There are planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS) within the forest.

Diseased crop is present within the forest and there has been an ongoing process of removal.

There are deep peat areas located under forest.

Midhill wind farm has planning permission from Aberdeenshire council APP/2003/1662.

Mearns Forest Design Plan

Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District

Map 2: Key Features

Scale: 1:25,000

Date: August 2014

Legend

- Midhill wind farm area
- Scheduled monuments
- Water courses
- Block
- Powerlines
- Gas pipeline
- Planted ancient woodland sites
- Designed landscape
- Diseased crop
- Peat
- Existing low impact silvicultural systems
- Better soils
- Substation

The forest currently has a number of areas designated as LISS.

There are a number of watercourses associated with the forest and the main ones are:- the Cowie, Bervie and Finglennie. The forest is a major contributor to both the Bervie and Cowie water catchments.

Some soils within the forest are associated with a better nutrient regime.

The forest is one of the main timber production hubs of the forest district.

There are a number of areas of the forest which are more sensitive within the landscape such as South Drumtochty and Drumtochty Glen. Areas of lower landscape importance such as Fetteresso and southern Glenfarquhar are still seen from the roadside as forest edges.

Black Grouse can be found on neighbouring land.

There are some areas within the forest with limited roading.

SSE substation built in association with Midhill Wind Farm.

A designed landscape in association with Drumtochty Castle, borders the Drumtochty area of the design plan area.

There are a number of areas of the forest which are more sensitive within the landscape such as South Drumtochty and Drumtochty Glen. Areas of lower landscape importance such as Fetteresso and southern Glenfarquhar are still seen from the roadside as forest edges.

There are a number of areas within the forest with limited roading.

The forest currently has a number of areas designated as LISS.

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The forest is not a red squirrel stronghold although it does prevent a restriction for grey squirrel movement from the south.