

19/00211/APP
28th March 2019

**Change of use of farm sheds to whisky cask warehouses
and general storage sheds at Viewfield Farm
Craigellachie Aberlour Moray
for Forsyths Ltd**

Comments:

- A SITE VISIT has been carried out.
- The application is for a site with an area of 2 or more hectares.
- Advertised for neighbour notification purposes – notification not possible because no premises are situated on land to which notification can be sent.
- No representations have been received.

Procedure:

- None

Recommendation

- **Grant Planning Permission - Subject To The Following conditions:**

Conditions/Reasons

1. For the avoidance of doubt, this consent relates to buildings 1, 2 and 3 only per drawing number P01 A hereby approved. All other buildings within the site do not form part of this consent and shall not be used for storage without the prior approval of the Council, as Planning Authority.

Reason – To ensure the buildings within the site are operated in line with the details that were assessed as part of this application.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order) the approval hereby granted only relates to the use of the premises as Whisky Cask Storage; and for no other use or purpose without the prior approval of the Council, as Planning Authority.

Reason - In order to retain Local Authority control over the use of the site and to ensure that consideration can be given to the effects and impact of uses other than that approved herewith.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order) no development specified in Article 3, Schedule 1, Part 3, Class 13; shall be carried out without the approval of the Council as Planning Authority.

Reason - In order to retain control over the use of the site and to ensure that consideration can be given to the effects and impact of uses other than that approved herewith.

4. Unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority, in consultation with the Environmental Health Manager, deliveries and activities associated with the proposed storage use (as outlined in the Revised Noise Impact Assessment, dated 26 June 2019) shall only be permitted between the hours of 0800 - 1630 Monday to Thursday and 0800 - 1230 on a Friday.

Reason – In order that activity associated with the use is undertaken during reasonable working hours, in the interests of the amenity of the surrounding area.

5. The rating level of noise associated with the use hereby granted shall not exceed the background sound level by more than 5 dB(A) at the nearest noise sensitive dwelling.

Any measurement and assessment to demonstrate compliance with the rating level shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 4142: 2014 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound.

Reason – In order that any noise emissions from the activity hereby granted shall be in within acceptable levels.

6. No development shall commence until a detailed drawing (scale 1:500 at A3) showing the location and design of three passing places on the U58H between the A95 and the site entrance (to the Moray Council's standards and specifications), has been submitted to and approved in writing by the council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority; and thereafter the passing places shall be constructed in accordance with the approved drawing prior to the use/any development commencing (except for those works associated with the provision of the passing places).

Reason – To enable drivers of vehicles to have adequate forward visibility to see approaching traffic and for two vehicles to safely pass each other ensuring the safety and free flow of traffic on the public road.

7. No development shall commence until a detailed drawing (scale 1:500 at A3) showing proposals to strengthen/reinforce the edge of the public road U58H where it meets the unadopted vehicle overrun area, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, as Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Authority, and thereafter the works shall be constructed in accordance with the approved drawing prior to the use commencing.

Reason – To ensure acceptable infrastructure at the development access

Reason(s) for Decision

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are:-

The change of use of the buildings is considered suitable and would not have an adverse impact on the surrounding area. Subject to upgrades to the vehicular access to the site from the A95 trunk road, sufficient infrastructure can be provided to serve the development. The proposal therefore complies with the provisions of the development plan and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise.

List of Informatives:

THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER has commented that:-

A Building Warrant will be required for the proposals. Should you require further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Building Standards, Environmental Services Department, Council Office, High Street, ELGIN IV30 1BX or by telephoning 01343 563243.

THE TRANSPORTATION MANAGER, DIRECT SERVICES has commented that:-

Planning consent does not carry with it the right to carry out works within the public road boundary.

Before commencing development the applicant is obliged to apply for Construction Consent in accordance with Section 21 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 for new roads. (Passing Places and edge strengthening). The applicant will be required to provide technical information, including drawings and drainage calculations. Advice on this matter can be obtained from the Moray Council web site at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_65638.html

Before starting any work on the existing public road the applicant is obliged to apply for a road opening permit in accordance with Section 56 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. This includes any temporary access joining with the public road. Advice on these matters can be obtained by emailing roadspermits@moray.gov.uk

Public utility apparatus may be affected by this proposal. Contact the appropriate utility service in respect of any necessary utility service alterations which have to be carried out at the expense of the developer.

No building materials/scaffolding/builder's skip shall obstruct the public road (including footpaths) without permission from the Roads Authority.

The applicant shall free and relieve the Roads Authority from any claims arising out of their operations on the road or extension to the road.

The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that surface/ground water does not run from the public road into their property.

No retaining structures or embankments shall be constructed along the edge of the road, whether retaining the public road or ground adjoining the public road without prior consultation and agreement of the Roads Authority.

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND has commented that:-

To obtain permission to work within the trunk road boundary, contact the Area Manager through the general contact number below. The Operating Company has responsibility for co-ordination and supervision of works and after permission has been granted it is the developer's contractor's responsibility to liaise with the Operating Company during the construction period to ensure all necessary permissions are obtained.

