

**Commons as binding object:
Re-conceiving community in assessing
Scottish community land ownership**

Michael T. Bacon
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mtb7aj@virginia.edu | [@MichaelTBacon](https://twitter.com/MichaelTBacon) | @MichaelTBacon@social.coop



THIS PLAQUE
COMMEMORATES THE
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
KNOYDART BUYOUT

WITH THANKS
FROM THE COMMUNITY
TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS
WHO HELPED MAKE
THIS POSSIBLE

MARCH 2009



Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust and Assynt Crofters Trust



Isle of Eigg



North Assynt Estate



Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust



Assynt Crofters Trust (subdivided)



Definitions of “community” from land reform supporters

“All who reside within an agreed area. “

“A group of people who live and or work on the land permanently, who have a common aim for the betterment of the area they live in.”

“There should be several layers of denifition [sic].”

“All of Scotland is the common community to which land belongs.”

“A community is a group of people who live in the same area and work together for the benefit of each other.”

Definitions of “community” from land reform opponents

“That's the can of worms you don't want to open!”

“A hugely complex question which I don't feel qualified to answer although feel strongly that it should be for genuine local community and not be abused by relaxed rules that allow outsiders to have influence. I would suggest it is very difficult to have a one fix definition that fits all.”

“The Government should have defined what a community is before releasing this consultation. The fact that it has not is a major flaw. ”

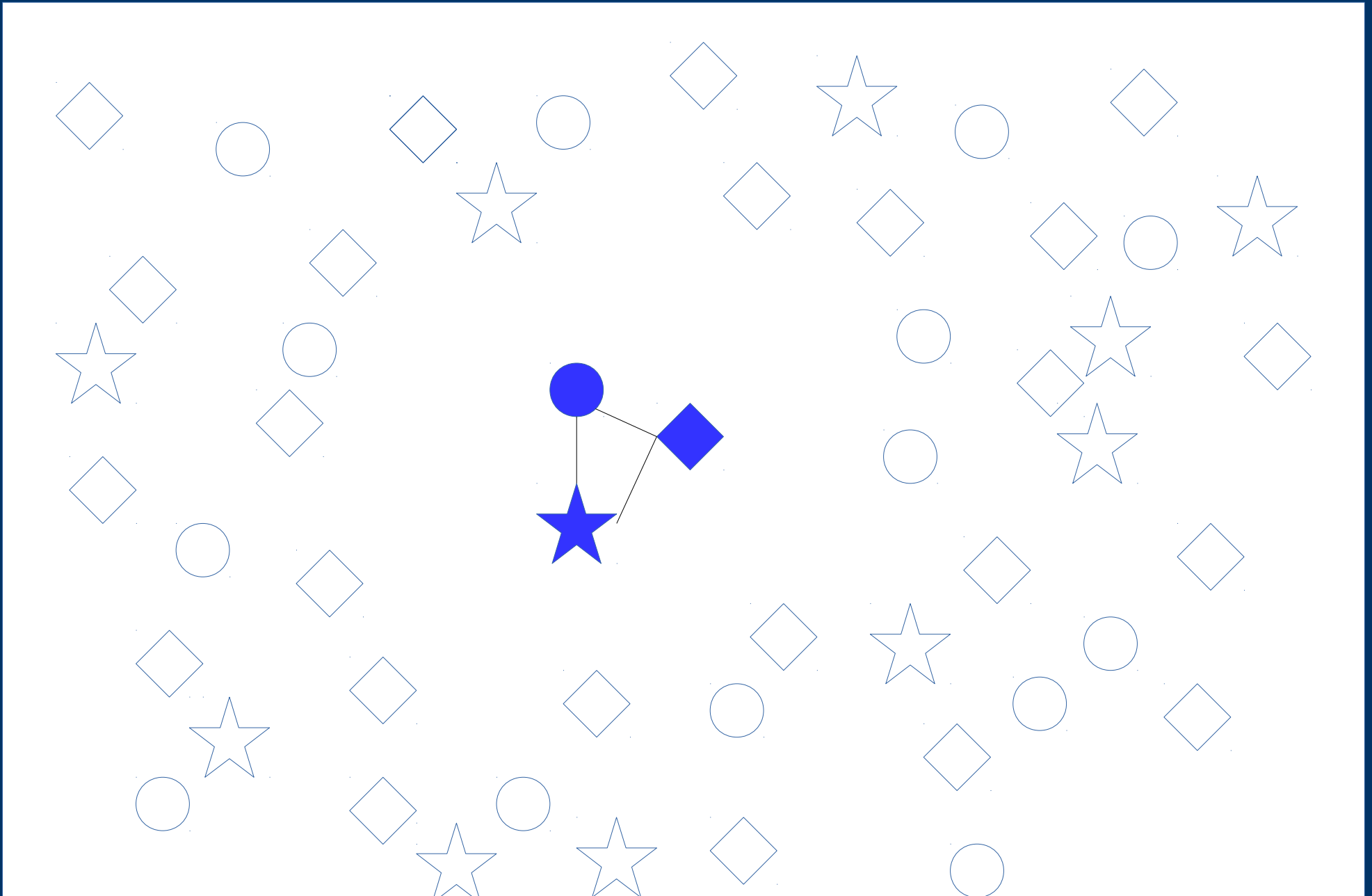
Developing a working model of “community”

