



Craigencauld Trust

Craigencauld Link Path Strategy



CONTENTS.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Craigencalt Trust
- 3 Programme of work
- 4 Core Paths connecting through the CRCT area of interest
- 5 The Link Path connecting The Binn with Kinghorn Loch and producing an exciting circular extension of the Coastal Path
- 6 The relationship of the Craigencalt link Path to the network of Core Paths
- 7 Ownership of land used by the project
- 8 Project work identified for the western part of the area
- 9 Project work identified for the eastern part of the area
- 10 Some interesting features which will be created along the way
- 11 Next steps

FRONT COVER

Upper left:

A work party photograph from 2012.

Upper right:

Completion of the Rodanbraes project.

Lower left:

Walking Festival - storytelling at the Troll Bridge.

Lower centre:

Light Emerald Moth.

Lower right:

Rodanbraes Cottage.

Background:

Looking over the Firth of Forth to Edinburgh.

Craigencalt Link Path Strategy

Craigencalt Trust (CRCT)

May 2012 revised March 2019.



CRAIGENCALT LINK PATHWAYS STRATEGY

Prepared by Ron Edwards (Company Secretary of Craigencalt Trust), Craigencalt Cottage, Kinghorn, Fife, KY3 9YG.

Email: info@CraigencaltTrust.org.uk

A programme by Craigencalt Trust in co-operation with Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd., Craigencalt Farm, Craigencalt Cottage, J.M.Cochran Ltd (Banchory Farm) and Fife Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

Local people and visitors alike regard Kinghorn Loch and the Craigencalt area as a jewel to be treasured and sustained for future generations. Craigencalt Trust (company and charity registered as Craigencalt Rural Community Trust) comprises residents, visitors, loch users and landowners working in co-operation. The Trust is committed to ensuring sensitive enhancement of the area in a fully sustainable manner and to make it even more attractive for visitors to enjoy. An enhanced experience will await; not only because of the peaceful and picturesque surroundings abounding with many species of bird, and abundant wild flowers and wildlife, but also to use the non-motorised water-sports (canoeing, dinghy sailing, etc) and fishing facilities on the loch and walking, cycling and horse-riding opportunities of paths, tracks and quiet roads for recreation. The Trust already has a large Friends base all of whom love this area.

Kinghorn residents have an historic right of free access to the loch and its surroundings. Indeed, all visitors are historically made very welcome throughout the area, with a tally of many thousands of visitors each year.

During the last century, the loch itself suffered industrial pollution that rendered it lifeless. The leachate was removed in 1983 and thirty six years on the water quality has become excellent, with good fish stocks, plant and bird life. The success has been greatly helped by the Loch Users and Projects Group, an informal committee of CRCT, comprising a diverse group of loch users, walkers, landowners and nature lovers who are committed to progress the enhancement and sustainability of the area in a most sensitive manner. The Trust will continue with the group to maintain the barley straw rafts that keep blue-green algal blooms away, promote a Local Nature Reserve and maintain the boat launch area.

The pathways interest, including the CRCT Walking Group, has worked since 2000 to delineate Rights of Way and Core Paths and is working with landowners to build and improve a number of paths in the surrounding countryside. It has also worked with Fife Council to restore the historic Doric Well path in Kinghorn and to register all appropriate Kinghorn paths as Rights of Way. The Walking Group has a monthly (twice monthly in summer) programme of local walks and runs an annual Walking Festival.

The replacement of the derelict Tannery site with the exciting housing development, will improve access and increase the number of people visiting the loch and enjoying its facilities. The loch is in excellent condition and there are great opportunities for leisure, recreation, enterprise and education to exist side by side, supporting each other; but sensitive management is essential. The Trust has the experience to provide this management and co-ordination in co-operation with all users.

2 CRAIGENCALT TRUST.

Craigencalt Trust is an abbreviation of the registered company and charity name of Craigencalt Rural Community Trust.

The Trust contains a wealth of professional ability in sustainable environmental management and engineering, and its individuals have a proven record of community project conception and management. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee that can sustainably preserve and appropriately manage the whole area; maintain and improve the asset and make it an even better experience for the visitor. A further longer-term aim is to strongly promote and manage the loch as a Local Nature Reserve.

The purpose of the Trust is not only to maintain full visitor access to the area but to designate and manage each area of land and the loch according to a developed framework, for the furtherance of conservation, improving ecological diversity, facilitating enterprises that promote these aims and community education.

Management.

Integrated management allows the control, conservation and management of all areas according to the agreed purposes. A Strategic Framework has been produced with the mutual consent of landowners. This cohesive and co-ordinated plan will be used to develop specific projects to further enhance the area. Landowners will necessarily have a veto on activities and structural alterations to their land other than as allowed by the agreed Framework and legal constraints (such as access allowed by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and historic rights). Landowners already work with several users who are represented within the CRCT Loch users & Projects group, so this restriction is not seen as a barrier.

