

# Opening alternative economic and social outcomes through community land ownership in Scotland



Michael T. Bacon  
Ph.D. Candidate, Constructed Environment  
Urban and Environmental Planning  
University of Virginia School of Architecture

AAG Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC  
5 April 2019

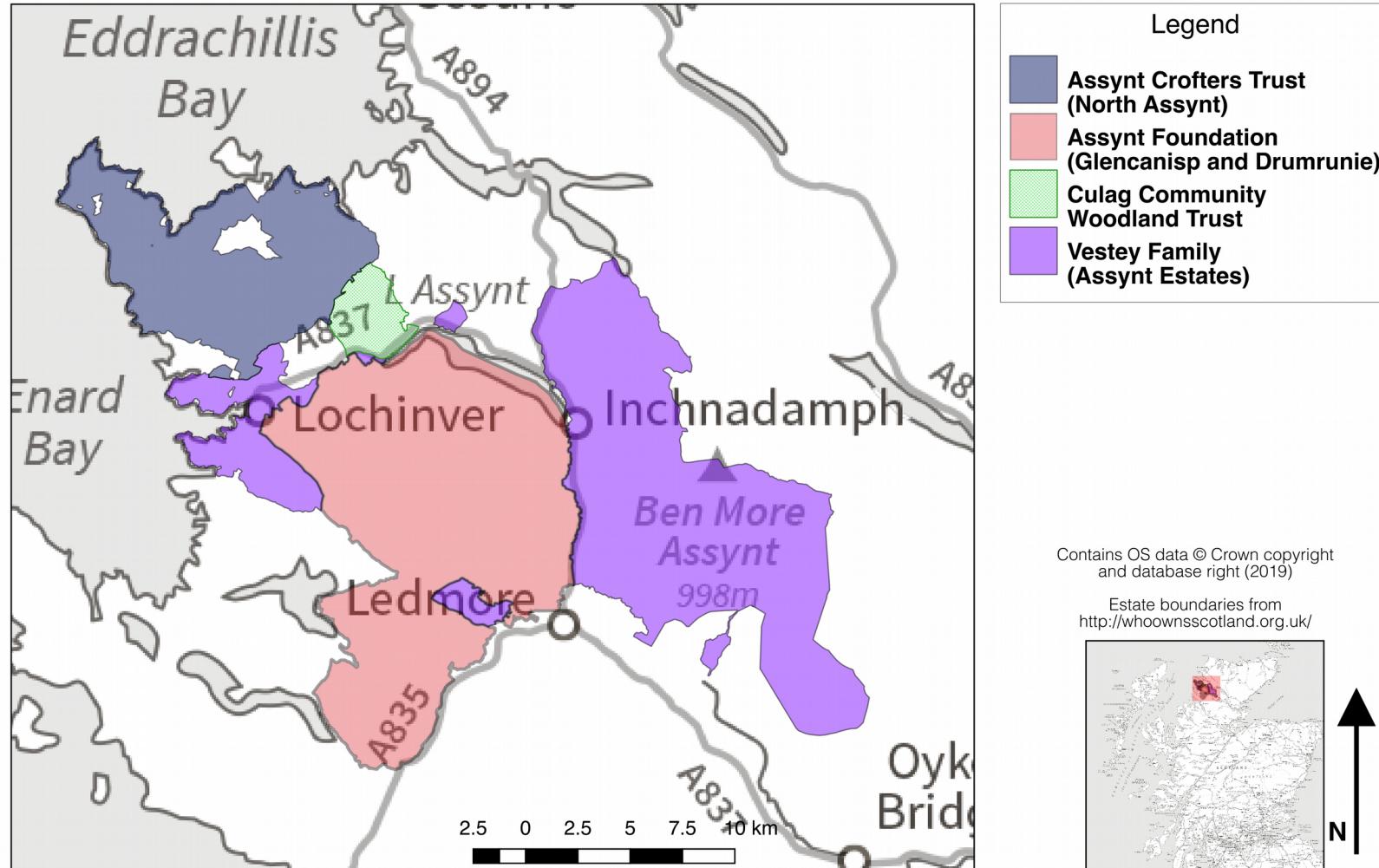


# Technics of Community Ownership in Scotland

- Commons
- Resistance to neoliberalism
- Democratization
- Affective ties
- Collective enterprise



