

AN ATLAS OF EDINBANE



MANIFESTO

With the current surge in tourism to Scotland as a whole, but in particular to Skye, rural communities are being faced with new challenges, however, with these challenges also comes opportunities.

Found on Skye, Edinbane's answer to these challenges and opportunities is distinct and different.

Building on existing histories, infrastructure, industries, and services, Edinbane is proposing a holistic community-led master plan which brings a new identity to the community, creates a variety of new opportunities for locals and visitors alike, and transforms the community into a unique asset for the Isle of Skye.

An Atlas of Edinbane - Final Report Recommendations

The following document highlights the short, medium and long term recommendations for developing future projects by the Edinbane Community Company. The document is a summary of the key points highlighted as part of the full report, An Atlas of Edinbane.

Short Term Recommendations

Edinbane Community Company could seek to develop the following projects in the short term:

1. Branding and Identity

One of the key outputs from the community consultations was the development of a new brand and identity for Edinbane and this should be pursued as a priority. Lateral North developed an initial idea, however, this would need further development which could be completed alongside a graphic designer.

2. Website

The development of a website for Edinbane should also be considered as a priority and would be directly informed by the brand and identity.

3. Tracks and Trails

The third short term recommendation would be to develop the various different walking and cycling routes throughout the village and neighbouring landscape to provide more opportunities for outdoor activities.

4. Land for Housing

Progress negotiations with developers and Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust to secure 6 plots for local affordable rental housing.

Medium Term Recommendation

Edinbane Community Company could seek to develop the following projects in the medium term:

1. Interpretation Strategy

Once a brand, identity and website have been developed, the creation and implementation of an interpretation strategy (including identification of content and associated sites for future exterior/interior interpretation panels) should be sought to provide information on the village to visitors.

2. Village Centre

As part of the interpretation strategy a focus should be placed on creating a central orientation point. As part of the consultation an area of land was identified to house this orientation point, with the land also being proposed to be developed as a 'village centre' which would be multi-functional. Consultation of the community should be sought for this as well as engagement with a design team.

3. Gateway Structures and Viewing Platforms

Again, once the brand and identity has been developed, the ECC should explore the development of two gateway structures (one at either end of the village along the main road) as well as also developing a program for two viewing platforms. The viewing platforms should occupy the two laybys which sit on the approach to Edinbane from the East and West.

Long Term Recommendations

Edinbane Community Company could seek to develop the following projects in the long term:

1. Here We Are

One of the key points identified by the community of Edinbane was the development of gateway structures which would say '*Here We Are*' to passing visitors. One of the suggestions was to create a large landscape/seascape installation which would be noticed by all passing visitors, while also providing a variety of new services for the community (jetty, outdoor swimming area, etc). This large structure should be considered the main long term recommendation as it would tie together with a number of other elements which could be developed in the short and medium term.

2. Community Shop, Cafe and Heritage Centre

The second long term recommendation should be to develop a pocket of land within Edinbane (potentially where the current closed shop sits, or other) to create a community owned and run shop. This structure would include an adjoining cafe and heritage centre.

3. Energy

As highlighted at the AGM of the ECC, the energy use of the community will be studied over the coming year, however, it is also the desire of the community to create further community owned renewable energy options and this should be something which is explored further.

4. Housing

Finally, the community's long term goal should be to encourage people to move to and live within Edinbane. This would support the school and businesses within the community and make other proposals mentioned within this report viable.



AN ATLAS OF EDINBANE

Edinbane is a rural community which is found on the route between Portree and Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. Within less than an hour's drive of some of the most iconic landscapes within Scotland, such as the Fairy Pools, the Quiraing and the Old Man of Storr, the community is currently a hidden gem within the island.

However, over the course of the next ten years, a series of innovative projects are being suggested by the community to be taken forward. These projects will offer new opportunities for the local community, wider population of Skye, and visitors, primarily tourists, to the island.

These projects have been proposed by the community as part of a series of consultations and developed by Lateral North and Elgar Finlay Limited into the 'atlas' that you find in your hands today.

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Project Team



Introduction

The following '*atlas*' introduces and explores the past, present and, potential future ideas for the community of Edinbane on the Isle of Skye, Scotland.

'*An Atlas of Edinbane*' is a project which highlights the development of a community since the 17th century, highlights current businesses and industries within this rural community, and introduces ideas which have been formed and shaped by the community through mapping workshops and consultations.

The project results in the setting out of a series of ten key ideas for a future Edinbane, highlighting inspirational projects nationally and internationally which can be used as precedents to form, shape and inspire each individual idea.

Each of these ideas have either a montage, map or an associated graphic to give you, the reader, an idea of how each of these ideas can form a jigsaw of a vision for Edinbane.

The project has been developed by Lateral North and Elgar Finlay Limited for the Edinbane Community Company and as such each idea would be in itself a project which can be developed by the local community with the backing of the Edinbane Community Company.

Some of the ideas can be actioned now while others will require further development and engagement with other professionals.

We hope that if you are reading this as a member of the local community that you may get involved in the development of one or more of the ideas, and that if you are reading as a member of another community, that this '*atlas*' may inspire you to take on similar ideas or projects within your community.



PAST EDINBANE



Occidens

Oriens



In Loch Tailort

s. N. Chelgh

s. N. Granille

Fligh

Glen

PAST EDINBANE

Before we can explore the future of Edinbane we must first look at the past.

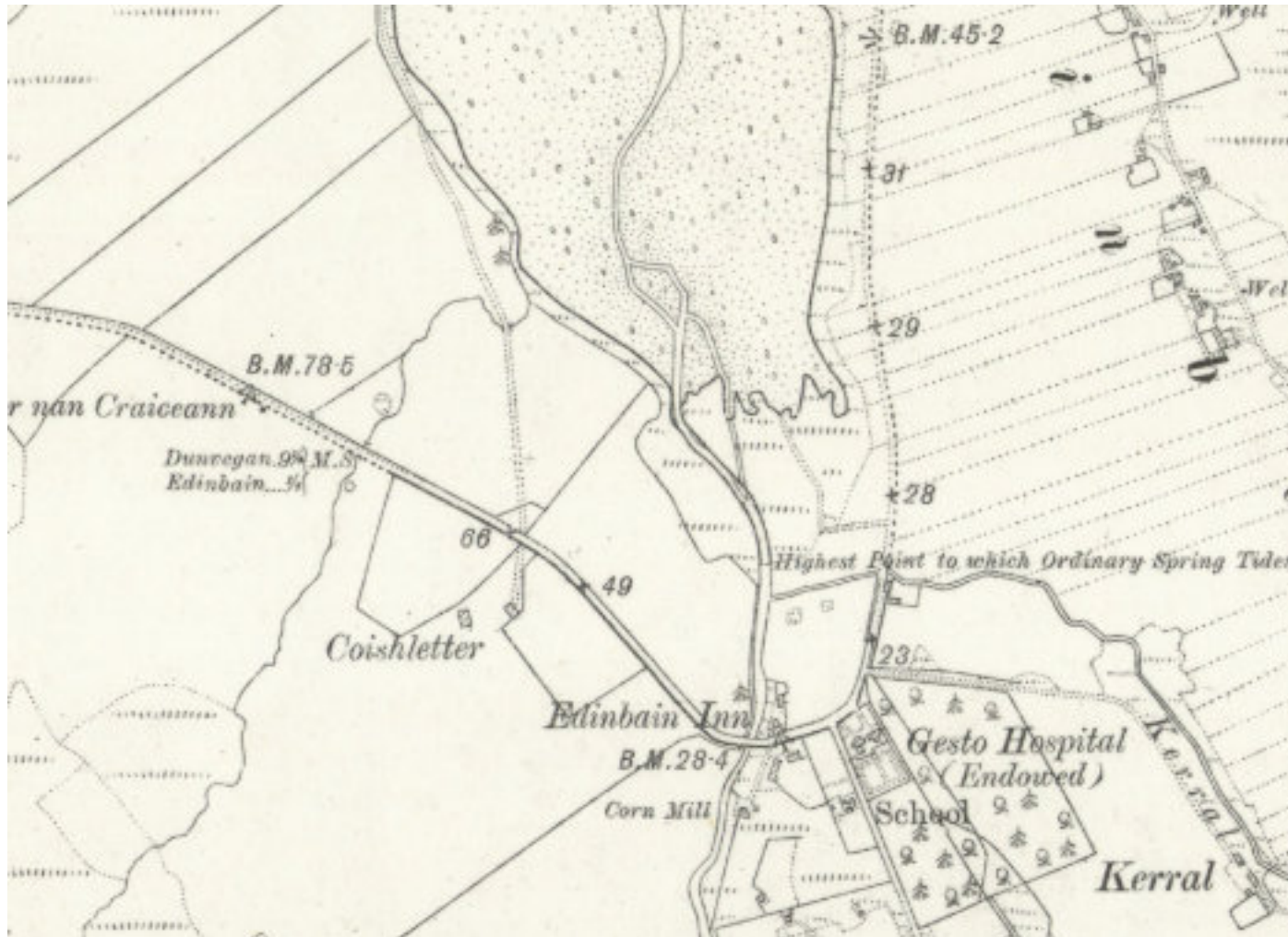
There has been a settlement at Edinbane since the 1600s, however it was only when Kenneth MacLeod of Greshornish founded the village that it became a recognisable settlement. Kenneth MacLeod was a Skye-born landowner who amassed his wealth abroad in India. Returning to Skye he bought land at Orbost, Isle of Skye, Edinbane, Skirinish, Greshornishy, Tote and Skeabost and much of Portree.

