



Bathgate Hills Venture

Your little adventure awaits

COME, JOIN US



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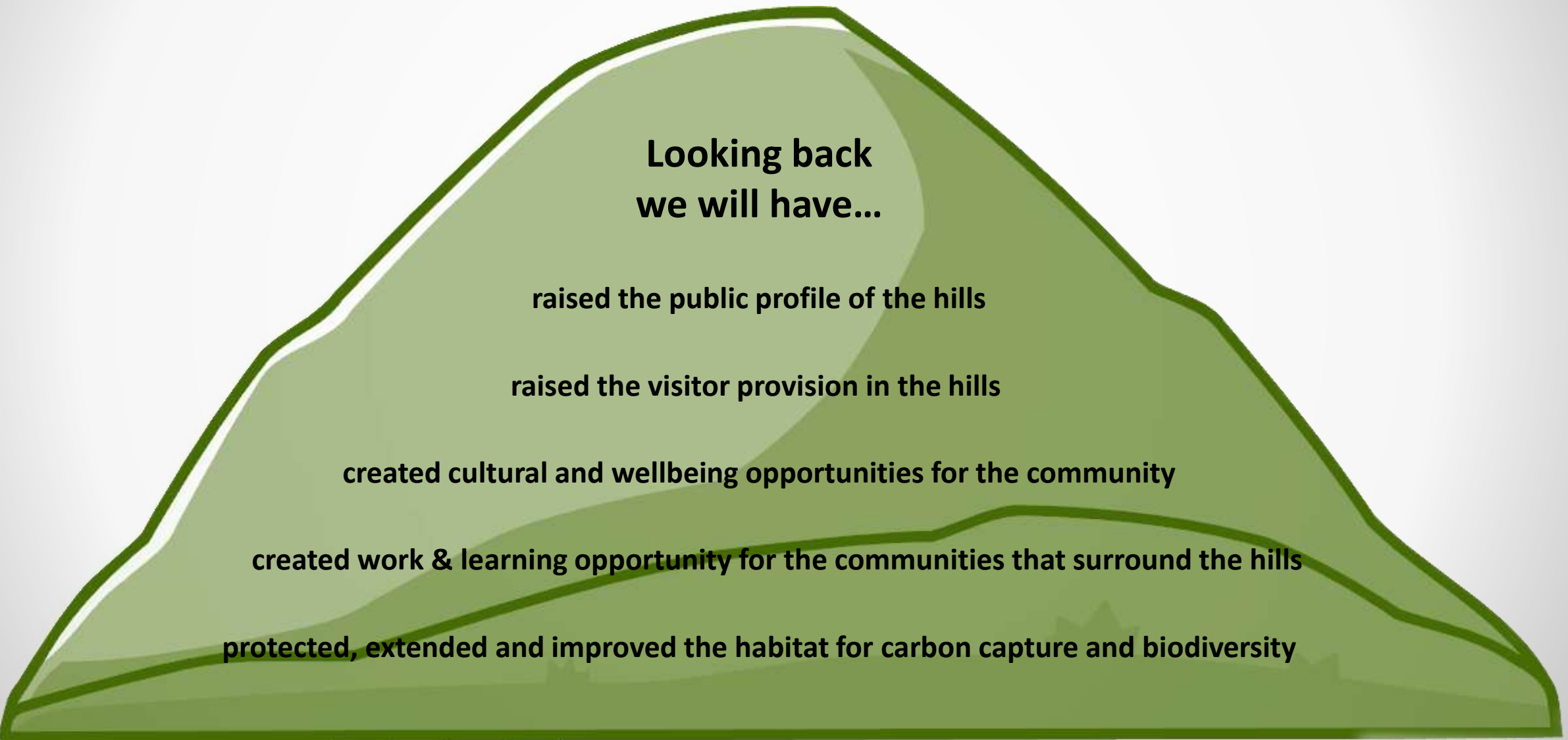
Your little adventure awaits

VISION

A five year project to celebrate, protect and enhance the natural beauty and heritage of the hills, with projects for, led by and driven by the local communities that surround the hills.

