

Agenda Item	10.
Report No	SCC/12/17

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Sutherland County Committee

Date: 23 June 2017

Report Title: Bank of Scotland Mobile Banking in Sutherland

Report By: Director of Community Services

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 To grant permission for the Bank of Scotland Mobile Bank to park in Council Car Parks in Helmsdale, Brora, Lairg, Bonar Bridge and Dornoch.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the application by the Bank of Scotland to park their Mobile Banking Unit in the following locations:
- Bridge Car Park, Helmsdale
 - Gower Street HGV, Brora
 - Sutherland Transport Car Park, Lairg
 - Cherry Grove Car Park, Bonar Bridge
 - The Meadows Car Park, Dornoch

3 Background

- 3.1 The Bank of Scotland proposes to close their branches in Helmsdale, Lairg, Bonar Bridge and Dornoch and operate a mobile banking facility from September 2017.
- 3.2 Under Clause 40 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 decriminalised parking enforcement is carried out by Council enforcement officers.
- 3.3 In November 2014, the Council agreed to the implementation of the preferred service delivery option being delivered in 2016
- 3.4 The Highland Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Decriminalised Parking Enforcement and Consolidation) Order 2016 came into operation on 12th October 2016.
- 3.5 Under Clause 25 of the order “No person shall in a parking place without the express written permission of the Council, use a vehicle in connection with the sale of any article, including the vehicle itself, to any person in or near the parking place or in connection with the selling or offering for hire of skill or services in any other capacity.

4 Justification

- 4.1 Closure of the Bank of Scotland branches in Helmsdale, Lairg, Bonar Bridge and Dornoch will cause considerable inconvenience to the residents in those villages/towns where there are no other banking facilities available.
- 4.2 Brora is the only exception where the Clydesdale Bank has an operational branch. The Bank of Scotland has not had a branch in Brora for a considerable number of years so any conflict with Clydesdale Bank business in the village is likely to be minimal and restricted to Brora customers who already bank with the Bank of Scotland in Helmsdale or Golspie.
- 4.3 Clause 25 of the Order allows the Council to give written permission for traders to use car parks for business
- 4.4 The Bank of Scotland while operating a business provides an essential service to the residents of the affected villages/towns

5 Implications

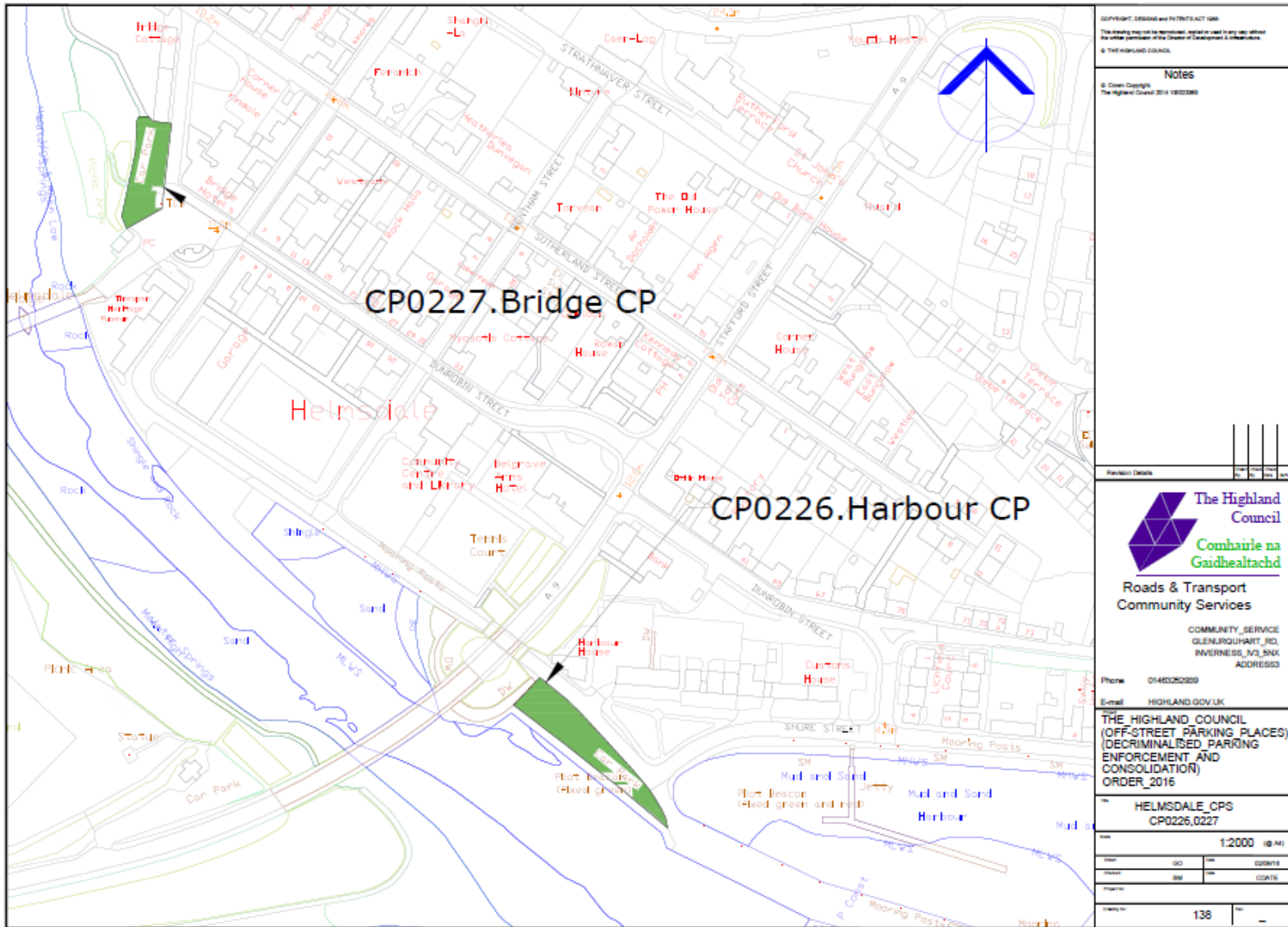
- 5.1 Resource – None
- 5.2 Legal – Permission can be granted within the terms of the Order
- 5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – This will offset the closure of permanent branches in Helmsdale, Lairg, Bonar Bridge and Dornoch and allow the continuation of an essential service.
- 5.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever - None
- 5.5 Risk – There is a risk of setting a precedent which can be used by other traders who apply but given the essential nature of the service provided particularly where there is no other bank operating then there is no conflict here with local traders.
- 5.6 Gaelic – None

