RIVER AYR WAY

Notes on multi-use access

The River Ayr Way is a 44 mile linear long distance path. It starts at the river's source at Glenbuck Loch and runs to Ayr, where the river flows into the Irish Sea. Recognised as one of Scotland's Great Trails, the River Ayr Way offers a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy a complete transect of Ayrshire. The ever-changing scenery, coupled with historic sites and features along the route, make for an interesting walk.

The route was originally designed and created for walkers, and for much of its length infrastructure such as kissing gates, stiles, steps and footbridges limit use to pedestrian only. These notes have been produced by British Horse Society (BHS) Scotland to identify location and brief details of features which may restrict multi-use of the waymarked route. Photos have been included where appropriate to help you assess for yourself whether a feature may present an obstruction to you. Gates which can only be opened or closed if dismounted, rough ground, sheep and cattle are not documented below because these are all part of riding off-road.

These notes are intended to supplement information available from the route website and other sources (www.eastayrshireleisure.com/index.php?a=landing&id=3&sid=38&mid=122). Event organisers, groups or commercial operators are urged to contact the route managers. Suggestions for parking and alternative routes to avoid obstructions are included where information has been provided, but do not constitute a recommendation. All route users are responsible for deciding for themselves whether this route, or any part thereof, is suitable for their intended use, taking account of their own abilities, skills, fitness and experience, as well as season, weather conditions etc.

Remember that whether on foot, cycle or horseback, rights of access in Scotland depend on access takers and land managers accepting individual responsibility for their actions. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/ offers guidance on what this means on the ground. Specific guidance for horse riders can be downloaded from http://www.bhsscotland.org.uk/responsible-riding.html. Courtesy, consideration of others' needs and good communication are the key to sharing paths. Always pass others you meet along the trail at a walk, and elsewhere limit your pace to ground conditions and visibility. On formally surfaced paths, keep to a walk, and either move your horse off the path to dung, or dismount and clear dung off the path. Please make sure you close all gates to prevent livestock straying. Sometimes the route waymarking is not obvious, so make sure you have a map with you and know how to read it.

Glenbuck Loch to Kames, Muirkirk

The car parks at Glenbuck Loch and at Kames usually have ample space to accommodate a trailer or horsebox as well as cars, although the first section of path has numerous restrictions on multi-use with no readily identifiable alternative other than the busy main road.

Location /	Feature/description
OS Grid Ref.	reature/description
NS753289	Gap (previous kissing gate removed) across end of path parallel to road. Beware hanging pins protruding on gatepost
NS751287 Crossing A70	Kissing gate at junction of path and road
NS751287 Crossing A70 (south side)	Kissing gate
NS744286	Kissing gate. 10' metal field gate adjacent in line of disused railway, fastened with baler twine



NS735285 Track to Darnhunch farm

1.2 m wooden gate across end of 1.2 m wide wooden footbridge, step either end of bridge



NS735285 west side Darnhunch track

Wooden kissing gate, 12' metal gate adjacent fastened with string



Wooden kissing gate. Hurdle across 1.2m wide gap secured with plastic NS727282 ties NS725282 Wooden 1.2m wide bridge with ramps either end, approx.. 4" lip onto ramp NS717279 Wooden 1.2m wide bridge with ramps either end and lip onto ramp Ashaw Burn 1.2m wide wooden bridge with ramps either end and lip onto ramps. Beware rotten plank on west side with protruding nails NS713278



NS706274
Path from disused railway onto road Crossflat

Wooden kissing gate



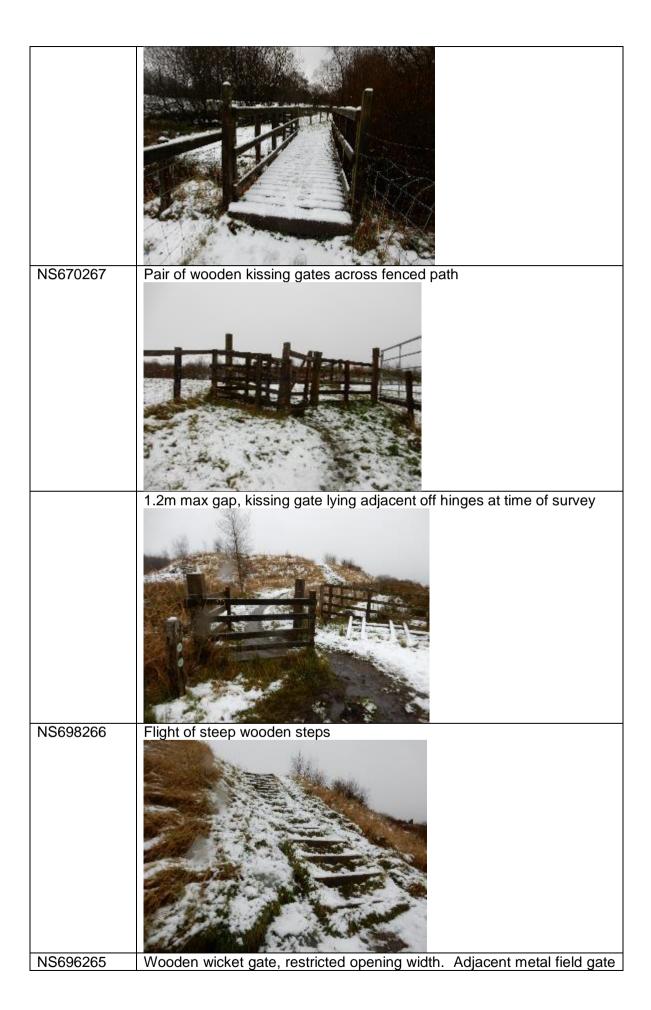
NS705273

Pair of narrow wooden kissing gates across fenced path (note metal field gates provide access onto fields, but do not provide alternative access onto disused railway)



NS703270

1.1m wide wooden bridge, lip/step either end



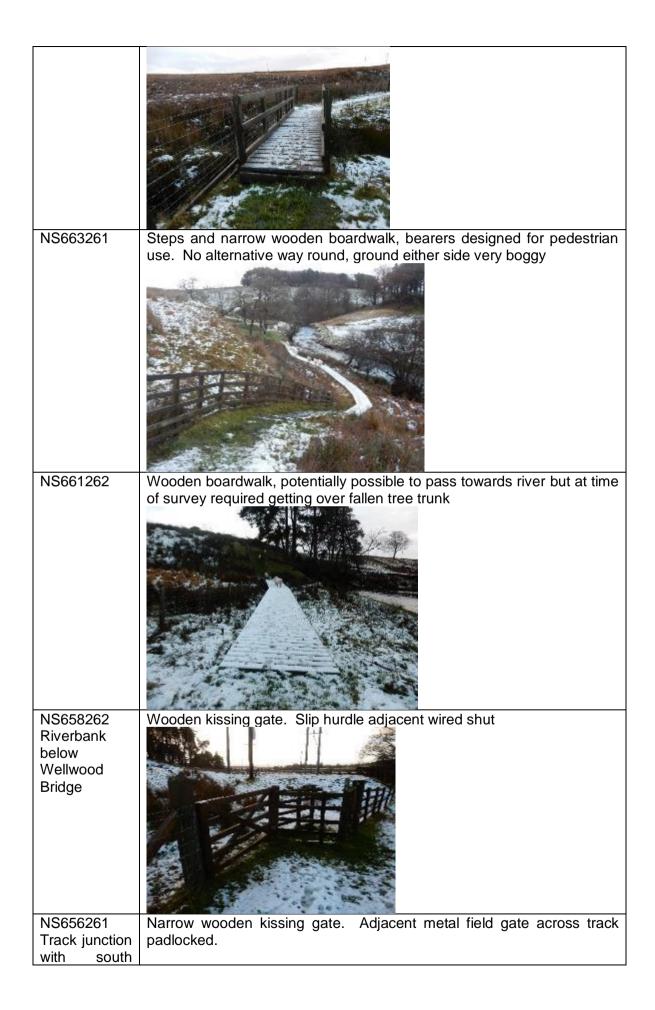


Kames to Nether Wellwood

The track from Kames to Tibbies Brig is fully multi-use accessible, and is promoted for all abilities access. Apart from the steep steps up onto the railway embankment, the track through to Upper Wellwood is also multi-use accessible. Kissing gates, steps and boardwalks limit use to pedestrian between Upper Wellwood and Nether Wellwood.

