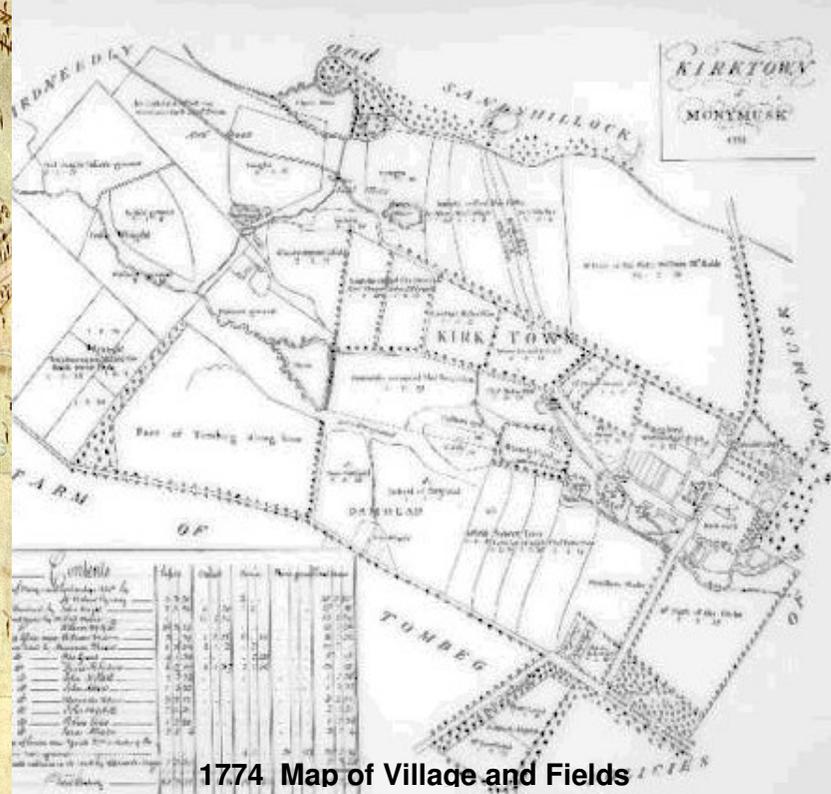


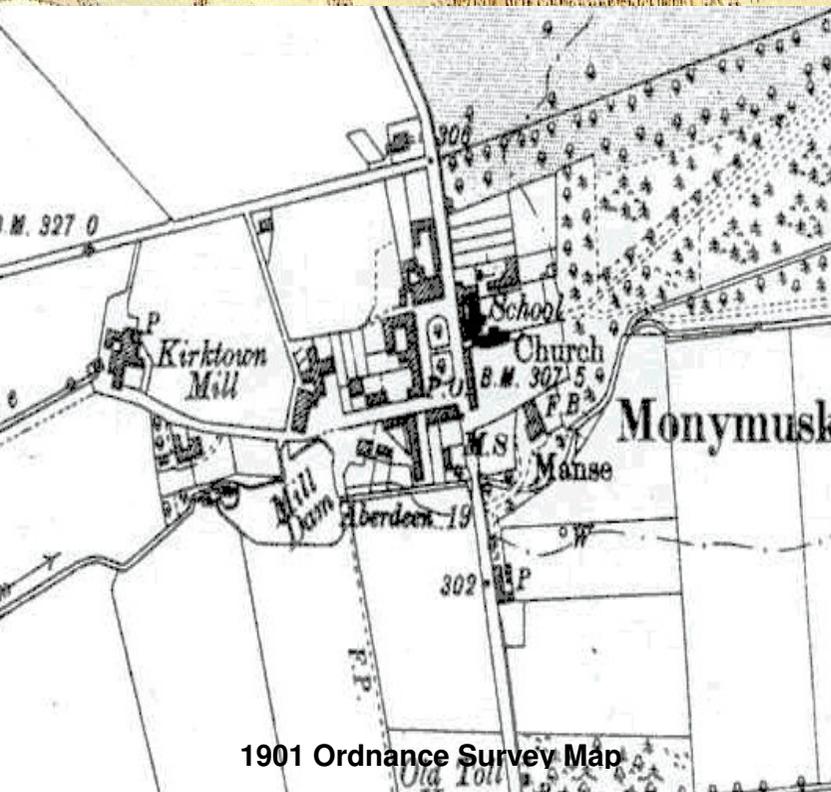
SECTION 3
CONTEXT



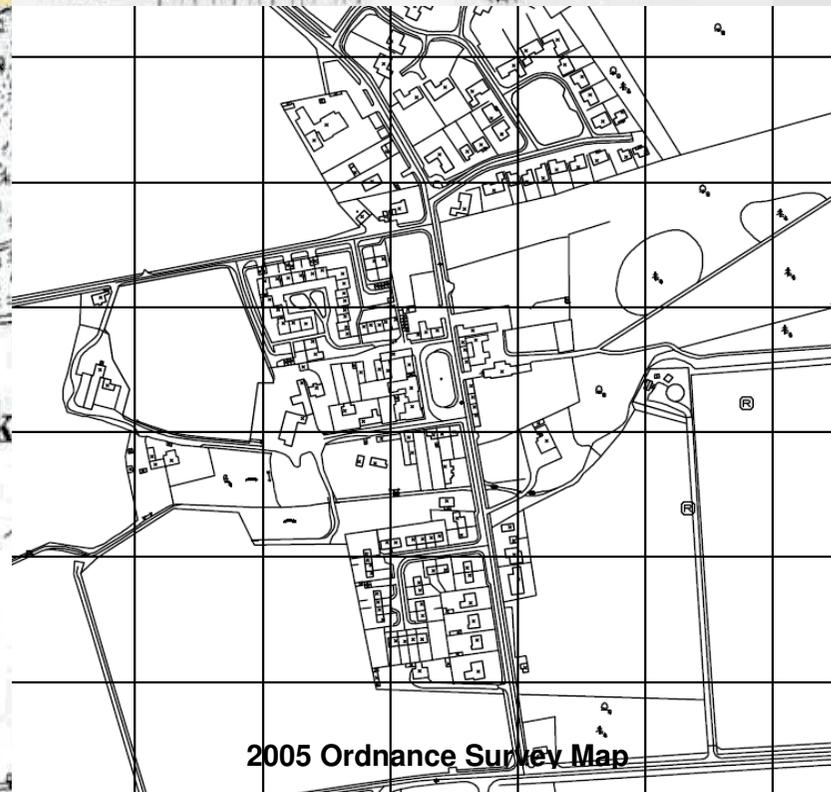
1751 Townscape Proposals



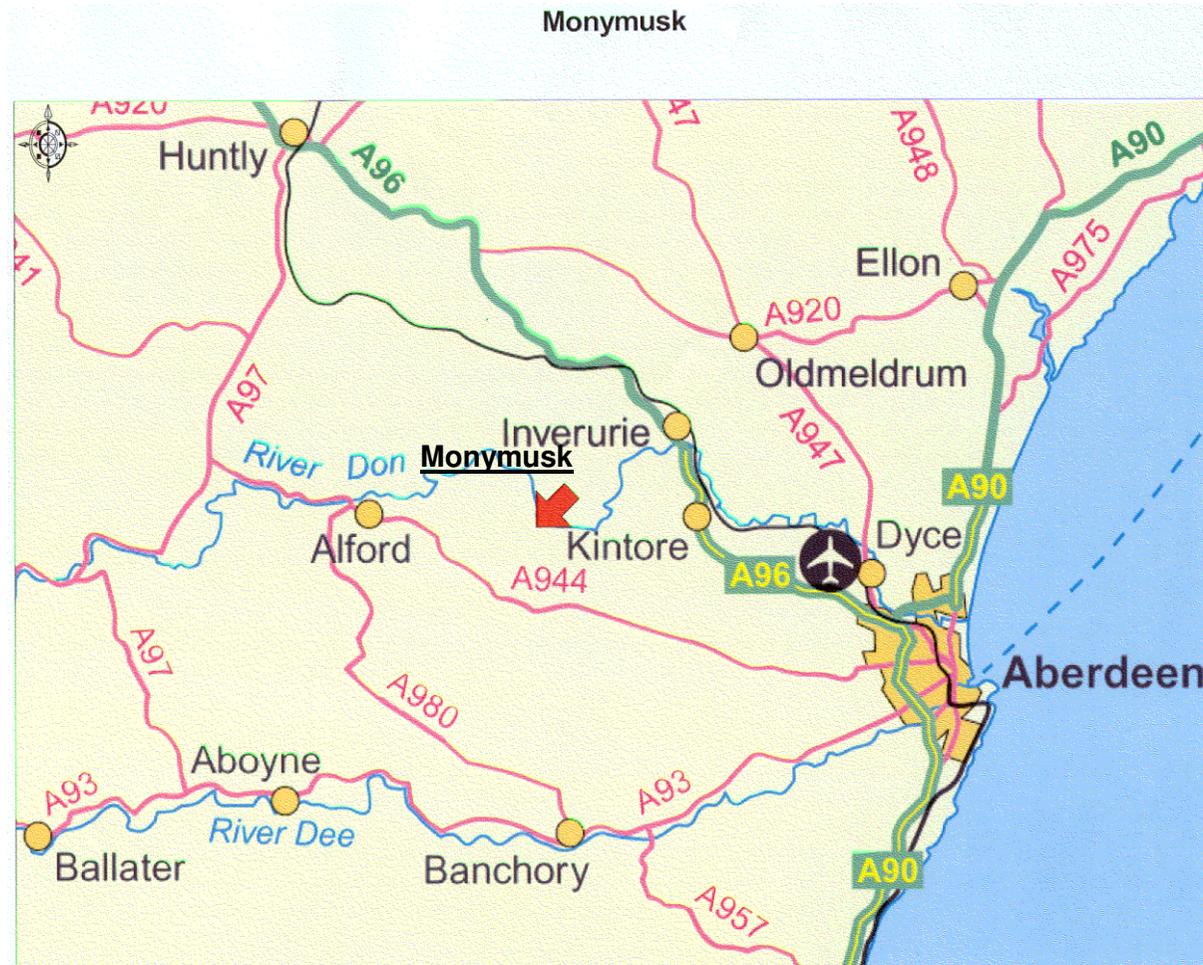
1774 Map of Village and Fields



1901 Ordnance Survey Map



2005 Ordnance Survey Map



 Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449. Plotted Scale - 1:359434

Source: Ordnance Survey

LOCATION & CONTEXT

Monymusk Village is located to the east of Tillyfourie and to the west of Kemnay on the banks of the River Don, Aberdeenshire. It is nestled in the shadow of Cairn William and Pitfichie Hill.

The village is identified as a rural service centre within the Rural Housing Market Area of Aberdeenshire District. It is also within the Area of Landscape Significance and therefore development in this area should respect this landscape designation.

The village is rural in character and the existing built form reflects its history as a “planned” village and its evolution over a number of years.

