

8/1/57

## Aberdeenshire Forest District Strategic Plan

### Consultation 9/5/08

1. Is this a draft ?
2. Why in the map on p5 is the National Park not shown?  
Surely this is of key importance.
3. Soil map fig 2- is this for the FC estate or Aberdeenshire? If the former is there really 20% Brown Earth?
4. On p 10 Bennachie is described as an ancient volcano!  
Really? Surely we would expect a better understanding of this key feature of the area than this. In fact it is granite in origin – igneous but not volcanic which would result in basalt.  
This mistake is worrying.
5. The Bailies of Bennachie is described as a Conservation body. In fact it is a body with 4,000 members with a primary interest in heritage plus recreation, conservation and community representation.
6. Windfarms – a quote is that “it is fair to say that the environment in the District is, with some exceptions, relatively robust to this kind of development” Clashindarroch has been rejected by the Scottish Government, Pressendye/Cushnie is a current application attracting a huge negative local response. Where else – where is Midhill? How safe is Bennachie and the adjoining hills?  
*Jim Kochky*
7. Timber production – The average cut over the past 6 years has been + 10% over target. What are the implications of this for future production?
8. Restocking – why are the targets being abandoned?  
Apparently they are not SMART –what does this mean?  
“They may reduce our ability to meet other important targets”  
– which targets – financial?

9. Education – “priority will be to work with schools that are within 1 km from the national forest estate woodlands” – 1km? Why prioritise?
  
10. Access – “existing car parking facilities and walks will be maintained subject to funding availability. This position will require ongoing review in line with available spend” p70. This is potentially very worrying in that it appears to be the only reference in the plan to finance limiting achievement of the targets. Surely Access is one of the major, if not THE major public benefit of the forest estate and it should be incumbent upon the managers to maintain the facilities to the highest standard, even at the expense of some of the other public benefit targets. What consultation will there be with stakeholders if facilities are to be closed or not maintained?