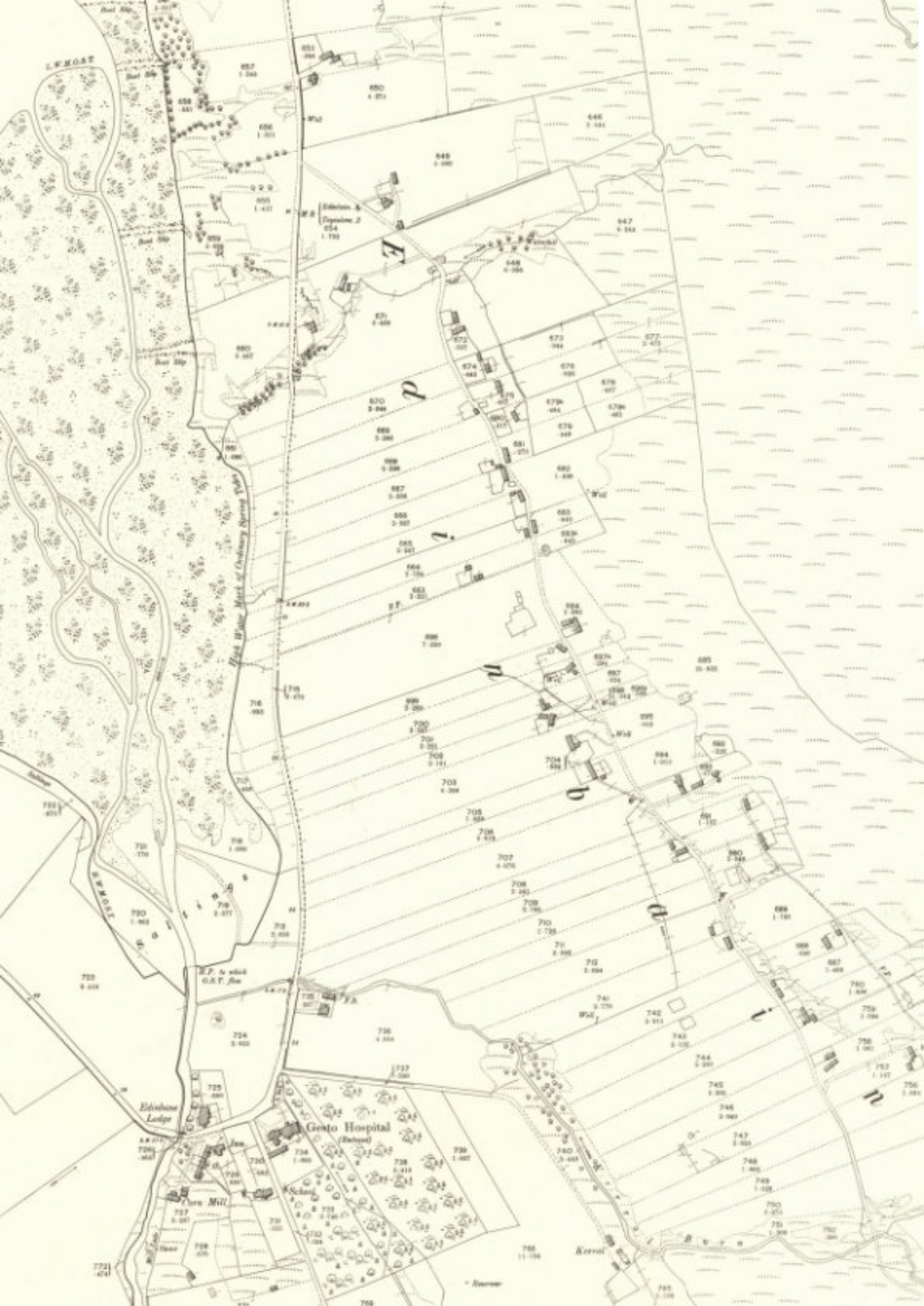
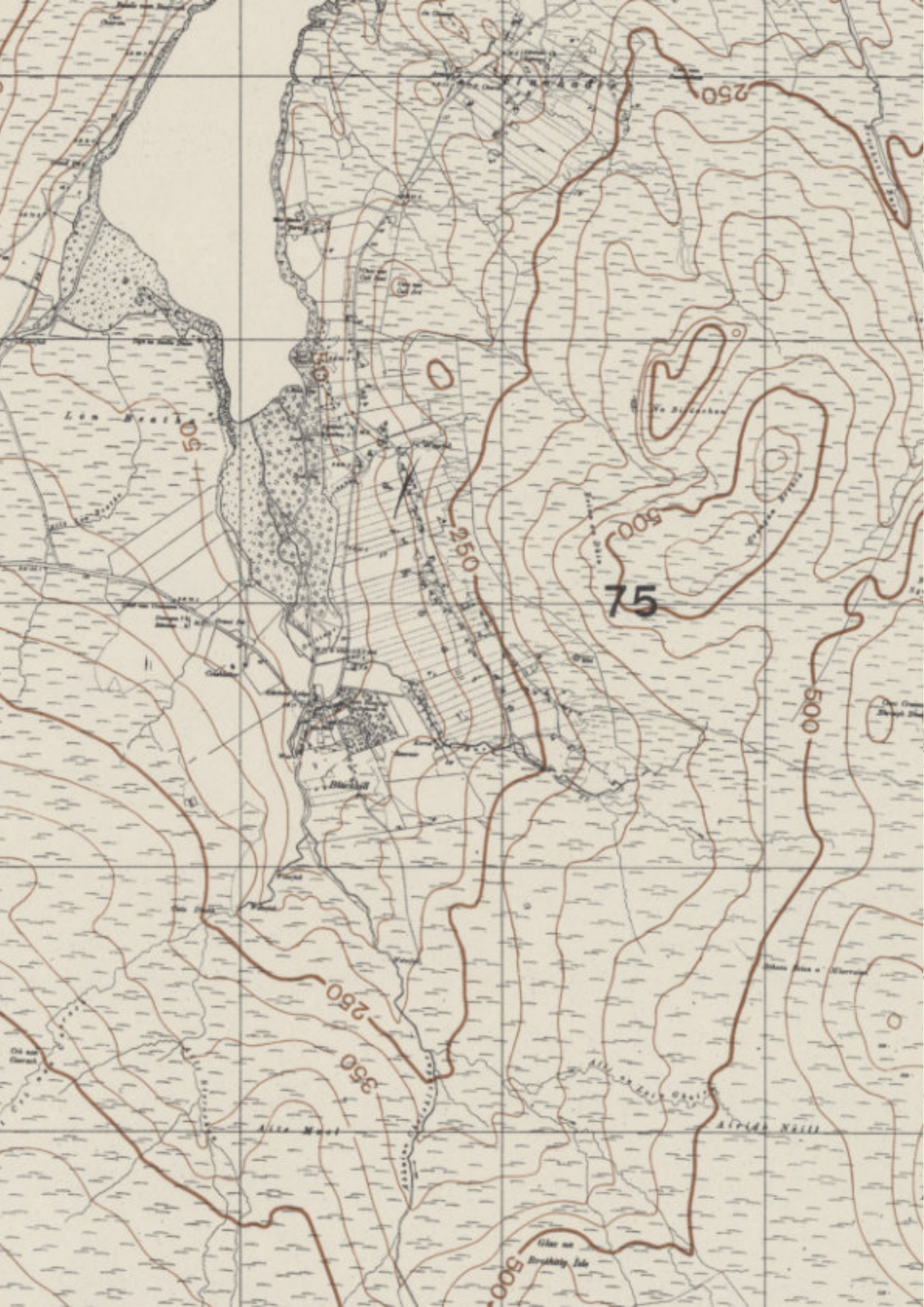
He would go on to become an important figure in developing the village as he ensured that the village had a tradesman from each of the important crafts and he set up the first hospital on Skye in Edinbane, aptly named Gesto (the name of the land within Skye which his family farmed for over 500 years).

However, the oldest recorded building in Skye is the Edinbane Lodge, dating from 1543. It was purchased by Kenneth MacLeod of Greshornish in the 1860's and converted into a hunting lodge. In 1920 the Lodge was purchased by Edward Langdale Hilleary, a wealthy London businessman, and his wife Edith (nee Robertson), niece of Kenneth MacLeod.

In 1927 Edward Langdale Hilleary constructed a small hydro plant on the Abhainn Coishletter just behind the Lodge. The scheme supplied electricity to the nearby Gesto hospital and also powered the Lodge.

Among other uses, the Edinbane Lodge has served as the land court for the surrounding area. Where people were tried for various offences including sheep rustling and for more serious crimes. If found guilty and sentenced to death, the accused were hanged in the garden grounds.







PRESENT EDINBANE



PRESENT EDINBANE

With the Isle of Skye currently experiencing an influx of tourists many communities are exploring ideas about how to economically benefit from this opportunity while also empowering and strengthening their local community by retaining local people and providing work opportunities throughout the year for the whole community.

Edinbane currently has a number of assets which attract people to the community these are highlighted over the following pages. Further to this, over the past few years other businesses have begun to develop within the community to provide further services for the local community, people from Skye and tourists who come to visit the community.

The main challenge facing many communities within Skye is providing enough opportunities for tourists to ensure that they stay for a longer period of time than only a few hours. The following opportunities, tied with the ideas developed and presented in 'Edinbane Future', will hopefully lead to the retention of tourists within the community.



Edinbane Inn

Edinbane Pottery

Edinbane Lodge

Edinbane Primary

Edinbane Play

Edinbane Hall



Edinbane Lodge

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Among other uses, the Edinbane Lodge has served as the land court for the surrounding area, where people were tried for various offences including sheep rustling and for more serious crimes. If found guilty and sentenced to death, the accused were hanged in the garden grounds.

The lodge has now been converted into a restaurant and offers accommodation for tourists to stay as well.



Edinbane Hall

The hall within Edinbane is a building which is used to host a series of events throughout the year. These range from local meetings to larger musical events such as the SEALL festival.

The hall was identified in part of the consultations as being in need of upgrading and to be used more by the local community for local events.

The hall is one of the only buildings which could offer public toilets, however this is currently not the case.



Edinbane Pottery

One of the most noticeable businesses within Edinbane is Edinbane Pottery. The pottery workshop offers a chance for tourists to get inside and shop, with the workshop doubling up as a place to sell the pottery moulded and fired in the kiln within the workshop.

The high quality handmade ceramics are both modern and functional, and the pots are much sought after by visitors and islanders alike, who recognise the distinctive features and inspiration behind the work. The pottery workshop draws heavily on the influences of living and working in a stunningly beautiful environment.



Edinbane Transport

Edinbane residents are for the most part reliant on cars to get around the village and to connect with the wider Skye community, however there is some public transport which connects into Portree.

One of the considerations and ideas put forward by the community was how to make the village and its surrounding landscape more suitable for cycling and walking and as such a series of new 'tracks and trails' have been proposed in the 'Future Edinbane' part of this atlas.



Edinbane Inn

Edinbane Inn is the main location within the village to get teas, coffees, lunches and dinners, and acts as the local pub for the community. It is a key part of the community and has spaces for functions within it as well.

Further to this the Inn plays host to a series of cultural events / nights which included music nights.



Edinbane Businesses

There are a number of small scale businesses which operate within and from Edinbane, working in a variety of diverse industries ranging from pony trekking to craft making to flooring consultants (above).

Some of these businesses include B&B's and self catering facilities, however there are also more eclectic businesses such as Peter Macrae's workshop where he builds trailers, Ricki Peri's scrap art on the top road and Sam Peare's textile workshop.

As part of the process to create this atlas we have engaged with the businesses to gather their ideas.



Edinbane Heritage

Edinbane has a variety of pieces of heritage hidden throughout its landscape which have been strongly identified by the community as under-utilised and under-advertised assets for the community.

These pieces of heritage range from the Edinbane Lodge and Gesto building (mentioned previously in the atlas) through to a broch (above), duns and hidden social histories.

