

# Energy Descent Planning Transition Conference

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and Jacqi Hodgson

Sunday 13th June 2010

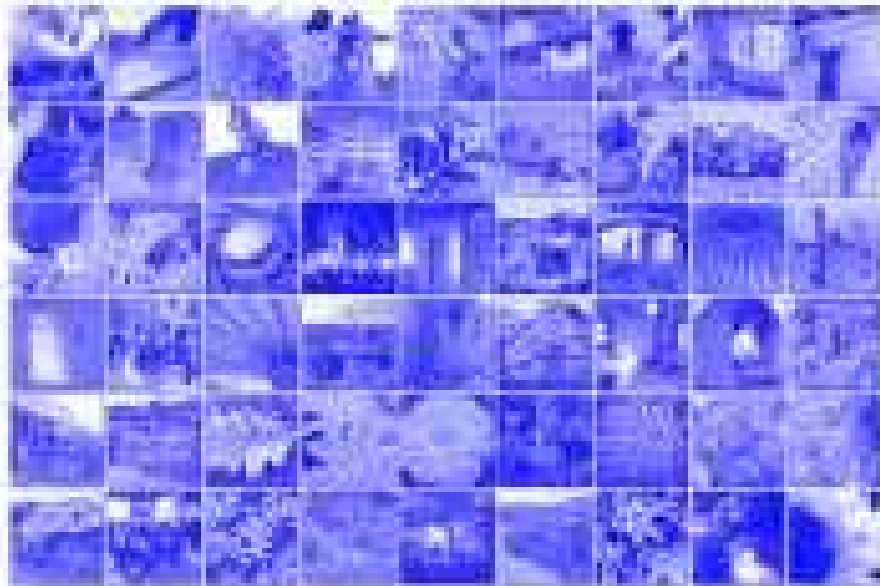
**darkOptimism**

A better future for a troubled world

# Kinsale 2021

An Energy Descent

Action Plan – Version.1: 2005



By Students of  
Kinsale Further Education College

Edited by Rob Hopkins



Kinsale Further Education College  
2-Beacon-By-Castle

**The first EDAP  
(pre-Transition!)**



# THE TRANSITION HANDBOOK

From oil dependency to local resilience



Rob Hopkins

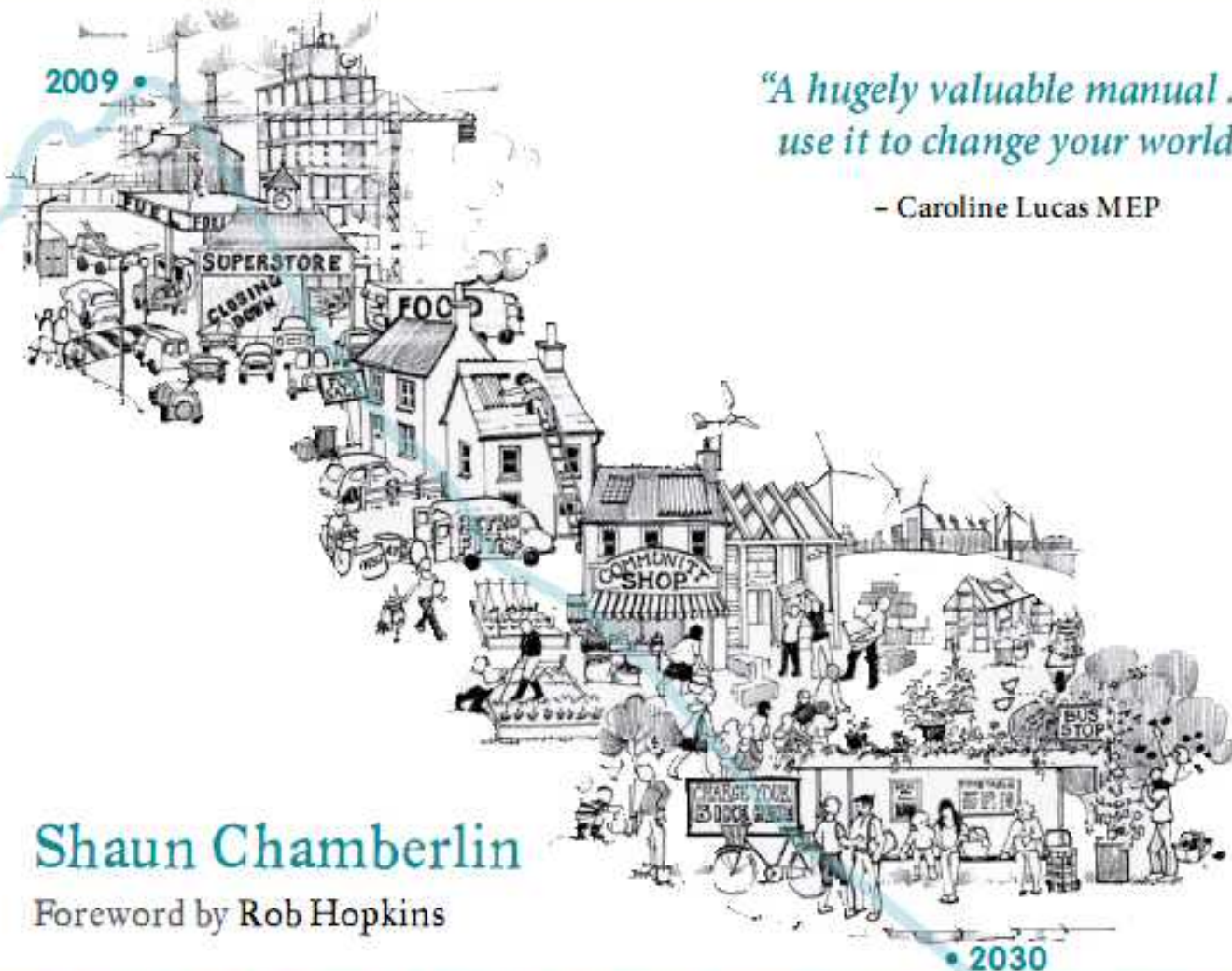
Founder of the Transition movement

"If your town is not yet a Transition Town, here is the guidance for making it one.  
We have little time, and much to accomplish." — Richard Heinberg, author of *Peak Everything*

# THE TRANSITION TIMELINE

for a local, resilient future

2009 •



*"A hugely valuable manual . . .  
use it to change your world."*

- Caroline Lucas MEP

Shaun Chamberlin

Foreword by Rob Hopkins

• 2030

*"The Transition Timeline provides an invaluable set of innovative approaches, new narratives and creative thinking tools that will prove vital in enabling us to shape a new kind of society. . . It should be read by everyone, immediately!"*

- Paul Allen, Director of the Centre for Alternative Technology, and project director of Zero Carbon Britain

# Three origins of The Transition Timeline

- 1) Providing a sense of the 'big picture' for UK Transition initiatives
- 2) Concerns about scale of challenges
- 3) Fleshing out the vision

# Book overview

**Second half** – Latest evidence on climate change and peak oil, focusing on present and future UK impacts.

**First half** – Four different visions, focusing on the Transition Vision.

Also Rob chapter on tools for communities planning their local visions.





# Why visions of the future matter

The Transition movement is very focused on peak oil and climate change, and with good reason

But what created these problems...?

Our collective choices, shaped by our understanding of the world and what is important to us





# Different visions of our future

	Ignoring evidence	Acknowledging challenges
Business As Usual (BAU)	<p>1 Denial</p> 	<p>2 Hitting The Wall</p> 
Cultural shift	<p>3 The Impossible Dream</p> 	<p>4 The Transition Vision</p> 