- *Strong*
- *More than warm fuzzies*
- *More than human*
- *Role of common property*
- *Generates secondary connections*
- *Incorporates local place but isn't fully restricted by it*

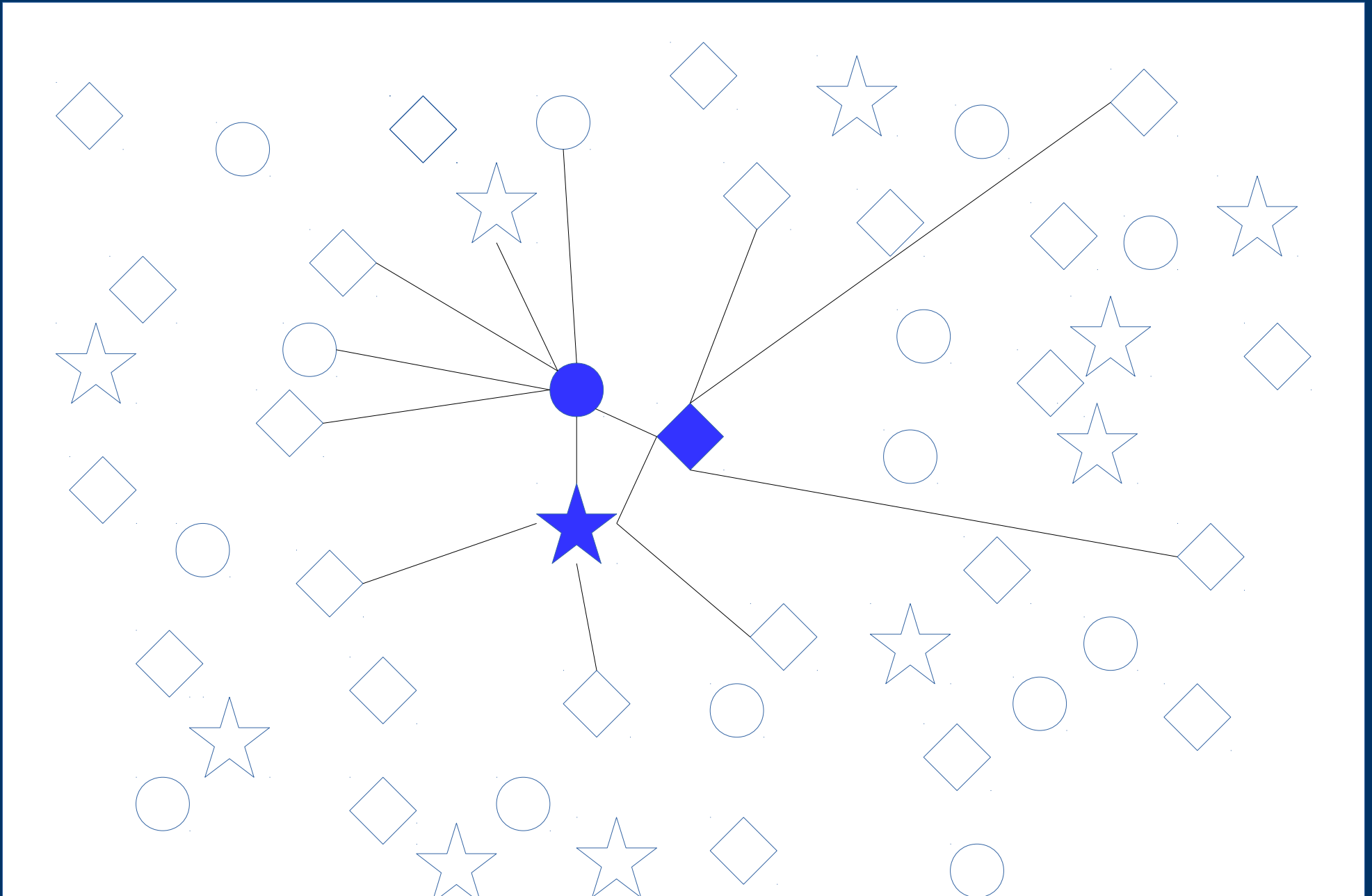
