

4.2 Context: Settlement Edge

The edges to Lossiemouth are generally well defined, reinforcing a compact settlement form, tightly bounded by robust barriers such as the sea and the airbase.

The illustrations opposite indicate the range of settlement edge 'types' found on the outskirts of Lossiemouth. The location of these edges is shown on the Settlement Edge Map which follows.

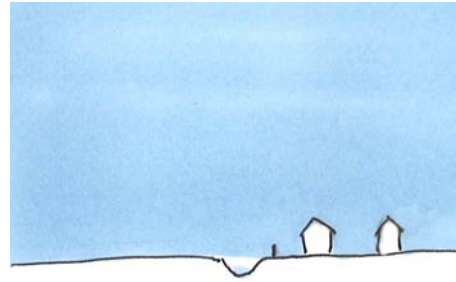
Key characteristics of the settlement edge of Lossiemouth include:

- the barrier of the sea and coast, which is an obvious constraint to settlement expansion to the north and east
- the sharp juxtaposition between the settlement and other land uses, such as forestry and the golf course, which reinforces the compact character of the settlement
- the physical barrier created by the airbase to the west
- the lack of enhanced definition to the western settlement boundary, which extends to a relatively featureless edge associated with the flood plain
- the landform of knolls and sandy hollows created by quarrying activity and now used as a park which creates part of the southern edge of the settlement
- the less well defined boundary along the south west facing edge of the town, which overlooks level cultivated fields
- the well defined sense of arrival from the approach roads, which is enhanced by woodland and to the west the presence of the old churchyards and manse.

Lossiemouth: Sketches Illustrating Types of Settlement Edge



Edge reinforced by woodland



Edge reinforced by watercourse



Edge reinforced by one or several non topographical landscape features, such as trees, footpath, park, RAF Airbase


Lossiemouth

SETTLEMENT EDGE

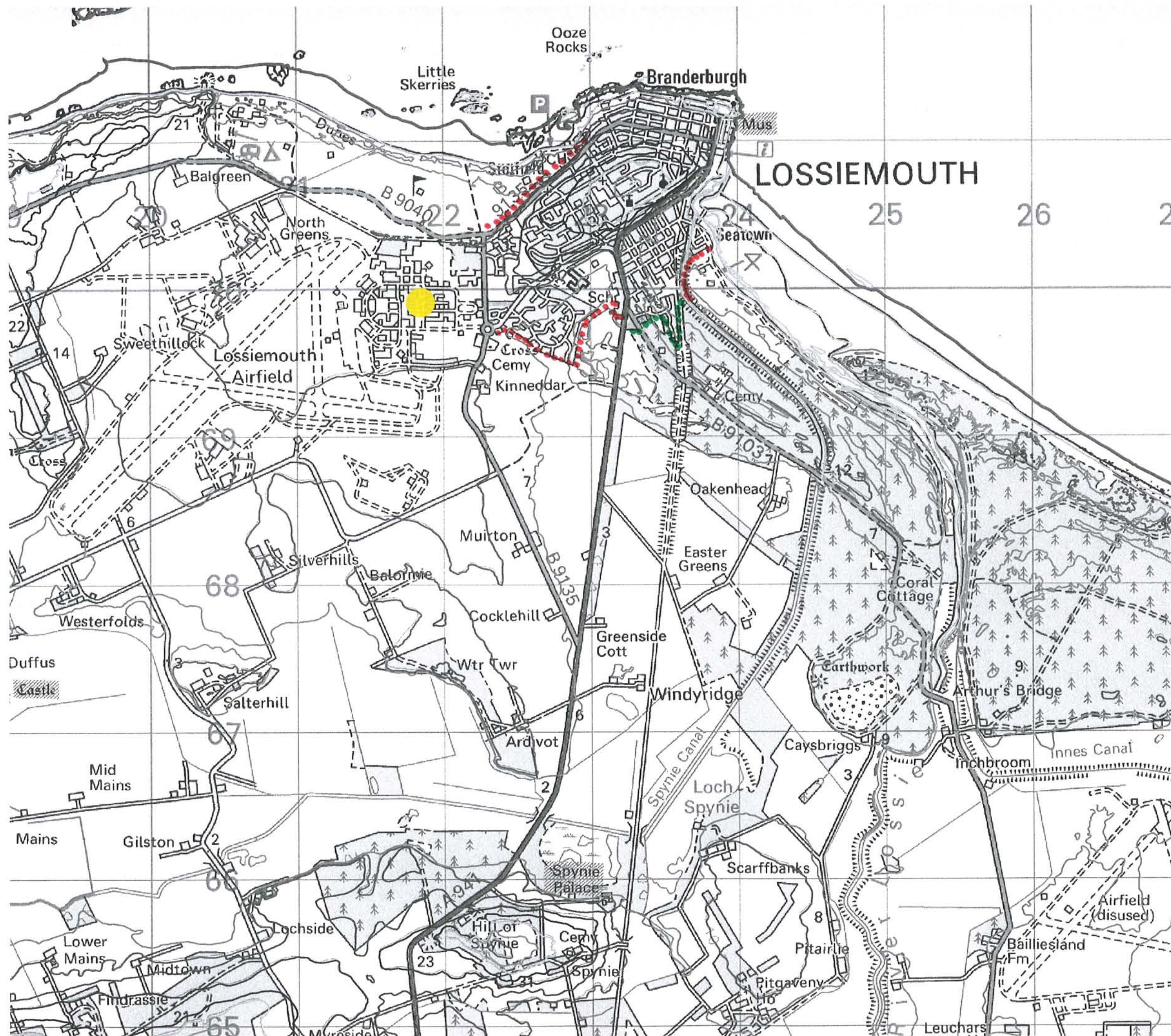
Scale 1:25 000

Settlement Edge

 Edge contained by woodland on dunes

 Edge reinforced by non topographical feature such as park, golfcourse or watercourse

 RAF Lossiemouth creates boundary to the west



4.3 Context: Landscape Setting

The sea wraps around the settlement to the north and east, creating an expansive setting which is further reinforced by the level plain to the south.

