

The Giants Causeway is an object which is scarcely worthy of going so far to see, however that is to be determined by the degree of curiosity of which the traveller is possessed. But the salmonleap at Ballyshannon is a scene of such a singular nature, as is not to be found elsewhere, and is as peculiar to Ireland as the bullfights are to Spain.

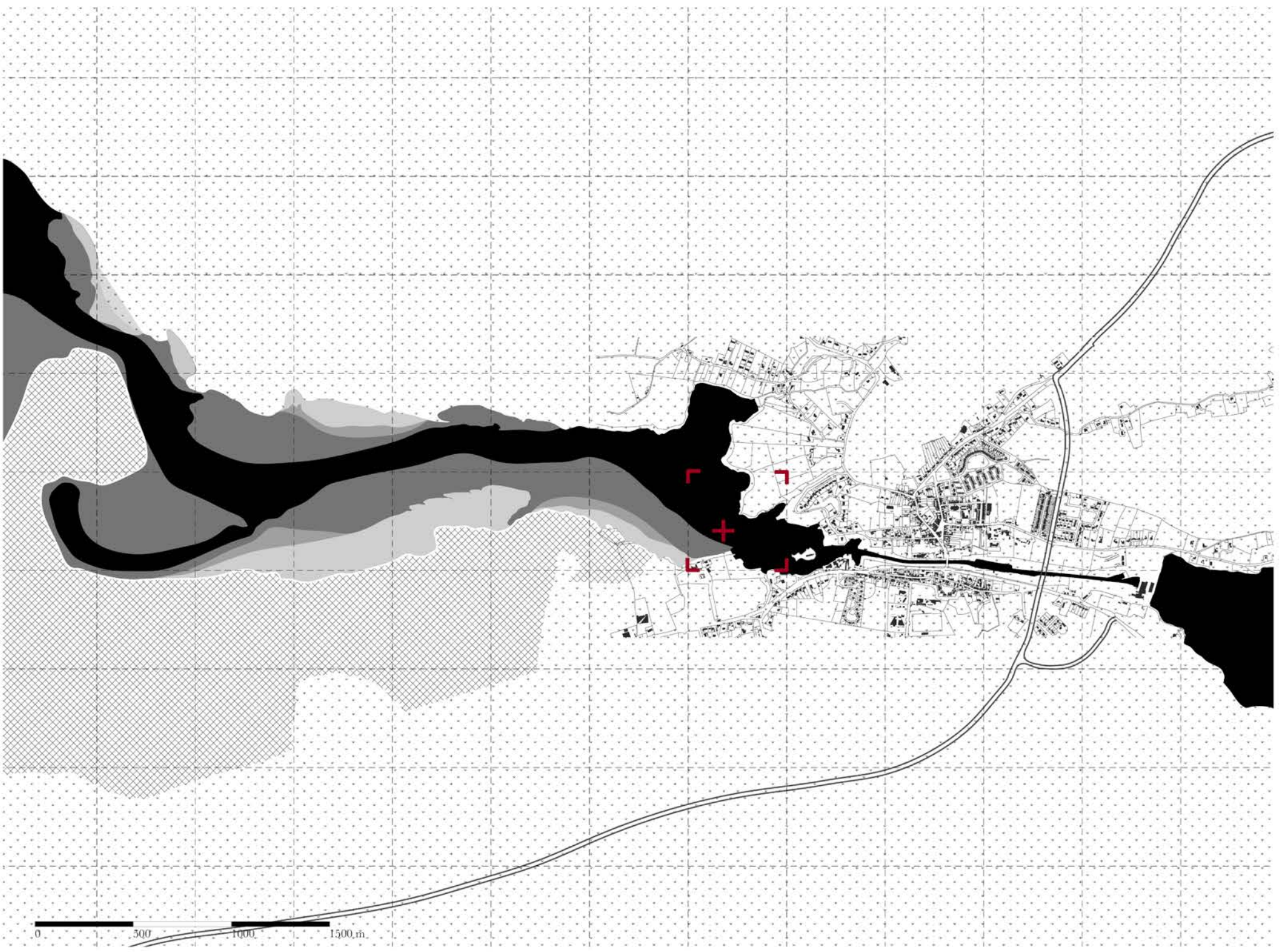
The description above was provided by Richard Twiss when describing Ballyshannon in his *A Tour in Ireland* of 1775. The crossing of Cathleen's Fall by salmon shoals was one of the region's most praised natural phenomena, until the implementation of the Cathleen's Fall Power Station and Dam, in 1946. The project of infrastructure, a massive enterprise at the time, also represented the first act of binational cooperation between the Republic and North Ireland since the civil war in 1922. River Erne and its tributaries have good hydropower potential but also present problems of constant floods. County Fermanagh in North Ireland is one of the most affected, being this the reason for the binational agreement. However, the floods in areas north to the dams – there is a second one in Belleek – still happen and the segment of River Erne in Ballyshannon just before meeting the sea has much lower water levels and speed flow, intensifying sedimentation processes in the river banks.

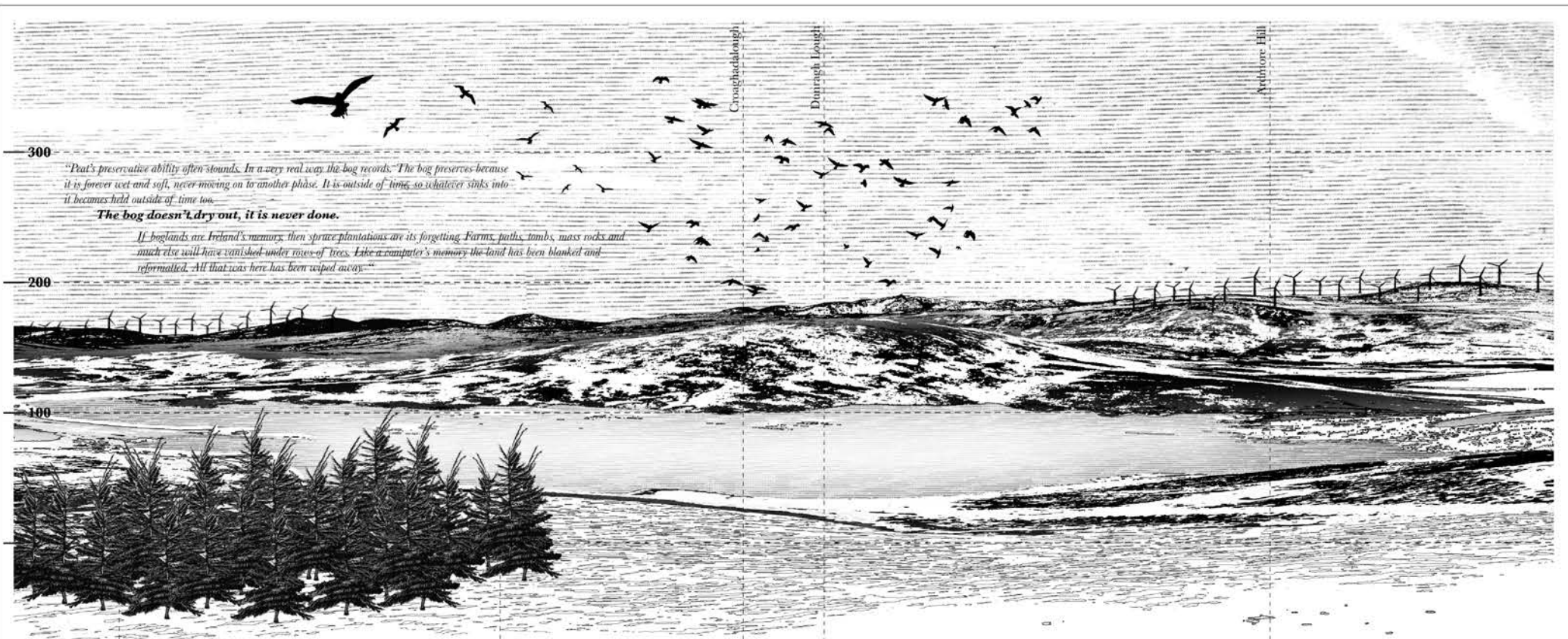


ATLANTIC SALMON
Salmo salar



EUROPEAN EEL
Anguilla anguilla





300
 "Peat's preservative ability often stounds. In a very real way the bog records. The bog preserves because it is forever wet and soft, never moving on to another phase. It is outside of time, so whatever sinks into it becomes held outside of time too."
The bog doesn't dry out, it is never done.