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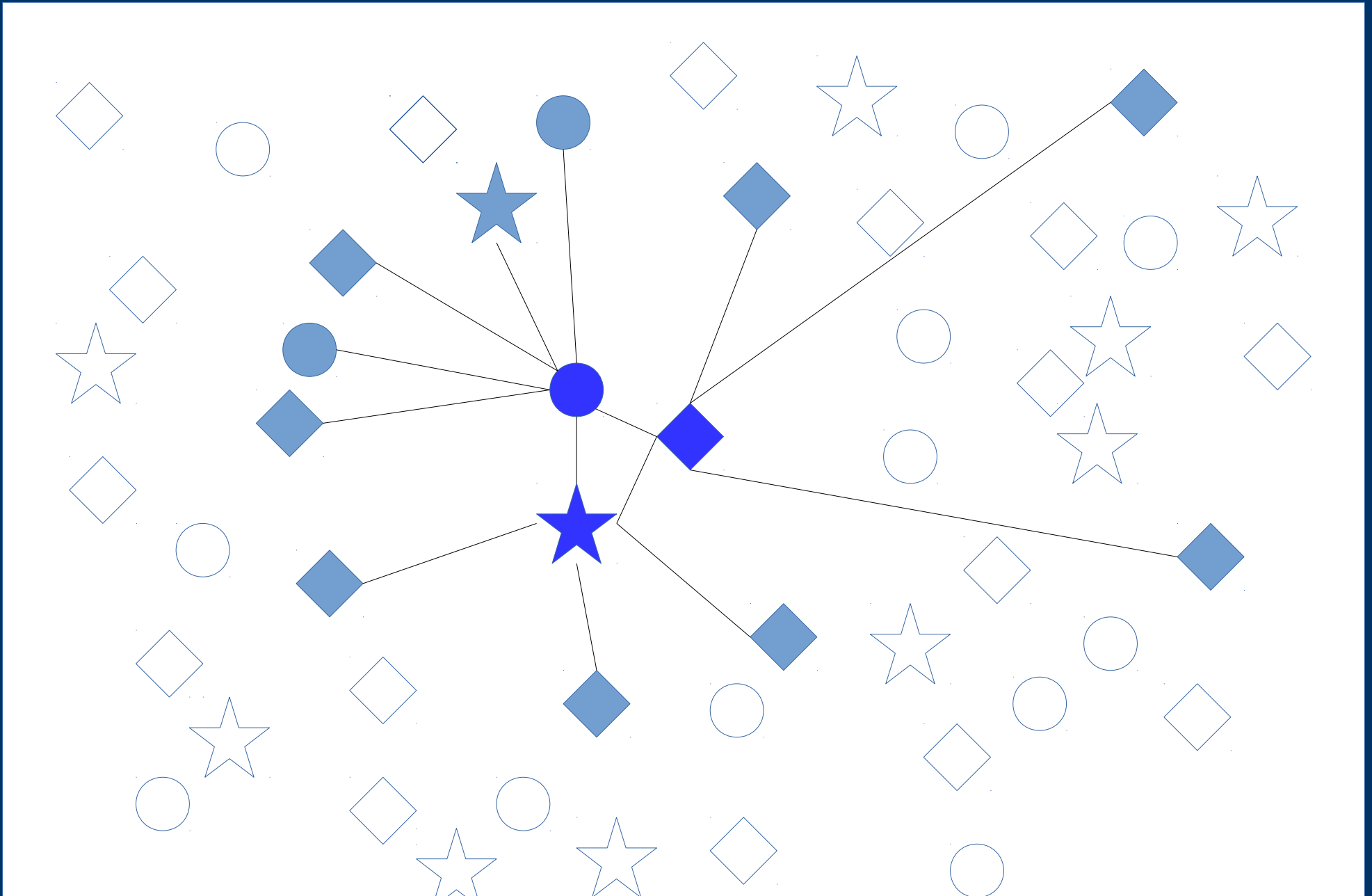
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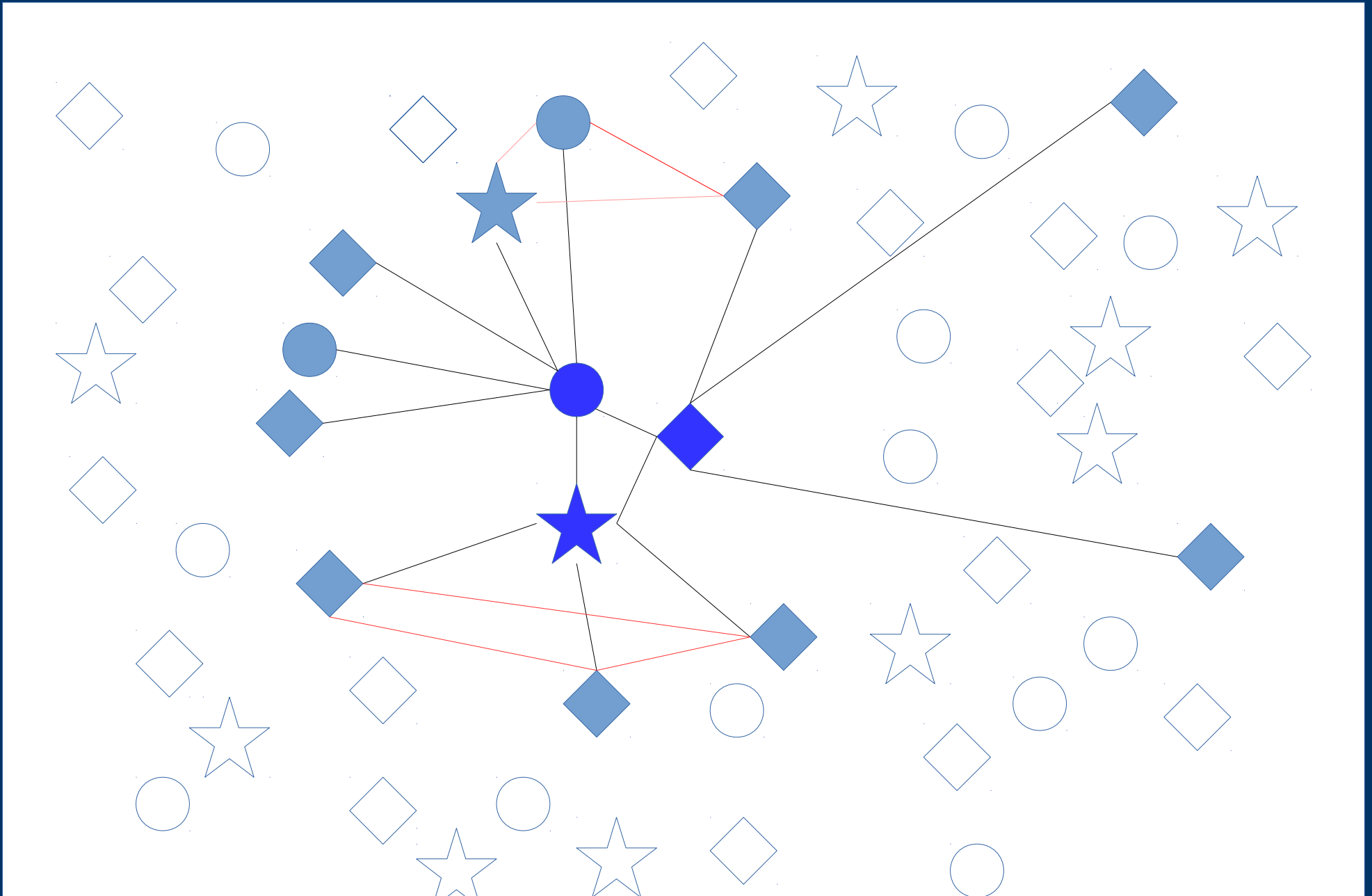
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Developing a working model of “community”



