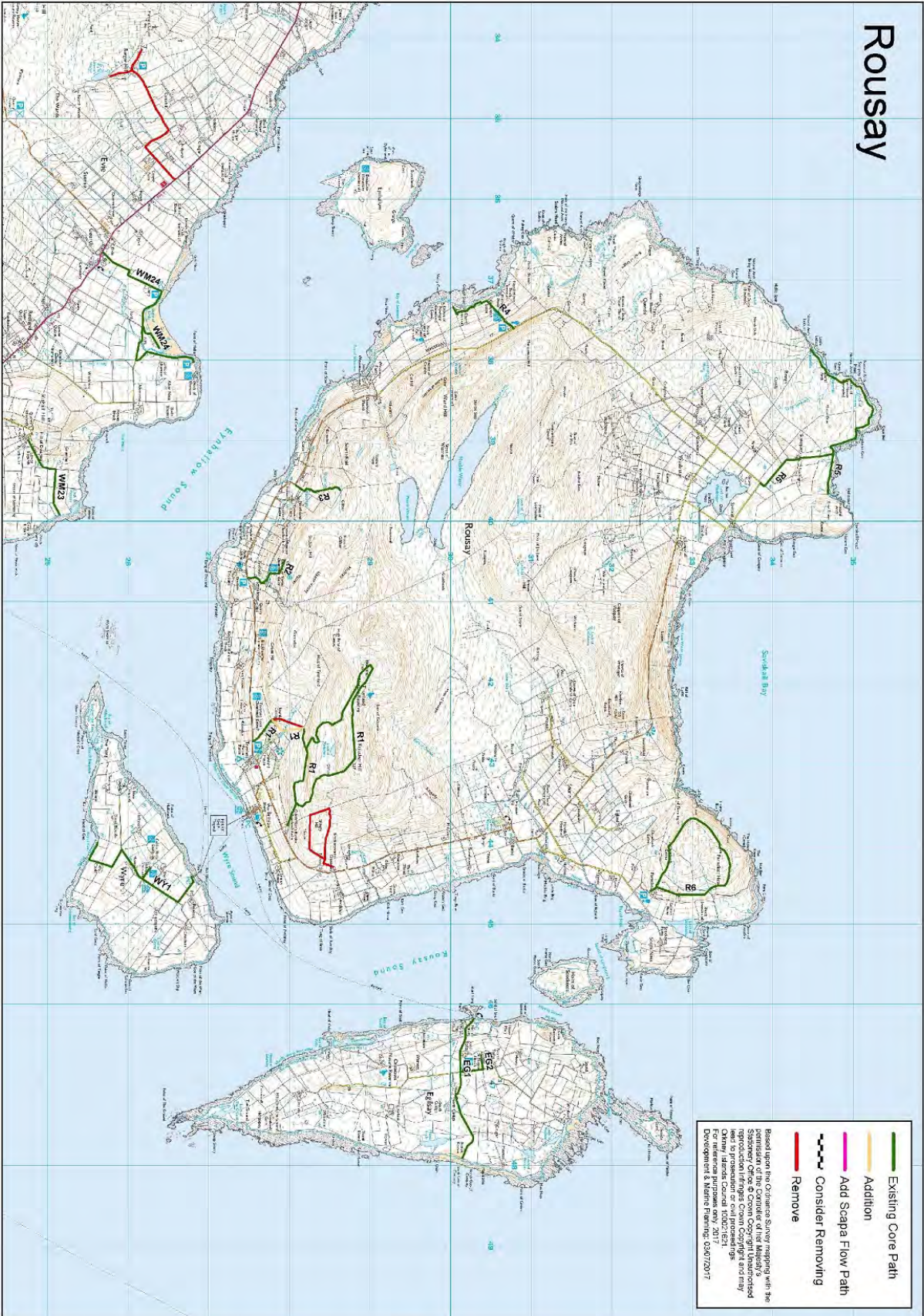


North Ronaldsay





