



Community Profile

E.ON Camster Community Fund

Foundation Scotland

March 2014

LLCCDC
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Glossary

CHP	Community Health Partnership
CVG	Caithness Voluntary Group
DSR Ltd	Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
GROS	General Register Office for Scotland, now National Records of Scotland
HISEZ	Highlands and Islands Social Economy Zone
HMIE	Her Majesty’s School Inspectorate of Education
LEADER	Links Between Activities Developing the Rural Economy
LLCCDC	Latheron Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Agency
NHC	North Highland College UHI
RPI	Retail Price Index
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SNS	Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
SOA	Single Outcome Agreement
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UHI	University of the Highlands and Islands

Acknowledgements

The team preparing the Profile was Eric Larnach of Latheron Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company, Niall Smith and Yvonne Hendry of Caithness Voluntary Group, Tom Black and Carol Elliot of Foundation Scotland, and the Local Advisory Panel members from the three communities. Our thanks go to everyone for their input, particularly the Panel who gave their time voluntarily to read and comment on a draft and to those individuals in the communities who gave their time to participate in the various consultations.

Executive Summary

This Profile provides an overview of the social, economic and environmental aspects of the communities that comprise the E.ON Camster Community Fund area of benefit, namely the three Community Council areas of Latheron Lybster and Clyth, Tannach and District, and Watten within the Highland Council area (see Figure 1). It takes account of local views as to where the needs of and opportunities for the three communities lie, and draws out strategic issues that are likely to impact on the entire Fund Area and may be usefully addressed through the Fund. The purpose is to inform funding decisions under the E.ON Camster Community Fund and to provide a resource to the three communities to assist with planning for and progressing local development in general.

The Profile was prepared from desk-based research drawing on a wide range of authoritative web resources, alongside a community consultation process involving both a survey and series of events that sought to engage a wide cross-section of the local communities set to benefit from the Fund.

The three community council areas are quite distinct and even within each area there are distinct communities. This profile seeks to provide information specific to each area whilst also highlighting commonalities across them.

The E.ON Camster Community Fund area ('the Fund Area') is located within the Highland Council area, and, within this, Ward 4 - Landward Caithness. The Fund Area is sparsely populated; the only settlement with over 500 people is Lybster. The population of the area is impacted by a long term trend of out migration, particularly amongst younger age groups, linked to reduction in employment by statutory agencies and due to the winding up of operations at Dounreay nuclear site^a. It has a lower than average population of those aged under 45 and an above average population aged between 45 and 74 in comparison to Scotland as a whole. The proportion of those aged over 74 is commensurate with the Scotland average.

Unemployment in the Landward Caithness area is marginally higher than for the Highland region as a whole, at 2.5%, but significantly lower than for Scotland as a whole (4.0%) at June 2013. However, much of this is due to out-migration of younger people as they seek job opportunities elsewhere. As with other rural areas, wage levels are lower in Highland than the average for Scotland. Economic activity in Caithness, as measured by value-added per head of population in NUTS^{3b} statistics, is

^a The site, formerly operated by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, is now run by the Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSR Ltd) and is in the porces of being decommissioned. It has 3 nuclear reactors. An adjacent site, Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment, has two reactors and is operated by Rolls Royce on behalf of Ministry of Defence.

^b Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) were created by the European Office for Statistics (Eurostat). NUTS have been created in order to produce regional statistics which are comparable across the European Union. There are 3 NUTS levels moving from larger to smaller areas, NUTS 1 is Scotland, NUTS 2

amongst the lowest levels in Scotland measured over a 15 year period, but through the recessionary period have improved slightly against Scottish figures¹ (see Appendix 10).

Lower wages and competition for private housing stock from in-migrants combine to mean that lack of affordable housing is an issue. Hard to heat housing stock and rising prices for heating fuel are leading to increasing fuel poverty in the area.

Access to services is one of the main issues for the Fund Area. Large parts of the area are not well-served by public transport, as viable services can be challenging to run for sparsely populated areas.

Statistics² for the Caithness South Intermediate Zone of the North Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP), of which the Fund Area is part, show that the area has a range of health problems significantly worse than the Scottish average. Several issues are off the scale completely; hospitalisations with alcohol conditions; persons aged 65+ hospitalised following a fall at home; primary age dental health; hospitalisation with asthma, and; and hospitalisation following a road traffic accident.

With regard to educational provisions, there are three primary schools in the Fund Area, with pupils going on to attend Wick High secondary school just a few miles to the north. The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), through North Highland College, provides opportunities for further and higher education including distance learning.

The area has a superb natural environment and cultural heritage. There is potential for tourism-related business based in the landscape or marine environment, recreational opportunities such as cycling, walking and a wide range of outdoor sports, and opportunities related to the area's extensive history and culture.

Much of the social and recreational activity for residents is focused around local interests and facilities, both indoor and outdoor, and there are a range of groups – mostly led by volunteers - working to improve the area in diverse ways. Across the Fund Area there are eight community halls that vary greatly in terms of their facilities, cost effectiveness and condition.

There is a wide range of third sector activity providing training, support and advice, and vibrant levels of volunteering that enable local services to be provided and enhance quality of life. However, much of this involves travelling to Wick or Thurso.

divides Scotland into 4 areas and NUTS 3 divides Scotland into 23 areas. NUTS areas are stable and are only amended periodically. The Fund area lies within the NUTS3 area Caithness, Sutherland and Ross-shire.

Despite the challenges outlined above, when asked about what they appreciate about their area, local people are almost unanimous - the overall picture is of an area characterised by safety, peacefulness, and friendliness / neighbourliness and considered to have shared values and strong community spirit.

Consultation with the local communities has uncovered the following as key priorities that the Fund should focus on in the short to medium term:

1. Improving sports and recreational facilities
2. Safer access to the local environment and reduced traffic speeds
3. More and better activities and services for people of all ages
4. Enhancing community life through activities, events and improved amenity of settlements
5. Supporting employment opportunities and business start-ups
6. Providing vocational training and apprenticeships
7. Greater conservation, access to and interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage for visitors and residents
8. Tackling fuel poverty through more sustainable energy use (efficiency and generation) in domestic and community buildings.
9. Tourism opportunities are promoted and created in the Fund Area

A wide range of specific opportunities for improvement to the Area have been suggested and are shown in the Appendices. It is clear that many local people see a clear role for the Fund in improving their quality of life and are excited about the prospect of investments in their community over the lifetime of the Camster Wind Farm.

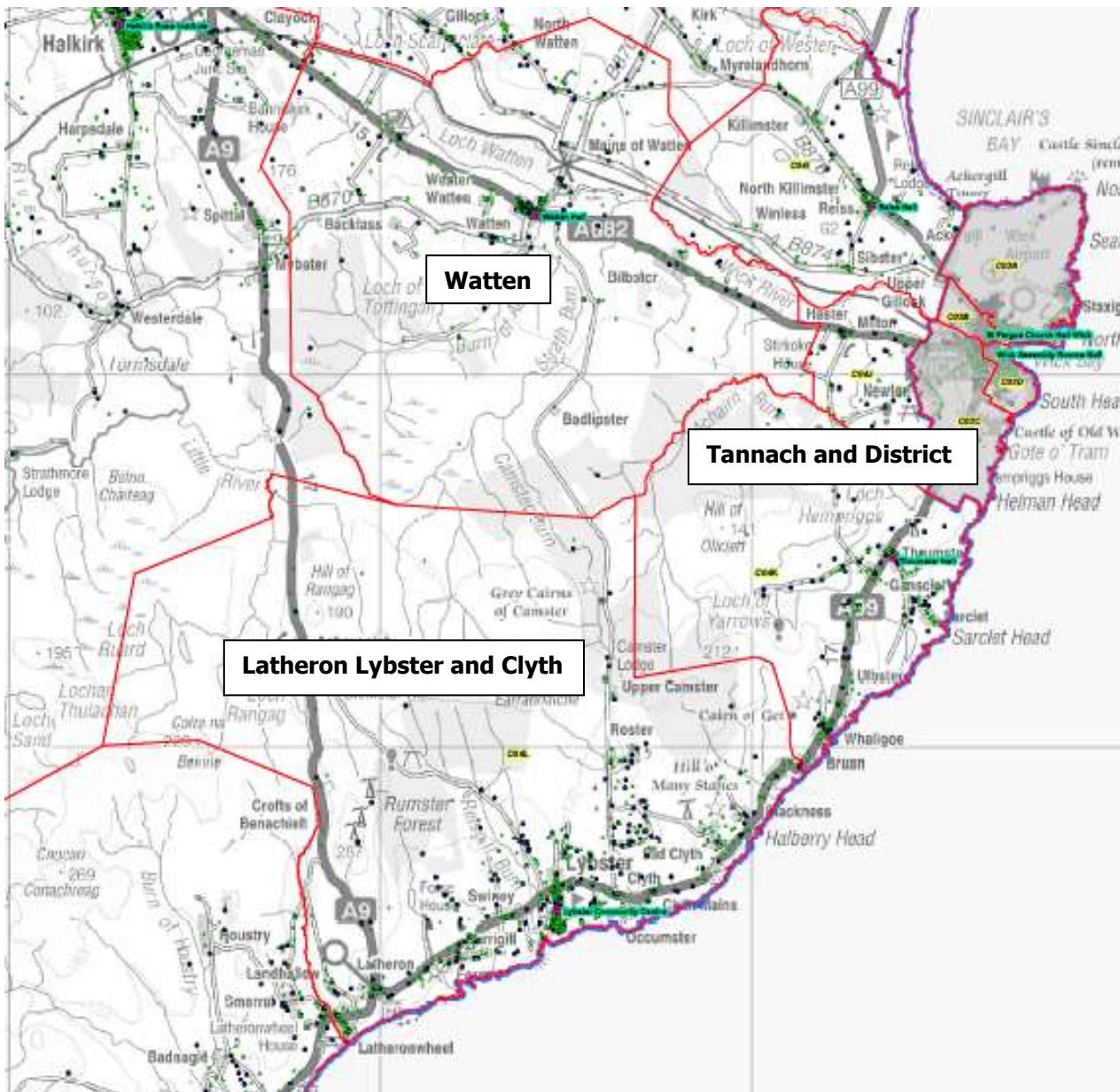


Figure 1: E.ON Camster Community Fund Area

1. Introduction

This document offers a profile of the communities of Latheron, Lybster & Clyth; Watten, and; Tannach & District, which together constitute the area of benefit of the EON Camster Community Fund associated with E.On’s wind farm at Camster (the Fund Area). It was commissioned by E.ON and produced by Foundation Scotland, Caithness Voluntary Groups (CVG) and Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Development Company.

The Profile seeks to provide information on the social, economic and environmental status of the three communities, the key opportunities and challenges relating to this, and the needs, priorities and views of local residents, businesses and groups.

In doing this, the purpose of the Profile is to:

- Assist in targeting funds under the E.On Camster Community Fund, including informing the overall Fund Framework (in particular Fund Outcomes and eligibility criteria) and decision making on individual applications for assistance;
- Provide a resource to the three communities to assist with planning for and progressing local development both in relation to applications to the E.On Camster Community Fund and other funding stream that may be, or may become, available.

The Fund is managed by Foundation Scotland on behalf of E.ON, the operator of the Camster Wind Farm. The Foundation is a charity dedicated to strengthening the communities by awarding grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people. The E.On Camster Community Fund Panel, made up of representatives from the three communities, has already been established to inform the development of the Fund and oversee its operation, including making decisions on applications for assistance.

Community benefit is a ‘goodwill’ contribution voluntarily donated by a developer for the benefit of communities affected by a development where this will have a long-term impact on the environment. In the UK, community benefit is predominantly associated with energy and building developments. In the



Figure 2: The Grey Cairns of Camster behind which the Camster Wind farm is sited

renewables sector, wind farm developments have led the way but there is growing discussion around community benefit in relation to wave and tidal power. There is no legal or planning requirement by a developer to offer a community benefit donation and a local authority has no powers of enforcement if a developer is unwilling to make a contribution. However community benefit is increasingly being recognised as a strategic investment in communities where a developer has a long-term presence.

The Fund Area comprises the settlements within the community council areas of Latheron Lybster and Clyth, Tannach and District, and Watten. This area of benefit was identified by E.ON. The Fund will provide a fixed sum of £150,000 per annum for 25 years, rising in line with inflation and RPI index linked, accruing from May 2013 when the wind farm was commissioned. The fund will be divided equally between the 3 areas, with each receiving £50,000 in year one. The Fund is overseen by a local panel that advises on grant decisions. The Panel's membership is drawn from the three community councils and other community representatives within the Fund Area.

2. Methodology

The preparation of this Community Profile involved both a desk-based compilation and review of relevant statistics and other information (for example on local services, facilities and activities), and an extensive programme of community consultations.

The desk-based element was conducted by Caithness Voluntary Group and Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company (LLCCDC). A wide variety of web-based sources were drawn on, including Census (2001), GROS, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, NHS Health Scotland, Highland Council and a variety of local community and other relevant websites. LLCCDC and CVG's extensive knowledge of the Fund Area was also drawn on.

The community consultations involved a variety of methods, as outlined below. The consultation process was designed by Foundation Scotland in dialogue with Caithness Voluntary Group, Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company, and three members of the EON Camster Community Fund Panel who were nominated as a Consultation Sub-group. CVG, LLCCDC and Panel Members provided assistance in organising and running events and in administering the questionnaire survey.

Results have been incorporated into the relevant sections of the Profile.

2.1 Graffiti Wall

A Fund launch event was held at Thrumster Village Hall on 29th May 2013. This was open to the public and was widely advertised on local websites and notice boards and via the press. Members of the EON Camster Community Fund Panel were on hand to promote the Fund and take questions from the public, along with representatives from EON and Foundation Scotland.

As part of the event, attendees were invited to contribute to the creation of a community 'timeline'. The results are shown in Appendix 1. The aim was to identify events during the communities' recent history that local people see as important and affirm that change is something that the communities have experienced before and the existence of Fund, and indeed wind farm, constitute part of the next stage in the communities' story. The exercise is also aimed at getting people to start thinking about what the community already has, what it has lost and what it perhaps now needs or wants now and in the future. However, as can be seen, the events that participants highlighted did not go as far back as hoped for as the timeline was produced at a drop-in event rather than as part of a structured workshop. It nonetheless picks out some important trends in recent years, including the closure of a number of local services such as shops, petrol stations and post offices.

A Graffiti Wall was also used at the launch event. This is an accessible and inclusive consultation method that involves asking attendees to write their suggestions for the Fund onto flipcharts and thus tends to be anonymous and less off-putting for those who do not like formal events or speaking in public. The results are shown in Appendix 2.

2.2 Questionnaire Survey

A questionnaire was developed by Foundation Scotland, with Camster Panel Consultation Sub-Group providing feedback on a draft, and distributed widely across the Fund Area during Summer of 2013. The questionnaire asked a range of open and closed questions covering topics such as what people value or appreciate about their community, what they would change about it, what opportunities exist for improving or developing their community, what outcomes should be prioritised for funding, and whether organisations located outside the Fund Area should be eligible to apply to the Fund.

Over 600 hard copies were made available at key locations such as post offices, village shops, libraries and community centres. Panel members also posted hard copies through doors in some settlements. The questionnaire was made available on-line via a link from Foundation Scotland's website to Survey Monkey. This was promoted via a press release that the local media picked up on.

A total of 111 responses were received, representing 4% of the population in the Fund Area (2706). However, it is likely that several were completed as household responses rather than individuals and it is known some were completed by local community groups. The majority (44%) were from the Watten area while 36% were from Latheron, Lybster and Clyth and 20% from Tannach & District. The majority of respondents were female (51%) and employed (52%). 33% of respondents were aged 26-45 and 32% were aged 46-65. Disappointingly only 3% were aged 18-25. 10% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability.

A summary of demographic information on respondents and results for the Fund Area as a whole is given at Appendix 3, with summaries for each of the three community council areas given in Appendices 4-6.

2.3 School Art Competition

Local primary schools were approached to take part in an art competition, organised by CVG. The competition ran just before school summer holidays, in June 2013.

Pupils were invited to "*draw what they would like to see in their community in 10 years' time*". Each school was offered £100 as an incentive for taking part.

Four primary schools were invited to get involved:

- Thrumster primary school (Tannach & District) – 32 entries
- Watten primary school – 25 entries
- Lybster primary school – 38 entries
- Pulteneytown Academy (primary school) where pupils from Milton and Haster go to (Tannach & District) chose not to take part.



Figure 3: Entry in School Art Competition

Two judges were drawn from the EON Camster Community Fund Panel. No formal judging criteria were set but artistic merit and vision for their community were considered. The winners were Ava, P5 of Watten Primary School, with Matthew, P1 of Lybster Primary School coming runner up. The themes of all entries are shown in Appendix 7.

2.4 Focus Group

A focus group was convened on the evening of 6th November 2013 in an attempt to uncover some more in-depth, qualitative information relating to the outcomes that respondents to the questionnaire survey ranked most highly. Participants were asked to consider why these were a priority for the Fund Area, what could be done to achieve the outcomes, and how the Fund might make the greatest difference in this regard. The session was held at Seaview House in Lybster. Invitations were sent out to 12 local organisations, identified by CVG and LLCCDC, and six attended. A list of participants and the key points arising are given in Appendix 8.

3. Brief Description of the E.ON Camster Community Fund Area

The Camster Community Fund Area comprises the areas covered by the three community councils of Latheron Lybster and Clyth, Tannach and District, and Watten. The boundaries of these three areas and maps of the main settlements as given in Appendix 9.

3.1. Latheron Lybster and Clyth

Latheron Lybster and Clyth Community Council area lies on the South East coast of Caithness, covers 93 square miles, with a 9.5 miles coastline and at its furthest point extending inland for 9.5 miles, with a population of 1,323 people.

Lybster

Lybster is the largest settlement benefitting from the Fund with a population of around 750 people. It is located on the A99 Latheron to Wick road on the South East Caithness coastline.

Lybster's economy was originally very much reliant on the herring fishing industry up to the 1960's, but diversified to catching "white fish" during the next 30 years, and has now been replaced with creel boats catching crab and lobster. Engineering works, building and road construction works, forestry, farming and crofting offer local employment. Employment sees some of the local population commute to the nearest large settlement of Wick some 14 miles away and to Dounreay Nuclear Site around 35 miles away.

The village supports a village shop, post office, bank, 2 hairstylists, beauty therapy, 2 cafés, 2 small hotels. However, the Portland Arms Hotel, once popular for weddings, is now vacant. There is good recreation provision including a golf course, outdoor bowling green, football pitch and play area, a community centre where activities include indoor bowls, archery and a youth club, and local paths to Shelligoe, Brethren Well and Old Coastguard lookout. The Primary School role is approximately 80, and the surgery has 2 doctors.

Latheronwheel & Latheron

Latheronwheel is a small village with a population of around 100, popular for its scenic harbour and walk up the burn pathway. It also has a butcher shop and a community centre exists along the road in Latheron.

Clyth

Clyth does not have a concentrated built up area but covers a large number of small crofts, farms, and rural housing. The hub is the community centre, with the "Hill O Many Stanes" archaeological site a few hundred meters away.

3.2. Tannach and District

Tannach and District community council area lies on the east coast of Caithness, covers 90 square miles, with a 7.5 miles coastline and extending inland for 7.5 miles with a population of 916 people. The economy relies on farming and crofting, with large, medium and small farms on the fertile Hempriggs and Wick River straths and crofting on the higher more marginal ground areas.

There are two vehicle maintenance workshops located at Newton Hill, one with a vehicle recycling business and the other with specialised auto-electrician facilities as well as a significant plant hire business. Another vehicle recycling facility exists at Ulbster. Cairns Quarry, Stirkoke, is probably the county's foremost producer of trade and DIY pre-cast cement/concrete products as well as vendor of a wide range of building supplies materials.

Thrumster

Thrumster, the largest settlement in this area, is a remote crofting township on the main A99 road 4 miles south of Wick. The transmission mast located here broadcasted BBC television and radio signals to Caithness until 1960 and now serves as an important telecommunications mast as a link in the chain of radio stations from Inverness to Olig Hill over to Orkney and Olig Hill west to Tongue linking down to Lochinver and Ullapool.