All Trustees and Friends of the Trust undertake all work on a voluntary basis. The Trust holds regular work days to maintain and improve the area. It is, however, recognised that progress on the wide range of projects would be much faster if it had the resources to employ project staff, but this is not seen as a key requirement. Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd assists the Trust with the provision of items of mechanical plant and drivers. In all, the Trust receives much good will and assistance in kind from landowners and, indeed, Alcan has also given financial help with a number of past projects of Kinghorn Loch Users Group and Kinghorn Pathways (precursors of CRCT) and present CRCT projects.

Charitable Purposes.

The following Charitable Purposes underpin the core values of the Trust.

Working alone and in partnership with other interest groups and charities:

- to conserve, regenerate and improve the environment, ecosystem (flora, fauna and fish) and biodiversity of, in and related to the Craigencalt area, including Kinghorn Loch and surrounding countryside, by seeking to establish, develop, manage, promote and where relevant integrate, social, environmental and economic policies relating thereto, including the aim of designation of the loch as a Local Nature Reserve;
- to educate the public in relation to the heritage and culture of the Craigencalt area, including Kinghorn Loch and surrounding countryside; to promote and carry out research relating to the sustainable management and development of the Craigencalt Area, including Kinghorn Loch and surrounding countryside (where “sustainable management and development” means management and development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs);
- to advance community development and participation within the area, to include encouraging appropriate businesses, traditional skills and methods of working and living sustainably and healthily, through workshops, courses and physical projects;
- to promote and develop non-powered amateur water sports such as canoeing and sailing and other recreations such as walking, cycling, bird watching and fishing in the Craigencalt area, including Kinghorn Loch and surrounding countryside;
- to provide recreational facilities, or organise recreational facilities, to encourage greater public participation in recreational pursuits at Craigencalt, including Kinghorn Loch and surrounding countryside.

Land owners.

The following land ownerships exist within the area of interest of the Trust:

- Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd (subsidiary of Rio Tinto Alcan) occupy a key area at the head of the loch which is important for wetland development and within the Binn Wildlife Conservation Area so important for pathways work, ecology and biodiversity.
- Craigencalt Farm land occupies the central part of the loch, much of the sporting and recreational area, community area and also the Earthship of the Sustainable Communities Initiative. There is scope for visitor centre attractions and development of enterprises, particularly at the steading.
- Craigencalt Cottage land contains some high elevation viewpoints for observing the loch and its eco-system, and gorse and possible open-woodland development.
- J.M.Cochran Ltd (Banchory Farm) comprises agricultural land covering the “Highland” hinterland to the loch. The land is very important for maintaining the local pathway network and possible projects. Banchory Farm provides facilities and barley straw in support of CRCT on an ongoing basis. Jean Cochran assisted the Trust greatly but passed away in 2017 and is sadly missed.

Other partners.

The Trust works closely with Fife Council access officers and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Edinburgh.

