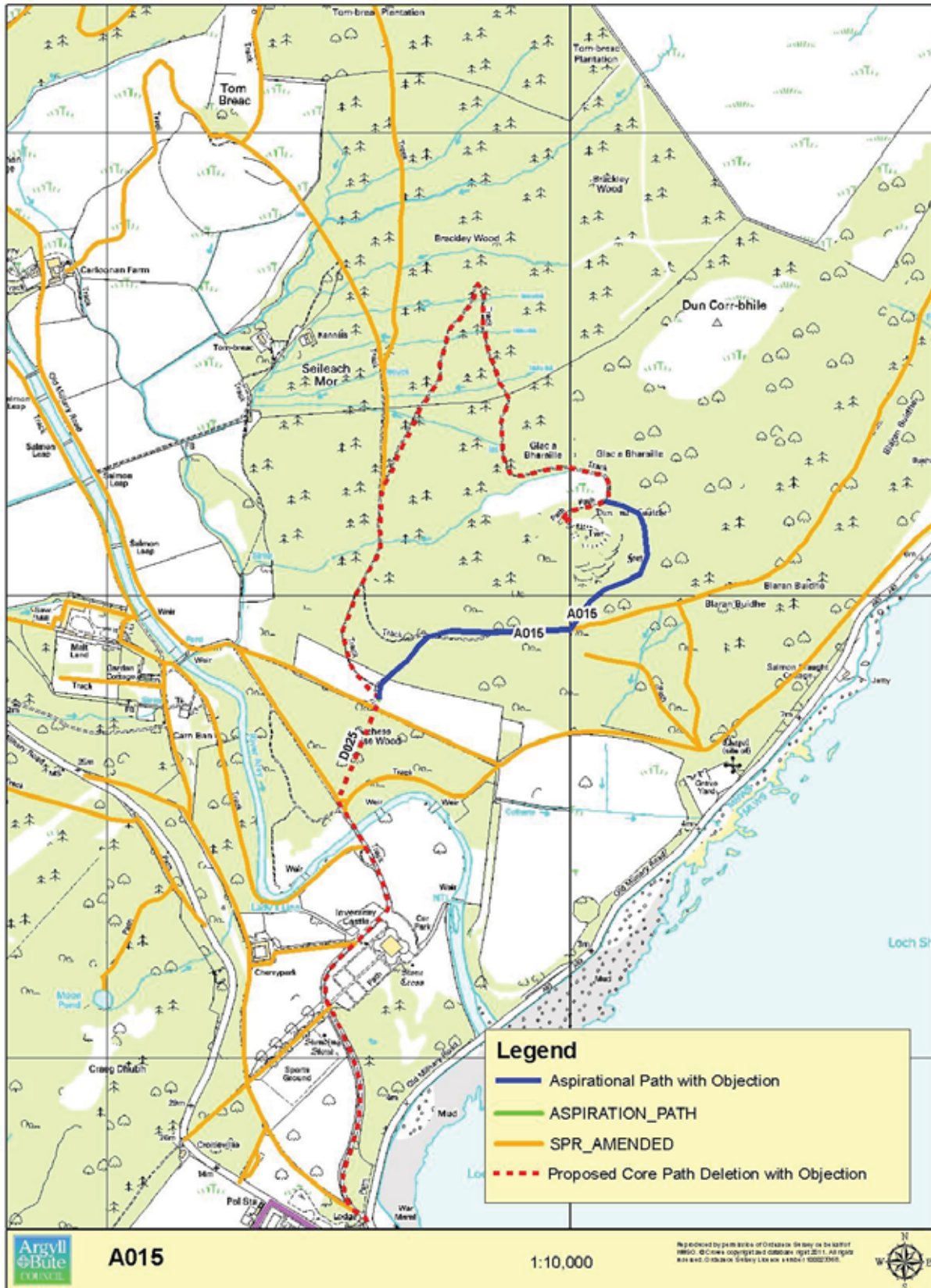


# Aspirational Path Report for A015 Du'n na Cuaiche alt route, Inverary

## 1. Proposed Aspirational Path



## 2. Summary of Representations Received

Representation	Respondent Name	Organisation/ Group	Objection Summary	Respondents proposed action	Respondent Ref No.	Objection withdrawn
Objection	Frieda Bos	About Argyll Walking Holidays	Should be a core path	Add	P166	

## 3. History of Access

i. Right of Way Status: none

ii. Recorded Access Issues: none

iii. Other Information:

A small section of the path received funding through the Land Management Contract Scheme. It was also used by Argyll Estates to divert walkers going to Du'n na Cuaiche a couple of years ago when they closed the main route to allow forestry work adjacent to the path to the north D025. This was done with the support of the Access Authority who will support the use of this path as a diversion in future.

