Nursery Cottage, Oyne, Insch.

8th December 1986

Mr. M. B. Davidson,
'Averans',
Whiteford,
Pitcaple,
Inverurie.
Aberdeenshire.
AB5 9EB

Dear Sir,

I refer to our conversation of Saturday re proposed work by a Mrs Horne on waterways on and around Bennachie.

As mentioned I have monitored, purely on an amateur interest—only basis, some 28 areas of standing water for amphibian breeding for some six years. Some of these water areas are simply depressions in the ground, others Commission dams, others burns, ex quarries etc.

Although none of the species observed breeding in these places i.e. Common Frog, Common Toad and Palmate Newt can really be considered rare, I consider it vitally important to retain these places uninterrupted for continued breeding. The main pond of any size, located in the sand quarry south east of the Monymusk Iriangle was decimated in late 1981 much to the regret of the then Forest Manager – Bob Aitken. Since then, in between my own breeding programme, I have tried to maintain these places free from interference and pollution (leaking Forestry Commission diesel drums at location 14 for example) and have actually attempted to hand dig two new ponds.

The vast majority of these places will either not be visible or significant to the casual hill user. I look forward to your co-operation in keeping them so. I enclose a photostat of the monitored places for the Council's confidential information.

I would welcome the opportunity to view Mrs Horne's specific plans.

Yours faithfully,

Colon Toch

C. J. Tock