A place to work, work out, rest and play

WHAT WILL PROJECT SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?



**Looking back
we will have...**

raised the public profile of the hills

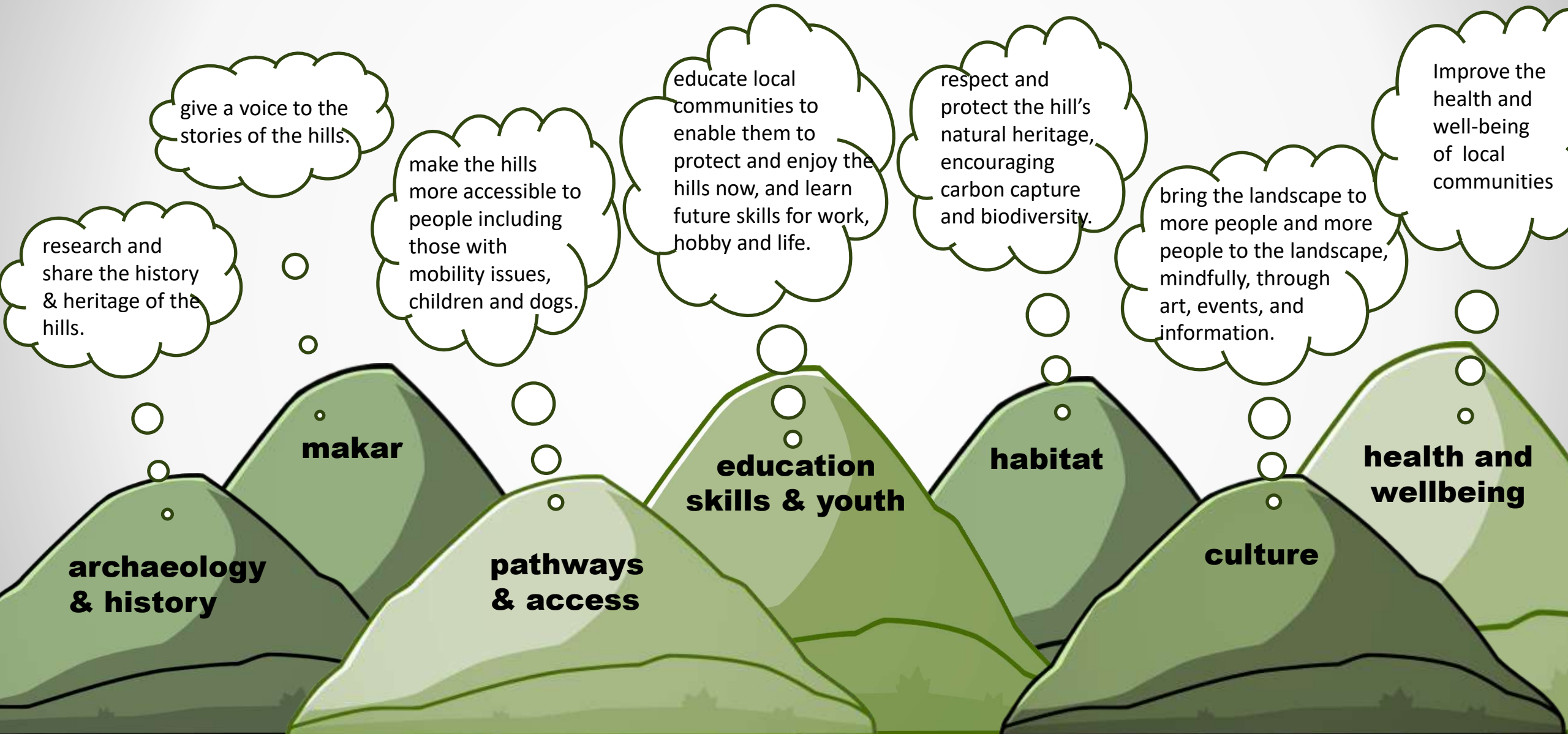
raised the visitor provision in the hills

created cultural and wellbeing opportunities for the community

created work & learning opportunity for the communities that surround the hills

protected, extended and improved the habitat for carbon capture and biodiversity

AIMS OF THE BATHGATE HILLS VENTURE



the project will seek to improve the socio-economic potential of the local area

CULTURE

DEBBIE WORDEN



I am a novelist and comic book writer, though I have also worked professionally on projects like The Mercury Music Prize and have some background in conference organisation.

