

4.2 Context: Settlement Edge

The north edge of Forres is defined by the A96 and the railway, while to the south rising hills form a clear edge and to the east and west the settlement edge is less well defined.

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

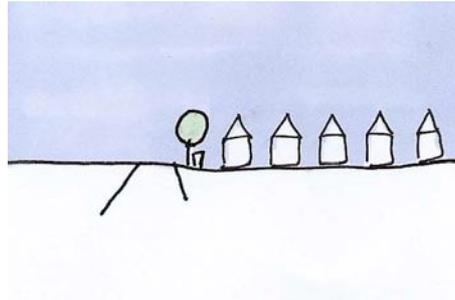
Key characteristics of the settlement edge of Forres include:

- the unity of the settlement edge to the south/south east, where the ground rises steeply to distinctive, wooded hills
- the quality and management of the cultivated farmland which lies directly adjacent to much of the remaining settlement edge, providing a well defined contrast to the built development and avoiding the appearance of neglect which sometimes accompanies peri urban areas
- the physical barrier created by the A96 and the railway to the north limits ease of access to this adjacent land, much of which is also active flood plain
- the lack of enhanced definition to the western settlement boundary, which extends to a relatively featureless edge associated with the flood plain
- the fragmentation of the settlement edge on part of the western boundary, where pockets of development are fragmented by open space and unmanaged grassland
- the rising ground and knolly landform to the east which creates some sense of enclosure and definition of edge
- the well defined sense of arrival from most of the approach roads

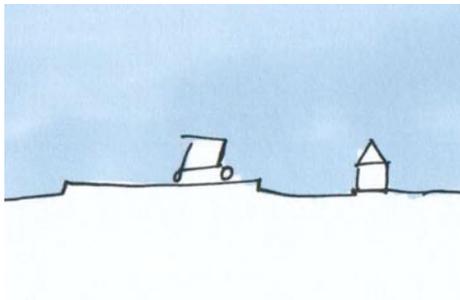
Forres: Sketches Illustrating Types of Settlement Edge



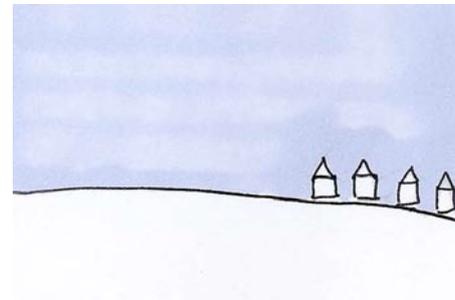
Edge reinforced by containing ridge or hill, often with woodland on the upper slopes



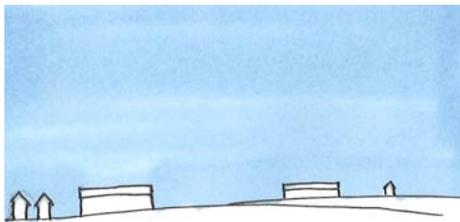
Edge reinforced by one or several non topographical landscape features, such as trees, footpath or park