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APOCALYPSE







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# 4

## The Transition Vision



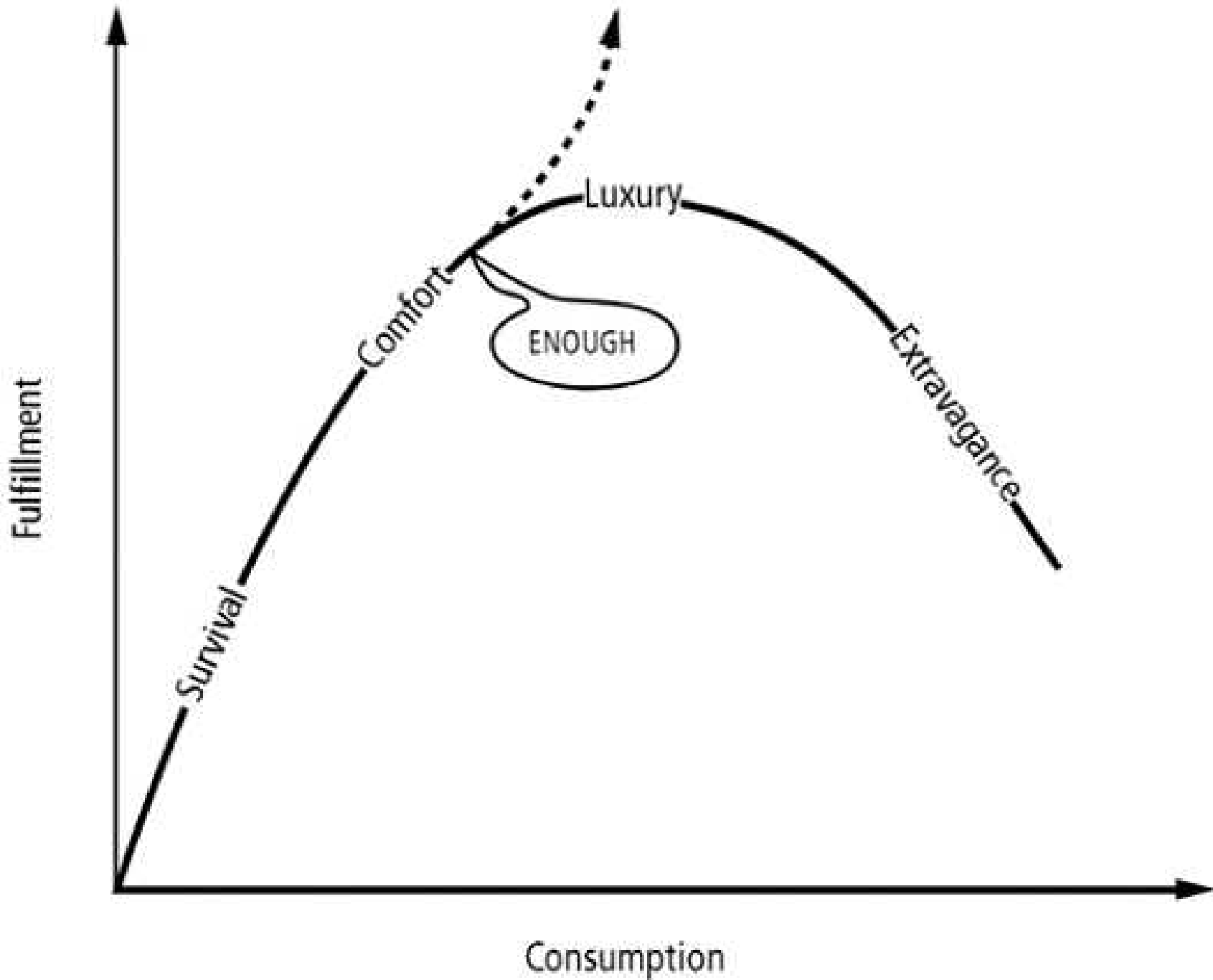
In our future, we create a resilient, more localised society which avoids the worst potential of climate change and peak oil through building thriving lower-energy communities teeming with satisfying lifestyles and fulfilled people.



## Examines in depth:

- Food and water  
(current trends, cultural story change, Vision)
- Population and demographics
  - Electricity and energy
  - Travel and transport
  - Health and medicine
- Systems thinking - pulling these threads together





**“We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about.”**

**– Charles Kingsley**

# So how do we help make it happen?

- 1) Know the reality of our times
- 3) Know and recognise the dominant stories
- 5) Flesh out alternative stories (explanatory and predictive) and build compelling visions of our future, globally and locally
- 7) Plan out making those visions a reality
- 9) ...

“Once you have glimpsed the world as it might be, as it ought to be, as it’s going to be (however that vision appears to you), it is impossible to live compliant and complacent anymore in the world as it is”

- Victoria Safford



TRANSITION IN ACTION TOTNES AND DISTRICT 2030  
AN ENERGY DESCENT ACTION PLAN

# TRANSITION IN ACTION

TOTNES AND DISTRICT 2030

## AN ENERGY DESCENT ACTION PLAN

'Transition in Action' is the UK's first comprehensive Energy Descent Action Plan designed for and by a local community. It sees the changes necessitated by climate change, peak oil and the UK's debt crisis not as a crisis, but as a huge opportunity for entrepreneurship, creativity, community, enhanced resilience and a greater quality of life. In these pages you will find not just a vision of a more resilient world, but practical steps to reach it, key research, inspired ideas and a glimpse into the town's recent past and what we can learn from it.