There is a school, village hall, various recreational facilities and pub/restaurant (Smiddy Inn) in Thrumster. A Cafe (Whaligoe Cafe) is located near the Whaligoe steps.

Trains stopped running on the Wick and Lybster Railway line in 1944, and the village railways station closed. However, the old station has recently been renovated and now has a garden and picnic areas.

Thrumster Church, one-third of a mile to the south, is part of the Church of Scotland charge of Pultneytown and Thrumster. The township of Sarclet, an important herring fishing port in the 1800s, is situated half a mile to the southeast.

Haster

A small settlement with 40 houses and approximately 80 people. There is a small playground and a football pitch. Haster Events Group have been involved in refurbishing the water fountain and in acquiring Christmas lights on street lights.

Milton

A small settlement with 20 houses and approximately 40 people, Milton has a thriving Residents Association who work hard to improve the appearance of their area.

3.3. Watten and District

Watten and District community council area lies near the centre of Caithness, covers 78 square miles, with a population of 696 people.

Watten

Watten is the largest settlement in this area with a population of approximately 200 people, and is located on the A882, 7 miles west of Wick.

Watten's economy is very much reliant on farming and crofting industry. Quarry works and agricultural engineering offer local employment. Several people commute to work at the nearest large settlement, Wick, some 7 miles away and to Dounreay Nuclear Site, around 19 miles away.

The village supports a shop, post office, one small hotel and a garden centre. There is recreation provision in a football pitch and play area, and a village hall where activities are offered by various groups including a Toddler Group, Craft and Chatter, Indoor Bowls and Rifle Club. The Primary School role is approximately 60.

Loch Watten is the largest body of water in Caithness. The name of the village and loch appear to come from the Old Norse *Vatn*, meaning water or lake, and the loch is famous for its brown trout fishing. Alexander Bain invented the electric clock and lived in Watten.

3.4. A Note on Deprivation

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation³ (SIMD) is a relative measure of the level of deprivation affecting concentrations of population in small areas. It ranks levels of deprivation for very small areas, called data-zones, with median populations of 767. There are 6,505 data zones in Scotland and 292 in the Highland Council area. Deprivation is measured across seven 'domains', each of which is made up of a series of indicators. The domains are: income, employment, health, education, housing, geographical access to services and crime.

None of the data-zones in the Fund Area ranked within the 15% most deprived in Scotland when considering the overall index, although geographic access is a significant issue within some parts of the Fund Area (see Section 8). However, some commentators have questioned how accurately several of the domains (other than geographic access) reflect deprivation at the individual/household level particularly in rural contexts. In the Highlands there are large geographic areas at the data-zone scale that group heterogeneous populations with very different economic and social profiles. A Highland Council briefing paper on SIMD12⁴ shows the Lybster data-zone falling in the 10% most multiply-deprived data-zones in Highland and 20% most multiply-deprived in Scotland. The paper adopts a

cautious approach to the results since some indicators - such as overcrowding - have an urban bias. The real issues that cause housing stress in rural areas such as poor insulation, fuel poverty and lack of affordable housing are not included as indicators within the SIMD framework – indeed the housing indicators have not changed since 2004. In contrast, information on health presented in Section 9 below is particularly revealing of this deprivation and its impact in the Fund Area.

4. The Broader Picture

The Fund Area lies within the Highland Council area, which stretches from John O’Groats and Durness in the north, to Ballachulish and Dalwhinnie in the south and includes the city of Inverness and the town of Fort William as well as 14 inhabited islands. Highland Council area comprises 33% of the landmass of Scotland and is sparsely populated, with 40% of the population living outside settlements of over 1,000. The Fund Area is also within the NHS Highland area, which is larger and includes, in addition to the above, the Argyll and Bute council area.

With regard to political constituencies, The Fund Area is located within the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross UK parliamentary constituency and the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency of the Scottish Parliament. It lies within Ward 4 of the Highland Council, Caithness Landward, which is the largest ward in Caithness in terms of area but which has a low population density.^c

Highland Council’s Action Plan for 2012-17 ‘Working Together for the Highlands’ sets out the Council’s strategic objectives, with 129 actions across 7 main themes. Additionally, the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) for Highland 2013/4 – 2018/9⁵ indicates how the strategic partners will work together for Highland. A number of the outcomes are likely to be relevant to the future work of the E.ON Camster Community Fund including:

- To widen participation in the labour market across all client groups and across all Highland geographies.
- To increase the number of people in areas of deprivation engaged in activities that strengthen the skills and confidence of those communities to take effective action on community issues.
- To improve access to services for hard to reach and disadvantaged groups.
- For areas with most multiple deprivation (SIMD) to become safer and to be felt to be safer.
- To reduce fuel poverty, especially for older people.
- To reduce homelessness further
- To reduce inequalities in the early years through various partnership programmes of family support
- To improve educational attainment for children suffering disadvantage
- For older people to be geographically and socially connected and not to become isolated
- To reduce health inequalities between targeted areas and the four least deprived areas in Highland.

The SOA also provides the framework for community planning in the Highlands. Community Planning is a statutory process aimed at helping public agencies work together with communities to improve

^c Note the Fund Area is not co-terminous with any of these political geographies.

services. Sustaining rural communities through investing in infrastructure, communications, transport, housing and economic development and supporting community-led action are key priorities of the Highland community planning partners.

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on the forthcoming Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, which would see the introduction of new legislative provisions to enable the transfer of under-used public assets into community ownership. The draft Bill also contains provisions to enable community bodies to become involved in the delivery of elements of public service provision where it can be proven that the outcomes for the public are likely to be improved. Linked to the former point, the Highland Council are developing a policy underpinning their approach to the transfer of surplus assets to communities, and there is now a Scottish Land Fund of £9M that exists to support community ownership of land generally. This enabling policy environment bodes well for the development of transformative community initiatives, which the Camster Community Fund could also support.

Community Councils are an important mechanism to help facilitate and support community engagement. Whilst they have limited statutory powers, community councils have an important role in representing the community's views to Highland Council and other public bodies, including responding to local planning requests. The three community councils within the Fund Area have contributed to the development of the EON Camster Wind Farm and to shaping and delivering the associated Fund.

In terms of other, non-statutory funding, the 2007-13 Highland LEADER Programme has been an important source of funding for community groups across the Highland region to-date. Work is currently going ahead to develop the next LEADER programme. The Caithness and North Sutherland Fund⁶ was established by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSR Ltd) to distribute funding to community organisations for projects that will increase the attractiveness of Caithness & North Sutherland as a place to live, work and invest with particular emphasis on achieving environment, social, culture and infrastructure improvements. This funding package was agreed as part of the development of a new disposal facility for low-level waste from decommissioning Dounreay. The NDA will provide £4M to the fund – £1m at the start of construction in 2011 and £300,000 in 2014 and each year until 2023. There are also several other community benefit funds in the area deriving from other wind farm developments.

It is possible that the EON Camster Community Fund may contribute to match funding arrangements for specific projects that the above funds may also wish to support. Certainly there are likely to be overlapping priorities between LEADER, Caithness and North Sutherland Fund and the EON Camster Community Fund regarding maximising benefits from community assets and the area's natural, built and cultural heritage, improving access to services and supporting the development and use of local development plans.

5. Population

The 2011 Census Profiles for Community Council areas, published by the Highland Council⁷, show the population the Fund Area as 2935. The breakdown for the three areas within this is as follows:

- Tannach & District: 916
- Watten: 696
- Latheron, Lybster and Clyth: 1323.

The age profile of each of these populations is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Age Profile by Community Council area (percentages)							
Community Council	0-4	5-15	16-29	30-44	45-59	60-74	75+
Tannach & District	4.5	11.8	13.1	20.3	23.8	20.2	6.4
Watten	6.6	12.0	12.8	16.6	24.0	19.0	9.0
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	4.6	11.9	11.2	15.8	26.4	22.3	7.8

Source: Highland Council 2011 Census Profile for Community Council Areas

The figures show that the proportion of residents aged 0-15 years in Tannach & District (16.3%) and Latheron, Lybster & Clyth (16.5%) is lower than for Landward Caithness (16.9%), Highland (17.9%), and Scotland (17.3%). In comparison 18.6% of Watten’s population are aged 0-15 years.

A similar trend can be seen in the population aged 75 and over, with 6.4% of Tannach & District and 7.8% of Latheron, Lybster and Clyth in this age group, while figures for Landward Caithness were 8.1%, Highland 8.3%, and Scotland 7.7%. Residents in Watten aged 75 and over made up 9.0% of that area’s population.

Landward Caithness has been characterised by a long-term decline in population, although the population grew by 11.8% between 2001 and 2011, from 10,525 to 11,770⁸. While this may be in part linked to decline in Thurso and Wick, as evidence from house sales suggests a drift out of the towns and into the surrounding rural areas, it is also in line with growth in the population for Highland as a whole which in 2011 was 232,000, an increase of around 11% (23,000) from the 2001 figure of 208,914. In comparison the population of Scotland increased by 5% (233,000) over the same period. Highland Council considers it likely that migration has contributed to the increase in population as the region receives large numbers of migrants from the rest of Scotland and the UK as well as from overseas⁹. All age bands saw an increase in population across Highland, with the exception of 5-15 year olds, which decreased by 3.8%.

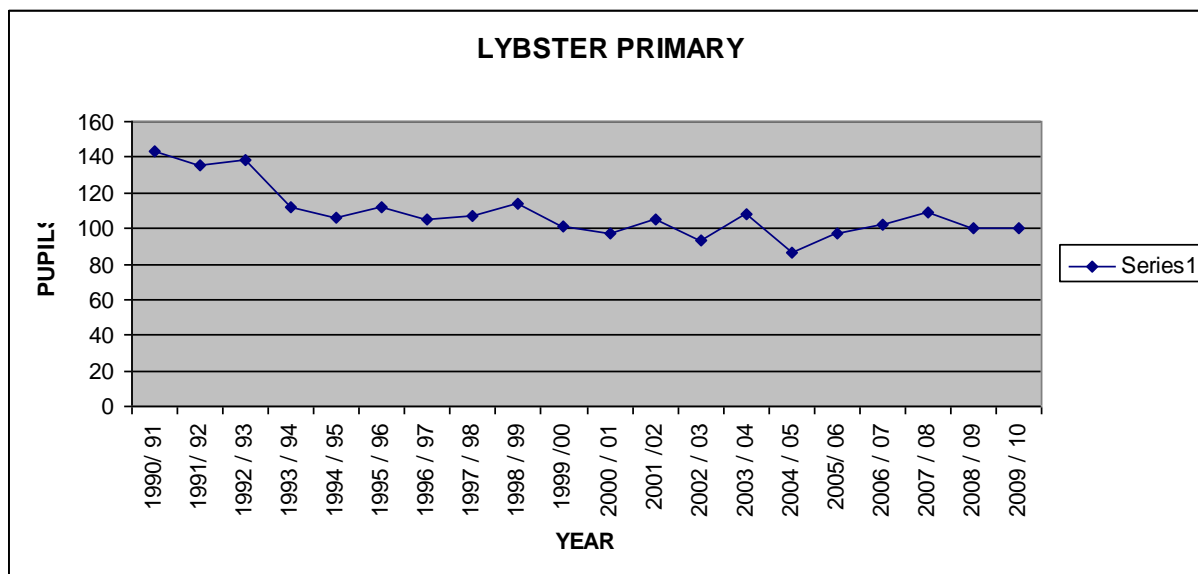


Table 2: Lybster Primary School Roll 1990 - 2010

Population decrease remains evident amongst children in Landward Caithness, with the number of 0-15 year olds falling by 19.8% between 1991 and 2001, a significantly greater drop than that experienced by Highland overall (6.3%). Between 2001 and 2011 the population in this age group in Landward Caithness fell by 3.1% (from 1859 to 1801¹⁰) while in Highland it increased by 0.75% (from 38,213 to 38,500¹¹).

School rolls for Lybster Primary (see Table 2) show that there was a sharp decline in primary school aged children during the Mid Nineties. There has been a further decline in the last 2 years with the roll for that school now standing at 74. This reduction is likely a result of outmigration of families to find employment or attend further or higher education elsewhere, although it is perhaps exacerbated by the real difficulty young couples have in the area in acquiring local housing as they move out from their parents homes.

5.1. Key Issues for the Fund Area

Retaining and indeed growing the population of the area is key to the long-term sustainability of the communities within it.

A small number of comments in response to the open questions in the survey raised the issue, in particular in relation to the drift of young people out of the area. These pointed to the need for a wide range of community initiatives to support and improve quality of life in the area, as well as creating employment opportunities or helping improve employability, as key to addressing any further loss of population. Supporting outcomes that may stem population decline is therefore likely to be an important focus for the Fund.

As the population of the Fund Area is ageing, there is a need to change perceptions of the elderly and their potential role in their communities, both recognising them as experienced and knowledgeable assets and providing activities that promote their involvement, health and social connection.

6. Employment & Local Economy

Tables 3-5 below provide information on the number of people in employment, employment status and the types of industries that provide jobs in the Ward. This information provides us with an understanding of the nature of employment within the Ward and indicates those sectors that are contributing significantly to this and therefore need to be supported and those that hold potential for future employment and should therefore be nurtured.

Table 3: Number of People in Employment			
	Landward Caithness Ward	Highland	Scotland
Number of people in employment *	5,000	106,100	2,456,000
* Rounded to nearest 100 people Source: Business Register and Employment Survey 2011			

6.1. Employment by Sector

The Ward has the highest proportion of jobs in mining, quarrying & utilities and professional, scientific & technical in Highland and one of the lowest dependencies on the public sector. It has the lowest number of jobs in Highland in the arts, entertainment & recreational sector (see Table 4). The value of farming, forestry and fishing in the area has reduced over the past 15 years, and the manufacturing base has been weakened. Data from ONS showing these trends is given in Appendix 10.



Figure 4: Crofting is prevalent in the Fund Area

Table 4: Employment by Sector			
Percentage of people employed in:	Landward Caithness Ward	Highland	Scotland
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	0.4	1.6	2.6
Mining, quarrying & utilities	20.4	2.1	2.6
Manufacturing	12.4	6.5	7.5
Construction	5.1	6.8	5.7
Motor trades	0.7	2.2	1.7
Wholesale.	3.1	2.6	2.9
Retail	6.9	11.2	10.2
Transport & storage (inc postal)	2.2	5.1	4.1
Accommodation & food services	5.6	11.6	7.1
Information & communication	2.2	2.0	2.4
Financial & insurance	1.5	1.1	3.5
Property	0.9	1.7	1.4
Professional, scientific & technical	13.1	4.7	6.3
Business administration & support services	12.9	5.4	7.4
Public administration & defence	1.1	5.6	6.0
Education	4.1	8.2	7.8
Health	6.3	17.1	15.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	0.9	4.5	4.4
Source: Business Register and Employment Survey 2011			

There is a significant difference between the “Dounreay effect” on the community in the NE Caithness part of Landward Ward and in the Camster area, which has low levels of manufacturing. Manufacturing accounts for 6.7% of the workforce in Latheron, Lybster & Clyth, 3.3% of those in Watten and 6.2% of those in Tannach & District¹² compared with 12.4% of the workforce across Landward Caithness.

Ignis Biomass is the owner and operator of the district-heating scheme in Wick. Ignis took over the scheme from the Highland Council, and has converted it from burning oil to use locally sourced wood chip. A new 3.5MW steam raising boiler has been installed supplying hot water to nearly 200



Figure 5: Ingis Biomass store of logs and wood chips in Borrowstone Quarry

domestic properties and a public meeting room/concert hall via the district-heating network plus steam to the adjacent Pulteney Distillery, where the “Old Pulteney” award winning single malt is made. The scheme not only provides employment but also makes a real contribution to helping alleviate fuel poverty in an area that has high heating costs, as well as a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

6.2. Economic Activity

The proportion of full time employees in Landward Caithness dropped from 38.3% in 2001 to 36.0% in 2011, below the averages for Highland and Scotland, while the proportion of part time employees in the Ward rose over the same period from 11.1% to 14.2%. Despite the large centre of employment at Dounreay Nuclear Site, the Ward has a relatively high proportion of self-employed workers, at 13.5%, compared with Highland as a whole (11.0%) and Scotland (7.5%). It has a significantly lower proportion of full time students (1.7%) than the average for Scotland (3.7%).

Table 5: Economic Activity			
Percentage of 16-74 year olds who are:	Landward Caithness Ward	Highland	Scotland
Economically active*	69.3	71.5	69.0
Full-time employees	36.0	39.5	39.6
Part-time employees	14.2	15.2	13.3
Self employed	13.5	11.0	7.5
Full-time student (employed)	1.2	1.5	2.9
Full-time student (unemployed)	0.5	0.3	0.8
Unemployed	3.8	4.0	4.8
Total 16-74 year olds	8,022	171,557	3,970,530

* defined as those aged 16 to 74 who are working, actively looking for work or full-time students.
Source: Census 2011

6.3. Unemployment & Benefits

Tables 6-12 below provide information about the rate of unemployment in the Landward Caithness Ward and those receiving both Incapacity and Council Tax Benefits. One feature of Highland life is that employment is often dependent on seasonal industries such as tourism, and employment rates vary through the year as many people take up seasonal jobs but are unemployed for the rest of the year.

Unemployment in the Ward was slightly above both the Highland and Scotland average for a number of years in the early 2000s, but as national rates climbed from 2007 onward, unemployment rates in Landward fell to lower levels, linked to population loss in the working age group. Both unemployment and long term unemployment fell to just below the Highland average in early 2009. Currently the unemployment rate is slightly higher than the Highland average but the long-term unemployment rate is higher still. Incapacity Benefit claims are just above the Highland average while the Employment and Support Allowance claims are the third lowest of Highland Wards.

