

# Respondent Information Form

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name: **BAILIES OF BENWACHIE**  
Postal Address: **c/o SECRETARY, GREEN MEADOWS, ST. JAMES'S PLACE  
INVERURIE, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB51 3UB**

1. Are you responding: (please tick one box)

- (a) as an individual  go to Q2a/b and then Q4
- (b) on behalf of a organisation  go to Q3 and then Q4

## Individuals

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or Scottish Government website)?

- Yes  go to 2b below
- No, not at all  We will treat your response as confidential

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

## On behalf of groups or organisations

3. The name and address of your organisation will be made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or Scottish Government website). Are you also content for your response to be made available?

Yes

No  We will treat your response as confidential

## Sharing responses/future engagement

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No

# Forest Enterprise Scotland - Framework Strategic Plan, Consultation Questions:

## Question 1

Does this paper provide an adequate basis for assessing how Forestry Commission Scotland plans to manage the land and woodlands that form the national forest estate on behalf of the Scottish Government? If not describe what is missing.

NO. WHILST IT IS A CLEAR EXPOSITION OF ASPIRATIONS, THE COMPLETE LACK OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION - FUNDING, TARGETS etc MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RANK PRIORITIES

## Question 2

With regard to the organisation; does this paper provide an adequate basis for assessing how Forest Enterprise Scotland plans to contribute to the Scottish Forest Strategy? If not describe what is missing.

IT DOES ADDRESS THE COMPONENTS OF THE STRATEGY BUT THE CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING THE BALANCE BETWEEN CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES ARE NOT EVEN ALLUDED TO

## Question 3

Do you agree with the aspirations presented in this paper for the national forest estate and Forest Enterprise Scotland? If not, what else should be included?

AS A STATEMENT OF ASPIRATIONS - EXCELLENT. HOWEVER WE ARE LEFT WITH THE FEELING THAT THIS IS "ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN" - ANOTHER PRESSURE GROUP - ADD ANOTHER ASPIRATION!!

## Question 4

Do the actions presented in this paper sit in conflict with yours or your organisations' goals? If so how?

POTENTIALLY - THE BAILIES OF BEUVACHIE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE OVERALL ISSUE OF LANDSCAPES IN N.E. SCOTLAND. THE ENTHUSIASM FOR WIND TURBINES DOES NOT REST EASILY WITH OUR LANDSCAPE CONCERNS - WE NEED WIND POWER BUT IN THE RIGHT PLACES - FES NEEDS TO INCLUDE ITS CRITERIA FOR LOCATION WITHIN THE NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE, REFLECTING ITS CONCERNS RE FOREST LANDSCAPE DESIGN

## Question 5

Does this paper indicate that Forest Enterprise Scotland have the correct priorities in regard to forest management opportunities? If not, what would you suggest?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? KEY THEME 2 IS WELL PRESENTED BUT THE CRITERIA FOR CHOICE ARE AGAIN NOT CLEAR e.g. MAINTAIN TIMBER PRODUCTION BUT INCREASE BROAD LEAF WOODLAND TO 20% - SURELY THAT IMPLIES A VERY CONSIDERABLE LONG TERM REDUCTION IN TIMBER PRODUCTION AND CARBON FIXING

8/1/57

## **Bailies of Bennachie**

### **Further notes on Aberdeenshire Forest District Strategic Plan 2007 –2017**

- P 1** We presume that this is a draft
- P 3** The philosophy behind 1.0 Introduction has our full support
- P 5** Surprised that the Cairngorms National Park boundary is not shown
- P 6** Table 1 is of interest but what is the period of observation?
- P 9** Knowing much of the F.C. estate it is difficult to believe that figure 2 represents that area – e.g. 19% Brown Earths. Is figure 2 the breakdown for all of Aberdeenshire rather than the land managed by the Forestry Commission? If so, figure 2 has no relevance. If it is the land managed, then the chart begs some questions!
- P 10** Bennachie a "distinctive ancient volcano"? This is a major error and casts doubt upon the understanding by the author of a key site factor. Bennachie is a granite intrusion, not a basaltic volcanic remnant. The type of Forestry would be very different.
- P 17** The Bailies of Bennachie are not just "conservation volunteers" We are a body founded nearly 30 years ago and have around 3,500 members. We are a registered charity with the objectives of – preserving the amenity of Bennachie, helping maintain and improve public footpaths and rights of way on Bennachie, studying and recording the natural and cultural history of Bennachie, encouraging and stimulating public interest in and care of Bennachie and holding meetings, exhibitions, lectures, conferences, producing publications and publicity.
- P 21** Whilst fully accepting the need for and desirability of wind farms, there can be few if any sites under Forestry Commission management in Aberdeenshire capable of hosting 40 turbines without potentially unacceptable consequences on the landscape. We will closely monitor any impact from Bennachie or on Bennachie.
- P24** Sustainable use of the land is essential and that includes sustainable timber production. We note that the average cut over the past six years is 10% above the target. That potentially could have a significant long-term impact.
- P 29** Good to see and acknowledgement of community concern re wind farms. We have some concern about the meaningfulness of some local

discussions about wind farms and feel that this should not be left to the developer. The net needs to be spread wide to reflect the landscape impact of any proposals.