Area Manager

Area Manager (A95)
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

0141 272 7100

Operating Company

NORTH EAST
Bear House
Inveralmond Roundabout
Inveralmond Industrial Estate
Perth
PH1 3TW

01738 448600

NEplanningapplications@bearsotland.co.uk

LIST OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT	
Reference No. Version No.	Title/Description
	Location plan

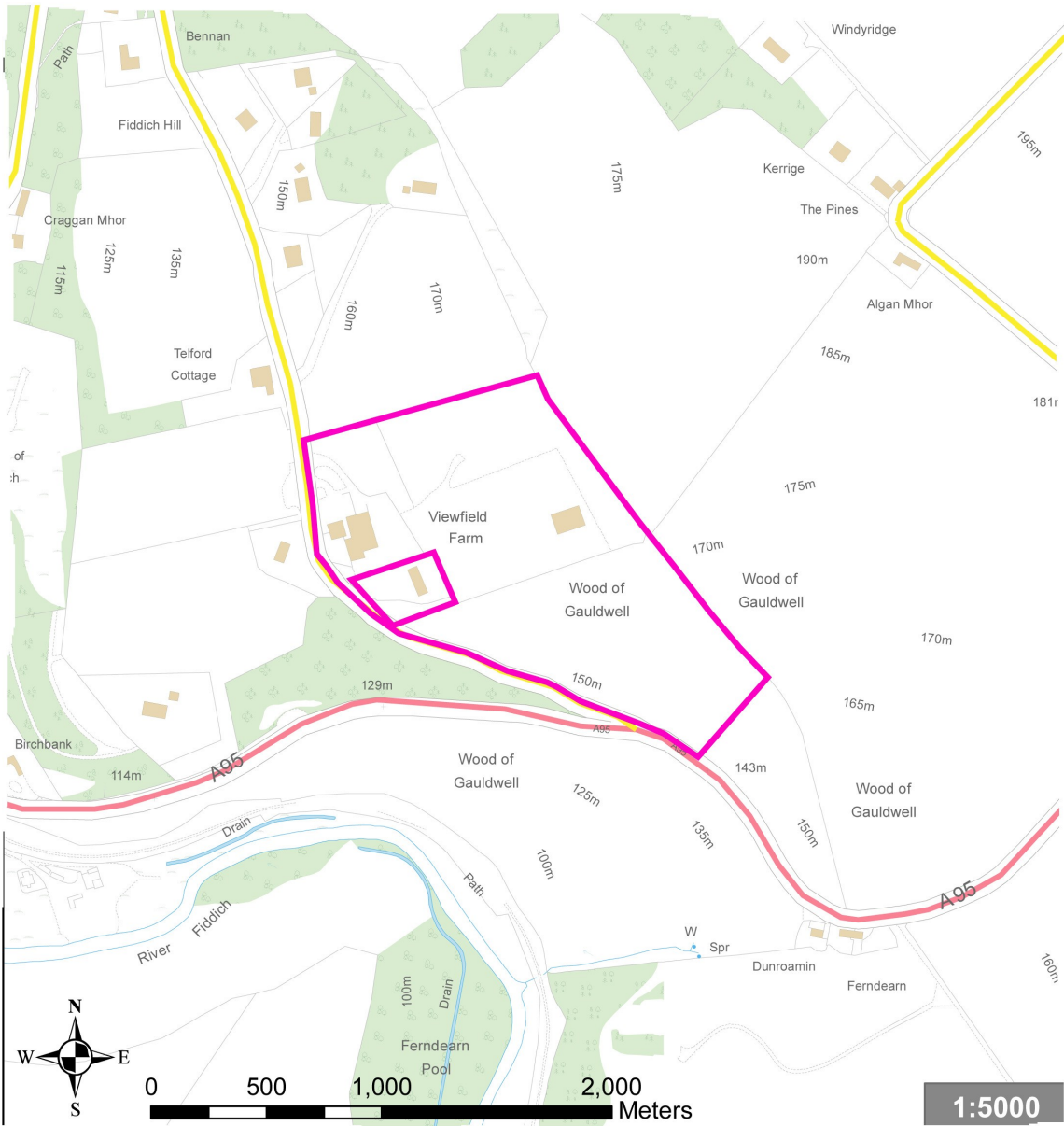
P01 A	Site and location plan
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Information to accompany decision: Revised Noise Impact Assessment, dated 26 June 2019.