If bogslands are Ireland's memory, then spruce plantations are its forgetting. Farms, paths, tombs, moss rocks and much else will have vanished under rows of trees. Like a computer's memory the land has been blanked and reformatted. All that was here has been wiped away."

200

100

Croaghdaun Lough

Dunragh Lough

Peatmore Hill



SITKA SPRUCE
Picea Sitchensis



PEAT MOSS
Sphagnum imbricatum



GOLDEN PLOVER
Pluvialis apricaria
Feadóg bhui

The region of Dunragh Loughs and Pettigo Plateau consists of extensive areas of good quality active blanket bog, one of the few remaining intact bogs in Donegal and listed as the second largest of the County. It is now a candidate for Special Area of Conservation for being the habitat for many species, in particular, several EU Birds Directive species. The core of the site comprises a statutory Nature Reserve, which has also been designated as the Pettigo Bog Special Protection Area.

The south banks of Duragh Lough delineate the limits of the Pettigo Plateau area. Despite the presence of small woodlands, its landscape is predominantly dominated by plantations of Sitka Spruce trees, destined to log production.

During the spring and summer, the whistle of the Golden Plover can be heard on the higher grounds of Croaghdaun Lough. These birds breed on the upper slopes of the reserve and will alarm call if disturbed by walkers. In the winter these birds form much larger flocks as they are joined by wintering birds from Iceland and the Faroes.



MERLIN
Falco columbarius
Meirlín



HEN HARRIER
Circus cyaneus
Cromán na gearc

Merlin and Hen Harrier, two rare Irish Red Data Book species, use the site for hunting. The forested hills of the Plateau provide nesting resources for the species.



GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
Anser albifrons flavinotris
Gé Bhánéadanach

The Greenland White-fronted Goose winters in peatland areas of Ireland and its loughs.

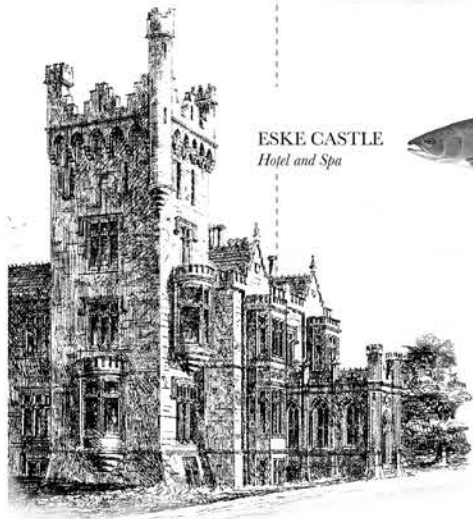


Lough Eske

300

200

100



ESKE CASTLE
Hotel and Spa



ATLANTIC SALMON
Salmo salar



SPECKLED TROUT
Cynoscion nebulosus

Lough Eske is a touristic destination, with several luxury hotels, inns and spas. Originally built to be a manor house, Lough Eske Castle was refurbished after years of abandonment and opened as a five-stars hotel in 2012.

The Lough is also known for its fisheries. Two of the most common species of fish that exist here are the Atlantic Salmon, whose season begins in April and goes until the end of the season, and the Sea Trout, mostly available in the period of July until September.

Around the lough there are many pastures for goats and sheeps, one of the main economic activities in the region. In order to prevent the growth of rushes, farmers make extensive use of the pesticide MCPA, causing the contamination of the lough and other rivers of the region.



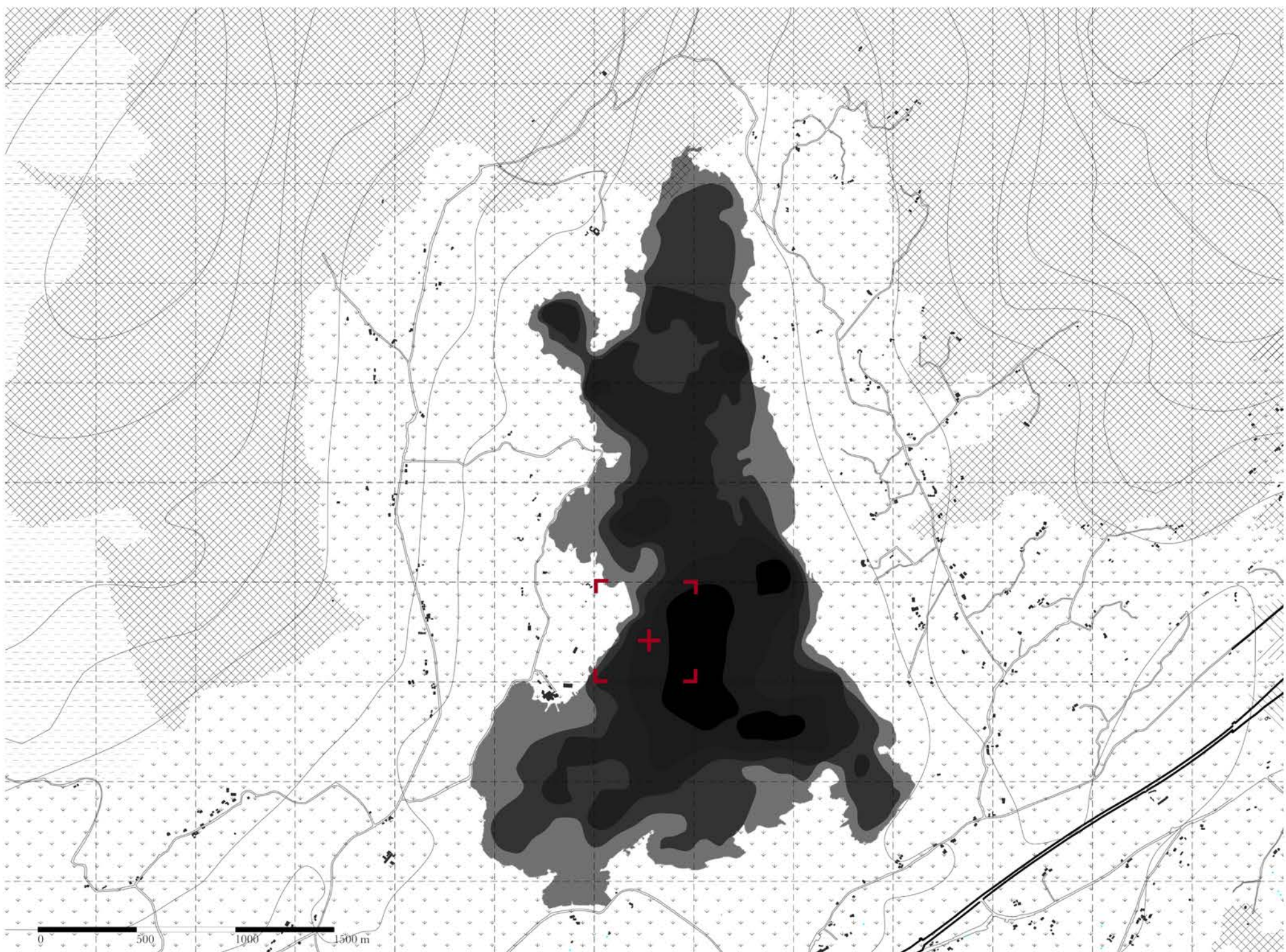
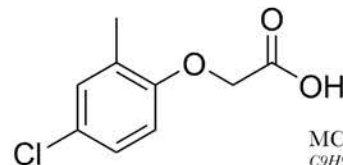
JOINTED RUSH
Juncus articulatus