Table 6: Unemployment Rates (June 2013)

	Ward	Highland	Scotland
Unemployment rate *	2.5	2.4	4.0
Long term unemployment rate **	1.2	1.1	1.9
Youth unemployment rate ***	4.1	4.5	7.0
Youth long term unemployment rate ****	2.1	1.7	2.6
* Percentage of resident working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance			
** Percentage of resident working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance for 6 months or more			
*** Percentage of resident population aged 18 to 24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance			
**** Percentage of resident population aged 18 to 24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance for 6 months or more			
Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS			

Table 7: Unemployment Rates (October 2004 to June 2013)

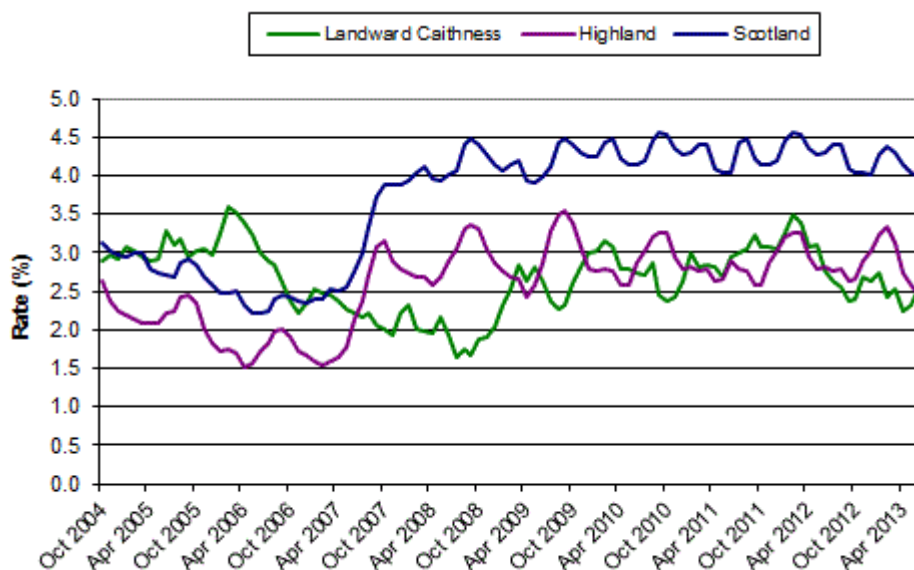


Table 8: Long-term Unemployment Rates (October 2004 to June 2013)

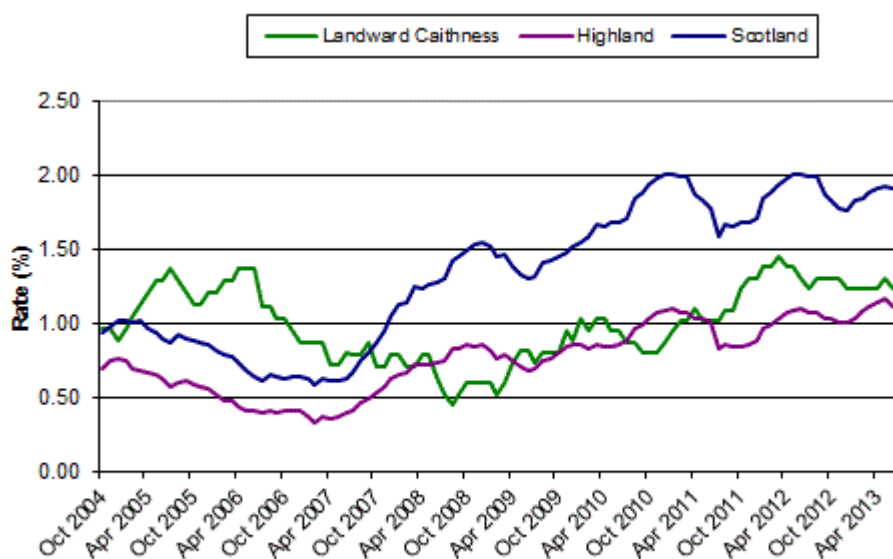


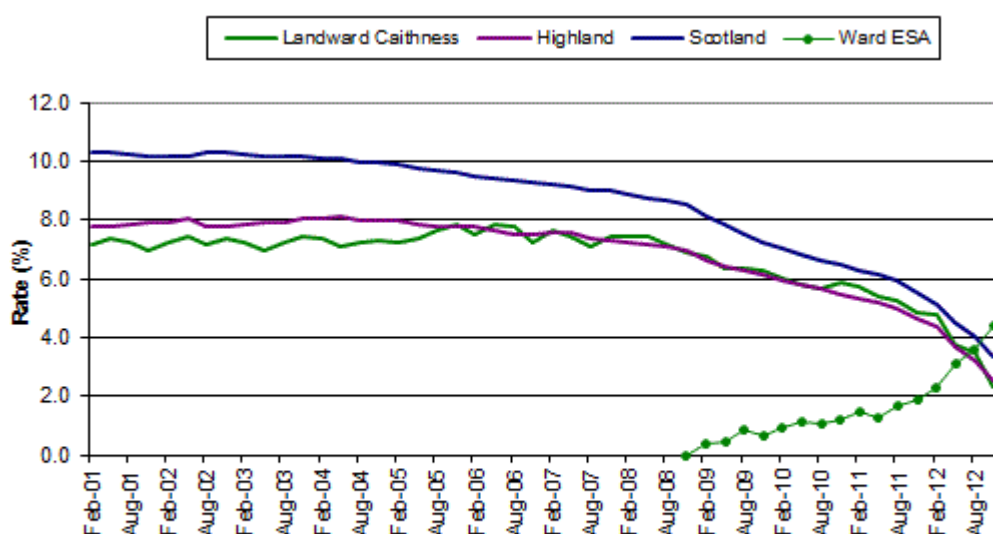
Table 9: Key Benefits Claimant Rates (November 2012)

	Ward	Highland	Scotland
Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disability Allowance claimant rate *	2.3	2.5	3.3
Employment and Support Allowance Claimant Rate *	4.4	4.1	4.7

* Percentage of resident working age population

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

Table 10: Key benefit Claimant Rates (February 2001 to November 2012)



6.4. Income & Employment Deprivation

In compiling the SIMD, household incomes are taken from CACI Paycheck, a commercial database based on lifestyle surveys and market research data, supplied by the Scottish Government’s Centre for Housing Market Analysis. No data-zones within the Landward Caithness Ward are identified as severely deprived, however see the note on deprivation in Section 3.4 above. The percentages of people classed as either income or employment deprived in the Ward are slightly lower than the Highland averages. Average household incomes are above the Highland average, suggesting that the “Dounreay effect” is stronger in the Ward than the tendency towards lower incomes in rural areas.

Table 11: Income & Employment Deprivation			
	Ward	Highland	Scotland
No. of income deprived people *	1,075	23,495	700,475
Percentage of income deprived people *	9.5	10.6	13.4
Number of employment deprived people *	680	13,610	423,245
Percentage of employment deprived people *	10.0	10.1	12.8
Percentage of households with no adults in employment and dependent children (Census 2011)	2.1	3.0	3.9
Average annual income **	£35,091	£33,039	£34,569
Percentage of households earning < £10k p.a.**	13.8	16.3	16.5
* Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2009 updated			
** Source: CACI Paycheck 2011			

6.5. Key Issues for the Fund Area

Feedback from the community consultations shows strong support for using the fund's potential to increase employment, business start-ups and employability; in the questionnaire survey '*Providing employment opportunities*' was the fourth most highly ranked outcome for the Fund, out of 22 potential outcomes. 84 out of 91 respondents saw providing employment opportunities as a high (59 people) or medium (25) priority, while in free text responses (where people gave their own thoughts on how to use the fund to improve the area), creating employment featured frequently.

Support for apprenticeships was ranked ninth highest priority in the survey, with 41 people rating it as a high priority and 21 as a medium priority. 68 of 84 respondents wanted business start-up supported as either a high (36) or medium (32) priority, making this twelfth most highly ranked.

Support for business start-up or expansion was mentioned a small number of times in the free text responses, however support for specific new types of business – primarily cafes, shops, a petrol station and quality food retail - featured fairly frequently in the graffiti wall, free text responses to the survey and the themes of entries to the school art competition. 23 entries in the latter depicted shops and businesses.

Issues affecting the local economy and employment include: the decline of the two main towns in Caithness (Thurso and Wick); the much higher cost of transport into the towns as the prices of fuel and of fares increase; the relative infrequency of public transport; the decline of village based retail and trades activity, and; the decline in government investment in employment in the county which will peak in a few years as the Dounreay Nuclear facility finishes decommissioning. A number of these issues were referred to in the survey responses, while the focus group highlighted an imbalance between skills and need in the labour market, an ageing community, and a lack of part time jobs for young people to start out in.

Within this context, local initiatives to support small business start-up and community enterprise and training to support people into employment become very important. The type of support that would bring about the most impact could perhaps be explored through further research although the focus group identified a range of possible solutions including: improved transport services; loans to businesses; training initiatives, and; an apprenticeship scheme. It also revealed a perceived gap in the promotion of the resources already available from a range of agencies supporting employability and self-employment. Initiatives to co-ordinate existing provision of information and support for businesses and make these more accessible could be taken forward without the need for investment from the E.ON Camster Community Fund.

7. Housing

As Table 12 shows, the most common type of housing tenure is owned, the vast majority of these being bungalows (detached or semi-detached). However there are also a significant number of rented council houses, with rates slightly higher than those for Highland or Scotland as a whole. The high number of people living rent-free may reflect a number of young people continuing to live with their parents.

Table 12: Accommodation Type and Tenure

	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	Tannach & District	Watten	Fund Area	Highland	Scotland
All Household Spaces	640	418	307	1,365	102,091	2,372,777
Occupied Household Spaces	90.1% (577)	94.6% (395)	96.0% (295)	92.8% (1,267)	91.6%	95.9%
Unoccupied: second residence / holiday home	6.6%	2.6%	1.9%	4.3%	5.7%	1.5%
Unoccupied: vacant	3.3%	2.8%	2.1%	2.9%	2.7%	2.6%
Households in unshared dwellings	100% (577)	100% (395)	100% (295)	100% (1,267)	100%	100%
House or bungalow: detached	56.7%	64.4%	53.8%	58.4%	42.3%	21.9%
House or bungalow: semi-detached	27.2%	30.9%	38.1%	30.7%	28.6%	22.8%
Terraced	12.3%	2.3%	5.2%	7.5%	15.6%	18.6%
Flat maisonette or apartment	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	13.2%	36.4%
Caravan, mobile home or other temporary structure	2.0%	0.5%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%
Owned	71.9%	81.3%	68.7%	68.8%	67.2%	62.0%
Rented from Council	17.0%	8.9%	19.3%	13.9%	13.2%	13.2%
Other social rented	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	5.7%	11.1%
Private rented	5.7%	4.2%	9.1%	5.6%	9.9%	11.1%
Living rent free	3.3%	4.2%	1.8%	3.0%	2.3%	1.3%
Rented - other	1.5%	1.2%	0.7%	1.2%	1.7%	1.3%
Source: Census 2011						

7.1. Key Issues for the Fund Area

Over the past 15 years the sale of properties as holiday or retirement homes and the sale of larger council houses, combined with lower wages, have impacted on the availability of suitable housing for young people leaving the family home or young couples and families seeking housing. But out-migration of these people to find employment or attend education elsewhere has perhaps led to little of the un-met demand being expressed.

However, housing has not come out of community consultations as an issue which respondents see as significant for the Fund. Of those survey respondents who considered this issue, 45.6% saw it as a low priority and in free text responses only two people saw housing as something needing improved. Four from 104 respondents thought there was a role for the Fund in supporting improvement in access to appropriate housing, in particular two referred to more sheltered housing for the elderly. This feedback may be related to the scale of the Fund rather than the significance of the issue. People may on the whole consider housing to be an issue for councils and housing associations to address, rather than a community fund. Nonetheless, as an example of what can be done by local communities, Nith Valley Leaf Trust in Dumfries & Galloway used community benefit funds to purchase a house to ensure affordable accommodation will be let to local people, retaining control over the allocations policy.

Notably, survey respondents identified the need to tackle fuel poverty and energy efficiency as the ninth (equal with apprenticeships) highest priority of the suggested Fund outcomes, although the topic received no mention in the free text responses.

8. Transport

Adequate transport is a key pre-requisite for a successful economy and quality of life in sparsely populated areas such as the Fund Area, enabling travel to work, shipment of goods and materials, and access to shops, services and leisure activities.

Caithness Transport Forum (CTF)¹³ aims to bring together local transport stakeholders and operators to promote a strong, inter-connected road, rail, sea and air transport network to, from and within the county of Caithness for the economic, social and environmental benefit of businesses and residents of Caithness. The Forum is funded by Highland Council and the NDA and has been facilitated by Caithness Chamber of Commerce since December 2012. In addition to facilitating quarterly meetings of the Transport Forum, the Chamber is also responsible for facilitating biannual meetings of the Caithness Bus Users Group. See Appendix 11 for a list of Transport Forum Members.

Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership's Transport Vision¹⁴ is that *"by 2020 Caithness will be linked to the rest of Scotland and the UK by fully effective road, rail and air routes. Freight traffic on the far North Railway line will be at consistently high levels, and improvements to journey times will allow passenger usage to increase. Wick Airport will provide important business and leisure connections whilst the main A9 trunk road to and from Inverness will provide a lifeline link for local communities."*

Good transport links with shorter travelling times for both people and freight have been identified as essential by the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership¹⁵, in particular a need to ensure that existing links are not only maintained but strengthened with shorter journey times for people and improved capacity for freight. Expectations around both lower time and cost of transport are constantly increasing, and investment is required in current infrastructure to meet these.

The following are seen by the Partnership as transport related opportunities for creating sustainable economic growth and local employment:

- Making safety and journey time improvements to the A9 Trunk Road
- Developing freight/road interchanges on the north railway line
- Delivering journey time improvements on the north railway line
- Delivering technical enhancements at Wick Airport to maintain and enhance national connectivity
- Delivering a high quality interconnected public transport network.

8.1. Access to motorised transport

Table 15 shows figures for the number of cars or vans per household in each of the three Community Council areas that make up the Fund Area, and compares these with figures for Highland and Scotland as a whole.

Table 13: Access to Cars or Vans					
	Latheron, Lybster and Clyth	Tanach & District	Watten	Highland	Scotland
Average no. per household	1.30	1.50	1.50	1.23	1.04
No car or van	19.0%	12.1%	14.9%	20.6%	30.5%
One car or van	44.3%	44.1%	38.0%	46.3%	42.2%
Two cars or vans	27.5%	31.6%	34.4%	25.6%	21.6%
Three or more cars or vans	9.2%	12.1%	12.7%	7.5%	5.6%
Source: Census 2011					

The Caithness Rural Transport Initiative (see below) was launched in 1999 following public concern about the number of households isolated without personal transport; while the highest numbers of such households were in the towns of Wick and Thurso, much of the Fund Area also suffered from this at that time. However, as the figures in Table 15 show, the situation is now much improved with all three Community Council areas faring better than the Highland average for access to cars or vans.

8.2. Travel to Work

Many residents travel throughout the county (including to Wick and Dounreay) as well as further afield to work. Table 14 shows the modes of travel to work used by those in the Fund Area. A higher proportion of workers drive to work or take a bus, minibus or coach in comparison to the Highland and Scotland average, while a far lower proportion walk or cycle to work. Distance to place of work may be a factor in this pattern, however it is also possible that lack of (safe) cycling and walking paths may be restricting travel choices.

Table 14: Travel to Work					
Travel Mode	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	Tannach & District	Watten	Highland	Scotland
Work or study mainly at or from home	19.6%	16.9%	17.8%	14.9%	11.3%
Train	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	3.5%
Bus minibus or coach	14.5%	13.8%	15.6%	9.5%	13.4%
Taxi or minicab	0.5%	0.9%	0.2%	0.4%	0.7%
Driving a car or van	41.3%	46.6%	47.8%	42.6%	40.9%
Passenger in a car or van	9.4%	12.2%	7.2%	9.6%	9.0%
Motorcycle scooter or moped	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Bicycle	0.4%	0.9%	0.6%	2.4%	1.3%
On foot	11.2%	6.5%	9.1%	17.7%	18.5%
Other	2.2%	1.7%	1.0%	1.4%	1.2%

8.3. Bus Services



Figure 6: Stagecoach Bus Service

Stagecoach UK Bus

Stagecoach services play an important role in helping people in the Fund Area access work, education, health, shopping and leisure. This includes the X99 Thurso/Wick to Inverness route along the A99 coastal road, which serves settlements in the Fund Area such as Latheron and Lybster. In July 2011 the company invested £1.5 million in 6 coaches for the X99 route. 40% of the

Caithness fleet now has fully accessible low floor buses, however this compares to 77% of the Highland fleet.

Caithness Rural Transport Initiative

Caithness Rural Transport Initiative operate a valuable service providing transport solutions for anyone living in a rural area who has no transport or reasonable access to any public transport regardless of age. They operate two vehicles, one in Wick and one in Thurso, 5 days a week (between 9am and 5pm) for almost any journey purpose including hospital appointments and shopping. All vehicles

have wheelchair access. Evening and weekend services are dependent on volunteer drivers. A further vehicle is operational in the South East Caithness area and is operated by volunteer drivers. Caithness Rural Transport works in partnership with the main user of this vehicle, Dunbeath Day Care Centre, to provide this service.



Figure 7: New Vehicle for South East Caithness

Caithness Bus Users Group

The Caithness Bus Users Group (CBUG)

is a sub-group of Caithness Transport Forum, which is now hosted by Caithness Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the Groups' meetings is to raise and discuss bus service issues for Caithness.

8.4. Rail Services

Demand for rail services in the Highlands has grown significantly in recent years according to a major report published by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)¹⁶. The study challenges perceptions that the Highland rail network is lightly used, dominated by tourist traffic and represents poor value for the public funding it receives. It details how rail contributes significantly to the Highlands and Islands' economy, supporting more than 1,500 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and underpins the viability of many businesses in the region. It also describes how the network helps to retain population in more remote areas and provides important onward links to island communities. The report also considers the importance of rail freight and the rail network's environmental benefits.

There are four stations in Caithness – Scotscalder, Georgemas, Thurso and Wick. In addition the station at Helmsdale in Sutherland is also used by many in the south of Caithness, for example residents of Lybster.

The Scotrail franchise is now in its ninth year and Public Performance Measure (a combination of punctuality and reliability) and Customer Satisfaction have achieved record highs. In that time, delays have been reduced by 50% and passenger numbers have increased by 20%. In addition, the rail investment programme has included train refurbishments leading to improved reliability and a better overall journey experience, and station enhancements from waiting rooms to upgraded lighting.

8.5. Air Services

Wick John O'Groats Airport is the closest airport to the Fund Area and underpins much economic activity. It offers four daily departures to either Aberdeen or Edinburgh, enabling both business travel and tourism.

The Scottish Government's Air Discount Scheme (ADS) provides a 40 per cent reduction on airfares between Scotland's remotest communities and its cities. ADS is applicable to people whose main residence is in Caithness (amongst other locations). It also covers students from these areas who are studying away from home.

8.6. Ferry Services

Several ferry services run from north of the Fund Area linking Caithness to Orkney, as follows.

Northlink Ferries: Scrabster Ferry Terminal is located 1½ miles from Thurso, 22½ miles from Wick and 112 miles from Inverness, and from here Northlink Ferries provide regular sailings to mainland Orkney. For those who prefer a shorter sailing time the John O'Groats route is preferable to the Scrabster – Stromness route.

Pentland Ferries: Offer the shortest crossing time of approximately one hour to Orkney for both cars and passengers, and the most sheltered route through the Pentland Firth between Gills Bay in Caithness and St Margaret's Hope on South Ronaldsay.

John O Groats Ferry: Passenger and cyclists only service between John O Groats and Burwick in Orkney. The ferry only runs during the summer months. There is a connecting coach to Kirkwall after every ferry arrival at Burwick which takes 40 mins and again for the return journey.

8.7. Key Issues for the Fund Area

While the Fund Area would seem to have strong – and improving – transport services, access to transport did feature as an issue in consultation feedback to an average extent, ranking fourteenth highest priority; 35 of 88 respondents saw it as a high priority issue with a further 40 considering it a medium priority. However, responses to open (free text) questions made only brief mention of the topic.

The issue of road safety was not presented as an option in the closed questions for consideration by survey respondents but featured second most frequently in answers to the open questions, with the bulk of responses about road safety issues related to speeding, safe pavements and pathways and

crossings. In the graffiti wall and focus group there were also calls for traffic calming measures and new or better foot / cycle paths so as to avoid busy roads altogether. The issue is likely to be a key factor in the low proportion of people choosing to walk or cycle to work, and has been a topic of regular discussion at community councils in the Fund Area. It also chimes with feedback to the Police who recently consulted (September 2013) on Ward policing priorities in Highland, with road safety agreed to be the key issue for Landward Caithness.

9. Health and Social Care

The Fund Area falls substantially into the South Caithness Intermediate Zone for presentation of health data in the North Highland Spine Pack 2010¹⁷. The key relevant data is given in Appendix 12.

Health indicators where the Fund Area performed significantly better than the Scottish average were:

- Active travel to work (21% compared to 14% nationally)
- Sporting participation
- Adults rating their neighbourhood as a good place to live (62% compared to 52% nationally)

Smoking is not a significant issue, but the area is significantly worse than the Scottish average for hospitalisations with alcohol conditions with a measure of 1431 against a Scotland figure of 1088^d.

Other indicators which stand out as significantly worse than in the rest of Scotland are:

- Hospitalisation with coronary heart disease (measuring 444.1 compared with 347)
- Hospitalisation with asthma (in worst 5% in Scotland, measuring 946.8 compared with 472.9)
- Emergency hospitalisations (7662.6 compared with 6378.9 for Scotland)
- Patients 65+ with multiple hospitalisations (measuring 6514 compared with 4607.6)
- Road traffic accident casualties (measuring 140.6 compared with 79.4 for Scotland)
- Patients 65+ hospitalised after fall at home (measure 1139.1 compared to Scotland 710.4)
- Patients prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis (12% of patients compared with 9.7% in Scotland)
- Households in extreme fuel poverty^e (at 11.0% against a Scottish average of 7.5%)
- Working age population who are employment deprived (13.4% compared with 11.6% for Scotland)
- Reference to children's reporter for violence related offences (12.3 per 1000 population compared to Scotland's 8.4 per 1000 population)
- People living in 15% most deprived areas in terms of access to services (51.4% compared to Scotland 14.2%)
- Child dental health primary 1 (South Caithness Intermediate Zone is in the worst 5% areas in Scotland for children without decay visible on inspection at entry to primary school)
- Child obesity primary 1 (9.5% obese compared to Scottish average 8%)

The general picture is of an area with access issues, poverty and health education deficits with very high levels of accidental injuries - at home and from road traffic.

