

FORESTRY COMMISSION (SCOTLAND), EAST DIVISION.

Forest Record Book.

BLACKHALL FOREST.

FORESTER'S COPY.

STAFF RECORD.

Forest Blackhall.

DIVISIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICERS.

FORESTERS & FOREMEN-IN-CHARGE.

Names.		Dates.	Names.		Grades.	Dates.
D.H. Bird, District Officer.		1941.	W.G. Milne, Forester, Acting		Gr.1.	1941.
do.		1943.	do.		1	1943.
D. H. Bird,	do.	1944.	W. G. Milne, Acting Gr.		I.	1944.
Do.		1945.	do.	do.	1	1945.
Dt. O., T. H. Woolridge		1946	W. G. Milne	do.	I	1946.

Forest Records-Part I. ANNUAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS, ETC.

Form R.4.

F.Y. 19 41 to 19Forest Blackhall.

FOREST YEAR.	WORK DONE, ETC.		SITUATION (by Compartments).	
	Description.	Acres.	Normal Treatment.	Exceptional Treatment.
41	<u>Planting</u>	17.3	1.	
42	<u>Planting</u>	34.	1, ⁵⁶ 55 , ⁵⁷ 56 .	
	<u>Beating Up</u>	14.3		
	<u>P.41</u>			
43.	<u>Planting:</u>	41.1 ^{41.1}	^{55, 56, 57,} 55, 56, 57.	
	<u>Beating Up:</u>			
	P.41 - 5.9			
	P.42 - 30.	35.9	^{55 56} 1, 55 , 56 .	
1944.	<u>Planting.</u>			
	P.44.	43.	C.s 55, 55, 60.	
1945.	<u>Planting.</u>	20.5	C.s 53 and 60.	
	<u>Beating Up.</u>			
	P.42, 28.6		C.s 56 and 57.	
	P.43, 27.6		C.s 55 and 56.	
	P.44, 28.	84.2	C.s 55 and 60.	
1946.	<u>Planting.</u>	39.1	Cs. 53, 54	
	<u>Beating Up.</u>	27.	Cs. 53, 60, 1.	

F.Y. 1941 to 19____Forest Blackhall.FOREST
YEAR.

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS.

41. Prep. Ground. 27 acres cutting and burning Birch scrub,
5 acres of which was for P.42.
Draining. 116 chains, 15 clearing turf draining and
69 clearing for P.42.
Planting. 17.5 acres, all in C.1.
-
42. Prep Ground 3 acres cutting out birch scrub.
Draining. 255 chains 17 chains turves used for planting.
Selection of Species. All N.S. used, except few Beech on
ride side.
Beating Up. 14.3 acres P.41. 14.5 acs 5.7 Thous.
Same species used.
Weeding. Above normal P.41 ~~broken~~ areas cut twice.
-
43. Prep. Ground: 5.25 acres cutting Birch scrub.
Drainage: 323 chains; some turves used for planting.
Planting: ~~41/50.4~~ acres S.S. & N.S. used.
- | | | <u>Acres.</u> | <u>Thousands.</u> |
|--------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------|
| <u>Beating Up:</u> | P.41 = | 5.9 | 5. |
| | P.42 = | 30. | 9.2 |
| | | <u>35.9</u> | <u>14.2</u> |
- Weeding: 106.8 acres weed growth above average.
1944. Draining. 237 chains, P.44 area.
Planting. 45 acres E.L., H.L., S.P., N.S. and S.S. were
used.
Beating Up. Nil.
Weeding. 211 acres weed growth was very heavy.

F.Y. 19⁴⁵ to 19Forest Blackhall.FOREST
YEAR.

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS.

45. Draining. 151 chains, 80 chains turf draining.Planting. 20.5 acres, 10.5 acres E.L. and S.P. in mixture.
10 acres S.S.Beating Up.

	<u>Acres.</u>	<u>Thousands.</u>
P.42	28.6	5.9
P.43	27.6	5.8
P.44	28.	6.9
	<u>84.2</u>	<u>18.6</u>

Weeding. 135 acres weed growth above average.46. Draining. Over most of plantations drains were cleaned.Planting. 39 acres.

S.P. on hard high heather ground

J.L. on heather/grass slopes

S.S. on moister flat ground

All notch planting except small area of S.S. in Cs. 53 & 54.

<u>Beating Up.</u>	<u>Acres.</u>	<u>Thous.</u>
P.43	7.5	5.
P.45	19.5	11.4
	<u>27.</u>	<u>16.4</u>

Weeding. Was very heavy and all the planted area was covered 2-3 times.