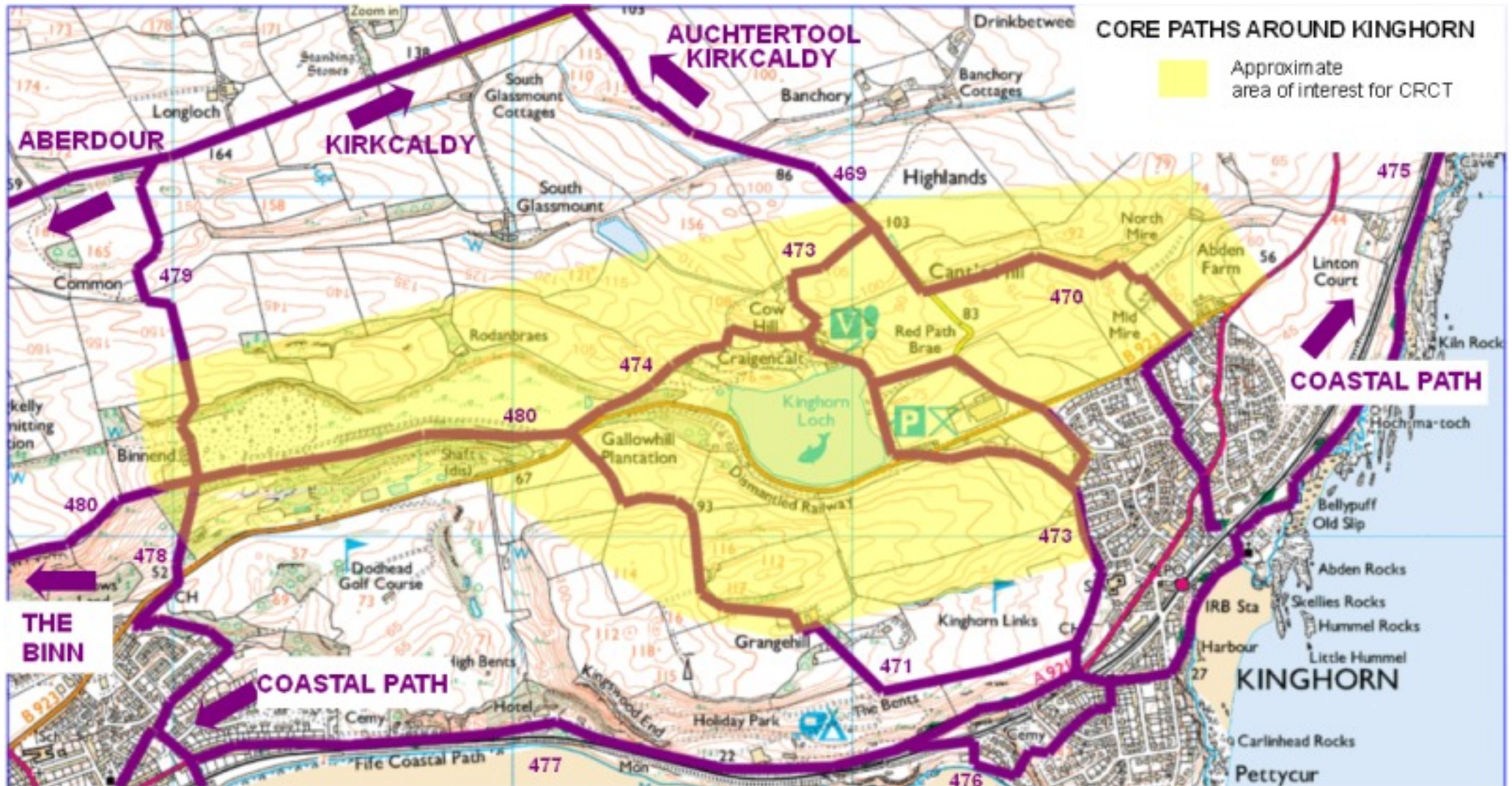
3 PROGRAMME OF WORK.

A five year programme was set out in the Craigenalt Rural Community Trust Framework Document in 2012 for the encouragement of visitors and enterprise to the area.

Craigenalt Trust greatly appreciates the assistance of the following funders in carrying out its function:

- Fife Environment Trust
- Awards for All Scotland
- Fife Council, Kinghorn Common Good Fund
- Paths for All
- Central Scotland Green Network
- Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd
- Burntisland & Kinghorn Community Sports Hub
- Financial assistance from the Friends of CRCT

We hope to work with these funders for future projects described in this strategy.