Location /	Feature/description
OS Grid Ref.	
OS Grid Ref. NS686258 Railway embankment west of Tibbie's Brig	Steep flight of wooden steps Steep rough path 5 m from steps
	Disused railway and farm track to Upper Wellwood – kissing gates adjacent to unlocked 12' metal field gates
NS668258	Wooden kissing gate – off hinges at time of survey

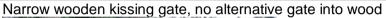




side A70 west of Wellwood Bridge

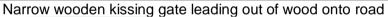


NS655261 Entrance to wood on north side A70





NS653261 South side Laigh Wellwood Bridge

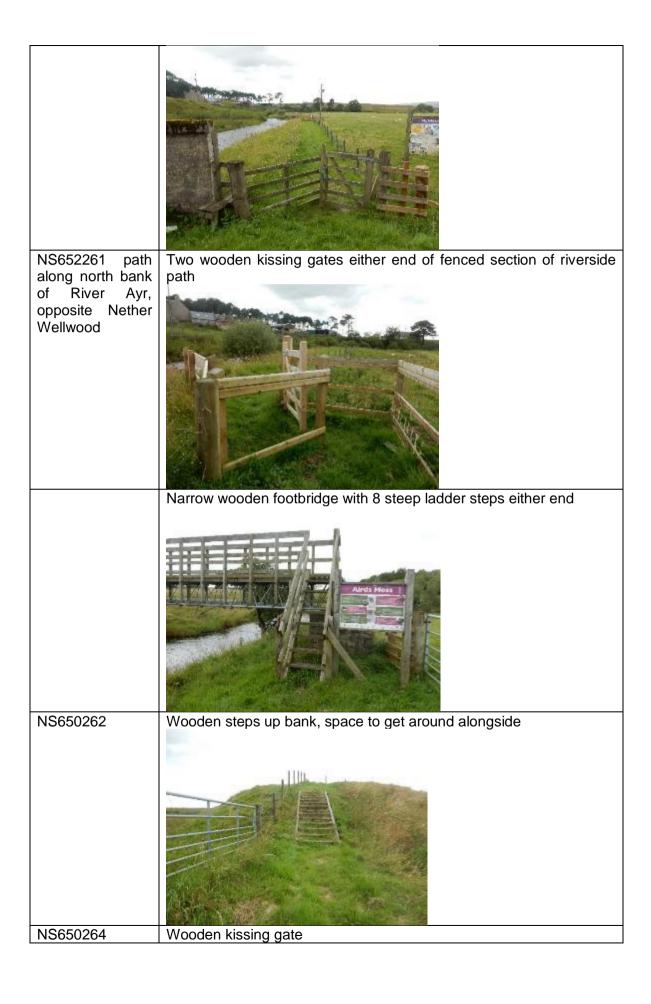


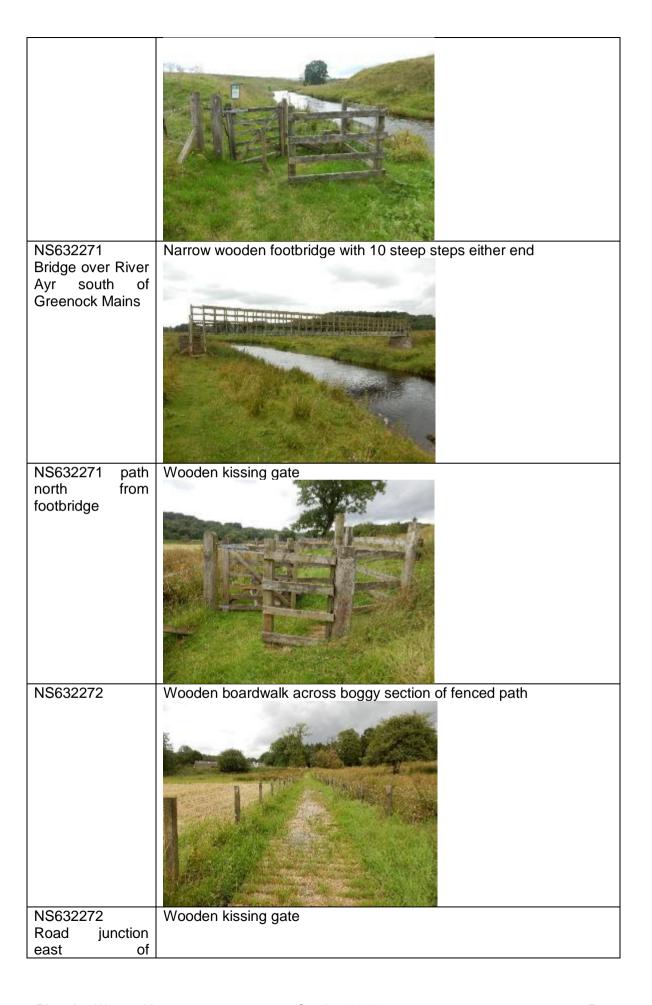


Nether Wellwood to Sorn

For much of this section, the path itself is potentially suitable for multi-use but all of the infrastructure, including footbridges, kissing gates and occasional stiles, were designed and constructed specifically for pedestrian only use.

Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description
NS653261	Narrow wooden gate and stile
North side Laigh	
Wellwood Bridge	