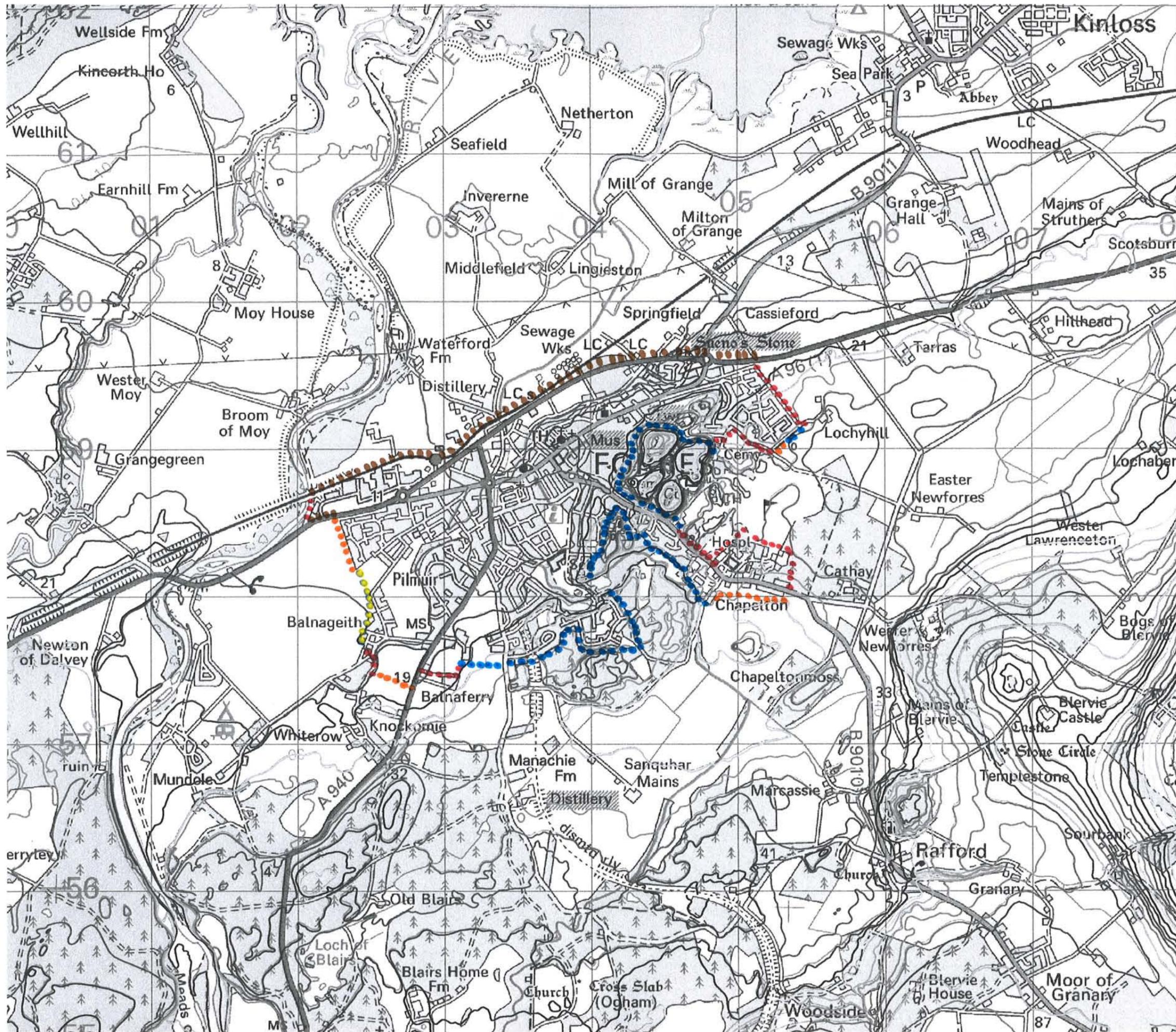
Edge reinforced by major road or railway



No distinct defining feature



Fragmented edge



INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO THE MORAY LANDSCAPE

Forres

SETTLEMENT EDGE

Scale 1:25 000

Settlement Edge

-  Edge reinforced by containing slopes, often wooded
-  Edge reinforced by non topographical feature such as a line of trees, playing field or footpath
-  Edge reinforced by a major road or railway
-  No distinct feature defining edge
-  Fragmented settlement edge

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4.3 Context: Landscape Setting