I am comparatively new to Bathgate, having moved here over two years ago, delighted by what I find! I am involved in the Bathgate Hills Project to help protect these beautiful surroundings and enhance people's enjoyment of, and connection to them.



CULTURE

This ancient and beautiful part of Scotland has a riddle at its heart; the fewer people know of it, the more likely it is to remain unspoiled, but conversely the fewer of its own who love it, the more likely it is to be trampled into commuter belt anonymity and have its needs forgotten.

Exhibitions

Local festivals

Poetry reading

We will promote the activities of the project, and the sheer beauty of the hills to the local community.

Sculptures

Art Installations

It is our hope that we can help local communities access and enjoy the land around them, including social events and communal projects, with positive ramifications for health and happiness in our community.

Landscape
design

Communal
projects

Theatre

Teaching of
crafts

EDUCATION, SKILLS & YOUTH

KENNETH MCKENZIE



I am a father, teacher and passionate supporter of the outdoors. I studied environmental geography and education at University and then went on to teach. I have been teaching for 16 years and within that time I've had the pleasure to use the outdoors to support the work I've done. I've also been brought up in the countryside and I fully believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience it. I love to wild swim, camp and walk, and we all have that on our doorstep.

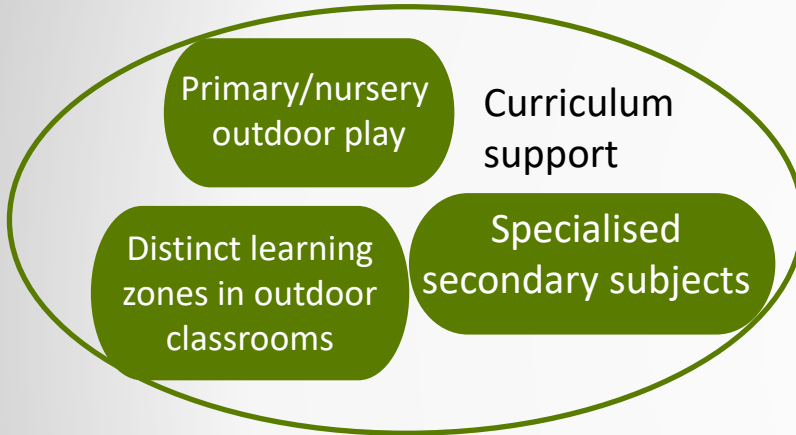
I have had the opportunity to lead on various projects both at a school and national level, and I am convinced education can change a young person's life. I am so eager to combine both and give opportunities to our local communities. I love the Bathgate hills - it has so much content to support education that I am very excited to lead on this.



KENNETH

EDUCATION, SKILLS & YOUTH

We will aim to give educational resources, support and opportunities to all members of the communities. This must be accessible for all – everyone in the community should be able to enjoy the hills which means we may need to seek advice and support about sensory etc so anything produced everyone can access.