^d These figures are age/sex standardised rates per 100,000 population based on the three previous years combined numbers.

^e Typically this means more than 20% of household income is spent on fuel bills.

There is also a higher proportion of people in the Fund Area providing unpaid care to someone in comparison to Highland or Scotland as a whole, notably those providing 50 hours or more of care per week, as shown in Table 15.

Table 15: Provision of Unpaid Care					
	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	Tannach & District	Watten	Highland	Scotland
Not providing care	86.6%	86.6%	87.5%	91.0%	90.7%
Providing 1 to 19 hours of care a week	7.3%	6.9%	7.9%	5.3%	5.2%
Providing 20 to 34 hours of care a week	0.6%	1.6%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%
Providing 35 to 49 hours of care a week	0.8%	1.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%
Providing 50 or more hours of care a week	4.7%	3.3%	2.9%	2.3%	2.5%

With regard to health and social care services, there is a GP practice in Lybster and two in Wick.



Figure 8: Lybster Day Care Centre

There is a rural general hospital in Wick, the Caithness General Hospital, but increasingly patients must travel to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness for clinics and consultations as well as treatment and this places an enormous strain on patients.

There is an active day care centre for older people in Lybster.

Currently there is a major review underway into all adult health and social care service provision in Caithness.

9.1. Key Priorities for the Fund Area

While the statistics show that the Fund Area clearly has some significant health and social care issues, these received a mixed response in community feedback; While 69 of 91 respondents saw health promotion as being either a medium (43) or high (26) priority, this gave a ranking of eighteenth of the 22 potential Fund outcomes. Care services fared slightly better, ranked thirteenth highest priority

in the survey, with 35 people ranking it highly and 37 as a medium priority. Access to sheltered housing was mentioned in two free text responses to the survey.

Of the survey respondents, 83 saw services for older people and people with a disability as being of medium (42 people) or high (41 people) priority, ranking it eleventh in terms of those prioritising it highly as an outcome for the Fund. In free text responses, an average number saw activities for older people as something requiring investment, but no one mentioned health promotion. Perhaps unsurprisingly, in the primary school art competition only three children saw better facilities for older people as their top issue.

The picture seems to be one of some significant health issues, including for young people, but no significant acknowledgement of this within the local population or consequent desire to prioritise preventative or remedial action. As with the topic of housing, it may be that respondents to the consultation felt health and social care should not be an high priority for investment from a community benefit fund, perhaps because the scale and costs of provision are seen as more appropriate to large statutory agencies. However, while this is generally true of treatment, health promotion and preventative measures can be low cost and very effective. Currently only 4% of NHS Scotland's budget is allocated to this kind of work.

Several of the higher priorities that did emerge from the consultation are likely to go some way to addressing a number of local health issues, including improved sports and recreational facilities, improved facilities and activities for young people, increased and safer access to the local environment, road safety improvements, and more activities and services for the elderly (as reducing isolation can for example result in less accidents at home and reduced admissions due to alcohol).

10. Education, Training and Skills

School rolls^f in the Fund Area have been falling over the last decade. This is most probably due to net out-migration of people in the 18 – 40 age range, seeking or entering employment or full time training or education.

The current position is that there are 37 children attending Thrumster Primary with 24 in the age range 1-4 in the catchment area, 74 children at Lybster Primary with 46 in the 1-4 age range, and 56 children at Watten Primary with 24 in the 1-4 age range in the area. This suggests Watten Primary may be entering a phase of school roll reduction. Indeed, Highland Council early years services expect numbers of children of primary school age by 2020 to stay static in the case of Lybster Primary, fall by 29% in Watten Primary and increase by 50% in Thrumster Primary (Appendix 13).

Across the school year 2012/3, there were 11 children at Thrumster Nursery, 27 at Lybster Nursery and 17 at Watten.

Table 14: Educational Attainment for Landward Caithness Ward					
Percentage of those aged over 16 whose highest qualification is:	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	Tannach & District	Watten	Highland	Scotland
No qualification	32.0%	28.4%	32.7%	25.5%	26.8%
Level 1	24.3%	24.9%	24.7%	24.5%	23.1%
Level 2	12.2%	16.3%	11.2%	14.4%	14.3%
Level 3	8.7%	11.4%	10.8%	9.2%	9.7%
Level 4	22.8%	19.0%	20.5%	26.4%	26.1%
<p>Level 1: 0 Grade, Standard Grade, Access 3 Cluster, Intermediate 1 or 2, GCSE, CSE, Senior Certification or equivalent; GSVQ Foundation or Intermediate, SVQ level 1 or 2, SCOTVEC Module, City and Guilds Craft or equivalent; Other school qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications).</p> <p>Level 2: SCE Higher Grade, Higher, Advanced Higher, CSYS, A Level, AS Level, Advanced Senior Certificate or equivalent; GSVQ Advanced, SVQ level 3, ONC, OND, SCOTVEC National Diploma, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or equivalent.</p> <p>Level 3: HNC, HND, SVQ level 4 or equivalent; Other post-school but pre-Higher Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications).</p> <p>Level 4 and above: Degree, Postgraduate qualifications, Masters, PhD, SVQ level 5 or equivalent; Professional qualifications (for example, teaching, nursing, accountancy); Other Higher Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications).</p> <p>Source: Census 2011.</p>					

^f NB: school catchment areas do not coincide precisely with the 3 Community Council boundaries.

These figures suggest the existence of North Highland College may have helped support HNC/HND attainment in the Fund Area, particularly in Tannach & District and Watten. North Highland College has a particularly high percentage of part-time students and there is a low percentage of full-time students in Caithness. The recent (May 2012) Her Majesty's School Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) report from Education Scotland states:

"The college works well with a range of partners to identify and respond to the needs of individuals and communities across a large geographical area. Productive partnerships with employers, schools and community organisations inform a range of programmes that provide progression to further learning or employment, including for learners with additional support needs. The college provides learners in remote areas from across the north Highlands with flexible access to programmes, including through its significant delivery of part-time provision."¹⁸

However there remains a higher proportion of 16-74 year olds without any qualifications in the Fund Area in comparison to both Highland Region and Scotland.

10.1. Key Issues for the Fund Area

The responses to community consultation described school education as important but requiring no change or improvement, however there was strong support for learning and training as priorities for investment from the Fund with 80 of 104 respondents seeing it as high (45 people) or medium (35 people) priority. This topic ranked seventh of the possible 22 Fund outcomes suggested in the survey.

This links to the clear support in free text responses for work supporting employability, apprenticeships or business start-up, and suggests people want to see practical training that leads to employment outcomes. This kind of training may be seen as more accessible (and potentially worthwhile) by those who currently hold no formal qualifications.

11. Children and Young People

A picture has already been drawn of an area with falling numbers of school age children; these children will typically not be quite as healthy as the average child in Scotland and will be more likely to suffer from fuel poverty. Achievement at school will fall below Scottish norms and many facilities are accessed with difficulty from settlements in the Fund Area due to limited public transport services and low levels of car ownership for a rural area. Key early years statistics for the Fund Area are given in Appendix 13.

Out-migration of young people was a feature of the 1990s and is likely to continue to a degree as employment at Dounreay declines toward its scheduled closure over the next decade.

Mothers-to-be close to term are regularly sent to Raigmore Hospital rather than to Caithness General Hospital in Wick as modern regulations and low through-put affect the maternity unit's status.

Most youth clubs and uniformed youth groups have ceased in the Fund Area, aside from the guides, brownies and rainbows in Lybster and guides and brownies in Watten. Highlife Highland organise one-off events to encourage young people to discover things to do with their time and employ an active youth development officer supporting the area. Highlife Highland also organise activities for primary school age children through their active schools co-ordinator, particularly in the holidays. There are eco clubs attached to each of the three primary schools, Watten, Thrumster and Lybster; these encourage the children to develop their own healthy eating activity as well as carbon-reduction activities and participation is supported through the Green Flag scheme, a national badged award scheme for the schools.

Again through Highlife Highland, young people in the Fund Area have the option of joining the East Caithness Youth Forum, which has representatives on the Highland Youth Parliament (Highland Youth Voice) in Inverness and through which they can have a say in decisions about services.

There are several children's play areas within the Fund Area with almost all requiring improvements or maintenance.



Figure 9: Thrumster Playing Field

Local groups in each of the three areas have taken on the task of fundraising to implement some of the improvements. Groups for Watten, Thrumster and South Lybster playing fields have already

raised some funding towards their improvements. It is hoped that this will encourage young families to stay or come and live in these areas.

The picture presented here is of local people working to offset the impact of progressive falling numbers of children and loss of services. However, this picture is not even within the area; as outlined in the previous section Tannach & District are forecast to see a significant increase in the number of primary school aged children. These projections probably reflect new house building in the Tannach area and, to a degree, the role of Milton, Haster and Thrumster as “dormitory” areas for Wick.

11.1. Key Issues for the Fund Area

Two thirds of responses to the community consultation were made by people in the 26 to 65 age range and, given the clear priority on activities and facilities for children and young people, it seems likely that parental status encouraged their response. Just 19% of respondents were aged under 26 years.

Of the 100 respondents considering this issue, 91 saw activities and services for children and young people as a high (69) or medium (22) priority; it therefore ranked second as a Fund outcome in terms of those ranking it as high priority. Meanwhile, 88 of 96 people saw improving recreational and sports facilities and play areas as high (67) and medium (21) priority, with this ranking highest of all the suggested outcomes.

These findings were backed by free text responses where facilities and activities for young people (such as play parks, youth clubs and after school activities, and uniformed groups such as scouts and guides) featured particularly strongly. Support was also given to the idea of more shops and cafes locally. This was matched by the school children’s responses to the art competition which saw 97 out of 141 depict recreational facilities as their priority. Facilities and activities for young people also featured in many of the graffiti wall responses. With regard to the school art competition, 23 entries prioritised more shops, cafes and other business.

Significant efforts have been made by residents in the three main villages in the Fund Area - Lybster, Watten and Thrumster - to improve play areas but clearly much more needs to be done. It must also be considered that the level of support required for activities for the young is as significant as the investment required for the facilities that enable them.

12. Natural and Cultural Heritage

12.1. Natural Heritage

The Scottish Natural Heritage protected areas list (see Table 20) shows large parts of the hinterland of the Fund Area are protected by one or another or multiple types of designation. Much of that area is peaty moorland. The whole coastline, principally cliff, is protected by several designations, including as Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and has recently (closing November 2013) undergone consultation toward designation as a Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area.



Figure 10: Lybster Harbour



Figure 11: Loch Watanan

The Caithness Lochs including Loch Watten are Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar⁹ sites as are the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands¹⁹, which include substantial parts of the upland sections of the Fund Area.

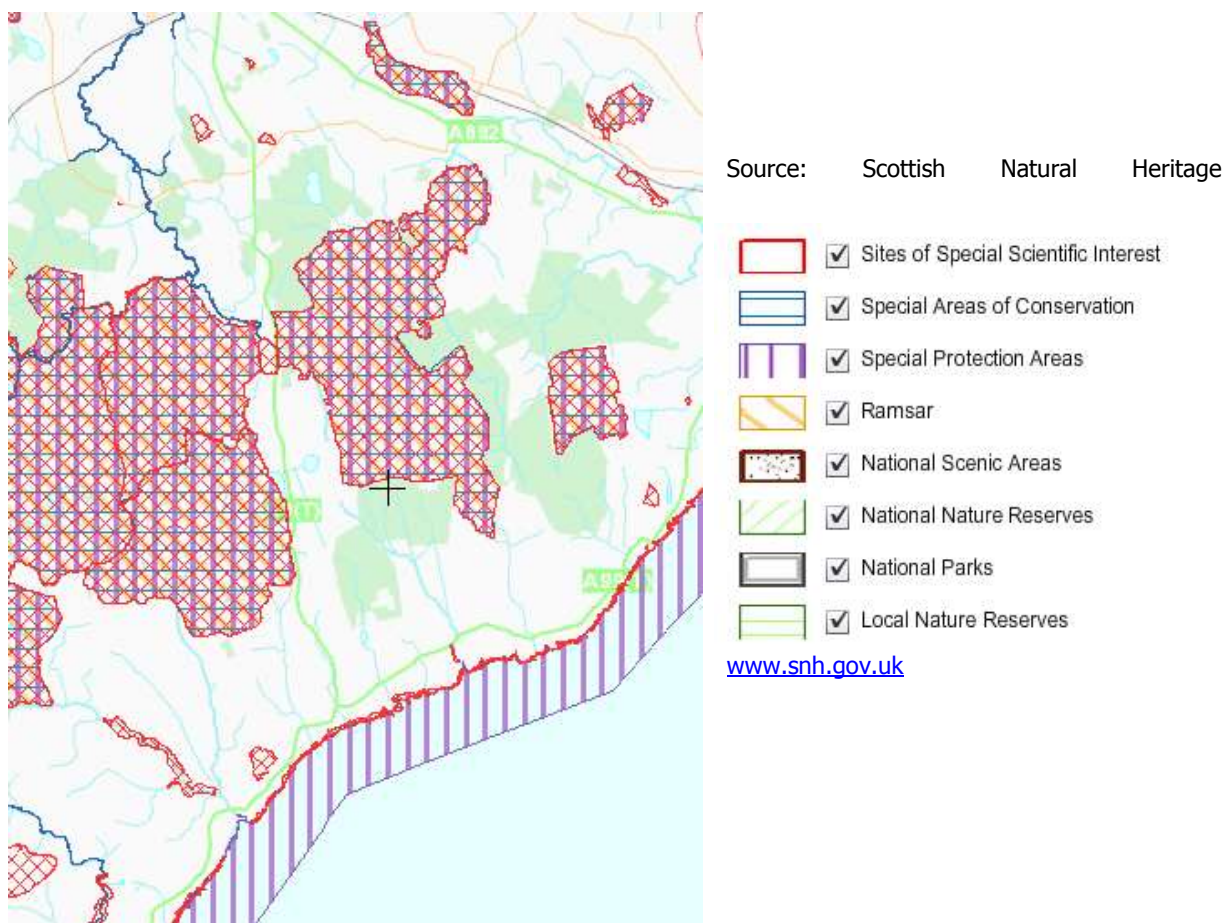
There are a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; these include Loch Watten, Oliclett, two stretches of the Wick River, the Shielton Peatland, Hill of Warehouse and a stretch of coast line down from the Castle of Old Wick to Craig Hammel.



Figure 12: Interpretation Panel Loch Watanan

⁹ Ramsar is the name of a town in Iran where the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance was adopted in 1971. The UK Government signed up to the Convention in 1976. The mission of the Convention is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

Figure 13: Natural Heritage Designations



Loch Watten is the largest area of freshwater in the county and is well known for trout fishing. At times ospreys have nested beside the loch.

Munsary Peatlands, at Munsary north of Latheron and near Lybster, is Plantlife’s largest nature reserve, extending over 3,058 acres. It lies between the Camster estate to the east and Latheronwheel estate to the west. The tributaries of the Strath Burn become Wick River. The cool, wet climate of the area has led to the accumulation of peat through growth and impeded decay of sphagnum mosses. The peat is thought to be up to 6 metres thick in some places and supports blanket bog vegetation dominated by carpets of



Figure 14: Loch Watten

sphagnum mosses, cotton-grasses and heather. A wide variety of wild flowers and notable bird species, such as golden plover, curlew and greenshank, are also present.

The reserve is of international importance for its blanket bog habitat, and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Protection Area, a Special Area of Conservation, and part of a Ramsar site. It is also part of a proposed World Heritage Site. Management of the reserve is overseen by a committee, chaired by Plantlife International and including representatives from Scottish Natural Heritage, the RSPB and the local community.

Nowadays the tree coverage of Caithness is only around 5%, which is noticeably smaller than that of Scottish average (20%) or even British average (10%). Previously, around 5 000 BC, Caithness would have been well covered with Scots pine forest. Today Caithness contains mainly commercial forestry, supporting local jobs and the community.

Despite this, there are four main forests in the Fund Area; Rumster/Golticlay, Camster/Toftgunn, Achairn in Tannach, and Halsary in Watten. One of the largest is the Forestry Commission's Rumster and Golticlay forest. Originally crofting ground, which was planted as a commercial timber crop in the 1940's, Rumster forest is gradually changing. Spruce and pine were the original plantings; those that remain now are amongst the tallest in Caithness. Much of the forest has been replanted with larch, birch and rowan to make the forest more varied and appealing to wildlife; buzzards, roe deer, pine martens, merlins, crossbills and goldcrest can be spotted. The forest has also been opened up exposing many of the archaeological remains with over 29 long houses, many of which were occupied until the forest was first planted, and 2000 year old brochs. There are also fine views over the North Sea. The most common native tree species in Caithness are birch, oak, rowan and willow. The most common non-commercial tree species, especially in urban areas, is sycamore. The two most important commercial species are sitka spruce and lodgepole pine. Sitka spruce is an important, fast growing exotic timber from North-West America which does well in the wet climate and on the poor soils of Caithness.

Forestry Commission and Fountain Forestry are the main commercial growers in the area. The Forestry Commission manages timber production, forest recreation and biological and cultural conservation on the National Forest Estate, which is owned by the nation and open to the public. The character and landscape of these forests is continually changing as parts of the forests are felled and replanted. They offer a wide range of different kinds of walking, bike and horse riding routes where one can have an opportunity to spot wildlife, exercise or just enjoy the atmosphere of the forest.

Caithness Biodiversity Group, convened by SNH and strengthened by a number of past and present Dounreay scientists, has made available small grants to encourage communities to consider biodiversity when developing a project.

12.2. Cultural Heritage

There are a number of small harbours established 200 years ago for the herring industry, such as Sarclet, Whaligoe, Lybster, Latheron, and Latheronwheel of which Lybster is the most active as a harbour today. The others are of interest to locals and tourists as picnic spots and so on. The Whaligoe steps, where flagstone steps curve down the cliff-face, have national prominence and remind everyone how labour intensive fishing used to be, with the catch requiring to be brought up approximately 350 steps in baskets on wives' backs. Sarclet was once a very important herring fishery harbour.



Figure 15: Sarclet Harbour

The Fund Area is very rich in archaeological terms; there are over 1000 entries in the Canmore²⁰ database, the online access to Scotland's archaeological and historical heritage. There are active bodies such as Yarrows Heritage Trust and Caithness Archaeological Trust working to investigate, explain and promote this heritage to the public.



Figure 16: Thrumster Railway Station

The Yarrows area in Tannach is regarded as nationally significant as a landscape that has been inhabited from the Mesolithic onward, with a range of monuments (broch, cairn, hill fort and standing stones) linked by a trail.

The Landward Caithness Ward has over 200 of the known 700+ brochs in Scotland and in 2011 Yarrows Heritage Trust excavated part of the Thrumster broch; the Trust has also acted to preserve the old Railway Station in Thrumster.

The Fund Area also contains some of the unique Caithness Stone Rows, slightly fan-shaped arrangements of small standing stones; perhaps the most accessible is at Hill o' Many Stanes at Clyth. Also in the area are examples of Wags, another type of prehistoric structure unique to Caithness, and a prominent example is the Wag o' Forse, at Nottingham Mains.



Figure 17: Hill O Many Stanes

The Grey Cairns of Camster, constructed over 5000 years ago, are also renowned. After several archaeological digs the cairns have been shaped to what experts consider to have been the original design and the central chambers of both the long and the round cairn are accessible via passageways. There are walkways easing access over the bog to the cairns from the roadside and

interpretative panels.

Blar-Tannie (Tannach Moor) was the site of a mid 15th century battle between the feuding Keith and Gunn clans.

At Lybster Harbour is a heritage centre, Waterlines Visitor Centre, which is run by Lybster Heritage Trust, and there are plans to develop the old railway station in Thrumster as a small heritage centre in the future.