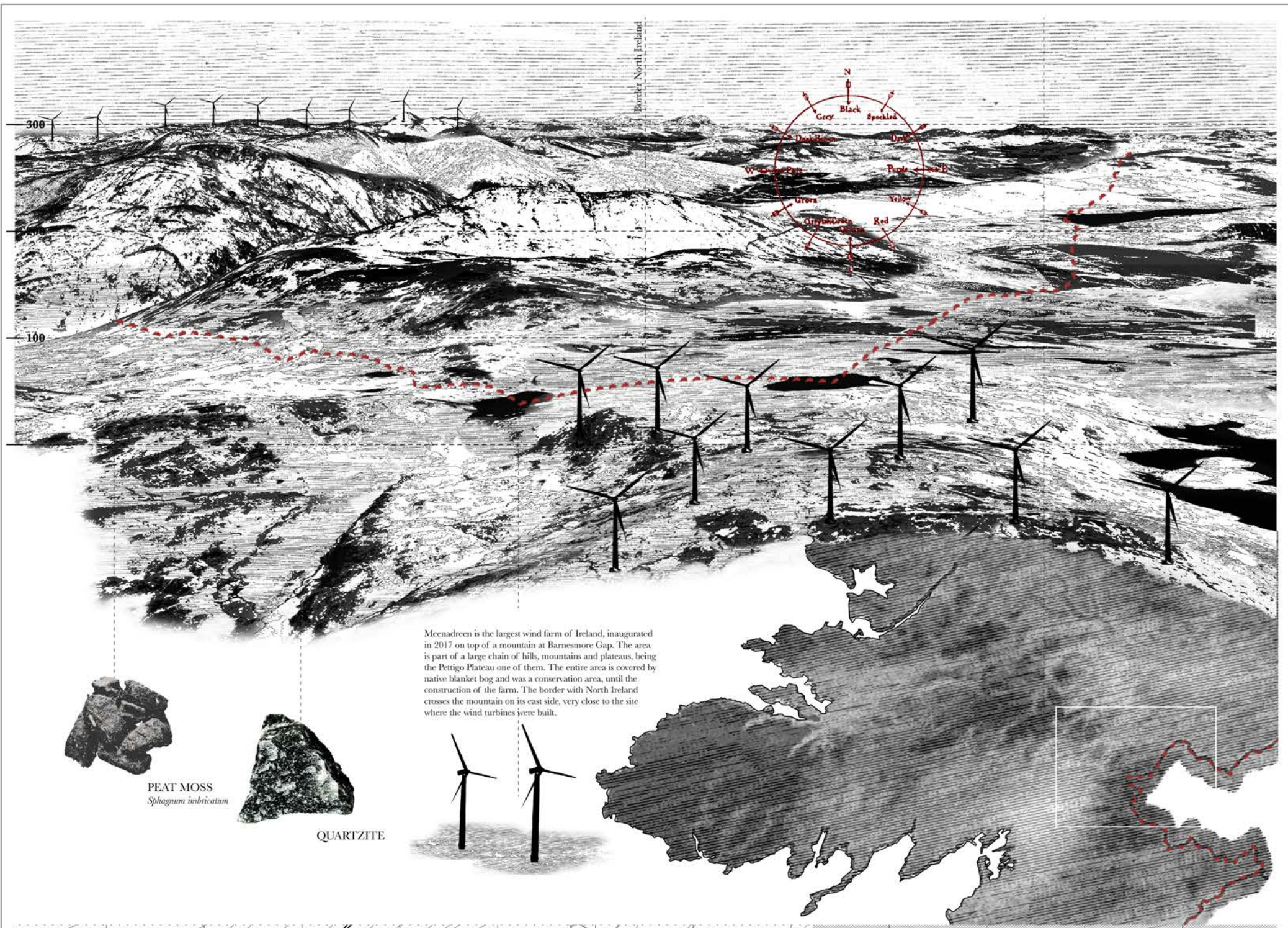


FLOWERING RUSH
Bythosia Umbellatus



GALWAY SHEEP





Border North Ireland

300

100

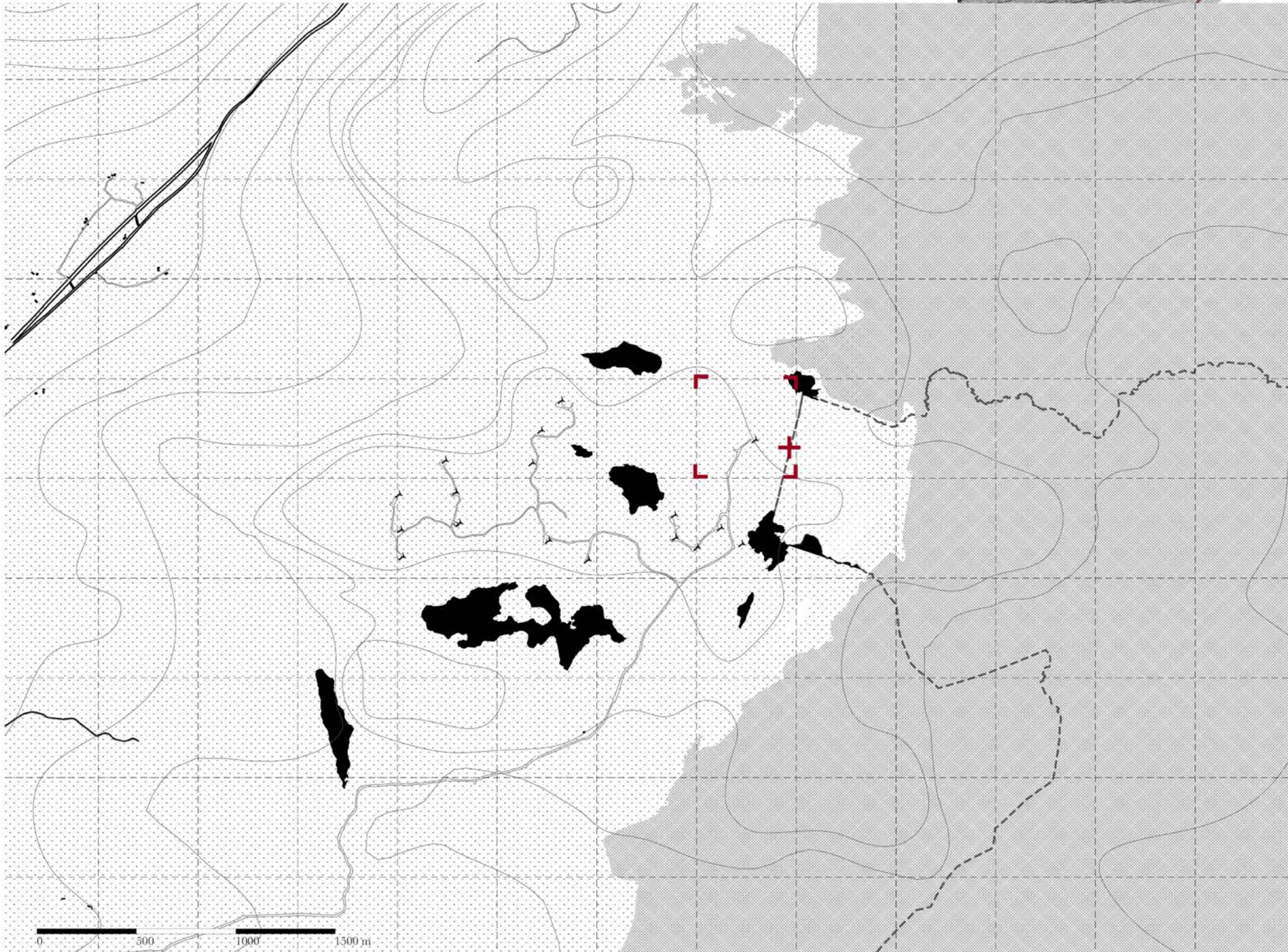
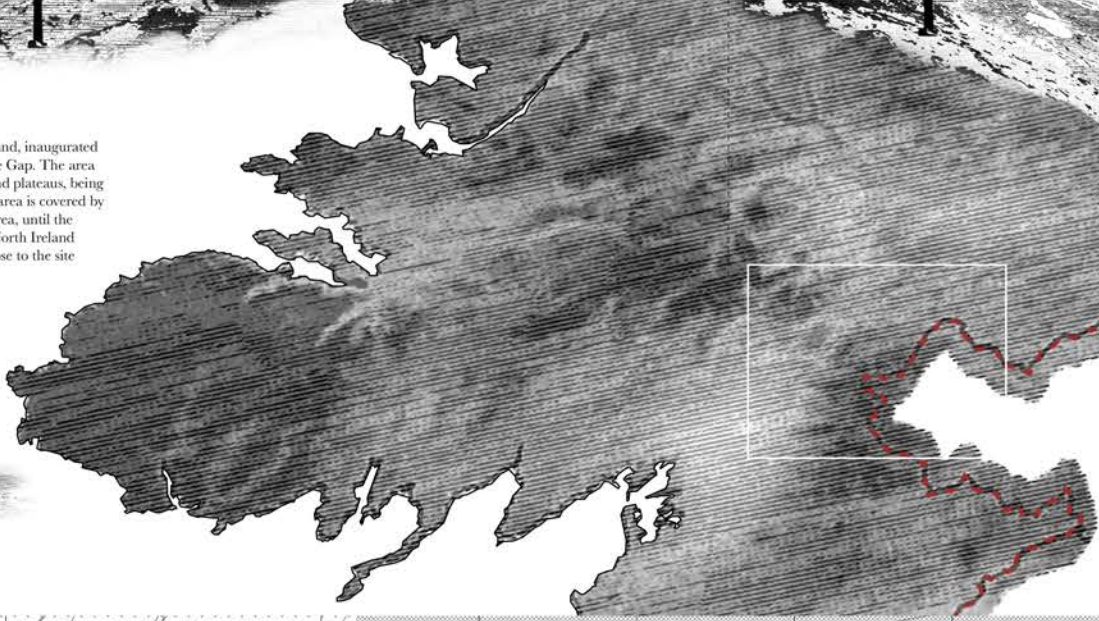
Meenadreen is the largest wind farm of Ireland, inaugurated in 2017 on top of a mountain at Barnesmore Gap. The area is part of a large chain of hills, mountains and plateaus, being the Pettigo Plateau one of them. The entire area is covered by native blanket bog and was a conservation area, until the construction of the farm. The border with North Ireland crosses the mountain on its east side, very close to the site where the wind turbines were built.



