

# Bennachie project gets off ground



■ Checking drawings of the new Bennachie Centre on the site at Esson's car park are (from left) Provost Raymond Bisset, centre trustees Algie Watson and James Mackay, and Duncan Thomson, site agent for the contractors.

WORK has started on the Bennachie Visitor Centre on Gordon District's most famous hill.

The centre, which will cost more than £400,000, is a joint project led by Gordon District Council in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Forestry Commission, Grampian Enterprise Ltd and the Bailies of Bennachie. It is due to be completed this autumn.

Scottish Natural Heritage is providing a £100,000 grant towards the centre, which will be the first major interpretation facility on the hill that has been made famous in song and verse.

Based near Esson's car park at Chapel of Garioch, it will become the new base for the

□ LINDA ROBERTSON

district council's Gordon Ranger Service, headed by Fred Gordon.

The circular rustic building is based on designs submitted for an architectural competition organised by the council's planning department. It is expected to attract between 30,000 and 50,000 visitors a year.

The centre will feature displays telling the story of Bennachie, its wildlife, the people who used to live there and other aspects of the hill and surrounding countryside and communities.

Span Construction are the main contractors and architects are the Dodd Jamieson Partnership of Edinburgh.

By the way, the youngster 3/2/94 City diver finally