The community identified these as potential opportunities to create a heritage walk which brings all these aspects together.



Edinbane Play

One of the most fantastic assets for Edinbane is its play area. The custom built play park attracts families from the whole of Skye and it was identified by the community as a key asset which could be advertised more to ensure more families visit the community.





ENGAGING EDINBURGH



Topographical model was stuck together by the local primary school students



The final model was all stuck together within an hour by the students



The happy students after completing the model

Engagement Development

This project began life being called 'Mapping Edinbane' and built on previous similar consultations and workshops that Lateral North had been involved in where mapping was a central driving force within the project. 'An Atlas of Edinbane' has developed from these consultations and workshops, including a wide range of people from throughout the community along the way.

The first members of the community to engage with the process were the primary school students. Edinbane Primary School has seven students and Lateral North gave them the task of 'sticking together' their community. A laser cut model introduced them to the topography of the community and its surrounding landscape. The students were asked to stick together the different heights (top left image) which had been design by Lateral North and cut by Flux Studio, Glasgow.

The result was that the students not only undertook a completely unique project for an afternoon, but they also, literally, built the base for the wider community consultations and workshops.

The students were also asked to highlight their ideas for a future Edinbane. Some of these ideas are aspirational for a small community (swimming pool, for example), however many of the ideas from the students are not only achievable but they were corroborated by the community members in the wider consultations and workshops.



The first community workshop focused around a series of maps at a coffee morning in the hall



The topographical model made by the primary school students was used as part of the workshops



The different coloured tags allowed community members to highlight what they thought were challenges, opportunities and potential solutions for Edinbane

Engagement Process

Engagement with the wider community was undertaken over a number of different weeks and at different events, however there was always a map present at each consultation for the community to write down their ideas and annotate the map as to where they thought these ideas should go.

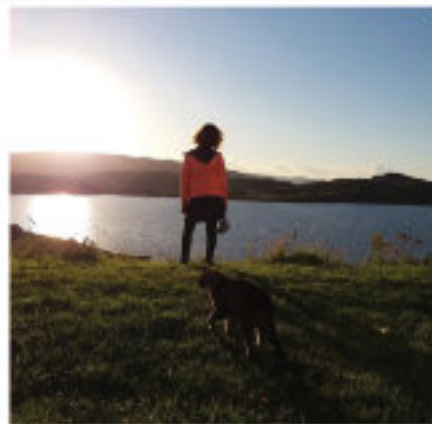
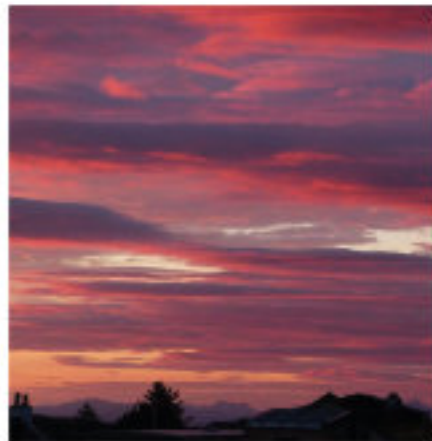
The first community workshop focused around a number of maps which were used as tablecloths at a local coffee morning on 11th November 2018. Pens were provided and community members were asked to contribute their ideas to the future of Edinbane.

The second consultation was spread out over the course of three days in late November 2018 and was focused around the topographical model developed by the Edinbane Primary School.

The workshops were held throughout a week in the Edinbane Inn with community members dropping in to contribute their challenges, opportunities and solutions for a future Edinbane. Further to this Lateral North also visited and talked to, through one-to-one conversations, local businesses on their aspirations and ideas for the development of Edinbane.



Edinbane will be the outdoorsports area for Skye



BE ENTHRALLED
EDINBANE

Branding and Identity for Edinbane

Engagement Results

The engagement and workshops resulted in a number of clear ideas for future development, and there are ten ideas which have been developed further within the 'Edinbane Future' section of this atlas. These ten ideas were mentioned by numerous members of the community and are also seen to be achievable targets for the local community to develop over the coming years.

However, there were also a number of other ideas which were highlighted which were more general (make the village centre cleaner, provide more street lighting, etc) or require consultation with the Highland Council to be further developed (change speed limit along route to slow down traffic and encourage them to enter the community).

Some of the montages you will see within the 'Future Edinbane' section (which are adapted further) are highlighted on the page to the left, and the main ideas to come from the consultation were as follows:

Gateway: The main over-arching theme to come from the consultations was that the community needed to promote itself better and effectively advertise itself to passing trade.

An Edinbane Brand: The second of the main ideas ties in to the first and would be to develop a brand for Edinbane. An Edinbane Brand would also include the development of signage and interpretation for throughout the village.

Community Central Point: The creation of a 'village centre' was one of the main ideas and a location for this has been clearly identified by community members.

Community Shop: One of the main ideas was for the redevelopment of the Edinbane Shop which has now lain derelict for a number of years. Its prominent position means it could encourage people to stop and visit Edinbane and its community facilities/businesses.

Tracks and Trails: Taking precedent from Whitelee Windfarm, some community members suggested the development of 'Tracks and Trails' which would range from Nature Trails to Mountain Bike Tracks and encouraged tourists to come to Edinbane for outdoor adventure.

Viewing Platform: There is a beautiful view from one of the laybys along the loch outside Edinbane and many community members would like to see this location developed into an area that visitors and tourists can stop with a viewing platform/etc created here.

Edinbane Cafe: As there is currently not a community cafe this was suggested by some community members and could be an additional development alongside the community shop, integrating the two together. The cafe could also provide a space for small businesses to use as a hub/hot-desking/meeting space.

Housing: Many members believe that creating some new housing within the community will encourage families to come and live within the village.

Edinbane Energy: Some community members suggested the creation of more local energy opportunities while also suggesting possible ideas around locally grown food as well.

Cultural and Heritage Centre: The community also suggested that the development of a Cultural and Heritage Centre could tie together a number of the above suggestions and offer tourists an opportunity to see what the village has to offer while also offering locals the opportunity to learn about the community's past. A series of walks were proposed to tie into the cultural and heritage centre.



Shop, Cafe &
Heritage Centre

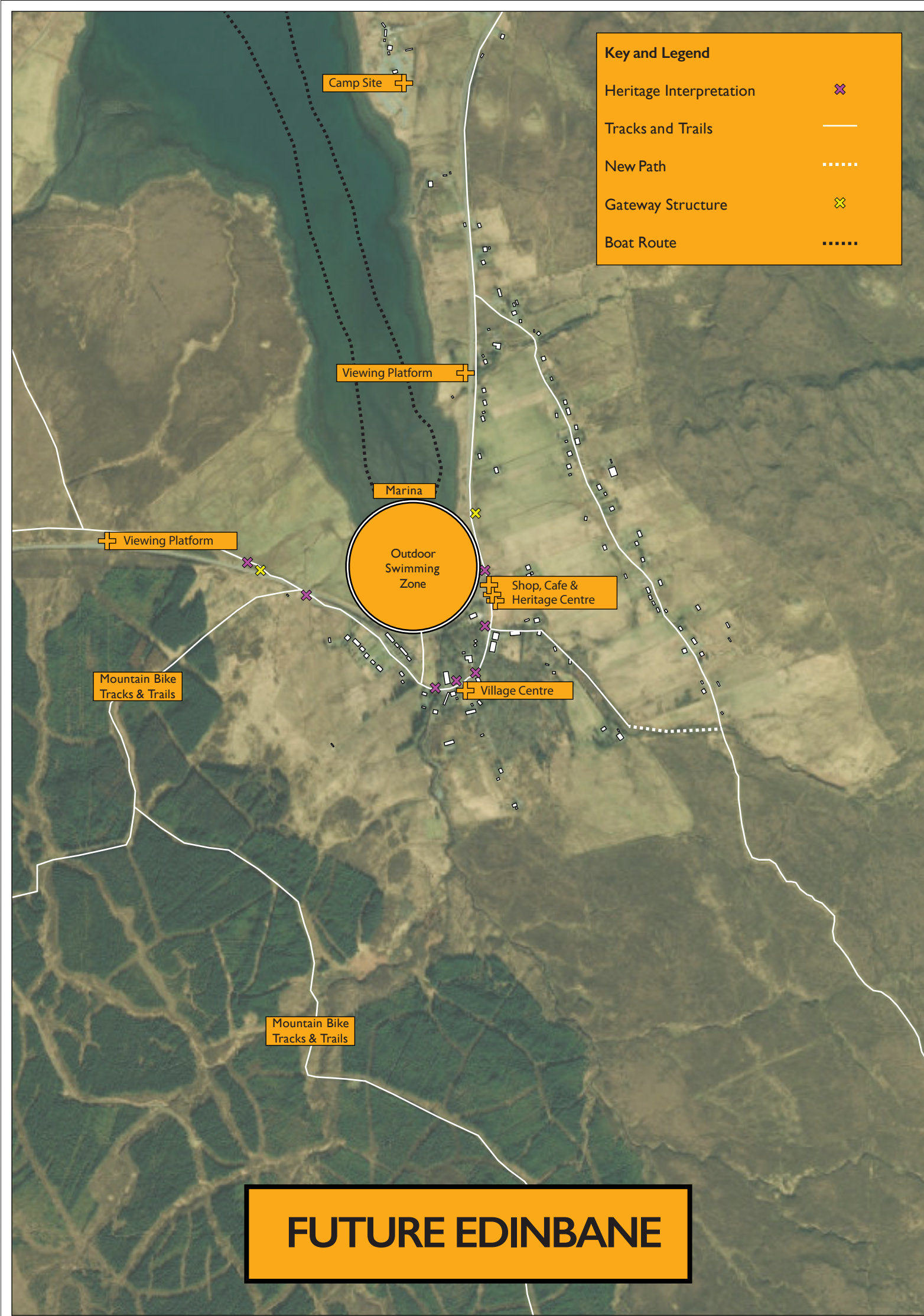
Village Centre

FUTURE EDINBANE

FUTURE EDINBANE

The following pages highlight the key aspirations of the community of Edinbane and are developed from community consultations and workshops hosted in November 2018.

The map to the right highlights how each of these interventions would sit within the landscape and how they would form a holistic master plan for Edinbane.



GATEWAY

The over-arching theme which was prevalent from the community workshops, was for the need to turn Edinbane into a destination as the community believe that the village is passed-by by most tourists and as such loses out on potential economic opportunities.

As such, when we are talking about identifying Edinbane as a destination we must first break it down into different themes to highlight how this can be achieved.

The Physical Gateway

The first aspect to this is creating an identifying physical feature which ensures that passing tourists can see that there is some form of activity going on within the landscape that they are passing through.

