

8/1/31/1



FORESTRY COMMISSION

Buchan Forest District

Ordiquhill Portsoy Road Huntly Aberdeenshire AB5 4SJ

Telephone Huntly (0466) 4161

Mr M B Davidson
"Averons"
Whiteford
Pitcaple
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire AB9 9EB

Your reference

Our reference S18/1 BNC

Date

7 October 1988

Dear Mr Davidson

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as I am District Forester responsible for the Harvesting and Marketing of the timber crop in Buchan Forest District under Mr Marnie's good guidance. I believe the time is appropriate as our Oyne section of Bennachie has reached a stage when harvesting operations begin. The purpose of this letter is to explain very generally what can be expected in the years to come.

We have tried to introduce the new roads system with the minimum of intrusion to the forest recreation areas and this will be completed within 18 months. This allows thinning to be carried out and so improve the remaining crop over the coming years. Again this will be carried out with consideration going to the use of the forest by the public and in particular the areas around the car parks and the walks.

From a distance, the forest block looks even as it was planted in a relatively short period of time. At the end of the economic rotation large areas would be clear-felled resulting in a severe change in the fabric of the forest. This is a situation we would wish to minimise.

This can be achieved in a number of ways and one is to begin the process as early as possible ie now. Opportunities arrive in various forms and one is to remove unsatisfactory crops. I have identified one of these in compartment 115 which is included in our first proposed sale. Work on clearing streamsides has already begun with deer lawns created. To break up more solid blocks, we will consider premature clear-felling. Of course nature may take her own say and produce some windblow.

The longterm intention is to introduce change slowly and gradually on a scale appropriate to the management of the block. Cover will be kept on the ground, and the mass look will be broken into different ages and heights, species can be changed with the introduction of more hardwoods to improve wildlife conservation, the landscaping, and generally make Oyne a more interesting and productive forest in every sense of the word.

I hope this gives you a broad picture of our intentions, and indicates to you that there is a purpose in the decisions we make in the management of the forest. If there are some points you wish to raise, please do not hesitate, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Yours sincerely

R A Sandilands
District Forester H&M

Reply sent 1st Dec

Upgraded Road
Proposed Road