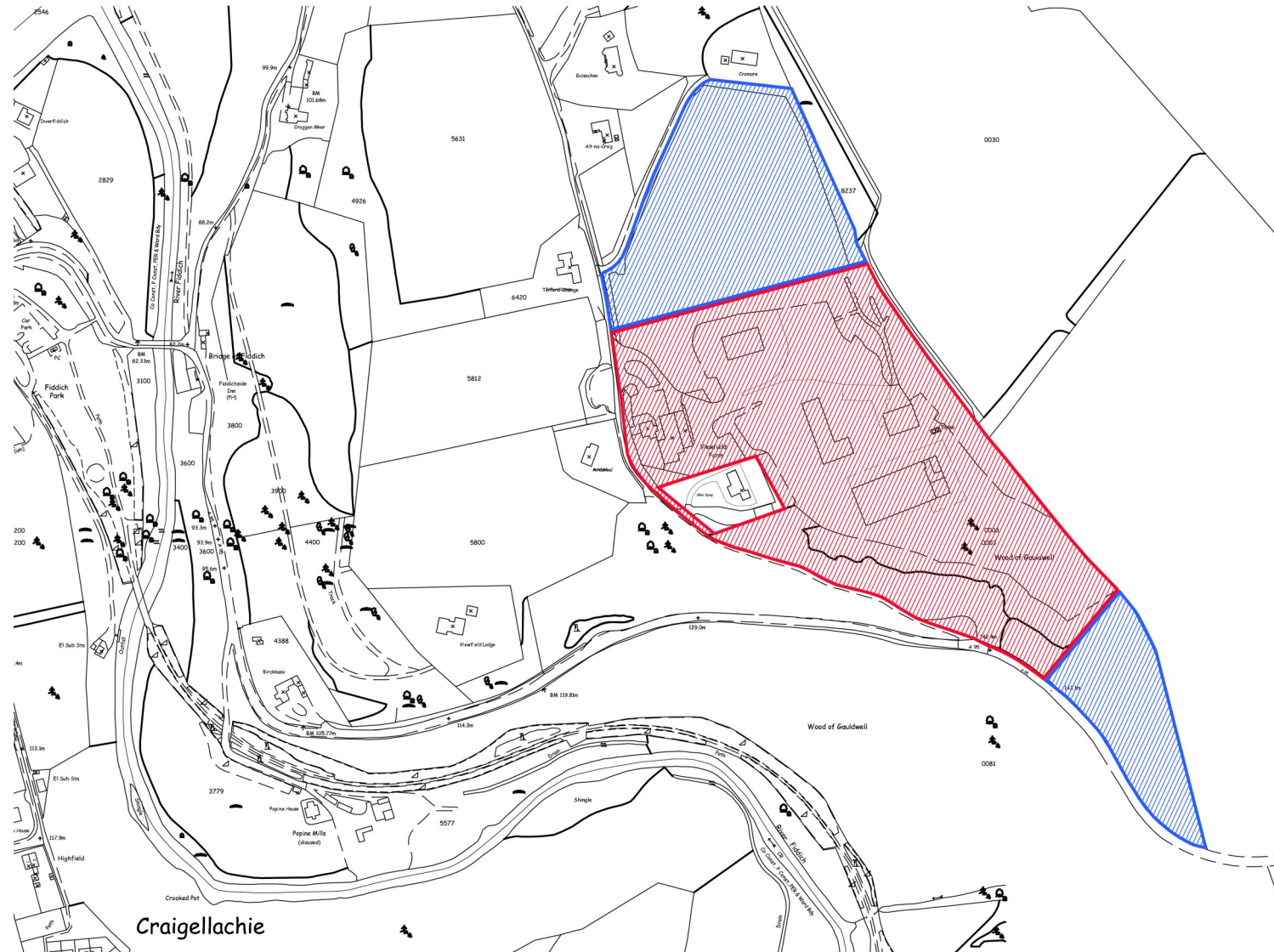


Applicant Name:
Forsyths Ltd

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Site Location



Site layout plan



Building 1



Building 2



Building 3



PLANNING APPLICATION: 19/00211/APP

In the event that a recommendation on this planning application is overturned the Committee is reminded of the advice contained on the front page of the agenda for Reports on Applications

THE PROPOSAL

- Change of use of three agricultural buildings as secure storage for whisky casks or for general storage (Use Class 6).
- All buildings on site are to remain unaltered, this application relates purely to the use of three buildings (numbered 1, 2 and 3 on the site plan submitted with the application).
- Existing access and parking arrangements will be utilised.

THE SITE

- A group of agricultural buildings, with associated hardstanding and planting to the west of Craigellachie.
- The site covers an area of 6.6 ha, surrounded by agricultural land with dispersed housing.
- Dwelling of Glen Spey sits within the red line site as submitted (but is excluded from the site area).
- Mature trees bound the site to the south.

HISTORY

12/00873/APP – Erection of grain store and general purpose shed granted permission under delegated powers on 13 July 2012. (Building 3 on the submitted plans.)

10/00376/APP – Erect agricultural building granted permission under delegated powers on 15 April 2010. (Building 1 on the submitted plans.)

09/02257/AGR – Erection of agricultural building under prior notification accepted under delegated powers on 21 January 2010. (Building 2 on the submitted plans.)

POLICY - SEE APPENDIX

ADVERTISEMENTS

- Advertised for neighbour notification purposes.

CONSULTATIONS

Transport Scotland – Following the provision of information on vehicle movements (size of vehicles and numbers), no objections.

Transportation Manager – Following the provision of information on vehicle movements (size of vehicles and numbers), no objections subject to conditions in relation to the provision of 2 passing places and reinforcement of the edge of the public road adjacent to the existing unadopted overrun at the junction where Viewfield Road (U58H) meets the A95 trunk road. Informative notes also provided.

Environmental Health – Following the provision of a Noise Impact Assessment, no objections subject to conditions limiting the operating hours of the deliveries and activities associated with the use being carried out between 0800 – 1630 Monday to Thursday and 0800 – 1230 on a Friday, and limitations of noise.

Contaminated Land – No objections.

Building Standards – Building Warrant required.

OBJECTIONS-REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

OBSERVATIONS

Section 25 of the 1997 Act as amended requires applications to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan i.e. the adopted Moray Local Development Plan 2015 (MLDP) unless material considerations indicate otherwise. On 18 December 2018, at a special meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee, the Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020 was approved as the “settled view” of the Council and minimal weight will be given to it, with the 2015 MLDP being the primary consideration.

