

A SCOTISH SKETCHBOOK

SCOURIE
AND THE NORTH WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND





Hoteliers Fiona, Charlotte and Richard Campbell returned to the West Highlands in 2015 to re-vitalise the hotel at Scourie, an exciting adventure for these friends of ours. They have poured fresh energy into invigorating this lovely hotel whose history dates back to the 17th Century. www.scouriehotel.co.uk

The hotel situated in a stunning area of untouched beauty. As a self-appointed artist in residence, I get excited being there soon to enjoy time at the place built by the second Duke Of Sutherland as a coaching inn which looking towards the sheltered waters and white sands of Scourie.

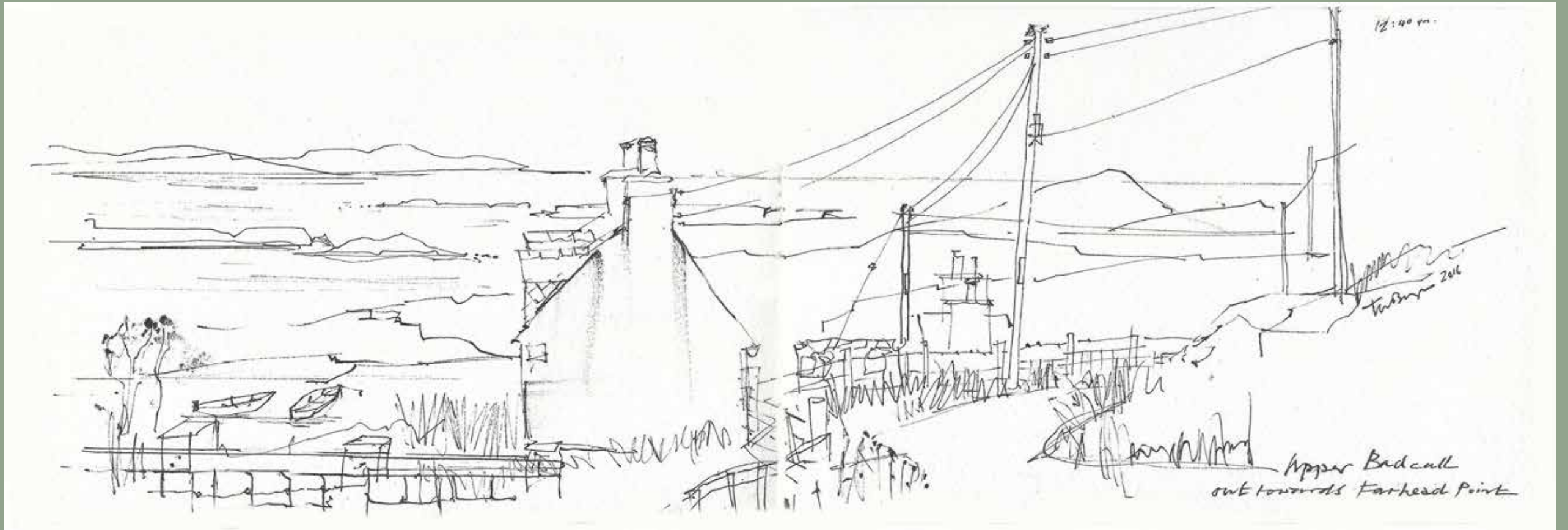
www.scouriehotel.com

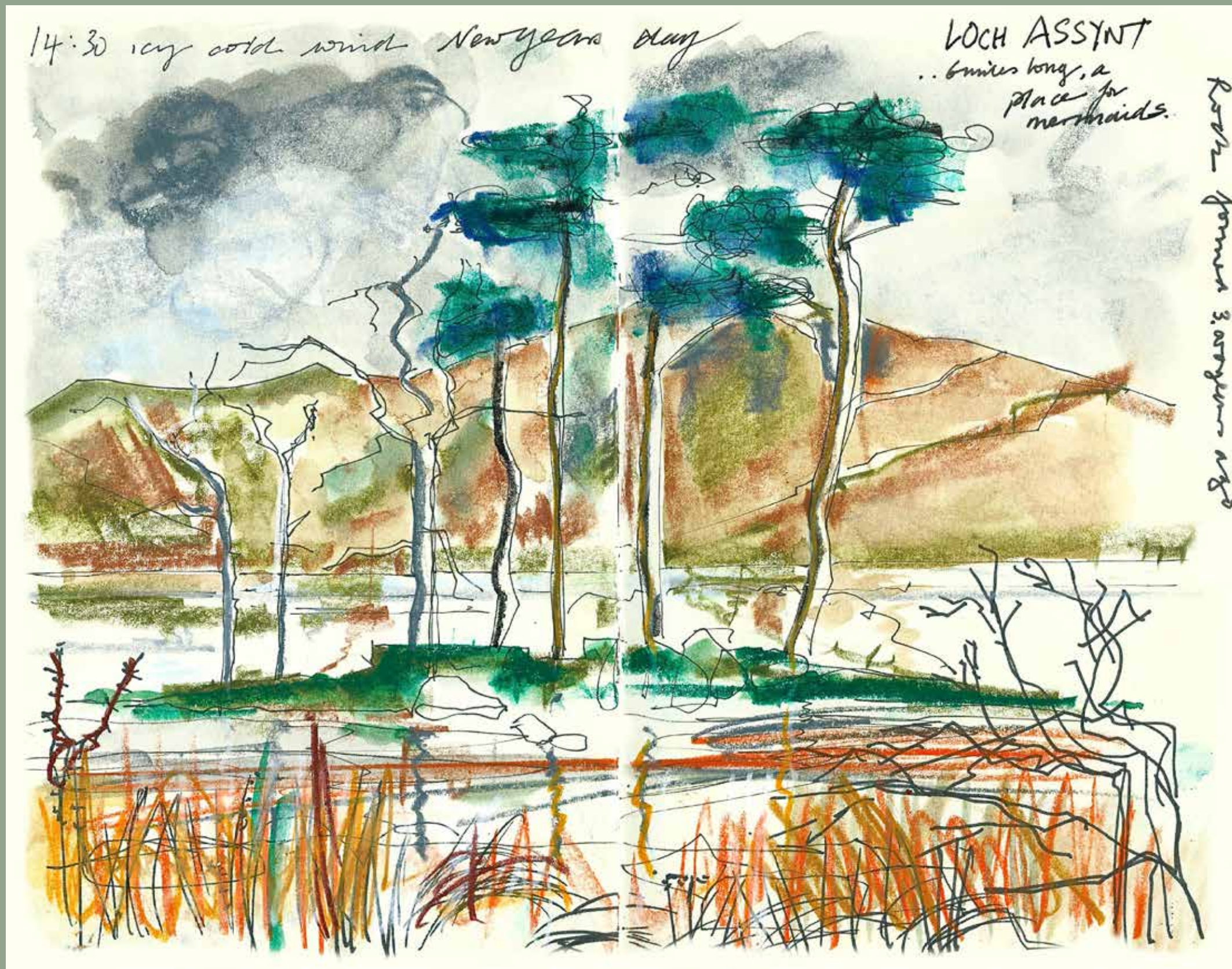


Scourie is about halfway between Ullapool and Durness in the county of Sutherland. The population is just over two hundred people, which swells with visitors from all over Europe in the summer.



Badcall contains two remote hamlets, Lower Badcall and Upper Badcall. Scourie lies 2 miles further north-west. This beautiful area is embossed with small islands and is also the home of Loch Duart Ltd, an independent salmon farm.