HISTORIC ANALYSIS
1730 – 1846

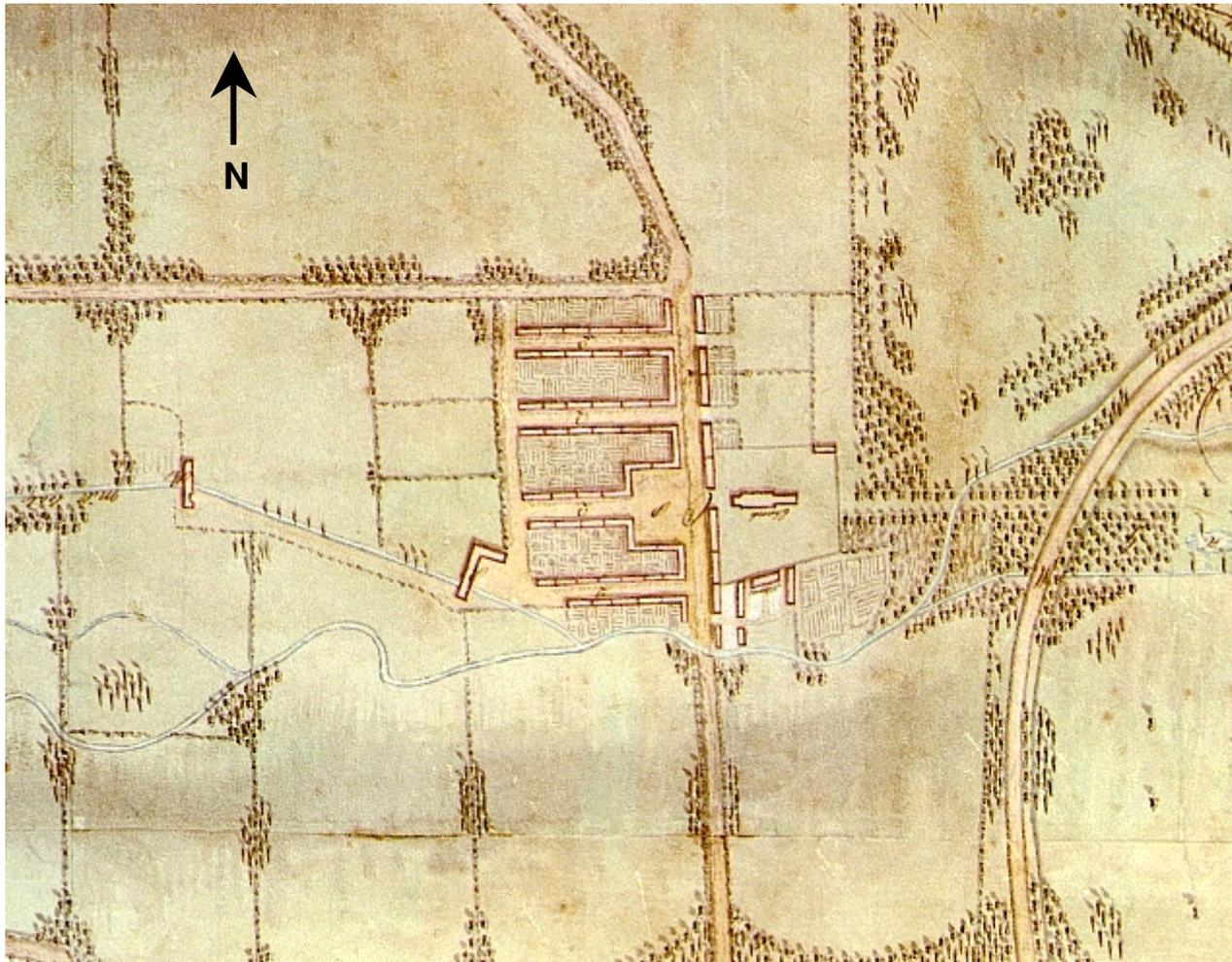
The sheltered and secluded site of Monymusk has been an area of settlement for many Centuries. Neolithic man left behind a legacy of stone circles such as those at Deer Park, Tombeg and Whitehills.

Before 1730 the village square was used to overnight cattle being taken along the old drove roads from Alford to Aberdeen and from central Scotland via the Cairn o' Mount to Inverness.

The Lint Mill and Lodge (Beech Lodge), built in 1749, later became a bobbin mill where bobbins and Jute were manufactured for export to Calcutta from Aberdeen up to 1859. Like many other places in the north east, Monymusk was important for its spinning and weaving industry.

The 18th Century landscape design of Monymusk was taken to an art form, as millions of trees were planted on the Estate by Sir Archibald to provide shelter, beauty and income. The most famous planting is Paradise Wood, laid out in 1719.

The symmetrical patterns of planting and long vistas culminating in ruins and obelisks suggest romantic notions of a classical landscape. As well as revolutionising the field systems around Monymusk, Sir Archibald also supervised improvements to the village.