Within the consultations the main suggestion to come through was to create gateway signage and interpretation for passing visitors to see (which we have identified on the map to the right), however, a suggestion was also made as part of the business consultation to create a marina (or opportunity for boats to stop) within the bay at Edinbane.

The main feature we have identified within the master plan is to create a large circular boardwalk which would be accessible from the village. This would create the opportunity for a marina/jetty to allow boats to dock at, as well as a contained safe swimming space. Edinbane can take precedent from the work currently being undertaken by Atlas Arts within Skye and how they are creating structures in the water as part of an art project. By creating this large circular timber boardwalk we would be creating a series of new functions and opportunities within the landscape while also creating a gateway structure which would immediately encourage people to stop, explore and discover Edinbane.

The Gateway Mindset

The second aspect regarding Edinbane as a gateway is that the community identified the need for it to identify its own niche market to attract tourists to the area. This atlas proposes that, due to the surrounding landscapes that the community begins to market itself as an active outdoor area with walks, cycling routes and other outdoor pursuits available. By doing this the community would be creating its own market which would draw people to the area.

The Digital Gateway

The third aspect of creating gateways would be to develop an Edinbane website. This subject is touched on further in the next section regarding branding, but the need to create an Edinbane website which advertises local opportunities, services and businesses was high on the priority of many community members who engaged with the consultation. By creating a website the community would be offering a gateway to visitors before they have even arrived at Edinbane, and allowing them to plan their trip.



EDINBANE LOOP

Could a circular timber boardwalk create a unique gateway structure which ensures that tourists stop and visit the community while also offering other functions such as becoming a marina/jetty or a safe place for outdoorswimming which can be used by tourists and locals alike?



BRAND & IDENTITY

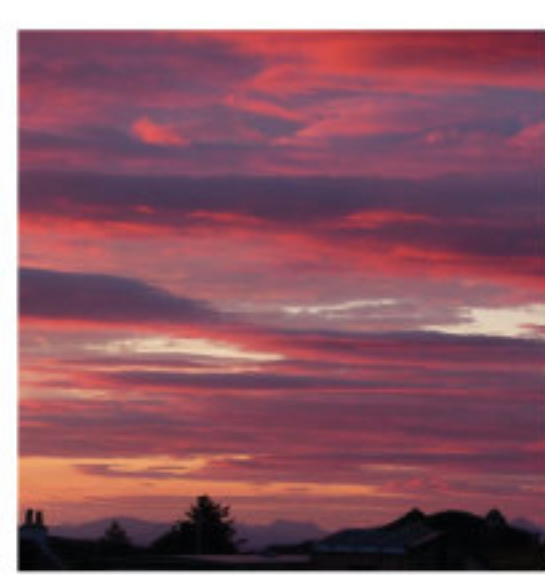
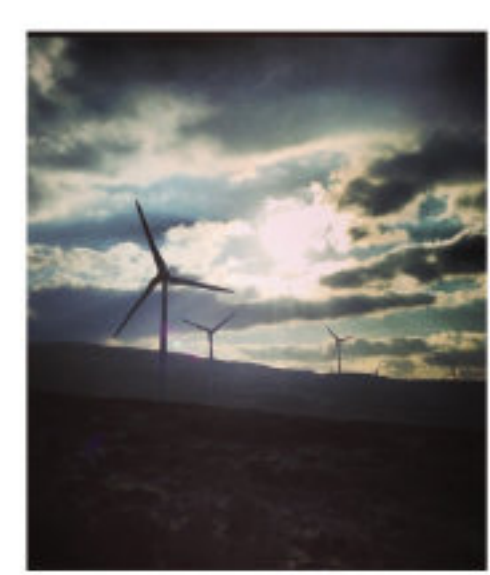
Following on closely from the opportunity to create a series of gateways to Edinbane, the next most talked about opportunity as part of the consultations was the development of a brand and identity for the community. This brand and identity would be something which could be used by both businesses and the community to promote opportunities within the area.

The brand and identity we have proposed requires more in-depth analysis. However, the proposal is to use the word 'in' which is contained within 'Edinbane' to create a series of catchy posters which advertise the different opportunities and activities which are available within Edinbane.

We have mocked up a few of these initial ideas. However, as you will see on the following pages, the opportunity to create many more of these is definitely there and something which should be explored by the community.

The brand and identity should be something which is developed closely alongside the website. However, the community also suggested a series of interpretation boards be erected throughout the village to explore the different social and physical histories within the village. The idea would be to take precedent from work currently being developed for the Skye Ecomuseum, Druim nan Linntean, and some of the potential locations for interpretation boards are identified on the map to the right. Could the interpretation look something like the ones below?





BE ENTHRALLED
EDINBANE



BE CREATIVE
EDINBANE



BE WINED & DINED
EDINBANE



BE ADVENTUROUS
EDINBANE



BE CREATIVE
EDINBANE

BE ADVENTUROUS
EDINBANE

BE ENTHRALLED
EDINBANE

BE WINED & DINED
EDINBANE

BE RELAXED
EDINBANE

BE SHELTERED
EDINBANE

BE ENTERTAINED
EDINBANE

BE WELCOMED
EDINBANE

BE OUTDOORS
EDINBANE

BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY
EDINBANE

BE AT HOME
EDINBANE

BE EDUCATED
EDINBANE

EDINBANE

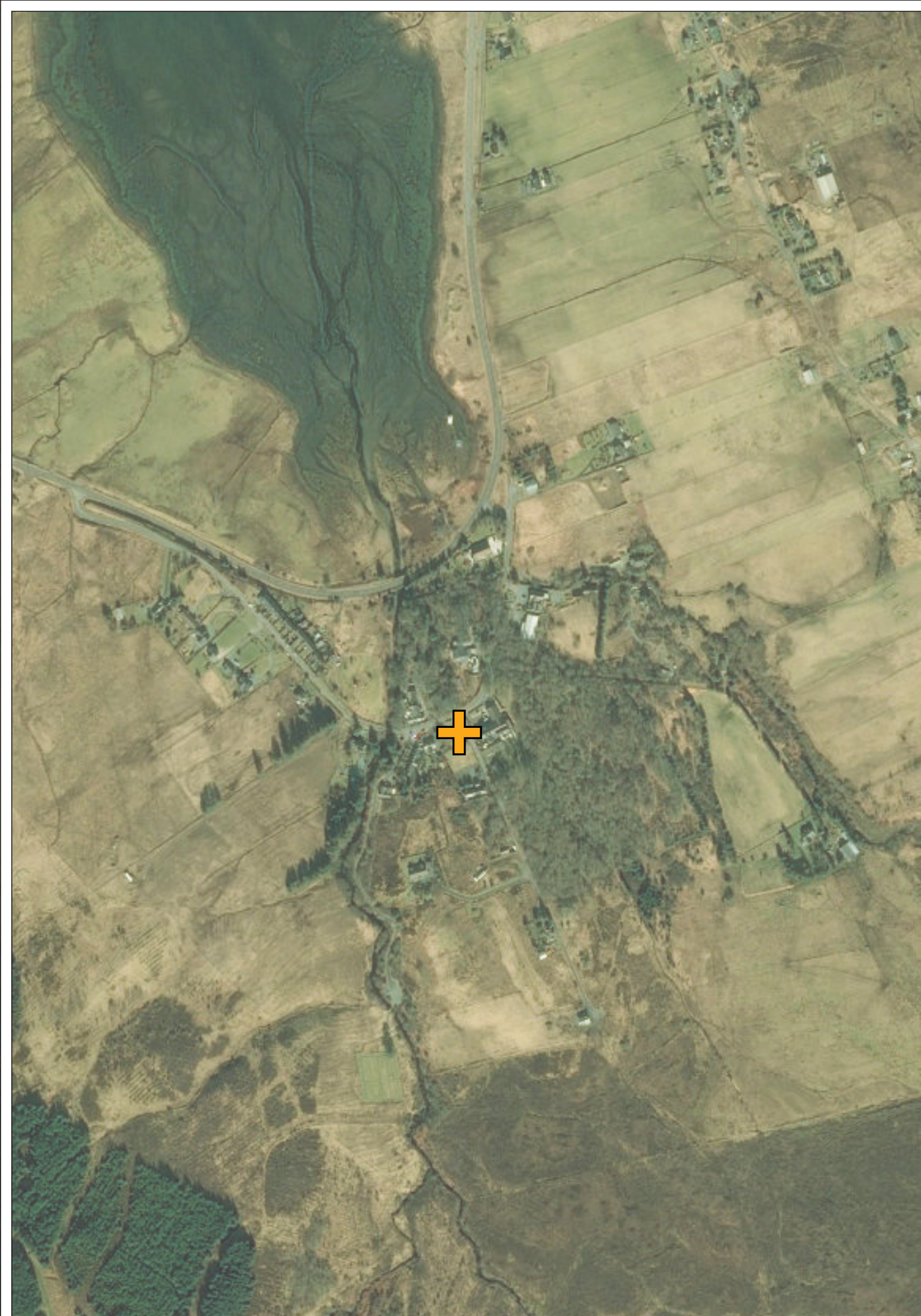
A VILLAGE CENTRE

The next most talked about theme within the community consultations was the opportunity to develop the area of land which sits in front of the primary school (shown below) into a village centre.

This village centre, as proposed by the community, would be a multi-functional space which would be able to host events such as markets or more seasonal opportunities such as a community Christmas tree.

As highlighted in the previous section there was a desire to have interpretation throughout the village. If this area were to become the village centre then it would be advisable that the main orientation point for the village be found within this space.

At the moment the recycling bins currently sit within this area and it was suggested that they either be moved to the location of the proposed shop (discussed in the next section) or that a structure be created to 'tidy them up' so that they are more hidden than they currently are.



