

Bike, Bog and Wood Feasibility study Summary

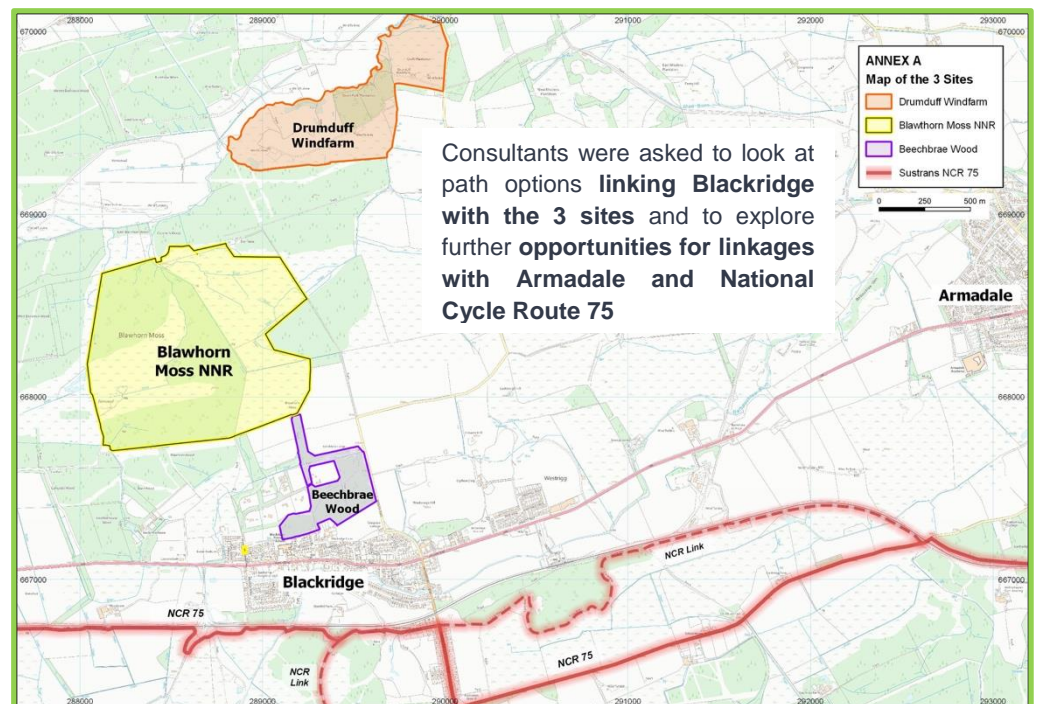
This document presents a summary of a feasibility study carried out in 2019 to explore possible paths linking Blackridge and the National Cycle Route 75 to Beechbrae Woods, Blawhorn Moss NNR and Drumduff Windfarm.

The brief

Consultants were asked to survey all possible path options in the area to identify potential paths that link Blackridge to the 3 sites, the National Cycle Route and Armadale. The paths should provide good quality and safe user experience for walkers and cyclists as well as being value for money.

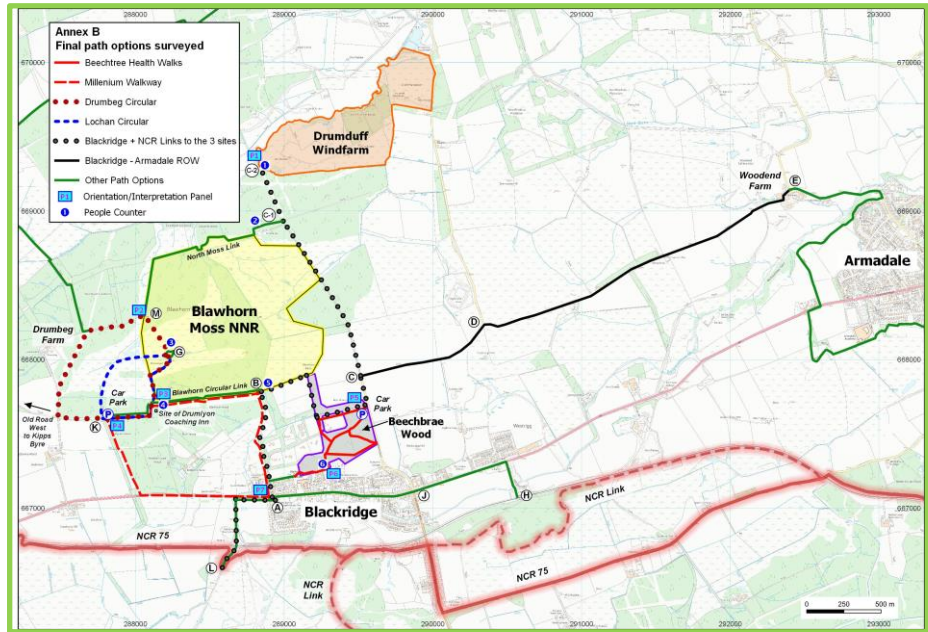
All potential path options were evaluated, and a full survey of the chosen paths provided path design and capital and maintenance costs for the network.