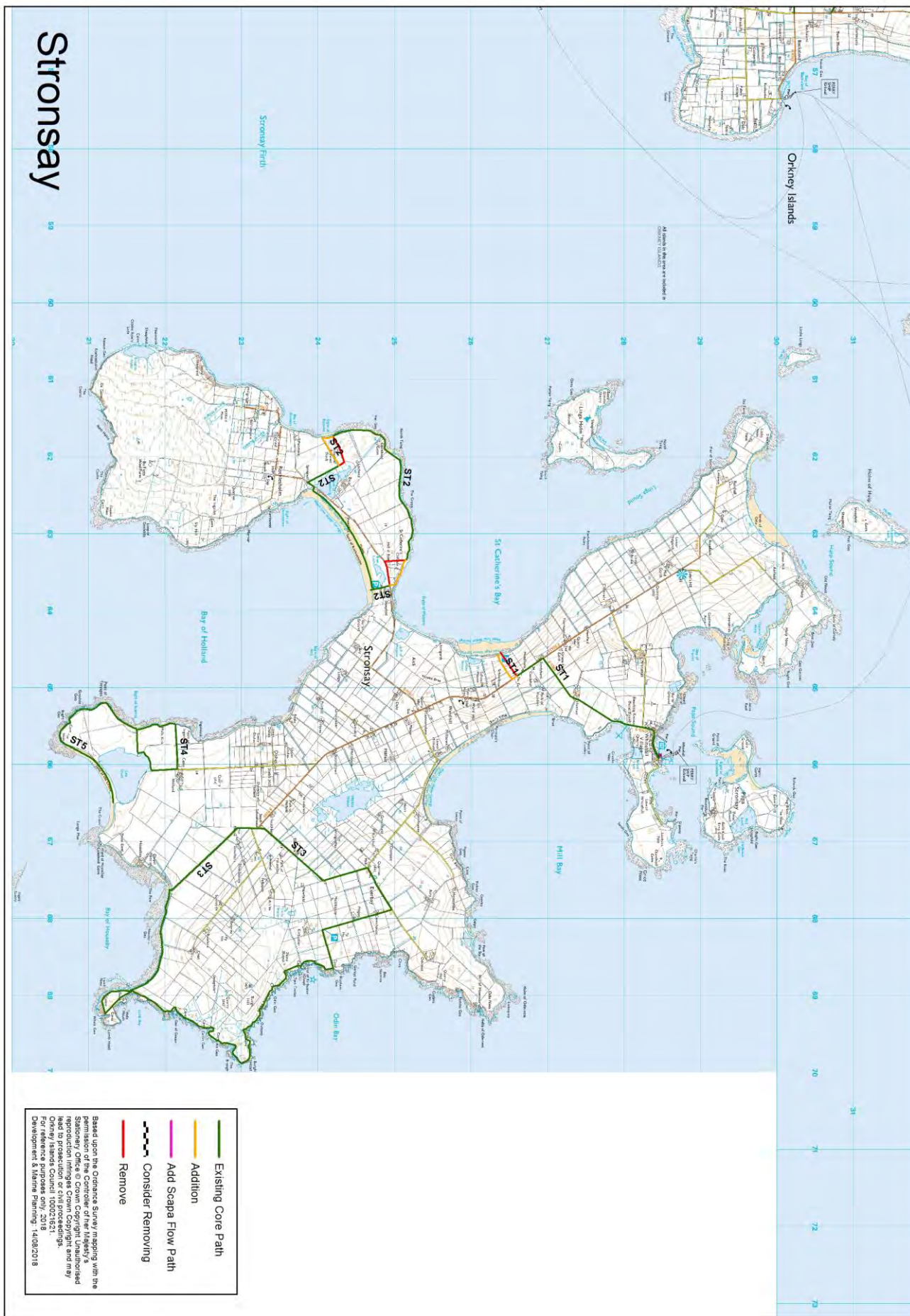