We pulled over to gaze at the pines that materialized from a small island in Loch Assynt. Further down there is a castle. Folklore tells of MacLeod's lost daughter, Eimhir and her continued appearance in Loch Assynt. Instead of jumping to her death, they believe Eimhir plunged from the castle into the caverns of the Loch. She hid from the devil to whom she was promised. Eimhir made a new home beneath these dark cold waters. She is the mysterious 'mermaid of Assynt'.

14:00 hours 1.1.2016

The Dorothy Ann

LOCHINVER
Sutherland



Although not very busy on new year's day Lochinver is the second largest fishing port in Scotland and attracts a good many French and Spanish boats. The light was starting to fade for the day and a wind was blowing off the hills behind the village. An oystercatcher piped a new year's greeting. Lobster pots clean and ready nestled together on the edge of the quayside for warmth.

BALNAKEIL towards the church 21 Balnakeil House....



Whilst we stayed at Scourie we visited Balnakeil. This peaceful hamlet, a mile or so northwest of Durness includes the ruins of Balnakeil Church; grand tombstones and ivy-clad walls of the church look out to sea across Balnakeil Bay. Further up you can see the peninsula of Faraid Head is directly to the north. This was the site of a 1950s radar station. Today the range control for Ministry of Defence bombing operations in the Cape Wrath Training Area is located just to the west.