F.Y. 1947 to 19 Forest Blackhall.FOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

1947. Prep. Ground. Brush was lightly burned over most of the P.47 area.
- Draining. Flushes were drained and mounded for N.S.
- Planting. Apart from the N.S. area in C.54 and the rocky slopes covered with bracken in C.s 47 and 48, on which J.L. was the species used, the P.47 area was old woodland carrying *Des. flexuosa* (dominant) with *calluna* and *vacinium* coming in. S.S. was planted on this ground with a 5 : 1 admixture of E.L. The S.S. plants were 2 + 2 to 3 + 3. Altogether 275.4 acres were planted.
- Beating Up. P.46 - 30 acres - 13.5 thous.
- Weeding. Heavy bracken weeding was necessary in C.s 47 & 48, but elsewhere it was normal.
1948. Prep. Ground. Brush was burnt over 154 acres of area cleared for P.48.
- Draining. There were many wet *juncus* flushes on the P.48 area and the draining of these was a costly but essential operation, involving the opening up of 1238 chains of new drains.
- Planting. 352.8 acres were planted, not including 6.8 acs. of under planting in the amenity strip. The species planted in P.48 which was entirely old woodland with *Des. flexuosa* dominant, was N.S. except for approx. 5 acres of S.S. above the farm, Mains of Blackhall.
- Planting was done by the three methods of mounds, inverted turfs and screening and notching.
- Underplanting. It was not possible to obtain a sufficient number of plants for the complete underplanting of the amenity strip cleared during the year but 6.8 acres were underplanted. The species used were Beech, Oak, P. Omorika, with row of *gean* and *O. Lawsoniana* at 20' intervals along the roadside.
- Beating Up. P.47 - 77 acres - S.S.

Weeding.

F.Y. 19 48 to 19Forest Blackhall.FOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

1948. Weeding.

P.48 - 418 acres.

P.44 - 26.2 "

P.47 - 17.0 "

In P.48 and 47 the weeding was confined to bracken, but in P.44 was principally the removal of grass, rushes and whins. The bracken weeding was done twice over P.48 and was exceptionally heavy.

General. The clearing of the amenity strip was begun in November, 1947. It consisted in the removal of all poor quality and over mature trees,

leaving only the best birch and a few conifers of aesthetic value standing. These were underplanted in April, 1948, with Beech, Oak, P. Amorika, C. Lawsoniana and Gen.

These were for the most part planted in groups and the whole area cleared was not unplanted.

The N.S. planted in P.48 suffered slightly from the late frosts in May but was nowhere very serious.

A few deaths amongst the S.S. in P.44 area may be expected from the frosting. The very dry weather during the planting months may also cause casualties, particularly amongst those plants which were notched.

F.Y. 19 48 to 19 49Forest BlackhallFOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

49

Prep. Ground.

27 acres were mounded in advance of planting and scrub was cut back over 3 acres.

Draining.

194 chains of new drains were dug by hand for P.49. Advance draining by Cuthbertson Plough was successfully completed to the extent of 53 chains for P.50 and 448 for P.51.

The total drains required for P.49 was much less than for the previous year and much less expensive.

Planting.

246.1 acres were planted over a wide range of ground. The species used included N.S., S.S., S.P., S.P. & E.L. in mixture, and strips were left for the introduction of J.L. in P.50. Spruces were planted by the normal notch and mounding was restricted to wet areas where draining was necessary.

Under Planting.

8.6 acres were planted under Birch in the Amenity Strip. A wide range of interesting spp. were used. These included Beech, Red Oak, Oak, Ab. grandis, Low.Cypress and some Gean. Beating Up.

150 acres of P.48 were B.U. N.S. was B.U. with N.S. in the following Compartments:-

Cpt.	4	-	22.9	acres.
"	5	-	10.9	"
"	10	-	34.9	"
"	11	-	13.9	"
"	12	-	23.9	"
"	16	-	41.9	"
"	6	-	31.7	"
"	13	-	9.1	"

Weeding.

As usual the weeding at Blackhall was almost more than

F.Y. 19 48 to 19 49Forest BlackhallFOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

49

could be effectively managed by the labour available and ^{by} the end of the season parts of P.48 remained incompletely weeded.

The following were the areas weeded:-

P.41	-	14	acres.
P.42	-	39	"
P.45	-	2	"
P.46	-	7	"
P.47	-	220	"
P.48	-	348	"
P.49	-	356	"

This total included double weeding of bracken areas.

Clearing.

12 acres of Birch in Cpt. 47 were gone through and the density of the stems greatly reduced to assist the under planted N.S. As this was not a profitable operation, it was classified as Clearing.

General.

A number of deaths occurred amongst the Picea Omorika in the Amenity Strip due to inadequate draining.

Aphis attack was very severe on the S.S. in Cpt. 1.

Capercaillie and Black Game appeared to be on the increase and the newly planted S.P. in the Compts. adjacent to the Gough Wood suffered severely from their attacks.

