

A MODEL FOR THE DESIGN OF NEW SUSTAINABLE RITUAL ECOLOGIES

Dr Neil Burford, Dr Christos Antonios Kakalis, Ms Roxana Caplan, Mr Oliver Spurr - School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University, UK

This research project develops a new conceptual framework for a sustainable Orthodox monastic settlement on the Ardross Estate in the Scottish Highlands. The work has been undertaken for the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain and has been developed in the Linked Research project Mobile Sanctuaries: Ritual Ecologies and Transnational Religious Communities of the Highlands within the School of Architectural, Planning and Landscape.

Aims

To explore the links between religious life, theology and sustainability.

To explore the symbiotic conditions between ritual human and non-human ecologies.

To create a sustainable development framework for a new monastic community.

Objectives

To investigate the link between life and theology of monastic settlements and sustainable theory.

To understand monastic life, economies, infrastructures, care for the environment and its external relationships with local communities and wider society.

To explore how these contemporary monastic settlements have been established in the above contexts using case study analysis.

To generate a set of place-based strategies, guidelines and routes for the implementation of a new contemporary C21st sustainable monastic community at Ardross.

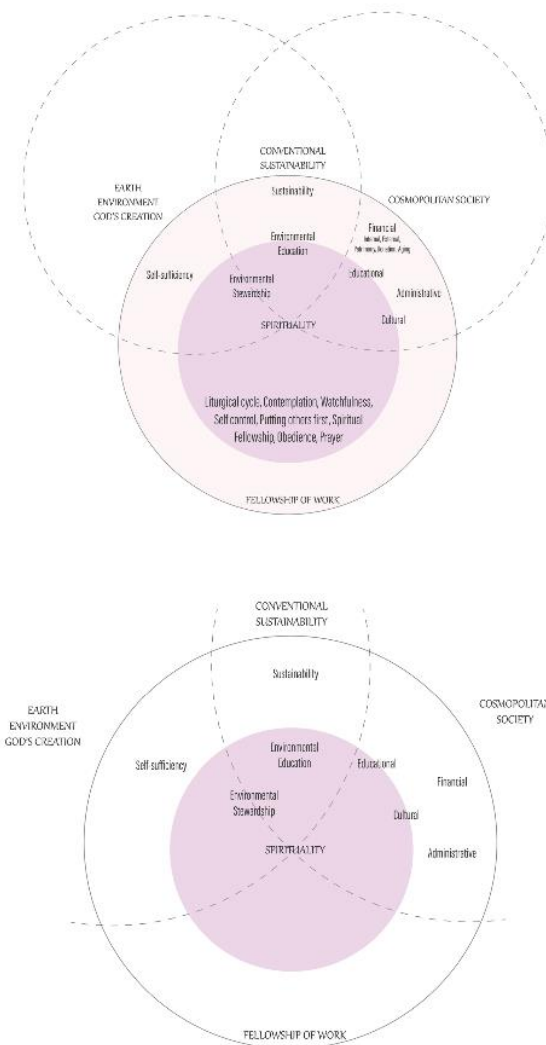


Fig. 1 A Model for A Monastery

Proposal

The proposal synthesizes the research across a number of key principles including:

Connecting monastic life and environmental sustainability

Care for and rehabilitation of local existing ecosystems

Self-sufficient farming and sustainable food production

Good relationship with local community: exchange of goods, skills and services

Use of local low embodied energy, natural materials and local craft skills.