Once the chosen paths had been surveyed consultants spoke to the relevant landowners to gather their views.



The surveyed paths

The Blackridge path network



The following paths were surveyed:

Blackridge and Cycle Route links to the 3 sites

This is the main 'spine' linking the village and the National Cycle Route to Beechbrae Woods, Blawhorn Moss and Drumduff Windfarm.

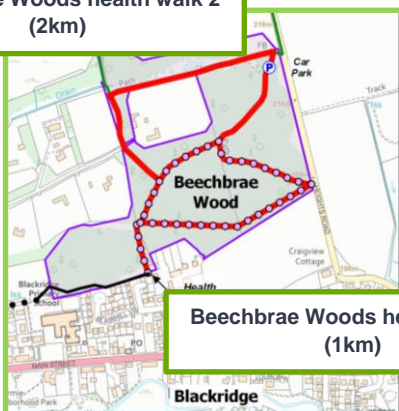
The path follows existing paths, which require upgrading and entails installing some sections of new track.

This spine links to a path east to Armadale, and west to the Millennium Way and 2 potential circular paths. It also provides access to the paths in Beechbrae Woods



Local Access.

Beechbrae Woods health walk 2 (2km)



Beechbrae Woods health walk 1 (1km)

3 potential Health walks that connect to the centre of the village have been surveyed:

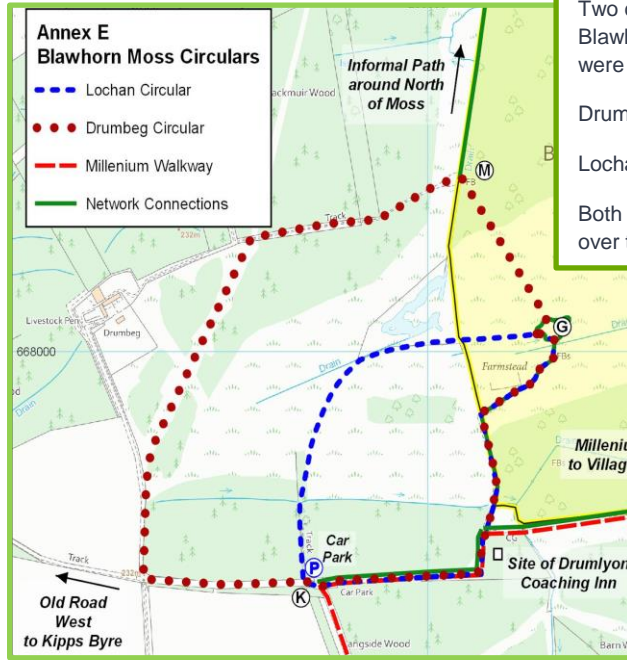
These paths provide health and educational opportunities for local people

Millennium walkway (3km)



The Blackridge path network

Blawhorn Moss access

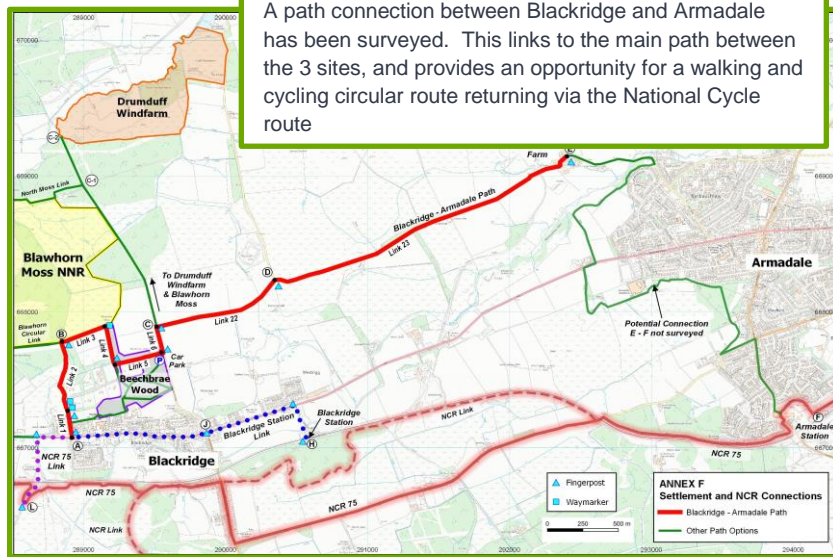


Two circular paths starting from Blawhorn Moss NNR car park were surveyed:

- Drumbeg circular (2.3kms)
- Lochan circular (1.5kms)

Both these paths provide access over the bog.

Blackridge to Armadale ROW



A link between Blackridge and the NCR75 to the 3 sites has been surveyed and costs provided for development and maintenance. This path provides a spine which connects to a series of shorter circular paths and settlement connections.

Path action plan

Following survey all the relevant landowners were contacted to gather their views on the path upgrade proposals.

The survey picked up information on outline capital and maintenance costs, location and condition of infrastructure, surfacing, drainage, fencing and signage.

A Final Report was produced presenting a costed **Path action plan** for implementation (detailing recommended route(s), design, specification, capital and maintenance costs and location of signage).