4 CORE PATHS CONNECTING THROUGH THE CRCT AREA OF INTEREST.

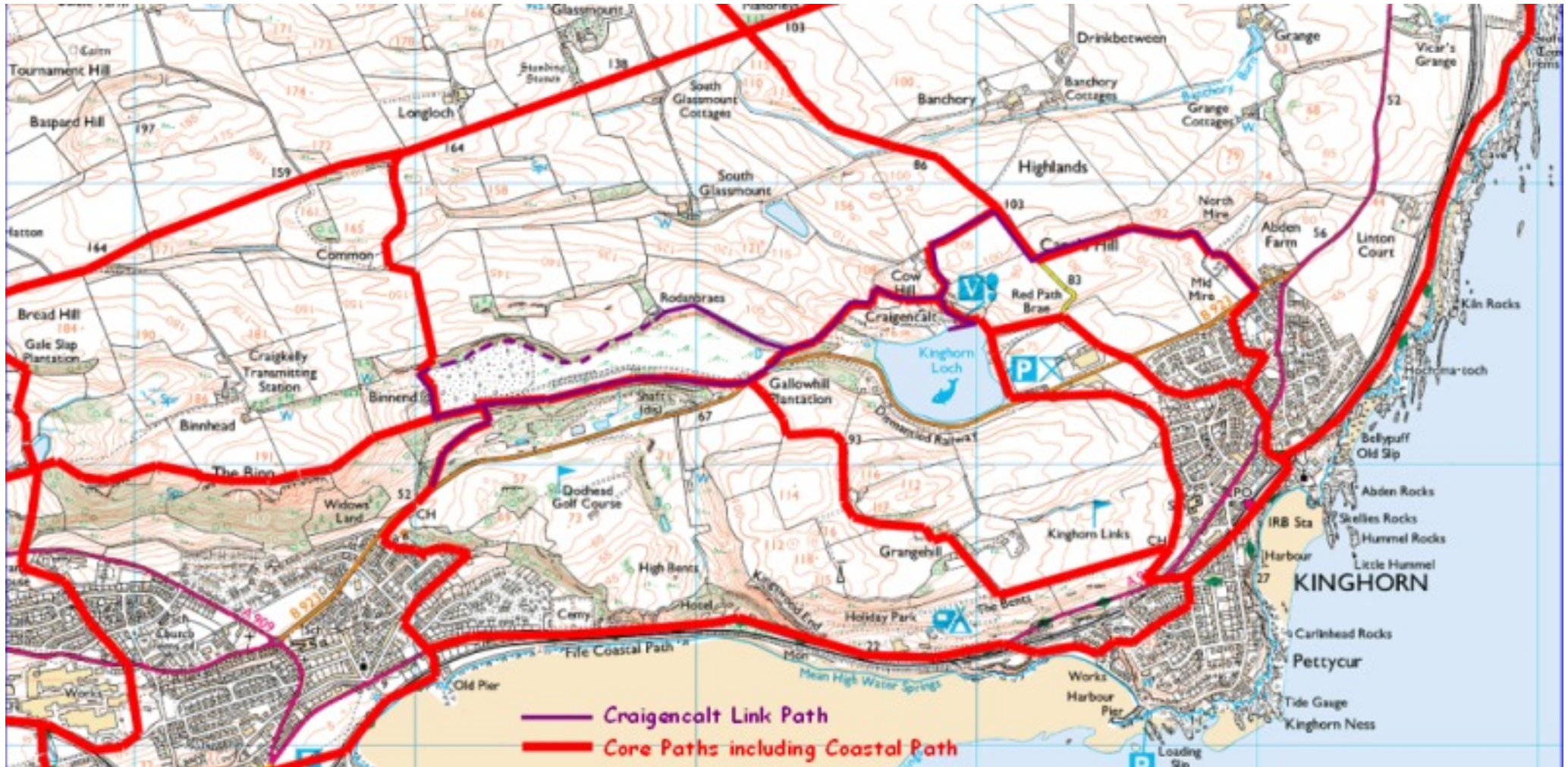
Kinghorn Pathways carried out a survey of users of pathways in Kinghorn and surrounding area in 1997 (part of Kinghorn Community Council at that time). The primary pathways used by the public were shown to be: (1) Coastal Path between Burntisland and Kirkcaldy, (2) from Kinghorn via Grangehill pathway to Craigencait and (3) back via Red Path Brae or the east shore of the loch and (4) Craigencait or Grangehill to Binnend and on to the top of the Binn, thence to Burntisland.

The Community Council produced a Pathways Booklet in 2007 which proved so popular that it will now need to be updated and reprinted. This was compiled by the current CRCT chairman.



5 THE LINK PATH CONNECTING THE BINN WITH KINGHORN LOCH AND PRODUCING AN EXCITING CIRCULAR EXTENSION TO THE COASTAL PATH.

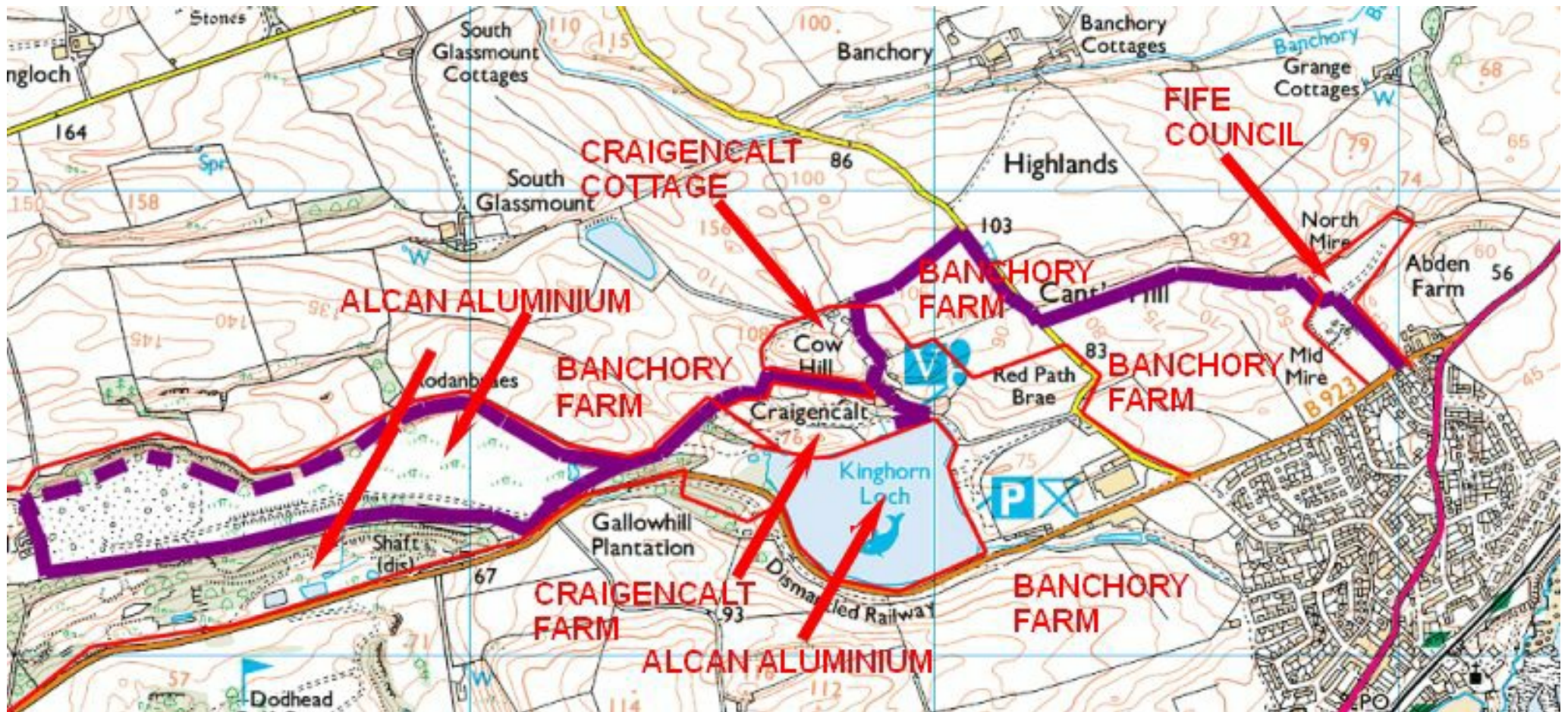
A circular extension already exists through Grangehill to Craigenfalt and returning through the west side of Kinghorn. The intention is to provide an alternative route from the east end of Burntisland Beach (Lochies Road) through to the viaduct at the east end of Kinghorn. This route is only slightly longer than the existing Coastal Path and provides a number of views and interesting experiences. It avoids the walk along the road between Kinghorn and Burntisland which is an unsatisfactory feature of this section of the Coastal Path.