Reduced consumption, waste reduction and recycling

Phasing through time: implementation, growth and integration

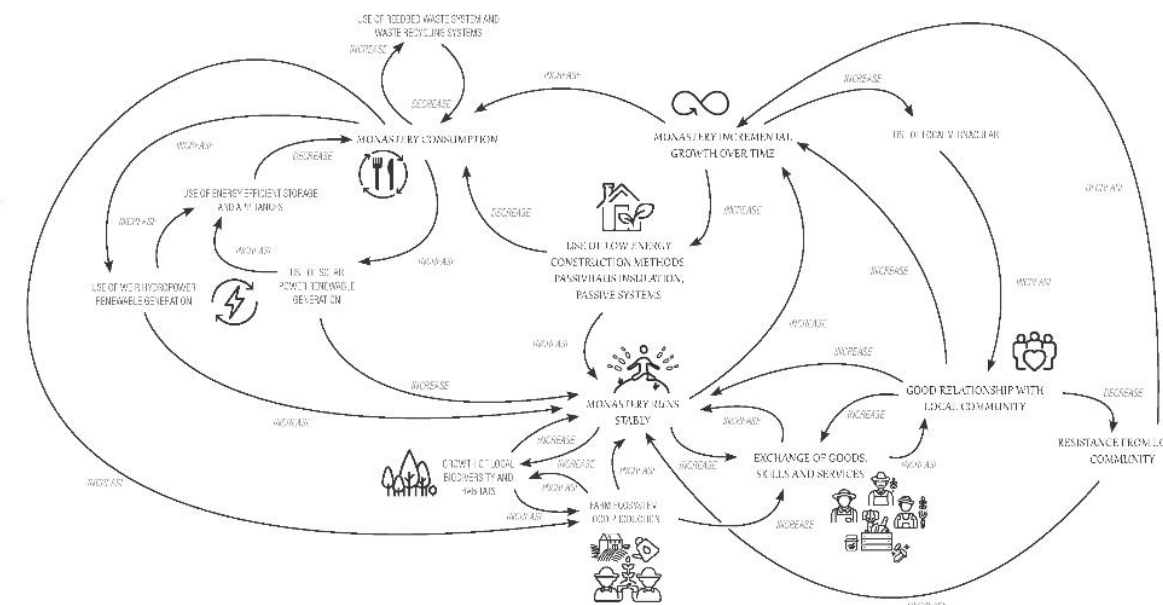


Fig. 5 Monastery Integrated Systems Causal Look Diagram

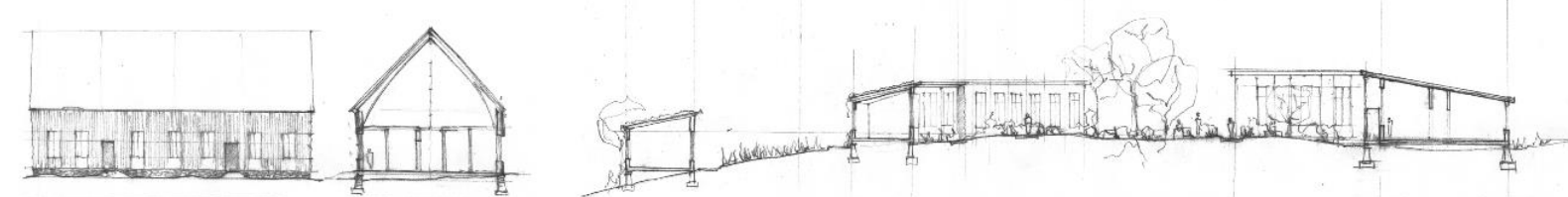