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 31 May 2017

Author: G. Mackenzie, Roads Operations Manager, Caithness and Sutherland

Appendix 1




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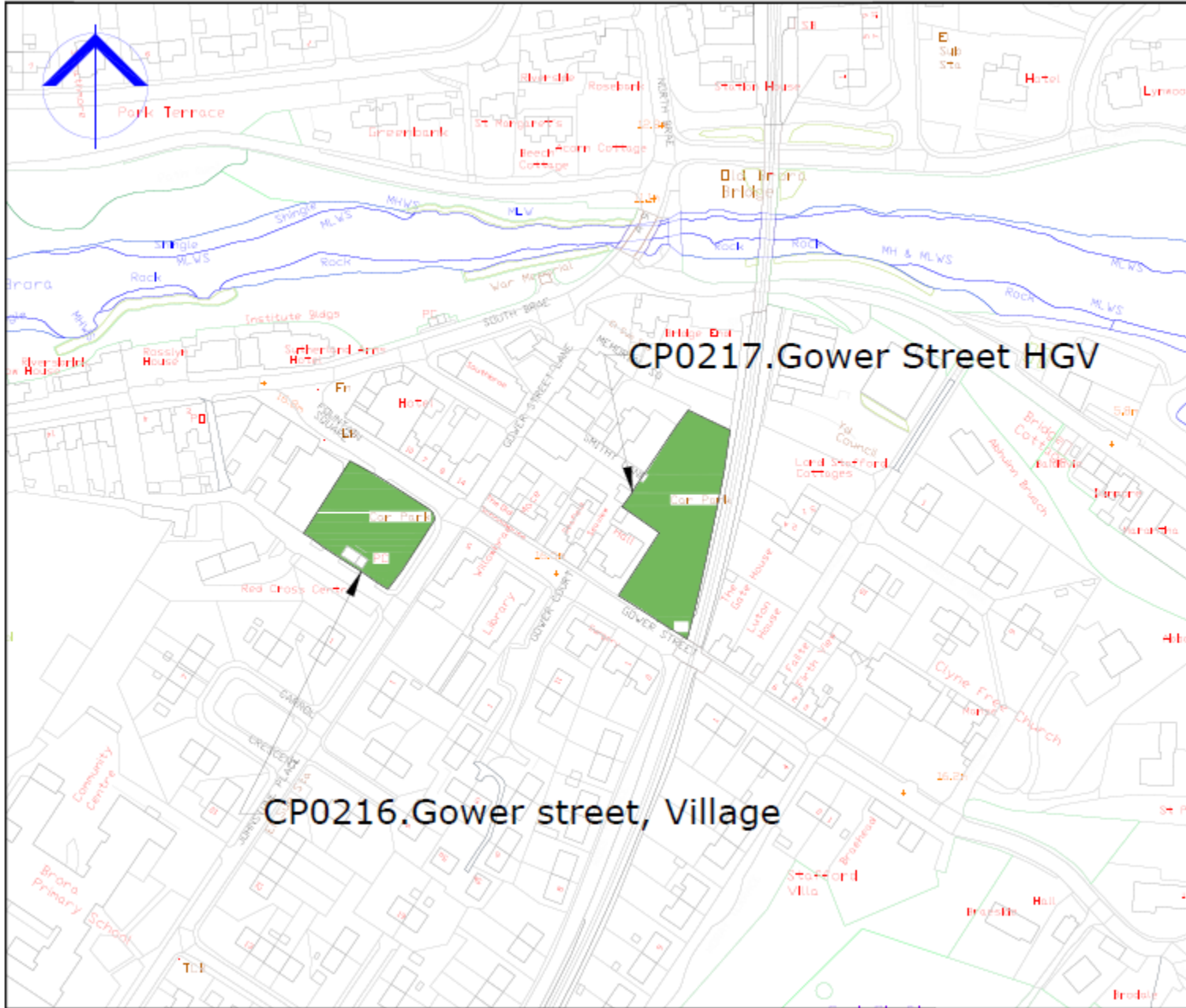
**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
 (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES)
 (DECriminalISED PARKING
 ENFORCEMENT AND
 CONSOLIDATION)
 ORDER_2016**