6 THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CRAIGENCALD LINK PATH TO THE NETWORK OF CORE PATHS.

This pathway links important Core Paths and Rights of Way. Much of the path is in reasonable walking and horse riding condition, but is variable and not fully useable by cyclists. CRCT is building and improving the paths to be family friendly and good for disabled users and to provide seating, picnicking areas, signage, way marking and interpretation boards. Interesting places for youngsters to enjoy are to be designed and built. Path surfacing will be improved. There are significant opportunities for woodland management and tree planting. CRCT intends to once more update and re-publish the Pathways Booklet, and prepare other booklets. The group has already produced a Bird Book and all publications and information are available on the Trust website (www.CraigencauldTrust.org.uk), at 'Barn at the Loch' cafe and other outlets.

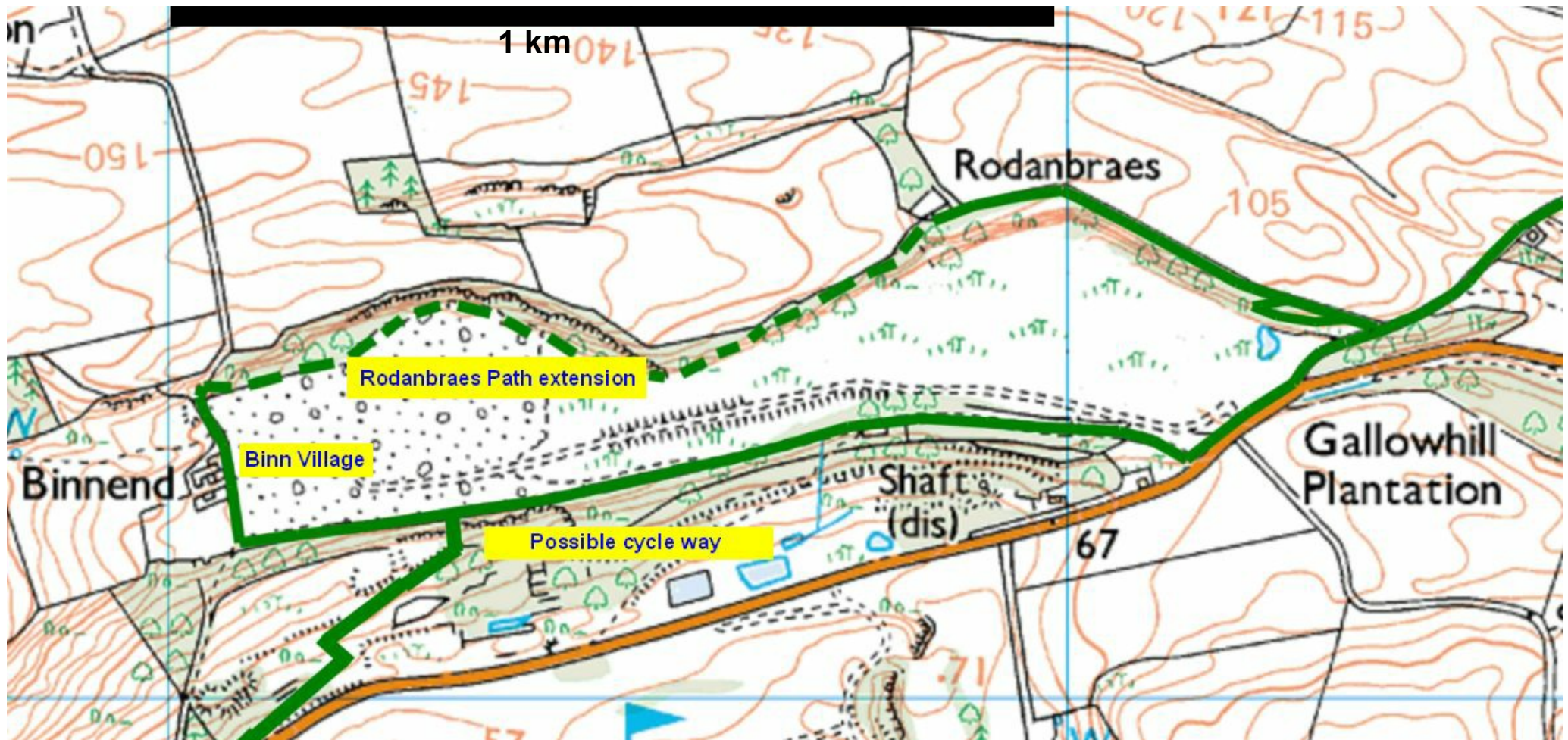
Proposed future extension of Rodanbraes Pathway shown as dashed line. The intended new paths are not shown on the map.



