

Woodland planned to do this should attract grant aid from the SFGS, particularly because of its role in enhancing the setting of the town. The steeper north facing slopes above the railway station would be an appropriate location for a community woodland.

In addition, the approach to the town could be enhanced, and perhaps strengthened by extending a wall on either side of the road from the cemetery to the existing settlement edge. This wall could also act as a barrier between traffic on the road and a pedestrian access to the cemetery from the town. The creation of new footpaths, walls and planting associated with the approach to the town could be linked to new development

Additional planting, including hedges and field trees could be located to define the many access tracks which cross the area. Some of this work could be assisted by the RSS. Many of the well established footpaths in this area require some additional drainage, and SNH may be able to assist in this work as it could be linked to upgrading the core path network for Keith.

### 6.3.3 Shallow Elevated Slopes

This is the potential focus for long term development of Keith and would require advance master planning to create a long term structure for new development.

Key elements would include the creation of a focal point for new development along the axis of Edinburgh road, the removal of the lorry park, generous woodland planting to screen the electricity substation and under grounding of the pylon lines where they cut through the new development sites. These proposals are most likely to be implemented as part of development expansion.











The footpath network would be enhanced by additional drainage, perhaps through a core path network initiative, and hedges and individual trees planted to define this extensive network would be likely to get support from RSS.

The creation of a new open water feature in low lying land which could be used as a focus for wider drainage system.

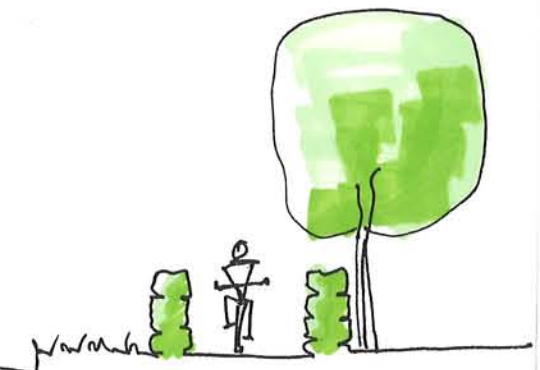
Even without development, a Council initiative to enhance sites in their ownership would be a positive step. In addition, new planting associated with screening of the substation, and an expansion of woodland adjacent to the Burn of Drum would both be likely to attract SFGS assistance.



INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO  
THE MORAY LANDSCAPE  
**Keith North East**  
LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS  
Scale 1:10 000

-  Suggested locations for development
-  New woodland structure planting
-  Extensive riparian woodland
-  Feature trees
-  Public open space
-  New footpaths and other access routes
-  Managed wetland habitat
-  Hedge planting to create definition
-  Develop a focal point for settlement expansion
-  Site suitable for the expansion of the industrial site

Combine elements to emphasise the sense of arrival along  
the A95 from the east



Road Verge Cycleway

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## **7 KEITH SOUTH WEST: ASSESSING THE DEVELOPMENT BIDS**

### **7.1 Keith South West: Landscape Survey and Site Observations**

This study area has been further subdivided into two landscape character units. The level fields either side of the A942 are separated from the more undulating landform further west by a tributary of the Burn of Buckie. Key characteristics which influence settlement expansion include:

This study area has been further subdivided into three landscape character units. The steep sided river valleys are considered as one character type, while the long ridge which divides them is considered separately to the domed ridges to the west. Key characteristics which influence settlement expansion include:

#### **River Valleys**

- narrow, steep sided valleys focussed around watercourses which radiate out from the settlement
- the valley floors are wetland or managed grassland, but the steep sides can be extensively wooded, and where this happens, enclosure is further emphasised
- their semi natural character, which is a foil to the managed land and built up townscape, is emphasised by the meanders of the rivers and the semi natural vegetation patterns
- development within the river valleys is largely limited to industries which depend on the water supply
- the woodland within the valleys is well used for informal recreation
- the Keith to Dufftown railway line and the A96 occupy the corridors created by the valleys
- the sinuous form of the river valleys ensures that roads wind along the valley floor and that limited views create a strong sense of anticipation, which heightens sense of arrival at the town along the A96

#### **Convex Ridge**

- Smooth, rounded, convex slopes extend down to the river valleys from a relatively level top
- Unimproved grassland fields are fenced with post and wire fences, reinforcing a sense of openness which is occasionally broken by a group or line of mature trees
- The settlement edge abruptly relates to field boundaries to the west, although the continuation of rising gradients to the brow of the ridge provides some visual containment and shelter

- The east facing slopes are more contained, and the settlement boundary is emphasised by the presence of the park, and further south, lines of trees




#### Domed Ridges

- smooth, rounded, convex slopes extend down to the river Isla to the south and east and to the Burn of Haughs to the north
- immediately adjacent to the settlement is a golf course, but elsewhere the unimproved grassland fields are fenced with post and wire fences, reinforcing a sense of openness which is emphasised by the elevated character of this area
- lower lying hollows contain wetland, but trees are limited to shelterbelts, woodland on a steep north facing slope and the trees associated with the golf course layout
- some containment to the settlement is created by the continued rise of the landform from the settlement edge to the brows of surrounding ridges
- a pylon line strides across the farmland on the outskirts of the town
- recent development which forms the settlement edge appears just over the brow of the ridge on approach from the south west along the B9014
- sense of arrival is emphasised by the descent towards the town from the south along the B9014, and the edge of the settlement is further emphasised by the presence of large sheds to the west of the road









INTEGRATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INTO  
THE MORAY LANDSCAPE  
**Keith South West**  
SURVEY AND SITE OBSERVATIONS  
Scale 1:10 000

Landscape Character

-  River Valleys
-  Convex Ridge
-  Domed Ridges

Landscape Survey

-  Steep slopes
-  Long ridges
-  Mature woodland
-  Park on outskirts of town
-  Golf course clubhouse
-  Paths and Tracks

Landscape Setting

-  Sense of arrival

Visual Assessment

-  Edges of settlement visible from elevated approach from Dufftown