BALNAKEIL Church

Built 1617

Rebuilt 1640

Abandoned mid C19th



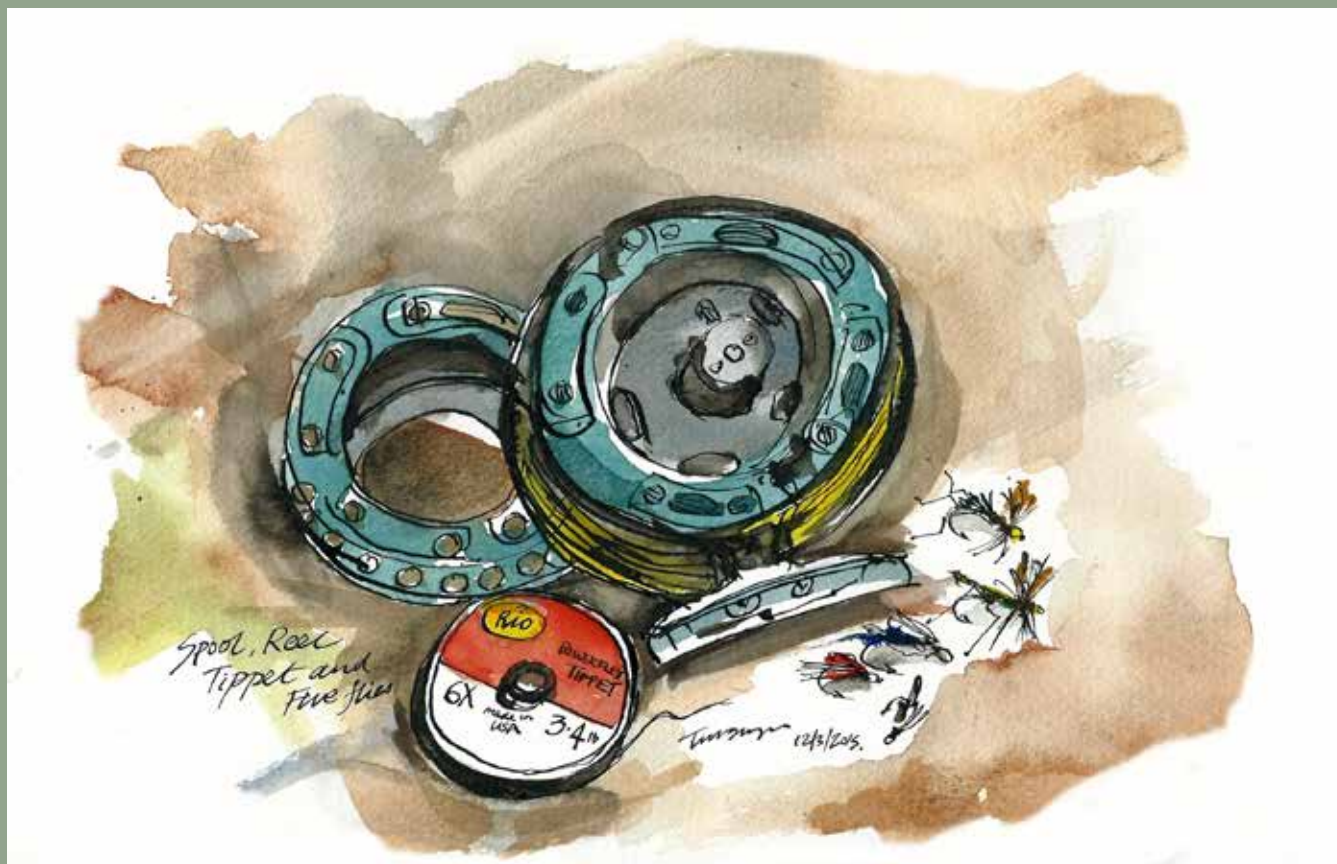
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Inchnadamph Old Parish Church