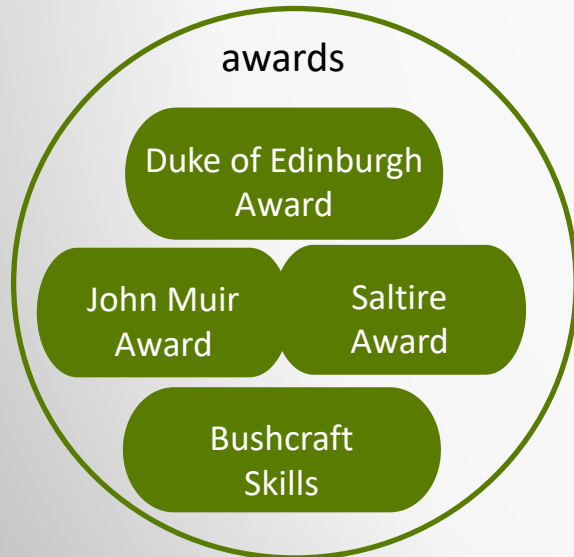


Initial research to understand what is most needed

Environmental studies

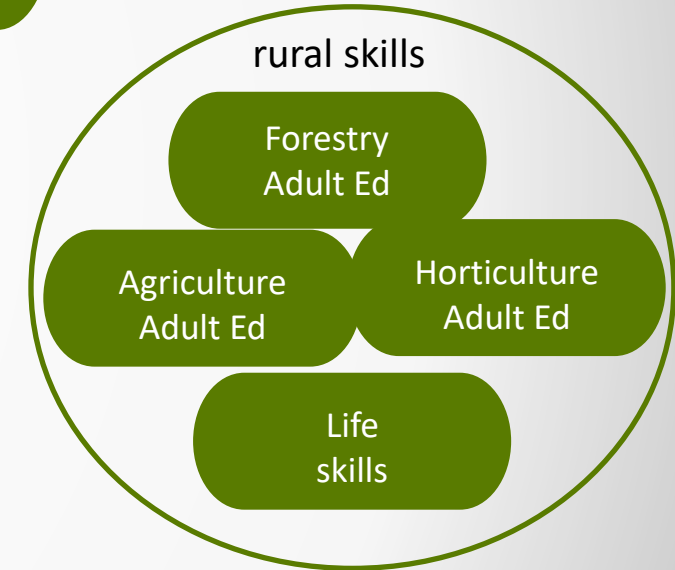
We will reflect what is happening across Scottish education, which means we will focus on primary / pre-learning, secondary and adult policies.

We will also link all the levels of curriculum of excellence and awards so that everyone gains a meaningful experience which can directly link to their curriculum. We will seek funding through both education and adult services.



Education based history & wildlife trail

Further education and adult training



Global citizenship programme, virtual walks and talks etc

HABITAT

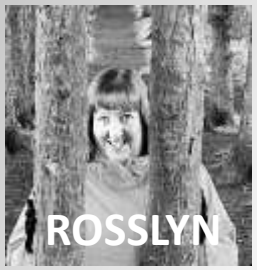
ROSSLYN BARR



I am a zoology graduate who specialised in ecology and marine biology. I spent 20 years in the corporate world focused on strategy, cultural change, and managing large £50M+ scale projects, before returning to the environmental sector.

I supported the Edinburgh Shoreline project run by the Botanic Gardens, engaging local communities, and encouraging volunteers to learn about and conserve their local environment. This culminated in an exhibition visited by over 40,000 people. Today I am Chair of the Board of Trustees for NGO Project Seagrass, on the Board of NGO Sharklab Malta and project managing a marine based proposal with WWF, Heriot-Watt and the Botanics. You could say I am fully emersed back into environmental change now!

I have lived in Bathgate for over 30 years and have an absolute passion for the outdoors, nature, and getting away from it all, and I appreciate just how special the Bathgate Hills are. I would love to help create opportunities for people from all walks of life to enjoy our beautiful hills and participate in their conservation. I have directly experienced the wellbeing you can bring when people get involved, not just on the receiving end, but being part of the change.



HABITAT

The Bathgate Hills is one of these special places which shows the story of human use over centuries, but benefits from not being heavily developed, and is made up of a series of diverse and interesting spaces.

Provide information
to help people interpret
what they see

Web based
nature guides

Information boards
in the hills

Phone Spotter
Apps

We will work with community groups, farmers,
land owners and local government to raise
awareness and improve the hill's amazing
biodiversity - sharing the often unknown natural
history and the rich plant and animal life that has
survived against the odds.

People will be inspired to explore the hills and will
want to take responsibility for their future health.