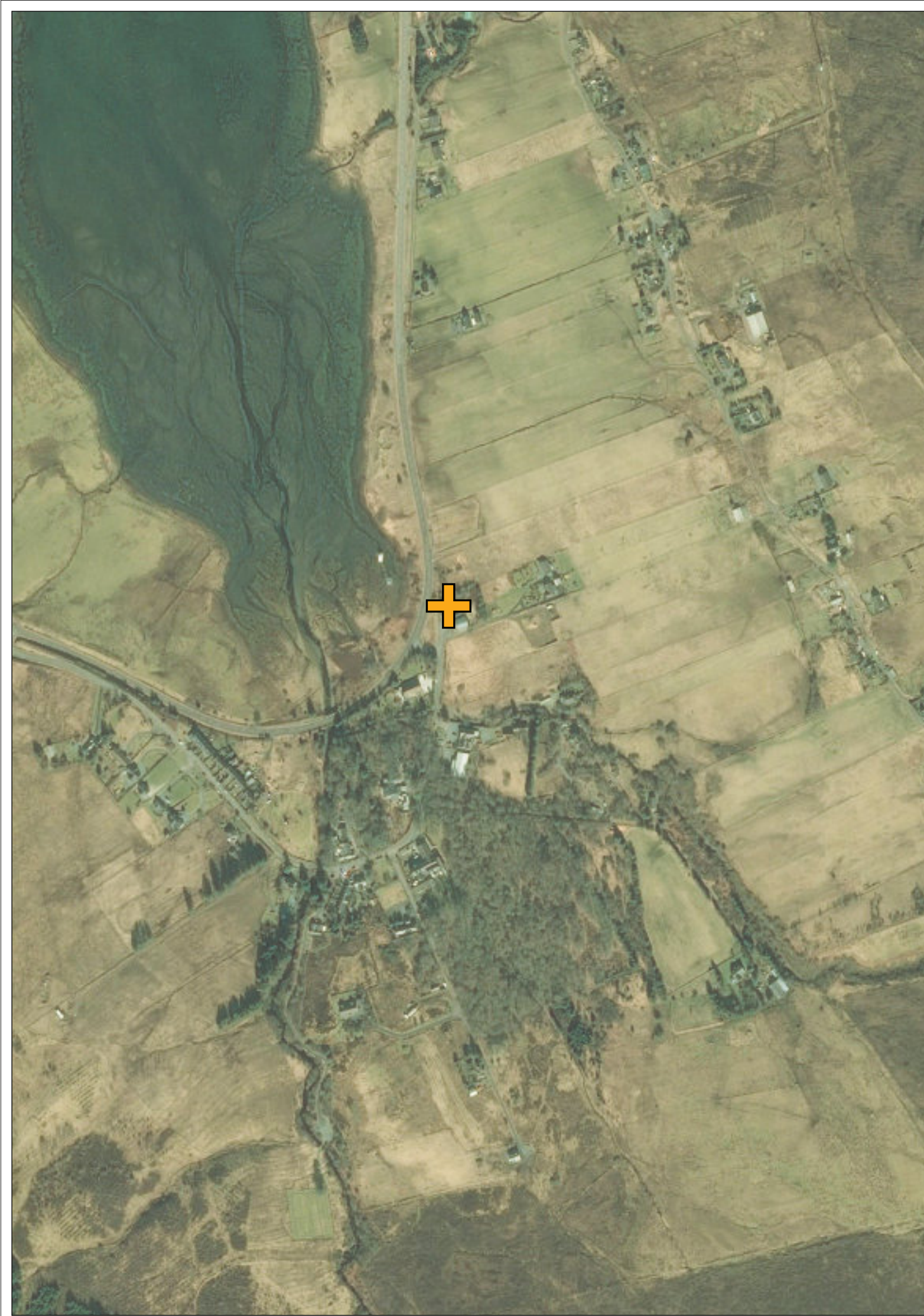
A VILLAGE SHOP

Everyone who attended the community workshops suggested that one of the main priorities for the community should be to re-open the village shop. In particular this suggestion was highlighted by the local businesses which need fresh produce or products.

At the moment community members have to travel to Portree for groceries and as such the opportunity of having a small shop was one that was widely agreed upon by the community.

If, as highlighted in previous sections, there were to be the development of a new brand and identity for Edinbane then the shop would act as an ideal space from which this brand could be sold (t-shirts, badges, maps of the area, etc). However, if businesses were also to adopt the Edinbane brand (even if this were just to be their products wrapped in paper with the brand on it) then again this could be something that the village shop could sell.

As discussed in the previous section, the recycling bins would be ideally moved to be beside the shop if it were to be created. However the main issue surrounding this project is either getting access to the current shop site (shown below) or finding new land on which to build the shop. The ECC should try to open a dialogue with the current owner of the shop to discuss the opportunity of re-opening/buying the site, and if that does not work then a new site should be identified by the local community.



TRACKS & TRAILS

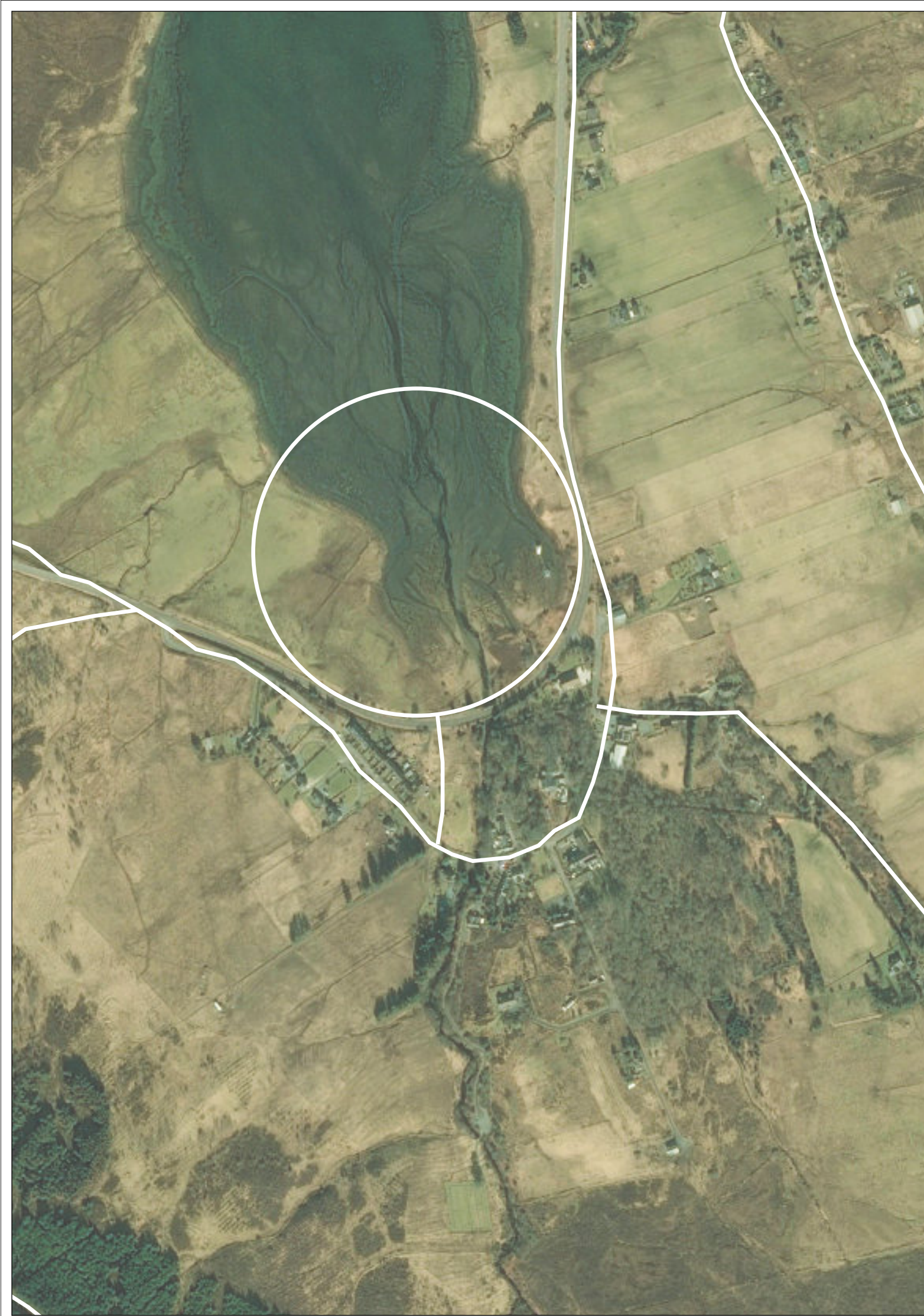
Taking precedent from Whitelee Windfarm, some community members suggested the development of 'Tracks & Trails' which would range from Nature Trails to Mountain Bike Tracks to Heritage Walks and would encouraged tourists to come to Edinbane for outdoor adventure.

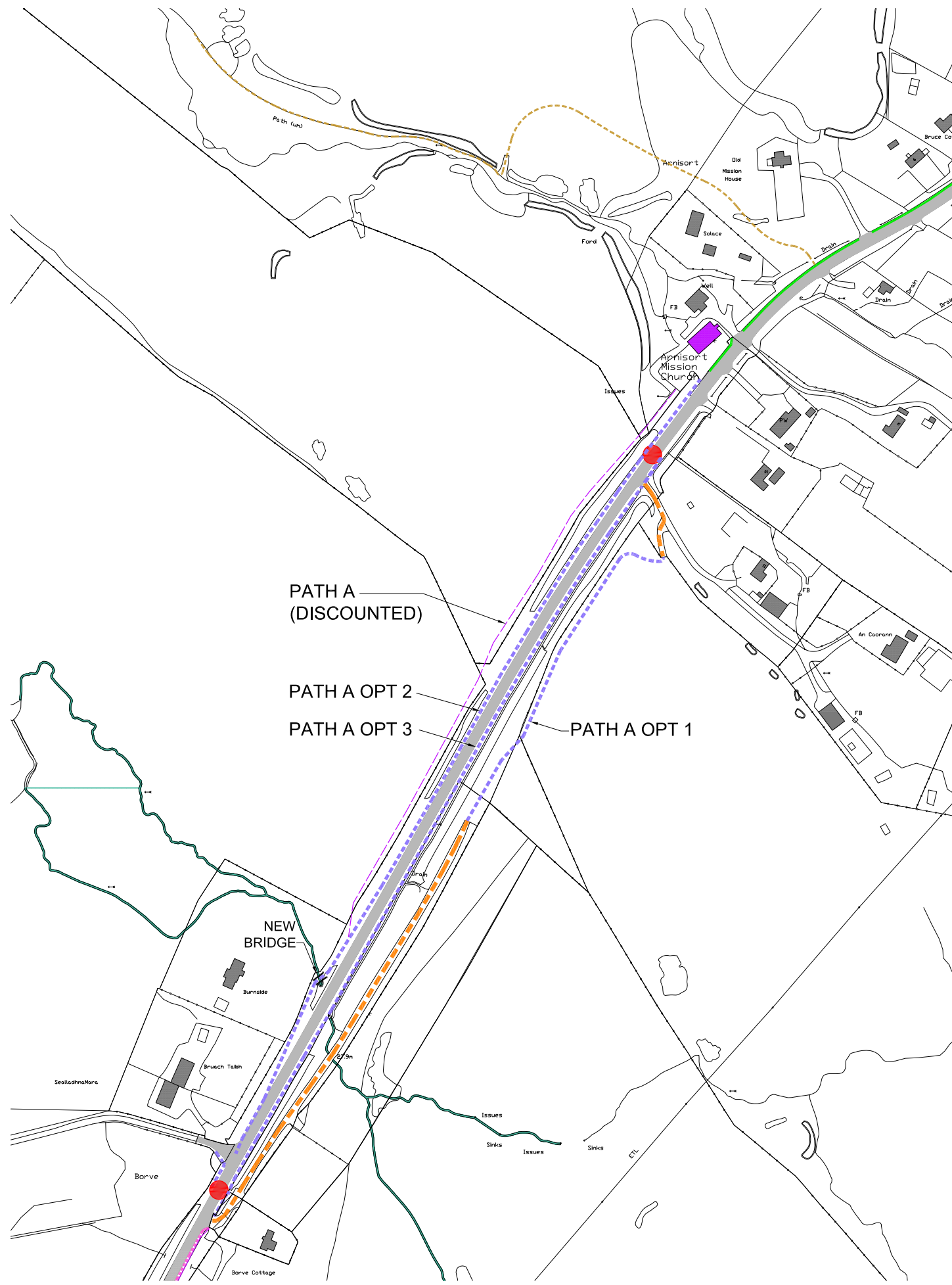
The Tracks and Trails identified on the map to the right and the wider map previously shown in the atlas would tie a lot of these areas together while also providing better connectivity between Upper Edinbane and the main village itself.