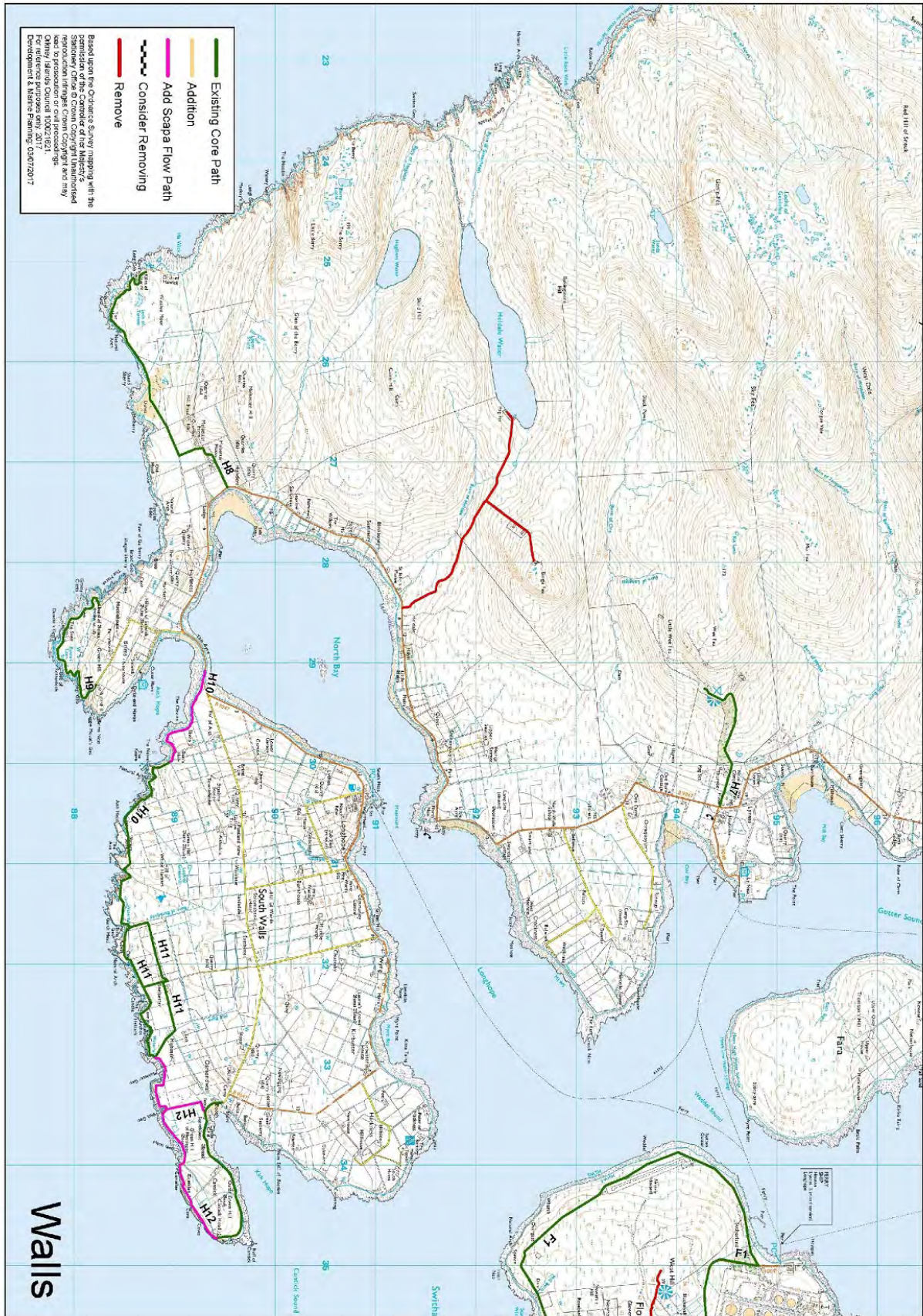