Within a broader landscape context, Lossiemouth is located at the extreme northern edge of the level coastal plain, with no higher land or containing hills to create a visual backdrop: the settlement itself is seen in profile against the sky from a distance.

Key characteristics of the landscape setting include:





- the expansiveness of the sea, sky and the extensive level plain
- the contrast between the prominence of the elevated northern part of the town, which can be seen in profile from a distance and the low lying southern part of the town which is tucked against the rising slopes
- the diversity of the coastline, which includes shifting dune systems and rocky foreshore as well as sandy beach, all of which contribute to the setting of the town
- the contribution made to the setting by woodland, as extensive pine forest extends to the south east of the town, and provides some separation from the RAF base to the west
- the many opportunities for informal access, both along the coast and within the woodland, which are located largely on the outskirts of the town

INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO THE MORAY LANDSCAPE


Lossiemouth LANDSCAPE SETTING

Scale 1:25 000




Wider setting

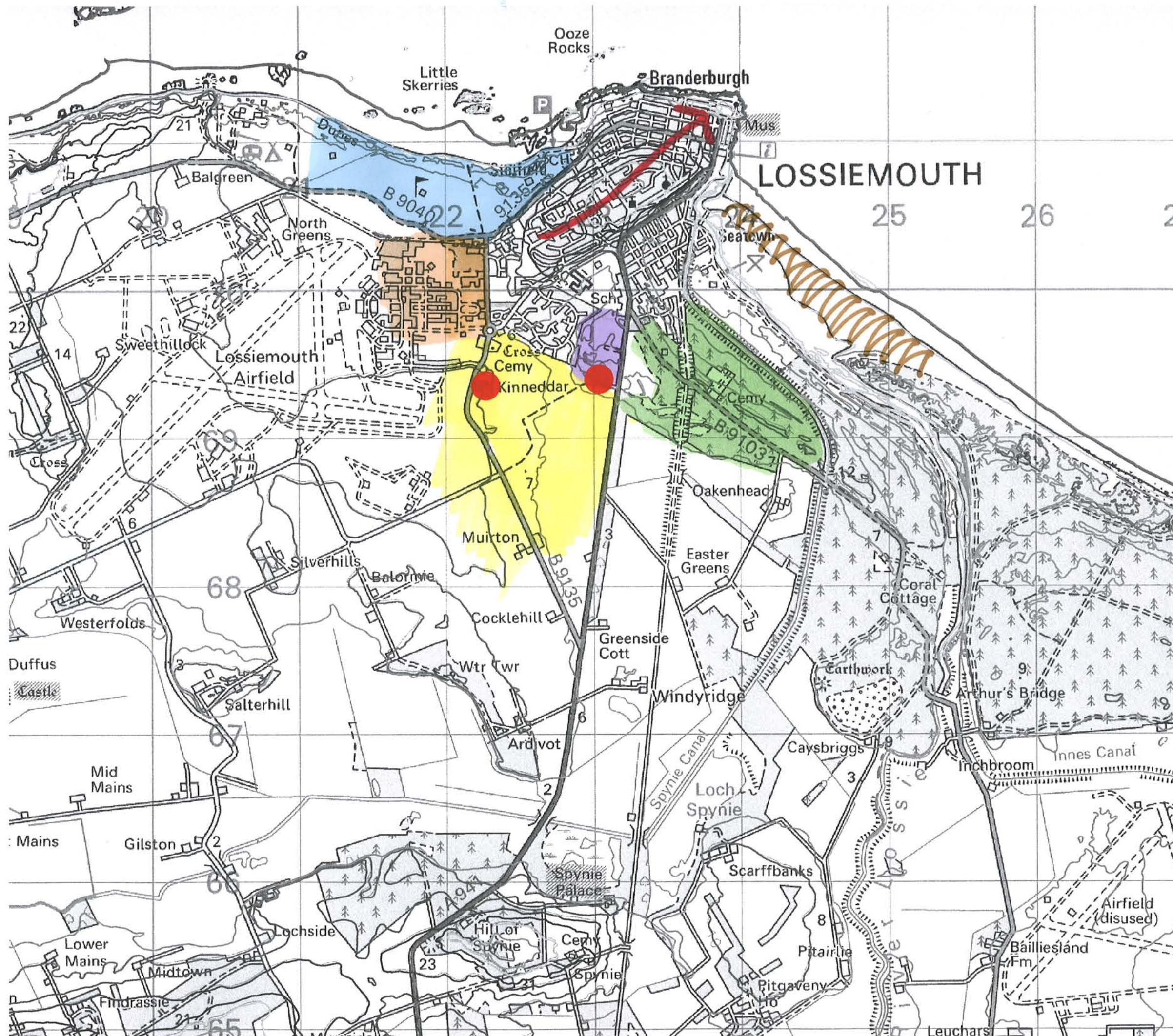
-  The wooded dunes provide shelter to the south east
-  Extensive coastal plain extends from the settlement edge
-  The RAF base creates an expansive area of semi industrial character to the west
-  The Links golf course extends west along the shore

Topographical Setting

-  The promontory on which the elevated part of the settlement is located juts into the sea, and is surrounded by water on largely three sides

Other Landscape Features

-  Extensive dune system shelters Seatown from the east
-  Disused excavations are now used as an informal park
-  Sunbank and Kinneddar are located on low ridges to the south of the town



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