**HELMSDALE_CPS
 CP0226,0227**

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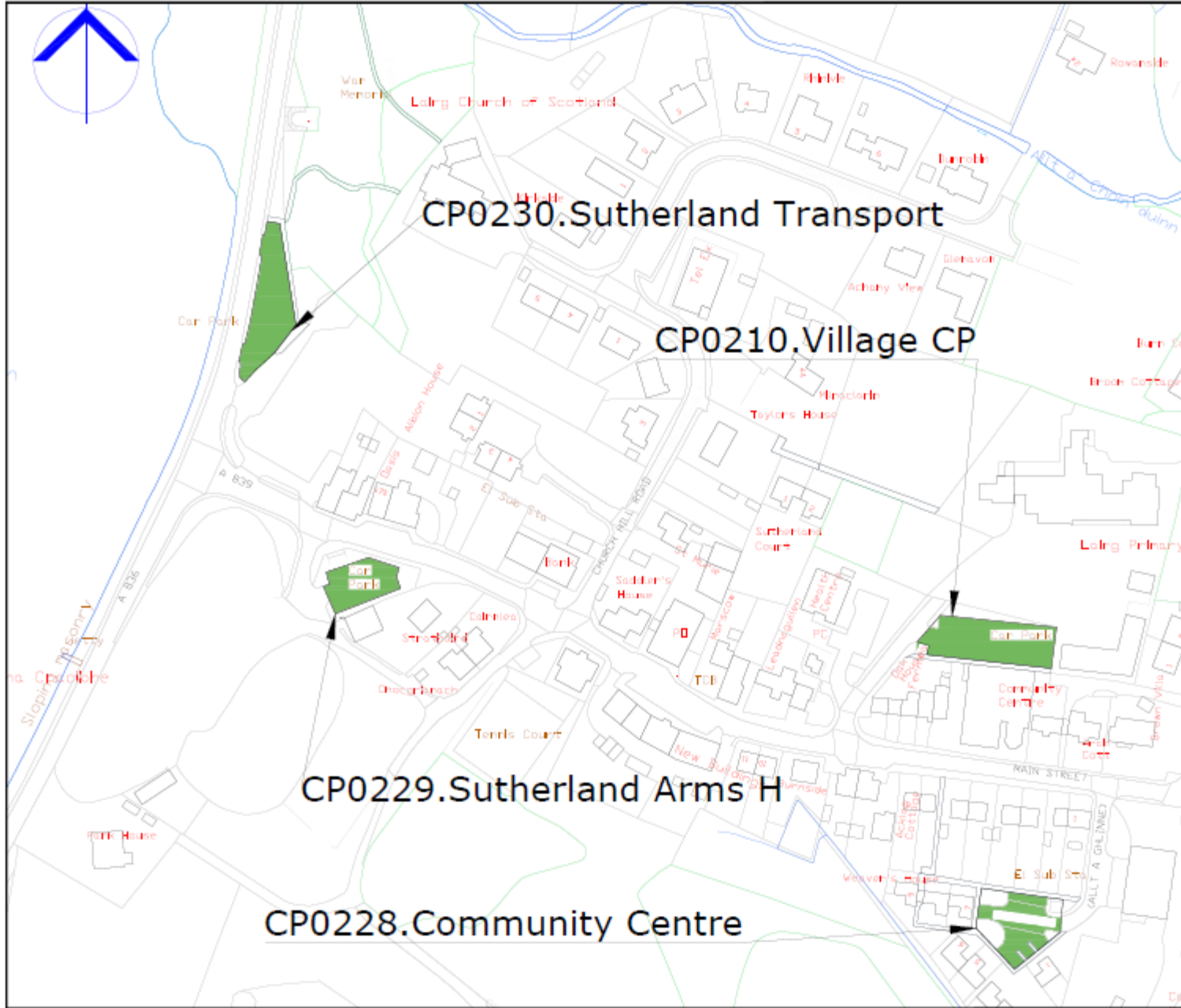
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Project No	132		