Northlands Glass in Lybster has developed and sustained a centre for artistic glasswork; currently this has created four jobs, and the centre continues to work to improve sustainability.

Nearby the village of Haster lies the famous General Horne's Stirkoke House, now in ruins. There is also a working smiddy and the history of the Stirkoke Wool Mill.

Hempriggs Loch is the site of Thomas Telford's Distillery Burn from the loch to Old Pulteney Distillery. This was a significant surveying and engineering feat as the levels were so critical and the fall so small that the water would appear as if it is flowing uphill from the Loch to the Barns of Hempriggs and Rockhill. There was once a complete path alongside the burn from Wick to the Loch but it has fallen into disrepair, with stiles removed and the path fenced over etc. A local group of interested people are attempting to reinstate the path and have undertaken some clearance work.

In the Tannach area, a new community woodland is being developed at the back of Newton Hill on croft land, after the original Newton Hill woodland was cordoned off when it was found the ground, formerly a dump, was badly polluted. The new amenity has benefited from substantial investment by Forestry



Figure 18: New Planting Newton Hill Community Woodland

Commission Scotland and E.ON. There is a large open area which will be available for community recreational use and has not been planted with trees, paths, a pond area, sculptures, willow bowers and a cottage which is being upgraded to provide a toilet, kitchen and open space areas.

Camp 165, originally an army barracks but converted to a POW camp in the spring of 1945, is located at Watten. The camp hosted low risk and hard line nazi prisoners. A new information board has been erected in the village with information on Camp 165 and two books have been published on the history of the site in recent years.

Tannach and Ulbster were also significant and very secret sites during World War Two. Although unknown to the general public at the time, they were part of a network of very early radar stations giving pre warning of incoming enemy activity. Some of the buildings are still clearly visible.

12.3. Key Issues for the Fund Area

Natural heritage and cultural heritage are key assets for this rural area. Enhancement of and access to the natural environment received strong support in the community consultation with 80 out of 90 respondents considering the topic seeing it as a high (44) or medium (36) priority (ranked eight highest of the 22 suggested Fund outcomes); conservation and promotion of (cultural) heritage received less support with 74 out of 90 seeing this as a high or medium priority (ranked seventeenth highest). In free text responses an average number of respondents mentioned it as important with 12 people seeing it as their priority compared to 33 highlighting sports and recreational facilities and 24 employment and business.

Over half (49) of 94 respondents considered improving the appearances of their village a high priority, resulting in a rank of sixth highest priority. Suggestions in free text responses included tree planting, hanging baskets, and recycling bins.

It is clear that there is support for using the Fund to conserve, enhance or promote the area's natural and cultural heritage. While this may not have been considered as high a priority as for example recreational facilities and enterprise, several free text responses to the survey and graffiti wall, such as outdoor classrooms and wildlife / environmental education, for visitor and children / young people, would clearly be projects that deliver across all three outcomes.

The tourism industry must also be considered here; 76 out of 93 people wanted a medium or high priority to be given to promoting tourism (ranking tenth overall in terms of those seeing this as a high priority), and in the Fund Area that must involve exploiting heritage and landscape. In the free text responses to the survey and the graffiti wall, promotion and interpretation of the natural and cultural environment were strongly linked with the desire to increase tourism to the area. However, with the goal of sustainable development in mind, the priority of growing business and employment through tourism must be considered in a way that balances this with the need to conserve and enhance the valuable heritage resource that it so often relies upon, and that the local community so clearly values.

13. Sports, Recreation and Leisure Facilities and Activities

As with many small rural communities, much social and recreational activity is locally generated through volunteer effort and focused around local opportunities, interests and facilities – indoor and outdoor. This is reflected in the range of groups, activities and events in the Fund Area outlined below and in Section 14. A significant amount of amateur sports and games activity centres either on local pubs, local halls, or on playing fields. Rifle shooting is a traditional activity which is still carried on competitively.

Across the Area there are eight community halls that vary greatly in terms of their facilities, cost effectiveness and condition. Many of the groups managing these facilities, and the local populations using them, have a vision to develop their facility to serve community needs.

There are significant opportunities for recreational pursuits (informal and formal / club-based) in the outdoor environment such as walking, cycling and running, for example on the Wick River path, at Newton Hill, or Blingery-Camster-Bilbster forest tracks and wind farm roads. Good fishing can be found for example on the Wick River, Hempriggs & Yarrows Lochs, or on magnificent rock shorelines. Bird watching is also popular in the area's woodland, moorland and shoreline.

13.1. Lybster Facilities

The Village Hall/Community Centre is in community ownership through a local trust and is run by the Community Association Committee who also organise and run the Lybster Gala. It is used by the community in general and in particular the Playgroup, Indoor Bowling Club, Archery and Youth Club. Local groups are keen to improve the facilities where feasible for their activities. The hall has a policy of keeping letting charges as low as possible for local groups. To achieve this, the Management Committee organises annual fund-raising events, which make it possible to subsidise charges to local groups. These events have a strong social aspect, having become important dates in the community calendar. However rising heating costs are an issue.

The Outdoor Bowling Club Hall is owned by the British Legion which has leased this on a 25 year basis to the Bowling Club. The hall's main purpose is to support competitions on the bowling green. Fund raising activities include a range of events common to many such clubs such as whist drives, coffee mornings, and hire of the hall for birthday parties, dances, rabbit shows and quizzes.

The Village Playing Fields are in the ownership of Highland Council. Amenities include a small children's playing field, football pitch and changing rooms, a large parking area adjacent to the football pitch and a small open space area not currently in use.

Lybster Primary School gym is available for hire and is mainly used by the Junior Badminton Club and the Football Club for pre-season training. Unfortunately the school swimming pool was closed due to escalating costs and cuts implemented by Highland Council.

The South Lybster Playing Field currently has very little equipment, however a group has been set up, plans have been developed and fund raising is on-going to upgrade the playing area. The Junior Football Club is a popular local organisation with volunteer coaches supporting five teams of all ages. It serves the wider population across the whole community council area.

Lybster Golf Course is owned by the estate and is leased to Lybster Golf Club on a 25-year basis. The 9-hole course, one of the shortest and trickiest in Scotland is run by volunteers, and several improvements have been completed over the past 30 years with further improvements planned. In 2004 the club was invited to enter a team in the prestigious Wilson Cup played between Thurso, Reay, Wick, Stromness, Kirkwall, Lerwick and Whalsey.



An open space area in South Lybster has been used for children's sport and 5 a-side football and has the potential for future development for community use.

The three churches in Lybster and Latheron play a very active role in the community, for example hosting and running the Sunday School for children.

Figure 19: Entry in School Art Competition

Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community development Company (LLCCDC) is based at Seaview House, Harbour Road, and provides 13 community allotments and 15 poly-tunnel boxes as part of their carbon dioxide emission reduction programme, *Grow Your Own and Healthy Eating*. Various classes are also provided including computer, internet, photography, genealogy, first aid, gardening, arts and crafts.

Paths to the Brethren Well and part way to the Old Lookout Station were upgraded in 2012. The much used path to Shelligoe Beach is in urgent need of repair/upgrade.

13.2. Latheron and Latheronwheel Facilities

Latheron Hall is community owned and run by volunteers. Regular uses include art shows, craft shows, car boot sales, WRI, family events, meetings of local groups and the badminton club who play in the county league.

Latheronwheel has a small but good quality children's play area, a small but scenic harbour and a burn walk.

13.3. Clyth Facilities

Clyth Hall is also owned by the local community and run by volunteers. Regular uses include indoor bowls, badminton, art and craft classes, WRI, family events and meetings of local groups. Some 200 metres from the hall is the Hill O' Many Stanes, a popular archaeological site.

A parcel of ground in Rumster Forest has been bought by a community group with a view to developing an outdoor centre. The site originally housed a centre which was burnt down a number of years ago. The project is supported keenly by uniformed groups in the county, but progress has been slow.

13.4. Thrumster Facilities

Thrumster Village Hall is in community ownership and is run by Thrumster Hall Committee on a voluntary basis. It is used by the community in general and in particular the Playgroup and WRI. Local groups are keen to improve the facilities where feasible for their activities.

The local Playing Fields include a tennis court and play area for children. Thrumster Park Regeneration Fund has been set up as a sub-group of Tannach and District Community Council and seeks to regenerate the play park to provide more opportunity for local people to be active. The group is currently developing and fund raising for a programme of improvements. In terms of access to the wider countryside, a Core Path follows the coast from Wick to Thrumster.

13.5. Tannach Facilities

Bilbster Hall is managed by volunteers on Bilbster and Thuster Hall Committee and used for a range of local events.



Figure 20: Bilbster Hall

Stirkoke Rifle Club was established in 1925 and operates from the former school building at Tannach. They are Trustees and the building is available for any suitable community use, e.g. as a meeting room for local groups.

13.6. Watten Facilities

Watten Village Hall is in community ownership and is run by the Hall Committee. It is used by the community in general and in particular the Playgroup, Indoor Bowling Club and Womens Rural Institute. Local groups are keen to improve the facilities where feasible for their activities.

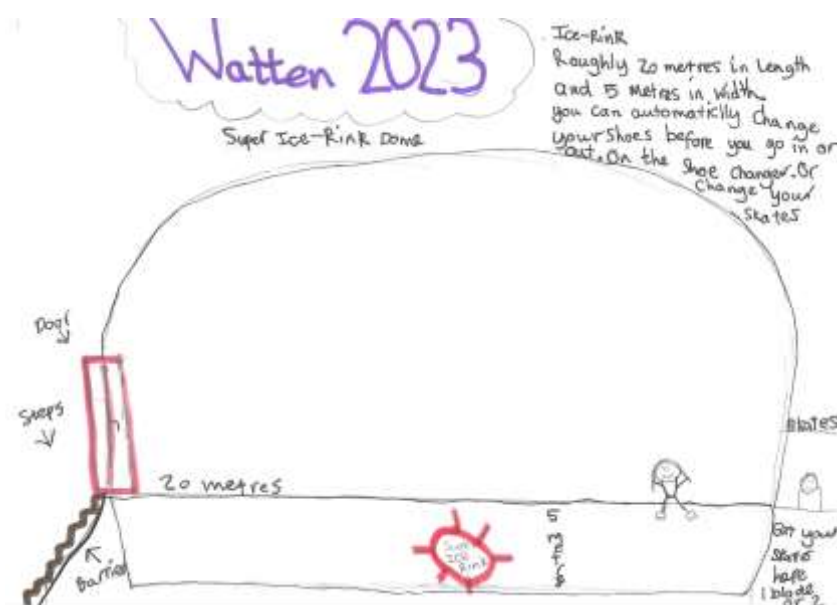


Figure 21: Winning Entry in School Art Competition

There are two children's play areas, one adjacent to the playing fields and the other is located near Watten Loch. Watten Improvement Group exists to organise and provide recreational facilities locally, and is currently focussed on improvements to the main playing area adjacent to the playing fields.

Watten Playing fields support football and rugby. The local football team re-entered the county league in 2011. There is also a thriving Small-Bore Rifle Club in Watten who are active in the Caithness League.

There were a high number of suggestions for various new or improved facilities, both for sport and play, in Watten in both the graffiti wall and the free text responses to the questionnaire survey (see Appendix 2 and 6).

13.7. Key Issues for the Fund Area

There are a range of opportunities in the Fund Area for sport and recreation but many of the facilities are in need of either upgrading or replacement.

In the community consultation, by far the largest number of respondents supported improvement in local sports and recreational facilities as their priority, whether in set questions or free text responses to the survey, the graffiti wall or in the schoolchildren's chosen topics in the art competition. This topic was ranked highest in the questionnaire survey. Linked to this, building and maintaining community spirit, through activities and events, ranked third highest of the suggested outcomes for the fund.

Being a rural area some distance from town-based sports and recreational facilities and opportunities, the community is clear that they want the Fund to prioritise investment in the provision or improvement of these locally. A huge number of specific suggestions were made in relation to each of the three areas, as can be seen in Appendices 2-6. These covered village halls / community centres, a range of sports facilities and other indoor and outdoor amenities like play-parks or skate-parks.

In terms of community buildings, the focus group highlighted difficulties in meeting running costs and the need to reduce these through for example energy efficiency measures. Linked to this, community renewable energy schemes were ranked as sixteenth highest priority (although clearly these could be stand alone income generating projects rather than providing embedded generation for a community facility). The idea of a member of staff to assist in coordinating the running and use of the halls in the area was also discussed.

Better use of existing buildings was highlighted in a number of free text responses to the survey, and the need for more varied and innovative events (linked to fundraising) was highlighted by the focus group and in several free text responses to the survey. Re-opening of some derelict buildings such as the Portland Arms Hotel in Lybster and Auction Hall in Watten were also suggested. However, community ownership / lease of land or buildings was ranked only nineteenth of the 22 possible fund outcomes.

14. The Third Sector

The community and voluntary sector in the Fund Area has featured to a significant degree in the previous sections. This section offers a summary. There are around 50 voluntary and community sector organisations in the area, falling mostly in the categories of children’s groups (e.g. playgroups and uniformed groups such as Brownies), the community councils, WRIs, village halls, and sports clubs. Several communities have residents associations or improvement groups working to develop facilities in their areas, including Watten, Thrumster, Milton and Lybster. There are also several un-constituted arts based groups.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) website shows 19 registered charities (listed in Appendix 14) based in the Fund Area. However, the majority of charities in Caithness are based in the two market towns of Thurso and Wick and many of these are active in the Fund Area or draw membership from the area.

In total there are over 600 organised groups in Caithness. The Fund Area itself hosts a range of local sports and leisure clubs, for example Stirkoke and Watten Small-bore Rifle Clubs, Shelligoe Archery (Shelligoe is by Lybster), Latheron Badminton Club, and Lybster Junior Badminton Club.

The survival of clubs in the towns of Wick and Thurso is also vital to the lives of those within the Fund Area, with children travelling every week to take part in swimming, football, drama, music, ballet, highland dancing, karate, squash, badminton etc. In addition, some Wick-based sports clubs run activities in the Fund Area, such as Wick Model Yacht Club who race at Loch Sarclet by Thrumster.

There are brownies and guides troops in Watten and Lybster but there are no longer any scouts, cubs, beavers or boys brigade in the Fund Area. These types of groups have proved difficult to man with volunteers. Access to these activities for residents of the Fund Area is therefore provided in Wick, where young people also travel to attend other groups such as Wick Pipe Band.



Figure 22: LLCCDC Resource Centre and Poly-Tunnel

Support for community activity is available through Caithness Voluntary Group, a partner in the Highland Third Sector Interface. In addition, two town based community associations - Ormlie Community Association in Thurso and Pulteney People’s Project in Wick - run training relevant to the wider third sector as does Latheron, Lybster and Clyth

Community Development Company in the east of the Fund Area.

There are several voluntary groups focussed on improving public amenities, in practical civic spaces such as playparks, such as Watten Improvement Group, Lybster Residents Association, Thrumster Park Regeneration Group and Milton Community Association.

Social Enterprises can access support from Caithness Voluntary Group, the Social Enterprise Academy or HISEZ; recently Rumster Energy Ltd was established as a trading subsidiary of Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company with a view to developing community owned generation of electricity.

The Highland Council is developing a policy around surrounding transfer of land ownership to communities, as part of a wider strategic direction focused on community empowerment. The Council also funds some third sector activity through its Ward Discretionary Budget and signposts groups to other funding opportunities.

14.1. Key Issues for the Fund Area

This and previous sections demonstrate that most organised activity to address the various priorities identified for the area is likely to involve, and in most cases be proposed by, community and voluntary groups. Indeed, support for projects delivered by community groups in general was fifth most highly ranked in terms of those seeing it as high priority.

In the community consultation 69 out of 87 respondents considered increasing the skills of groups as a high (33) or medium (36) priority. It therefore ranked 15th in terms of high priorities, but this may be due to people rightly focussing on the outcomes rather than the delivery methods.

There were some free text answers identifying capacity building support for local groups as a priority and the need to increase community engagement, including increasing volunteering levels generally and the involvement of young people on local committees specifically.

Organised community activity is a pre-cursor to, and perhaps the embodiment of, an empowered community. Where appropriate groups do not exist, the presence of the Fund may encourage new groups to form. Whichever group is proposing activity and seeking funds for this, investments must be based on evidence that the group has the capacity to deliver projects or has realistic plans to bring in or build such capacity. To this end, investing in capacity building for the local third sector would seem to be a wise use of funds and therefore encouraged as part of any specific project proposal.

15. Conclusion & List of Priorities

This Profile has provided an outline of the social, economic and environmental status of the three communities within the area covered by the E.ON Camster Community Fund. The overall picture is of an area valued by local people for its safety, peacefulness, and friendliness / neighbourliness and considered to have shared values and strong community spirit. Community life is vibrant with many active local groups, while public services such as schools are also valued. The area has an outstanding landscape and is rich in wildlife and cultural heritage.

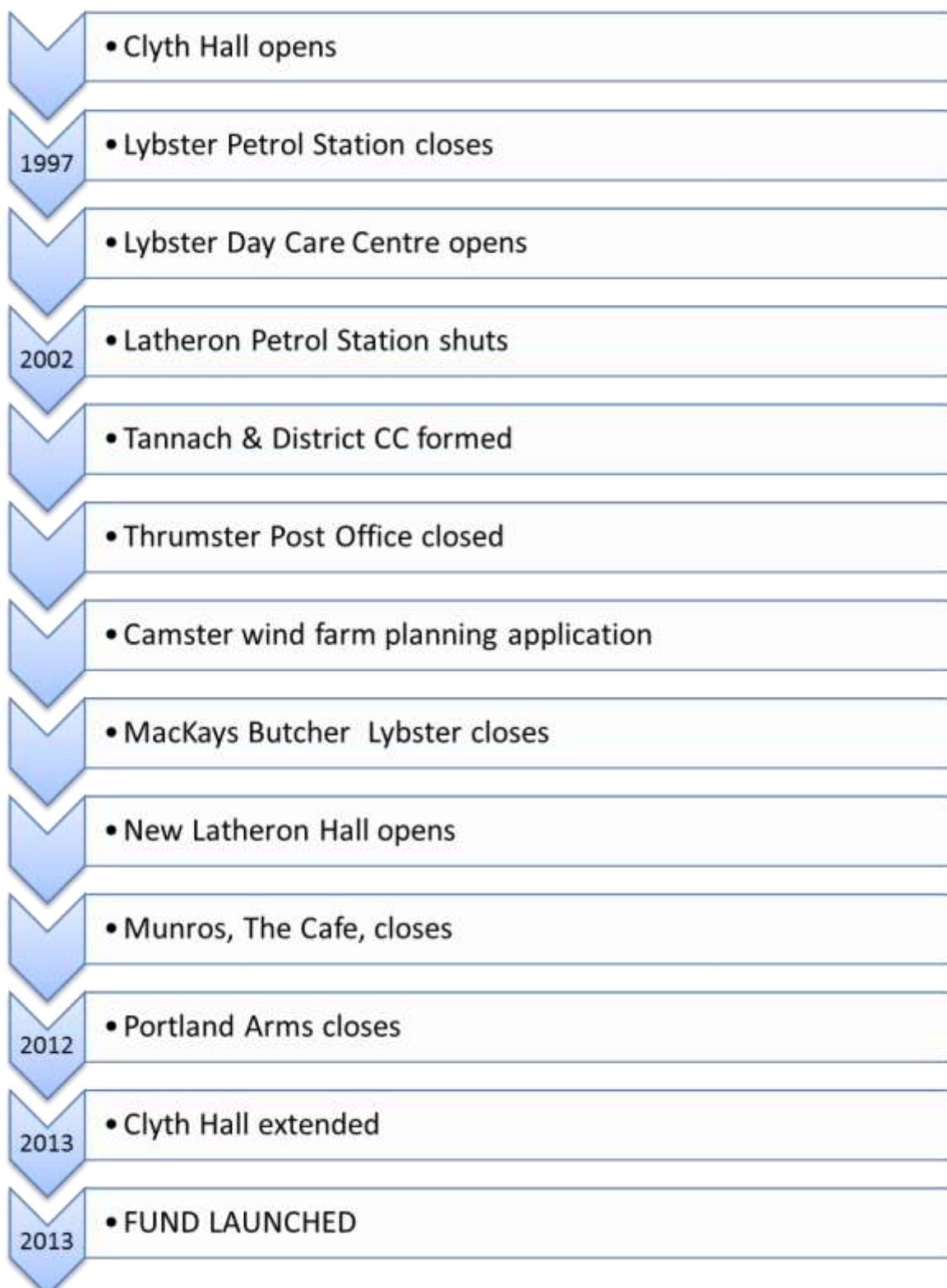
However, a trend of declining population, particularly through out-migration of young people, does threaten these communities. There are also concerns around the local economy, particularly in the face of imminent decommissioning of the Dounreay Nuclear Site, and some significant health problems. Issues of rurality leading to isolation for some and poor access to sports and play facilities and shops generally are also concerns, as is rising fuel costs, hard-to-heat buildings (domestic and community) and lack of access to motorised transport in some communities.