Further consideration of the weight to be attached to the Proposed Plan was considered and agreed at the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee on 29th January 2019, with the Committee agreeing that between June/August 2019 and adoption of the new LDP in mid-2020, the weight to be given to matters set out in the Proposed Plan will vary;

- Where matters set out in the Proposed Plan are subject to unresolved objections which will be considered through Examination, then those matters will continue to be given minimal weight as a material consideration in the development management process.
- Where matters set out in the Proposed Plan are not subject to unresolved objections, they will be given greater weight as a material consideration in the development management process.

The weight to be given will be considered on a case by case basis and will be agreed by the Development Management Manager and Development Plans Principal Planning Officer.

On 25 June 2019 the Planning & Regulatory Services Committee agreed to give greater weight to sites within the proposed Plan which are not subject to the Examination process from 1 August 2019. In this case the proposal is not subject to a designated site.

The main planning issues are considered below.

Rural Business (ED7, PP1 and IMP1)

The site is not covered by any specific land use designation and outwith a defined settlement boundary in the MLDP. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to comprise a rural business proposal, and policy ED7: Rural Business Proposals is applicable. This contains criteria which such proposals must conform to. Policy PP1: Sustainable Economic Growth supports proposals which contribute towards the delivery of sustainable economic growth. Policy IMP1: Developer Requirements requires development to be sensitively sited, design and serviced appropriate to the amenity of the surrounding area.

There will be no physical changes to any of the buildings externally, therefore the main consideration relates to the suitability of the use of the buildings for this purpose and the implications this has on the surrounding area.

With regard to a locational justification, the use of buildings for storage of whisky casks tends to be found in rural locations, in close proximity to distilleries (e.g. bonded warehouses at Malcolmburn, north of Mulben). This site's close proximity to the A95 trunk road that runs through the Speyside area means the site is suitably placed to provide such a service. In addition, the proposal utilises existing buildings, therefore there will be no additional buildings located within the rural context of the site.

Sufficient capacity must also be available in local infrastructure or where this is insufficient, be mitigated against. As noted below under Roads Access, sufficient information has been provided to demonstrate the negligible impact the change of use will have on the local road network and conditions have been recommended in relation to access.

A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) was provided at the request of the Council's Environmental Health Manager, in order that consideration could be given to the impact of the proposed use upon a nearby dwelling (Glen Spey). This found that the impact of the proposed use upon the amenity of neighbouring residents would be low, with noise levels at the property (inside and out) being found to be within World Health Organisation recommended levels. The proposal would not result in an unacceptable disturbance to residential amenity and conditions are recommended in relation to operating hours and noise levels, per the recommendation of the Environmental Health Manager.

Overall, the change of use is considered to be suitable for its rural location and would satisfy policies ED7, PP1 and IMP1. A condition is recommended to limit the scope of the operation to that proposed, as any alternative use within use class 6 (storage and distribution) may have a negative impact on the surrounding area and the infrastructure serving it. A further condition is also recommended to prevent the change of use of the building(s) to use classes 4 (business) and 5 (general industrial), which permitted development rights allow.

Location in Area of Great Landscape Value (E7)

The site is located within the Speyside Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). Policy E7 seeks to prevent development that results in an adverse impact upon such designated areas. Again, as noted above, the proposal does not involve the erection of new or alterations to existing buildings, accordingly there will be no impact on the AGLV. Consequently, there is no conflict with policy E7.

Roads Access (T2)

Access to the site is taken from an unclassified road (Viewfield Road), with the existing access arrangements to the site remaining unchanged. This access point is circa 400 metres from Viewfield Road's junction with the A95 trunk road (Craigellachie to Keith).

At present, the agricultural buildings have vehicle movements of 180 in and 180 out over a six month period (in relation to its use as grain storage), equating to 20 vehicles per day. The proposed use would entail 500 inbound deliveries over a 9 month period, equating to 15 vehicles per day. Once the facility is full of casks, vehicle movements would effectively cease, save for infrequent delivery movements thereon and, on a day to day basis, staff vehicles.

Both Transport Scotland and the Transportation Manager raised no objections to the proposal. The Transportation Manager has requested conditions requiring the provision of three new passing places on Viewfield Road (between the access to the site and the A95), as well as the reinforcement and strengthening of the public road where it meets the existing unadopted overrun area of the junction.

Subject to these conditions, the proposal complies with policy T2.

Developer Obligations (IMP3)

In accordance with policy IMP3 and the associated Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance, no developer obligations are sought for this change of use.

Conclusion

Approval is recommended subject to conditions.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

The Council's reason(s) for making this decision are: -

The change of use of the buildings is considered acceptable and would not have an adverse impact on the surrounding area. Subject to upgrades to the vehicular access to the site from the A95 trunk road, sufficient infrastructure can be provided to serve the development. The proposal therefore complies with the provisions of the development plan and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise.

Author/Contact

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Officer:

Planning Officer

Beverly Smith

Development Management & Building Standards Manager

APPENDIX

POLICY

Adopted Moray Local Development Plan 2015

Primary Policy PP1: Sustainable Economic Growth

The Local Development Plan identifies employment land designations to support requirements identified in the Moray Economic Strategy. Development proposals which support the Strategy and will contribute towards the delivery of sustainable economic growth and the transition of Moray towards a low carbon economy will be supported where the quality of the natural and built environment is safeguarded and the relevant policies and site requirements are met.