PEAT MOSS
Sphagnum imbricatum



QUARTZITE



We have no prairies
To slice a big sun at evening
Everywhere the eye concedes to
Encroaching horizon,

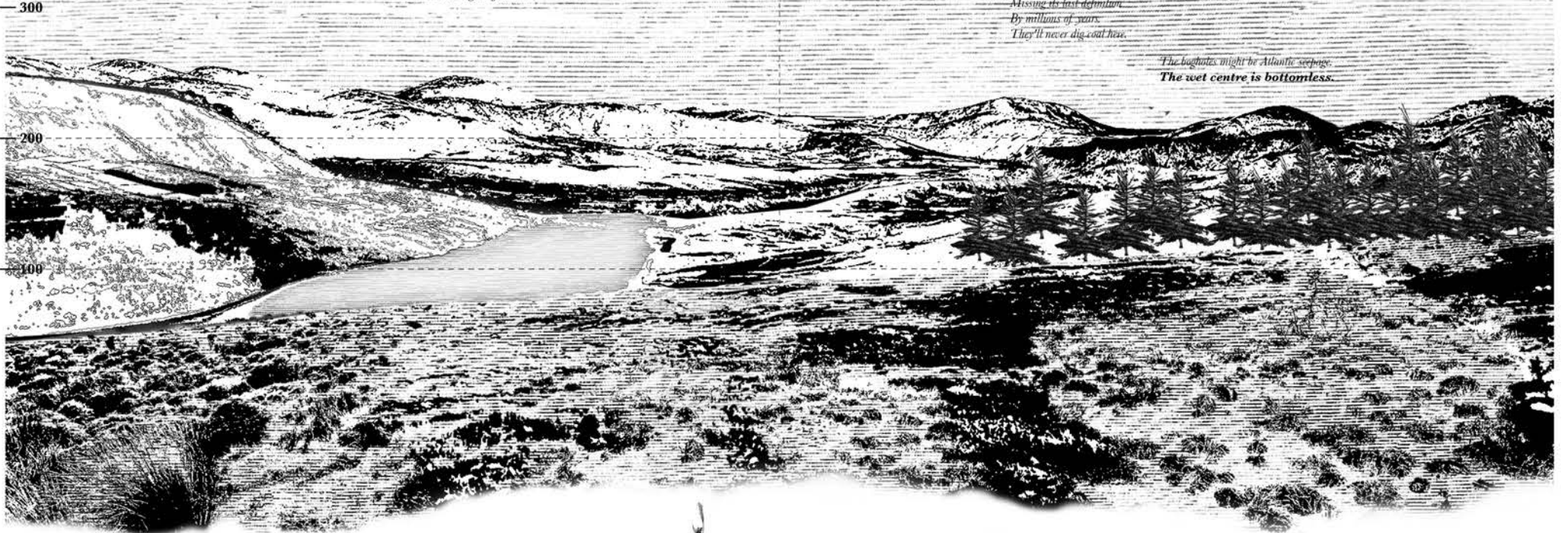
Is second into the cyclops' eye
Of a tarn. Our unfenced country
Is bog that keeps crusting
Between the sights of the sun.

Lough Hill Bog

Butter sunk under
More than a hundred years
Was recovered salty and white.
The ground itself is kind, black butter

Melting and opening underfoot
Missing its last definition
By millions of years
They'll never dig out here.

The bogholes might be Atlantic seepages.
The wet centre is bottomless.



CRANBERRY
Vaccinium oxycoccos
Mónóg



LING HEATHER
Calluna vulgaris
Fraoch Coiteann



SUNDEW
Drosera rotundifolia
Drúchtin Móna



BOG COTTON
Eriophorum angustifolium
Ceannbhán



DEER SEDGE
Scirpus cespitosus
Cib Cheanngeas



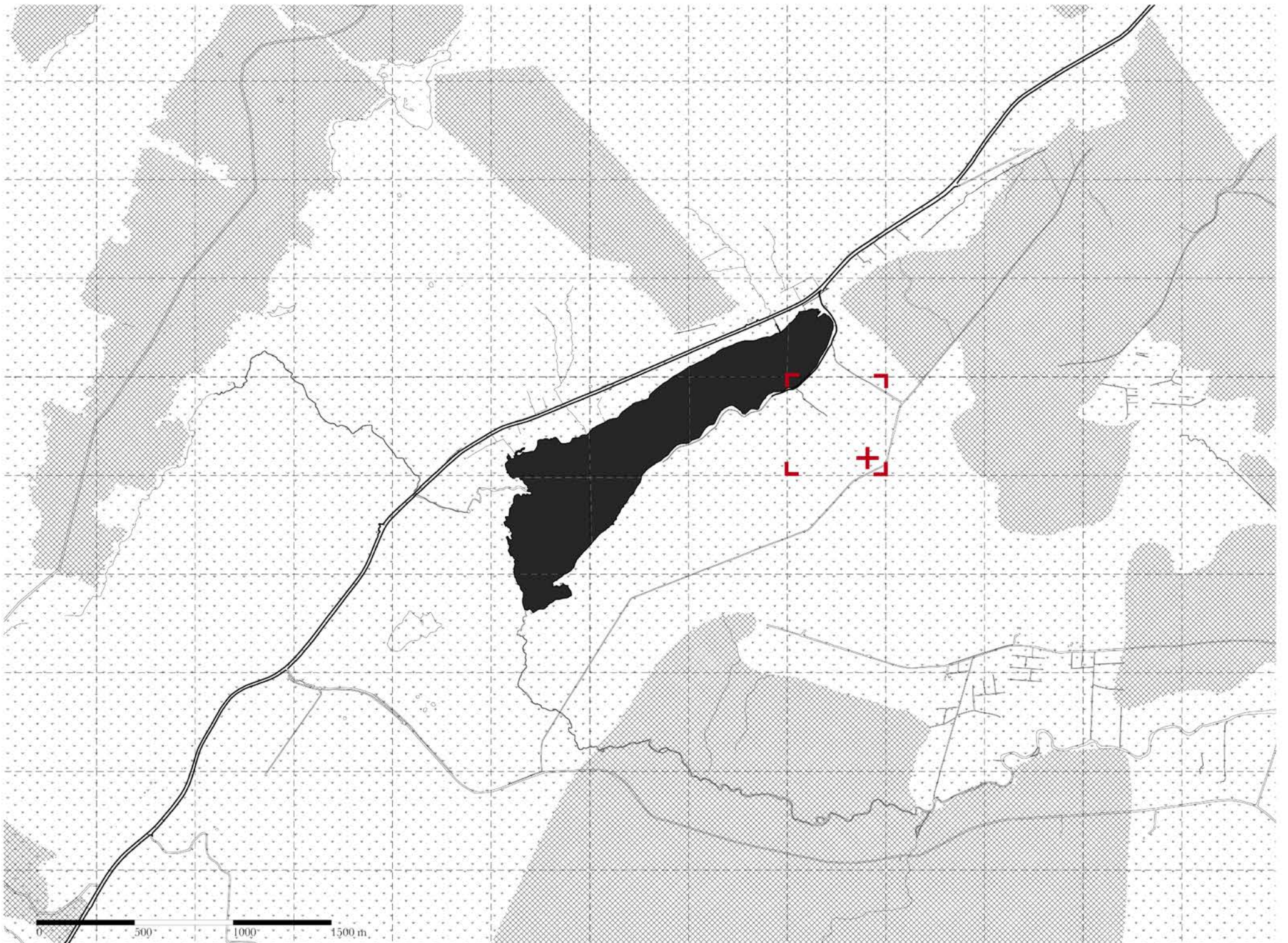
Lough Hill Bog is one of the few in this region to be situated in lower topographic levels. Just by the side of the N15 road, prospective part of the Atlantic Corridor and Lough Mourne, it constitutes an ideal place for hiking and camping. The combination of accessibility and mostly preserved nature is one of its highlights, but also leaves space for unregulated practices, such as illegal dumpsters. The increasing areas of sitka spruce plantations have already occupied part of the original bogland, in both sides of the border, draining its wet soil. In the other hand, the proximity to the border and to the town of Ballyboley makes this area more susceptible to future changes or the possibility of a demographic densification.

