

6 BUCKIE EAST: MITIGATION MEASURES AND ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

6.1 Buckie East: Identifying Positive and Negative Landscape Features

These long, generally north facing slopes overlook the firth and form a gentle containment to the settlement. Woodland and trees are associated with the dens enclosing watercourses and with the village of Rathven. In addition there is some planting associated with the industrial estate. Some of the woodland is relatively young. There are few existing landscape features across the farmland, with no hedges and field trees to define the field pattern.

Access routes have been recently established along the redundant railway line, to the east of which is an extensive area of less managed grassland and scrub which lies adjacent to the golf course.

There were some opportunities for immediate settlement expansion identified in this area, including some potential expansion of the industrial site.

6.1.1 Existing Positive Characteristics and Features

- Wooded steep sided dens, some of which have well established younger planting, are prominent landscape features which link the settlement with the surrounding landscape
- Extensive views from the slopes to the sea and distant Easter Ross
- Recently constructed cycle route and access, established on old railway line
- Golf course adjacent to the coast, east of Portessie

6.1.2 Existing Negative Characteristics and Features

- Some areas of unmanaged grassland and scrub, which are likely to be useful habitats, but are untidy in appearance

6.2 Landscape Change

The key pressures for change relate to development opportunities and the economics of the agricultural and forestry sectors. New development opportunities include the expansion of industrial sites as well as residential development.

6.2.1 Features and Characteristics in Decline

- Some mature trees, in particular adjacent to the cemetery and occasional field trees, have a limited life span

6.2.2 Features and Characteristics in Ascendance

- Regeneration of trees and scrub (particularly whin) across the unmanaged grassland
- Young trees, some of which occupy extensive areas of land, particularly adjacent to the Freuchny Burn, will mature and have a great impact on the landscape
- New access routes, recently established, will 'weather in' shortly, and are already well used

Landscape Enhancement Opportunities



- The industrial estate on approach from the south: planting is well established



- The shallow glen adjacent to Rathven could be the focus for riparian woodland



- Well designed young planting along the Freuchnie Burn



- Newly upgraded track could be used for the focus of new planting, and well located trees adjacent to the Rathven Burn would screen the industrial site



- Views of the sea, and on a clear day the hills to the north of the Firth, emphasise the coastal location

6.3 Buckie East: Opportunities and Objectives for Enhancement

6.3.1 North Facing Slopes

This area contributes to the setting and back drop of Buckie, in particular the communities of lanstown and Portessie, as well as the separate village of Rathven.

Long term management of the existing woodland is desirable, and this would include recent planting, which is well established. The SFGS provides priority support to managing existing woodland, and should be considered as a source of assistance for the generous areas of planting along the Freuchny Burn.

New planting should be considered where it helps define the access routes and provide a setting for new development. Increased links between existing access routes could also be created in time. These initiatives are likely to be linked to new development proposals.

Opportunities for some scattered new planting across the less managed areas, particularly with forest scale trees to supplement the regenerating scrub, would enhance the setting of the town by providing a clearer sense of purpose for the area. In particular, consideration should be given to boundary planting, which would create a sense of definition.

This new planting should build on existing regeneration, focussing on supplementing the existing trees with species such as Scots pine, oak and other large headed broadleaved trees as appropriate. The current SFGS promotes woodlands around towns which would be an appropriate initiative for this type of planting, although low density planting, focussed on the edge of the land, would be most appropriate.







Some planting proposals are most likely to be achieved as part of future expansion of industrial development. Here, it is particularly appropriate to consider creating a stronger sense of arrival to the town, and the proposals illustrate the appropriately generous scale of landscape works required to achieve this successfully. Planting proposals should include robust native species, such as pine, rowan, gean, willow and birch with some forest scale broadleaves such as oak and also include a proportion of shrub species, such as hawthorn, elder, bird cherry and sloe.

INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO
THE MORAY LANDSCAPE

Buckie East

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

Scale 1:10 000

-  Suggested locations for development
-  New woodland structure planting
-  Expand riparian woodland
-  Feature trees
-  Public open space
-  New footpaths and other access route

