

8/3/31/1

Birchbank,  
Burnhervie,  
Inverurie  
AB51 5JU

24<sup>th</sup> May 2004

Fiona Churnside,  
Planning and Environmental Services,  
Gordon House,  
Blackhall Road,  
Inverurie  
AB51 3WA.

Ref. 37/FOR re Blairdaff/Blindburn Forestry Scheme

Dear Fiona,

On behalf of the Bailies of Bennachie, I refer to your letter to James MacKay of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2004. The matter was discussed at the meeting of the Council of the Bailies on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

Whilst appreciating the fact that Mr MacKay's suggestions were not made early enough in the negotiations this unintentional exclusion is not acceptable. In the spirit of future access legislation, we feel that a style into and out of the new plantation on the eastern side to allow access from the Kirk Wood to the mature wood in the north would be a simple, relatively inexpensive and satisfactory solution to the problem.

We would ask you to do what may be necessary to implement this proposal to allow members of the general public to enjoy access to the woods.

We know a number of people who are regular walkers in the Kirk Woods.

Yours sincerely

Ann Baillie,  
Clerk to the Council of the Bailies of Bennachie.



8/3/31/2

**Our Ref:** 37/FOK

**Your Ref:**

**Date:** 15 June 2004

**Please ask for:** Fiona Chimside  
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LP-3 INVERURIE

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Ann Baillie  
Baillies of Bennachie  
Birchbank  
Burnhervie  
AB51 5JU

Dear Ann

**Blindburn/Blairdaff Forestry Scheme**

I refer to your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May regarding the above.

I have relayed your comments regarding the provision of a style to the Forestry Commission and the agent dealing with the application and have suggested they contact you directly for further information. I trust that they will do so.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

*Mara Chimside*

Fiona Chimside  
Environment Planner (Natural Heritage)

Ann I had a phone call from a rather warty  
Brian Murray at lunchtime today. The first he knew  
of it was when he got a threatening letter from SAC  
at Turiff with a copy sent to Forth Commission  
etc of accusing him of blocking off a "long  
established route". Said something about costing him  
£60 in legal fees to defend his position so in writing  
this am hoping to pour oil on troubled waters.  
In haste James

James and Mary MacKay  
Delisle  
Blaircraff, Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire AB51 5LT  
Tel. Monymusk (01467) 651243

8/31/3

18 June 04

Dear Brian,  
I am sorry if what I considered a useful suggestion  
has backfired and caused you annoyance and distress

At every meeting of the Council of the Barles of Bennachie,  
planning applications within the Bennachie area are considered. When I  
saw the deer fencing going up I looked at the Blindburn woodland plans at  
Gordon House. As a regular walker in the Kirk Wood (along with others) I saw  
the possibility of a link-up with the 3 woodlands. I suggested this at the next  
meeting of the Barles Council. Fred Gordon, Senior Barle, suggested I take it up  
with Fiona Chirnside of the Council Planning Dept. I phoned her with the suggestion  
(at this time the date for representations had passed). She said she would investigate.  
I got a letter from her which was fairly negative and was prepared to leave it  
at that. I reported this at the next meeting of the Barles Council. However the  
Senior Barle suggested that the Clerk, Ann Baillie, write to Fiona expressing dis-  
appointment and suggesting the possibility of a stile being erected.

The next I heard on the matter was your phone call today.  
I agree that there never was an established route between the  
Kirk Wood and the Monymusk Wood to the north. I, along with others, occasionally  
walked between them along the Blindburn/Loardfold boundary. With the erection  
of the deer fence, access can now only be through the Loardfold fields.

I hope this clarifies the situation.

You are at liberty to copy this letter to whoever you wish.

Again I can only express my regret that you have been  
caused any distress and trust that it will not affect our friendship.

Yours sincerely

James

cc Ann Baillie, Clerk to the Barles of Bennachie