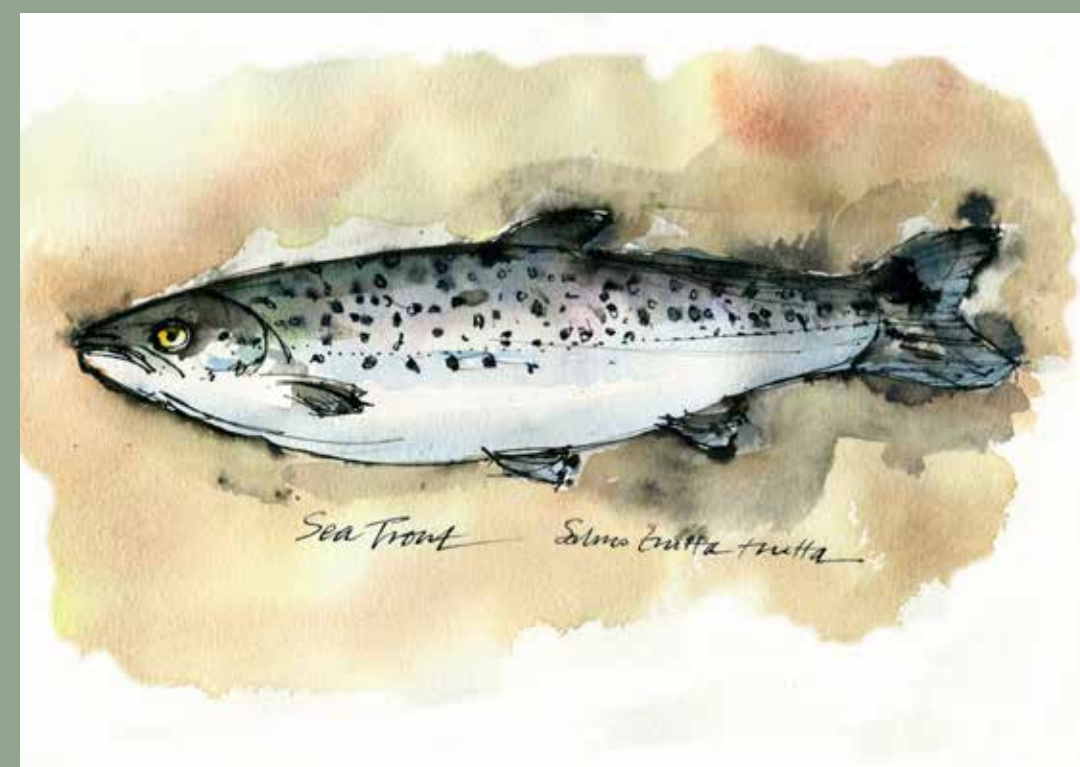
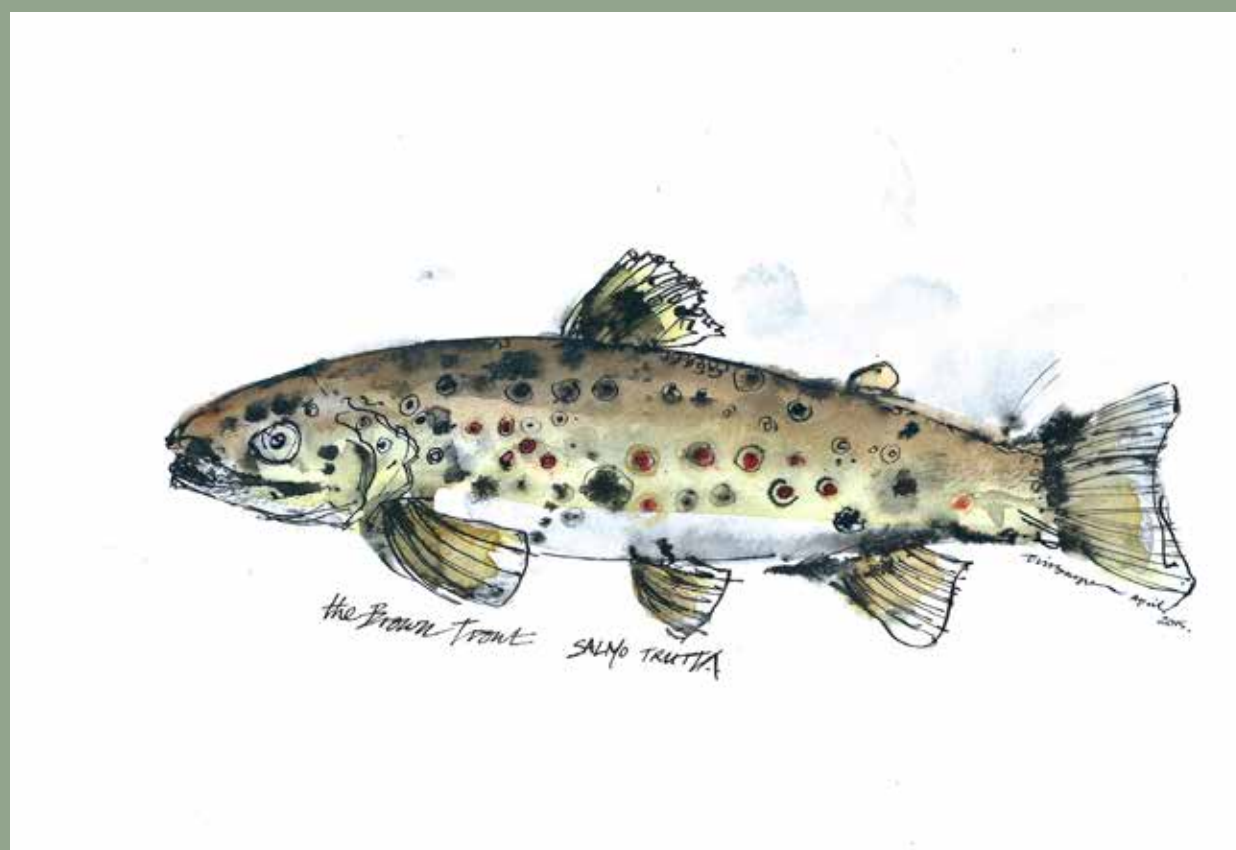
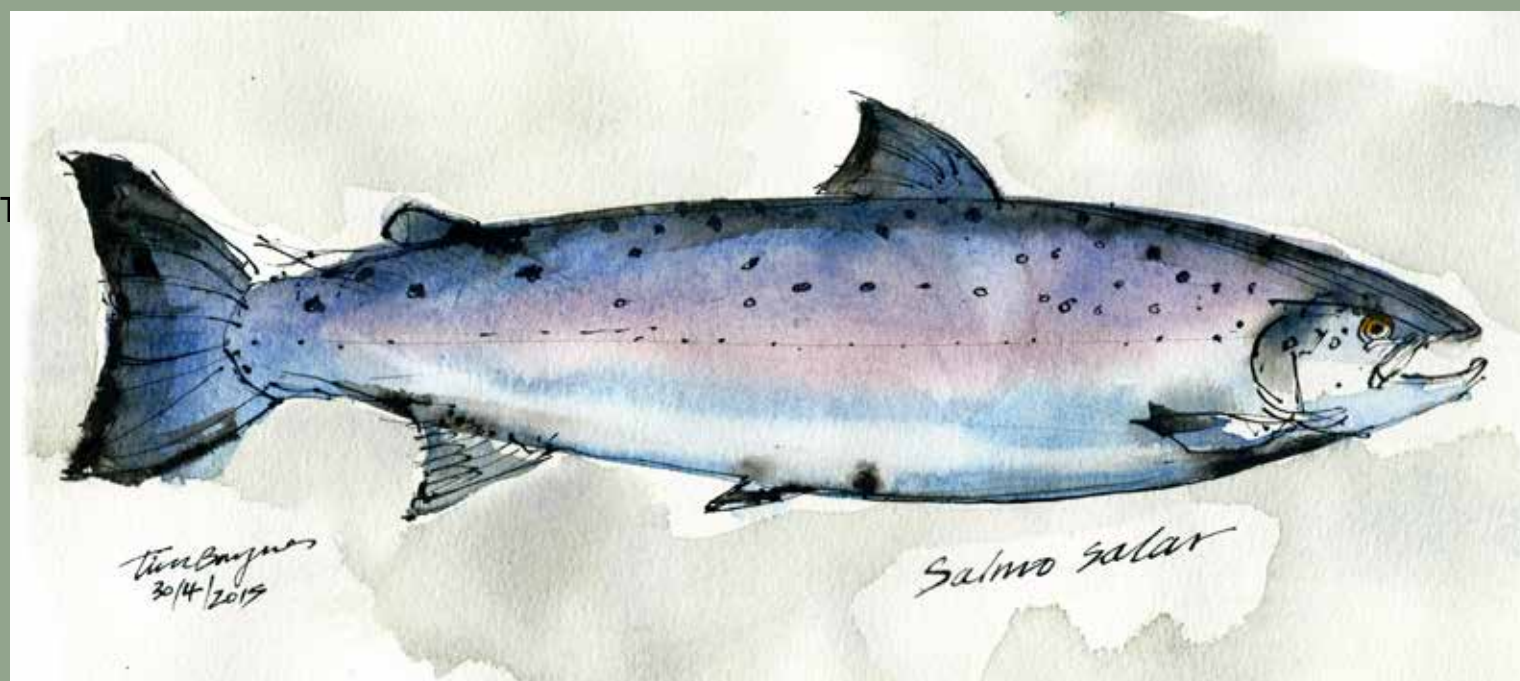
The church dates from 1743, but it took on its present appearance in 1900. Complaints about the maintenance of the original building were frequent during the decades after it was built. In 1814, "the church was in a most ruinous condition, seats entirely gone and roof so very rotten it is a most uncomfortable and dangerous place of worship". However, extensive renovations were again undertaken in 1900. The church continued to play an important part in local life for the next fifty years, but was abandoned in the early 1970s. Following yet more renovation in 2003, it has been reopened as a building for community use.