7 OWNERSHIP OF LAND USED BY THE PROJECT.

Co-operation and the involvement of landowners is vital to the success of the project.

- The owner of Banchory Farm (the major landowner) is a Friend of CRCT and fully involved.
- The owners of Craigenfalt Farm and of Craigenfalt Cottage are either Trustees or Friends of CRCT and fully involved.
- The Trust is greatly assisted by Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd in improving most of its paths and visitor facilities with the provision of mechanical plant and drivers and financial assistance. Groups that are now part of the Trust have worked in co-operation with Alcan for many years.
- The groups work closely with Fife Council access officers on Core Paths and Rights of Way and currently with these officers and Transportation on the building of the Red path brae by-pass path. CRCT (and the precursor Kinghorn Loch Users Group) has worked closely with Fife Council officers and SEPA for many years.



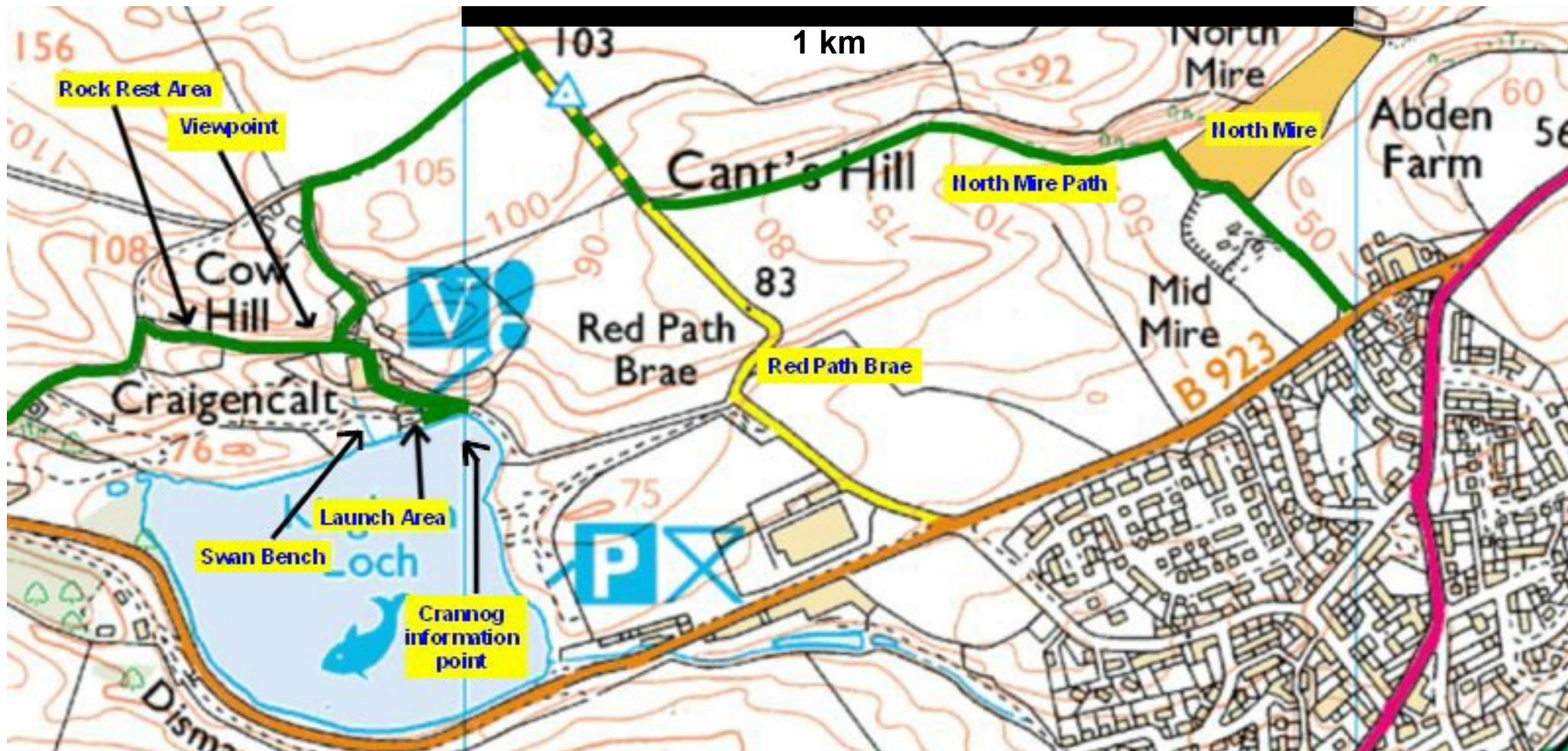
8 PROJECT WORK IDENTIFIED FOR WESTERN PART OF AREA.

