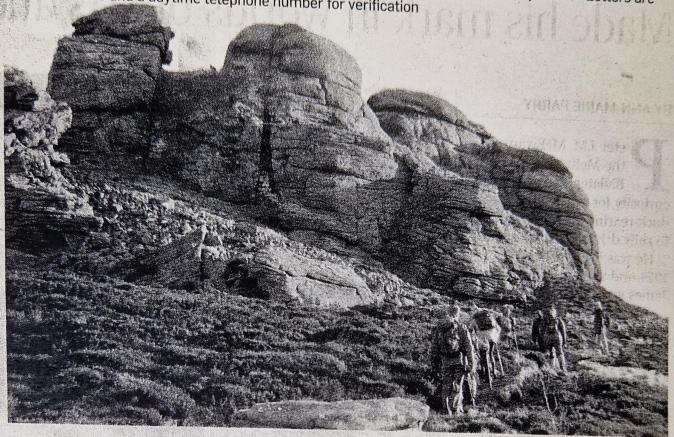
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## **Exclusion zones for turbines**

SIR, – I believe it is essential to have a wide and fair exclusion zone for turbines surrounding our well loved and iconic Aberdeenshire landscape.

Bennachie, not a single peak but a ridge, is an iconic part of our landscape rich in history, legends and a haven for flora and fauna. It is no surprise that our local and wider population holds a great affection for this magical landscape.

Already there is a large turbine visible from the Oldmeldrum side which has impacted on the hill's natural beauty. Bennachie attracts local visitors, the wider community and is very popular with tourists.

As a new lifetime Bailie of Bennachie I would

urge people to write to my fellow-councillors in Garioch and those serving the surrounding areas if, like me, they wish to protect our outstanding landscape.

The deputy leader of the council and local elected member has stated that we must soon consider if the Insch basin has reached saturation point. I have written to him to say that I agree.

I would urge people to become a Bailie – it costs a relatively small amount to join and it will help to support research into both "cultural aspects and natural history of the hill and its immediate surroundings".

Patricia Oddie, West Garioch councillor.