Organise habitat
appreciation & volunteering events

Guided nature
walks

Sensitively clearing
water courses

Heather
regeneration

Building small
habitat highways

Pond dipping

Citizen science

Train people how to
measure & track
biodiversity

Plan how we help
rewild areas for
carbon capture

Encourage and help coordinate
volunteering to support forest rangers

Bee kind

Contribute to the
Bee Line

Consider option of an
apiary in the hills

ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

DYLAN HAMPSHIRE



I am for history and for what it brings to a culture and a place.

I have had a life long interest in the past so my role looking after Cairnpapple Henge and interpretating the monument for the visitors in the wonderful hills suits me very well.

Although born in Canterbury I had Scottish Secondary Education in Galloway thereafter working in family furniture businesses. During this time I ran re-enactment groups, organised historic events and was part of local business groups. Currently I work for Historic Environment Scotland and Ipsos Mori.

Some people see a sleeping giant in the hills, and whilst I don't know about that, I do know the hills have huge potential that this project will unlock.



ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

History is Past, to some irrelevant, but I have never known someone who 'gets' history not to be enriched by it whether as an entertainment, a relaxation or an education. Furthermore, when a person or community gets to know its past, the more rounded and resilient they become.

Investment in
Community
Heritage
hubs

History events

Community
archaeology

The home visitor economy in these trying times and especially in the time of release thereafter will be highly important financially and emotionally. To build the visitor economy and community understanding of the past we aim to uncover and document new histories from new research into the past of the Bathgate Hills.

Professional
Archaeology to seek
new evidence

Guided history
walks &
interpretation
boards

A new interpretation of the Bathgate Hills will emerge and form the basis of improved understanding of the area providing interest and attraction to visitors and the community and hopefully create a new cultural heart for Scotland that doesn't rely on conflicts of the past.

aerial landscape
archaeology survey

Unesco
recognition

University
research

Review online
archaeological
information

MAKAR

EMMA DYMCK



I am a Celtic Studies graduate, specialising in Scottish Gaelic literature. I have a PhD from the University of Edinburgh, where I continue to teach classes in Celtic and Gaelic language and culture. I have written and edited books and articles on Scottish and Gaelic literature and I have experience in organising conferences and cultural events.

My thesis and my subsequent research have focused on poetry and the symbolism of landscape.

Celtic and Scottish Studies, the department I work in, is home to the School of Scottish Studies Archives. It is this excellent resource, comprising the cultural traditions and folklore of Scotland and its people, which has convinced me of the importance of storytelling and the voice of the people, something I hope to bring to the Bathgate Hills Project.

I have lived in Bathgate all my life and I have always loved the Bathgate Hills – I am now enjoying passing that love of the land on to my daughter. I believe it was my connection to these hills that, from a young age, fuelled my interest in landscape and history. It is my intention that the Bathgate Hills Project will help to preserve and highlight the stories of people and place.



MAKAR

Storytelling is an important and ancient endeavour, defining who we are as both individuals and communities in the past and present, as well as who we may become in the future. Stories are signifiers of culture and character and give us confidence in our own identity and in the environment of which we are a part.

Series of themed books covering history, folklore, ecology etc

The recording of 'older voices' telling their stories

Commissioning a traditional storyteller

Visual storytelling through photographic exhibitions

temporary, ecologically sensitive poetry installations in the hills

The Hills have an interesting history in relation to landscape and people, but this history has often been forgotten, hidden or disregarded. We will give a voice to the stories of the hills in their myriad forms.

Walking tour with experienced herbalist providing 'stories of plants', providing a 'green voice'

Share the narrative of people and place

School story & poetry competitions

Short film-making opportunities for young people

Encourage future generations to voice their own stories of the hills.

PATHWAYS & ACCESS

VANESSA CORDNER



I have lived in Bathgate my whole life and I'm a keen hill walker. During the various lockdowns, due to travel restrictions, I rediscovered the Bathgate Hills and what beauty literally lies on our doorstep. I believe the hills should be for everyone and everyone should be able to safely access them.

I work as a tax professional for HMRC and have done for over a decade. I have had management roles, project management and technical tax roles and I believe I can bring some of those skills to this project.