Greenockmains Bridge



NS631272 west side of Greenockmains Bridge

8 steep stone steps leading down from road onto riverside path



NS632270
Fenced riverside path between Greenmockmains and Garpel Bridges

Wooden kissing gate



NS628269 Footbridge over Greenock Water below Garpel Bridge



NS620271

Wooden wicket gate

Path junction with B743 east of North Limmerhaugh



NS619270 fenced path leading off B743 west of North Limmerhaugh



NS619270 footbridge across River Ayr

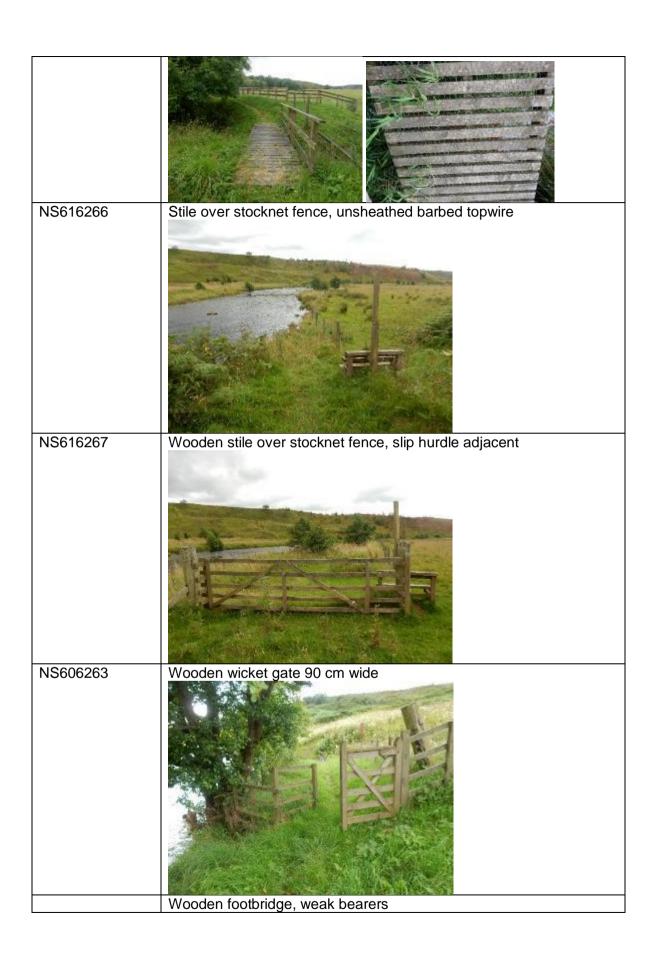


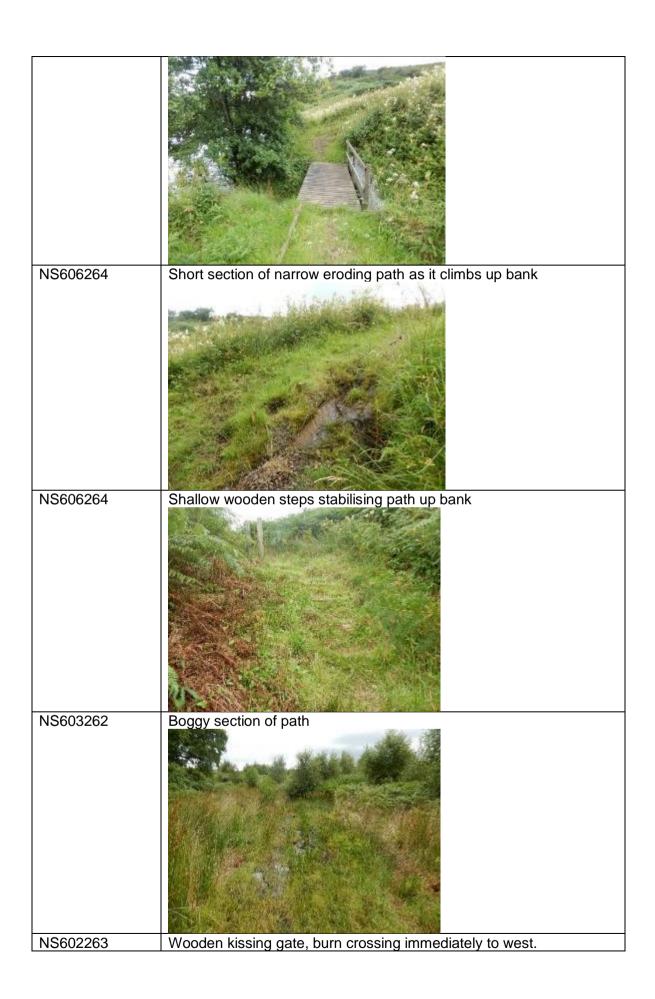
NS617268 Fenced riverside path west of North Limmerhaugh

Metal motorcycle squeeze barrier



2 no. wooden footbridges over ditches/burns in line of path, bearers insufficient to support weight of horse







Adjacent metal field gate off hinges, wired shut, and difficult to access because of boggy ground to west



NS599260

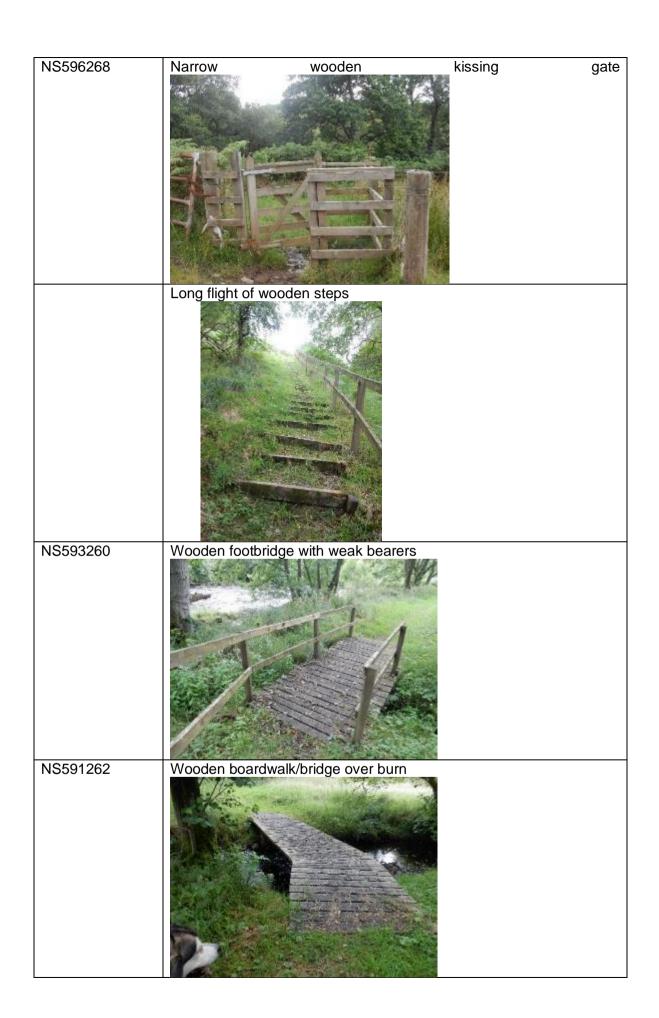
Narrow wooden kissing gate. Adjacent slip hurdle/wicket gate wired shut



NS596268
Path junction with farm track

Wooden kissing gate. Adjacent slip hurdle wired shut



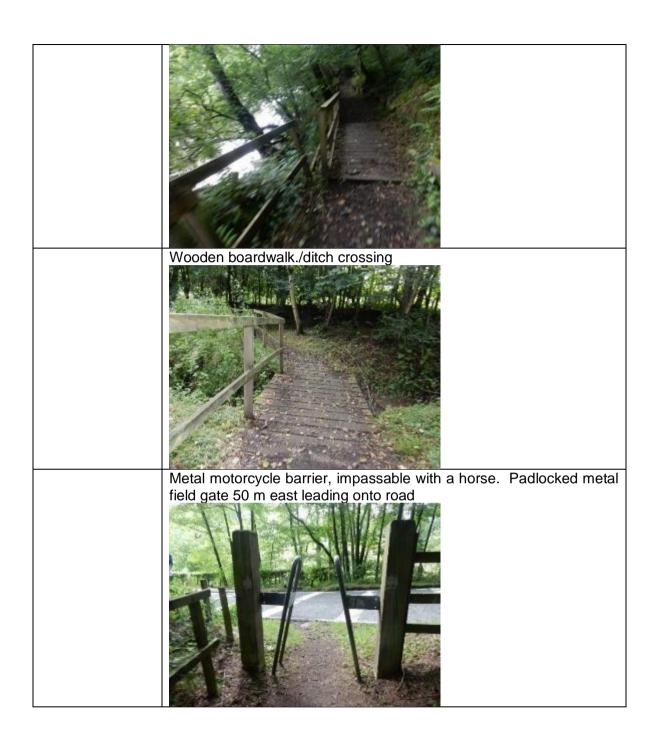


NS588263 Long section of narrow 3 plank boardwalk Steep riverbank between Merkland and Wyndy Burns NS587262 Wooden footbridge, 3 steps at western end Wyndy Burn, south-east of Nethershield NS580262 Wooden footbridge over shallow burn (space to ford burn adjacent to Burn crossing bridge) south Benthead Braes NS580263 Wooden kissing gate. Adjacent wooden flake gate wired up with barbed wire

