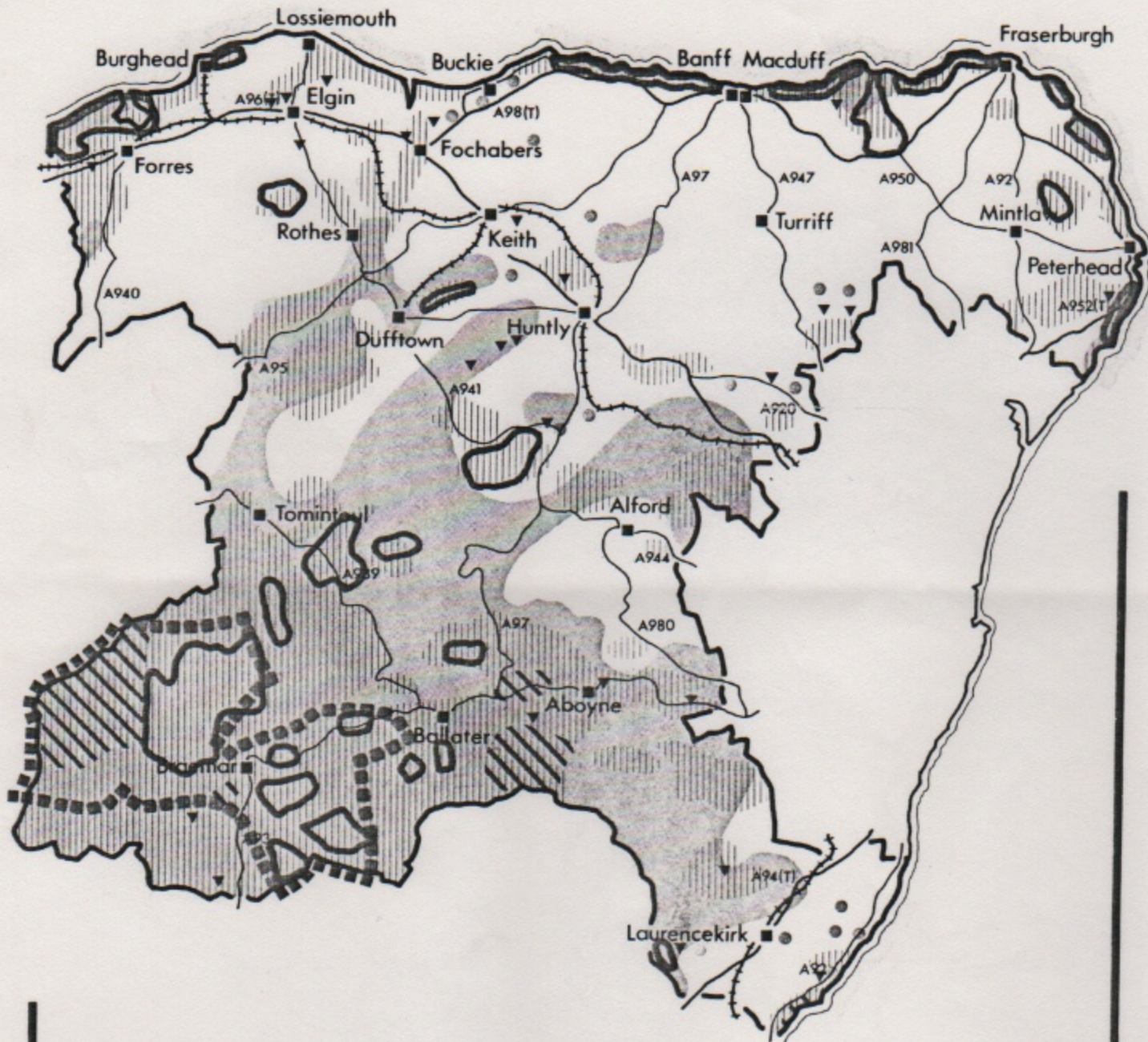


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NATURAL RESOURCES



- NR16 { NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE
- { SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
- NR17 : SITES OF INTEREST TO NATURAL SCIENCE
(Incl. River Dee System)
- NR18 { AREA OF REGIONAL LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE
- { NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
- { PREFERRED COASTAL CONSERVATION ZONE

Heritage Fund

- 7.31 It has been stressed that Grampian Region's tourism potential greatly relies on its natural and cultural resources. There is a need, therefore, to conserve both the cultural and natural aspects of the environment. There are already grants available to assist in the renovation and maintenance of important historic buildings, and the Nature Conservancy Council has powers to protect certain designated sites from adverse developments. There are, though, other aspects of the Region's heritage which often do not qualify for such aid, but which are still worthy of protection. In some cases only limited funding may be available, or in others particular projects may draw on a variety of sources of funding. In these cases the conservation of a particular aspect of the Region's heritage may prove difficult without the availability of extra, if limited, finance. It is to support this type of project that the Regional Council is proposing the establishment of a special joint fund which will provide limited finance to conservation projects of particular Regional significance across the broad spectrum of natural and cultural resources.

Supporting Proposal NR13

The Regional Council will, in collaboration with other agencies, endeavour to set up a Heritage Fund for the conservation of the most sensitive aspects of the Region's archaeology, natural environment and cultural and architectural history.

- 7.32 The projects chosen for funding would be required to make worthwhile contributions to the Region's natural and cultural heritage. In this regard the revision of the Regional Interpretative Strategy as outlined in Policy NR9 would provide some initial criteria for evaluating the suitability of projects. Until that time guidelines for the selection of projects will require to be established in consultation with District Councils and other agencies. The projects chosen should, preferably, contribute to the tourism potential of Grampian Region, but this will not preclude funds being used to protect other important aspects of its heritage. It is important that the fund retains flexibility and that, in addition to assisting specific projects, it can also be used to respond to requests to rescue or preserve particular aspects of the Region's heritage.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 7.33 Initiatives for managing the environmental assets of the Rural Area must include policies which protect and enhance the environment. These policies must cover the full range of measures for pollution, nature conservation, landscape, archaeology and the built environment.

Pollution

- 7.34 Grampian Region's environment is generally unpolluted. Air pollution is not a problem except in localised areas. However, pollution problems do exist; short sea outfalls on the coast are still a problem in some areas, and inland there is also a hazard to water supply and fish stocks from inadequately treated sewage, industrial effluent and seepage of chemicals from farmland. The River Purification Boards are responsible for the monitoring and control of pollution of inland waterways and this will shortly be extended to cover the entire coastline. Grampian Regional Council is responsible for ensuring that there is adequate provision for sewage disposal and this will entail upgrading several short sea outfalls along the coast in accordance with the priorities stated in the Housing and Rural Economy Chapters.

Recommendation NR14

The Regional Council supports the River Purification Boards in their statutory endeavours to minimise the pollution of inland and coastal waters.

- 7.35 Grampian Regional Council has a contingency plan for dealing with oil pollution on the coast, and the details of the procedures are contained in a report entitled "Grampian Regional Council Technical Advisory Committee on Oil and Dangerous Substances Pollution: Emergency Procedures for Local Authorities"