Consultation within the Area has uncovered the following as key priorities that the Fund should focus on in the immediate future:

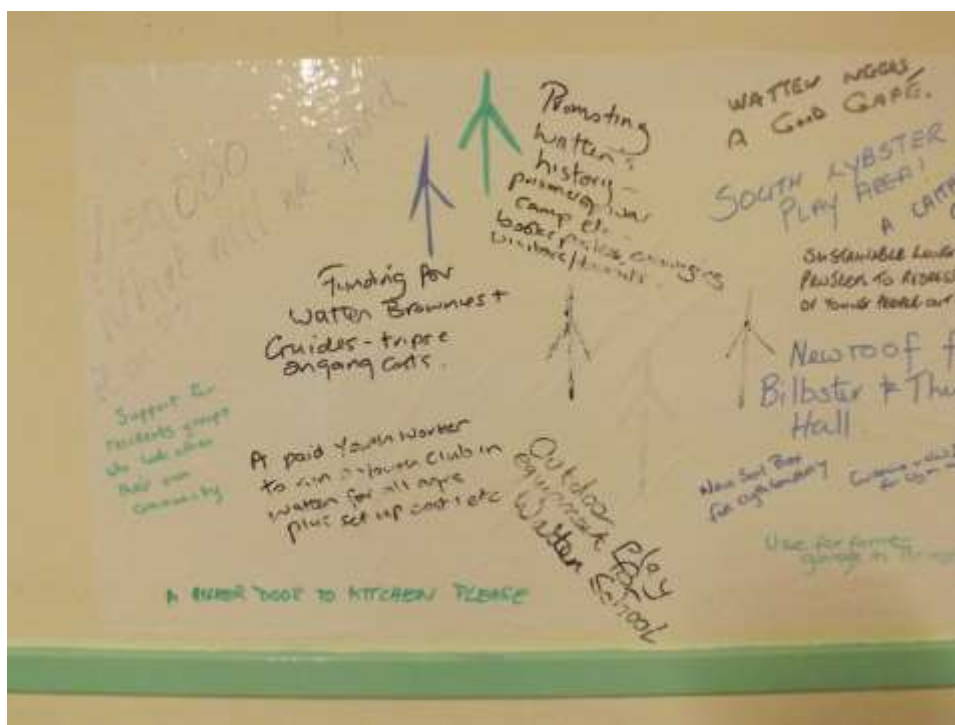
1. Improving sports and recreational facilities
2. Safer access to the local environment and reduced traffic speeds
3. More and better activities and services for people of all ages
4. Enhancing community life through activities, events and improved amenity of settlements
5. Supporting employment opportunities and business start-ups
6. Providing vocational training and apprenticeships
7. Greater conservation, access to and interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage for visitors and residents
8. Tackling fuel poverty through more sustainable energy use (efficiency and generation) in domestic and community buildings.
9. Tourism opportunities are promoted and created in the Fund Area

A wide range of specific opportunities for improvement to the Area have been uncovered through this research, as shown in the Appendices. It is clear that many people see a clear role for the Fund in improving their quality of life and are excited about the prospect of investments in their community over the lifetime of the Camster Wind Farm.

Appendix 1: Camster Fund Communities Timeline, 1988 - 2013



Appendix 2: Graffiti Wall Comments



£150,000 - What will we spend it on?

- Support for residents groups who look after their own community
- Funding for Watten Brownies and Guides – trips and ongoing costs
- A paid youth worker to run a Youth Club in Watten for all ages plus set up costs etc
- Promoting Watten's history – prisoner of war camp etc – books, posters, encouraging visitors/tourists
- Outdoor play equipment for Watten School
- Watten needs a good café
- South Lybster Play area
- A Caithness coastal path
- Sustaining long term projects to redress the drift of young people out of the county
- New roof for Bilbster & Thuster Hall
- New soil box for Clyth cemetery
- Curtains and new doors for Clyth Hall
- Use for former garage in Thrumster
- MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) for Thrumster
- Facilities for pre 5s and over 50s
- Footpath along A9. Lybster to Hillhead Road
- Tennis Court at Lybster
- Watten pre school would love new outdoor play equipment



- Tannach needs something!
- Outdoor facilities at Rumster incl toilets
- Capital projects that will leave a legacy for future generations
- Outdoor classrooms for the 3 primary schools
- Support for groups looking after local harbours e.g. Sarclet Haven
- Archaeology Visitor Centre at Camster
- Lybster play area
- Watten needs a new play area
- A MUGA for Watten

Appendix 3: Summary of Questionnaire Survey Results for the Fund Area

Total number of respondents: 111

Those living outwith the Fund Area: 7

1. Which community do you live in?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Council area		36.0%	40
Tannach & District Community Council area		19.8%	22
Watten Community Council area		44.1%	49
	Other (please specify)		9
		answered question	111
		skipped question	0

2. Are you male or female?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		48.6%	54
Female		51.4%	57
		answered question	111
		skipped question	0

3. How old are you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		16.5%	18
18 - 25		2.8%	3
26 - 45		33.0%	36
46 - 65		32.1%	35
Over 65		15.6%	17
		answered question	109
		skipped question	2

4. What is your work status?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Employed		51.9%	55
In Education		17.0%	18
Retired		17.0%	18
Unemployed		1.9%	2
Housewife/Househusband		12.3%	13
		Other (please specify)	2
		answered question	106
		skipped question	5

5. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			10.5%	11
No			89.5%	94
			answered question	105
			skipped question	6

6. What do you value and appreciate most about your community?

This was an open (free text) question. 91 respondents answered this question, 20 people skipped it.

This question elicited a wide range of responses, with many stating they value the safety, quietness / peacefulness, friendliness and neighbourliness of their community, common values and community spirit, the range of local activities and groups, public services such as schools, local history / heritage, cleanliness of the area, as well as the outstanding landscape.

7. What would you like to change about your community?

This was also an open (free text) question. 89 respondents answered this question, 22 people skipped it.

This question similarly elicited a wide range of responses, with many stating the area needs more “things to do”. Facilities and activities for young people (e.g. play parks, skate park, youth club, after school club) featured particularly strongly. Activities for the elderly, sports and recreational facilities, improved community halls, foot/cyclepaths, training and employment opportunities, tourism developments, shops and quality food outlets also featured as did road safety/traffic calming and, to a lesser extent, improvements to broadband coverage, mobile phone and TV reception.

8. What opportunities do you think there are to improve or develop your community? This might be about community life, local services, buildings, the environment, business activity etc.

This was an open (free text) question. 82 respondents answered this question, 29 people skipped it. A wide range of responses were given including:

- Improvements to existing play parks, parks and the local environment (e.g. Loch Watten)
- Enhanced sports facilities (Watten)
- Support for business start-up or expansion
- Facilities to enhance tourism
- Better use of existing buildings (e.g. Portland Arms Hotel)
- Starting up more youth and uniformed groups
- Options for new paths to avoid busy roads (e.g. old Lybster – Wick railway line)
- Improvements to existing community halls and schools.
- Community transport
- Potential for a café
- Assisting the elderly through more sheltered housing and handyman services
- Potential for new shops
- Potential for a filling station (Lybster/ Latheron)
- Micro-renewables (domestic)

9. Do you think the Fund should be used to achieve set outcomes (identified by the 3 communities benefiting from the Fund) OR do you think it should be open to any qualifying community group to apply to forward its aims?

This was an open (free text) question. 85 respondents answered this question, 26 people skipped it.

The majority of respondents provided responses along the lines that it should be an open Fund (in terms of applications) but with set outcomes to provide broad direction and ensure it meets local needs/priorities.

10. If the fund is only used to achieve set outcomes in your community what do you think these should be? Please prioritise by ticking those most important to you with a low, medium or high rating. Leave blank those you do not think should be funded. You can add your own at the end if it is not shown.

104 respondents answered this question, 7 people skipped it.

Outcome	% Ranking as medium priority	% Ranking as high priority	Rank (high priority)	Respondent count
Improving sports and recreational facilities and play areas	21.9	69.8	1	96
More or enhanced activities/services for children and young people	22.0	69.0	2	100
Enhancing community life – activities, events, spirit	28.4	65.3	3	95
Providing employment opportunities	27.5	64.8	4	91
Funding for any projects led by community groups	30.2	60.4	5	96
Improving the appearance of a village	34.0	52.1	6	94
Providing learning and training	39.3	50.6	7	89
Conservation / enhancement of and access to the natural environment	40.0	48.9	8	90
Tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency	34.1	47.7	9 =	88
Supporting apprenticeships	29.1	47.7	9 =	86
Development of existing / more tourist attractions	35.5	46.2	10	93
Activities / services for older people or people with a disability	46.2	45.1	11	91
Help with business start up	38.1	42.9	12	84
Care services	43.5	41.2	13	85
Access to community transport	45.5	39.8	14	88
Increasing the skills and know-how of voluntary and community groups/ orgs.	41.4	37.9	15	87
Community renewable energy schemes	38.9	37.8	16	90
Conservation and promotion of heritage	46.7	35.6	17	90
Health promotion	52.4	31.7	18	82
Improving community owned/leased land or buildings	46.0	29.9	19	87
Improving availability of social housing or supporting community-led	30.4	24.1	20	79

housing projects				
Promotion of the arts	32.9	14.6	21	82

11. If the Fund was to provide support to businesses to achieve any of the outcomes listed above how should this be done?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Grants		23.4%	22
Loans		7.4%	7
A mixture of both		67.0%	63
None		2.1%	2
answered question			94
skipped question			17

12. A lot of services and clubs in the area are provided by organisations based outwith the area e.g. a club based in Wick may have members from your area as well. Do you think in the future these organisations should be allowed to apply to the Fund for support?

		Response Percent	Response Count
No – not at all		32.6%	31
Yes – in equal competition with other applicants based in the Fund area		26.3%	25
Yes – but only where the applicant can demonstrate the benefit to its membership living in the Fund area or the proportion of people using the service in the Fund area		41.1%	39
answered question			95
skipped question			16



13. Help us start to measure the impact of having the Camster Community Fund by telling us how you feel. Tell us how you feel about the following statements.					
	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Slightly agree	Strongly agree	Rating Count
At the moment, although the Fund is new, I feel I have been kept up to date with Fund progress.	26.7% (27)	16.8% (17)	34.7% (35)	21.8% (22)	101
I feel having this Community Fund available will make a real difference to me personally.	15.8% (16)	19.8% (20)	49.5% (50)	14.9% (15)	101
I feel having this Community Fund available will make a real difference to the community I live in.	5.0% (5)	6.0% (6)	33.0% (33)	56.0% (56)	100
				answered question	103
				skipped question	8





Appendix 4: Summary of Questionnaire Survey Results for Latheron, Lybster & Clyth





Questions relevant only to the Fund Area as a whole have not been included.

Number of respondents: 40

Those living outwith the community: 1

2. Are you male or female?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		62.5%	25
Female		37.5%	15
answered question			40
skipped question			0

3. How old are you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		17.5%	7
18 - 25		0.0%	0
26 - 45		25.0%	10
46 - 65		37.5%	15
Over 65		20.0%	8
answered question			40
skipped question			0

4. What is your work status?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Employed		48.7%	19
In Education		15.4%	6
Retired		20.5%	8
Unemployed		5.1%	2
Housewife/Househusband		10.3%	4
	Other (please specify)		1
	answered question		39
	skipped question		1

5. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		18.4%	7
No		81.6%	31
	answered question		38
	skipped question		2

6. What do you value and appreciate most about your community?

This was an open (free text) question. 35 respondents answered this question, 5 people skipped it. Responses were similar to those for the Fund Area as a whole (see Appendix 3).

7. What would you like to change about your community?

This was also an open (free text) question. 33 respondents answered this question, 7 people skipped it. Specific suggestions included:

- A skatepark
- An all-weather football pitch for the school
- Safer paths

- More employment
- A quality food outlet
- Improvements to the Latheron Show
- Re-opening of the Portland Arms Hotel
- Increased participation in local clubs/ groups
- Increased police presence
- Training facilities / opportunities
- More social activities in the community centre – discos, concerts etc.
- Improvements to vibrancy and appearance of Lybster

8. What opportunities do you think there are to improve or develop your community? This might be about community life, local services, buildings, the environment, business activity etc.

This was an open (free text) question. 32 respondents answered this question, 8 people skipped it.

Specific suggestions included:

- The building of the new school (x2)
- Uniformed groups for young people
- Open toilets all year round
- A filling station at Lybster or Latheron
- A Lybster tourism centre
- A new path on the old Lybster – Wick railway line
- Address fuel costs
- Better transport including a later bus service to Inverness
- Improvement and promotion of internationally designated sites
- A brochure of local attractions and facilities
- A local fire brigade
- Better use of derelict buildings (x3) e.g. Portland Arms
- Sports facilities for the disabled
- A re-furbished lower play park
- A mini-bus for hire by local groups

10. If the fund is only used to achieve set outcomes in your community what do you think these should be? Please prioritise by ticking those most important to you with a low, medium or high rating. Leave blank those you do not think should be funded. You can add your own at the end if it is not shown.

39 respondents answered this question, 1 person skipped it.



Outcome	% Ranking as medium priority	% Ranking as high priority	Rank (high priority)
Providing employment opportunities	22.9	74.3	1
Providing learning and training	27.3	66.7	2
Improving sports and recreational facilities and play areas	26.5	64.7	3
More or enhanced activities/services for children and young people	30.6	61.1	4
Funding for any projects led by community groups	37.1	60.0	5
Community renewable energy schemes	15.6	59.4	6
Enhancing community life – activities, events, spirit	35.3	58.8	7
Supporting apprenticeships	31.0	55.2	8
Improving community owned/leased land or buildings	34.5	51.7	9
Help with business start up	43.3	50.0	10=
Increasing the skills and know-how of voluntary and community groups/ orgs.	32.1	50.0	10=
Development of existing / more tourist attractions	31.4	48.6	11
Improving the appearance of a village	36.4	48.5	12
Tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency	47.5	46.9	13
Care services	50.0	46.4	14
Conservation and promotion of heritage	38.7	45.2	15
Conservation / enhancement of and access to the natural environment	50.0	43.8	16
Activities / services for older people or people with a disability	50.0	43.3	17
Access to community transport	48.4	38.7	18
Health promotion	53.6	35.7	19
Improving availability of social housing or supporting community-led housing projects	37.0	25.9	20
Promotion of the arts	26.9	23.1	21






Appendix 5: Summary of Questionnaire Survey Results for Tannach & District

Questions relevant only to the Fund Area as a whole have not been included.

Number of respondents: 22

Those living outwith the community: 1

2. Are you male or female?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		68.2%	15
Female		31.8%	7
answered question			22
skipped question			0

3. How old are you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		18.2%	4
18 - 25		9.1%	2
26 - 45		4.5%	1
46 - 65		54.5%	12
Over 65		13.6%	3
answered question			22
skipped question			0

4. What is your work status?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Employed		50.0%	11
In Education		18.2%	4
Retired		22.7%	5
Unemployed		0.0%	0
Housewife/Househusband		9.1%	2
	Other (please specify)		0
	answered question		22
	skipped question		0

5. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		0.0%	0
No		100.0%	22
	answered question		22
	skipped question		0

6. What do you value and appreciate most about your community?

This was an open (free text) question. All 22 respondents answered this question. Responses were similar to those for the Fund Area as a whole (see Appendix 3).

7. What would you like to change about your community?

This was also an open (free text) question. All 22 respondents answered this question. Specific suggestions included:

- Better broadband access / coverage (x3)
- Road safety improvements (x3) e.g. Tannach Road
- Recycling bins

- More housing
- Better mobile phone reception
- Improvements to community hall
- More shops (x2)
- Better football pitch
- More employment
- Better transport services (x2)
- Better / safer paths
- Promote use of natural environment (x2)
- Facilities for children (x2)

8. What opportunities do you think there are to improve or develop your community? This might be about community life, local services, buildings, the environment, business activity etc.

This was an open (free text) question. 16 respondents answered this question, 6 people skipped it. Specific suggestions included:

- Promote quality local produce (x4)
- Outdoor activities incl. improvement countryside access and promotion of environment / wild-life (x3) for visitors and young people
- Promotion of archaeological remains (x3)
- A path from Haster to Waterloo Farm corner
- Grants/loans for solar panels and other eco-friendly heating
- Improvements or replacement of village halls
- Facilities / activities in Wick – harbour, football teams, High School
- Create a path on old railway line to Lybster
- A centre where space can be hired by business e.g. a café, exhibition, farm shop
- Upgrade to swing park

10. If the fund is only used to achieve set outcomes in your community what do you think these should be? Please prioritise by ticking those most important to you with a low, medium or high rating. Leave blank those you do not think should be funded. You can add your own at the end if it is not shown.

39 respondents answered this question, 1 person skipped it.



Outcome	% Ranking as medium priority	% Ranking as high priority	Rank (high priority)
Enhancing community life – activities, events, spirit	19.00	66.7	1
Improving sports and recreational facilities and play areas	27.3	63.6	2
Funding for any projects led by community groups	20.0	60.0	3
More or enhanced activities/services for children and young people	22.7	59.1	4
Conservation / enhancement of and access to the natural environment	35.0	55.0	5
Access to community transport	30.0	50.0	6
Improving the appearance of a village	33.3	42.9	7
Development of existing / more tourist attractions	36.8	42.1	8
Providing employment opportunities	33.3	38.9	9
Help with business start up	23.5	35.3	10
Tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency	31.6	31.6	11
Conservation and promotion of heritage	45.0	30.0	12
Supporting apprenticeships	38.9	27.8	13
Care services	36.8	26.3	14
Activities / services for older people or people with a disability	61.9	23.8	15
Providing learning and training	58.8	23.5	16
Health promotion	50.0	22.2	17=
Increasing the skills and know-how of voluntary and community groups/ orgs.	50.0	22.2	17=
Community renewable energy schemes	52.4	19.0	18
Improving availability of social housing or supporting community-led housing projects	27.8	16.7	19
Improving community owned/leased land or buildings	50.0	15.0	20
Promotion of the arts	30.0	5.0	21






Appendix 6: Summary of Questionnaire Survey Results for Watten





Questions relevant only to the Fund Area as a whole have not been included.



Number of respondents: 49

Those living outwith the community: 5

2. Are you male or female?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		28.6%	14
Female		71.4%	35
answered question			49
skipped question			0

3. How old are you?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18		14.9%	7
18 - 25		2.1%	1
26 - 45		53.2%	25
46 - 65		17.0%	8
Over 65		12.8%	6
answered question			47
skipped question			2

4. What is your work status?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Employed		55.6%	25
In Education		17.8%	8
Retired		11.1%	5
Unemployed		0.0%	0
Housewife/Househusband		15.6%	7
	Other (please specify)		1
answered question			45
skipped question			4

5. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		8.9%	4
No		91.1%	41
answered question			45
skipped question			4

6. What do you value and appreciate most about your community?

This was an open (free text) question. 34 respondents answered this question, 15 skipped it. Responses were broadly similar to those for the Fund Area as a whole (see Appendix 3), with two people specifically citing the school as good.