1751 Townscape Proposals for Monymusk village and surrounding fields

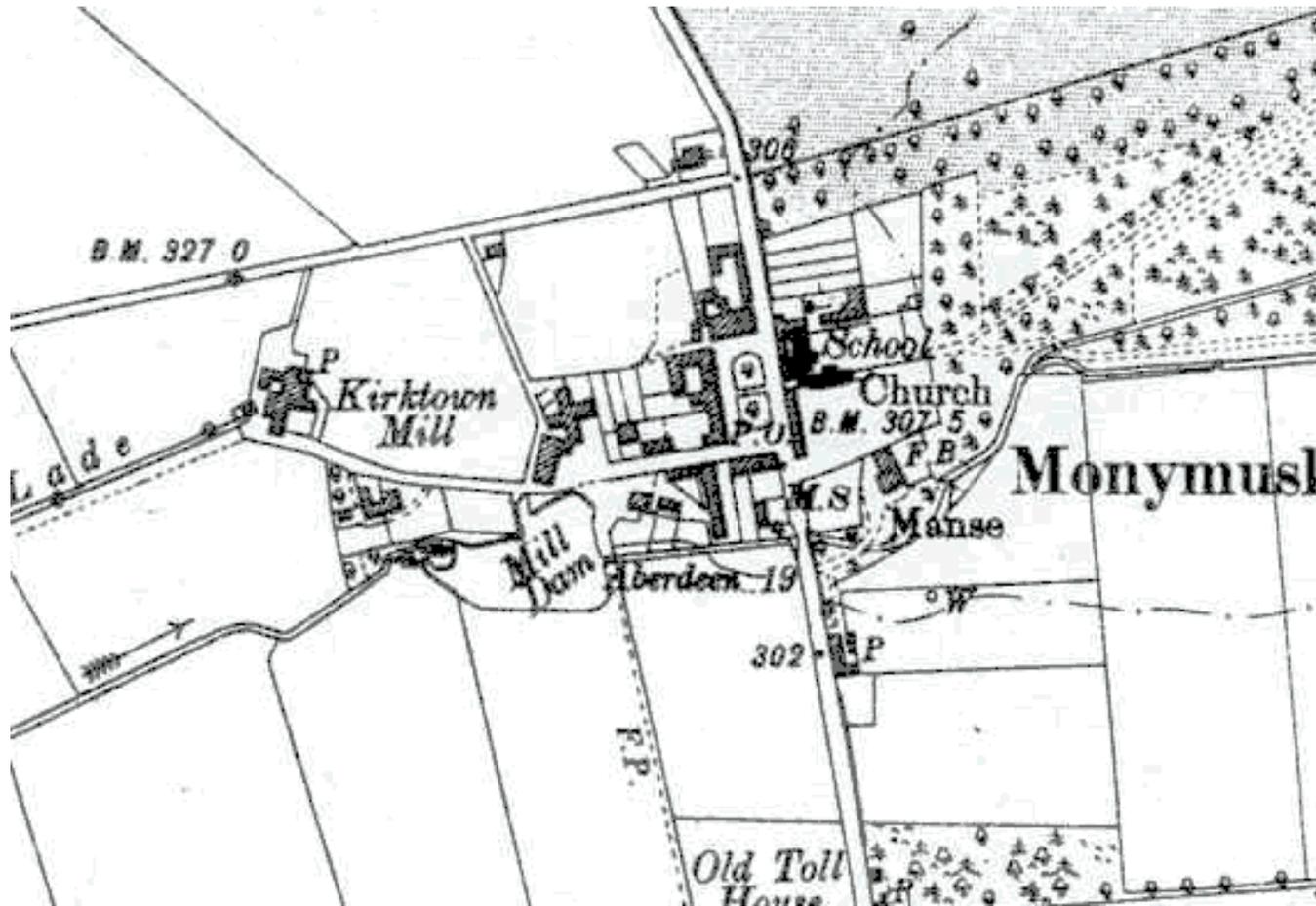
1846 – 1960

The farms, fields and landscape at this time more or less survive as they appear today. The fields have almost all been increased in size, making them more efficient. The straightening works and drainage improvements along the riverbanks were completed during this time to try to prevent the river flooding the fertile "haugh" land.

The planned geometrical appearance of ordered fields, generally square or rectangular in shape with field boundaries formed by stone dykes, shelter belts and tree plantations are linked by farm tracks and roads. The speed of change from the old order was variable, so there was both evolution and revolution in this reshaping. However, this agricultural revolution was itself eclipsed within a very few years by the industrial revolution.

The new industries that started in the 19th Century could not have occurred without the increase in population created in the eighteenth century by improved food and farming methods.

The earlier creation of the dams on the Todlachie burn to the west of the village provided the power for the mills at Mill House and Gloies farm, as well as the Lapidary mill. The dam at Gloies created the flooded fields below Beech Lodge for soaking the flax in preparation



Village in 1901, early Ordnance Survey Map



Village in 2005 – Source Ordnance Survey

for making linen. In fact the name Beech Lodge is probably derived from these bleach fields.

1960 – 2006

During the 19th Century, Monymusk remained in essence an Estate Village with its economic life centred on farming and forestry.

Though the 20th Century has seen the physical growth of the village with the addition of two housing estates at St Mary's and St Andrew's, the parish population has roughly halved in the same time.

Agriculture is no longer the major source of employment in the area and many village residents travel to work in the larger settlements. Although no longer an Estate Village, in the strictest sense of the term, Monymusk still exhibits many of the features of an Estate Village.

The role of Monymusk now is that of a Parish Centre and dormitory settlement.



North across farmland and the Don to the Bennachie range from Pitfichie Drive



View from B993 looking north west across open fields

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

The identity and character of the Monymusk landscape is considered in the Scottish Natural Heritage South and Central Aberdeenshire: Landscape Character Assessment.

The land around Monymusk Village falls within two main landscape character types of; open farmland and wooded farmland. The only urban area is the small village of Monymusk.

The topography is a broad sweeping valley on either side of the Don below the hills of Bennachie, Mithrie Tap and Pitfichie Hill. The landscape consists primarily of mixed farmland with varying sizes of fields, many coniferous plantations, scattered cottages and the one village of Monymusk.

The woodland and the small hills of the estate provide numerous enclosed pockets of intimate landscape which contrast with the sudden long distance views when one drives through the more open areas. Avenues alongside the roads and tracks are a major feature of the estate. The effect of changing relief and farming patterns, and a strong woodland structure creates an especially varied landscape at local level.

Paradise Wood is recorded on the SNH Ancient Woodland Inventory as an Ancient Woodland (and SSSI); a site with proven continuity of woodland cover for at least 250 years and an unusually

high number of vascular plant species.

The landscape around Monymusk House and Paradise Wood to the north of the village are listed in the Countryside Commission for Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes 1997.

