



OUR VISION:

- To have a clear and strong sense of identity
- To have confidence and believe in ourselves
- To value everybody within, and offer everybody the chance to earn a living using their individual talents
- To be positively engaged in creating our own destiny
- To be the enthusiastic guardian of our surrounding natural and cultural inheritance, today and tomorrow
- To deliver local needs locally
- To consider the effects of our actions on future generations
- To identify a realistic way forward for our communities

Sustainability is about confident communities

IT'S TIME TO INVEST IN OUR ASSETS

A healthy community is one that invests in its assets. We have the beginnings of community ownership in crofting. Clans and families who have been here for a millennium. One of the strongest forces of Gaelic speakers in Scotland. Some of the best hill walking in Europe. The globally endangered Corncrake. Britain's most important dinosaur discoveries.

We have a ferry service to the Western Isles. Youth leadership at Columba 1400. We have art studios, horse riding stables, an activity centre, museums, boat cruises, shops, hotels and cafes, a brewery, a pottery, community halls and old folks' homes. We have precedents for improved infrastructure. We have a good standard of primary education, and local musicians and writers to inspire us.

Everyone in Trotternish is a unique asset with unique talents to offer. If we are to build a future from our assets, we need to develop our skills. We are discovering that to watch your own ideas come to fruition is as satisfying as watching your children grow up. We need to create an increased pride in our place, our culture and our traditions. That is not a job for somebody else: it is a job for all of us. We need to find our own voice and "put a new song in our mouth".

An rud a bhios na do bhroin, cha bhi e na do thiomhnadh

That which you have wasted will not be there for future generations.

“ ‘S e obair latha tòiseachadh ach ‘s e obair beatha crìochnachadh ”

It takes just a day to start a worthwhile job, but it takes a lifetime to bring a worthwhile job to fruition.



Pelican Design Consultants 01478 612558
Photography by: Callean Maclean, Willie Urquhart, Mike Williams, Graham Burns, RSPB.

THE DUTHCHAS PROJECT

The Dùthchas Project aimed to achieve grassroots sustainable development through the participation of local communities in planning their own future, and with the support of partner agencies.

The Dùthchas Project was co-funded by the EU LIFE Programme. The Project involved 22 Partner agencies and 3 Pilot Areas - Trotternish in Skye, North Uist and North Sutherland.

CONTACTS & FURTHER INFORMATION

The complete Strategy or further information is available from:
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A New Song for the Trotternish Peninsula of Skye



**Trotternish Peninsula Area Strategy 2001
Our Land, Our People and Our Place in the Future**



WORKING TOGETHER

Thank you for sharing your ideas and concerns with us. You have helped us to reach a clearer understanding of our strengths, challenges and opportunities, and your role has been inspirational.

*Le móran taing dhuibh uile
Donald MacDonald, Trotternish Advisory Group Chairman*

SPEAKING WITH A STRONGER VOICE

Our purpose is to plan and create a development path that is complementary to our natural and cultural heritage. The Trotternish Peninsula Area Strategy puts together, in greater detail, the plans for the future which have evolved from the Dùthchas process, a Partnership between the communities and agencies. The Strategy is based on the information gathered from the community and agencies in the course of the Dùthchas Initial Review and the Sustainability Profile for the Trotternish Peninsula. This is a summary.

SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Here are some of the things we need to think about. Do our activities:

- Encourage local action and decision making?
- Enhance our local landscape, wildlife and habitats?
- Improve access for disadvantaged groups?
- Help local people to gain skills for employment?
- Focus on a realistic, long term plan?

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Here are the plans our local Groups have developed. Our plans take into account the social, economic and environmental needs and resources of the area. We also take into account the effects of what we do on other places and people and on future generations. A crucial part of what we are trying to achieve is to bring together the activities of the many interest groups and organisations and link them around a common goal.

Trotternish Trails and Interpretation

Group Vision: “to create Trails throughout the Trotternish peninsula for everyone to enjoy, highlighting what is special here along the way with interpretation, and creating benefits for local people, their economy and their surrounding natural world”

THE GROUP HAVE RESOLVED TO:

- Identify our key features and current provision, and then to draw out a theme or themes for the Trotternish peninsula
- Identify and target the customers and the market
- Plan a series of Trails, to source funding and initiatives through which to promote our key features, protecting and enhancing our environment as we go

Diversification, local produce and markets

Group Vision: “to create a viable, social, economic environment to keep people on the land”

THE GROUP HAVE RESOLVED TO:

- Set up experimental horticultural units with diversification a priority, by building on what has already been achieved elsewhere in Skye
- Educate people about new opportunities and promote local produce to everyone
- Provide advice and guidance on processing

Transport Infrastructure

Group Vision: “to support and develop the transport system (including public transport) which is cost effective and meets the needs of the indigenous and visiting population with minimum environmental impact”

THE GROUP HAVE RESOLVED TO:

- Effectively use existing and new sea routes for freight and passenger transport, bearing in mind the impact on fragile roads
- Effectively use and improve the circular road system around the Trotternish peninsula incorporating side roads, and with greater use of public transport
- Work towards a level European playing field, objectively to reduce fuel cost, road tax and the transport of all goods and animals

Renewable Energy

Group Vision: “to be less dependent on external energy by effective use of local resources to the maximum benefit of the community”

THE GROUP RESOLVE TO PURSUE THE FOLLOWING:

- The Overriding Objective is to own and share energy resources for the benefit of all the communities. The other objectives are in light of this overriding objective.
- To investigate and develop the production of energy in Trotternish through power generated by a range of means – wind, wave, tidal, hydro, biomass, solar, waste to energy and fuel cells in a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly way using existing sources
- To increase the awareness of energy efficiency including building methods and existing building stock

Waste Reduction

Group Vision: “Trotternish as a shining example of a waste free environment”

THE GROUP HAVE RESOLVED TO:

- Raise awareness so waste reduction is an integral part of all our lives (industry included) and is seen as having value
- Set up composting and other local recycling schemes and develop local markets for recycled materials
- Raise the profile of litter reduction, including fly tipping

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

In order to implement the Strategy, the right organisational framework needs to be put in place. This will aim to:

- Retain the partnership links required
- Provide a community-based legally constituted organisation to manage funds and employ staff
- Employ project staff to support the work in the community



1. SURVEY

An extensive survey of the community & Partner agencies was carried out



2. SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

10 Sustainability Issues & 5 immediate priorities were identified



3. SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

Strategy Groups set up for each priority issue & each group developed a plan of action for its topic



4. ACTIONS

First Demonstration Projects started with the help of a Seedcorn grant



5. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

How the Partner Agencies will support the Strategies & how the actions will be taken forward & monitored