Policy ED7: Rural Business Proposals

New business developments, or extensions to existing industrial/economic activities in the countryside, will be permitted if they meet all of the following criteria:

- a) There is a locational justification for the site concerned, particularly if there is serviced industrial land available in a nearby settlement.
- b) There is capacity in the local infrastructure to accommodate the proposals, particularly road access, or that mitigation measures can be achieved.
- c) Account is taken of environmental considerations, including the impact on natural and built heritage designations, with appropriate protection for the natural environment; the use of enhanced opportunities for natural heritage integration into adjoining land.
- d) There is careful control over siting, design, landscape and visual impact, and emissions. In view of the rural location, standard industrial estate/urban designs may not be appropriate.

Proposals involving the rehabilitation of existing properties (e.g. farm steadings) to provide business premises will be encouraged, provided road access and parking arrangements are acceptable.

Where noise emissions or any other aspect is considered to be incompatible with surrounding uses, there will be a presumption to refuse.

Outright retail activities will be considered against retail policies, and impacts on established shopping areas, but ancillary retailing (eg farm shop) will generally be acceptable.

Policy E7: Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and impacts upon the wider landscape

Development proposals which would have a significant adverse effect upon an Area of Great Landscape Value will be refused unless:

- a) They incorporate the highest standards of siting and design for rural areas
- b) They will not have a significant adverse effect on the landscape character of the area, in the case of wind energy proposals the assessment of landscape impact will be made with reference to the terms of the Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study.
- c) They are in general accordance with the guidance in the Moray and Nairn Landscape Character Assessment.

New developments should be designed to reflect the landscape characteristics and special qualities identified in the Landscape Character Assessment of the area in which they are proposed.

Proposals for new hill tracks should ensure that their alignment minimises visual impact; avoids sensitive natural heritage features, avoids adverse impacts upon the local hydrology; and takes account of the likely type of recreational use of the track and wider network.

Policy T2: Provision of Access

The Council will require that new development proposals are designed to provide the highest level of access for end users including residents, visitors, and deliveries appropriate to the type of development and location. Development must meet the following criteria:

- Proposals must maximise connections and routes for pedestrian and cyclists, including links to active travel and core path routes, to reduce travel demands and provide a safe and realistic choice of access.
- Provide access to public transport services and bus stop infrastructure where appropriate.
- Provide appropriate vehicle connections to the development, including appropriate number and type of junctions.
- Provide safe entry and exit from the development for all road users including ensuring appropriate visibility for vehicles at junctions and bends.
- Provide appropriate mitigation/modification to existing transport networks where required to address the impacts of new development on the safety and efficiency of the transport network. This may include but would not be limited to, the following measures, passing places, road widening, junction enhancement, bus stop infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential road improvements have been identified in association with the development of sites the most significant of these have been shown on the Settlement Map as TSPs.
- Proposals must avoid or mitigate against any unacceptable adverse landscape or environmental impacts.

Developers should give consideration to aspirational core paths (under Policy 2 of the Core Paths Plan) and active travel audits when preparing proposals.

New development proposals should enhance permeability and connectivity, and ensure that opportunities for sustainable and active travel are protected and improved.

The practicality of use of public transport in more remote rural areas will be taken into account however applicants should consider innovative solutions for access to public transport.

When considered appropriate by the planning authority developers will be asked to submit a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan.

Significant travel generating proposals will only be supported where:

- Direct links to walking and cycling networks are available;
- Access to public transport networks would involve walking no more than 400m;
- It would not have a detrimental effect on the capacity of the strategic road and/or rail network; and
- A Transport Assessment identifies satisfactory mechanisms for meeting sustainable transport requirements and no detrimental impact to the performance of the overall network.

Access proposals that have a significant adverse impact on the surrounding landscape and environment that cannot be mitigated will be refused.

Policy IMP1: Developer Requirements

New development will require to be sensitively sited, designed and serviced appropriate to the amenity of the surrounding area. It should comply with the following criteria

- a) The scale, density and character must be appropriate to the surrounding area.
- b) The development must be integrated into the surrounding landscape
- c) Road, cycling, footpath and public transport must be provided at a level appropriate to the development. Core paths; long distance footpaths; national cycle routes must not be adversely affected.
- d) Acceptable water and drainage provision must be made, including the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) for dealing with surface water.
- e) Where of an appropriate scale, developments should demonstrate how they will incorporate renewable energy systems, and sustainable design and construction. Supplementary Guidance will be produced to expand upon some of these criteria.
- f) Make provision for additional areas of open space within developments.

- g) Details of arrangements for the long term maintenance of landscape areas and amenity open spaces must be provided along with Planning applications.
- h) Conservation and where possible enhancement of natural and built environmental resources must be achieved, including details of any impacts arising from the disturbance of carbon rich soil.
- i) Avoid areas at risk of flooding, and where necessary carry out flood management measures.
- j) Address any potential risk of pollution including ground water contamination in accordance with recognised pollution prevention and control measures.
- k) Address and sufficiently mitigate any contaminated land issues
- l) Does not sterilise significant workable reserves of minerals or prime quality agricultural land.
- m) Make acceptable arrangements for waste management.

Policy IMP3: Developer Obligations

Contributions will be sought from developers in cases where, in the Council's view, a development would have a measurable adverse or negative impact upon existing infrastructure, community facilities or amenity, and such contributions would have to be appropriate to reduce, eliminate or compensate for that impact.