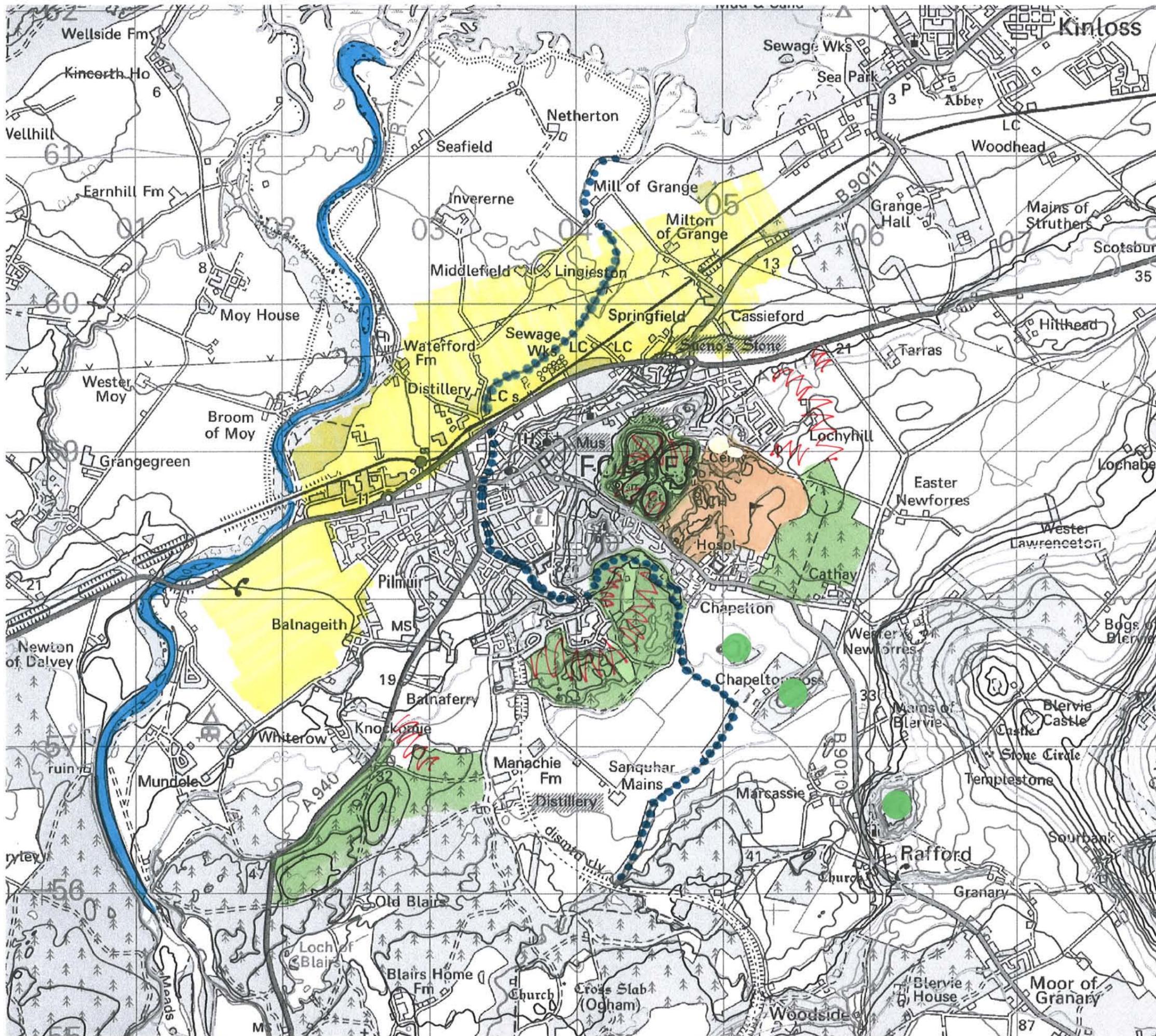
The distinctive, wooded low hills to the south of Forres are a key contribution to the physical landscape setting and visual backdrop, and are visually prominent from some distance.

Within a broader landscape context, Forres is located at the transition between the expanse of a coastal plain to the north and rising ground and foothills to the south.

The settlement is not very visually or physically contained, particularly to the north, but is generally low lying. It is therefore visible at a distance from the north, but is not visually prominent.

Key characteristics of the landscape setting include:

- the rising hills and woodland to the south provide shelter, visual containment and a visual backdrop to the town when viewed from the north
- the rising slopes contrast with the flatness of the expansive flood plain, which give the town an open aspect to the north
- the complex landform which lies adjacent to the settlement to the east and south west creates a high degree of enclosure and a small scale landform of more intimate character
- the contribution made to the setting by woodland, as extensive pine forest, policy woodland associated with large houses and small woodlands and shelterbelts
- the wide range of informal access within the surrounding landscape to the south and east, particularly associated with the woodland, contrasts with the physical barriers of the road and railway to the north where recreational access is limited to the cycle way and minor roads



INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO THE MORAY LANDSCAPE

Forres

LANDSCAPE SETTING

Scale 1:25 000

Wider setting

-  Mature woodlands, located on elevated land, provide a fine backdrop and setting for Forres
-  Lowlying coastal plain extends to the north and west of the settlement contrasting with the enclosing ridges

Topographical Setting

-  Main enclosing slopes extend around the south of the town and visually and physically contain the settlement

Other Landscape Features

-  The Burn of Mosset winds through the town
-  Golf course
-  Low, wooded sandy knolls punctuate the elevated land to the south
-  The sweeping meanders of the River Findhorn carve through the coastal plain to Findhorn Bay

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