## 4. Site Visit

December 2011 after a period of unusually stormy weather.



Segregated route crossing field above Duchess Louise Woods



Segregated trod earth path at top of field



Constructed track leading into Brackley Wood



Continuation of constructed track



The route leaves the constructed forest track and heads north east into woodland as can be seen route is not very obvious at the start



A more defined route develops through the wood land



A section of steps



The track becomes muddier as it climbs



Another example of a wet and muddy section on this route



The path continues wet and muddy as it climbs towards the Watch Tower on the summit.

## 5. Alternative Route/s

N/A

## 6. Consultation with Objectors & Other Interested Parties

This is an existing path used by many people at the time D025 was closed, which should be a core path, because of the felling everybody used A015

## 7. Access Officer's Initial Comments

As noted above this route was used to divert walkers to Du'n na Cuaiche whilst the more popular path to the north D025 was closed for forestry operations a couple of years ago.

The route is very wet and muddy with long stretches through the woodland falling below the standard of D025 which is the route promoted by Argyll Estates as the route to Du'n na Cuaiche. D025 is shown on the Argyll Estates web page <http://www.inveraray-castle.com/inveraray-estate-walking.html>. See Appendix IV; however this alternative route is not promoted. This path has been promoted as part of a route using D025 and A015 on the Walk Highlands Website <http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/dun-na-cuaiche.shtml> .

Argyll Estates promotes the main route to the summit of Du'n na Cuaiche on its own web page and has in recent years started to charge for parking beside the castle which is the car park most visitors use to access the estate. The estate has already improved part of this route and might wish to consider improving this Aspirational Route. This would provide a circular walk and provide an alternative route to Du'n na Cuaiche when there is a need to close the main promoted route D025. If Argyll Estates worked with the local community it is possible that path improvement works could receive a substantial proportion of the required funding through grant aid. Argyll & Bute Council is currently seeking to establish a Countryside Trust which would work with communities and land managers to improve Core Paths.

I am not aware of any plans to improve the wet and muddy sections of this route, and therefore recommend that this path A015 remains an Aspirational Path due to its current condition. If funding becomes available in future the improvement of this path would make a useful addition to the network of paths on the estate and to the Core Path Network.

## 8. Advice received from the Access Forum

# Argyll and Bute Council Core Path Plan Finalised Draft 2012 Minute of Discussions by the Access Forum

**Path Number: A015**

**Path Name: Dun na Cuaiche alt route**

### Forum Members Present

- John Urquhart (Chair)
- John Cameron Little
- Neil Duncan
- Mike McManus
- Blair Fletcher
- Dave Tomlinson
- Duncan McDonald
- Tim Lister
- Malcolm Holder

### Declarations of Interest

- None

### Members Familiar with the Location

- John Urquhart
- Dave Tomlinson
- John Cameron Little

### Discussions

- Condition
- Sufficiency

### Access Forum Advice to Argyll and Bute Council

- Support Officer's Recommendation (in Section 7)
- Object to Officer's Recommendation (in Section 7)
- Mixed opinion amongst Access Forum members (record all views below)

### Majority View

Support Officers recommendation – keep as aspirational path

### Minority View

## 9. Access Officer's Final Recommendations


Recommend designating A015 as an Aspirational Path.

