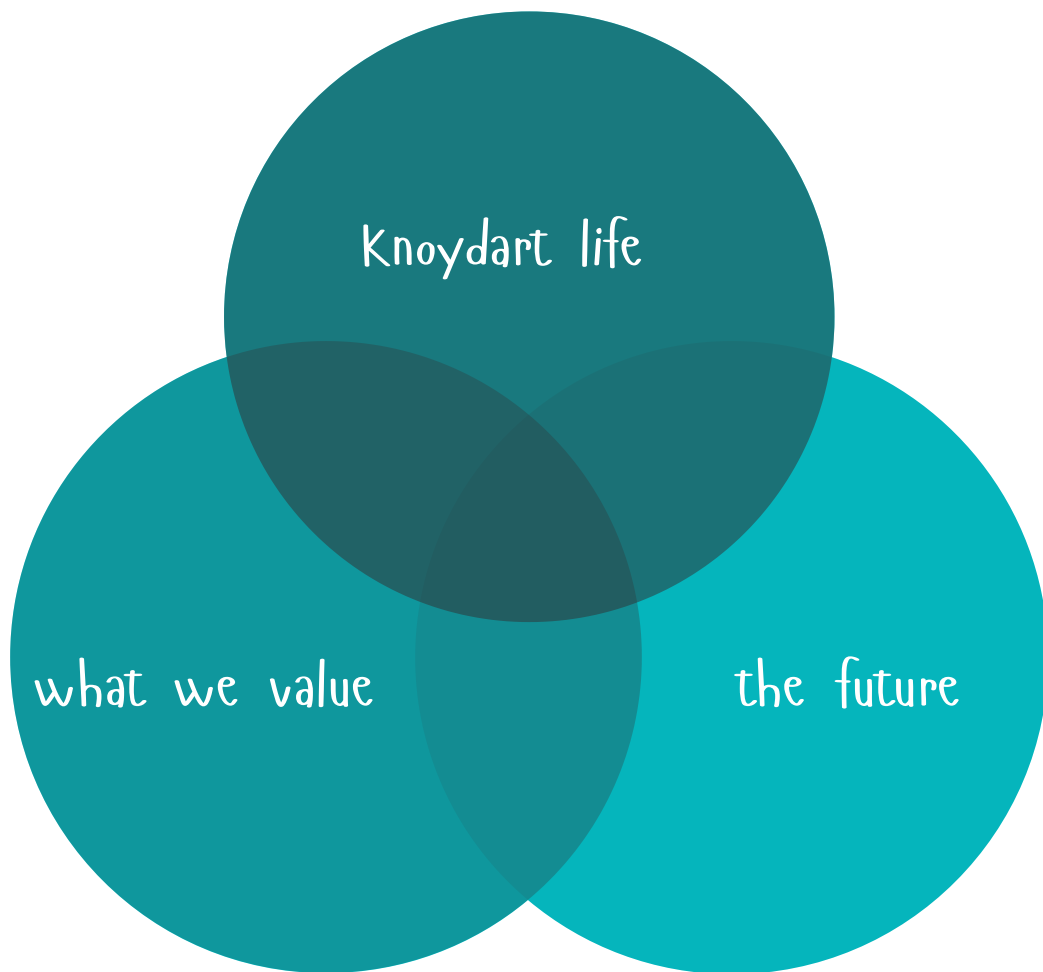


KNOYDART CREDIT PROJECT

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY & NATURE

WORKSHOP & QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025



INTRODUCTION

Many thanks to all those who attended the workshop and/or responded online. The aim of the event was to have a closer look at what we value about our community and how we can nurture the people and the land into the future. There were many good discussions, during the workshop and online, in response to the questions around the sense of community, changes over time, connection to the land, and visions for the future. They showed the care and passion that people have for the place, both the community and the land, which has driven the positive changes of the last 25 years.

A number of consistent themes emerged from your responses, which we have attempted to summarise below. We then intend to use these to help tell the community's story and to inform the development of a draft framework for evidencing the positive impacts on the community and the land that we hope to see in the future.

