

F.Y. 19 47 to 19Forest Countesswells.FOREST
YEAR

GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

1947. This unit was started on the 16th January, 1947. For the remainder of the Forest Year work was on a maintenance basis but a start was made with the clearing and thinning of acquired plantations.

Prep. Ground. 4 acres of scrub were cut in C.1 in preparation of planting in F.Y.48. 1 acre in C.20 was cleared for the erection of the Forester's House.

Drainage. 42 chains of new drains were opened in C.1 in anticipation of planting in F.Y.48.

Fencing. 8 chains of new fence were erected round the nursery.

Cleaning. 25 acres of H.W. scrub, mainly birch, rowan and beech were cut over in C.s 16 & 17. In C.s 19 & 23 22 acres were cleaned preparatory to thinning.

Thinning.

C.19	-	20 acs.	-	7801 trees	-	10966 c.ft.
C.23	-	9.4 acs.	-	3350 "	-	5000 c.ft.

Both compartments contained S.P. only and at time of thinning were aged about 36 years. Neither had been thinned previously and were in a badly neglected state. All thinnings done were moderately heavy and might be classified C.D. grade. In C.19 three plots of about $\frac{1}{8}$ acre were set aside as controls. One was given a heavy thinning, one a medium thinning and one left untreated. The heavy thinning was carried out by two members of the R.S.F.S. not intimately connected with this unit.

General. The very severe winter resulting in extensive blasting of the S.P. in many parts of Countesswells. The needles on the blasted trees turned red in the spring of the year.

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GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

1948. Prep. Ground. Cutting scrub in C.1 was completed and C.2 was also cleared for planting. A total of 30 acres was treated.
- Draining. 62 chains of new drains with turf laying were prepared in C.s 1 & 2. 22 chains of main drain were opened in C.14 as an experiment to find out whether the boggy parts of this Compartment could be made fit for planting.
- Fencing. $18\frac{1}{2}$ chains of new fence (stock) were erected at Silverburn on the E. side of C.2 In the same area 56 chains of rabbit fence was constructed. By the end of the F.Y. 78 chains of rabbit fence had been completed round C.s 7 & 8, the P.49 area.
- Planting: The following areas were planted:
- | | | | | | |
|------|---|--------------|----------|---|--------|
| C.1 | - | 27.43 acres. | S.P. 2+1 | - | 9 acs. |
| | | | S.S. 2+2 | - | 18 " |
| C.2 | - | 12.1 " | S.P. 2+1 | - | 8.6 " |
| | | | S.S. 2+2 | - | 3.5 " |
| C.4 | - | 10.1 " | J.L. 2+1 | - | 10.1 " |
| C.10 | - | 14.4 " | S.P. 2+1 | - | 7.0 " |
| | | | S.S. 2+2 | - | 7.4 " |
- In C.s 1, 2 & 4, plants were for the most part notched direct. The only exception to this being in the moist parts of C. 1 & 2 which had been drained and mounded.
- In C.10 on the old arable ground with matted grass and a firmly consolidated soil, the planting was done on inverted turfs. On the higher rocky knolls, mattock planting was adopted.
- Weeding. 55 acres in P.48 had to be weeded on account of a strong growth of epilobium & bracken.
- Cleaning. 60 acres of neglected plantation in C.s 11, 12, 17, 21, 16 & 27 were cleaned.

/Thinning.

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GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

1948. Thinning.

C.11 - 9.2 acres. S.P. - 3600 trees - 3600
 C.12 - 23.5 " S.P. & N.S. 6696 " - 5299
 C.27 - 12.0 " S.P. 3386 " - 2539

In all cases this was a first thinning although the woods were 30 - 35 years old.

In C.25, 412 trees were marked for thinning and removed by Messrs. W. Fiddes & Son. They included E.L. 55, S.P. 132, N.S. 72, Silver Fir 38, D.F. 24, Beech 50, Elm 10, Oak 3, Sycamore 18.

The object of this thinning was to leave a stand of pure beech of good quality with a view to ultimately obtaining N.R. of this species.

Clear Felling. 9.4 acres of S.P. in two blocks within C.5 were clear felled by Messrs. W. Fiddes & Sons.

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GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

1948. These two areas were of unusually low quality and had previously been severely damaged by snow.

The estimated yield of the two plots was:

S.P. - 2112 trees - 11423 c.ft.