## 10. Appendices

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

P166

For Official Use Only	Date Received	Ref No.
-----------------------	---------------	---------

<p><b>Argyll &amp; Bute Council</b>  <b>Finalised Draft Core Paths Plan</b>  <b>Comments &amp; Objections Form</b></p>	
--	---

Name	Frieda Bos		
Organisation (if appropriate)	About Argyll Walking Holidays		
Address	Letters Lodge South, Strathlachlan		
Postcode	PA27 8BZ		
Daytime telephone number			
Email address			
Signature	Frieda Bos	Date	04/04/11

**Sufficiency**

There are gaps with no or hardly any core paths in quite a few places. See comments where I have identified gaps. On top of that:

**Strachur & District community is without core paths, other than the in the national park!**

**Ross of Mull: failed to identify Tireragan walk and walk to Camas Tuath as core paths**

A015	Comment	This is an existing path, used by many people and at the time D025 was closed, which should be a core path, because of tree felling everybody used A015.
------	---------	--

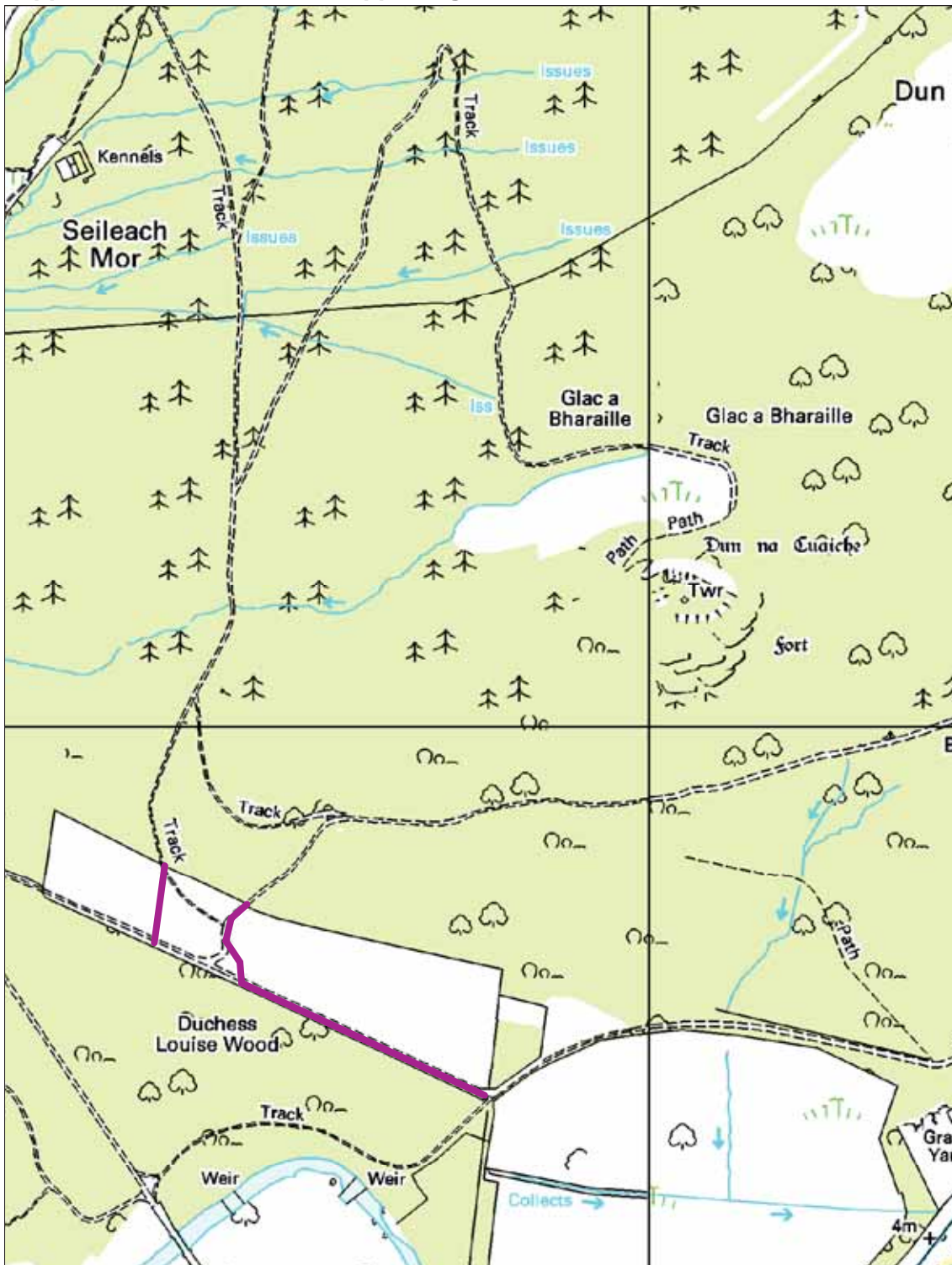
### Appendix II. Copies of relevant correspondence