A more detailed assessment of the landscape, together with guidelines for future development are contained in the "Landscape Strategy for Monymusk Estate" reproduced at Appendix 1 of the Masterplan.



View from Tombeg Reservoir North East to Monymusk

Facilities and Services in Monymusk

Monymusk Primary School	0 miles
Village Hall	0 miles
Football Pitches	0 miles
Newsagents/General Store/Post Office	0 miles
Hotel/Pub	0 miles
Mobile Royal Bank of Scotland Branch OR Clydesdale Bank, Inverurie	0 miles/6 miles
Mobile Library OR Kenmay	0 miles OR 2.9 miles
Garden Centre	0 miles
Pre School Nursery	0 miles
Afterschool Club	0 miles
Kenmay Academy Secondary School	2.9 miles
Medical Centre, High Street, Kenmay	2.9 miles
Dental Practice, Inverurie	6 miles
Petrol Station, Inverurie	6 miles
Train Station, Inverurie	6 miles
Hospital, Inverurie	6 miles
Day Nursery, Oyne	6 miles
Supermarket – Morrisons/Tesco, Inverurie OR CO-OP, Alford	6 miles OR 8 miles
Bus Interchange, Aberdeen	16 miles

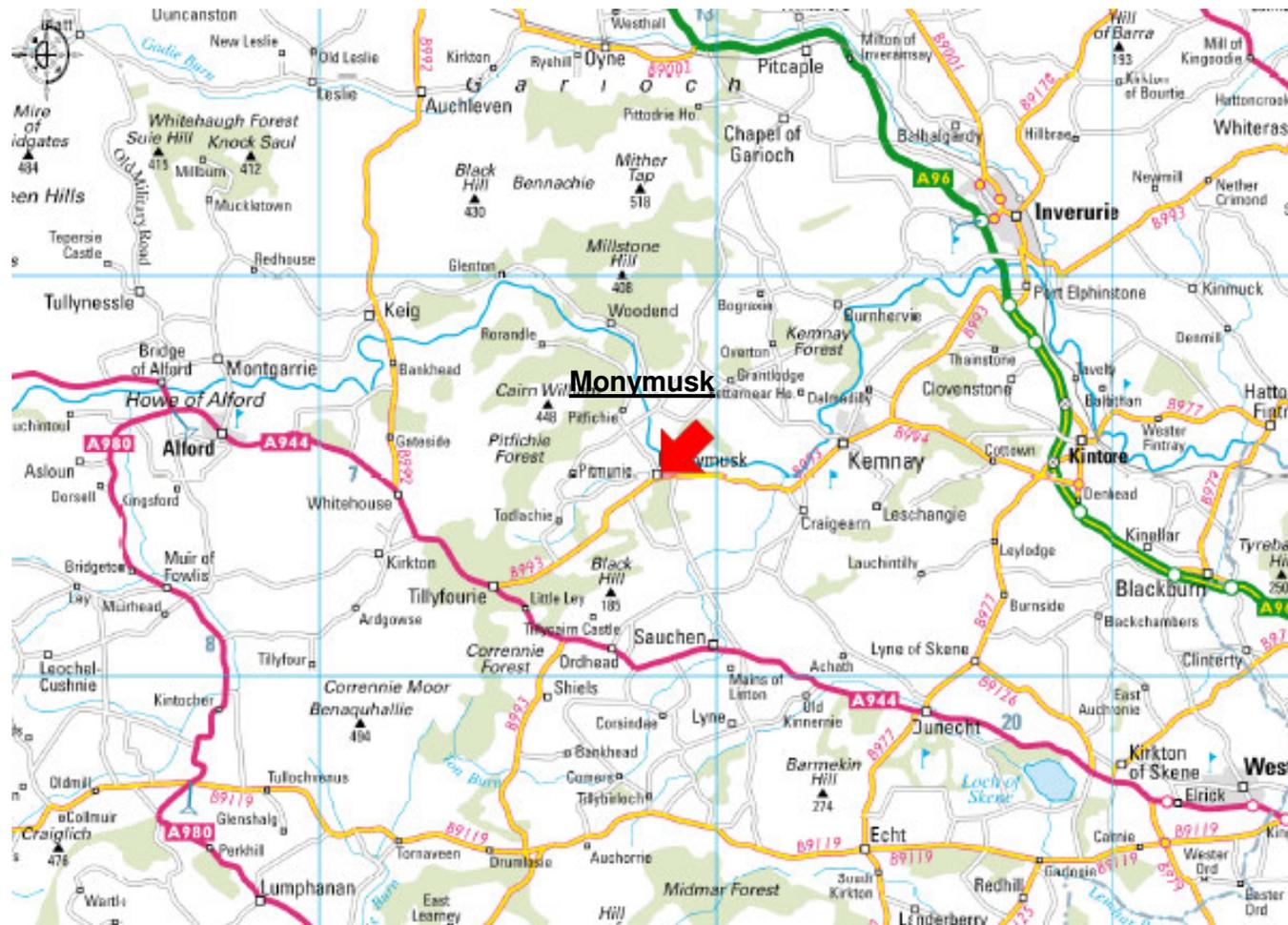
RURAL FACILITIES

Monymusk is well served in terms of public facilities (post office, village shop, village hall etc). Despite the lack of a shop for grocery shopping, the village is served on a weekly basis by various travelling services including fish and baking.

The majority of supermarkets now offer delivery services direct to your door largely negating the need to travel in to Inverurie. The village is also served by weekly mobile library and banking facilities.

In terms of recreation in the village, there are football pitches, the Monymusk Arts Trust organise events in the village hall and there are various other indoor sports opportunities on offer in Alford, Kemnay and Inverurie.

The village is connected to these places by public transport, which also provides access to Aberdeen and further afield, providing alternatives to the private car.