7. What would you like to change about your community?

This was also an open (free text) question. 34 respondents answered this question, 15 skipped it. Specific suggestions included:

- Improved parks and play parks (x8)
- Mobile phone reception
- Television reception

- More facilities for children / young people (x12)
- Village made more attractive (x2)
- More facilities at Loch Watten (e.g. picnic / barbeque, watersport facilities) (x3)
- More for elderly people to do (x3)
- Traffic calming (x4)
- More small businesses
- Hall improvements (x2)
- Better sports facilities (x3)
- Outdoor classroom
- Visitor information on Camp 165 and Alexander Bain

8. What opportunities do you think there are to improve or develop your community? This might be about community life, local services, buildings, the environment, business activity etc.

This was an open (free text) question. 33 respondents answered this question, 16 people skipped it. Specific suggestions included repetition of most of the points made under the previous question plus:

- Sheltered housing (x2)
- Handyman services
- Tourist facilities
- A day centre for the elderly
- A minibus service between the three communities
- Involvement of more young people on committees
- Use of existing buildings (x2) - church opposite school, old auction mart
- A café (x2)
- Youth club (x2)
- School crossing on main road
- More events in village hall
- Gardens for the elderly
- All weather play park
- Support for sports e.g. local football team, new rugby pitch
- Other facilities at Loch Watten: boats for hire, fishing tuition for young and old, wildlife hides, parking, tearoom.

10. If the fund is only used to achieve set outcomes in your community what do you think these should be? Please prioritise by ticking those most important to you with a low, medium or high rating. Leave blank those you do not think should be funded. You can add your own at the end if it is not shown.

43 respondents answered this question, 6 people skipped it.

Outcome	% Ranking as medium priority	% Ranking as high priority	Rank (high priority)
More or enhanced activities/services for children and young people	14.3	81.0	1
Improving sports and recreational facilities and play areas	15.0	77.5	2
Enhancing community life – activities, events, spirit	27.5	70.0	3
Providing employment opportunities	28.9	68.4	4
Funding for any projects led by community groups	29.3	61.0	5
Improving the appearance of a village	32.5	60.0	6
Activities / services for older people or people with a disability	35.0	57.5	7
Tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency	32.4	56.8	8
Supporting apprenticeships	23.1	51.3	9
Conservation / enhancement of and access to the natural environment	34.2	50.0	10
Providing learning and training	41.0	48.7	11
Development of existing / more tourist attractions	38.5	46.2	12
Care services	42.1	44.7	13
Help with business start up	40.5	40.5	14
Increasing the skills and know-how of voluntary and community groups/ orgs.	43.9	36.6	15
Access to community transport	51.4	35.1	16
Health promotion	52.8	33.3	17
Conservation and promotion of heritage	53.8	30.8	18
Community renewable energy schemes	51.4	29.7	19
Improving availability of social housing or supporting community-led housing projects	26.5	26.5	20
Improving community owned/leased land or buildings	52.6	21.1	21
Promotion of the arts	38.9	13.9	22

Appendix 7: School Art Competition Themes

Theme	No. of entries features	% of entries
Recreational Facilities	97	96
Business/Shops	23	22.8
Environment	11	10.9
Housing	1	1
Transport	4	4
Education	2	2
Care for the elderly	3	3

NB: Some entries covered more than one theme.

Key feature	No. of entries featured	% of entries
Play park	26	24.7
Swimming pool	20	19
Village shop (Thrumster)	8	7.6
Tennis courts	6	5.7
Skateboard park	5	4.75
Football pitch	4	3.8
Water fountain	4	3.8
Café	4	3.8
Netball court	3	2.85
Crazy golf	2	1.9
Ice rink	2	1.9
Go-carts	2	1.9
Playcentre	2	1.9
Train station	2	1.9
Improve school	2	1.9
Tree house	2	1.9
Athletics park	1	0.95
Butcher shop	1	0.95
Green park area	1	0.95
Play hut	1	0.95
Housing	1	0.95
Tree planting	1	0.95
Sports room/centre	1	0.95
TOTAL	101	-

Appendix 8: Focus Group Participants and Main Discussion Points

Organisations invited to attend (* those attending)

Latheron Hall Committee*
North Highland College
Gow's Lybster Limited
Watten Community Council*
Tannach & District Community Council*
Newtonhill Woodland Group
Councillor Willie MacKay
Watten Brownies & Guides
Lybster Day Care Centre
Caithness Rural Transport Partnership*
Watten Hall Committee*
Bilbster Hall Committee
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Council*

Questions and Key Points

Theme 1: Community cohesion and facilities (to cover survey outcomes "Enhancing community life – activities, events, spirit" and "Improving sports and recreational facilities and play areas")

Why is this a priority for the Area?

- Need events in community to maintain community identity.
- Need halls that are fit for purpose
- One issue is retaining volunteers, and attracting new and younger people (difficult to engaging young people)
- Capital costs are easier to access than running costs
- Charges are kept low to encourage and maintain groups using the facilities
- Meeting heating costs!

What can be done? How can the Fund help?

- Heating costs:
 - Investment in energy efficiency measures
 - Offset capital re-decoration costs against heating
- Encouraging volunteers
- Encourage innovative ideas

- Provide small grants for community asset running costs
- Encourage innovative events
- A Halls Support Co-ordinator
- Storage space

Theme 2: Employment and learning (to cover survey outcomes “Providing employment opportunities” and “Providing learning and training”)

Why is this a priority for the Area?

- Transport improved
- Village to village regular transport
- No taxis
- No local jobs keeping young people in community
- In-balance between skills and need
- No part time opportunities for young people
- Ageing community

What can be done? How can the Fund help?

- Rural transport: market and promote more
- Attract business into the area
- Grow existing businesses
- Loans and support to businesses are hard to get
- Improve promotion of the support currently available from a range of agencies
- Subsidised apprenticeship scheme
- Capacity build young people and support businesses
- Support transport to increase demand
- Offer employment/training opportunities
- Straightforward grant to running costs for community facilities annually

Theme 3: Built and natural environment (to cover “Conservation / enhancement of and access to the natural environment” and “Improving the appearance of the village”)

Why is this a priority for the Area?

- Council cuts having an effect on non-statutory services
- Nice village and natural environment
- Non-core paths
- Maintenance of communal areas

What can be done? How can the Fund help?

- Village officers

- Separate pot of money that community councils could access
- Ongoing maintenance of environmental project costs
- Marketing and promotion of local assets.

Theme 4: Access to services (to cover survey outcomes “Access to community transport”, “Activities / services for older people or people with a disability”, and “More or enhanced activities/services for children and young people”)

Why is this a priority for the Area?

- Keep community together
- Lack of services, activities needed for elderly

What can be done? How can the Fund help?

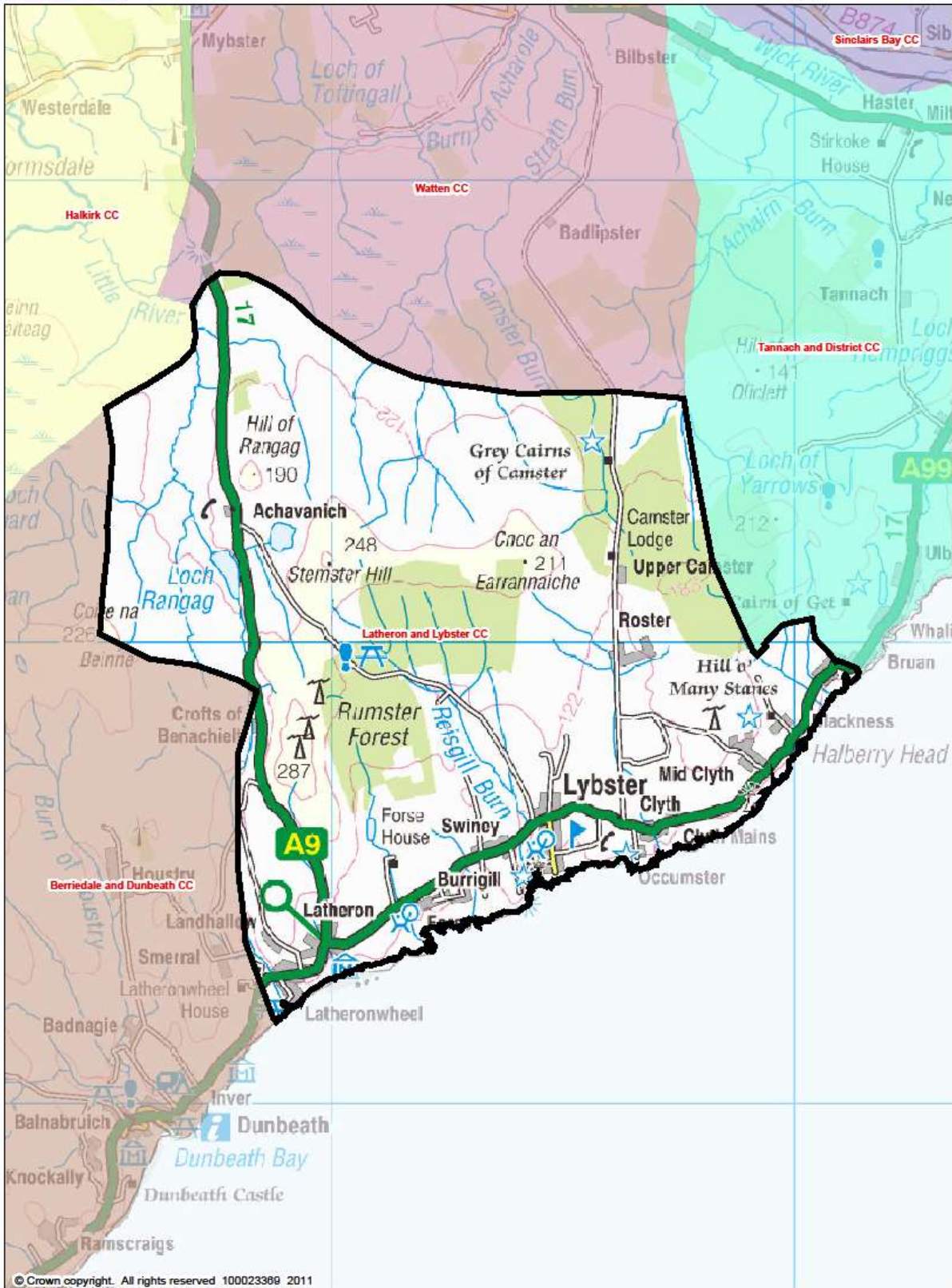
- Funding provided for extra and new services to provide for elderly/young
- Provide funding to groups delivering service to benefit
- Employ people to deliver services to young people
- Provide facilities for self-entertaining; MUGA/Events
- Fund to be flexible and reactive to community. Use common sense.
- Not restrictive
- Re-visit community needs every few years.