Where the necessary contributions can be secured satisfactorily by means of planning conditions attached to a planning permission, this should be done, and only where this cannot be achieved, for whatever reason, the required contributions should be secured through a planning agreement.

The Council will prepare supplementary guidance to explain how the approach will be implemented in accordance with Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations. This will detail the necessary facilities and infrastructure and the scale of contributions likely to be required.

In terms of affordable housing, developments of 4 or more units will be expected to make a 25% contribution, as outlined in policy H8.

Proposed Moray Local Development Plan 2020

PP3 INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES.

Development must be planned and co-ordinated with infrastructure to ensure that places function properly and proposals are adequately served by infrastructure and services. A Utilities Plan must be submitted with planning applications setting out how existing and new utility (including gas, water, electricity, pipelines and pylons) provision have been incorporated into the layout and design of the proposal.

- a) **Development proposals will need to provide for the following infrastructure and services:**
- i) Education, Health, Transport, Sports and Recreation and Access facilities in accord with Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations and Open Space.
 - ii) Green infrastructure and network requirements specified in policy EP5 Open Space, Town and Village Maps and, contained within Supplementary Guidance on the Open Space Strategy, Masterplans and Development Briefs.
 - iii) Mitigation/modification to the existing transport network to address the impact of the proposed development in terms of safety and efficiency. This may include but not be limited to passing places, road widening, junction enhancement, bus stop infrastructure, and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential road and transport improvements are identified and shown on the Town and Village Maps as Transport Proposals (TSP's) including the interventions in the Elgin Transport Strategy. These requirements are not exhaustive and do not pre-empt any measures which may result from the Transport Assessment process.
 - iv) Electric car charging points must be provided at all commercial, community and communal parking facilities. Access to charging points must also be provided for residential on plot parking provision. Car share parking spaces must be provided within communal parking areas where a need is identified by the Transportation Manager.
 - v) Active Travel and Core Path requirements specified in the Council's Active Travel Strategy and Core Path Plan.
 - vi) Safe transport and access routes linking to existing networks and mitigating the impacts of development off-site.
 - vii) Information Communication Technology (ICT) and fibre optic broadband connections for all premises unless justification is provided to substantiate it is technically unfeasible.
 - viii) Foul and surface water drainage, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), including construction phase SUDS.
 - ix) Measures that implement the waste management hierarchy as defined in the Zero Waste Plan for Scotland including the provision of local waste storage and recycling facilities designed into the development in accord with policy PP1 Placemaking. For major applications a site waste management plan may be required to ensure that waste minimisation is achieved during the construction phase.
 - x) Infrastructure required to improve or increase capacity at Water Treatment Works and Waste Water Treatment Works will be supported subject to compliance with policy DP1.

b) **Development proposals will not be supported where they:**

- i) Create new accesses onto trunk roads and other main/key routes (A941 & A98) unless significant economic benefits are demonstrated.
- ii) Adversely impact on active travel routes, core paths, rights of way, long distance and other access routes and cannot be adequately mitigated by an equivalent or better alternative provision in a location convenient for users.
- iii) Adversely impact on blue/green infrastructure, including green networks important for wildlife unless an equivalent or better alternative provision will be provided.
- iv) Are incompatible with key waste sites at Dallachy, Gollanfield, Moycroft and Waterford and would prejudice their operation.
- v) Adversely impact on community and recreational sites, buildings or infrastructure including CF designations and cannot be adequately mitigated.
- vi) Adversely impact on flood alleviation and mitigation infrastructure.
- vii) Compromise the economic viability of bus or rail facilities.

c) **Harbours.**

Development within and diversification of harbours to support their sustainable operation will be supported subject to compliance with other policies and settlement statements.

d) **Developer Obligations.**

Developer obligations will be sought to mitigate any measurable adverse impact of a development proposal on local infrastructure, including education, healthcare, transport, sports and recreational facilities and access routes. Obligations will be sought to reduce, eliminate or compensate for this impact.

Where necessary obligations that can be secured satisfactorily by means of a planning condition attached to planning permission will be done this way. Where this cannot be achieved, the required obligation will be secured through a planning agreement in accordance with Circular 3/2012 on Planning Obligations.

Developer obligations will be sought in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Developer Obligations. This sets out the anticipated infrastructure requirements, including methodology and rates.

Where a developer considers that the application of developer obligations renders a development commercially unviable a viability assessment and 'open-book accounting' must be provided by the developer which Moray Council, via the District Valuer, will verify, at the developer's expense. Should this be deemed accurate then the Council will enter into negotiation with the developer to determine a viable level of developer obligations.

The Council's Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance provides further detail to support this policy.

DP1 DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES.

This policy applies to all developments, including extensions and conversions and will be applied proportionately.

The Council will require applicants to provide impact assessments in order to determine the impact of a proposal. Applicants may be asked to determine the impacts upon the environment, transport network, town centres, noise, air quality, landscape, trees, flood risk, protected habitats and species, contaminated land, built heritage and archaeology and provide mitigation to address these impacts.

