

SCOTIA HOMES

The Castleton project was successfully delivered via a collaborative approach between Aberdeenshire Council, Scotia Homes, The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, Urban Design Associates and Michael Gilmour Associates. The exemplar process used for Castleton illustrates the benefits of working closely with the community and key stakeholders.

The 247 unit scheme is considered to be one of the first successful projects developed in Scotland, through the Enquiry by Design (EbD) process as recognised by the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2008. Overall, the work at Castleton has helped to establish a new benchmark in collaborative design-led masterplanning and sustainable growth modelling in Scotland and has created a safe, walkable and well planned development with active links to open space and community woodlands.

Built referencing the traditions of North East Scotland, the use of simple back lanes for vehicle parking and narrow roadways creates a pleasant people first environment. In context it is shaped to reflect the north east vernacular through its design and materials with particular attention to detail. The development has a strong sense of place creating an attractive and inviting residential setting giving the site a much greater emotional and hopefully long term financial value.

Buildings address the spaces and streets which creates different character areas. The design of individual properties has been carefully developed to provide a range and variety sometimes overlooked in modern developments. Properties range in size and type allowing for a wide range of occupiers at different stages of their lives to reside within the neighbourhood.

Materials used regionally influenced the design and variety is delivered through the introduction of colour to the buildings primary elements. The development has also facilitated the creation of the Ellon Castle Gardens Trust that will help regenerate this historic "jewel in the crown" that has lain dormant for decades.



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