PATHWAYS & ACCESS

How lucky we are to have this on our doorstep! From the various hills and their remarkable views, to the many trails. The hills should be accessible to everyone. To achieve this, we need to think about access for the widest community, including people with mobility issues, children and dogs.

Village hall events
to hear views

Educate people about
the Outdoor Access Code

Working with
walking groups

Research existing
footpaths

The Bathgate Hills Project is an excellent opportunity to improve access to the hills – whether that be footpaths, cycle paths or even eventually shuttle buses from the towns.

Book / leaflet of
walking maps

Liaise with
forest rangers

The hills should be accessible to everyone.

Improved
footpaths/cycle paths
and signage

More picnic areas

Management of
camping

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES

ADRIAN SCOTT

ROSSLYN BARR & KENNETH MCKENZIE



I am a Business Information Management graduate and have worked in Pensions and Banking for 20 years working on medium to large corporate projects. My main experience is as a Test Analyst. My role involves all stages of the project lifecycle but my main involvement is proving that a new IT System is ready for going live by finding defects/bugs and retesting these.

I have always enjoyed the Bathgate Hills and recently been involved with the Bathgate Hills Facebook page and on the back of that set up Explore West Lothian. The Bathgate Hills Facebook page has shown there is a lot of interest in the area now approaching 4000 members in a year.

During 1st lockdown I spent ages finding information online about the Bathgate Hills. I've learned so much and enjoyed sharing the information, but one thing I did notice that the information was in various locations. It would be good to reuse this information and try and centralise it all on a website so that people can find it easily and the story of the hills can be shared easily while out walking and also passed on to future generations.



DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES

“Innovation comes only from readily and seamlessly sharing information rather than hoarding it.”

Tom Peters

Open source
educational
materials

Sharing the story of the hills while out
walking, so information is
readily available at each key location

Create a new
Bathgatehills.co.uk
website

Online Maps &
Guides

Through digital mediums like websites, apps, and other
digital platforms people can be regularly updated about
what’s happening around them.

Use of QR codes

The Bathgate Hills have much to offer, and much has been
written about them – but you have to really search for it.

Links to lesser
known online info
sources

We want to address that.

Sharing info and
photographs

Promotion of
local shops &
services

Social media to encourage
interaction & info sharing



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Wellbeing should be a key reason to come to the area, to walk, participate in sport, relax and read, all these things and more could take place in the hills.





COMMERCIAL & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

As the portfolios roll out projects the profile of the area will rise, visitors will come in greater number bringing their needs and requirements with them. This will create opportunity for the enterprising and more jobs to the area. As the visitor services improve the more visitors will come.

Encourage micro
business

Spot Business
Opportunities

Work with Local
Business
Organisations

Promote Tourism
and facilities

The Home Visitor Economy will Boom in the next few years as we adjust to Covid and Brexit and will Boom again as the world opens up and visitors from the world come.

Countryside and
Craft Markets

The Bathgate Hills Project will ensure the area can capitalise on this growing visitor economy. Also, the Hills Habitat can provide other commercial opportunities.