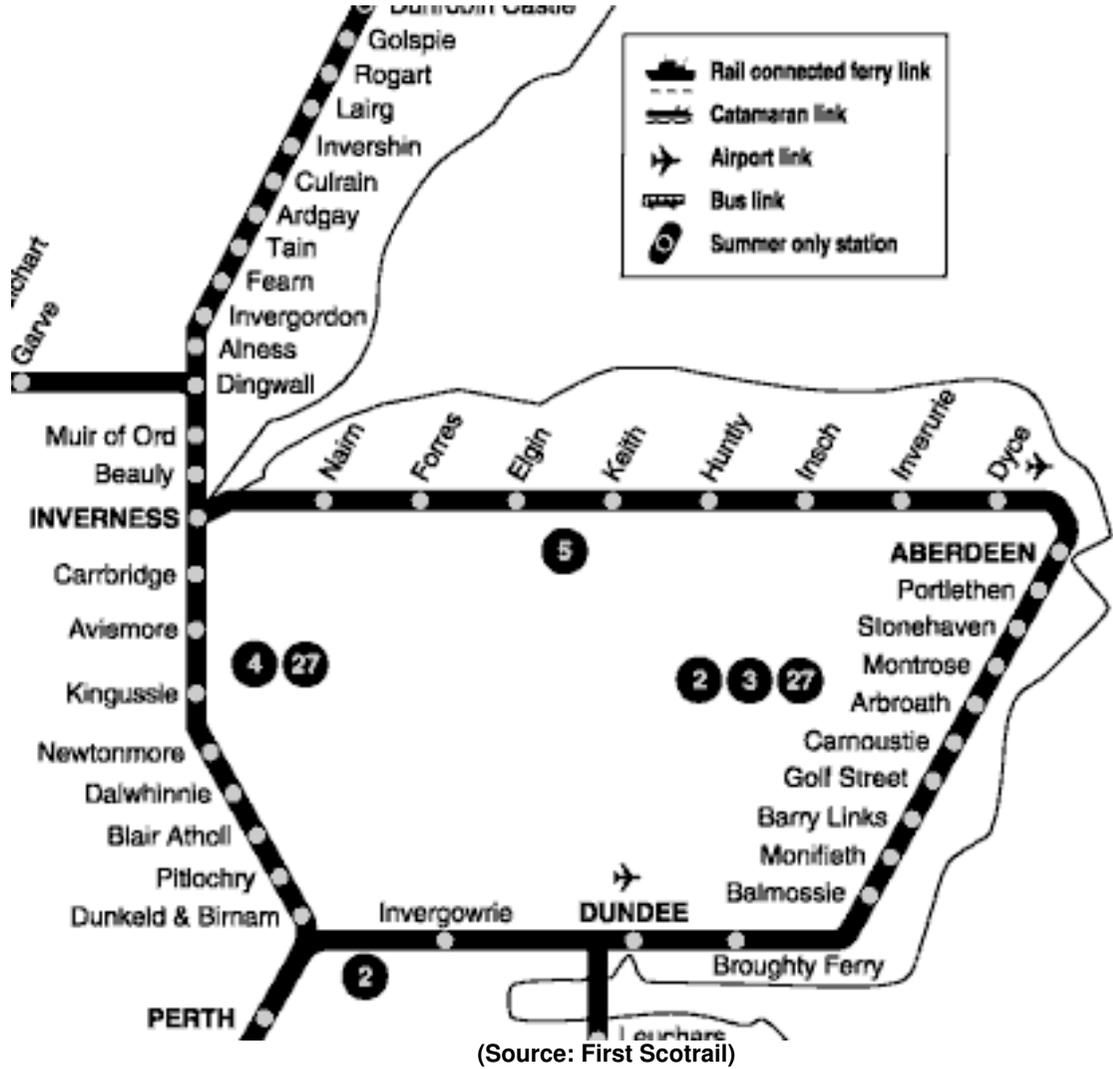
(Source: Multimap.com)

TRANSPORT

Road Network

Monymusk Village is situated on the B993, facilitating access to Kintore, Inverurie and the A96 to Aberdeen.