If it were possible to open up the routes more to the general public around the wind turbines then this would definitely create a unique opportunity for tourists and locals alike.

Health and wellbeing in all its capacities have a direct correlation with the time we spend outdoors as well, and one organisation within Edinbane aims to offer pony trekking as an opportunity to tackle mental health issues and accessibility for others as well. If these Tracks and Trails were brought in it could also have other advantages to a wide range of diverse groups.

Could the landscape of Edinbane's future look something a little more active, much like the one below?





PATH A (DISCOUNTED)

PATH A OPT 2

PATH A OPT 3

PATH A OPT 1

NEW BRIDGE

Bruach Tabh

Borve Cottage

-  2m NEW PATH ON VERGE
-  1.5m EXISTING TAR PAVEMENT
-  EXISTING 1.0m GRAVEL PATH UPGRADED TO 2.0m TAR PATH
-  OFF ROAD PATH OR POTENTIAL PATH
-  NEW ROAD CROSSING
-  EXISTING FENCES



MIKE HYATT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS 5 STABLES YARD 1103 ARGYLE ST GLASGOW G3 7ND tel 0141 847 0062 m. 07719 795782 email m.h@mhayatt.com	PROJECT TITLE EDINBURGH COMMUNITY LINKS	JOB 539
	DRAWING TITLE LAYOUT PLAN - OPTIONS 1-3	DRAWING NO. L02.1 B
	SCALE 1:2000@A3	DATE FEB 2019
	DATE FEB 2019	DESIGNED BY L. CHESTER

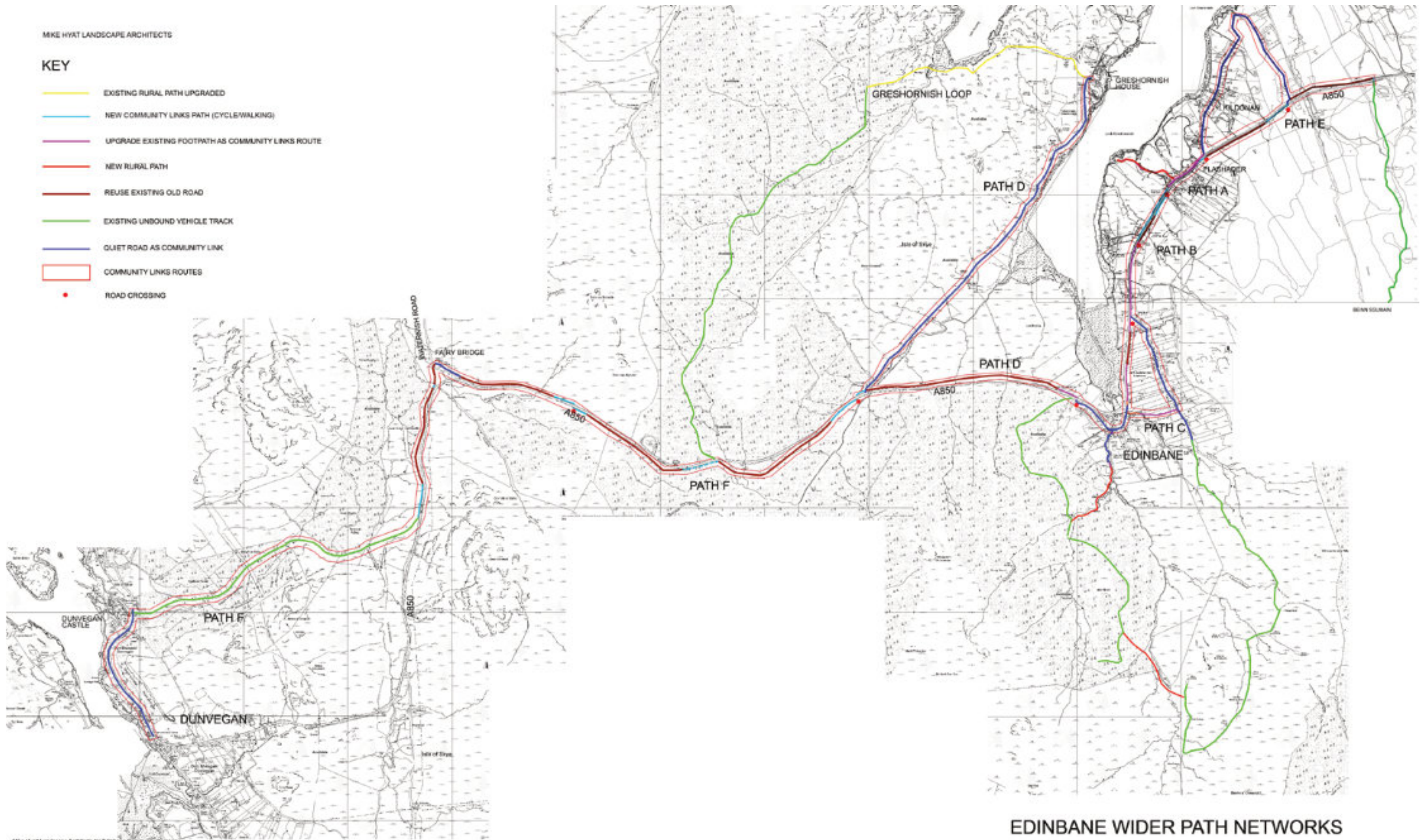


ROUTE A Options Plan

MIKE HYAT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

KEY

- EXISTING RURAL PATH UPGRADED
- NEW COMMUNITY LINKS PATH (CYCLEWALKING)
- UPGRADE EXISTING FOOTPATH AS COMMUNITY LINKS ROUTE
- NEW RURAL PATH
- REUSE EXISTING OLD ROAD
- EXISTING UNBOUND VEHICLE TRACK
- QUIET ROAD AS COMMUNITY LINK
- COMMUNITY LINKS ROUTES
- ROAD CROSSING



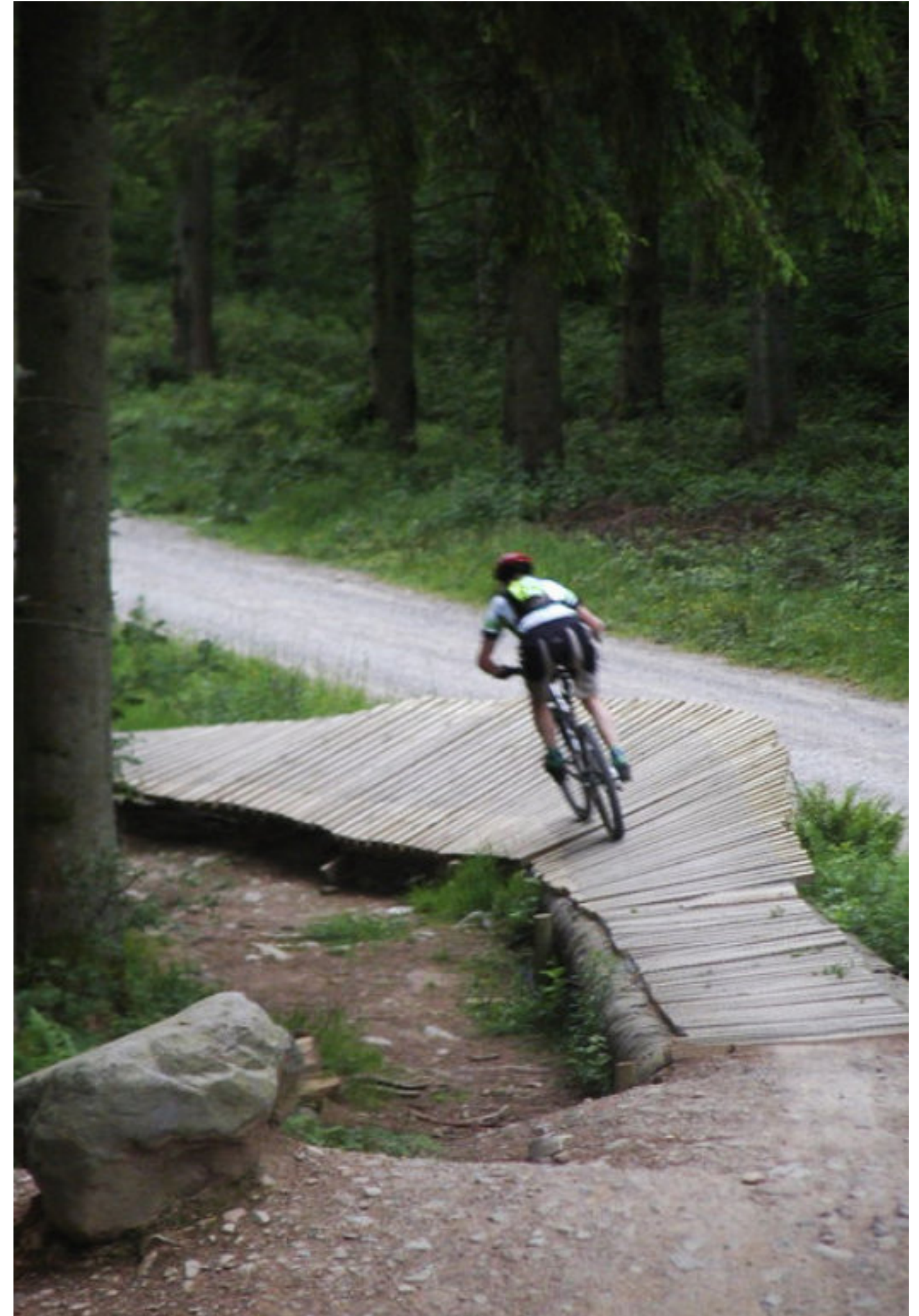
EDINBANE WIDER PATH NETWORKS



Whitelee Wind Farm (left) and the 7Stanes (right) are two precedents that should be explored by the local community to understand and identify how they have transformed their landscapes into active areas for walkers and cyclists.