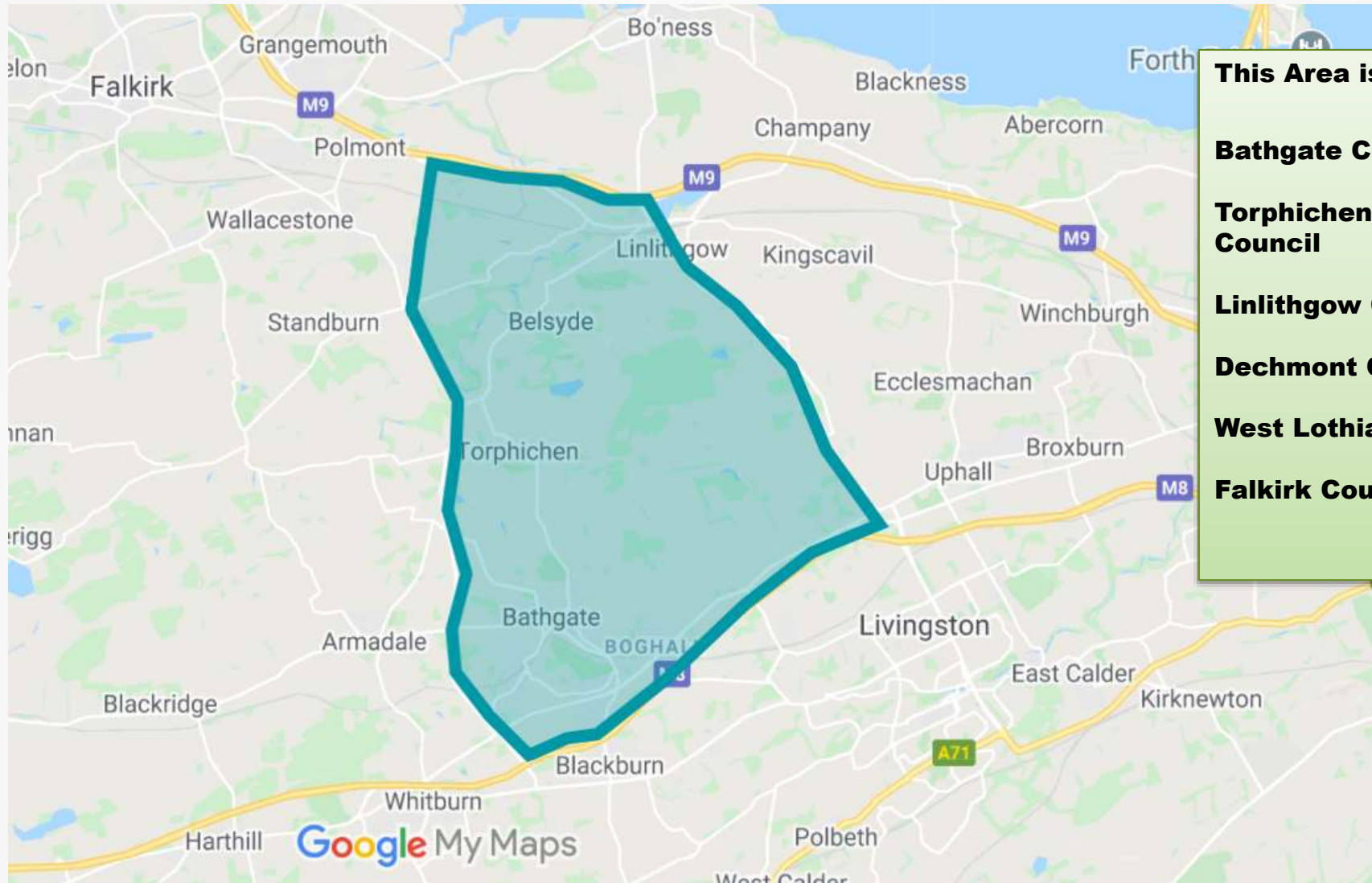
Low Carbon
Transport

Encourage Micro Industry
for hobbies and business,
Wildness Man Shed

Partner with
Business

The Project will
spend locally

BATHGATE HILLS VENTURE – GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



This Area is represented by

Bathgate Community Councils

**Torphichen Community
Council**

Linlithgow Community Council

Dechmont Community Council

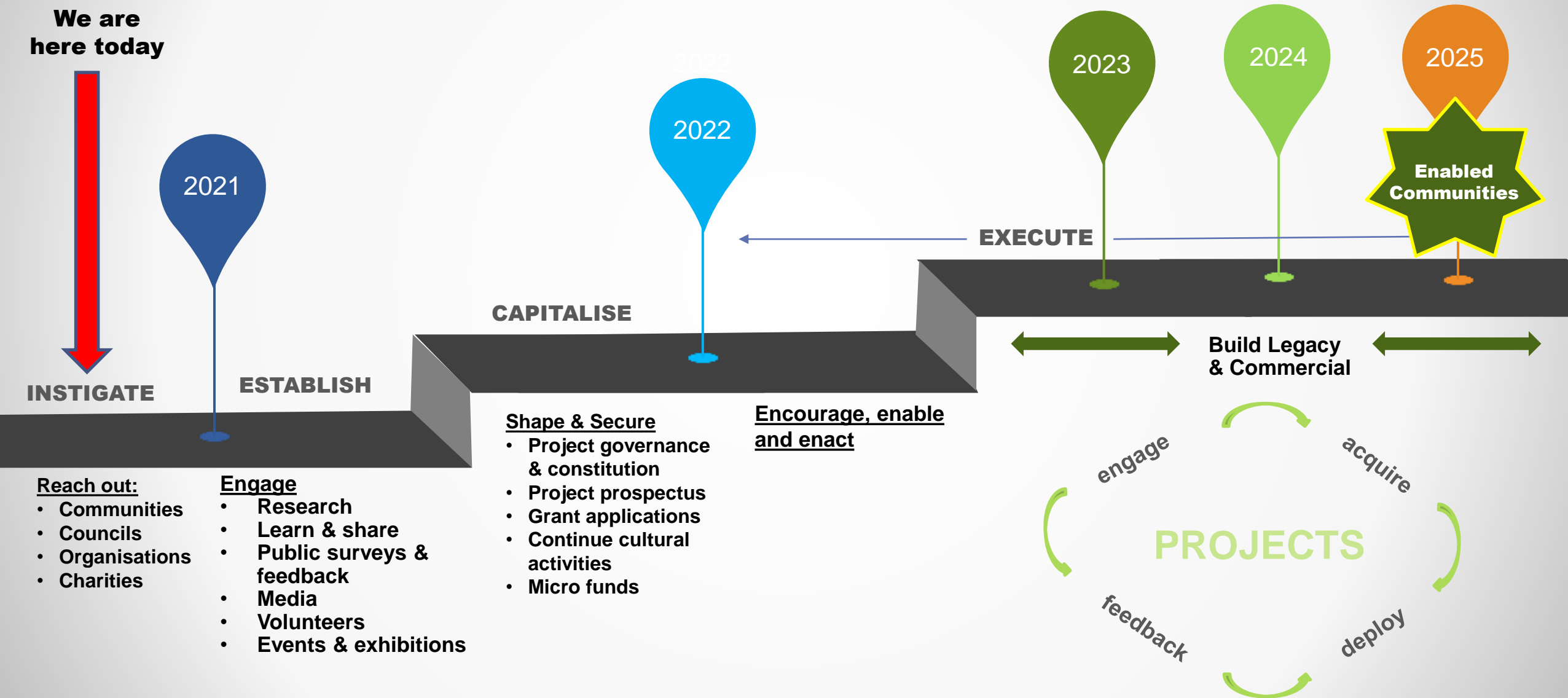
West Lothian Council

Falkirk Council

You can find it in google maps here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1qx6m5PxxwS0iUa9WR5iugl7Mqc13MG8-D&usp=sharing>

BATHGATE HILLS VENTURE

HIGH LEVEL PLAN – BUILDING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE



WHAT WORKING PRINCIPLES WILL WE FOLLOW?

Whilst there will be many and evolving ideas, we will embed an approach in each project design so that we:

Design in Access for All: ensuring that each scheme at the outset considers how it can cater for all Individuals of our community whatever their needs and from wherever they come from. There will be outreach to the widest community and the promotion of community wellbeing. (paying attention to how we encourage and improve health and wellbeing).

Ask the Carbon Question: what will be the effect of the idea on the carbon balance of the atmosphere? (Where we can) We will design project ideas to mitigate carbon and aim to be measurably carbon positive over the entire project.

Harness the Benefits of National Networking: the project will partner across Scotland, twinning projects, events and monuments to gain knowledge and co-marketing opportunities.

Have next level thinking: When working with community organisations we will first ask what is being done at present? and then what is your next level? and then Can we help? With our own plans we will establish a base plan with possible extensions. We will not be afraid of creating daring plans or leaving plans unfinished for others to complete whilst leaving a legacy (of skills and infrastructure) for future generations to continue.



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THANK YOU