E.L. - 253 " - 910 c.ft.

General. The very dry spring of 1948 necessitated special care of plants in sheughs and in some cases, perhaps in C.10, may result in a high per cent. of casualties. Fortunately, the wet summer which followed counteracted the dry spring and saved many plants which would otherwise have died.

Good response to thinning in F.Y.47 was noticed in C.19.

At the close of the year a few more poor quality Beech were removed from C.25. In this Compartment the brush was burnt whenever possible and the thick undecomposed layer of beech leaves broken up to assist natural regeneration.

F.Y. 1949 to 19____

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GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

F.Y. 49 Prep. Ground.
Ploughing.

56 acres in Compts. 26, 27, & 28 were ploughed with Double Furrow, Cuthbertson plough for planting in P.51. This plough was not entirely suitable for the difficult stoney ground involved and considerable additional hand drainage will be needed.

Scrub Clearing.

Scrub was cleared over Compts. 24 & 25 in conjunction with the thinning of the old Beech. This was done to promote Natural Regeneration of Beech following the heavy mast in F.Y. 48.

Birch was cleaned in groups in Cpt. 24. The best clumps being retained to form part of the final crop.

The cleared areas will be planted in F.Y. 50 using N.S. and D.F.

Rowan, birch and other H.W. scrub was cleared from Cpts. 15 & 20 in preparation for P.50. A few good groups of advance growth of Beech in Cpt. 20 were left.

Heather was burnt over Cpts. 26 and 27 before ploughing.

Draining.

107 chains of new drains were cut in Cpts. 24 and 25 following the cleaning of the Birch scrubs and other Hard-woods.

124 chains of new drains were prepared in Cpt. 14 for P.50. This was a particularly hard subject to drain and cost 8/7d per chain.

Fencing New.

As usual on this unit a number of small areas had to be fenced. The total was 263 chains - all consisting of rabbit net being on one wire.

The areas fenced were Cpts. 24, 25, 14 and 20.

Weeding/

F.Y. 1949 to 19

Forest Countesswells

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GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

Weeding

On account of the warm summer a certain amount of weeding had to be done in the grassy areas of P.48 & 49 principally in Cpts. 2, 10 and 7. A total of 81 acres weeded at a cost of £63: 5: 10.

Cleaning.

21 acres were cleaned in Cpt. 18. This consisted the removal of poor quality H.W. scrub and the pruning of good quality birch.

In Cpt. 12 - dead trees were removed over 5 acres.

Drainage Upkeep.

7 chains in Cpt. 25 were cleaned subsequent to the extraction of the Beech thinnings.

Thinning.

None; preference was given to scrub cleaning and to assisting National Regeneration.

Planting.

51 acres in Compts. 7 & 8 were planted and 2.5 acres planted in the cleared portions of Cpt. 25.

The species used in Cpts. 7 & 8 were S.S. & S.P., mostly in mixture with pure S.P. on the drier knolls and S.S. on the moister sites.

A belt of 5 acres was left along the boundary of Cpt. 8 to be planted with J.L. in F.Y.50. This is to act as a Fire Break.

2 acres were left unplanted in Cpt. 8 along the line of the Hydro-Electric Transmission line. This will later be planted with N.S. as Christmas Trees.

F.Y. 19 51 to 19____Forest CountesswellsFOREST
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GENERAL PROCEDURE AND OBSERVATIONS

Planting & Selection of spp.:

Planting was mainly on plough in what was formerly a bog, with a 3 row by 3 row mixture of S.S./P.C. The 1 + 1 S.S. were very small but seem to be improving, the P.C. were partly 1 + 1 and partly 1 year seedlings. J.L. and S.P. were planted on the drier sides. Some of the P.50 J.L. seedlings in this area are doing extremely well.

Prep. Ground:

Very deep main drains were put into the Moss of Motte for P.52/3 and a very great difference is already to be seen. This area was classed as unplantable in the Acquisition Report but it should now take a reasonable crop. The birch scrub was sold to a contractor.

Thinning:

A second thinning was given to C.s 6, 11 and 12. Owing to their early neglect there were many whips present which have now been removed. At the time it appeared fair open but now it seems that one or two more could have been taken out.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

<u>Year of Planting.</u>	<u>Acquired Plantations</u>		<u>Compt. 5</u>
	<u>Area of Compt.</u>	<u>Area of Acqd. Plantns.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1923	28.5	26.0	S.P. and E.L.

