

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT - HISTORIC

GENERAL

The context that An Camas Mòr is to be conceived within relates to the historical development in the area as well as to contemporary issues. The illustrations are not designs for An Camas Mòr, as these would be subject to later consultations, the wishes and needs of users and the development of Detailed Design Guidelines.

TRADITIONAL VERNACULAR BUILDINGS



Cottages in Glenfeshie, Landseer

The indigenous 'vernacular' architecture of Badenoch & Strathspey area was predominantly made of timber, turf and thatch, of hewn cruck-framed structures whose granite boulder foundations and walls can still be seen in some undisturbed locations. All these materials would have been gathered from nearby, perhaps no further than 400 meters. These are the truly sustainable building materials of the area.

VICTORIAN BUILDINGS



Grantown

Increased prosperity and the introduction of the railways nearby allowed granite, sawn timber and other manufactured materials to become economic. The buildings are placed within a designed framework and feuing plan, usually on the front of the site and to the gable boundary forming continuous streets. The buildings are usually symmetrical with a central doorway and balancing windows, gables and chimneys. Whilst standards of comfort were generally much higher, these standards no longer meet current expectations and needs. These buildings became a new 'vernacular' in their own right and the basis of the recent housing in Rothiemurchus at Coylum Road.

TWENTIETH CENTURY TIMBER HOUSING



Forestry Houses, Glenmore

In the twentieth century a great deal of the housing was publicly funded and many of the most enduring were built by the Forestry Commission for their staff. These houses were generally imported from Scandinavia and they have been found to be warm, easy to maintain and easy to adapt. Whilst the layout is generally very functional there is little regard for the unique characteristics of the area.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT - CONTEMPORARY

GENERAL

The development of Detailed Design Guidelines is not the subject of the Proposed Masterplan Report, but will be subject to government advice (eg. Planning Advice Note 67, 'Housing Quality'), sustainability considerations and standards and detailed discussions. The illustrations are not designs for An Camas Mòr.

SCOTTISH HOUSING



Much contemporary housing has been criticised by owners and public alike for its low standards of design, making little sustainable contribution to the wider community, offering little shelter and looking as if it might be anywhere. Often residents commute from such areas, dependent on private transport. This illustration shows what would not be acceptable at An Camas Mòr, with its low density planning based on a wide distributor road, without a landscape context or distinctive character.



Coylum Road, Rothiemurchus

Design Guidelines, giving plot locations, storey heights and widths, materials, and details, with freedom of expression to the rear, have been previously used at Rothiemurchus, based on the Victorian 'vernacular' and with a low density, producing an environment that people find very desirable.

SCANDINAVIAN HOUSING



Housing in Scandinavia is widely recognised for being ahead of our standards of construction and sustainability. An overall smaller footprint and the use of public transport which can be achieved with 'joined-up' housing, built on the edge of its plot, helps make such places more sustainable. The designs uses materials, products and details to give local distinctive identity.