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FORESTRY COMMISSION  
EAST (SCOTLAND) CONSERVANCY  
6 Queen's Gate, ABERDEEN, AB9 2NQ  
Telephone: 33361

Please address any reply to  
THE CONSERVATOR

and quote: EGR/FJC S 26/BNC

Your reference:

25 October 1973

Dr D G Gordon  
Coldwells  
Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire  
AB5 9JN

Dear Dr Gordon

Thank you very much indeed for your very kind letter of the 22nd. It was very good of you to write. Thank you for the contribution to the leaflet on Bennachie.

I think the length is about right and look forward to getting further draft paragraphs on

- Birds
- Animals
- History
- Legends
- Photography

As you suggest, we will do the paragraph on forest and woodlands.

I have had a draft typed and enclose a copy for you to retain.

Your two grandsons certainly did well on their walk! I wish I could get out a bit more. There seems to be so much paper around these days.

Yours sincerely

E G Richards  
Conservator

PS I suggest that the deadline for contributions be set at 31 December which would give time for editing, discussion by the Council of Bailies in the winter; and then print for the Spring/Summer period.

EGR

DRAFT

GEOLOGY

Bennachie is a great red granite mass, approximately 400 million years old, with some andalusite schists to the West and gneisses to the East. The ridge rises steeply on all sides to form an east-west trending body with a broad flat top around 1 500 feet, capped by a number of Craigs and Taps, which exhibit excellent Tor structures. Strong physical weathering back along major zones of weakness in the mass has formed these residual craigs which have taken their typical layered appearance (ie Tor structure) by weathering along horizontal joints, and development of spheroidal exfoliation.

The glacial history of this area is dominated by a roughly west to east passage of the ice-sheet leaving some glacial striae, the summits of the ridges bearing scant glacial debris, with rock being exposed, or covered with its own weathered debris or peat.

In the past, granite quarries have been worked, notably large blocks to construct Sheerness docks. The granite structure is too coarse for polishing. Today the Forestry Commission has planted most of the slopes between 600 and 1 000 feet with conifers.

Better mentioned in forestry paragraph  
John