Boundary objects and binding objects

Boundary objects:

- Susan Leigh Star
- Interpretive plasticity
- Can translate between groups
- Allows for collaboration without consensus

Binding objects

- Part extension, part subclass of boundary objects
- Bind heterogeneous actors or sub-networks into broader network
- Relationships of binding object to other member actors structures internal dynamics

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COAST STRATEGY OUTCOMES 2014-2016

Why? NEED-PROBLEM OBJECTIVES

Protect Clyde for future generations (local symptoms)
 Benefit people → health/costs/wellbeing...
 Benefit nature → habitats/species

WHAT? ACTION?

→ UNDERSTANDING (Knowledge/Skills)
 → SKILLS
 → ATTITUDES/BEHAVIOUR

HOW? APPROACH → conceptually → practically speaking...

C.O.A.S.T. EDUCATION & INTERPRET. PROGRAMME
 needed for FUNDING APPLICATIONS & COAST STRATEGY 2016

WHAT, RESOURCES?

HOW MUCH?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WITH WHOM?

WHO FOR?

HOW WE'LL MEASURE SUCCESS

LOCAL → INLAND → SCHOOLS → HIGH SCHOOL KIDS → UNIV. STUDENTS → COASTAL → recreational fishermen → yachting clubs

COASTAL USERS → WEST COAST → key marinas (hierarchy, ocean, ...)

COMMUNITY GROUPS → LOCAL → VISITORS → VOLUNT → Trustees/Supporters

HOW WE'LL MEASURE SUCCESS → Great Nick + crewing issue → Vic big novel anchoring talk with M.S.