I. WHERE WE ARE NOW - KEY THEMES

We asked what you valued about the community and the land. Some of the themes that emerged highlighted the more intangible qualities of the community's values, sense of place and connection to nature, and others focused more on the tangible aspects of the developments and amenities that have happened over the last 25 years. We have summarised the responses below:



VALUES, SENSE OF PLACE & CONNECTION TO NATURE:

belonging, trust & mutual support

a sense of safety, security & social cohesion; people help each other out

acceptance, respect & tolerance

an acknowledgement of the difference of others

agency, opportunity & purpose

ability to make positive change and get things done

responsibility & motivation

caring for the land, for the people and for the place

diversity & change

an eclectic group of people from all walks of life, at its best delivering and embracing change

intense & overwhelming at times

the nature of small community life

physical & mental health

social & environmental benefits of spending time with friends, family & nature



DEVELOPMENTS & AMENITIES:

New pier & more frequent, reliable ferry times
connection to the mainland

hydro scheme
reliable, sustainable power for the community

new families
helping the school and community grow

employment
developing a local economy

tourism
supporting the local economy & providing employment, but need balance

Infrastructure, access & amenities
hall refurbishment, shop, campsite, paths & bunkhouse

community owned pub
social hub, employment

land management
new woodlands, rhodie eradication, deer management, Black Hills regeneration

food production
venison, community garden, farm

local enterprises
brewery, tearoom, restaurants, tree nursery

housing
rural housing burden, affordable rented accommodation

2. THE FUTURE – A COMMUNITY VISION FOR KNOYDART

Looking forward, your comments have suggested a sense of direction for the community and the land into the future. This includes a variety of factors, mostly to do with aspects that are tangible and actionable, as well as a few that are more intangible and subjective. Your responses recognise and appreciate the sense of place, and share the values present in the community, and which you would like to see persist, as the community and the land grow and change.



5 MAIN THEMES FOR THE FUTURE:

embracing diversity

in terms of employment and new businesses; younger voices in decision-making roles; delivering opportunities to those less privileged

safeguarding and improving infrastructures & amenities

more paths and access; road maintenance and repair; good, affordable housing for residents, temporary workers and visitors

balancing priorities

tourism and growing the population; facilitating young families to live here; land for woodland creation, food provision and other uses; tolerance and boundaries; maintaining open spaces for debate

regenerating the land

continuing and upscaling nature recovery efforts; expanding local food production capacity; considering new projects such as native species reintroduction

local sustainability

creating a circular economy; facilitating business development opportunities; passing on local knowledge; carbon reduction; democratic decision-making and transparent direction

3. NEXT STEPS – REALISING THE VISION & MEASURING IMPACT

The next steps are to look at how we can use the feedback from the workshop and the questionnaire to help to:

- develop a plan to achieve the community’s vision in relation to community and land regeneration
- look at a way to measure the positive impacts of this regeneration on the community

The first step in exploring how the community’s vision might be achieved will be to work with the other community organisations to identify what changes are already happening and/or planned for and what can be taken forwards from this vision and how.

We will use your responses to help tell the story of the community and work to develop a monitoring plan and methodology to demonstrate and evidence the positive impacts of interconnected community regeneration and nature restoration. Many of the qualities highlighted in your responses can be regarded as positive signs of wellbeing, from mental and physical health to a sense of belonging and purpose, as well as challenges sometimes faced by community life. An approach that combines wellbeing with more tangible outcomes could be used.

