

# Highland Council Allotments Annual Report 2024

This report details the data that the Highland Council holds regarding demand for allotments in Highland and the action being taken to support the provision and protection of allotments.



## Allotments on Council land

The table below shows the following information for allotments on Council land, obtained from the Allotment Associations that manage each site.

1. Length of the waiting lists of each site
2. Number of people on the waiting list for more than 5 years
3. Any requests that have been made for adjustments to plots due to disability
4. Size of allotments sites (m2)
5. Plots data (total number of plots, no. of full plots, no. of half plots, no. of other sized plots, no. of community plots, no. of plots with no tenant)
6. A breakdown of fees for each site and size plot

The total number of people on waiting lists sits at 115. The total number of plots sits at 312. So, the waiting list number divided by the total number of plots across Highland sits at 37%. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 states a trigger point of 50% of demand for plots over and above provision, this has not currently been reached. Although taking the data in Inverness alone this figure is 123%, highlighting a high level of demand in Inverness and an uneven level of demand across Highland.

Table 1: Allotment sites on Council land data September 2024

Allotment site	Allotment Association	No. of total plots	No. of full sized plots	No. of half sized plots	No of other sized plots	No. of community plots	No. of plots with no tenant	Fees	Waiting list	No. waiting more than 5 years	Requests for adjustments due to disability	Area
Lybster	Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company/Lybster Allotments Association	21			5 large, 1 small plots + 15 polytunnel boxes	1	1 box	£24 - lrg plot, £20 sml plot, £6 lrg box, £5 sml box £5 - bed	0	0	0	1316 m2
Hawthorn, Inverness	Hawthorn Allotments	69	21	48	0	0	0	£55 full plot, £45 half plot	85	0	2	14682 m2
Nairn Sandown	Nairn Allotment Society	79	6 x 300m2, 14 x 200m2	11 x 150m2, 24 x 100m2, 7 x 75m2	14	4	0	£10 membership fee + 27.5p per SqM	20	0	0	16456 m2
Nairn Mill Road		43		33 plots + 9 raised beds	1	0	3885 m2					
Ullapool	Lochbroom and Ullapool Gardens and Growers Society	65	60		5 (Inc Polytunnel plots)	3	1 (polytunnel plot)	£25 plot, £20 polyt, £6.50 sm plot	0	0	0	3377 m2
Wick	Wick Allotments	11	9	2		1	0	£45 full plot, £22.50 half plot	0	0	0	2100 m2
Milnafua, Alness	Alness & District Allotment Society	24			24	2	0	£80	10	0	0	2600 m2
<b>Total</b>		<b>312</b>							<b>115</b>	<b>0</b>		

## **Allotments Register of Interest**

Individuals can register their interest in an allotment through the Council's website. This register is used to gather data to inform our understanding of demand and to support community efforts when new allotment associations and sites are in development. The register is not a waiting list, and people are signposted to their nearest allotment site or community food growing project to make enquiries.

Data gathered from the allotments register since April 2020 indicates that the level of demand is rising. With note of high levels of demand in all of the Inverness City Wards, Culloden and Ardersier, and Badenoch and Strathspey.

## **Community feedback**

Allotment associations with projects in a development stage exist in Inverness, Dingwall, Aviemore and Culloden/Smithton. Aviemore, Dingwall and Culloden do not currently have any allotments sites. Feedback from these projects includes:

Inverness; Knocknageal Ltd has a membership of more than 100 and expect a high take up of plots as their project becomes established. They are currently working through an asset transfer for land to create a green hub and allotment site. Balvonie Park Association have 10 people who have expressed an interest in allotments and are currently working through an asset transfer for land for a community woodland with an area for allotments.

Dingwall Community Development Company estimate 20 people have expressed interested, plus schools and youth groups and are currently exploring the feasibility for a site in Dingwall.

## **Actions to support allotments**

The Highland Council updated allotments policy was agreed at the [Communities and Place Committee in March 2024](#).

The Highland Council's annual allotment steering group met on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to review the provision of allotments and data on demand for plots.

Options for increasing provision in Inverness are being explored with an existing site and in areas where new housing development is taking place.

The Council’s Community Support and Engagement team are supporting community groups with projects in development in Inverness, Culloden, Aviemore and Dingwall.

Allotments data is being included within the Highland Local Development Plan and allotments have been included as one of the 22 services considered important for local living in the Highland wide development plan mapping.

### Contacting allotment sites

The Highland Council do not directly deliver any allotment sites. The Council works in partnership with allotment associations who rent land from the Council. To join a waiting list for an allotment plot please contact allotment associations directly.