<http://www.discoverassynt.co.uk>

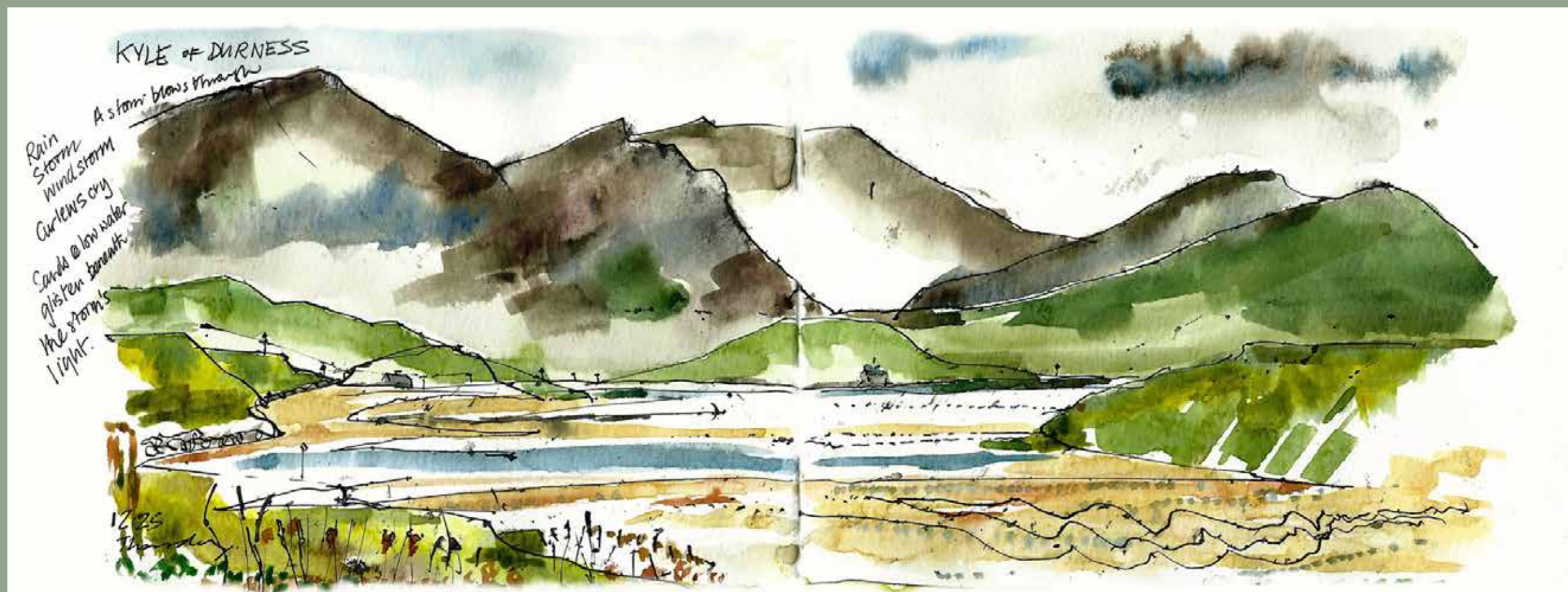


Richards Reels and other Treasures:

A random collection of reels, nets, lines, rods (of course) - stuff that was lying in cupboards at the hotel has been transformed. Richard Campbell took all this lovely paraphernalia to create an exciting display of fly-fishing wonders.



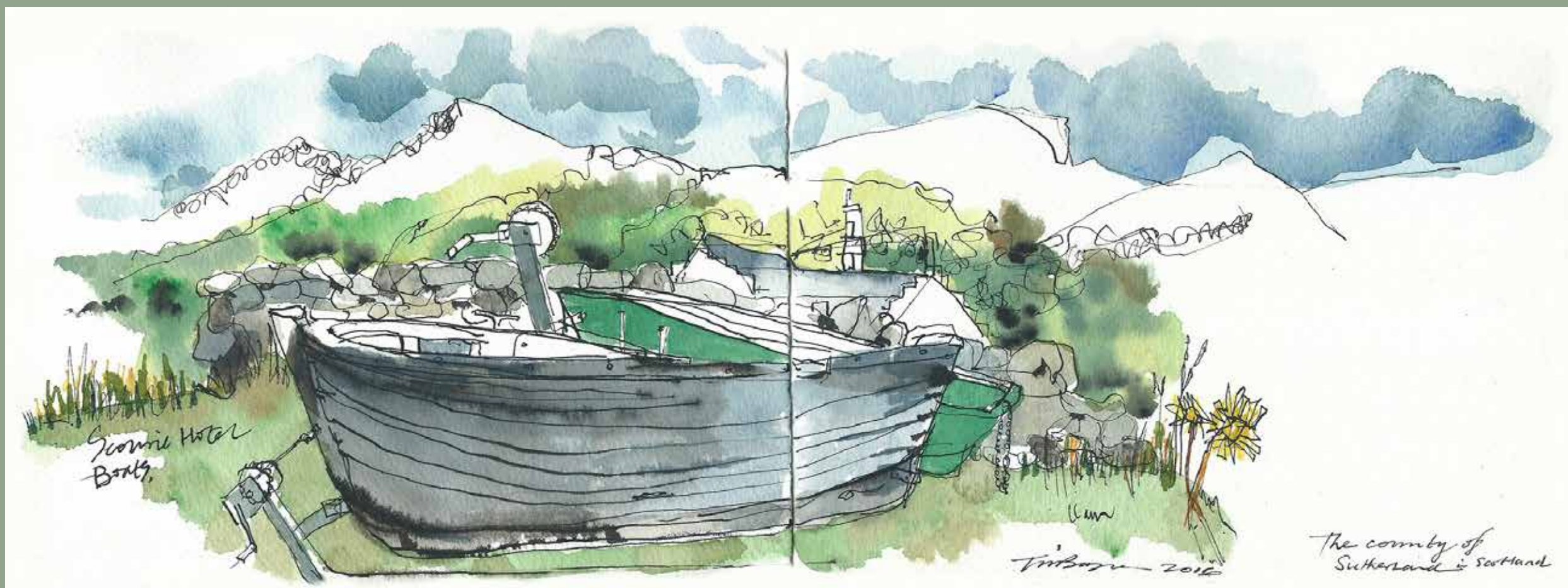
Somewhere someone is fishing for an exceptional fish? Is it tomorrow's breakfast? This is the place to come for exciting fishing. The Scourie Hotel has fishing available on around 300 lochs and lochans, split into 46 hotel-controlled beats. Many of these are entirely free if you are staying in the Scourie Hotel!