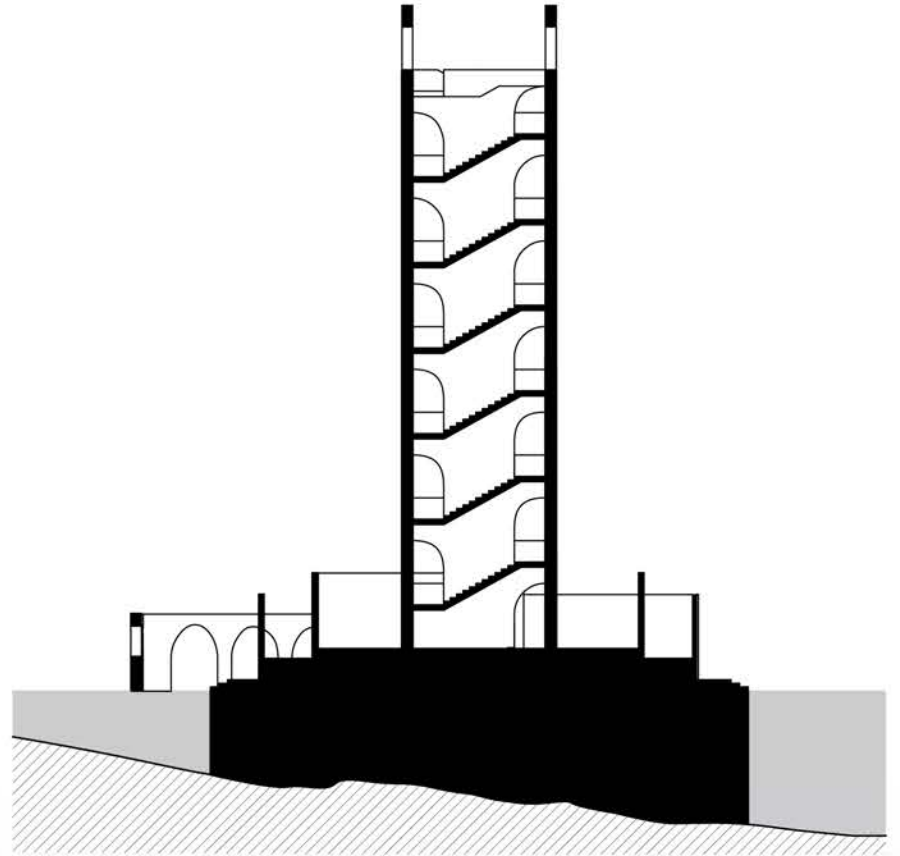
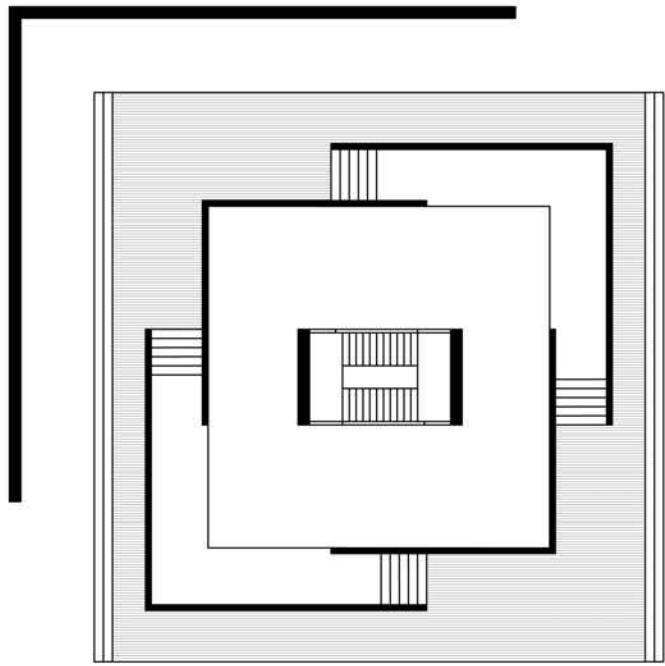