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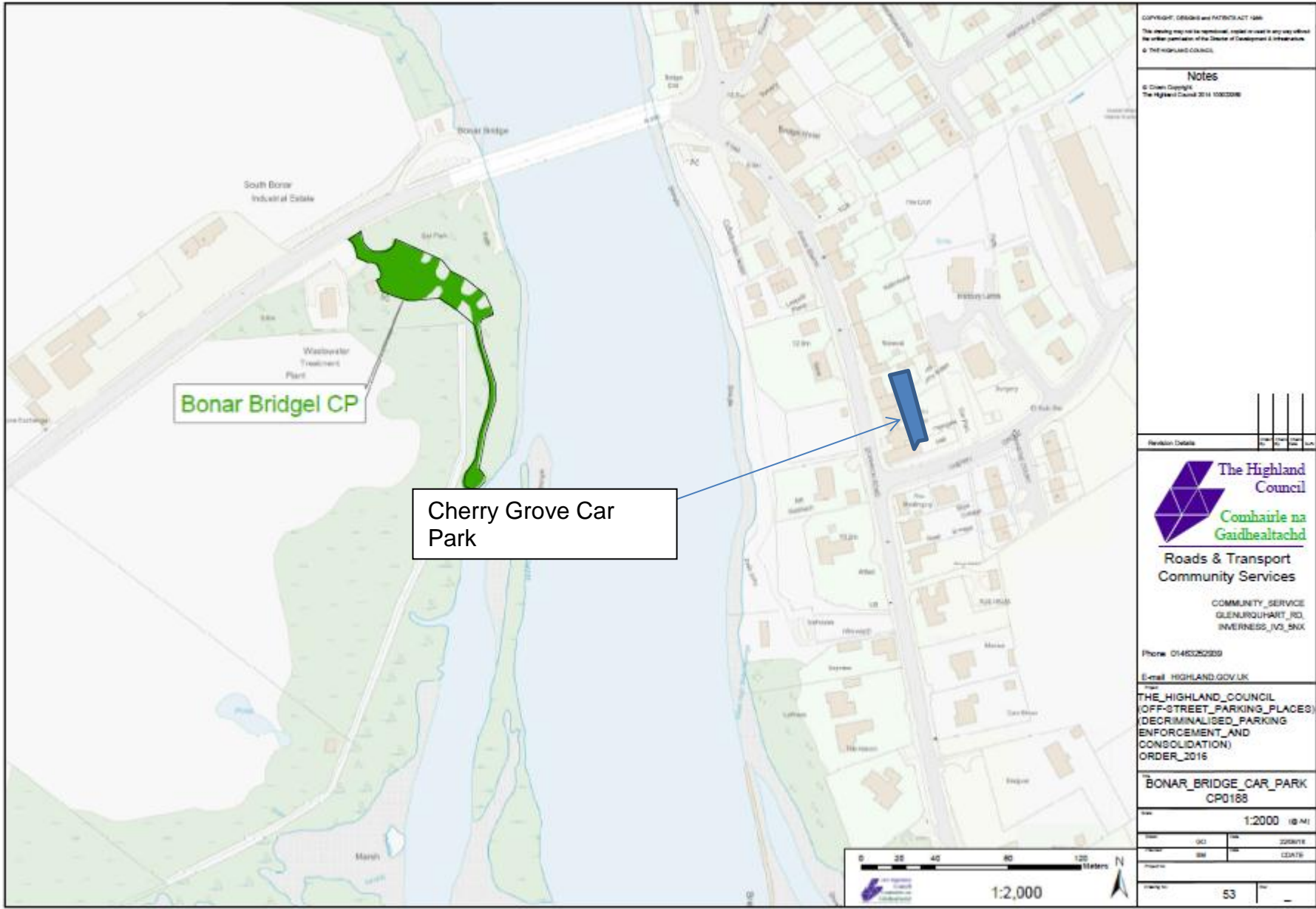
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ORDER_2016