In September 2006, the Devon market town of Totnes began a journey to design and implement its move away from fossil fuel dependency and towards a lower carbon, less energy dependent, more localised and nourishing future, building on the town's long history of green living. The approach it has developed has since inspired thousands of other communities around the world to do the same, bringing much attention to the town. Over 500 local people have contributed to and shaped this Plan. The result, which you now hold in your hands, is an extraordinary vision and statement of community intent, not just setting out what is possible, but also what is already underway to bring it into being.

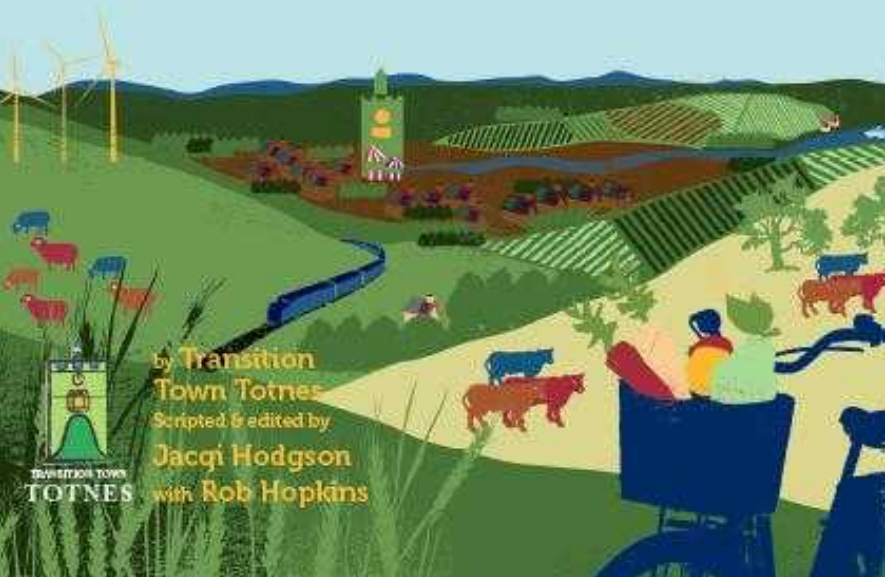
*'There is a great awakening going on today, driven by accelerating climate change and by the era of cheap oil coming to an end. Very few communities are as yet properly prepared for such changes, but this Action Plan for Totnes demonstrates exactly what can now be done - and how all of us can get involved.'* Jonathan Romit  
CEO - Institute of Innovation and Future Initiatives, Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, an assistant white producer and commissioner of the BBC television series 'Green'.

*'By planning for a world in which fossil fuels are no longer cheap and abundant, Totnes has set an example that every town and city in the world should follow. The post-carbon transition can be a creative opportunity for societal renewal, but only if we plan for it. And given the realities of climate change and oil depletion, we are all starting very late in the game. Kudos to this brave community for stepping up to the challenge and producing a thorough, far-sighted document.'* Richard Heinberg  
author of Peak Oil and the End of Cheap Oil, and author of the party over and now, including

*'The Energy Descent Action plan is a solid piece of work that tells you how to assess what resources a community has - we're talking skills, ecological potential for food production, social and creative resources - and clearly sets out ways to utilise them properly. It should give millions of us direction - and critically the confidence - to believe that a sustainable life is within our grasp.'* Lucy Single  
has written a screenplay for the comedy film 'The End of the Road' and is the author of a book 'Living in the Green' since 2006 and is the

*'Totnes is fortunate to have so many people who care about their community, who have strong views about how it should develop and what the priorities should be. Naturally there are a range of views but this can only be healthy for democracy. South Hams District Council welcomes all views but is particularly grateful to Transition Town Totnes for putting so much thought and effort into producing the Energy Descent Action Plan. It was this as an important document in stimulating both debate and consideration as to what all those involved in the life of the town can do to make Totnes an even better place to live, work or visit.'* David Ince  
COUNCIL MANAGER, SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Jacqui Hodgson with Rob Hopkins  
by Transition Town Totnes



by Transition  
Town Totnes  
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Jacqui Hodgson  
with Rob Hopkins



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