Wooden boardwalk

NS579262

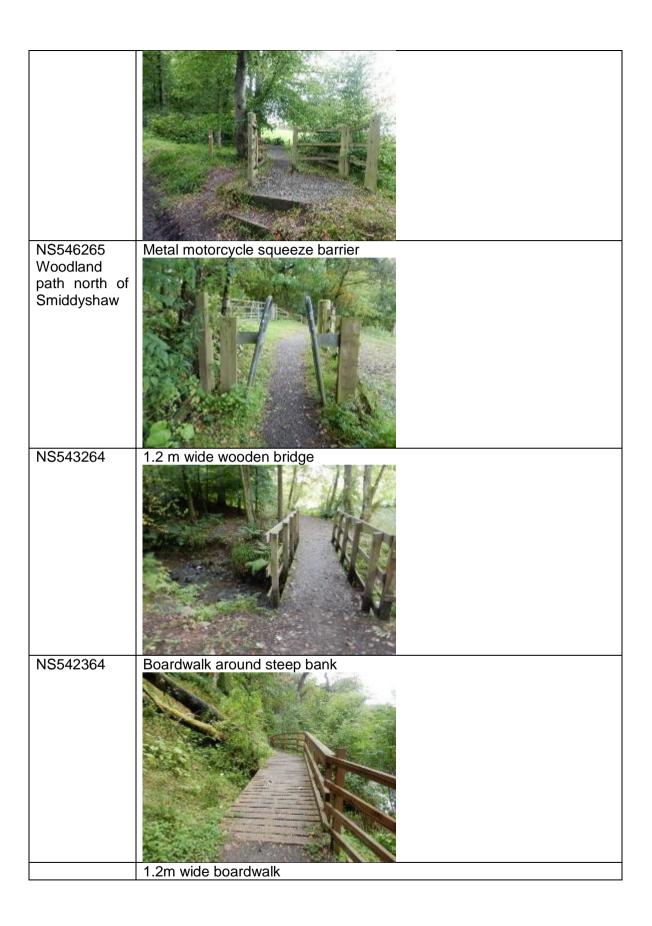
South-east of Daldilling	
NS569262 north side of river	Wooden boardwalk over burn/ditch
opposite Waterside	
NS578264	Long section wooden boardwalk
NS566 264	Wooden kissing gate with metal bridelgate adjacent wired shut with barbed wire
NS565254	Wooden boardwalk over ditch

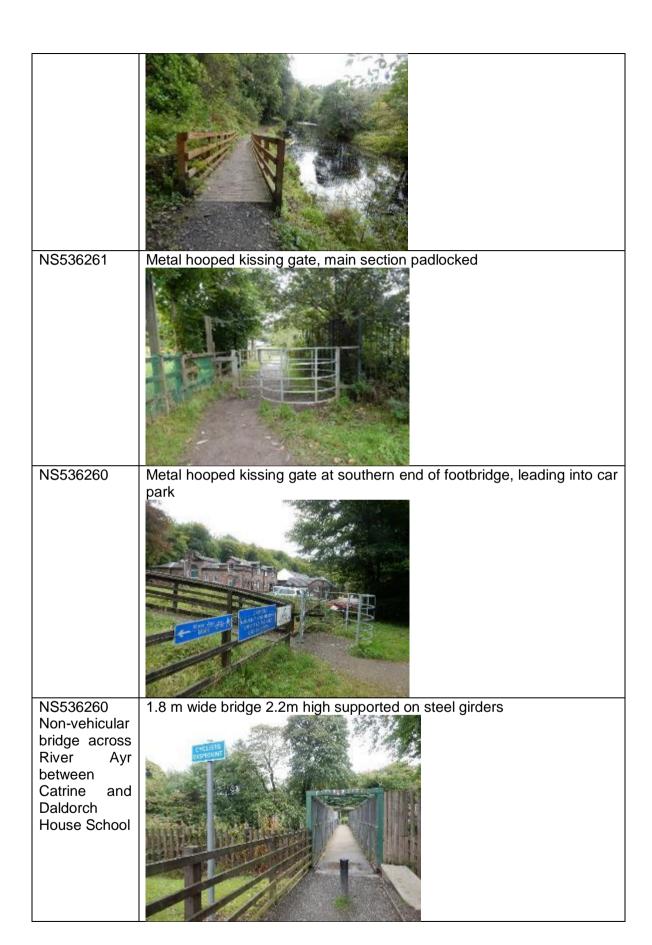


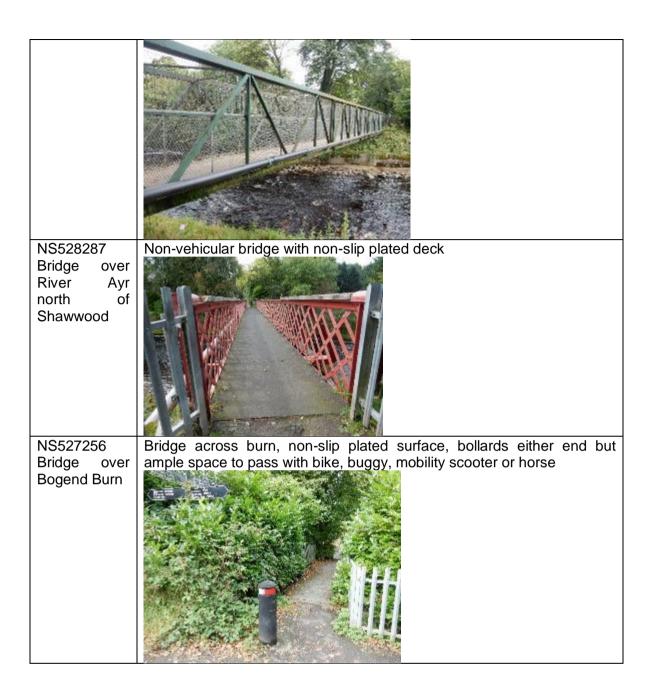
Sorn to Catrine

The path from Sorn to Catrine is in principle suitable for multi-use and is signed for cyclists as well as walkers but equestrian access is obstructed by a motorcycle barrier across the path near Smiddyshaw, and a locked gate at the Catrine end of the path.

Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description	
NS548267 Woodland path parallel to road from Sorn to Smiddyshaw	2 steps lead up from road to 90 cm wooden wicket gate. Opti bypass around side of gate	on to

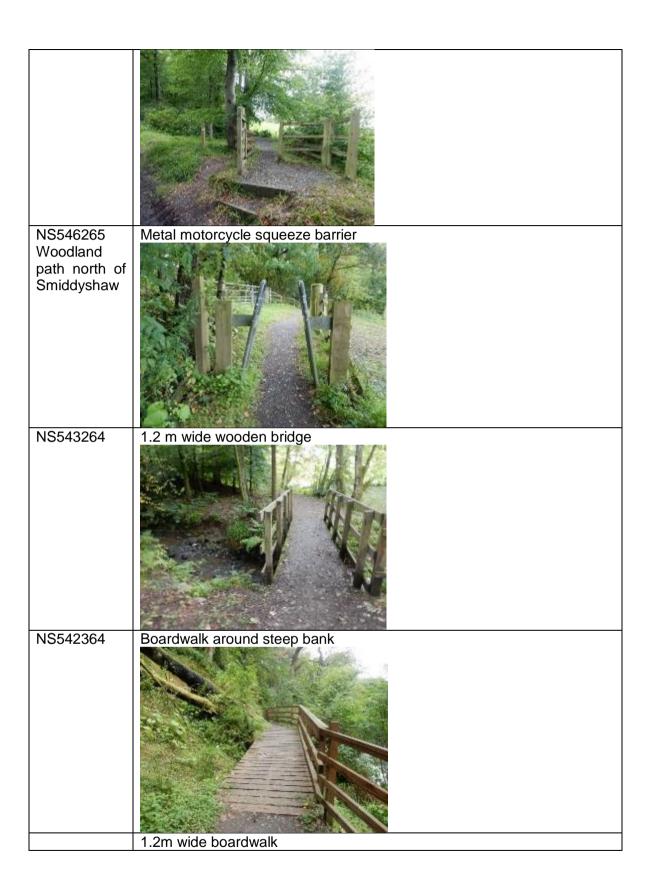


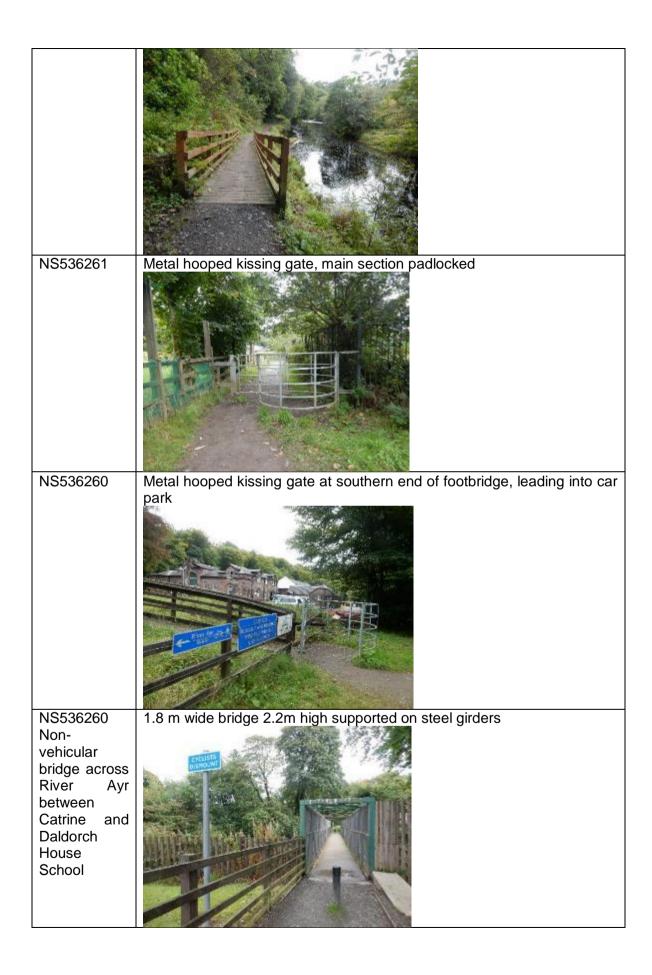


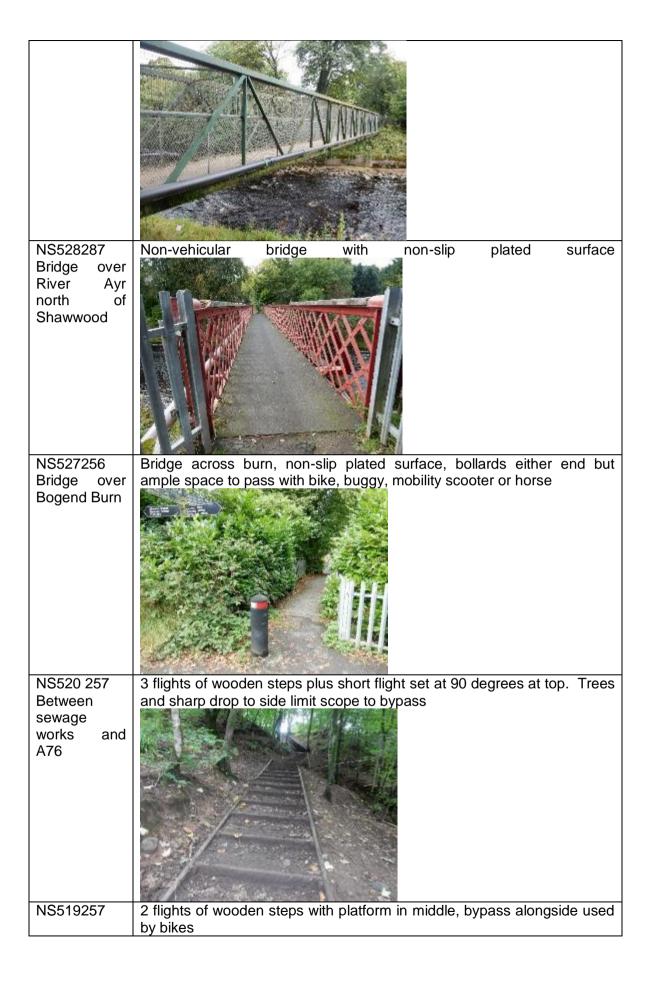


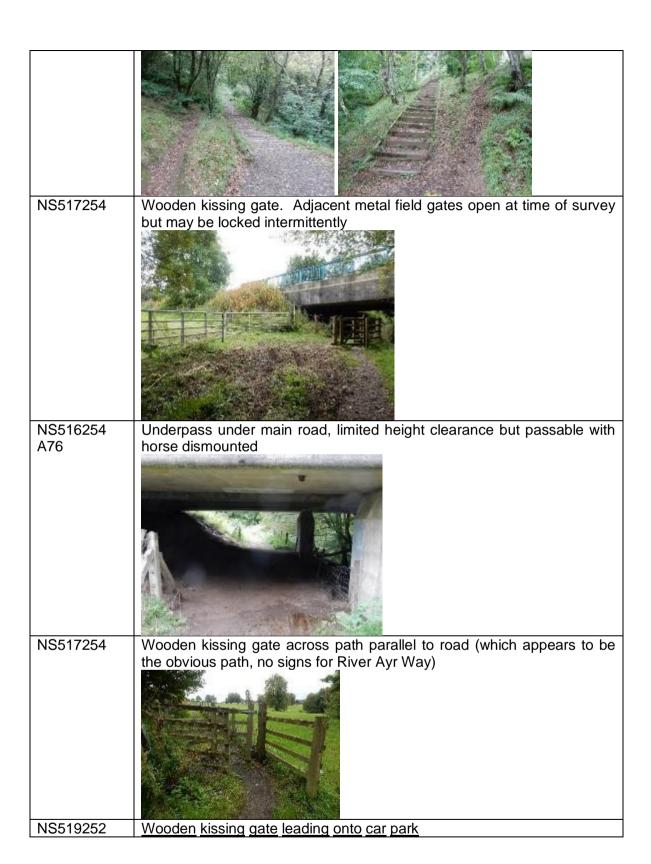
Catrine to Failford

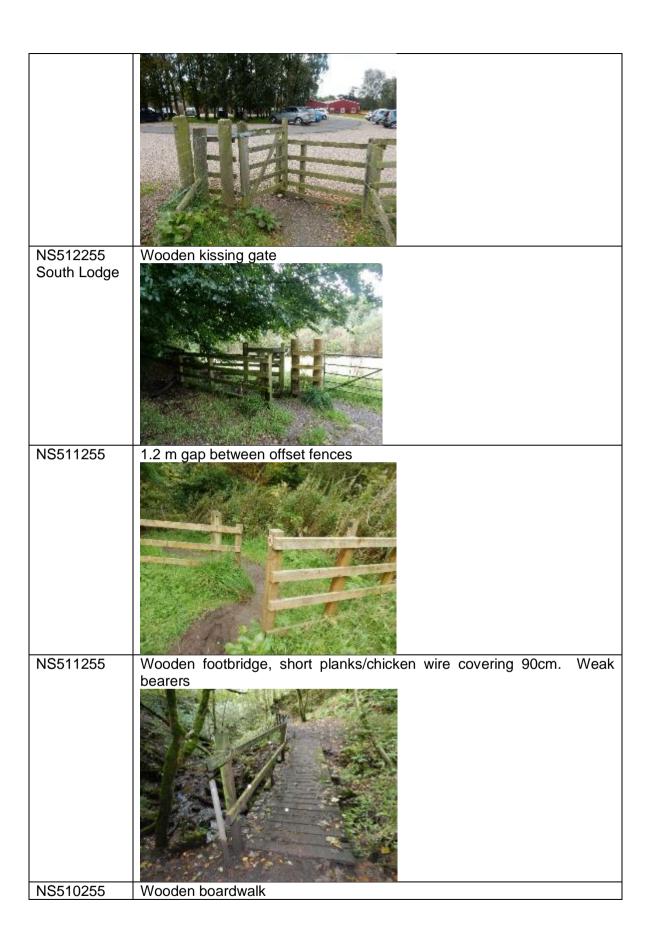
Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description
NS548267 Woodland path parallel to road from Sorn to Smiddyshaw	2 steps lead up from road to 90 cm wooden wicket gate. Option to bypass around side of gate

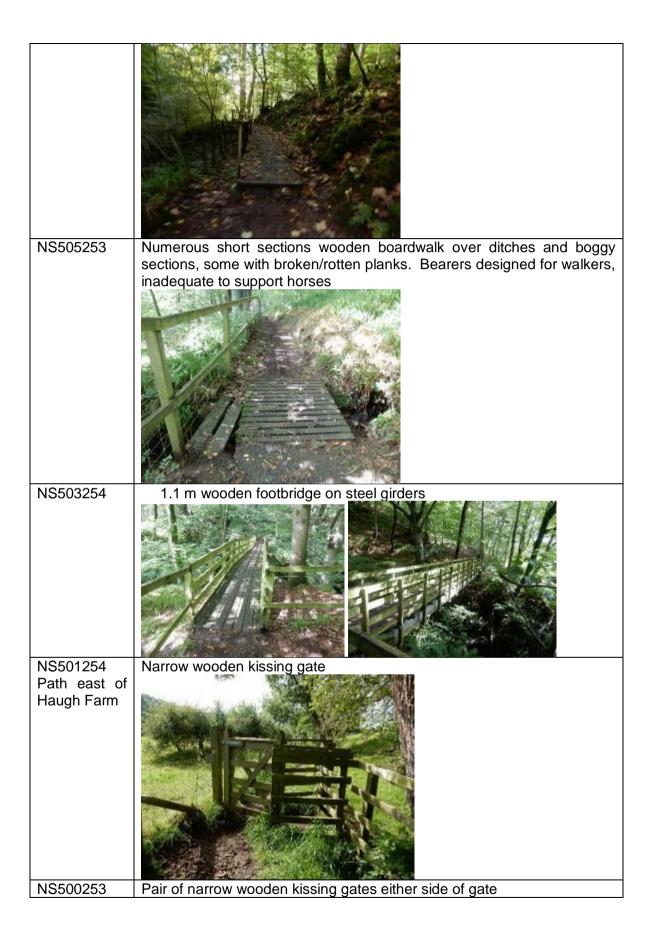














NS499253 Path east from Haugh Farm



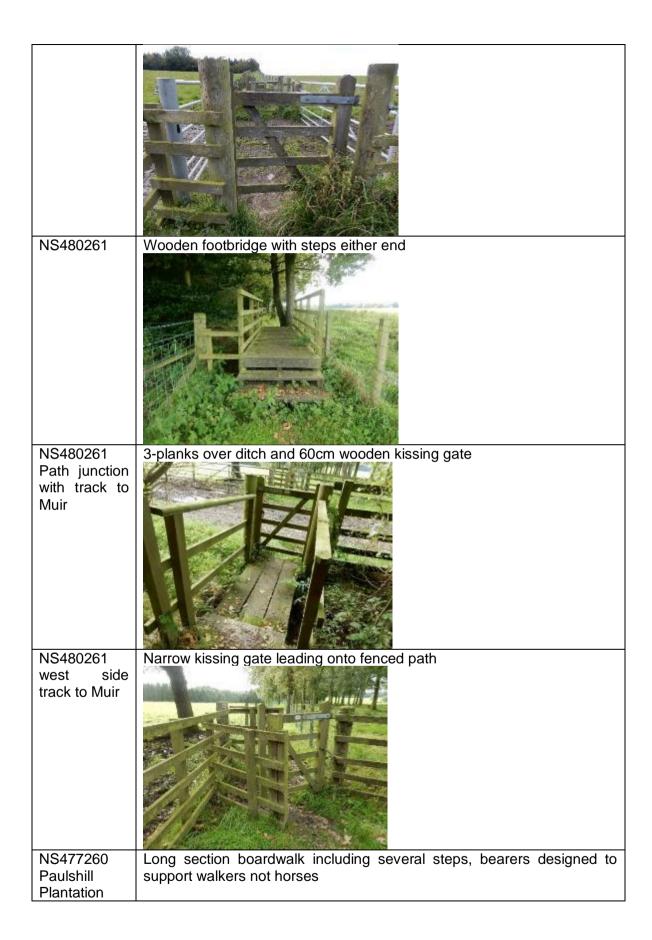
NS482261 Burn crossing north-west corner of Kipplemoss Plantation