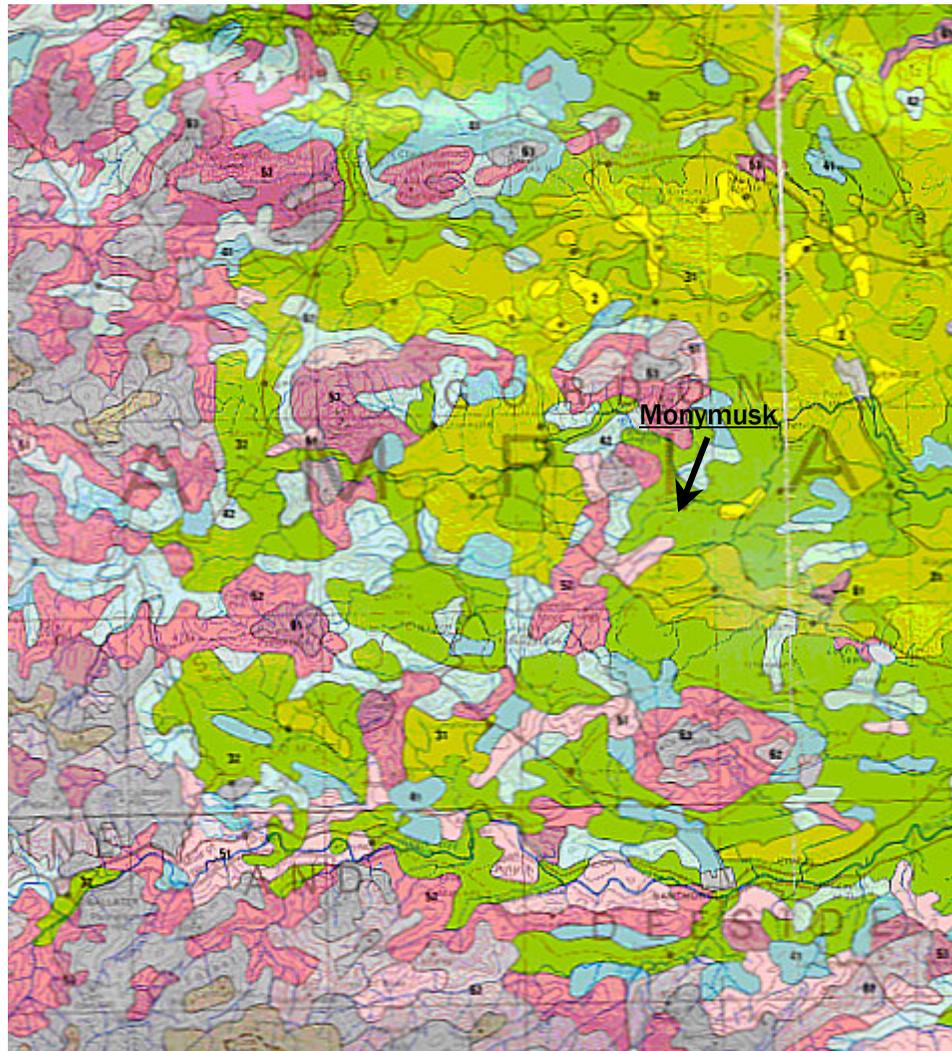
The main transport network is accessed to the south of the village via the A944 providing access by both public transport and private car to Alford and further afield.



Rail Network

The closest railway station to Monymusk is Inverurie. The Regional Transport Strategy aims to improve local services and to provide a new train station at Kintore.

This facilitates a 20-minute journey from Inverurie to Aberdeen City and provides a valid alternative to the private car for commuters.



(Source: The Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen)

LAND QUALITY

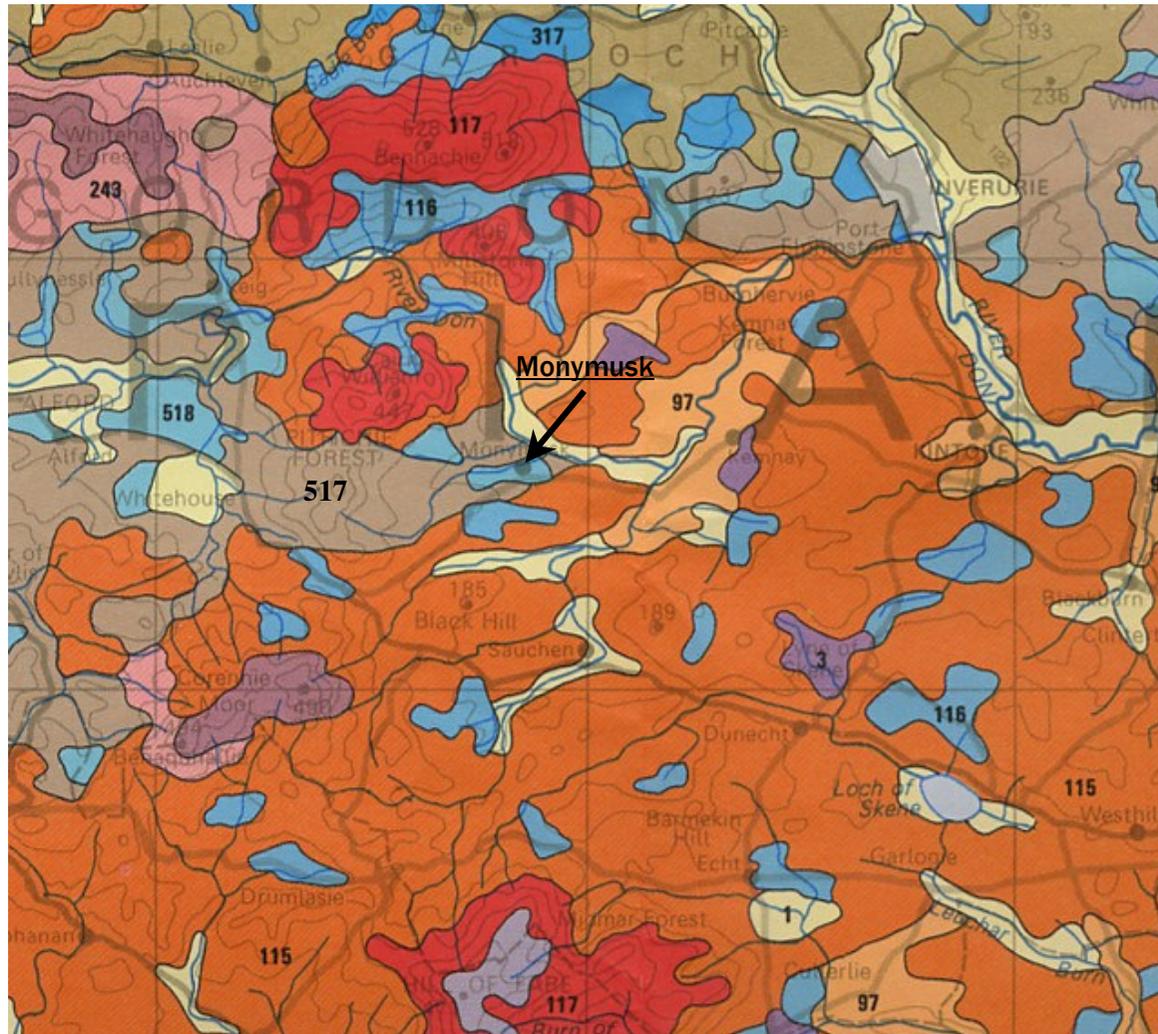
Agricultural Land Quality

The agricultural land around Monymusk is classified as Class 3(2) - "Land capable of producing a moderate range of crops".