# Major Estates on the Assynt Peninsula

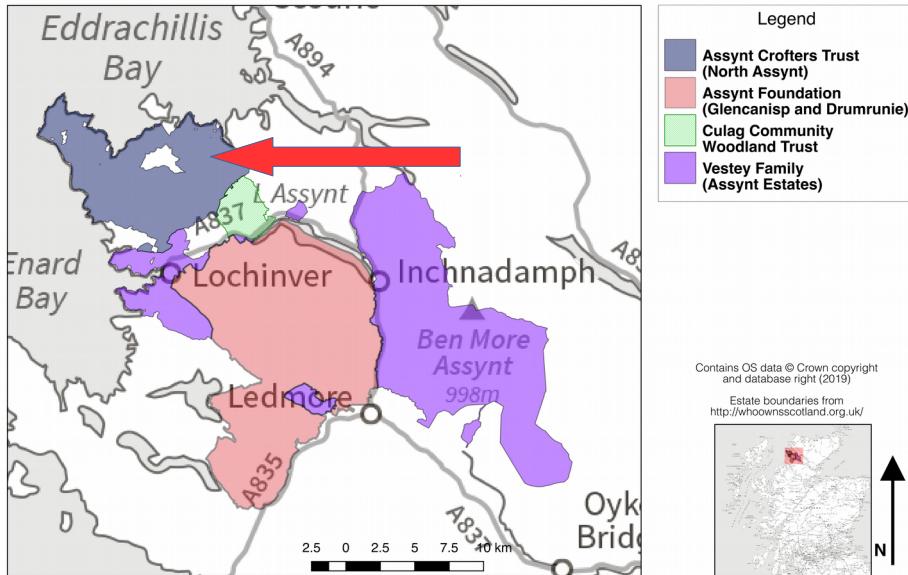


# Crofting

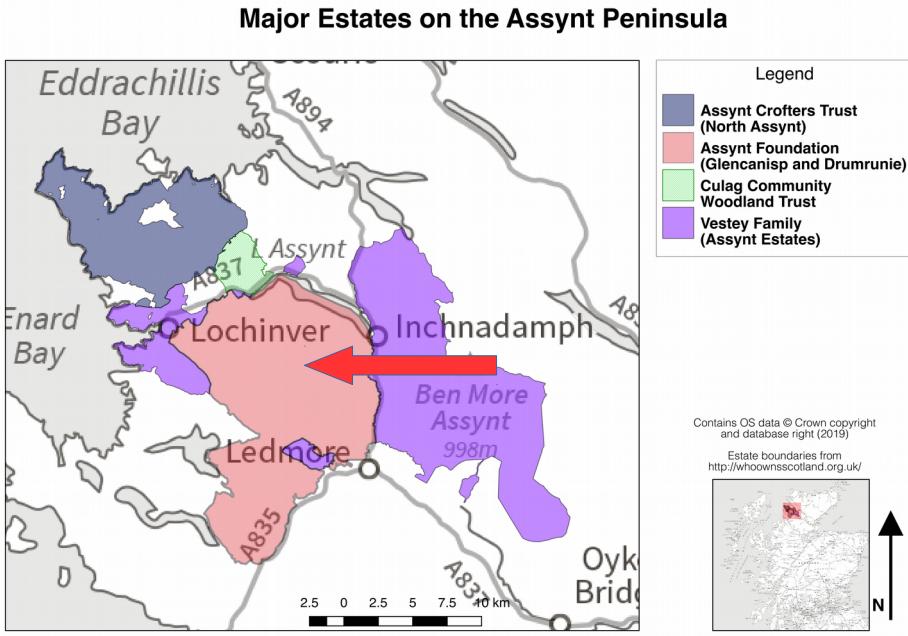


# Assynt Crofters Trust

Major Estates on the Assynt Peninsula



# Assynt Foundation



# Technics of Community Enterprise

## **Binding Commons**

- Places, buildings, material actors
- Importance, affective association
- Mediate human society
- Whom or what is cared for?