NS481261 Fenced path between Muir and Kipplemoss Plantation

Pair of wooden chicanes followed by 60 cm wide narrow wicket gates



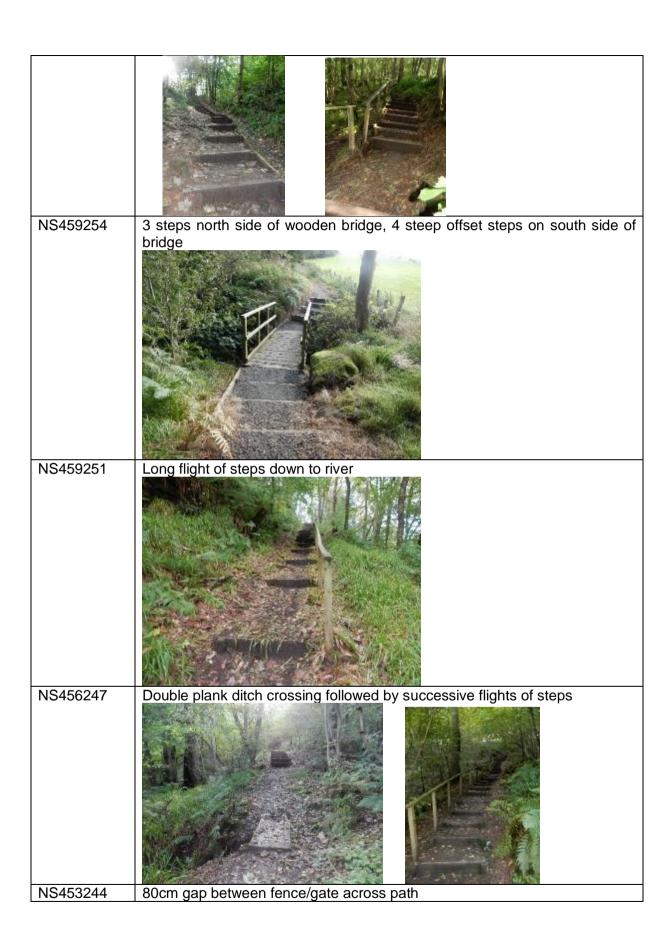


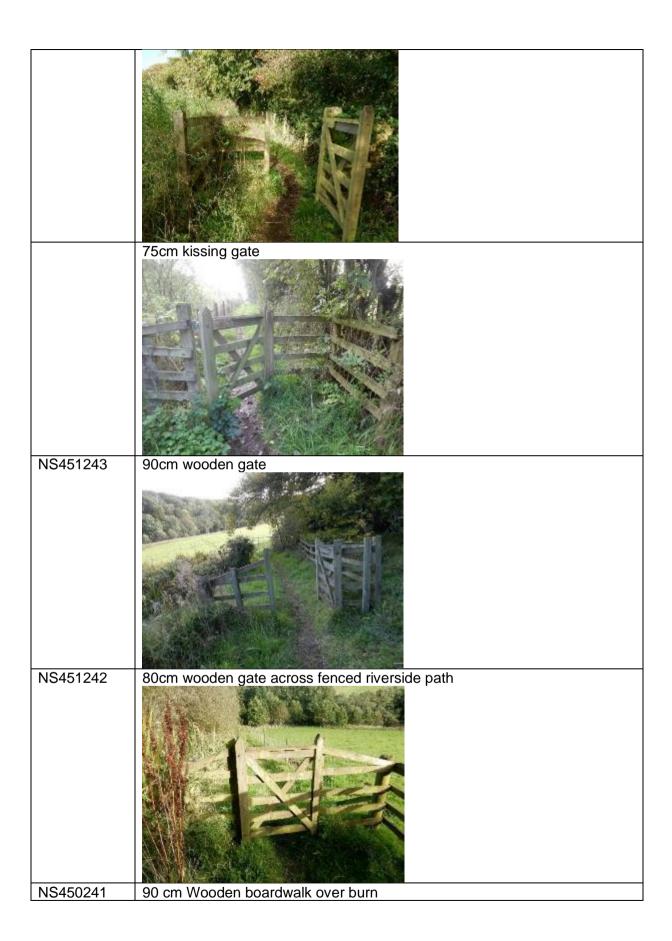


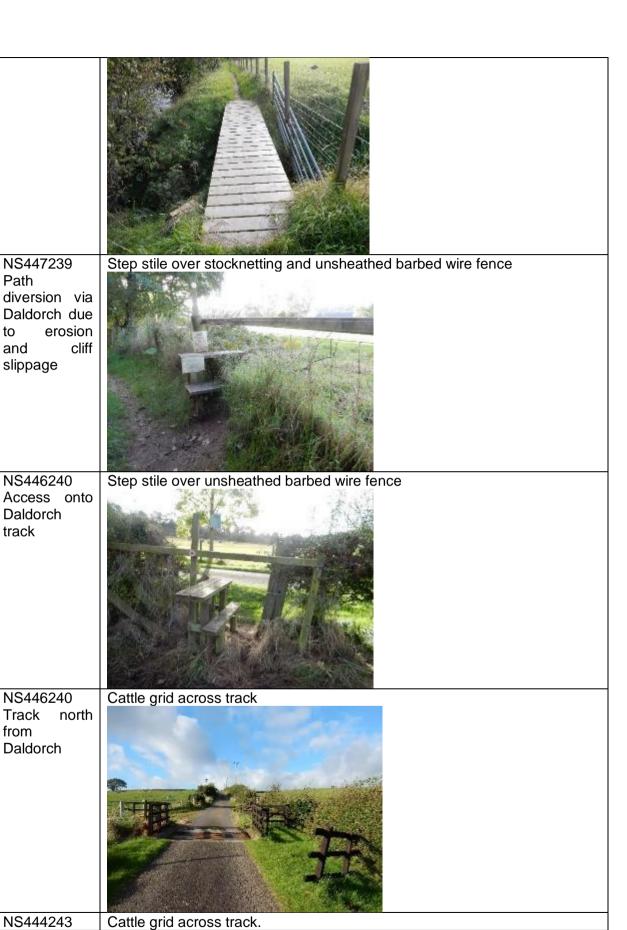
Note that east of Failford, the River Ayr Way follows the surprisingly busy B743. There is no verge around the blind bends.

Failford to Stair

Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description
NS459260 Path south from Failford into woodland	1.1m wide wooden footbridge over burn
NS458259	Several flights of steep steps
Ayr Gorge woodlands	







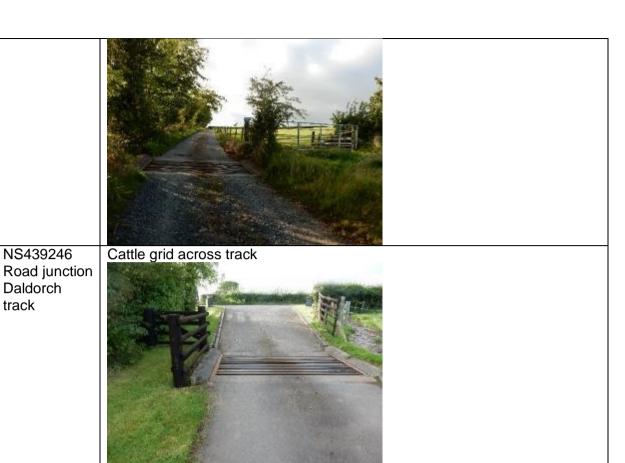
Path

and

slippage

Daldorch track

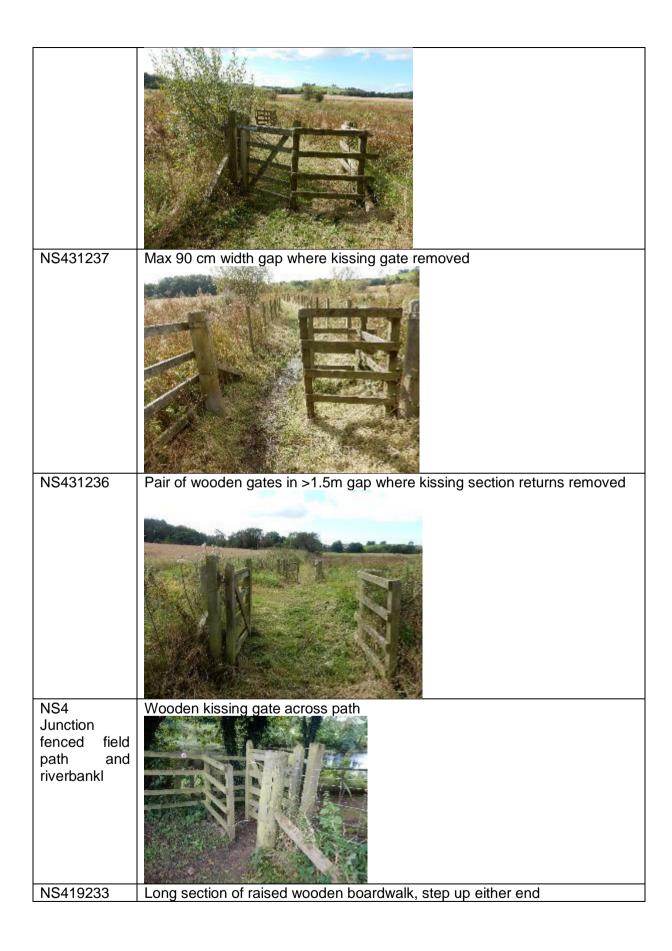
from Daldorch



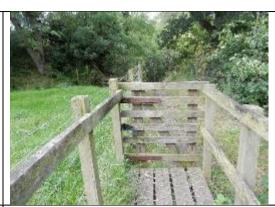
Stair to Annhank

track

Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description
NS435238 Path junction with B730 west of Stair	Gap where kissing gate removed
NS431237	Wooden gate, kissing gate return removed but max 90 cm gap between posts







