

Summary of Forest Design Plan

Bennachie is a site covering 2,391 ha made up of two forest areas separated by the Bennachie Ridge. Back O'Bennachie lies on the north facing slope of the ridge, and Bennachie and Millstone Hill to the south. Bennachie ridge is an iconic landform feature which dominates a wide area of Aberdeenshire. Due to its proximity with Aberdeen and its prominence in the landscape, Bennachie is one of the most visited FES's sites in Aberdeenshire with approximately 135,000 visitors a year.

The primary objective for this plan is to *maintain the quality of the site for recreation* in order to further encourage tourism within the site. This will be done considering particularly: the areas of high recreation, the trails and the forest landscape management which is a critical issue at this location.

The secondary objectives will be to:

- **Maintain / increase the high environmental value** of the site encouraging tree species and habitat diversity through the creation of functional habitat networks and increasing species and structural diversity. .
- Increase the broadleaf resource.
- Continue to produce high quality timber.

Total plan area	2391 ha
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Species breakdown	2016 (%)	2026 (%)
Primary species: Sitka spruce	25	23.5
Secondary species: Scots pine	15	15
Other conifers	18	18.5
Broadleaves	3	7
Open and felled areas	39	36

Planned operations	2016 – 2026
Felling	174 ha
Restock	206 ha

Heritage	There are 5 Scheduled monuments in Bennachie. All forestry works around their location will be done in compliance with the UK Forestry Standards Guidelines and the Monument Management Plan agreed between FCS and Historic Environment Scotland.
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Critical success factors

- Careful consideration has and will be given to the impact of forest operations on the landscape;
- Careful consideration has and will be given to the impact of forest operations along the high recreation areas;

- Continue with an active thinning programme to ensure the ongoing success of the LISS areas as described in this plan;
- Management of the LISS regeneration will be used to achieve greater species diversity;
- Species and structural diversity will be expanded to increase forest resilience;
- The current recreational infrastructure will be maintained;
- The guidelines in relation to DNB with heavy thinning and LP removal being priority actions will be followed;
- React positively to any disease impacts; seek to use any dramatic change in forest structure to deliver un-anticipated benefits. For example open transient views and greater species/structural diversity.

Consultation and Further Information:

During the development of this plan we have consulted publicly including meetings with the local community representatives and stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. For further information on the plan please contact Mark Reeve, Planning Foresters, Forestry Commission Scotland on 07833482007 or antoine.lepretre@forestry.gsi.gov.uk






Moray & Aberdeenshire
Forest District
Bennachie

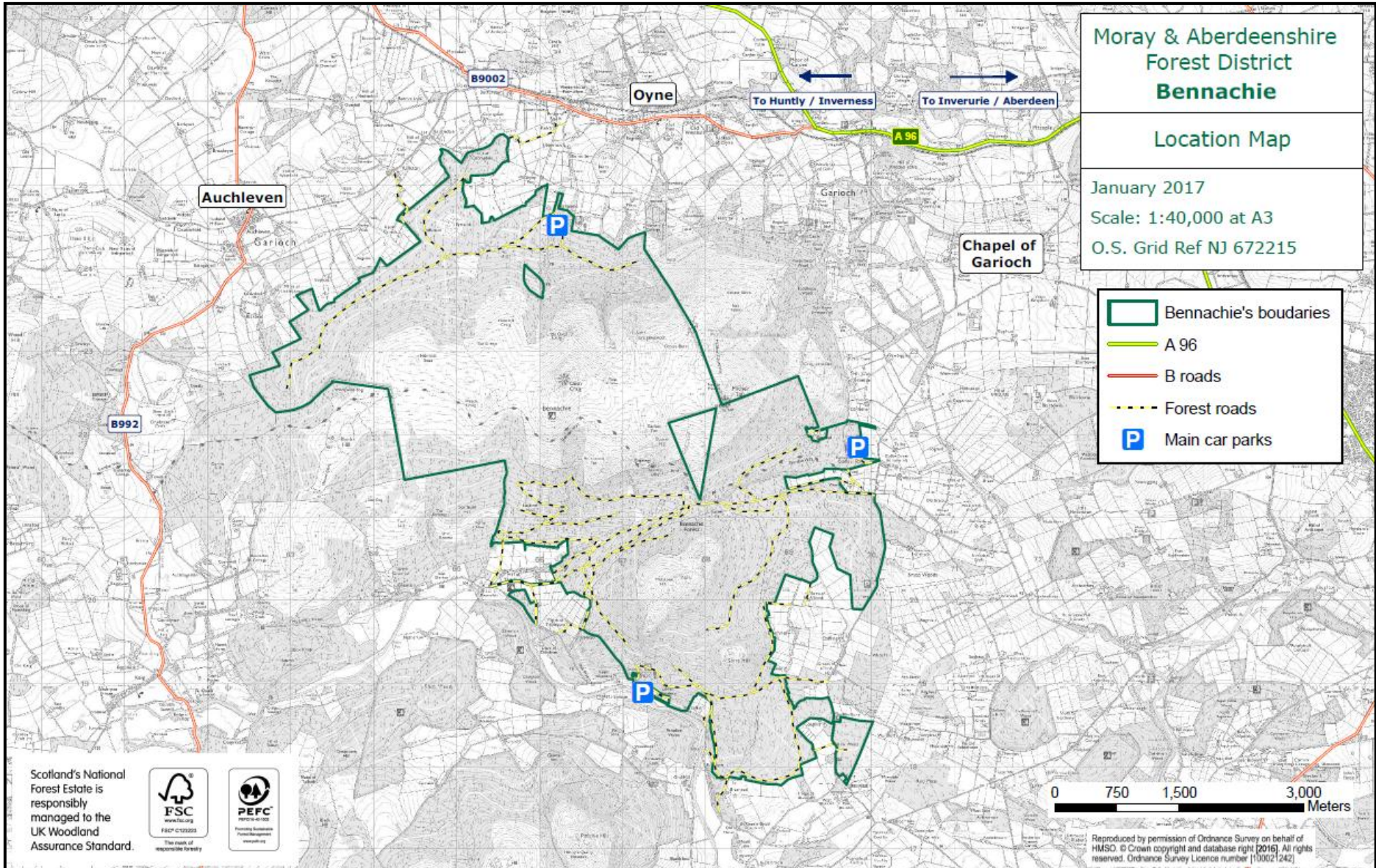
Location Map

January 2017

Scale: 1:40,000 at A3

O.S. Grid Ref NJ 672215

-  Bennachie's boundaries
-  A 96
-  B roads
-  Forest roads
-  Main car parks



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Forest Estate is
responsibly
managed to the
UK Woodland
Assurance Standard.



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