The Kyle at the Durness

A storm blows through at low water. Again the Curlew cries and calls us to attention. Distance slate roofs on deserted farms shimmer, still wet.

Everywhere is a shade of gold. This coastal inlet, again in the county of Sutherland, extends five and a half miles inland and divides the Cape Wrath peninsula from the mainland.





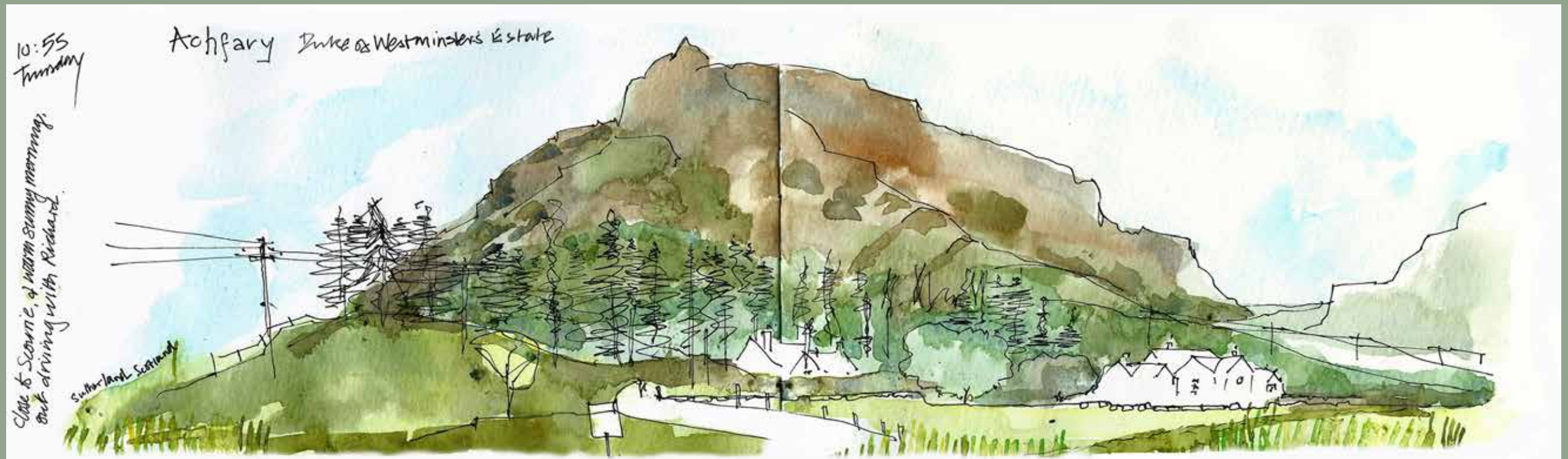
Port of Tarbet
near Scornie
Southland, Scotland
Tim Baynes
2016

Port Tarbet; from here, by ferry, is the island of Handa, a nature reserve and the site of a large seabird colony, including puffins, skuas, guillemots and razorbills.