None


### Appendix III. Copies of responses additional consultations

None

Appendix IV. Additional supporting documents



Purple lines show where paths received funding through the Land Management Contract Scheme



# Inveraray Castle

Home Visit The Castle **Estate** What's On Gallery Clan Campbell Contact

[Shop](#) [Book Tickets](#)


Staking, Fishing & Shooting

**Walking**


Our Holiday Houses

Stronskira House

Island House



Explore the castle



Events

## Walking Routes on the Argyll Estate

*The walks and avenues of the Argyll Estate date back to the mid 17th century Acts of the Scottish Parliament during which period, landowners were encouraged to plant trees and manage their woodlands.*

The vista at Inveraray today owes much to the work of 8th and 9th Earls who vigorously pursued these Acts. Follies and fanciful buildings have been added by successive generations creating majestic views and extraordinary scenes for the enjoyment of visitors.

A few walking routes have been specially selected, allowing visitors to explore the Inveraray Estate and admire the amazing panorama.

Please note that Inveraray is a working Estate - The Estate reserve the right to close any or all of the walks for management purposes and for the safety of visitors during felling operations.

### Dun Na Cuaiche Woodland Walk

Distance: 2.5 km (1.5 miles) Steep

From the Castle car park follow the road between the two beech hedges and onwards, always following the blue arrows. In the field to the right there is a Cedar of Lebanon tree readily recognisable on account of its horizontal branching habit and its bluish-green foliage. It is thought that this tree and the Pine close by may have been planted by Queen Victoria to commemorate her visit to the Castle in 1875.

**Point 1**  
The monument on the left formerly stood in the garden next to the Bank of Scotland in Inveraray. First erected in 1754, it commemorates the execution by the 1st Marquis of Atholl of 17 Campbells in 1685.

**Point 2**  
Continue on over the bridge which is a fine stone arch known originally as the Garden Bridge, designed by John Adam and built between 1753 and 1761 under the supervision of David Frew, an Edinburgh mason. Once over the bridge follow a narrow footpath through the wood (not the wider one to your right). In May there will be a superb display of bluebells. Some of the mature trees in this area are mainly limes, date from a 17th century plantation through which vistas or Avenues were created. Once out of the woodland, carry on through the field gate and turn right along the track before bearing left across the field and up to a further gate into the next woodland. Carry on through this gate.

**Point 3**  
This area is an old Pinetum (collection of conifer trees). Britain only has three native conifers, Scots Pine, Yew and Juniper and of these only the Pine could be classed as a timber tree, but even this species grows relatively slowly. During the 18th and 19th centuries explorers were fascinated by the large range of conifer trees they found throughout the World. Landowners were keen to grow trees from some of the seeds sent back to this county and form collections such as you see here.

**Point 4**  
The ruined buildings below you are remains of a lime kiln. Quarried limestone was brought to the site and the kiln was lined with dry wood and filled with alternate layers of coal and limestone. A fire was lit at the base which gradually 'burnt' the lime. Once the kiln had cooled down the powdered lime would be removed from the bottom and stored in the adjoining shed. The kiln is thought to have been last used around 1912. PLEASE DO NOT CLIMB OVER THE BUILDINGS.

Carry on up the track and enjoy the further views over part of the Estate to the north until you reach the summit of Dun na Cuaiche and the watchtower at Point 5. You are now at the top of Dun na Cuaiche 248 metres (813 feet). The name literally means 'the hill of the cup, bowl or quaiiche' and is probably so called because of the hollowed out shape at the top. The earth works that give this appearance may be due to excavation at the time the tower was built or to much earlier Iron Age activity.

**Point 5**  
The tower itself was designed by Roger Morris and William Adam and was built in 1748. Its purpose was purely decorative and was cleverly sited on the edge of the steep face of the hill but not quite on top so that when seen from the Castle and Town it is silhouetted against the sky. From this commanding position it is possible to see how the landscape has evolved over the past 300 or so years.

The view across the Castle and beyond the Town down to Loch Fyne and then further round to the east and through the glens speaks for itself.

Return down the same route to the Castle.

[Click to download a full size version of the map.](#)



Map of t