F.Y. 1951 to 19

Forest BlackhallFOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

A long hard winter caused planting to continue late into May, but as the period directly following was damp no harm seems to have come of it.

Selection of spp. & Planting:

N.S. was concentrated on the flushes and on plough while S.S. was put above it on drier and more exposed sites where there was not much heather. On the lower heather knolls S.P. was planted while J.L. was kept on the more exposed ridges. An S.S./P.C. mixture of 3 rows and 3 rows was put in near the top of the hill, and some S.S./S.P. in a similar mixture. There was a belt of pure P.C. right at the top. A J.L. fire belt was continued right across the area. D.F. was planted on the sheltered lower slopes among boulders and in racks through birch scrub. This spp. was planted last as it was thought best to prevent widespread loss, and has certainly done well. Whether results would have been as good had a drought followed planting is difficult to say. The spruces were turf-planted or on plough, the D.F. semi-pitted and the others notched.

B.U.:

The programme was virtually abandoned, but on looking over the P.47 area concerned at the end of the year, it appeared that this does not matter. The S.S. has recovered remarkably well and does not now justify beating up.

Weeding:

The late planting made an attack on the bracken, just as the fronds were unrolling, impossible. As it was not possible to cover any of the area more than once, newly planted areas were given the greatest attention. In older P. Yrs. only selective weeding requiring minimum labour was carried out late in the summer.

/Prep. Ground:

F.Y. 19 51 to 19 _____Forest BlackhallFOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

Prep. Ground:

Racks were cut through small scrubby birch, and gaps developed amongst bigger trees. These were planted up with D.F. or N.S.

F.Y. 1941 to 19

Forest Blackhall.

1. Description.

Comp.	N.S.	S.S.	Ts.	A.G.	E.L.	Ash.	B.	R.O.	B.C.	Total.
1.	2.1	7.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	.4	1.	.1	17.3 acs.

F.Y.42. Compartment 1, Beating Up:

2.1 acres N.S. with 3 + 2 N.S.

7.7 acres S.S. with 2 + 2 S.S.

1.5 acres Tsuga with 2 + 2 Tsuga.

1.5 acres A.Gr. with 2 + 1 A.Gr.

1.5 C.Law. with 2 + 3 C.Law.

F.Y.43. Beating Up: C. 1, 5.9 acres small block of Tsuga,
C.Law., Ash, Beech, R. Oak - all suffered
severe damage by spring frost and were
b.u. with N.S.

F.Y.46. 7½ acres B.U. with N.S.

F.Y. 19___ to 19___

Forest Blackhill

1. Description.

Comp.	Acres	N.S.
1	5.4	5.4
20 56	5.4	5.4
21 57	23.2	23.2
	<u>34.</u>	<u>34.</u>

Slope moderate to flate consisting mainly of grasses and Juncus with some heather patches and clumps of scattered birch.

F.Y.43. Comp. ⁵⁶~~20~~ and ⁵⁷~~21~~, 30 acres N.S. beat up with N.S.

F.Y.45. C.56, 5.4 acres N.S. beat up with 2 x 4 N.S.

C.57, 23.2 " N.S. do. do. N.S.

F.Y.46. Heavy weeding grass (A. Caespitosa) Bracken and Rushes two to three times. Drains cleaned.

F.Y. 19 43 to 19__Forest Blackhall.

1. Description.

Comp.	Acres.	N.S.	S.S.
56 20	26.8 24.0	13.4 17.9	8.9
57 22	5.6 4.8	4.8	5.6
55 23	9.7 20.	10.	9.7
	42.1 30.7	28.2 33.1	8.9

Slope moderate consisting mainly of various grasses; juncus, with some patches of bracken and heather.

F.Y. 45.

C.55, 9.5 acres N.S. beat up with 2 x 4 N.S.

C.56, 17.9 acres N.S. " " " " N.S.

F.Y. 46.

Exceptionally heavy weeding grass (A. Caespitosa)

Bracken and Rushes three times. Drains cleaned.

F.Y. 1944 to 19__Forest Blackhall.

1. Description.

Comp.	Acres.	E.L.	H.L.	S.P.	N.S.	S.S.
55.	26.	4.7	.8	6.5	14.	
53.	3.		3.			
60.	14.					14.
	<u>43.</u>	<u>4.7</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>6.5</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>14.</u>

Slope moderate consisting of heather and grasses with some patches of bracken and Juncus. S.P. $1/3$, E.L. $2/3$ in mixture in C.22.55

F.Y.45. C.55, 14 acs. N.S. beat up with 2 x 4 N.S.
C.60, 14 acs. S.S. beat up with 2 x 2 S.S.

F.Y.46. Heavy weeding most bracken two to three times.
Drains cleaned.

F.Y. 1945 to 19Forest Blackhall.