Appendix 9: Maps of the community council areas and main settlements



Latheron and Lybster Community Council Boundary

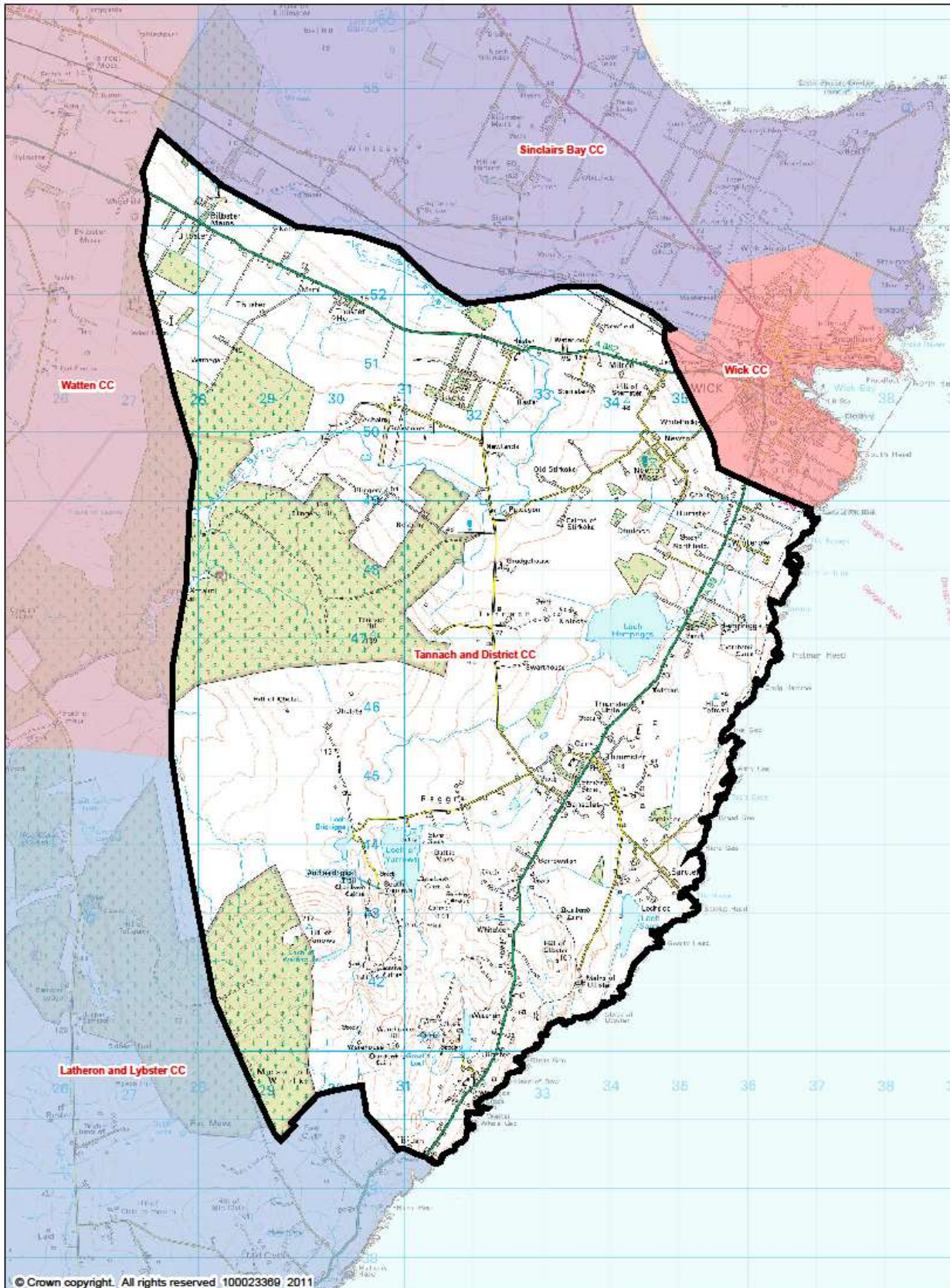
April 2011





Tannach and District Community Council Boundary

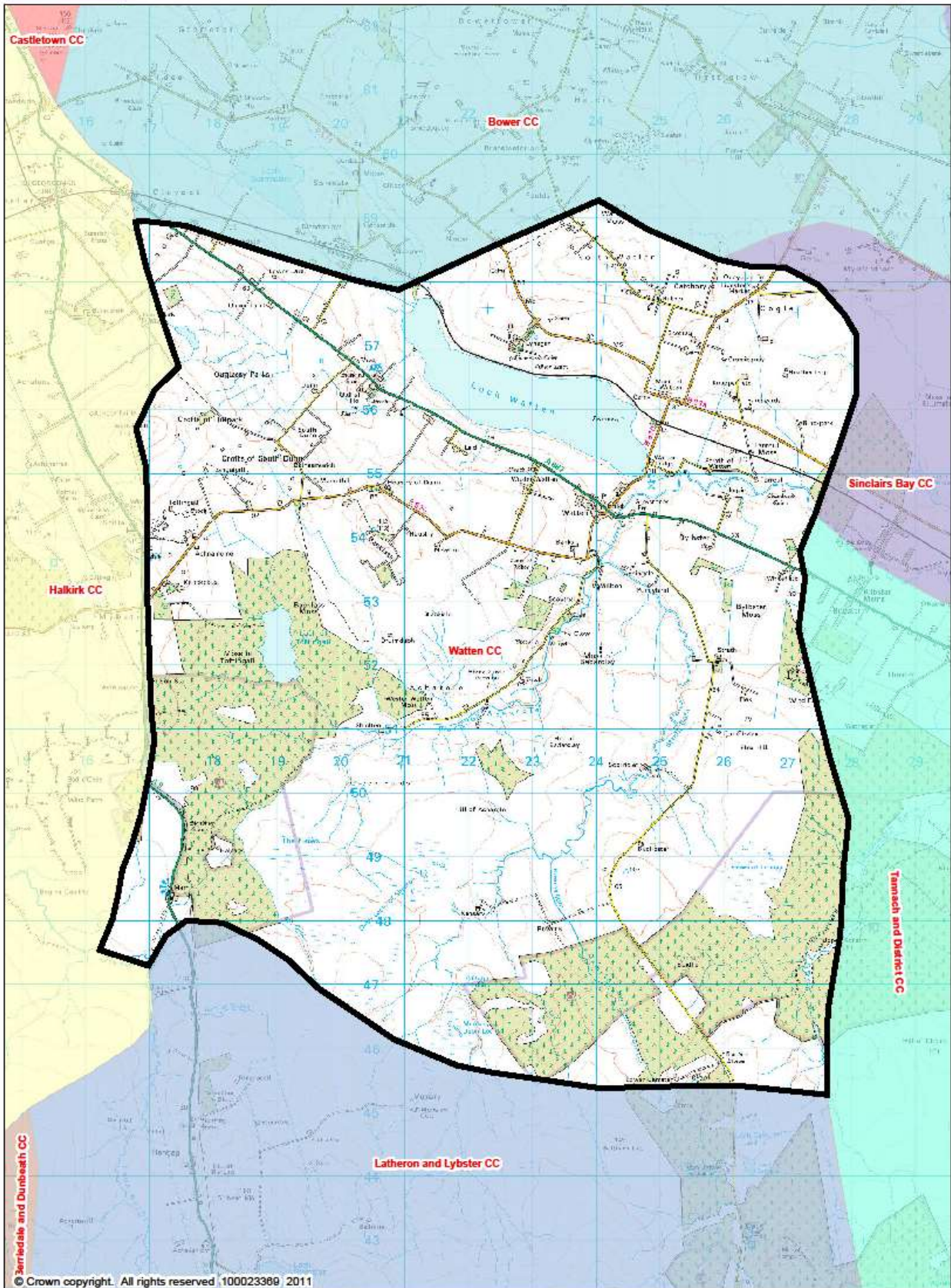
April 2011

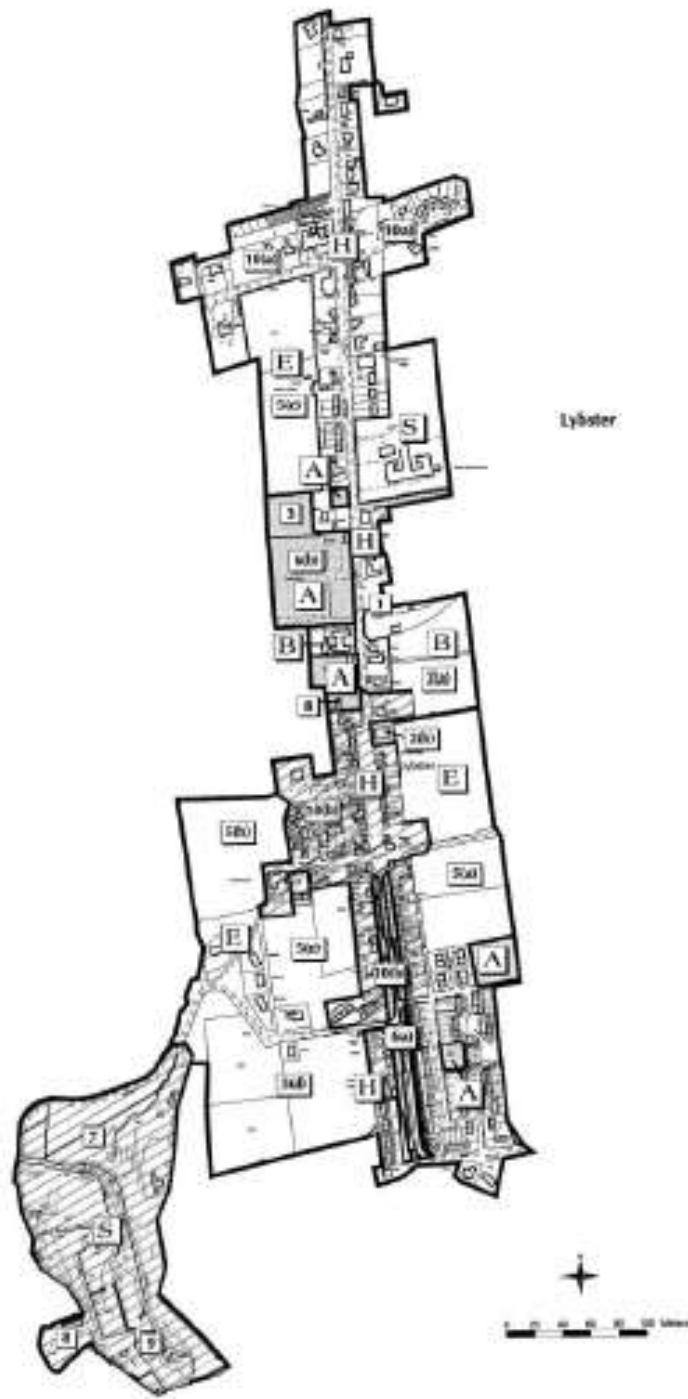


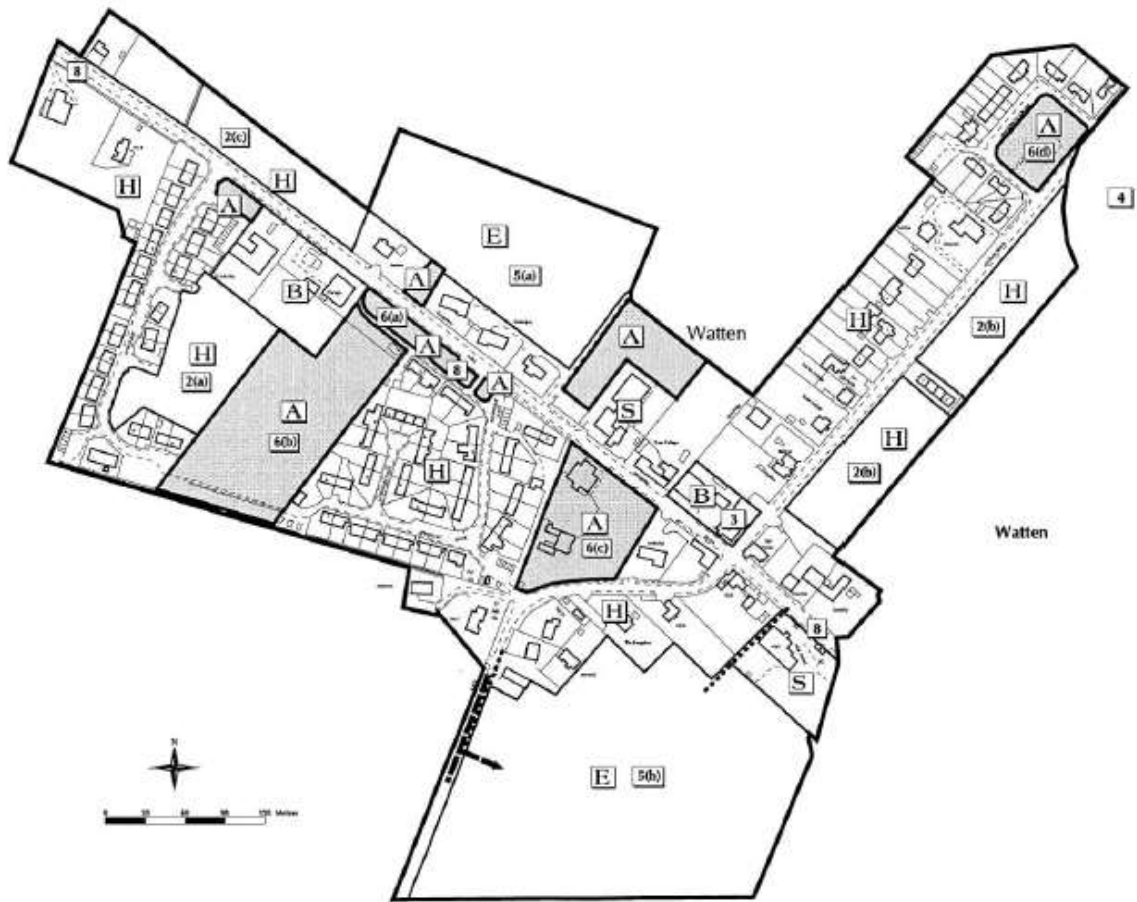


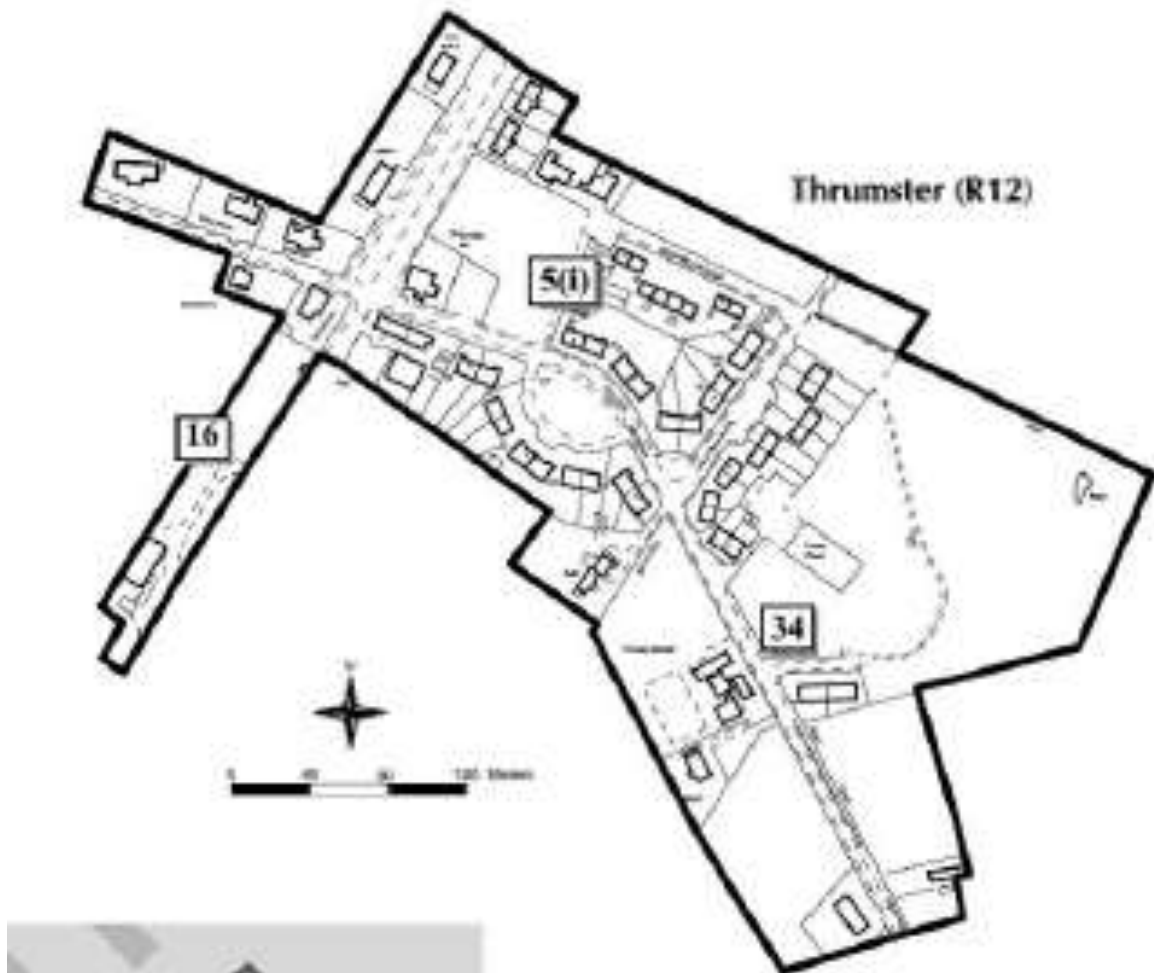
Watten Community Council Boundary

April 2011









Appendix 10: Gross Value Added

Gross Value Added (GVA) is the value generated by any unit engaged in a production activity. It is measured at current basic prices, excluding taxes (less subsidies) on products. GVA plus taxes (less subsidies) on products is equivalent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Figures are and presented for areas according to the European classification of Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) derived from ONS data²¹ and dated December 2012.

Table 15: Comparison of GVA between Caithness, Sutherland and Ross-shire and the Inverness, Nairn and Badenoch areas

	1997	2000	2004	2007	2010
Highlands and Islands	3,942	4,626	5,896	6,988	7,411
Caithness & Sutherland and Ross And Cromarty					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	71	68	64	49	42
Production	176	207	241	301	321
Construction	67	75	110	152	129
Distribution; transport; accommodation and food	148	170	201	256	263
Information and communication	16	23	31	30	30
Financial and insurance activities	14	11	14	18	25
Real estate activities	36	43	50	69	110
Business service activities	77	94	118	140	134
Public administration; education; health	137	157	232	271	281
Other services and household activities	21	23	35	42	41
Total GVA	764	872	1,096	1,329	1,376
Inverness & Nairn and Moray, Badenoch & Strathspey					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	56	54	62	48	52
Production	409	415	465	586	684
Construction	100	144	263	324	262
Distribution; transport; accommodation and food	326	456	620	696	747
Information and communication	33	48	71	69	60
Financial and insurance activities	37	30	40	57	66
Real estate activities	61	76	94	150	229
Business service activities	54	94	150	191	202
Public administration; education; health	352	487	692	753	784
Other services and household activities	52	72	101	126	120
Total GVA	1,481	1,877	2,558	3,000	3,205

Table 16: GVA¹ per head indices (constrained to headline NUTS2) at current basic prices for Highlands

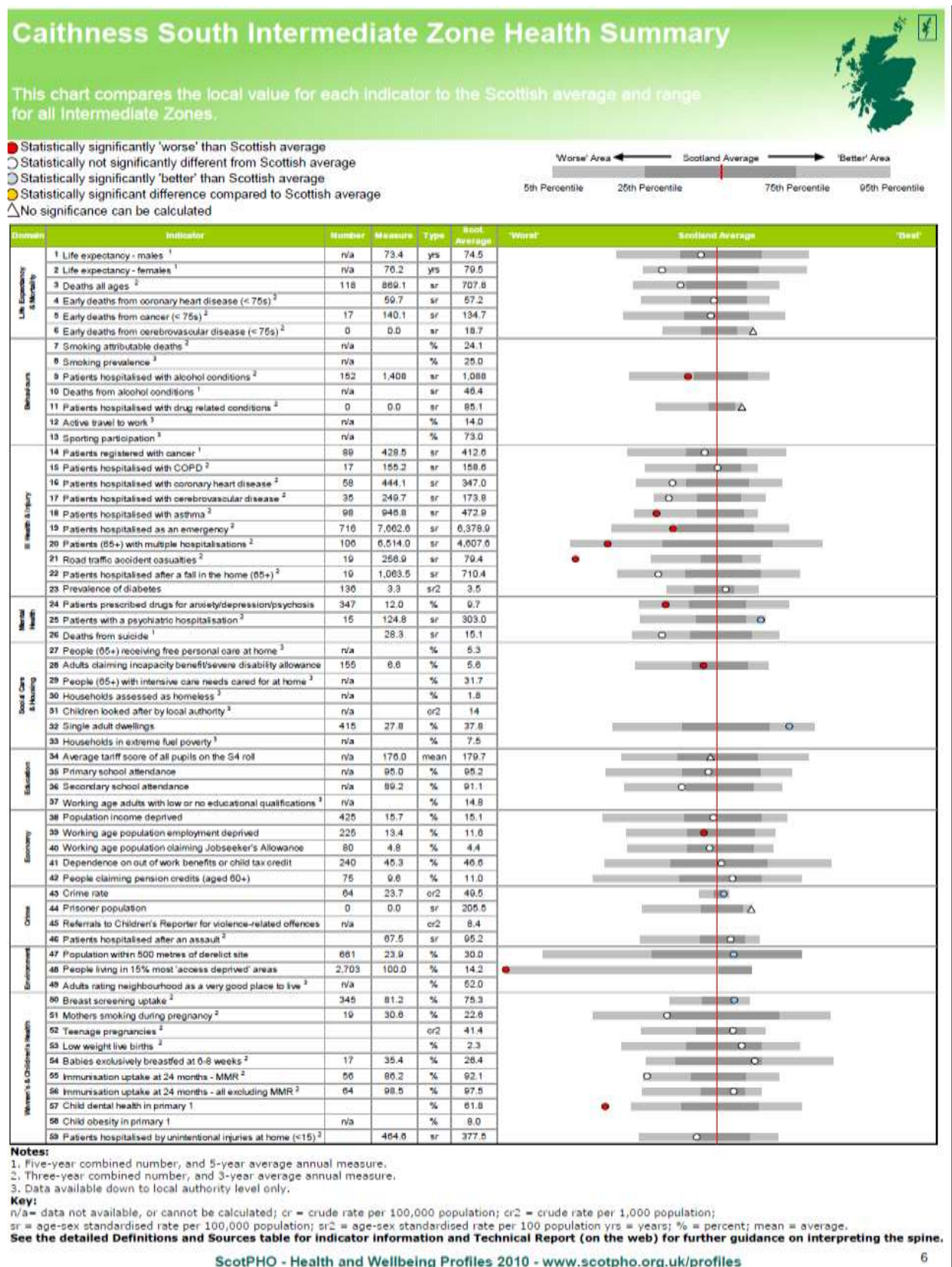
	2000	2004	2007	2010	2011 ²
Caithness, Sutherland, Ross-shire	67.4	70.4	74.7	75.3	71.1
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch	72.9	81.4	81.9	83.0	85.2
Lochaber, Skye, Argyll	78.8	68.0	69.3	73.6	76.3
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	70.1	81.3	77.2	70.0	71.6
Orkney Islands	80.0	79.9	76.8	84.5	79.0
Shetland Islands	93.8	102.8	102.5	117.6	118.9

Table 17: GVA per head (constrained to unadjusted NUTS2) at current basic prices for Scotland

	2000	2004	2007	2010	2011
Scotland	13,573	16,660	19,653	20,314	20,571
E Scot	13,984	17,289	20,483	20,544	20,498
Angus	12,490	15,064	17,414	17,586	17,587
Clacks	10,531	11,851	14,144	13,668	13,351
E & M Lothian	8,946	11,580	13,424	12,484	12,737
Scottish Borders	9,985	11,212	13,604	12,958	13,623
Edinburgh	22,197	28,849	34,220	34,585	34,470
Falkirk	11,049	14,423	17,415	18,388	18,512
Perth, Stirling	12,033	14,982	18,121	18,408	17,360
West Lothian	15,319	17,806	20,157	20,077	20,807
SW Scot	12,734	15,726	18,295	18,786	18,994
E Dunbart	8,803	10,033	12,696	12,894	13,307
D&G	10,264	12,490	15,153	15,151	15,974
E&N Ayrsh	8,987	11,040	12,442	12,744	12,913
Glasgow	19,518	25,069	28,430	29,740	29,771
Renfrewshire	11,775	13,530	15,248	15,901	16,072
N Lanark	9,202	12,195	15,680	15,486	15,527
South Ayrshire	13,294	15,041	17,274	19,257	18,444
S Lanark	11,727	14,094	15,941	15,104	15,628
NE Scot	19,054	21,755	26,910	30,566	32,113
Aberdeen	19,054	21,755	26,910	30,566	32,113
H&I	10,641	13,672	15,638	16,533	16,976
C, S & Ross	9,749	12,469	14,959	15,590	14,847
Inv, Nairn, Bad	10,403	14,487	16,431	17,048	17,856
Lochaber, Skye	11,267	12,037	13,861	15,134	16,094
Western Isles	10,000	14,433	15,429	14,433	15,025
Orkney Islands	11,397	14,180	15,446	17,367	16,467
Shetland Islands	13,366	18,216	20,603	24,189	25,021

Appendix 11: Health Statistics

Table 18: Caithness South Intermediary Zone Health Summary



Appendix 12: Early Years Statistics

Table 19: Early Years Statistics												
Primary School Rolls 2012/3	Lybster Primary: 74				Thrumster Primary: 37				Watten Primary: 56			
Forecast Rolls 2019/20	77				56				40			
Community Health Index (CHI)	4 yrs old	3 yr old	2 yr old	1 yr old	4 yr old	3 yr old	2 yr old	1 yr old	4 yr old	3 yr old	2 yr old	1 yr old
Number of children by age	9	15	12	10	8	8	6	2	11	6	4	3
Partner Providers Sessions - Number of children	Lybster Nursery AM 27				Thrumster Nursery AM 11				Watten Playgroup AM & PM 17			
Registered Childminders (within 5 miles)	1				10				5			
Parent and Toddler Groups	1				2				1			
Day Care Provision	NO				NO				NO			
Source: Highland Council childcare and family resource service ²² Numbers correct as of November 2012												

Appendix 13: Registered Charities

Registered charities in the Fund Area include:

Rumster Outdoor Centre Management Group
Yarrows Heritage Trust
Watten and District Parish Hall Committee
Watten Church of Scotland
Watten Young Farmers' Club
Committee of Management of Thrumster Hall
Clyth Burial Ground Association
Clyth Community Association
Lybster Day Care Association
Lybster Heritage Trust
Lybster Community Association
Lybster, Bruan, Latheron and Berridale Free Church of Scotland
Latheron District Hall Association
Royal British Legion Scotland Latheron Branch
Parish of Latheron Church of Scotland
Latheron Agricultural Society
Bilbster and Thuster Hall Committee
Friends of NewtonHill Woodland
Pulteneytown Parish & Thrumster Church of Scotland

Source: www.oscr.org.uk

Appendix 14: References

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- ¹ <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/geography/geo-prods/local-administrative-units-datasets.html>
 - ² NHS Scotland Health and Wellbeing Profiles, 2010 Spine Pack
 - ³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/DataAnalysis/Background-Data-2012>
 - ⁴ <http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C9A20065-6F25-4184-A35D-5E695AF99158/0/SIMD12BriefingNote.pdf>
 - ⁵ <http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/9B923133-9CF5-4C6F-B11C-6427F95D79EB/0/SOA3.pdf>
 - ⁶ <http://www.cnsf.org.uk/>
 - ⁷ <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/highlandfactsandfigures/census2011.htm>
 - ⁸ <http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2AE40FF0-8C8B-44B8-A3FB-D06B76EFA4EA/0/BN57.pdf>
 - ⁹ <http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/DC0772AE-B5BC-43F2-B412-13F9032D5FA2/0/20121217quickbriefing.pdf>
 - ¹⁰ http://www.scrol.gov.uk/scrol/warehouse/NewWards_T.jsp Table T21
 - ¹¹ <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/population/estimates/mid-year/2001/popprep/popprep11.html>
 - ¹² <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/highlandfactsandfigures/census2011.htm>
 - ¹³ <http://caithnesschamber.com/projects/caithness-transport-forum>
 - ¹⁴ <http://www.cnsrp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/A-vision-for-Caithness-North-Sutherland.pdf>
 - ¹⁵ <http://www.cnsrp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/A-vision-for-Caithness-North-Sutherland.pdf>
 - ¹⁶ Steer Davies Gleave, The Case for Rail in the Highlands & Islands, 2004.
 - ¹⁷ <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/web/FILES/Profiles/2010/North%20Highland%20spine%20chart%20pack.pdf>
 - ¹⁸ http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/NorthHighlandRev180512_tcm4-721033.pdf
 - ¹⁹ <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-areas/international-designations/ramsar-sites/>
 - ²⁰ <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/>
 - ²¹ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-265236>
 - ²² Information received June 2013 from Fiona Morrison, Childcare Officer, North Highland Area, Highland Council. Projections by Highland Council Planning based on the Community Health Index.