

I have had letters from :

1. The Forestry Commission confirming that they now regard all sightings of wildcat-looking cats in the forest as being of wildcats proper unless proven otherwise. This is an important development as they have earlier said all sightings are of feral or hybrid cats.

Whilst most cats will have some hybrid in them, it is important for us to establish that there is a sufficiently pure strain in the forest to warrant protection

2. Scottish National Heritage confirming that they have informed the Scottish Executive that they wish to see a further study of the common gull flight paths over the proposed site, to take place in spring and summer, and that they are not convinced by the results of the raptor survey.
3. Aberdeenshire Council confirming
 - a. that no ecological survey was carried out on the site before it was classified as a tier 3/4 site, suitable for a windfarm;
 - b. that the information in the second survey was new to them;
 - c. that they are now consulting their own ecologist to seek advice about whether they should tell the Scottish Executive that they want to reclassify the site . The significance of this is that if they wrongly classified the site then it may be considered unsuitable for a windfarm after all. I have asked the Planning Department to advise me what advice they sent to the Scottish Executive. It would help if they received other letters asking about this ... write to the Head of Planning.
4. There is an article, written by me, about the impact of constructing the windfarm on the forest and the way it all came about in this months edition of 'The Leopard' magazine.