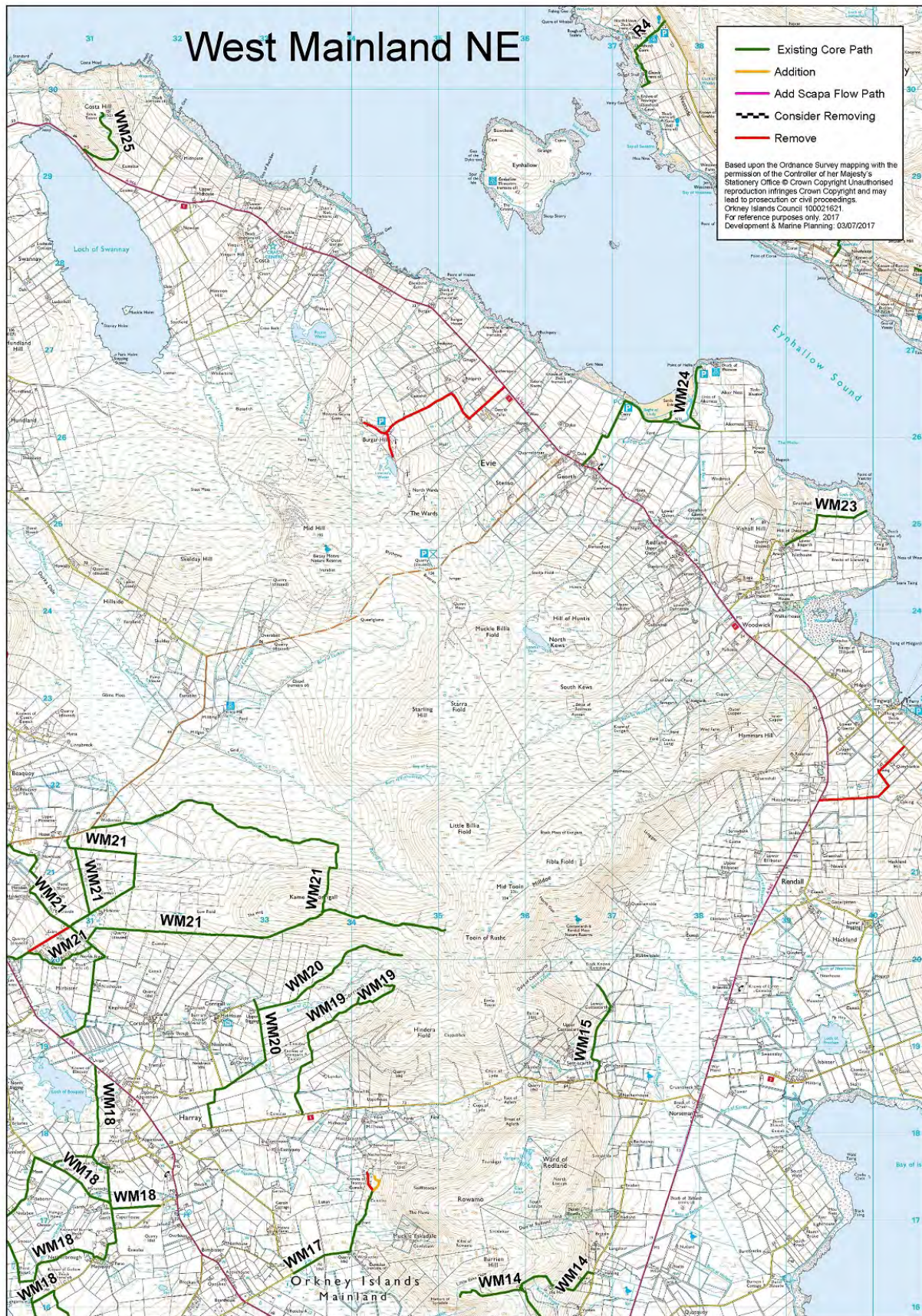












West Mainland NW