BOG MOSS
Sphagnum
Súsán

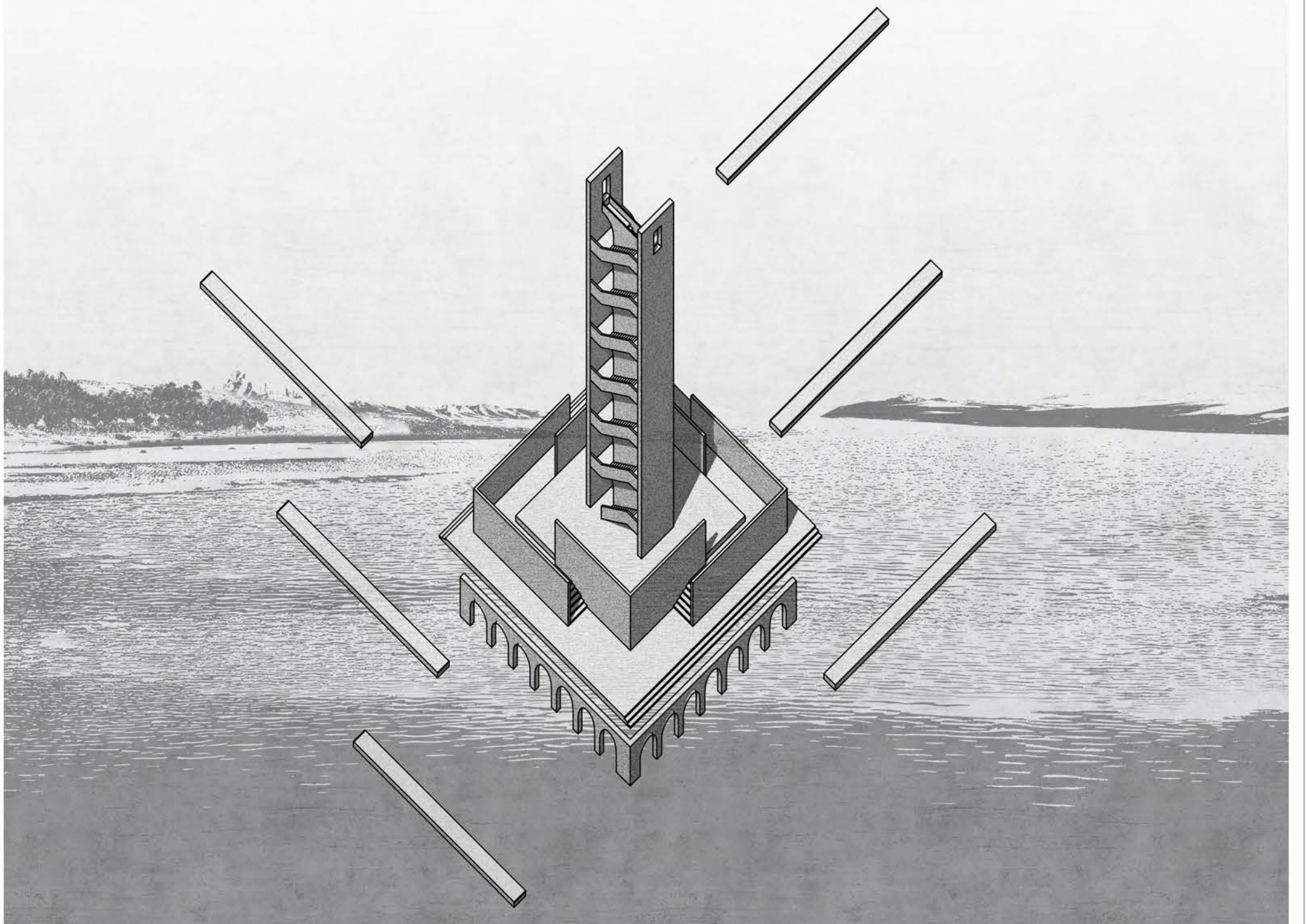


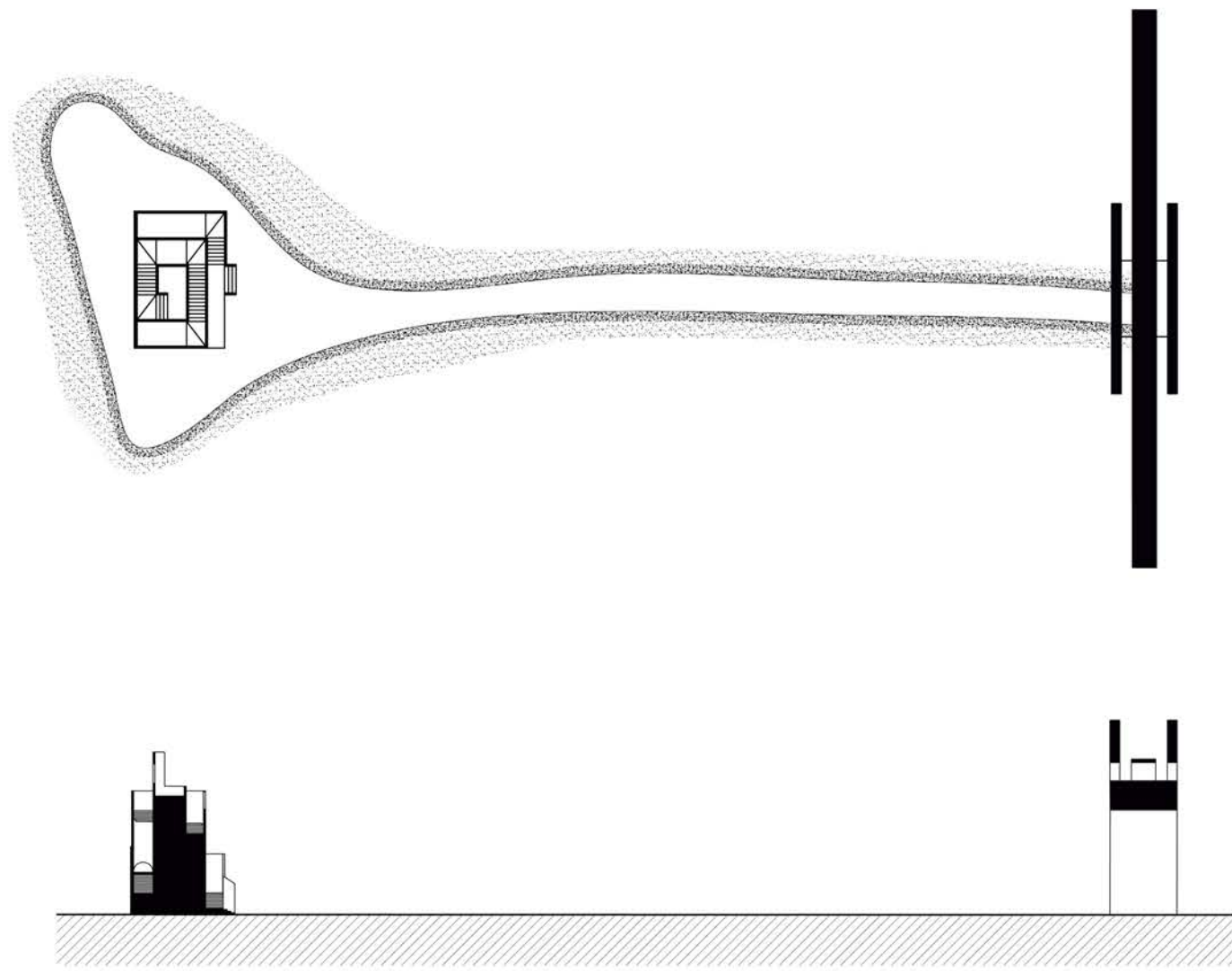
SITKA SPRUCE
Picea Sitchensis



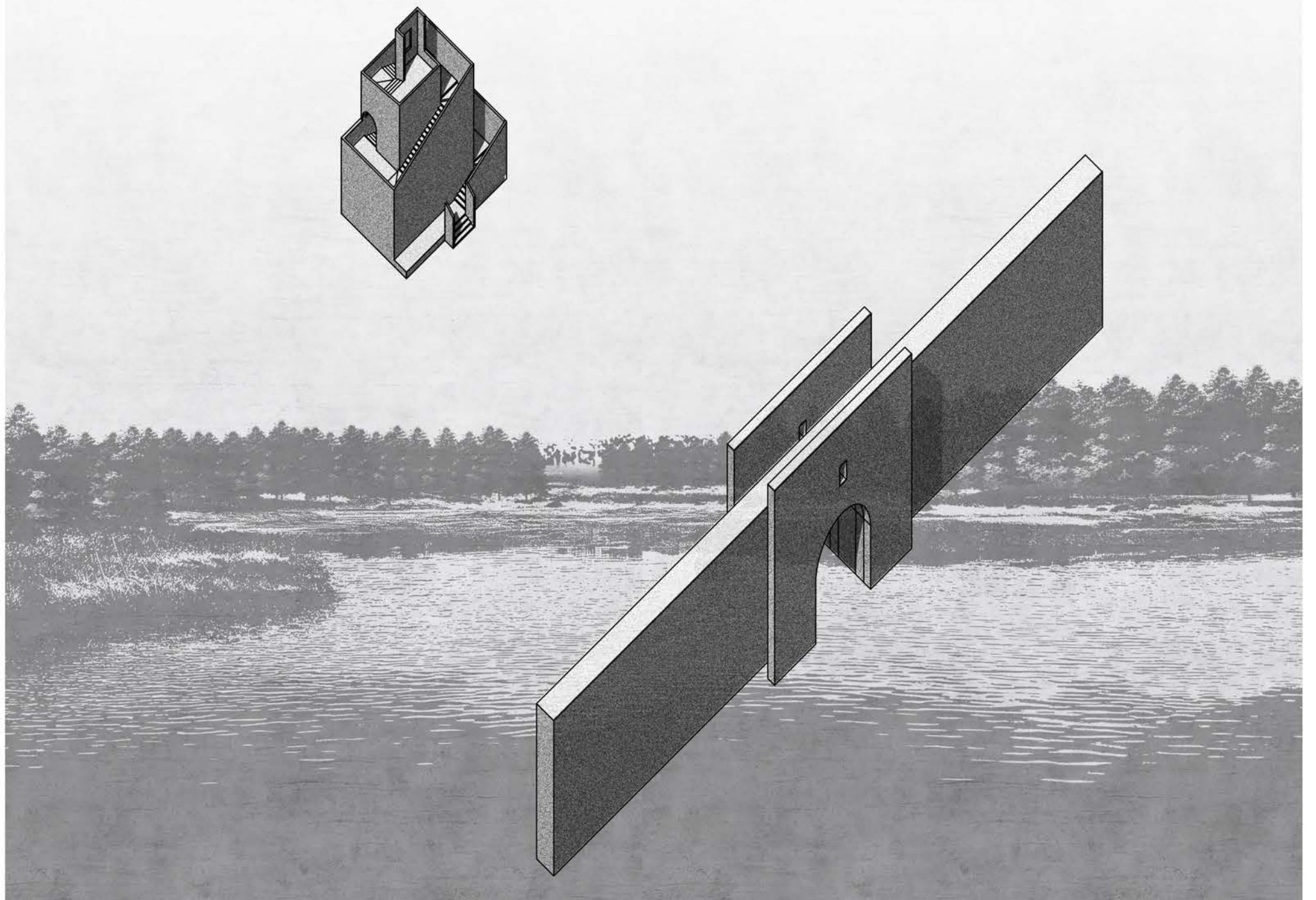


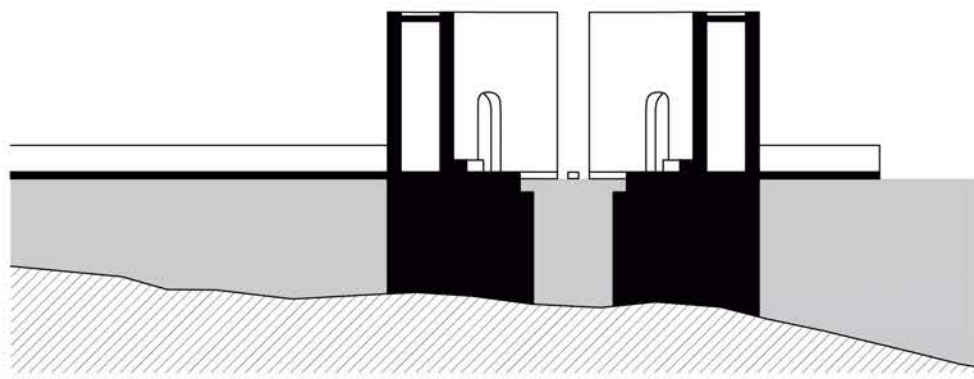
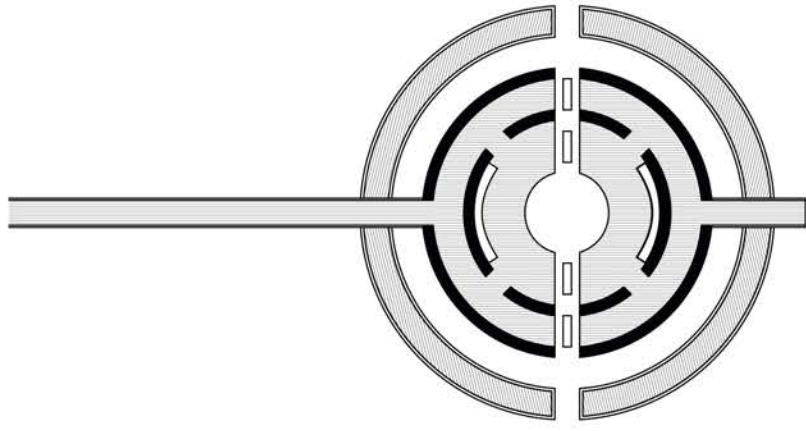
THE RIVER TOWER
PLAN, SECTION AND
AXONOMETRY