Whitelee is particularly relevant due to it also having a wide array of wind turbines. The way in which this is promoted has seen it become one of the go-to destinations within the central belt for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Could Edinburgh propose a similar approach and develop its outdoor paths, and then how could the heritage of the area play a role in this future vision? Could unused structures become rural skateparks or BMX areas (as explored below)?

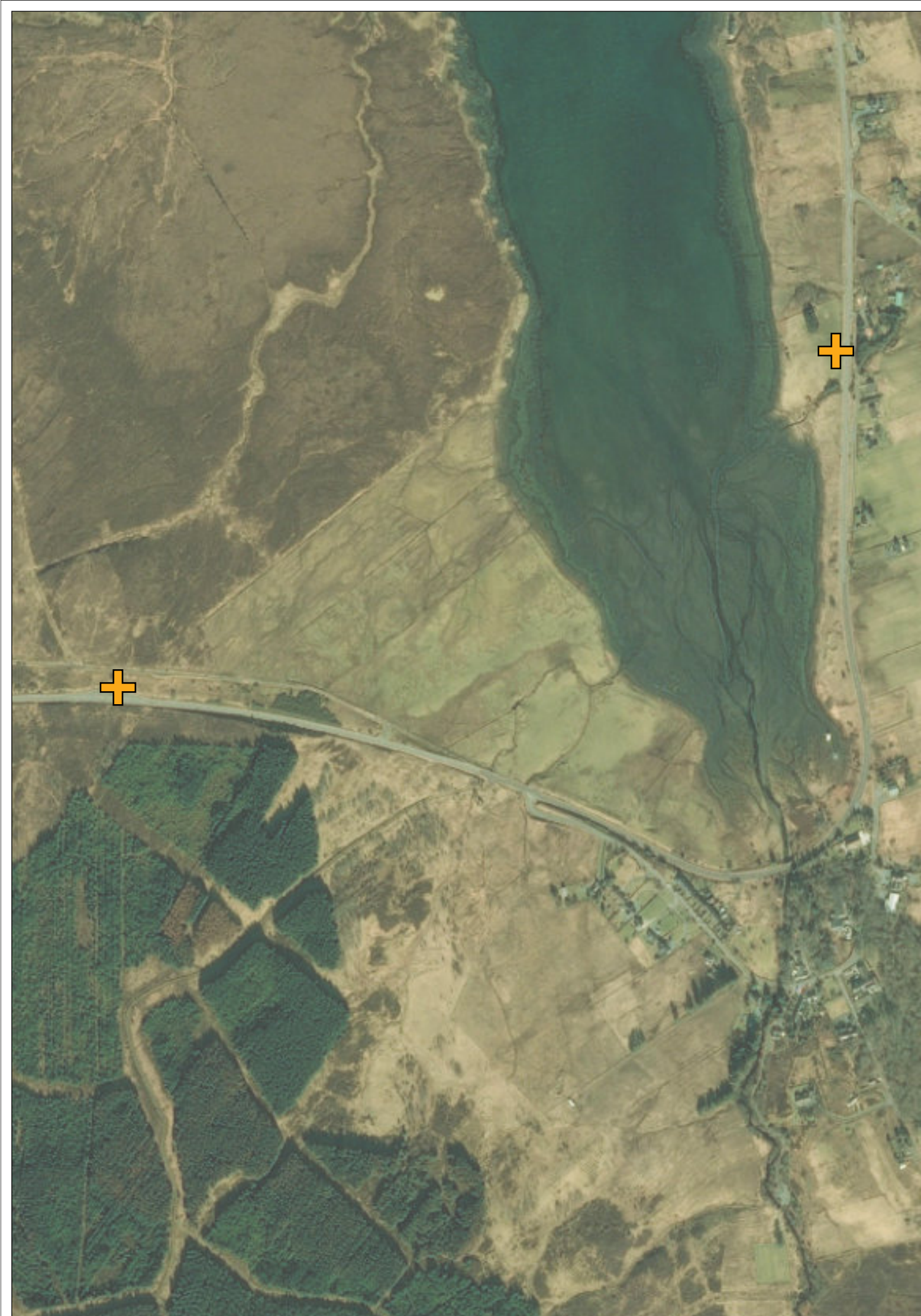


VIEWING PLATFORMS

There is a beautiful view from one of the laybys along the loch outside Edinbane along Loch Greshornish and many community members would like to see this location developed into an area that visitors and tourists can stop with a viewing platform/etc created here (as indicated and mocked up as below). It was suggested these two locations should be chosen as opportunities for viewing platforms to encourage tourists to slow down and enter the village.

The community suggested that due to tourists not having many toilet facilities throughout the whole of Skye that this structure could also incorporate some of these facilities. As is highlighted within the precedent on the following page, the community may also wish to think about whether this structure could also have a cafe as a function or if it is something a lot more sculptural, much like the Scottish Scenic Route projects which go through Loch Lomond National Park or the Snow Roads route through the Cairngorms National Park.

The following two pages highlight a Scottish and Norwegian viewing platform as exemplar precedents of what could happen within Edinbane and how they addressed the site they were given and developed new functions within each structure so it wasn't just a viewing platform (inclusion of toilets/cafe/etc).



LAGGAN LOCKS

Scottish Scenic Routes



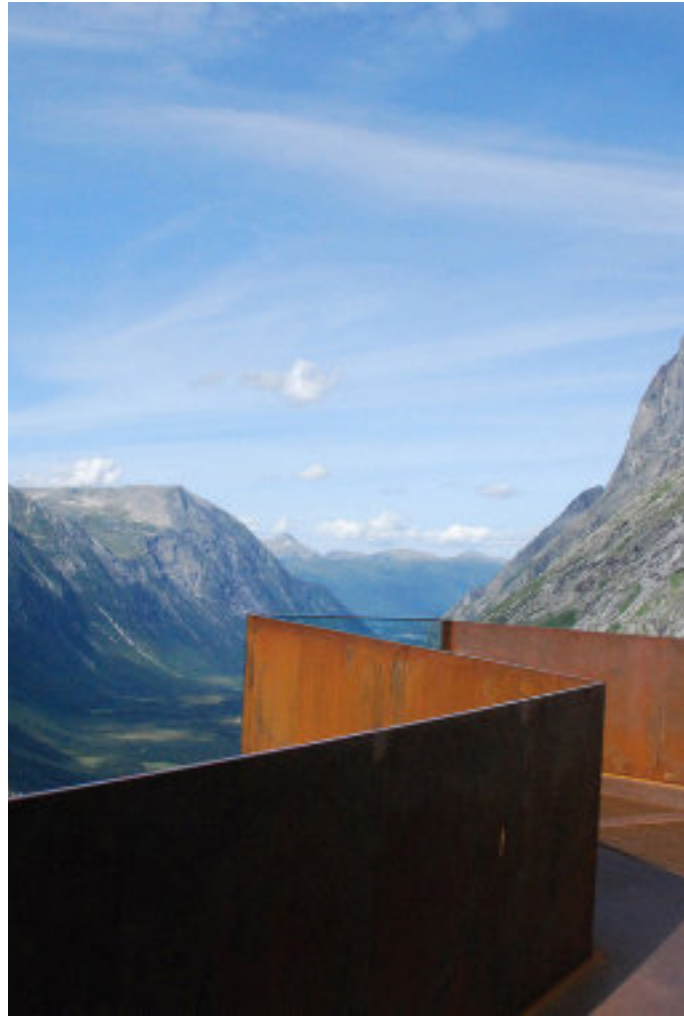
The project at Laggan Locks is a competition winning entry forming the second phase of Scotland's Scenic Routes initiative. The initiative aims to enhance visitor experiences of Scotland's landscape through harnessing young design talent.

Scottish Canals were seeking to create a 'stopping off' opportunity at Laggan Locks on the Caledonian Canal for visitors travelling by car or bus along the busy A82 and also for the 30,000 visitors travelling the Great Glen Way by boat, on foot or by bike.

The structure provides a seasonal cafe/kiosk that can be securely shut down during the winter months while still providing a sheltered viewpoint down the Great Glen. Toilet and shower facilities are available for visitors and campers using a set of new Camping Pods adjacent to the site designed by Oliver Chapman Architects.

Could this be a precedent for the style of (and use of) the viewing platforms within Edinbane? A number of community members suggested the provision of toilets as part of the viewing platform so similar to Laggan Locks, could this function be integrated within the viewing platforms?





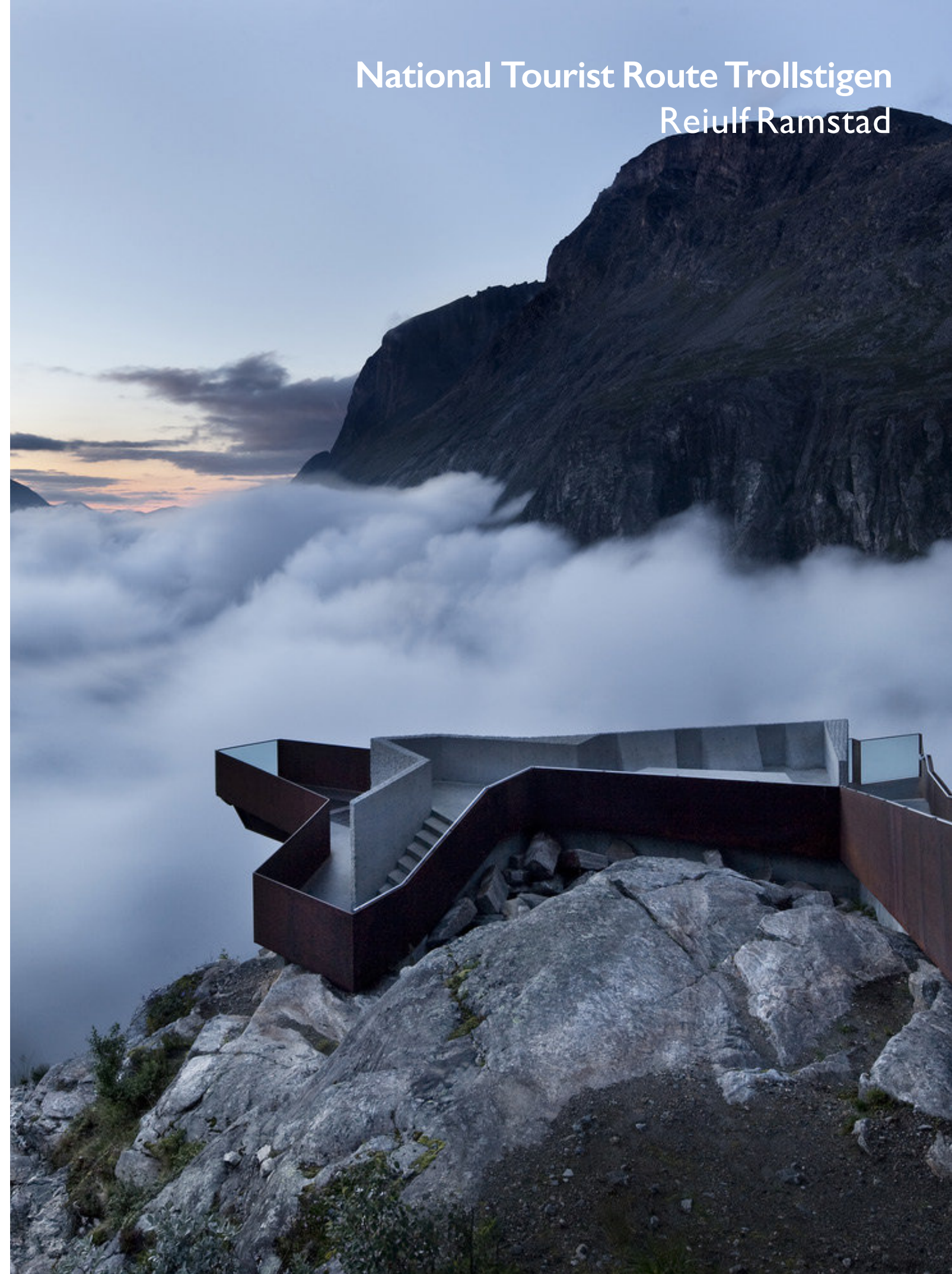
Trollstigen has become one of the most iconic structures within Norway and frames one of the most beautiful views within the country, while allowing the user to step out several hundred metres above the ground, providing a thrilling experience in the process.

