

Settlement Edge	<p>Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Although the existing settlement edge is well defined in parts by trees and rising ground, alternative edges include other lines of trees and changes in gradient formed by rising slopes</li></ul>	<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Existing settlement edge is at times fragmented and elsewhere is rather anonymous in character, with no landscape features to reinforce the edge: well located development could provide a more coherent structure and offer the opportunity to create more robust settlement edges</li></ul>
Views and Visual Features	<p>Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some of this area is visually very self contained by land form and woodland</li></ul>	<p>Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The area is highly visible from the approach on the A96, but is of limited visual quality</li></ul>

## **9.2 Forres West: Landscape Opportunities and Constraints**

### **9.2.1 Preferred Opportunities for Development**

Opportunities to expand the settlement within the Complex Landform character type are limited to the low lying land which is contained by higher ridges. Development should avoid steeper slopes which would reinforce the edge of the settlement and could be planted to maintain the wooded and enclosed character of this part of the town.

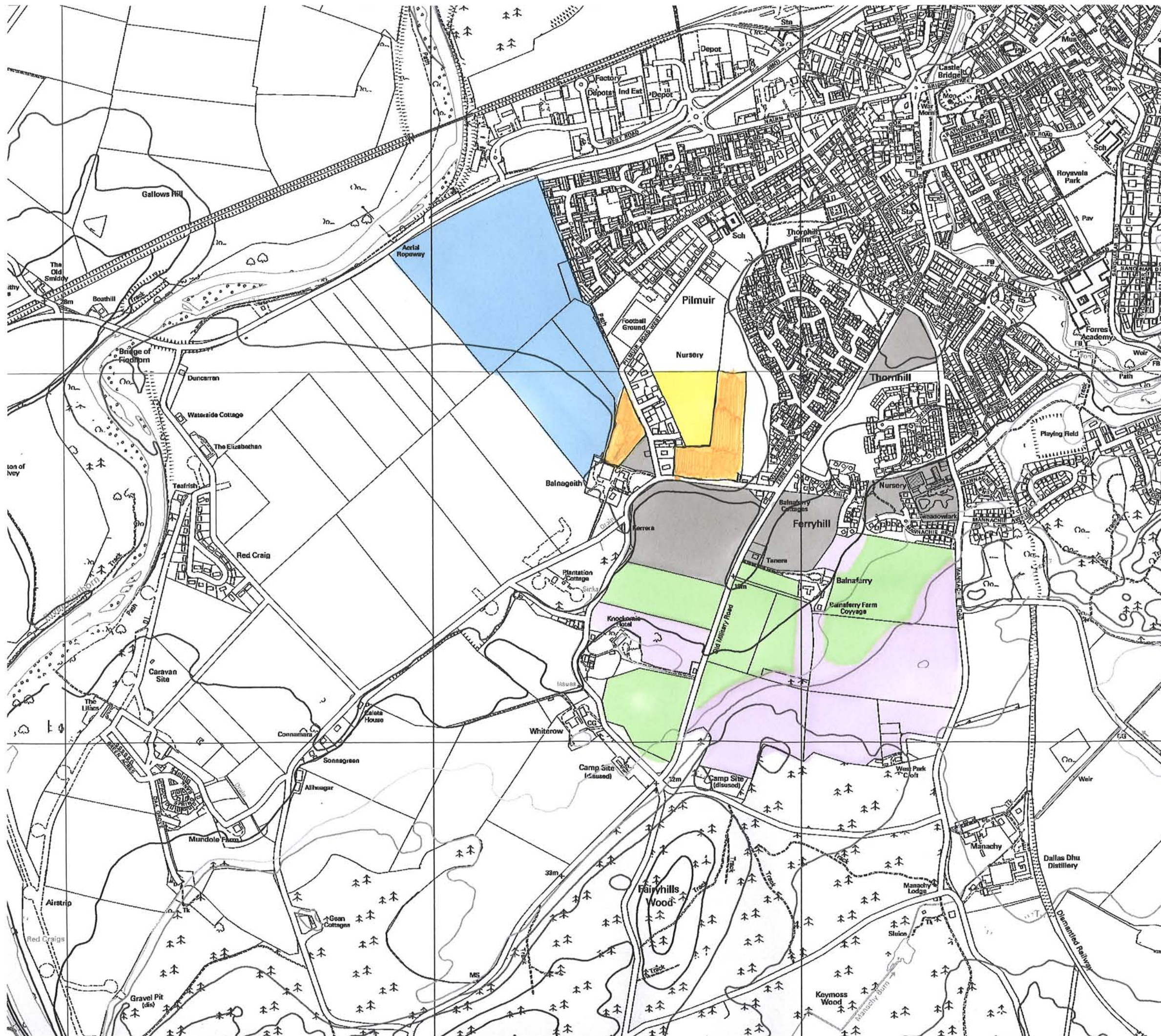
Opportunities to develop land across the Level Plain are likely to be severely constrained by potential flooding. Otherwise, this area provides a good opportunity for well designed development which could enhance the existing immediate setting of the town.

Some opportunities to build within the Pilmuir area could also be used to provide a more coherent settlement edge, however these areas may also be subject to flooding in the future.

### **9.2.2 Long Term Options**

Long term options should probably aim to avoid settlement expansion in areas subject to flooding, but opportunities for landscape enhancement across the flood plain should be identified.





# INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO THE MORAY LANDSCAPE

## **Forres West**

### **OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

Scale 1:10 000

- Land already under development
- Land already identified for development and considered appropriate in landscape terms

#### Landscape Opportunities for Development

- Opportunities to extend the settlement were identified within the contained land, enclosed by steeper slopes which could be planted to reflect the wooded hillsides which are so characteristic of the settlement
- Opportunities to extend the settlement were identified across this low lying plain, which also offers the opportunity to create an alternative settlement edge and setting for the town to the west.  
  
However, it is recognised that flood risk will limit development opportunities in this area, therefore the focus is likely to be on development at Pilmuir only
- Development in this location also offers opportunities to provide a more coherent settlement edge, linking existing areas of proposed development at Balnakeith and SE of Pilmuir nursery

#### Landscape Constraints on Development

- Development is constrained by elevation and steepness of these slopes, where considerable earth moving would be required for development. These slopes are more appropriately used as features with which to define settlement edge and could be reinforced with additional planting



### **9.3 Forres West: Development Site Recommendations**

Development bids within the more low lying land in the Complex Landform are considered appropriate in landscape and visual terms. Some areas should not be developed until planting has been established on higher ground, to reinforce visual containment and provide shelter and a setting for development.

Development bids within the Level Plain, including those at Pilmuir, are also considered appropriate in landscape and visual terms, and indeed offer a good opportunity to enhance the settlement character and its immediate setting. However, it is noted that much of this area is subject to flooding and therefore it may be more appropriate to tie in landscape enhancement measures with a flood management scheme.



# INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO THE MORAY LANDSCAPE

## Forres West DEVELOPMENT SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Scale 1:10 000

### Assessment of Development Bids

- Development bids appropriate for development in landscape terms
- Development bids appropriate for future development in landscape terms once landscape mitigation measures have been established
- Development bids not appropriate for development due to significant landscape constraints

