

CORE PATH NETWORK DESCRIPTION

Facts and figures

This first CPN, shown in Plan 4 opposite, is 130 miles (210km) in length – this includes 15 miles (24km) of water path. The network directly serves the majority of communities across West Lothian. All communities can reach a core path by other paths or roadside pavements. Together they provide the connectivity for the path network of the district.

It is anticipated that of the proposed non-water CPN paths, 80% will be accessible by cyclists, 40% by horse riders and 50% by those who are less able. However, in accordance with the spirit of the SOAC, the council is not recommending or discouraging use of paths to particular users. It is for everyone to make their own judgment as to whether they can use a path responsibly.

The experience

This first CPN is focused on the major paths through and near to the densest population areas in the district. Although recreational use is a feature, walking or cycling for health or to go to school, shops and work are as important. As a consequence, many paths have an urban or urban fringe setting. However, some such as the Round the Forth Cyclepath, the River Avon Heritage Trail and the East Whitburn to Stoneyburn path pass through attractive interesting countryside.

Opportunities and constraints

Highlighted by the series of public consultations undertaken between 2005 and 2007, it is clear that improvements to some of the routes is now needed. This work will be carried out over the next four years, as will the introduction of a more proactive maintenance regime. In addition, on adoption of this first plan work will begin on preparing for the first review to ensure that, through this and subsequent reviews, the vision summarised by the Core Path Diagram (Plan 3 on page 13) is achieved.

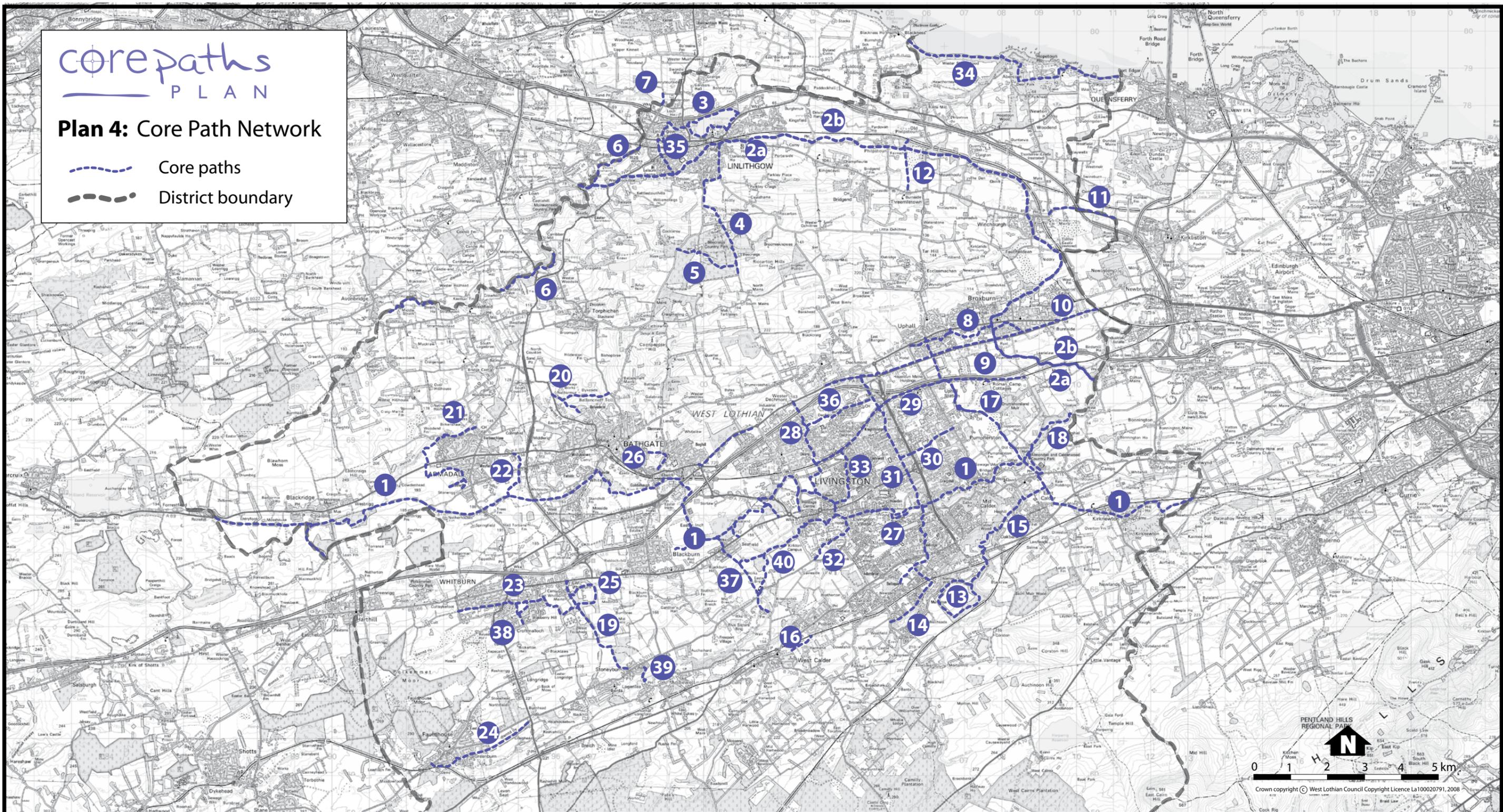
PATH DESCRIPTION

There now follows a route by route description of each of the 40 Candidate Core Paths that make up the first West Lothian DCPP. For each path the route is described as well as the surface and features. The experience of using them is summarised as well as any management issues that users should be aware of.



Plan 4: Core Path Network

-  Core paths
-  District boundary



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|---|--|--|--|
| 1 National Cycle Path 75 | 10 Bathgate to Newbridge Cycle Path | 20 Ballencrief Toll and Balbardie Paths | 30 Livingston - Harrysmuir Path |
| 2 a) Union Canal Water Path
b) Union Canal Towpath | 11 Winchburgh to Kirkliston | 21 Armadale Round Town Path - north and west | 31 Livingston - Loan Path |
| 3 Linlithgow Loch Circular | 12 Threemiletown to Old Philpstoun | 22 Armadale Round Town Path - east | 32 Livingston - Killandean Path |
| 4 Linlithgow to Beecraigs Link | 13 Linhouse Circular | 23 Whitburn Town Path | 33 Livingston - Folly Burn Path |
| 5 Beecraigs East/West Path | 14 Murieston Trail | 24 Fauldhouse Rail Path | 34 Round the Forth Cycleway (NCN 76) |
| 6 River Avon Heritage Trail | 15 East Calder, Calderwood and Linhouse Path | 25 Whittrigg Circular | 35 Linlithgow Loch to Union Canal Link |
| 7 Fisher's Brae | 16 West Calder to Polbeth | 26 Puir Wife's Brae | 36 Dechmont Law Link |
| 8 Brox Burn Path | 17 Uphall to East Calder | 27 River Almond Water Path | 37 River Almond to Breich Water |
| 9 Uphall Station to Roman Camp | 18 Feeder Canal Path | 28 Livingston - Nell Burn Path | 38 Blaeberry Circular |
| | 19 East Whitburn to Stoneyburn | 29 Livingston - Railway Path | 39 Stoneyburn - Loganlea |
| | | | 40 Almond Valley Path |