Development proposals will be supported if they conform to the relevant Local Development Plan policies, proposals and additional guidance, meet the following criteria and address their individual and cumulative impacts:

(i) Design

- a) The scale, density and character must be appropriate to the surrounding area and create a sense of place (see Policy PP1) and support the principles of a walkable neighbourhood.
- b) The development must be integrated into the surrounding landscape which will include safeguarding existing trees and undertaking replacement planting to include native trees for any existing trees that are felled, and safeguarding any notable topographical features (e.g. distinctive knolls), stone walls and existing water features by avoiding channel modifications and culverting. A tree survey and tree protection plan must be provided with planning applications for all proposals where mature trees are present on site or that may impact on trees outwith the site. The strategy for new tree provision should follow the principles of the "Right Tree in the Right Place".
- c) Make provision for new open space and connect to existing open space under the requirements of Policy EP5 and provide details of the future maintenance of these spaces. A detailed landscape plan must be submitted with planning applications and include information about green/blue infrastructure, tree species, planting, ground/soil conditions, and natural and man-made features (e.g. grass areas, wildflower verges, fencing, walls, paths, etc.).
- d) Demonstrate how the development will conserve and enhance the natural and built environment and cultural heritage resources, retain original land contours and integrate into the landscape.
- e) Proposals must not adversely impact upon neighbouring properties in terms of privacy, daylight or overbearing loss of amenity.
- f) Proposals do not result in backland development or plots that are subdivided by more than 50% of the original plot. Sub-divided plots must be a minimum of 400m², excluding access and the built-up area of the application site will not exceed one-third of the total area of the plot and the resultant plot density and layout reflects the character of the surrounding area.

- g) Pitched roofs will be preferred to flat roofs and box dormers are not acceptable.
- h) Existing stone walls on buildings and boundaries must be retained.
- i) Alterations and extensions must be compatible with the character of the existing building in terms of design, form, choice of materials and positioning and meet all other relevant criteria of this policy.
- i) Proposals must orientate and design buildings to maximise opportunities for solar gain

(ii) **Transportation**

- a) Proposals must provide safe entry and exit from the development, including the appropriate number and type of junctions, maximise connections and routes for pedestrians and cyclists, including links to active travel and core path routes, reduce travel demands and ensure appropriate visibility for all road users at junctions and bends. Road, cycling, footpath and public transport connections and infrastructure must be provided at a level appropriate to the development and connect people to education, employment, recreation, health, community and retail facilities.
- b) Car parking must not dominate the street scene and must be provided to the side or rear and behind the building line. Minimal (25%) parking to the front of buildings and on street may be permitted provided that the visual impact of the parked cars is mitigated by hedging or low stone boundary walls. Roadways with a single carriageway must provide sufficient off road parking to avoid access routes being blocked to larger service vehicles and prevent parking on pavements.
- c) Provide safe access to and from the road network, address any impacts on road safety and the local road and public transport network. Any impacts identified through Transport Assessments/ Statements must be identified and mitigated. This may include but would not be limited to, passing places, road widening, junction improvements, bus stop infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. A number of potential mitigation measures have been identified in association with the development of sites and the most significant are shown on the Proposals Map as TSP's.
- d) Provide covered and secure facilities for cycle parking at all flats/apartments, retail, community, education, health and employment centres.
- e) Garages and parking provision must be designed to comply with Moray Council parking specifications see Appendix 2.
- f) The road layout must be designed to allow for the efficient mechanical sweeping of all roadways and channels, pavements, turning areas and junctions. The road layout must also be designed to enable safe working practices, minimising reversing of service vehicles with hammerheads minimised in preference to turning areas and to provide adequate space for the collection of waste and movement of waste collection vehicles.
- g) The road and house layout in urban development should allow for communal refuse collection points where the design does not allow for individual storage within the

curtilage and / or collections at kerbside. Communal collection points may either be for the temporary storage of containers taken by the individual householder or for the permanent storage of larger containers. The requirements for a communal storage area are stated within the Council's Kerbside Collection Policy, which will be a material consideration.

- h) Road signs should be minimised designed and placed at the back of footpaths to reduce street clutter, avoid obstructing pedestrian movements and safeguarding sightlines.
- i) Within communal parking areas there will be a requirement for electric car charging points. Parking spaces for car sharing must be provided where a need is identified by the Transportation Manager.

iii) **Water environment, pollution, contamination.**

- a) Acceptable water and drainage provision must be made, including the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) for dealing with surface water including temporary/ construction phase SUDS (see Policy EP12).
- b) New development should not be located in areas at flood risk or increase vulnerability to flooding (see Policy EP12). Exceptions to this would only be considered in specific circumstances, e.g. extension to an existing building or change of use to an equal or less vulnerable use. Where this exception is applied the proposed development must include resilience measures such as raised floor levels and electrical sockets.
- c) Proposals must avoid major hazard sites and address any potential risk of pollution including ground water contamination in accordance with recognised pollution prevention and control measures.
- d) Proposals must protect and wherever practicable enhance water features through for example naturalisation of watercourses by introducing a more natural planform and removing redundant or unnecessary structures.
- e) Proposals must address and sufficiently mitigate any contaminated land issues.
- f) Make acceptable arrangements for waste collection and management and encourage recycling.
- g) Avoid sterilising significant workable reserves of minerals, prime agricultural land or productive forestry.
- h) Proposals must avoid areas at risk of coastal erosion and coastal change.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

- a) Development of employment land is supported to deliver the aims of the Moray Economic Strategy. A hierarchical approach will be taken when assessing proposals for business and industrial uses. New and existing employment designations are set out in Settlement Statements and their description identifies where these fall within the policy hierarchy.