Allotment site	Allotment Association	Contact
<b>Lybster</b>	Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company/Lybster Allotments Association	<a href="mailto:llccdc@outlook.com">llccdc@outlook.com</a> <a href="http://www.llccdc.co.uk/">www.llccdc.co.uk/</a>
<b>Hawthorn, Inverness</b>	Hawthorn Allotments	<a href="mailto:hawthornallotments@gmail.com">hawthornallotments@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nairn Sandown</b>	Nairn Allotment Society	<a href="http://www.nairnallotments.org">www.nairnallotments.org</a>
<b>Nairn Mill Road</b>		
<b>Ullapool</b>	Lochbroom and Ullapool Gardens and Growers Society	<a href="mailto:stephen996@hotmail.com">stephen996@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Wick</b>	Wick Allotments	<a href="mailto:wickallotmentgrows@gmail.com">wickallotmentgrows@gmail.com</a>
<b>Alness</b>	Alness & District Allotment Society	<a href="mailto:marymgillies@gmail.com">marymgillies@gmail.com</a>

## Information held about other allotment sites in Highland on non-Council land

To update Council records for these sites please contact [communityfoodgrowing@highland.gov.uk](mailto:communityfoodgrowing@highland.gov.uk)

Allotment Site	Contact
Kingussie Allotments Association	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/KingussieAA/">www.facebook.com/KingussieAA/</a>
Dulnain Bridge Allotment Association	Unknown
Cromarty Allotments and Gardens Association	<a href="mailto:cagssecretary@gmail.com">cagssecretary@gmail.com</a>
Community Land Association Morvern (CLAM)	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/CLAMorvern?locale=en_GB">www.facebook.com/CLAMorvern?locale=en_GB</a>
Blackthorn Allotments Association, Inverness	<a href="mailto:allotmentsblackthorn@gmail.com">allotmentsblackthorn@gmail.com</a>
Broadford Green Growers- Broadford and Strath Community Company	<a href="mailto:nicholas@broadfordandstrath.org">nicholas@broadfordandstrath.org</a>
Lovat Estates, Beauly	<a href="mailto:info@lovat-estates.co.uk">info@lovat-estates.co.uk</a>
Appleseed allotments, Applecross	<a href="http://www.applecrosscommunitycompany.org/company-projects/appleseed-allotments/">www.applecrosscommunitycompany.org/company-projects/appleseed-allotments/</a>
Rosemarkie allotments	<a href="mailto:rags.secretary@gmail.com">rags.secretary@gmail.com</a>
Culbokie Allotments	<a href="http://www.transitionblackisle.org/userfiles/file/Community%20gardens/Culbokie%20garden.html?07-10-2022-105509">www.transitionblackisle.org/userfiles/file/Community%20gardens/Culbokie%20garden.html?07-10-2022-105509</a>
Fernaig Community Trust	<a href="https://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=226640">https://www.stromeferry-and-achmore.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=226640</a>
Dornoch and District Community Association	<a href="mailto:dornochallotments@aol.com">dornochallotments@aol.com</a>
Tornagrain Allotments	<a href="mailto:nicole.petrie@morayestates.co.uk">nicole.petrie@morayestates.co.uk</a>
Portree and Braes Community Trust	<a href="mailto:alec@portreeandbraes.org">alec@portreeandbraes.org</a> <a href="http://www.portreeandbraes.org/allotment">www.portreeandbraes.org/allotment</a>
Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners (SLUG), Fort William	Unknown

For other community food growing projects see the Highland Good Food Partnership Activity Map:

[www.highlandgoodfood.scot/food-map/](http://www.highlandgoodfood.scot/food-map/)

## Allotment projects in development

<b>Allotment site</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Balvonie Park Association, Inverness	<a href="http://www.balvonieparkassociation.wordpress.com">www.balvonieparkassociation.wordpress.com</a>
Dingwall Community Development Company	<a href="mailto:dingwallallotmentsassociation@gmail.com">dingwallallotmentsassociation@gmail.com</a>
Aviemore Allotments Association	<a href="mailto:aviemoreallotments@gmail.com">aviemoreallotments@gmail.com</a>
Knocknagael Ltd Inverness	<a href="http://www.knocknagael.org.uk/">www.knocknagael.org.uk/</a>
Poolewe	<a href="http://www.bac-dubh.co.uk">www.bac-dubh.co.uk</a>
Culloden West Allotments and Gardens Association	<a href="mailto:cullodenwestallotments@gmail.com">cullodenwestallotments@gmail.com</a>