1. Description.

<u>Compt.</u>	<u>Acres.</u>	<u>E.L.</u>	<u>S.P.</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
53.	10.5	5.25	5.25	
60.	10.			10.
	<u>20.5</u>	<u>5.25</u>	<u>5.25</u>	<u>10.</u>

As P.44, E.L. and S.P. in mixture.

F.Y. 46. 20 acres B.U. with same spp. Drains cleaned.

F.Y. 1946 to 19Forest Blackhall

1. Description.

<u>Conots.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>S.P.</u>	<u>J.L.</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
53	33.3	8.	17.3	8.
54	5.8		4.8	1.
	<u>39.1</u>	<u>8.</u>	<u>22.1</u>	<u>9.</u>

PLANTATION AREA STATEMENT.

Original Area : _____ acres.

Forest Blackhall.

	TOTAL ACRES.	ACREAGES BY SPECIES.								
		N.S.	S.S.	Ts.	Be.	C.L.	Ash.	R.O.	A.G.	B.C.
Planted_____	17.3	2.1	7.7	1.5	.4	1.5	1.5	1.	1.5	.1
Sown_____										
Nat. Regen.										
Totals	17.3	2.1	7.7	1.5	.4	1.5	1.5	1.	1.5	.1
Established—										
At _____ years										
At _____ years										
At _____ years										
At _____ years										
1st Thinning										
F.Y. 19 ____										
F.Y. 19 ____										
F.Y. 19 ____										
Deductions (Fires, etc.)										
F.Y. 19 ____										
F.Y. 19 ____										
F.Y. 19 ____										

PLANTATION AREA STATEMENT.

Original Area: _____ acres.

Forest Blackhall

	TOTAL ACRES.	ACREAGES BY SPECIES.							
				N.S.					
Planted _____	34.			34.					
Sown _____									
Nat. Regen. _____									
Totals _____	34.			34.					
Established—									
At _____ years									
At _____ years									
At _____ years									
At _____ years									
1st Thinning									
F.Y. 19 _____									
F.Y. 19 _____									
F.Y. 19 _____									
Deductions (Fires, etc.)									
F.Y. 19 _____									
F.Y. 19 _____									
F.Y. 19 _____									

PLANTATION AREA STATEMENT.

Forest Blackhall.

Original Area : _____ acres.

	TOTAL ACRES.	ACREAGES BY SPECIES.							
		N.S.	S.S.						
Planted.....	<u>42.1</u> <u>36.4</u>	<u>33.2</u> <u>28.9</u>	8.9						
Sown.....									
Nat. Regen.....									
Totals.....	<u>42.1</u> <u>36.4</u>	<u>33.2</u> <u>28.9</u>	8.9						
Established—									
At ____ years									
At ____ years									
At ____ years									
At ____ years									
1st Thinning									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									
Deductions (Fires, etc.)									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									

PLANTATION AREA STATEMENT.

Forest Blackhall.

Original Area : _____ acres.

	TOTAL ACRES.	ACREAGES BY SPECIES.									
		E.L.	H.L.	S.P. ²	N.S.S.S.						
Planted.....	43.	4.7	3.8	6.5	14.	14.					
Sown.....											
Nat. Regen.....											
Totals.....	43.	4.7	3.8	6.5	14.	14.					
Established—											
At ____ years											
At ____ years											
At ____ years											
At ____ years											
1st Thinning											
F.Y. 19____											
F.Y. 19____											
F.Y. 19____											
Deductions (Fire, etc.)											
F.Y. 19____											
F.Y. 19____											
F.Y. 19____											

PLANTATION AREA STATEMENT.

Forest Blackhall.

Original Area : _____ acres.

	TOTAL ACRES.	ACREAGES BY SPECIES.							
		E.L.	S.P.	S.S.					
Planted.....	20.5	5.25	5.25	10.					
Sown.....									
Nat. Regen.....									
Totals.....	20.5	5.25	5.25	10.					
Established—									
At ____ years									
At ____ years									
At ____ years									
At ____ years									
1st Thinning									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									
Deductions (Fires, etc.)									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									
F.Y. 19__									

PLANTATION AREA STATEMENT.

Original Area: _____ acres.

Forest Blackhall

	TOTAL ACRES.	ACREAGES BY SPECIES.							
		S.P.	J.L.	S.S.					
Planted_____	39.1	8.	22.1	9.					
Sown_____									
Nat. Regen_____									
Totals_____	39.1	8.	22.1	9.					
Established—									
At_____years									
At_____years									
At_____years									
At_____years									
1st Thinning									
F.Y. 19____									
F.Y. 19____									
F.Y. 19____									
Deductions (Fires, etc.)									
F.Y. 19____									
F.Y. 19____									
F.Y. 19____									