Treatment.

9.4 acres in two blocks were clear felled by Messrs. W. Fiddes and Son of Aberdeen. The quality of the S.P. and E.L. in these two small blocks was so poor that it was considered uneconomical to retain them.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 6Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1923

27.0

22.0

S.P.

Treatment.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationsCompt. 7Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1923

29.5

9.0

S.P. and E.L.

Treatment.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

<u>Year of Planting</u>	<u>Acquired Plantations</u>		<u>Compt. 9</u>
	<u>Area of Compt.</u>	<u>Area of Acqd. Plantn.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1935	20.0	20.0	S.P.

Treatment.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 11Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1877

1913

9.2

9.2

S.P., E.L. and
N.S.Treatment

F.Y.48

9 acres were cleaned and thinned. The
thinning produced 3600 trees cubing 36 av.
cu. ft.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationsCompt. 12Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantns.Species

1920

23.5

23.5

S.P. and N.S.

Treatment.

F.Y. 48

The whole plantations was cleaned and thinned. The cleaning was limited to the cutting out suppressed trees and to the elimination of birch and other hardwoods. The thinning produced 6696 trees which cubed 5299 cu. ft.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

I. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 13Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1931

1937

22.0

22.0

S.P.

Treatment.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 16

<u>Year of Planting</u>	<u>Area of Compt.</u>	<u>Area of Acqd. Plantn.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1943	26.5	23.0	S.P.

Treatment

F.Y.48

This plantation was weeded and rank growth of birch and other weed species were removed.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 17Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1939

1941

28.8

20.0

S.P.E.L. and
D.F.Treatment.

F.Y. 47

16 acres cleaned - scrub beech and birch
removed.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 18Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1930

20.5

19.0

S.P. S.S.

Treatment.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

<u>Year of Planting</u>	<u>Acquired Plantation</u>		<u>Compt. 19</u>
	<u>Area of</u> <u>Compt.</u>	<u>Area of</u> <u>Acqd. Plantn.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1911			
1915	20.5	20.5	S.P. & E.L.

Treatment.

F.Y. 47

20 acres thinned. It produced about 400 cu. ft. per acre which was sold for boxwood, posts and pitwood.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

<u>Year of Planting</u>	<u>Acquired Plantations</u>		<u>Compt. 20</u>
	<u>Area of Compt.</u>	<u>Area of Acqd. Plantn.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1840	31.6	10.0	Be.

Treatment.

F.Y. 48

A few of the old beech had to be removed to prepare the site for the new houses.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 21

<u>Year of Planting</u>	<u>Area of Compt.</u>	<u>Area of Acqd. Plantn.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1937			
1940	17.0	17.0	S.P.

Treatment.

F.Y. 48.

The whole plantation was cleaned. Birch
Rowan and other weed species were
removed.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationsCompt. 23Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1887

1911

9.4

9.4

S.P. and E.L.

Treatment.

F.Y.47

9.4 acres thinned producing about 600 cu.
ft. per acre yielding boxwood, posts and
pitwood.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

Acquired PlantationCompt. 25Year of
PlantingArea of
Compt.Area of
Acqd. Plantn.Species

1860

23.0

23.0

Be., S.P., N.S. &
D.F.Treatment

F.Y.48

412 trees mainly conifers were marked for thinning and were felled and extracted by Messrs. W.Fiddes and Son during the year.

Subsequent to the timber merchants operations a start was made with burning brush, removing poor quality beech and generally preparing the area for beech regeneration where possible and for planting with conifers in F.Y.49.

F.Y. 19____ to 19____

Forest Countesswells

1. Description.

<u>Year of Planting</u>	<u>Acquired Plantation</u>		<u>Compt. 27</u>
	<u>Area of Compt.</u>	<u>Area of Acqd. Plantn.</u>	<u>Species</u>
1917	28.0	12.0	S.P.

Treatment.

F.Y. 48

The 12 acres of acquired plantation were thinned and cleaned. From the thinning 3386 trees cubing 2539 cu. ft. were obtained.

The whole plantation was in a very poor state and might well have been clear felled and replanted with a more suitable species. As present policy does not favour clear felling it had to be retained in the hope that a judicious thinning would bring response.

Most of the area needs further draining.