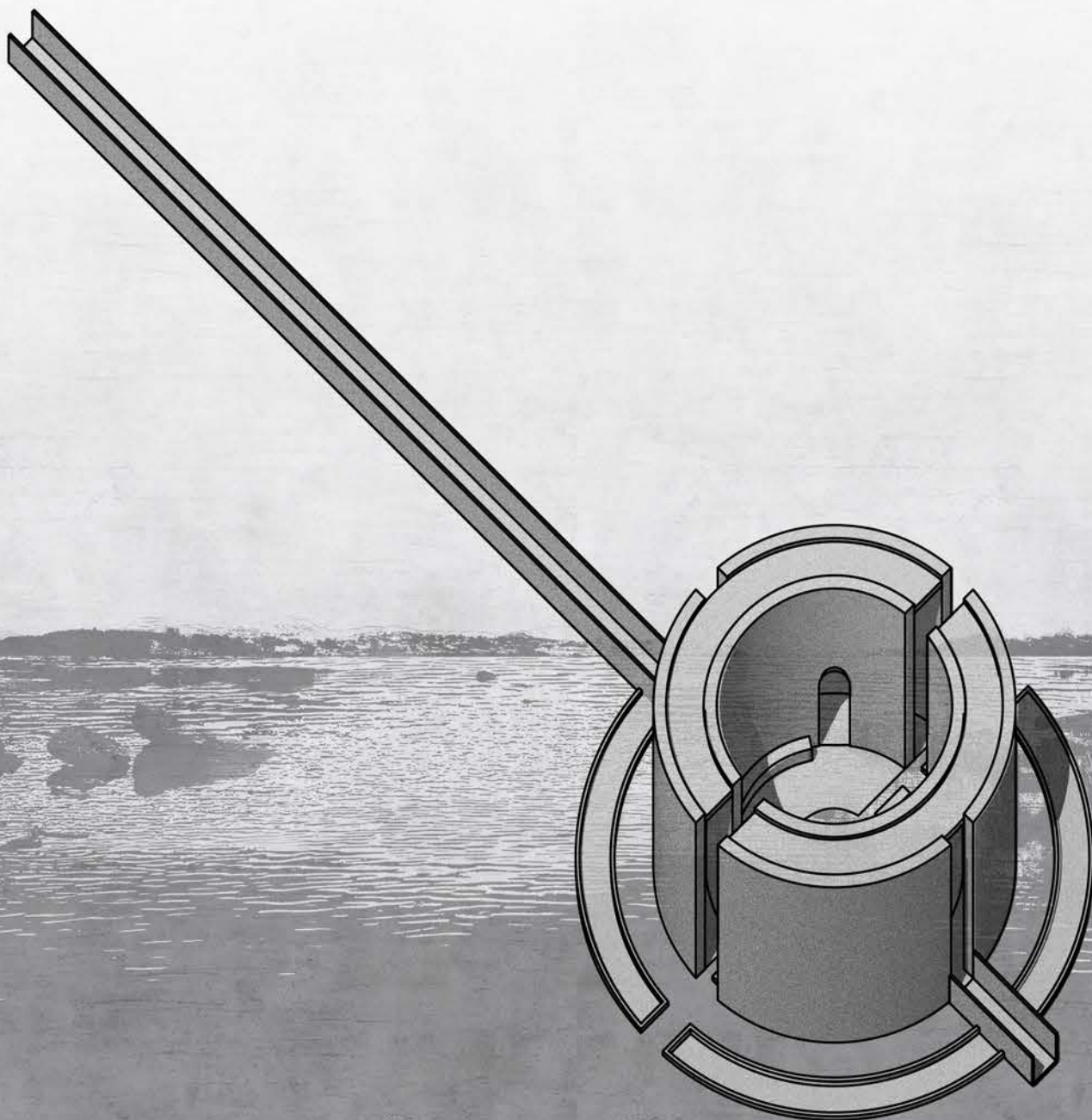


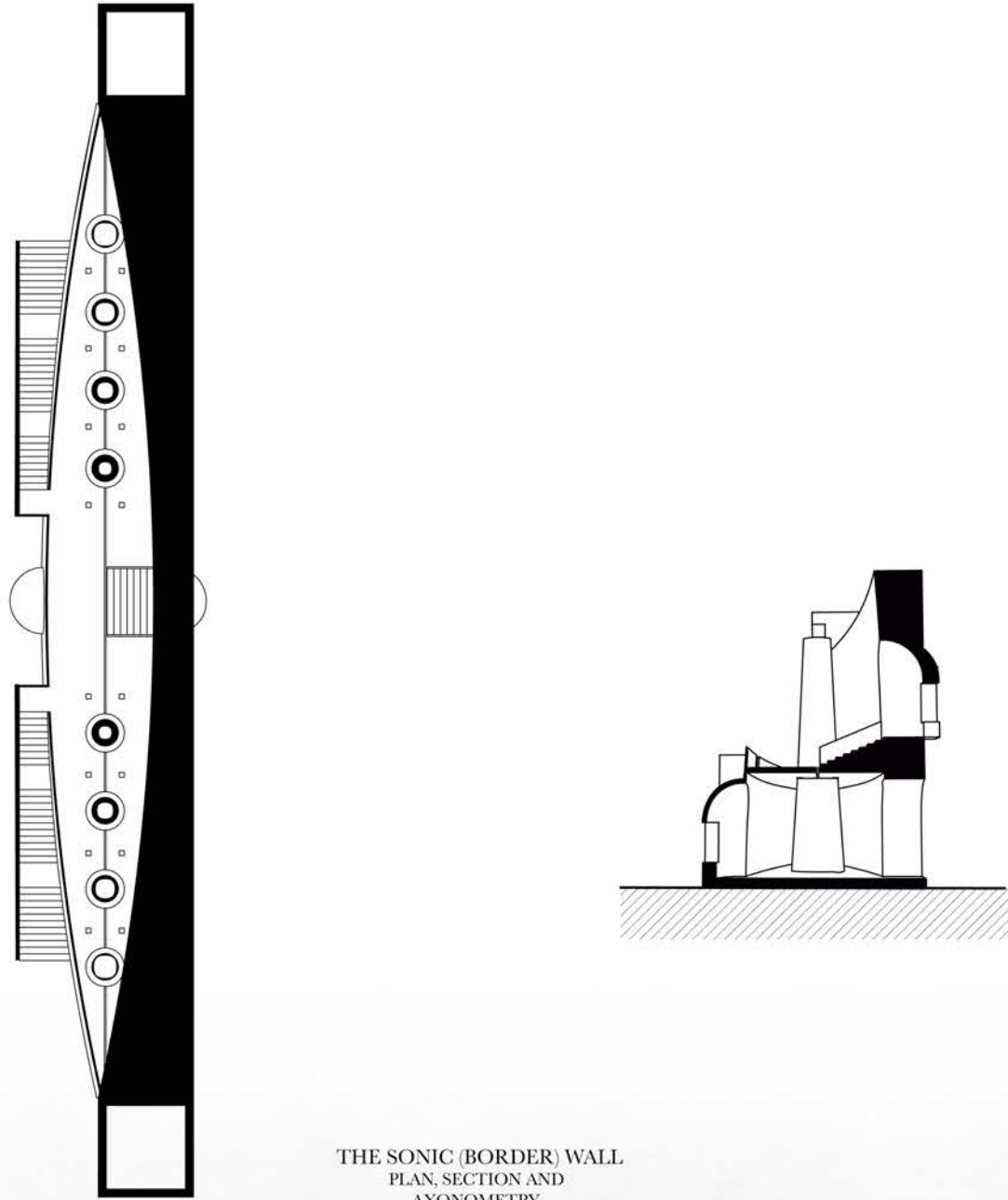
THE PLATEAU GATE
PLAN, SECTION AND
AXONOMETRY



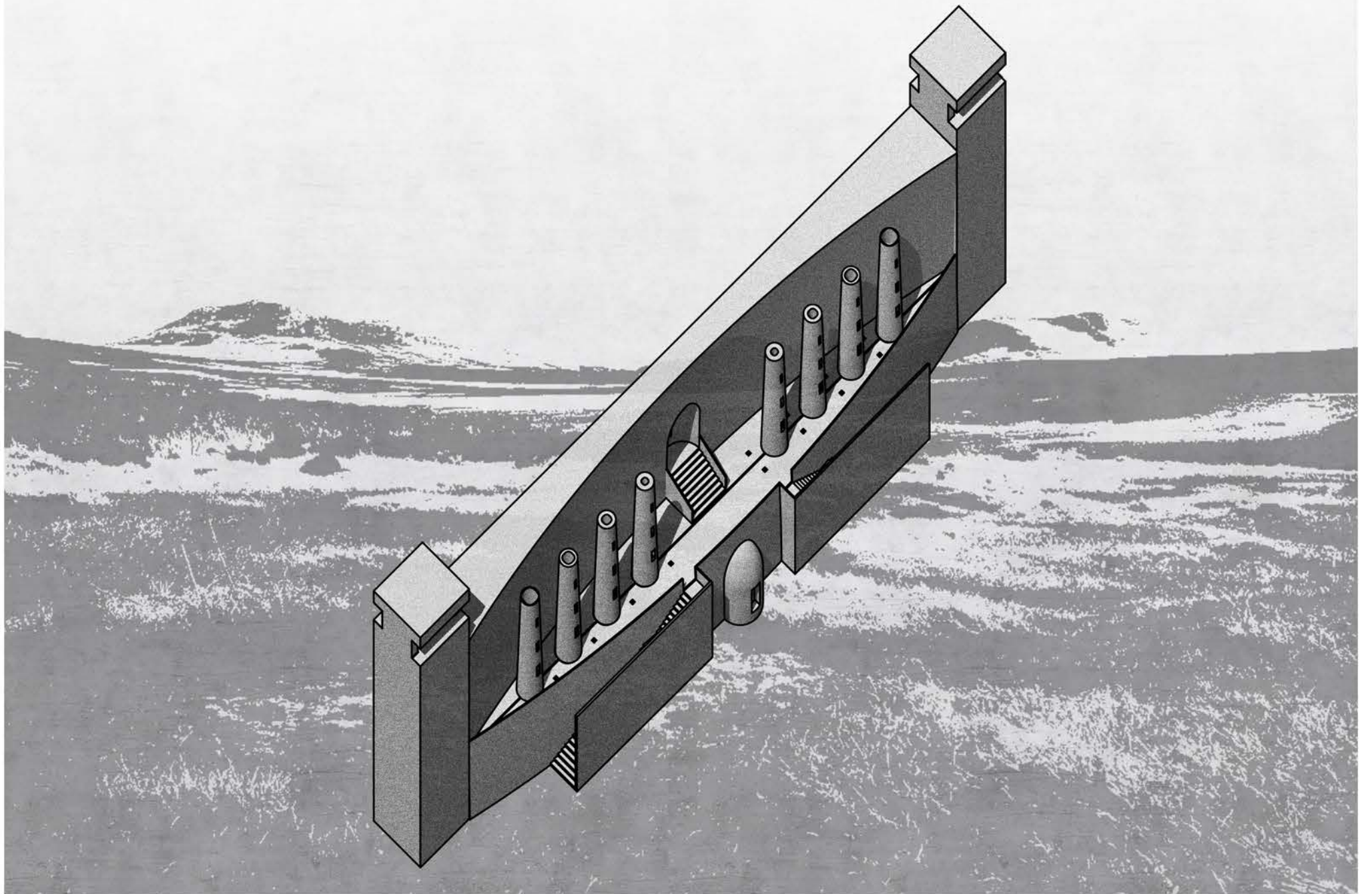