Fig. 6 Proposed Sections and Elevations



Fig. 7 Site Plan

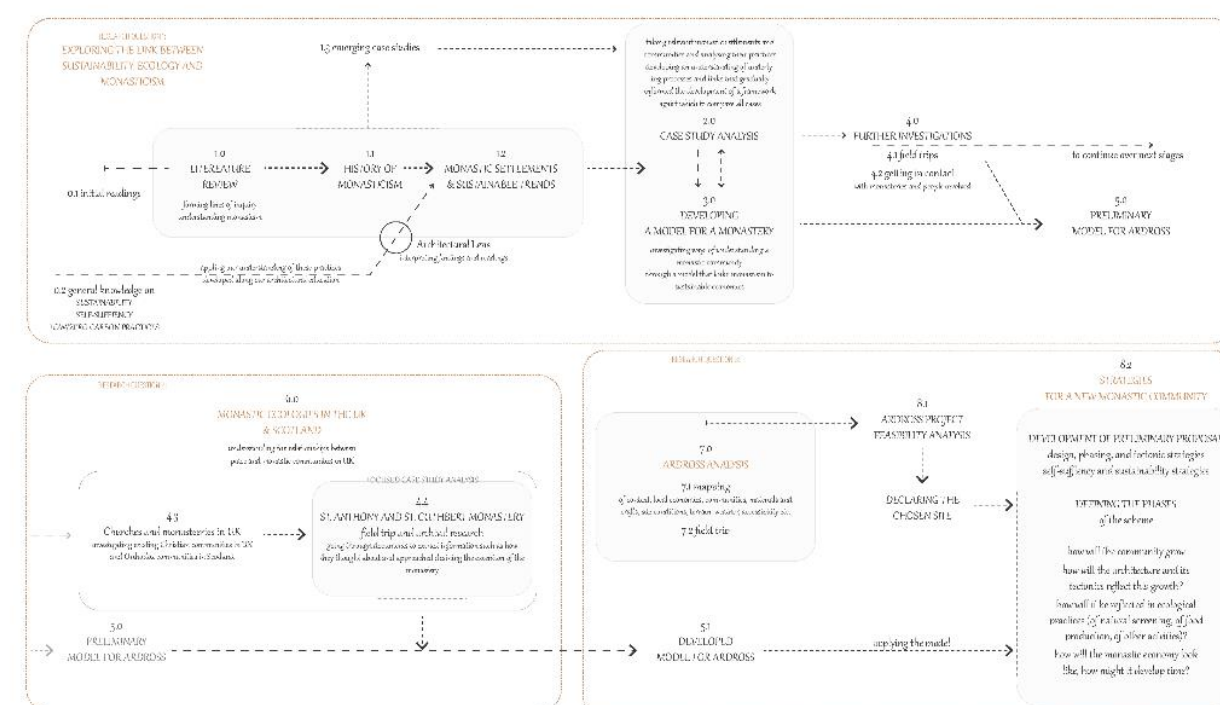


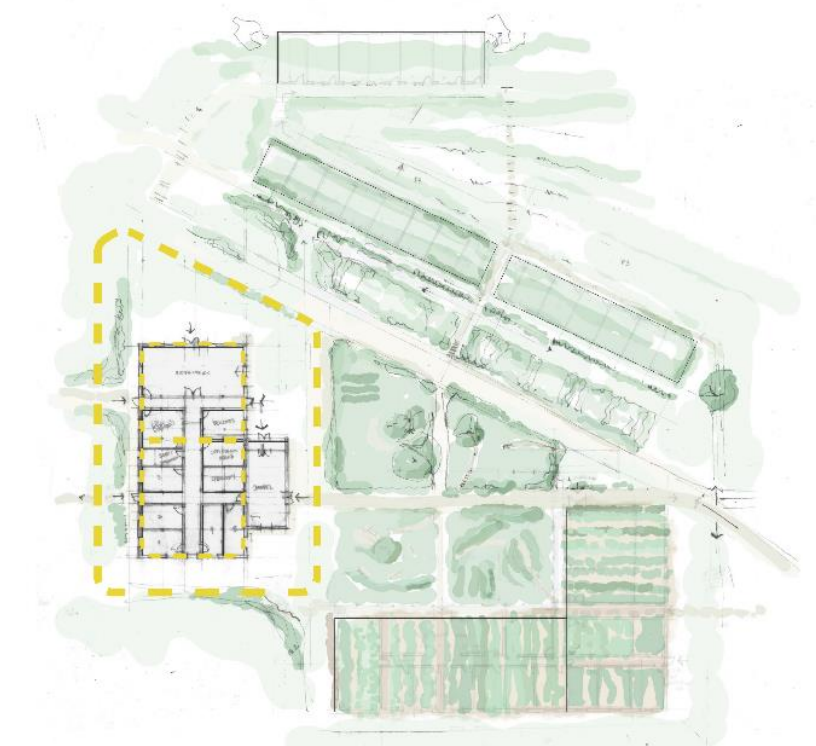
Fig. 2 Research Framework



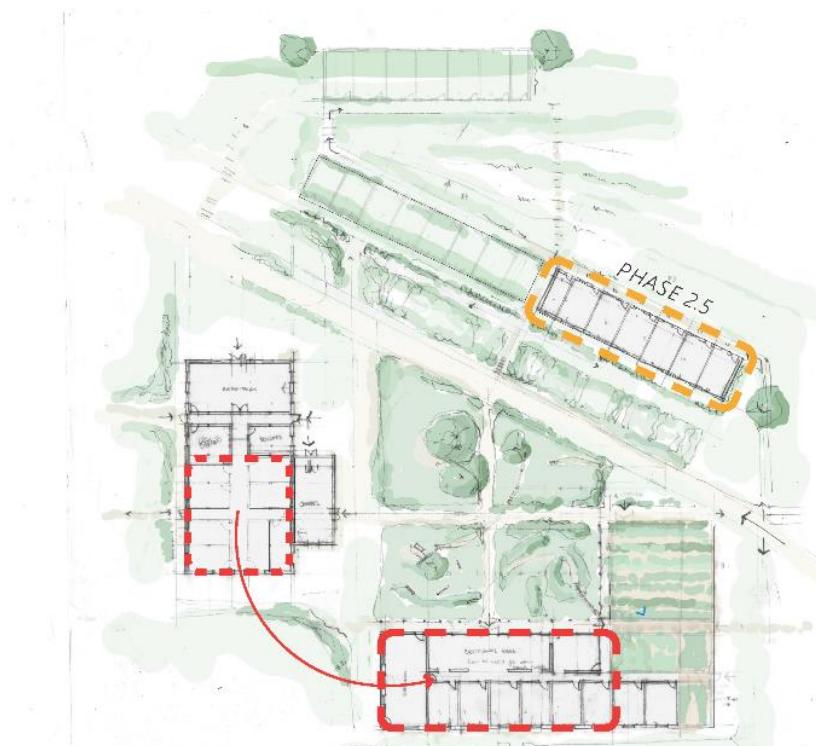
Fig. 3, 4 Photos from Ardross