## **Labor of Enterprise**

- Who performs it?
- Who has decision-making agency?
- What goals are agreed upon?
- How are disputes resolved?
- How are external actors involved/assembled?

# Technics - Private Ownership

## **Binding Commons**

- Holiday lodges, rarely occupied
- Fishing, hunting
- Relationship of either neglect or paternalism, sometimes both
- Anachronistic presentation
- Maintain local labor force

## **Labor of Enterprise**

- Most rural private estates lose money
- Require external funding
- Office of the “factor”: charter surveyor
- “properly”

# Technics - Crofters Trust

## **Binding Commons**

- Small stores
- Community hall
- Post offices
- NHS office
- Animals
- Hydroelectric facility
- Ruined church

## **Labor of Enterprise**

- Only crofters decide
- Suspicion to external actors
- Older, predominantly male Assynt natives
- Narrow goals of maintaining land, solvency
- Small affordable housing, lack of demand

# Technics - Foundation

## **Binding Commons**

- Mountains, beaches, flowers
- Fishing, hunting
- Tourism-focused lodge
- Art-oriented projects
- Vegetable gardens
- “Hutting”
- Store, P.O., visitor center in Lochinver

## **Labor of Enterprise**

- Board with very high turnover, many retirees
- Lodge managers
- Coordinate stalking
- New Executive Officer, rural charter surveyor
- Correct prior efforts (“properly”)

# Differing Problems

## Crofters Trust

- Excessive closure
- Technical system is stable, but inflexible
- Tight coupling of humans to non-human commons
- Relations with external actors has been problematic

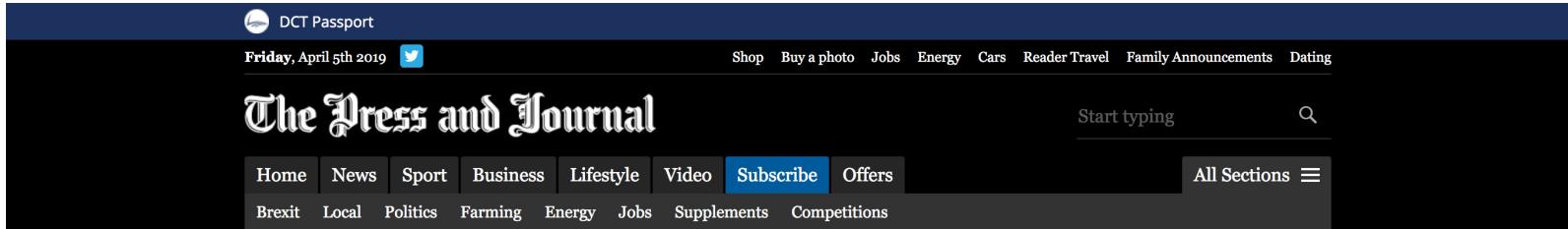
## Foundation

- Insufficient closure
- Technical system is too flexible, lacks focus
- Humans are loosely coupled to non-human commons
- Excessive reliance on external actors, funding

# Conclusions

- Community ownership is still powerful!
- Closure via tight affective ties
- Possibility for alternative technics relies on this
- Without alternative technics, retreat to conventional technics

# Coda



The screenshot shows the header of The Press and Journal website. At the top, there's a dark blue bar with the DCT Passport logo and the date "Friday, April 5th 2019". Below it is a black navigation bar with links for Shop, Buy a photo, Jobs, Energy, Cars, Reader Travel, Family Announcements, and Dating. The main title "The Press and Journal" is in a large, ornate font. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder "Start typing" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the main title is a secondary navigation bar with categories: Home, News, Sport, Business, Lifestyle, Video, Subscribe (which is highlighted in blue), Offers, All Sections (with a menu icon), Brexit, Local, Politics, Farming, Energy, Jobs, Supplements, and Competitions.

NEWS / HIGHLANDS

## Estates help from Danish billionaire to protect land in Sutherland



by Rita Campbell

March 11, 2019, 7:47 am



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Wildland Limited has given a loan to the Assynt Foundation to help Sutherland estates.

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