

# Highland Council Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan

## Comments received for the consultation that ended on 13th December 2013 ordered by Site

Customer Number	04414	Name	Medco Ltd	Organisation	Medco Ltd
Agent Name amd Organisation (if applicable)		S White		urnberry Consulting Ltd	
Section	4.Development Allocations		Paragraph		
Reference	CS1		Type	Support	Comment Late
No					

Comment Changes

### Representation

The Estate supports the allocation of this site, which will enable consolidation and expansion of this prestigious regional leisure development.

Allocated to	Castle Stuart	CS1	Castle Stuart	
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Customer Number	04364	Name	Katharine Rist	Organisation	Woodland Trust
Agent Name amd Organisation (if applicable)					
Section	4.Development Allocations		Paragraph		
Reference	CS1		Type	Change	Comment Late
No					

Comment Changes

Remaining patch of trees in middle of area is on OS 6 inch 1843-1882 and should be assessed for it potential as ancient woodland. Opportunity for retention and expansion of this area.

### Representation

The Woodland Trust Scotland considers that any woodland included in Scottish Natural Heritage's Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) which is present on historical maps or which exhibits a significant number of ancient woodland indicators can be considered as ancient and is therefore high value for conservation and worthy of further study and is likely to pose a constraint on development. We believe that ancient woodland is amongst the most precious and biodiverse habitats in the UK and is a finite resource which should be protected. Highland Council supplementary guidance notes that woodlands and trees offer multiple benefits in terms of addressing climate change, improving the water environment, providing valuable habitats, timber industry and creating recreational opportunities. Considerations include the cumulative impact of woodland removal, and fragmentation of habitat. Both Scottish Government policy and the Highland Wide LDP policy create a presumption in favour of protecting woodland. The Highland Wide LDP in policy 57 recognises ancient woodland as (depending on the category) of regional or national importance. Both the Woodland Trust Scotland and Scottish Planning Policy at para 148 consider ancient and semi natural woodland to be an important and irreplaceable national resource and should be protected and enhanced. The Woodland Trust Scotland would like to see a clear statement that the loss of ancient woodland cannot be mitigated, and therefore warrants protection from development. Development impacts on ancient woodland in a number of ways including chemically, disturbance by human activity, fragmentation, and colonisation of non-native plants. The cumulative effect of development is more damaging to ancient woodland than individual effects which should not be considered in isolation.

Allocated to	Castle Stuart	CS1	Castle Stuart	
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