This land is capable of producing good yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, and/or moderate yields of a wider range including potatoes, some vegetable crops (e.g. field beans and summer harvested brassicae) and oil seed rape.

The degree of variability between years will be greater for this land than is the case for Classes 1 and 2, mainly due to interactions between climate, soil and management factors affecting the timing and type of cultivations, sowing and harvesting.

The moderate limitations require careful management and include wetness, restrictions to rooting depth, unfavourable structure or texture, strongly sloping ground, slight erosion or a variable climate. The range of soil types within the class is greater than for previous classes.



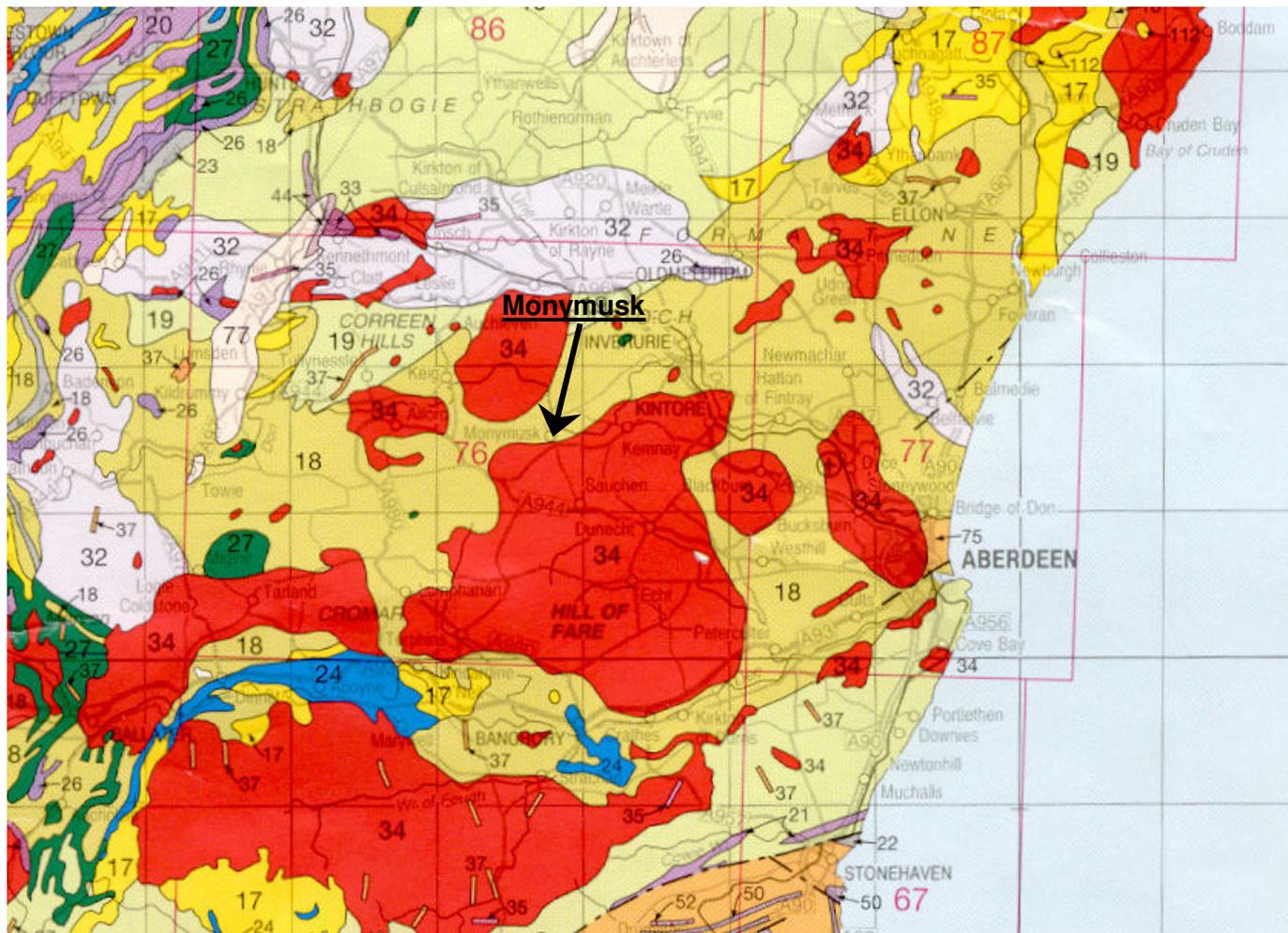
Source: The Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen

Soil Survey

The land that the village of Monymusk sits on is classified as Class 518 and the surrounding land Class 517 both classifications are typical of undulating lowlands and hills with gentle and strong slopes.

Class 517 soils are formed of brown forest soils: some humus-iron podzols, noncalcareous gleys and peaty gleys. This type of soil is suited to arable and permanent pastures, acid bent-fescue grassland and dry boreal heather moor.

Class 518 soils are formed of a combination of Noncalcareous gleys, peaty gleys with some brown forest soils with gleying. This type of soil is suited to rush pastures and sedge mires, white bent tussock-grass and with bent grassland.



(Source: British Geological Survey – Solid Geology Map)

Geology

Monymusk village is located on an area of land categorised as class 18. This land is reported to be Quartzose-Mica-Schist, Dalradian metamorphic rock.

The surrounding land is predominantly categorised as class 34. This land is predominantly Granite, Syenite, gneiss and allied types of igneous rock.