NS416229 South of Crawfordston

Boardwalk/bridge surfaced with large guage netting. Beware unfastened sharp ends and rotten planks. Bearers designed for pedestrians, insufficiently robust to support horses





NS413228 east Gardgirth Bridge

Wooden boardwalk surfaced with large gauge netting. Beware unfastened sharp ends and rotten planks (as above)



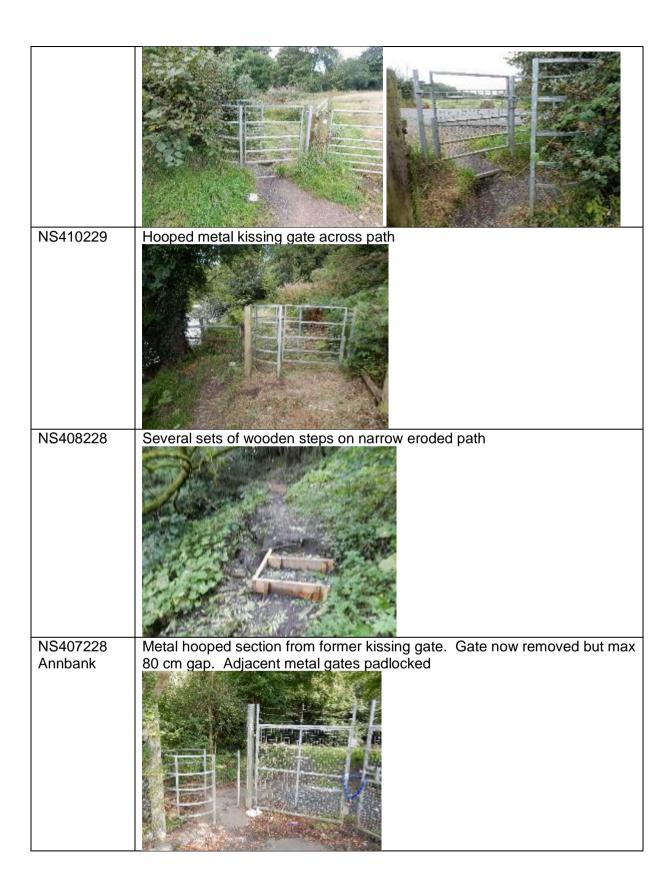
NS413228 path junction B742 north side of Gadgirth bridge

Metal hooped kissing gate



NS413228 west side Gadgirth Bridge

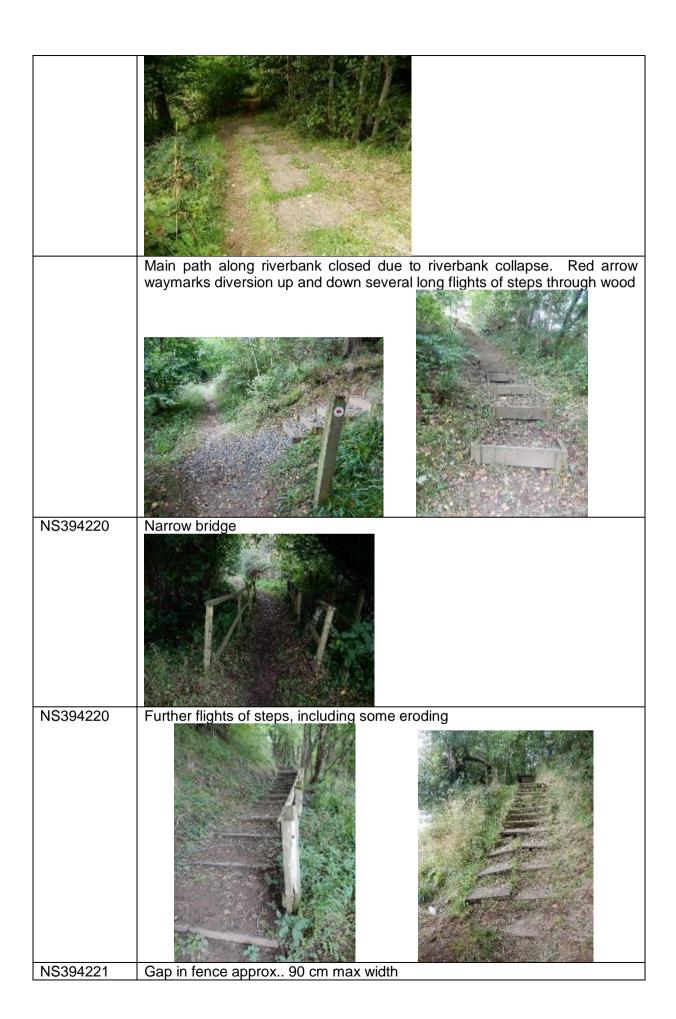
Hooped metal kissing gate, step in middle of gate



Annbank to Oswald's Bridge, Auchincruive

Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description
NS407222	Narrow gap between barbed wire fences on path between riverbank and

Mill south of parking area. Alternative is wooden gate fastening on string south of Annbank gravelled area outside mill Wooden kissing gate. Adjacent field gate unlocked NS407221 NS405219 80 cm wooden wicket gate NS405219 80 cm wooden wicket gate NS402217 Concrete flagged steps



junction riverside path . B744 and north of bridge over River Ayr NS393220 4 steep concrete steps and wooden kissing gate south side River Ayr path junction . B744 95 cm wide wooden bridge NS293221 Wooden boardwalk 80 cm wide Two flights wooden steps



A circular riding route is waymarked around Mount Loudoun, coinciding in part with the River Ayr Way.

Oswald's Bridge to Ayr

There are no restrictions on multi-use between Oswald's Bridge and A77, all of which is promoted as a cycle route and regularly used by horses as well as walkers. The riverside path of the A77 is multi-use accessible but horse riders and cyclists need to be particularly careful to respect the many walkers and other users of all ages and abilities who use this path on a regular basis.

	path on a regular basis.	
Location / OS Grid Ref.	Feature/description	
NS362216 A77 River Ayr crossing	1.35 m fenced roadside path/pavement alongside very busy A77 over bridge over River Ayr. Crash barriers and metal railing fence extend beyond bridge restricting road crossing points – see below	
NS362216 A77 River Ayr crossing	Both east and west of A77, 2 flights of steps lead down from the road to the riverside path on the south side of the the river. On the east side of the river there is an alternative graded switch-back, with path continuing under the A77 along the riverside path to Ayr	





NS349212 Riverside path north of Ayr cemetery

Flight of stone steps down from path to bridge over River Ayr. Alternatively continue straight along path parallel to the road and double back at next junction along riverside path to bridge.



NS349212 Bridge over River Ayr west of Craigie Estate

Wide bridge, non-slip decking, upright metal rails to 1 m high.



NS331225 Ayr harbour

Footbridge over dry dock on south side of harbour not designed for horses. Metal open grid mesh decking on western side. Alternative is to follow road around dry dock to the south pier.





October 2017