**P32** We are not clear about the meaning of the bottom right hand comment. Why is the target not SMART and what other targets are jeopardised? Surely replanting as soon as is practicable is desirable for landscape and production reasons.

**P42** We are concerned that Aberdeenshire Forest District is identified as a key player in wind farm development. As already stated, we are not against wind farms per se but the track record to date is not good – Clashindarroch we understand has been rejected by the Scottish Government, Cushnie/ Pressendyne is attracting extremely strong local opposition and we don't know where Mid Hill is! We are disappointed that there seems to be very limited opportunity for the use of forest residues for bio fuel projects. Brash mats can be harvested for this purpose and are in some other areas.

**P 45** We do not accept that the environment in the Forest District is relatively robust to wind farm development. We welcome the Glens of Foundland scheme but not developments that will dominate the landscape which is so precious to us all.

**P 52** Difficult to think of wind farms which "provide enhancement opportunities" We welcome the effort put into forest design and ask for the same sensitivity to landscape impact on all projects.

**P 68** There cannot be many schools within 1 km of the forest estate – a misprint? We are very encouraged by the use being made of Bennachie and the Bennachie Centre by schools from a wide area. This is a fundamentally important subject and opportunities to encourage all Aberdeenshire schools, irrespective of location, should be maximised.

**P 70** Yes, prioritise expenditure on car parks and paths but we are very concerned that this seems to be the only topic where finance is mentioned as a limiting factor. We are sure that there are others but do not please backtrack on well used facilities.

Question 6

Which Forest District Strategic Plan(s) are you commenting on?

ABERDEENSHIRE

Question 7

Does the Forest District Strategic Plan provide an adequate basis for assessing how Forestry Commission Scotland plans to manage the land and woodlands that form the national forest estate within that District on behalf of the Scottish Government? If not describe what is missing.

NO - IT IS "ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN" WITHOUT ANY PRIORITISATION.

Question 8

With regard to the organisation; does the Forest District Strategic Plan provide an adequate basis for assessing how Forest Enterprise Scotland plans to contribute to the Scottish Forest Strategy in this District? If not describe what is missing.

IT DOES COVER EVERY ISSUE BUT LACK OF INFORMATION ON FUNDING ASSUMPTIONS LIMITS THE VALUE FOR ASSESSMENT

Question 9

Do you agree with the aspirations presented in the Forest District Strategic Plan for the national forest estate and Forest Enterprise Scotland? If not, what else should be included?

NOT AS FAR AS WIND FARMS ARE CONCERNED WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE ASSERTION THAT "THE ENVIRONMENT - IS RELATIVELY ROBUST TO THIS KIND OF DEVELOPMENT" SITES MUST BE CHOSEN WITH SENSITIVITY

Question 10

Do the actions presented in the Forest District Strategic Plan sit in conflict with yours or your organisations' goals? If so how?

POTENTIALLY YES IF VALUED LANDSCAPES ARE THREATENED BY WIND FARM PROPOSALS

Question 11

Does the Forest District Strategic Plan indicate that Forest Enterprise Scotland have the correct priorities in regard to forest management opportunities in that District? If not, what would you suggest?

WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE ONLY MENTION OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY IN RELATION TO CAR PARKING AND WALKS. ONE OF THE TOP BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC AXIS FOREST RECREATION, FACILITIES MUST BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE BUT PLEASE ENSURE THAT WELL USED FACILITIES e.g. RENNACHIE AND DRESIDE ARE MAINTAINED TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD.

## Assessing Whether We Are Consulting Widely:

To evaluate whether the full diversity of Scotland's community has had an opportunity to respond and to understand whether there are any differences in the expectations within or between groups of the national forest estate and Forest Enterprise Scotland, we have some further questions we would like you to answer if you wish.

### Individuals:

#### Question 12

Male or Female? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 13

Do you consider yourself part of a minority group? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 14

Do you live in an Urban, Village or Rural environment? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 15

What are your main interests in forest management: cultural heritage, water, biodiversity, deer management, tourism, timber production, recreation, neighbour, road use, job creation, greenhouse/carbon economy, visual amenity, access, public health.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Organisation:

#### Question 16

Which best describes the type of organisation you represent: Council (Local Authority), Local Community group, Timber Utilisation, Energy, Government Directorate, Learning Institution, National Community Group, Tourism Industry, NGO, Forest Management, Farming, Minority Representatives.

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP - 3,500 MEMBERS

#### Question 17

What are the main interests of your organisation in forest management: cultural heritage, water, biodiversity, deer management, tourism, timber production, recreation, neighbour, road use, job creation, greenhouse/carbon economy, visual amenity, access, public health.

CULTURAL HERITAGE, TOURISM, RECREATION, VISUAL AMENITY, ACCESS