

Position in Settlement Hierarchy	Main Centre
2005 Estimated Population	370
Housing Completions 2000-2007	12
Primary School/Secondary School Capacities	80% / 71%
Water Capacity	Limited capacity, additional capacity projects planned between 2007-2010
Sewerage Capacity	Limited capacity, in the existing septic tanks but Scottish Water is committed to funding an upgrade when planning permission is granted for housing

Prospects

Lochinver is the service, employment and tourist centre for south west Sutherland and is dominated by its major fishery port, deep water berth and reclaimed land. The Main Street area is the location for many of the community facilities and has a distinct linear form which is an attractive feature within the National Scenic Area. Further to the South, port related facilities together with industrial land and the Assynt Leisure centre are backed by some 36 hectares of community woodlands at Culag.

Infill opportunities continue to be brought forward within the village and recently the development of eight affordable homes was accommodated at Inver Park. In Assynt housing completions data has indicated that the majority of development has been accommodated within the townships rather than within Lochinver itself leaving infrastructure in many cases close to or at its capacity. Even within the village the septic tanks are close to capacity with the exception of the Inver Park tank which has capacity for a further 13 houses.

Therefore it is important that an effective land supply is identified within Lochinver or as close to its services as possible. However, rising land, ground conditions, crofting, and servicing all constrain the options for growth and there is a need to identify sufficient opportunity for the next phase of development to meet the needs that remain unmet and to plan future growth.

The Assynt Estate has been investigating the potential of land at Cnoc A Mhullinn at the entrance to the village and they hold further potential for development at the sheep stock pens. In the longer term dependent on an engineering assessment there may be potential to loop through to Cnoc A Mhullinn and open up further land here.

In 2005 there was a community buyout of the Glencanisp and Drumrunie Estates south of Lochinver. Since then the Assynt Foundation have been investigating the development opportunities and a full feasibility study for housing development will be undertaken shortly in Glencanisp. The level of development potential in this area which is roughly 1 kilometre from the village may be determined by feasibility in terms of road upgrades required. Given the sensitive landscape of this area, its location detached from the village and current uncertainty regarding the feasibility of development it is not included within the settlement development area.