THE LAIRG_CPS
 CP0210,0228,0229,0230

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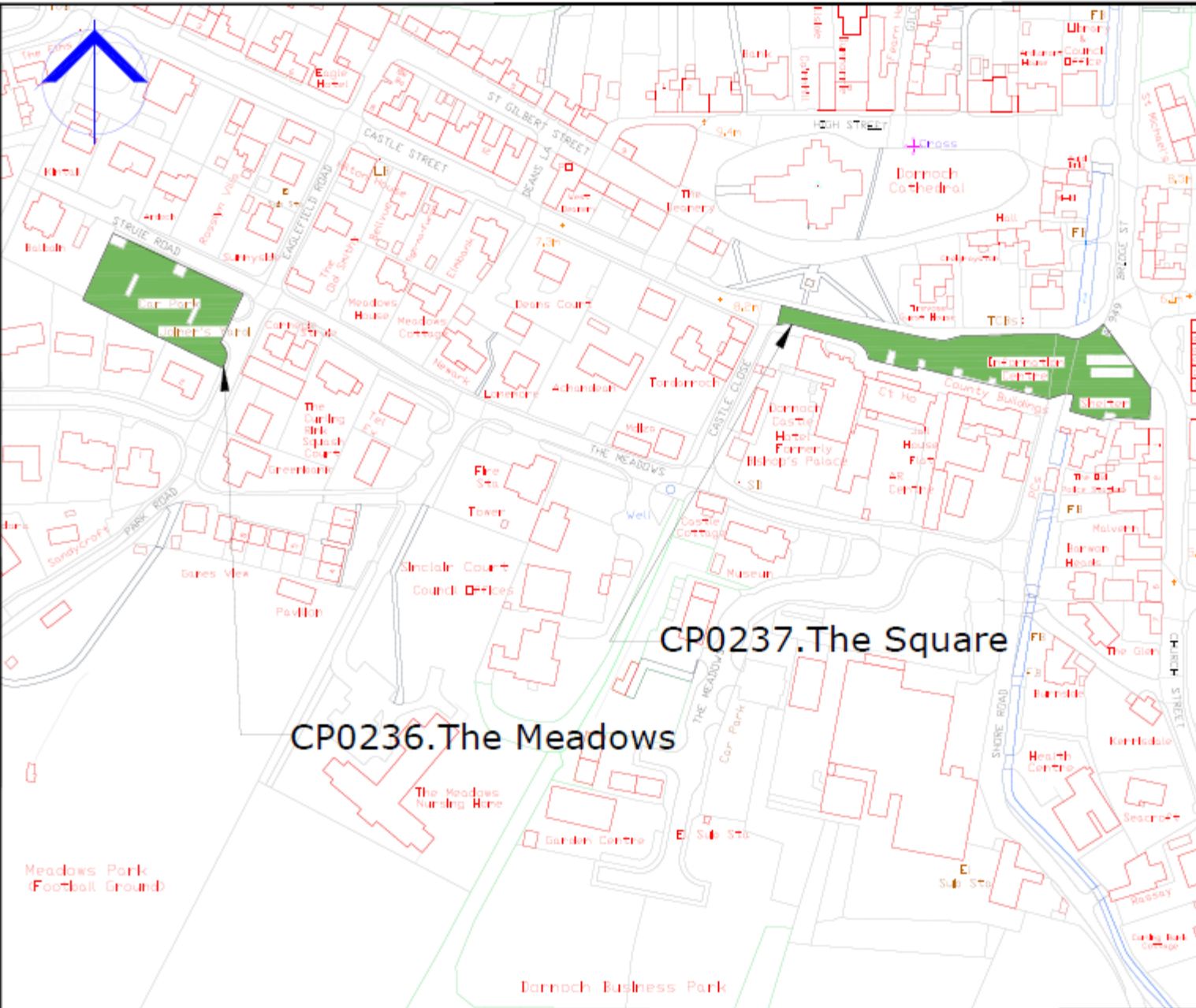
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BONAR_BRIDGE_CAR_PARK CP0168	
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DORNOCH_CAR_PARK
CP0236,237

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