4. QUESTIONS FOR YOU

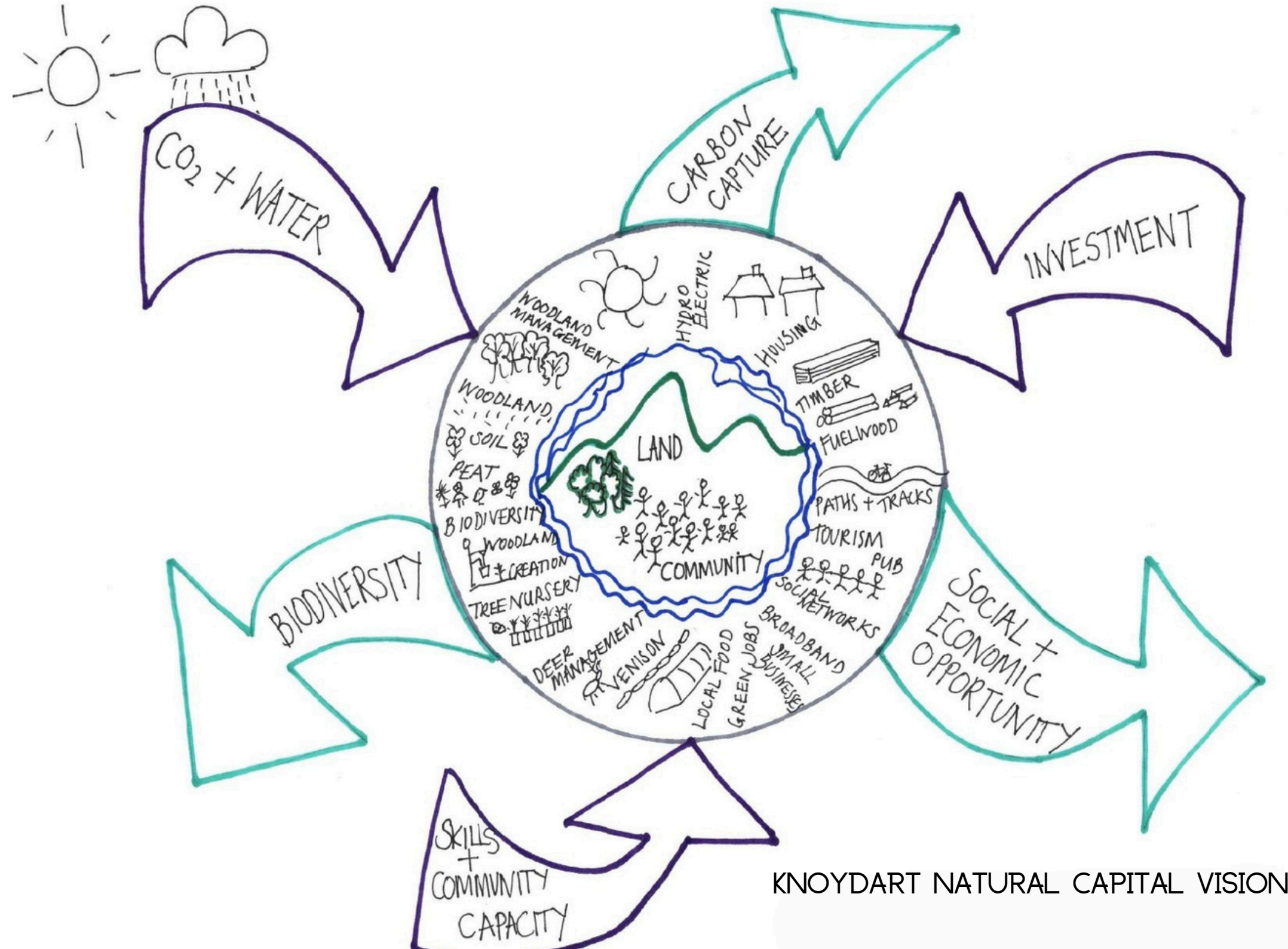
The opportunity for input is still ongoing, and we would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on this summary, the workshop/questions and the land management vision diagram.

There are a few questions below as prompts but if you have any additional comments or questions please let us know.

- Do you feel this summary reflects your views and input? Have we missed anything?
- What stands out as the most important aspects for you?
- How do you feel about a wellbeing-based approach to monitoring social impacts for the community?
- Do you feel the natural capital vision diagram (attached) reflects the community’s vision for the future
- Is there anything missing?

Please email any questions and/or feedback to lorna@knoydart.org or richard@knoydart.org, or speak to any of the Knoydart Credit project team - Jim, Grant, Finlay, Josh & Lorna.





KNOYDART NATURAL CAPITAL VISION