The architect who designed this structure believed that “the project will enhance the experience of the Trollstigen plateau’s location and nature. Thoughtfulness regarding features and materials will underscore the site’s temper and character, and well-adapted, functional facilities will augment the visitor’s experience.

The architecture is characterised by clear and precise transitions between planned zones and the natural landscape. Through the notion of water as a dynamic element—from snow, to running and then falling water—and rock as a static element, the project creates a series of prepositional relations that describe and magnify the unique spatiality of the site.



National Tourist Route Trollstigen Reiulf Ramstad





Community Cafe

The community consultation also highlighted the opportunity to create a space which could be used for a multitude of activities but be focused around a cafe.

Activities outwith the regular running of a cafe discussed as part of the consultation included; providing a space for small businesses to 'hot-desk', providing a space for events/workshops/etc and providing a space for community grown food to be sold to visitors or the local community.

One example, even though it is an urban one, is Locavore (above) which has a community cafe in the south side of Glasgow while also providing veg-boxes throughout the central belt. The cafe space offers many evening classes and activities while there is also a shop selling local produce.

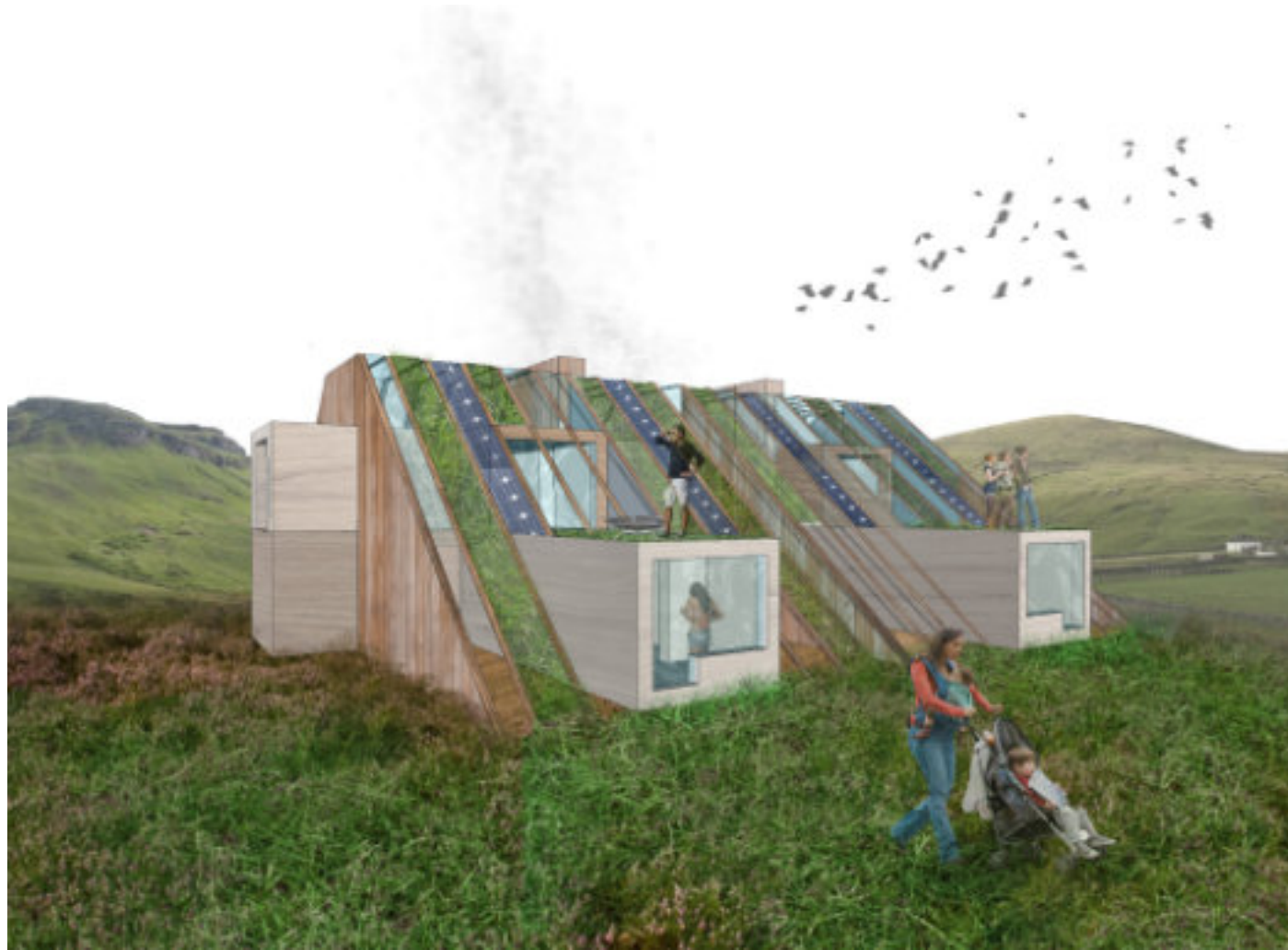


Cultural & Heritage Centre

The community consultation also highlighted that there was a desire to have a small cultural and heritage centre which would highlight the local social histories while also providing a space to advertise the different walks, activities and opportunities available within Edinbane.

This would also be an ideal way of integrating an art gallery or something similar to that to again provide reason for tourists to spend time within Edinbane and the local community.

This aspiration is seen as a long term goal which could potentially be developed in conjunction with the shop and cafe to provide all these services under one roof.



Innovative Housing

Innovative Housing and Community Energy are both ideas which were both suggested by some community members. Although, these would both require there to be a need for each of them.

There are currently plans for additional housing to be erected within Edinbane, however when we are suggesting innovative housing we are talking more about small scale pods which can attract (or retain) young people to the area.



Community Energy

In terms of community energy, as we already know Edinbane has a community owned wind turbine. However, the river which runs through the village has previously been used for micro-hydro (and was in fact one of the first hydro schemes in the Highlands), so could this be a resource which is developed to provide more community owned energy?

Applecross (above) would be a good place to start investigating the proposal, while many other communities are currently developing community owned energy schemes throughout Scotland.



PROJECT TEAM



Edinbane Community Company

Edinbane Community Company is a Company limited by Guarantee with charitable status, established to act as a vehicle to manage community benefit funds generated through the windfarm built on land covering ground falling within the communities of Struan and Edinbane, Isle of Skye. (Struan have their own organisation to manage their share of the funds).



Green Heart of Orkney, 2015



Druim nan Linntean, 2018-19



Prospect North, 2016

Lateral North

We are a research and design collective with innovative and strategic design thinking at its core.

Our practice emerged from an architectural masters project that responded to social, economic, political and environmental changes within the northern region.

Since then we have worked collaboratively with communities, governments and institutions at a local, national and international level - focussing on making long-lasting and meaningful interventions that help people describe, understand and develop the spaces and communities they experience every day.

Elgar Finlay

Elgar Finlay Limited is an established consultancy based in NorthSkye.

As well as being geographically placed to serve the Island, digital communications allow for a wide area of the Highlands and Islands to be served. Over the past 8 years Elgar Finlay Limited has provided project management and community development services for NorthSkye Broadband, Skye Micro Abattoir Limited, Kilmuir Community Council, Edinbane Community Company and the Glendale Trust.

These roles have highlighted the need for high quality business development and project management skills to deliver sustainable growth for local community based organisations and socioeconomic growth for the local and wider areas of Skye and the Highlands.

Experience ranges from the publication and delivery of Strategic Growth Plans founded on excellent communication within the localised areas, to the successful delivery and development of multiple high profile projects.

This includes the planning, purchase and development of Assets and managing projects which range in scale with a current portfolio in excess of £4m.

Elgar Finlay Limited has also provided investor due diligence and business analyst services to private companies and tourism based businesses in the region.

The duties undertaken by Elgar Finlay Limited have required planning, raising and control of finance, recruitment and management of staff while successfully establishing and overseeing a strategic network of multiple stakeholders.

Elgar Finlay Limited has established excellent relationships with the majority of funding organisations including but not limited to, The Scottish Land Fund (SLF), HIE, Big Lottery, the Highland Council, Local Windfarm Trusts and the Heritage Lottery.

Elgar Finlay Limited's experience and passion for delivering projects, in depth commercial knowledge, established relationships with key stakeholders including but not limited to business operators, development trusts, public sector organisations and locally elected representatives adds significant value to all work undertaken.

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AN ATLAS OF EDINBANE

Edinbane is a rural community which is found on the route between Portree and Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. Within less than an hour's drive of some of the most iconic landscapes within Scotland, such as the Fairy Pools, the Quiraing and the Old Man of Storr, the community is currently a hidden gem within the Island.

Over the course of the next ten years, a series of innovative projects are being suggested by the community to be taken forward. These projects will offer new opportunities for the local community, wider population of Skye, and visitors (primarily tourists) to the Island.

These projects have been proposed by the community as part of a series of consultations and developed by Lateral North and Elgar Finlay Limited into the 'atlas' that you find in your hands today.