To 2021:

- Rodanbraes Path extension. At present the connection between Rodanbraes and Binnend Paths is along a field edge which can get very wet, muddy and slippery. An alternative way through woodland is easily possible but landowner permission is not currently available. Another possibility is a path along the scarp on Alcan land, which displays several sections of cliff, passes across steep inclines and several really attractive features. However, this is difficult to build and can never be disabled friendly or suitable for horses. CRCT has permission from Alcan to complete this path.

LATER:

- The original National Cycle Way through the woodland has been abandoned because of gradient. A path suitable for cyclists could be taken along the derelict mineral railway line, which would solve the problem with gradient. This is a long term possibility.
- The derelict Binn Village was built to serve the Oil Shale Refinery. There are significant remains that can be released from the undergrowth and information and interpretation of this once important industry can be presented to visitors. Collaboration with Burntisland Heritage Trust is intended.



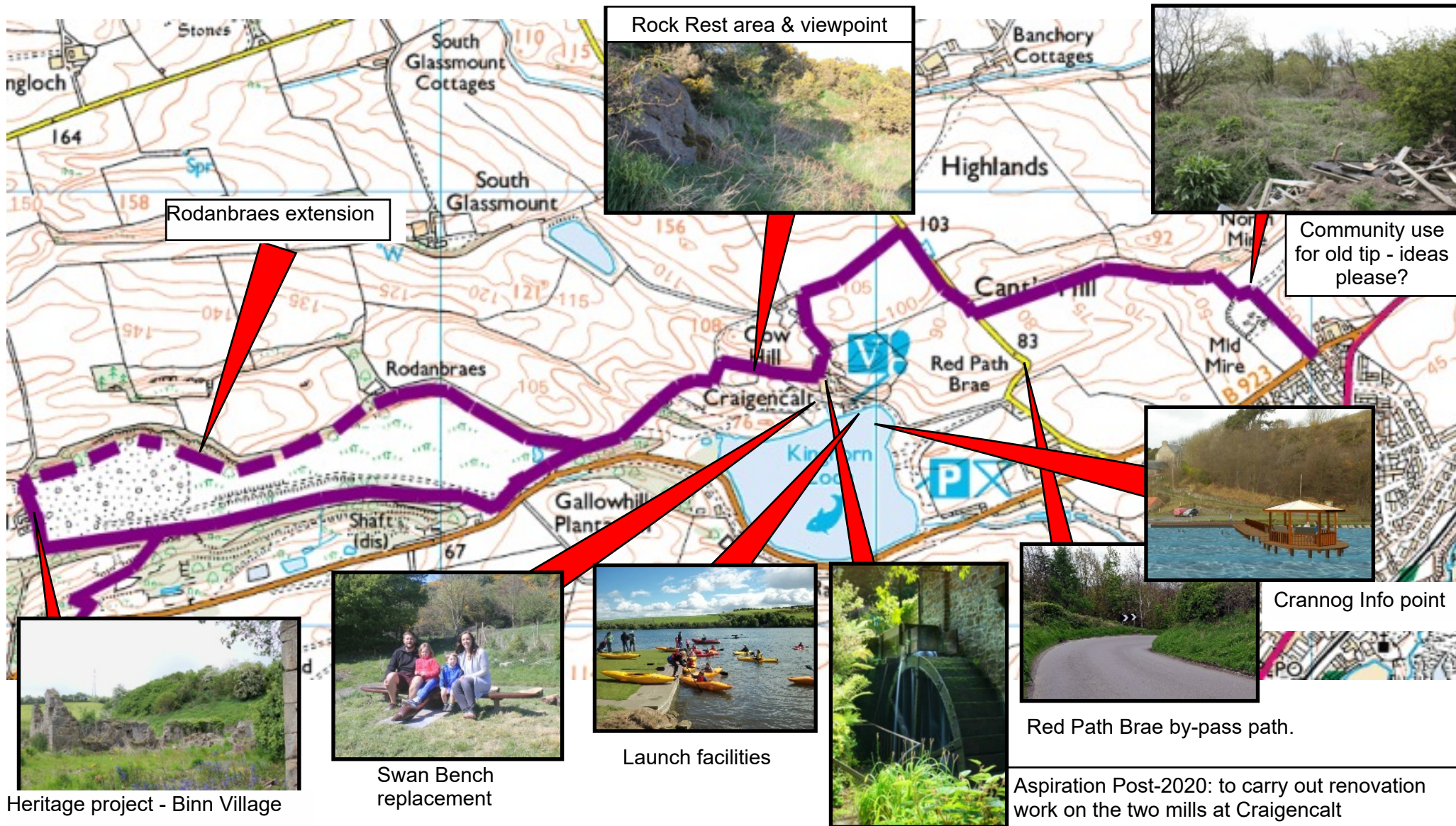
9 PROJECT WORK IDENTIFIED FOR EASTERN PART OF AREA.