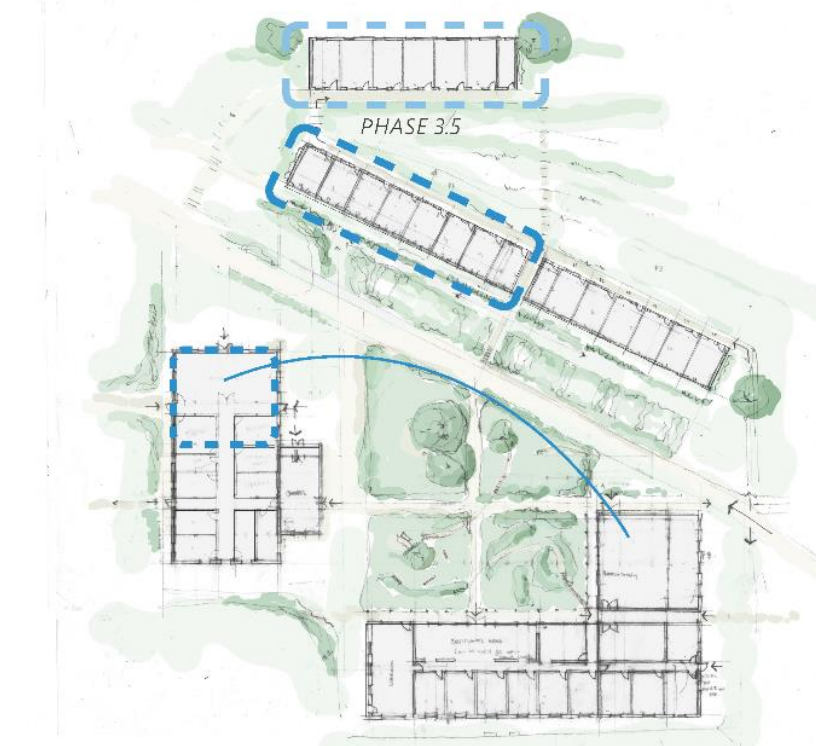
Fig. 8, 9, 10 Views from a Monastic Settlement in Shropshire



PHASE 1
SMALL COMMUNITY



PHASE 2
GROWING COMMUNITY



PHASE 3
EXPANDED COMMUNITY

Fig. 11 Phasing of the Monastic Settlement