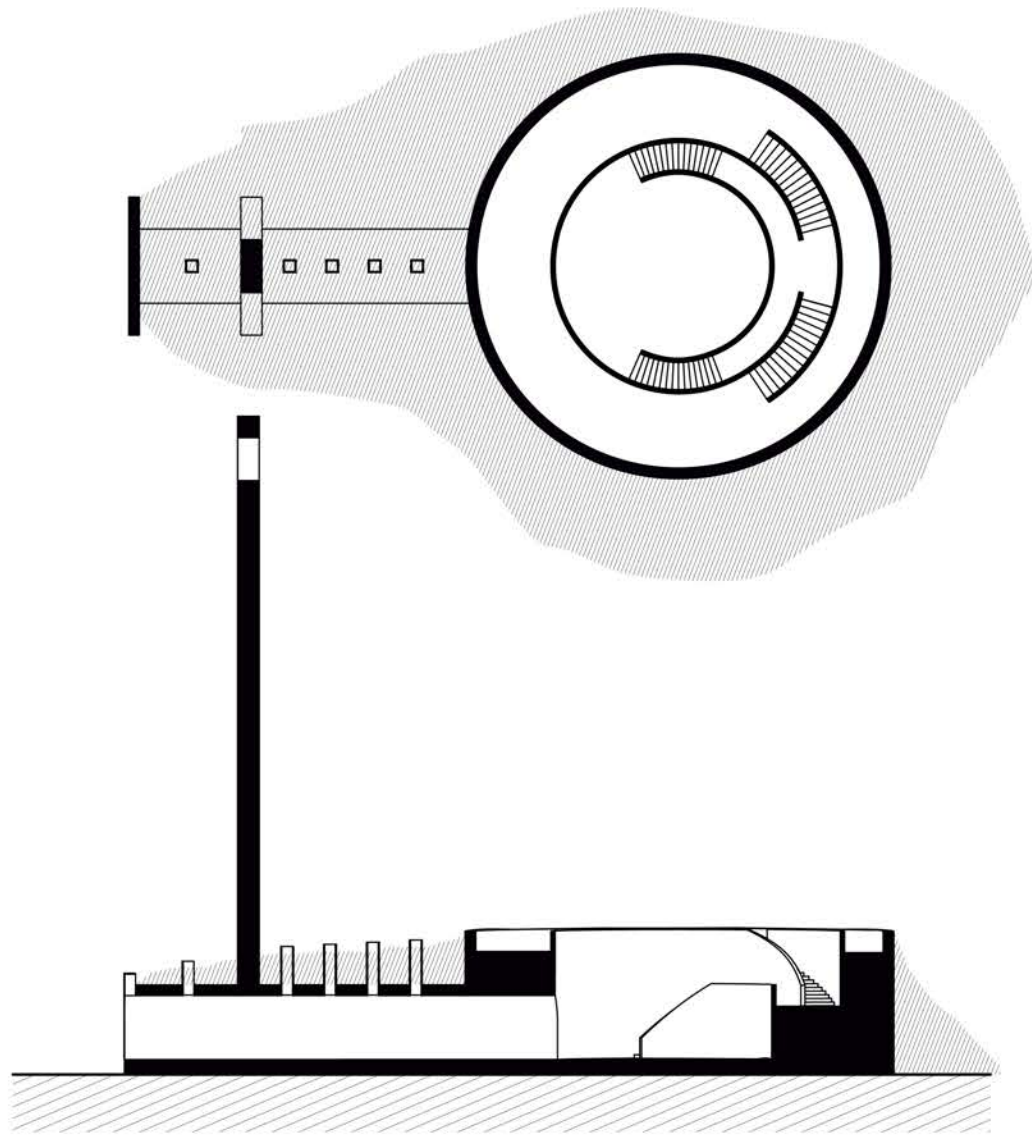
THE LAKE TEMPLE
PLAN, SECTION AND
AXONOMETRY





THE SONIC (BORDER) WALL
PLAN, SECTION AND
AXONOMETRY





THE BOG GAZEBO
PLAN, SECTION AND AXO-
NOMETRY