To 2021::

- Red Path Brae. Pedestrians currently have to walk up the hill, which Fife Council considered to be too dangerous to designate this as a Core Path, despite its importance to walkers, etc. The project is ready to go, with Fife Council contributing all the roadside path and pavement construction and CRCT awaiting grant confirmation for a route through the woodland copse.
- Design and build a Viewpoint on Cowhill with superb panoramic views from Isle of May to the Bridges and over the loch;
- Develop the old quarry as a "Rock Rest Area" and expose the rock that is fabled to have given Craigencaht its name;
- Improve safety measures at the jetty with ladder access, etc, and improve the slipway access in the training bay and for the rescue boat at the main jetty.
- Develop the idea of building a "crannog" structure in the bay to provide viewing of the loch, together with information boards, and provide judging platform for regattas.

LATER:

- Improvement of the North Mire path and perhaps plant community woodland on the North Mire.



10 SOME INTERESTING FEATURES WHICH WILL BE CREATED ALONG THE WAY.

These are just some of the projects mentioned on the previous two pages showing interesting features and visitor attractions that may be created. Two longer-term aspirations are to improve the visitor experience at the abandoned and derelict Binn village and also to renovate and create, as heritage reconstructions, the sixteenth century Corn Mill (Hermitage) and eighteenth century Threshing Mill. The Rodanbraes extension (if it crosses Alcan land) will expose some very interesting columnar basalt crags and a decidedly challenging path. The creation of a “crannog” at the bay at the jetty should be particularly rewarding. The Swan Bench has deteriorated and needs to be replaced.

11 NEXT STEPS.

The strategy incorporates a number of individual projects to be taken forward over a period of time.

Present priority projects for 2019 to 2021 are:

(1) Build new path through woodland by-passing Red Path Brae (road safety issue) including:

- Excavate and lay type 1 aggregate path blinded with whin dust and compacted
- Path from upper boundary wall to roadside (road verge area) will be budgeted and completed by Fife Council Transportation.
- Access through walls at top and bottom of the path
- Signage and seat to be incorporated.

(2) Replacement of swan bench, which has deteriorated beyond reasonable repair

(3) Revise and publish Kinghorn Pathways booklet

(4) Reprint Oil Shale booklet

(5) Prepare, consult and publish booklet on Margaret Leslie

(6) Create a biodiversity database

(7) Improvements to the launch area being:

- Provide access ladders, rescue hook and signage
- Improve slipway in the training bay, new slipway at east of jetty and close or cover rescue boat jetty

(8) Viewing “crannog” with educational and interpretation boards to be constructed.

(9) Develop the Rock Rest area and high level view point on Cowhill.

(10) Complete Rodanbraes extension.

Priority projects from 2020 are:

- (1) Binn Village
- (2) Improvement and rebuilding in places of old "National Cycle Track" to Burntisland Golf Club House
- (3) Improve track to North Mire
- (4) Using in-house resources to develop Community Woodland and Green Gym on North Mire
- (5) Seek Local Nature Reserve status
- (6) Sensory garden
- (7) Design and construct "Loch Centre" for recreations and water sports as renovation of existing lochside buildings
- (8) Renovation historical mill (Hermitage)
- (9) Renovate 1790 Threshing Mill