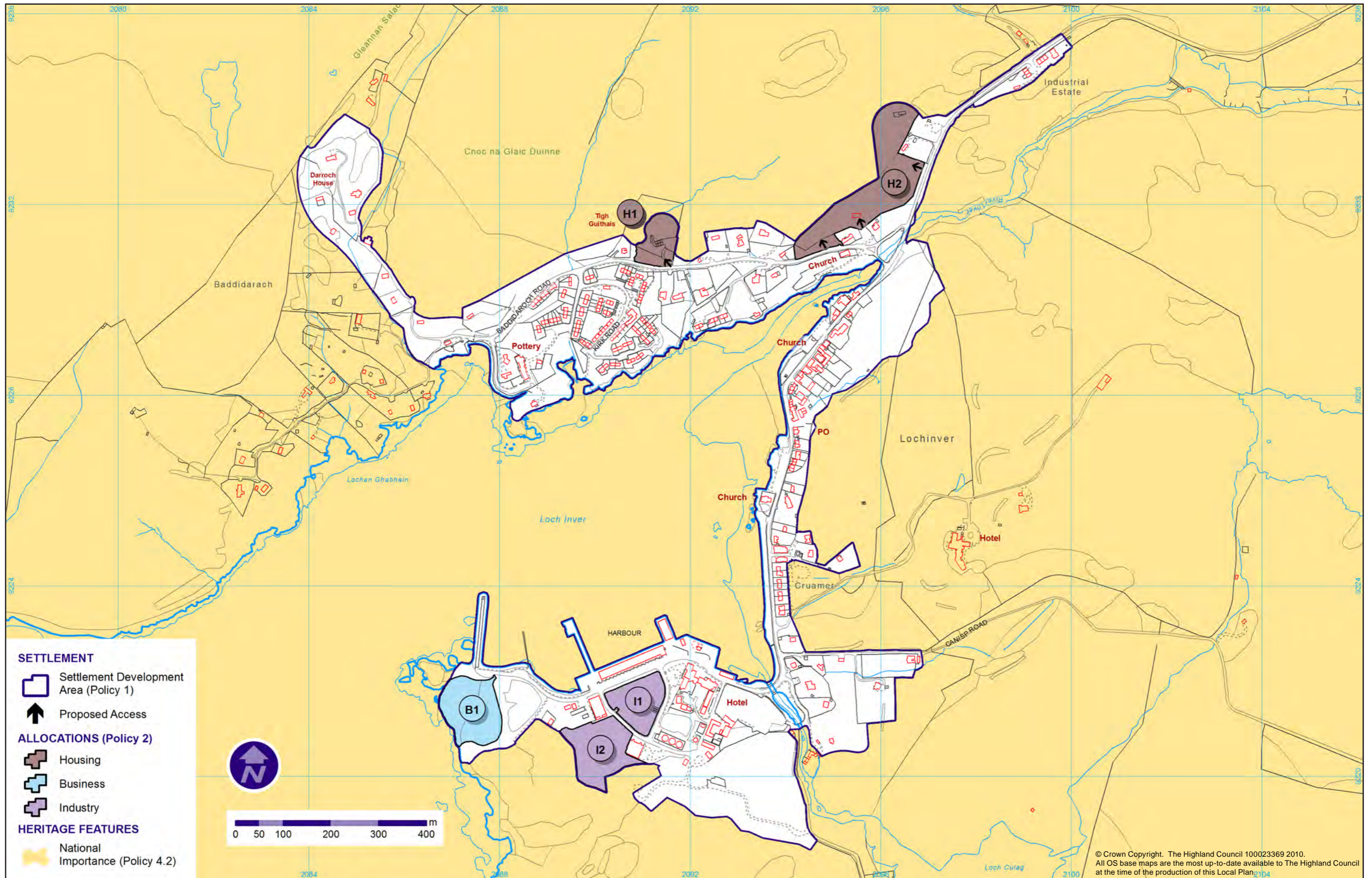
Development Factors

- Lochinver lies within the Assynt-Coigach National Scenic Area so particular care needs to be taken with regards to sensitive siting and high quality design of development;
- Low downward emission design street lights;
- Development within the regenerating woodland at Glendarrach can be accommodated but the loss of woodland should be limited and setting protected as far as possible;
- Potential within the SDA for development of new woodland crofts at Culag as a community initiative to address effective woodland practice as well as economic and housing requirements;
- Support for the provision of new care facilities;
- Any developments served by private waste water system (in compliance with General Policy 7) will require to drain to land to safeguard water bodies.

Site Allocations

Site Ref.	Site Area	Location	Housing Capacity	Developer Requirements
H 1	0.7ha	Sheep pens north of Inver Park	6 units	The sheep fanks should be relocated at the developer's expense. The indicative capacity shown is constrained to that level by access.
H 2	2.9ha	Cnoc A Mhuillin	10 units	At the entrance to the village and prominent so any application will need to be accompanied by a design statement to be considered in consultation with SNH. The speed restriction will need to be moved and a footpath link into the site is required. Housing should be limited to 1½ storey and careful siting is vital with particular regard to landform and the setting of the village including the river, church and cemetery.
I 1	1.1ha	Culag Harbour	-	Flood Risk Assessment will be required; built development to avoid flood risk area. Only water related or harbour uses will be acceptable within flood risk areas.
I 2	1.4ha	Land adjacent to the Assynt Leisure Centre	-	Development should be set back from the quarry walls with no further quarrying or freshening of bare rock faces. Buildings to be kept low and within the envelope of the quarry and finished in suitable natural colours and materials. Although flood risk does not directly impinge on the site itself the developer will be required to demonstrate that proposals enable emergency access to the site during 1 in 200 year events. The herons must not be disturbed by development close to their nest between March and August. Consideration of past uses before determining whether an assessment of potential contamination issues is required.
B 1	1.4ha	West of the Coast Guards	-	Industrial development should only be considered here after possibilities at I1 and I2 have been exhausted. Although flood risk does not directly impinge on the site itself the developer will be required to demonstrate that proposals enable emergency access to the site during 1 in 200 year events. Comments above relating to freshening of the rock faces and design and finish of the buildings also apply here. The site will require sensitive treatment and a design brief is required. The herons must not be disturbed by development close to their nest between March and August. Consideration of past uses before determining whether an assessment of potential contamination issues is required.

(Housing capacities are indicative only and given on the basis of likely development densities.)



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