Z.41 3 August 2016

Low water at Oldshoremore Beach

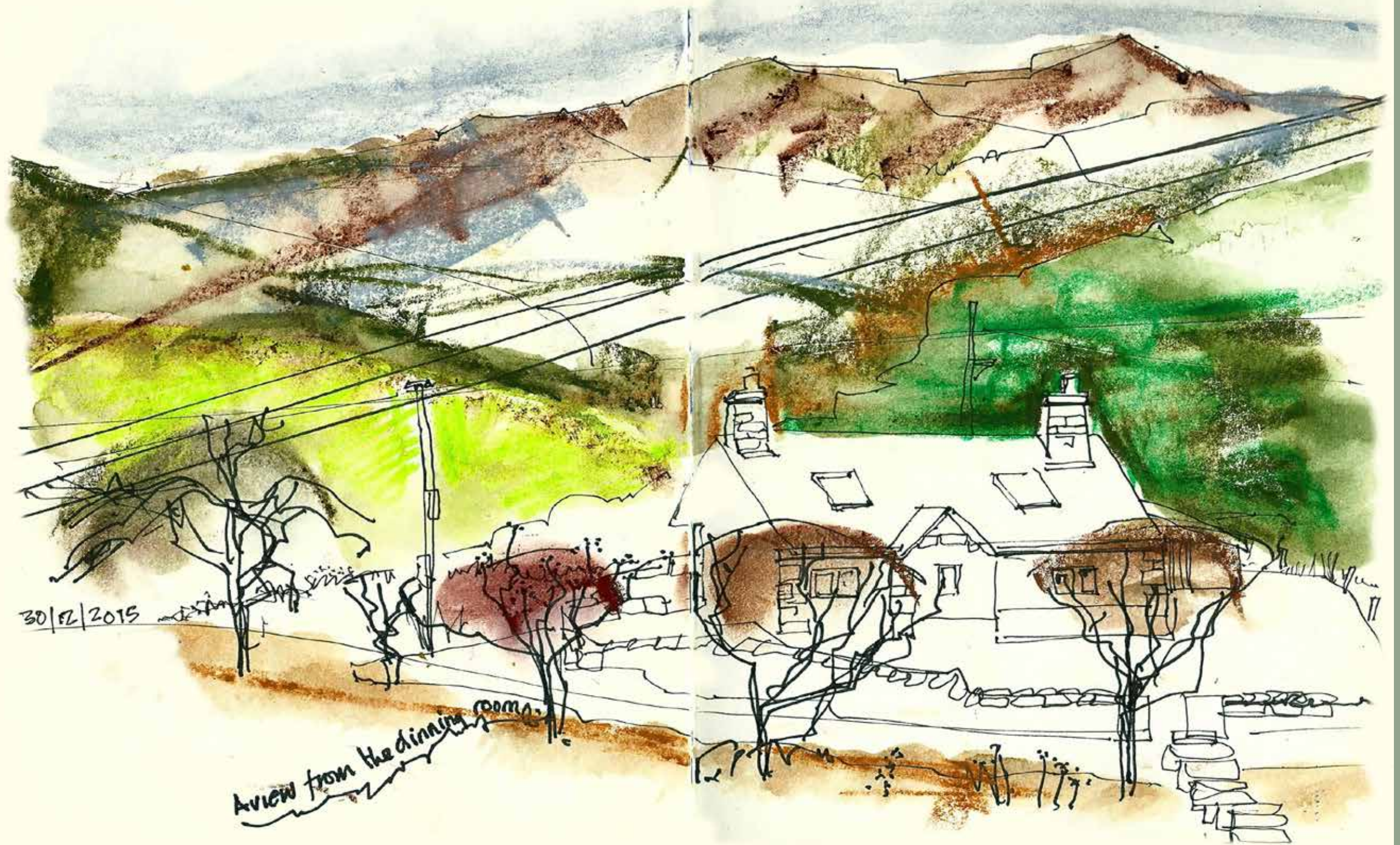




Ben Stack

Ben Stack, east of Scourie, is two thousand and sixty-five feet above sea level. It is a bearing point for walkers and fishermen alike.

A 'fairly short' ascent of this mountain is rewarded with great views out over the Sutherland coastline and inland to the mountains of Assynt and the rocky ridges of Foinaven and Arkle.





Scourie Beach is easily mistaken as a private beach.
Sun, low water, and a Curlew cries are welcome.

White sands, small shells and cheerful gulls it is high summer and hardly a soul about.





Scourie Harbour

This haven is just below the Hotel. This is a jetty where a few boats are moored securely above the causeway. The old boathouse stands sentry. Lobster pots decorate the walkway.

A STORM SHOWERS
CROSSES



Tim Baynes

Tim is enchanted and inspired by the landscape, colours and people in and around the Scourie Hotel. He studied at Colchester School of Art, the Slade School of Fine Art and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design.

Tim works in oils, acrylics as well as watercolours capturing the land, sea and shoreline. Private collectors in Britain, America, Australia, Italy and France have acquired his work.

Always drawing, Tim fills Moleskine sketchbooks whenever he travels. He has amassed a collection of over 1300 drawings of 25 places across the world. These drawings are featured in a weekly travel blog 'Passport' on the BBC.com website where 50 million people have access to his work. As a result of his collaboration with the BBC Tim's work is featured in Wanderlust magazine and major newspapers in America and the Far East.

As a print maker he has exhibited several times in The Circus Gallery in Marylebone, London.



You can find other mini books on my website using this link <http://www.timbaynesart.co.uk/free-stuff.html>

If you have an idea for a mini book of my drawings please email me at tim@timbaynes.co.uk Your idea may be a favourite place you have visited, chances are I might have been there too and made drawings so we can create a mini book

A special thank you Richard, Fiona and Charlotte Campbell at the wonderful Scourie Hotel.
www.scouriehotel.com

Links for you

Website <http://www.timbaynesart.co.uk>

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