Proposals must comply with Policy DP1, site development requirements within town and village statements, and all other relevant policies within the Plan. Office development that will attract significant numbers of people must comply with Policy DP7 Retail/Town Centres.

b) Business Parks.

Business parks will be kept predominantly for 'high-end' businesses such as those related to life sciences and high technology uses. These are defined as Class 4 (business) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997. This applies to new proposals as well as redevelopment within established Business Parks.

Proposals for the development of new business parks must adhere to the key design principles set out in town statements or Development Frameworks adopted by the Council.

c) Industrial Estates.

Industrial Estates will be primarily reserved for uses defined by Classes 4 (business), 5 (general) and 6 (storage and distribution) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997. This applies to new proposals as well as redevelopment within established Industrial Estates. Industrial Estates could be suitable sites for waste management facilities.

d) Existing Business Areas.

Long established business uses will be protected from non-conforming uses (e.g. housing). The introduction or expansion of non-business uses (e.g. retail) will not be permitted, except where the total redevelopment of the site is proposed.

e) Other Uses.

Class 2 (business and financial), 3 (food and drink), 11 (assembly and leisure) and activities which do not fall within a specific use class (*sui generis*), including waste management facilities will be considered in relation to their suitability to the business or industrial area concerned, their compatibility with neighbouring uses and the supply of serviced employment land. Retail uses will not be permitted unless they are considered ancillary to the principal use (e.g. manufacture, wholesale). For this purpose, 'ancillary' is taken as being linked directly to the existing use of the unit and comprising no more than 10% of the total floor area up to a total of 1,000 sq metres (gross) or where a sequential approach in accordance with town centre first principles has identified no other suitable sites and the proposal is in accordance with all other relevant policies and site requirements are met.

f) Areas of Mixed Use.

Proposals for a mix of uses where site specific opportunities are identified within Industrial Estate designations in the Settlement Statement, will be considered favourably where evidence is provided to the authority's satisfaction that the proposed mix will enable the servicing of employment land and will not compromise the supply of effective employment land. A Development Framework that shows the layout of the whole site, range of uses,

landscaping, open space and site specific design requirements must be provided. The minimum levels of industrial use specified within designations must be achieved on the rest of the site.

g) Rural Businesses and Farm Diversification.

Proposals for new business development and extensions to existing businesses in rural locations including tourism and distillery operations will be supported where there is a locational need for the site and the proposal is in accordance with all other relevant policies.

A high standard of design appropriate to the rural environment will be required and proposals involving the rehabilitation of existing properties (e.g. farm steadings) to provide business premises will be encouraged.

Outright retail activities will be considered against policy DP7, and impacts on established shopping areas, but ancillary retailing (e.g. farm shop) will generally be acceptable.

Farm diversification proposals and business proposals that will support the economic viability of the farm business are supported where they meet the requirements of all other relevant Local Development Plan policies.

h) Inward Investment Sites.

The proposals map identifies a proposed inward investment site at Dallachy which is safeguarded for a single user business proposal seeking a large (up to 40ha), rural site. Additional inward investment sites may be identified during the lifetime of the Plan.

Proposals must comply with Policy DP1 and other relevant policies.

EP3 SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER.

i) Special Landscape Areas (SLA's).

Development proposals within SLA's will only be permitted where they do not prejudice the special qualities of the designated area set out in the Moray Local Landscape Designation Review, adopt the highest standards of design in accordance with Policy DP1 and other relevant policies, avoid adverse effects on the landscape and visual qualities the area is important for, and are for one of the following uses;

- a) In rural areas (outwith defined settlement and rural grouping boundaries);
 - i) Where the proposal involves an appropriate extension or change of use to existing buildings, or
 - ii) For uses directly related to distilling, agriculture, forestry and fishing which have a clear locational need and demonstrate that there is no alternative location, or
 - iii) For nationally significant infrastructure developments identified in the National Planning Framework.
- b) In urban areas (within defined settlement, rural grouping boundaries and LONG designations);

- i) Where proposals conform with the requirements of the settlement statements, Policies PP1, DP1 and DP3 as appropriate and all other policy requirements, and
 - ii) Proposals reflect the traditional settlement character in terms of siting and design.
- c) The Coastal (Culbin to Burghead, Burghead to Lossiemouth, Lossiemouth to Portgordon, Portgordon to Cullen Coast), Cluny Hill, Spynie, Quarrywood and Pluscarden SLA's are classed as " sensitive" in terms of Policy DP4 and no new housing in the open countryside will be permitted within these SLA's.

Proposals for new housing within other SLA's not specified in the preceding para will be considered against the criteria set out above and the criteria of Policy DP4.

Where a proposal is covered by both a SLA and CAT or ENV policy/ designation, the SLA policy will take precedence.

ii) Landscape Character.

New developments must be designed to reflect the landscape characteristics identified in the Landscape Character Assessment of the area in which they are proposed.

Proposals for new roads and hill tracks associated with rural development must ensure that their alignment and use minimises visual impact, avoids sensitive natural heritage and historic environment features, including areas protected for nature conservation, carbon rich soils and protected species, avoids adverse impacts upon the local hydrology and takes account of recreational use of the track and links to the wider network.