

RBU/LB

FROM: CONSERVATOR NORTH (SCOTLAND)

TO: DISTRICT OFFICERS, AREA ENGINEERS, AREA LAND AGENTS, RECREATION
PLANNING OFFICER, ACQUISITION OFFICER

Ref: AD 3/3

cc Mr Macbeath, Mr Mackay, Mr Bramwell, Mr Flynn, Mr Malcolmson,
Mr Martin -

" Mrs Swanson, Drawing Office -

60TH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/79 - 31/3/80

The Annual Report for the above period will follow the usual pattern as laid down by HQ. The standard headings are listed below and you should prepare a text for the headings appropriate to you using a separate sheet for each activity.

- a. Administration, staff, labour and training
- b. Acquisitions and disposals of surplus assets
- c. Nurseries and seed collection
- d. Forest Management
- e. Harvesting and Marketing
- f. Civil Engineering
- g. Mechanical Engineering
- h. Estate Management
- i. Conservation and Recreation
- j. Private forestry and control of felling
- k. Plant health
- l. Public relations
- m. Items of local interest which have arisen during the year

Please endeavour to let me have your reports by 25th April at the latest.

The short notice is regretted but we have only just received instructions from HQ on the completion of the report together with the requirement that Conservancy Annual Reports should be with HQ Heads of Department by the second week in May.

R B Urquhart
for Conservator
8 April 1980

TO: CONSERVATOR (N)

FROM: DISTRICT OFFICE
DINGWALL

AD 3/3

60TH ANNUAL REPORT : PERIOD 1/4/79 TO 31/3/80
DINGWALL WEST DISTRICT

(a) Administration, Staff, Labour and Training:

There were no territorial changes within the District during the year.

Supervision Forester W Beattie of Torrachilty retired after some 30 years service - 13 of them at Strathconon. His replacement Forester John Spittal came in November from Black Isle. Due to a severe back accident, Forester F McCreadie (South Strome) had to be off work for over six months.

Industrials Retiral of the older workers continued and during the year there retired Ganger D Nicolson, Raasay, Skye, who had served there for 30 years, George Robertson, Achnashellach (after 18 years) and Jonathan MacLeod Forest Craftsman, Portree, Skye who joined the squad 25 years ago.

Between them Achnashellach, South Strome and Torrachilty lost a further 4 men otherwise the labour strength remained fairly static. There has however been a noticeable move to Contractor Timber Production at Achnashellach and South Strome where further recruitment of Forest Workers is proving difficult.

Training Non Industrial - Achnashellach All staff experienced courses -
Head Forester R Murdoch (Financial Control at Ae in January)
Forester W Grant (One day Local Climbing Course)
Forester K Mills (One day Local Climbing Course)

Training Industrial A number of Forest Workers enjoyed training in various operations.

	Power Saw	High Tensile Fencing	Skidder
Achnashellach	1	2	1
Skye	-	6	-
South Strome	-	-	-
Torrachilty	-	-	1

(b) Acquisitions and Disposals:

The sole acquisition was that of Satran/Crossal in Skye which added 382 hectares total, 151 ha plantable.

There was a disposal of 4 ha at Knochfarrel, Torrachilty - of agricultural land. Negotiations were proceeding to sell to the County Council an empty cottage at Achmore, South Strone.

(c) Nurseries and Seed Collection: Nurseries - Nil

Seed Collection: It proved a poor year for cones and seed, but 2 hectolitres of HL cones were collected at South Strone,

Protection The most important event was undoubtedly the spraying at Torrachilty of nearly 1000 ha of young Lodgepole Pine plantations. The insecticide used was Fenitrothion and the venture seems to have been very successful. Follow up pupal counts revealed virtually nil population. The spraying proved a useful exercise in community relationships as the FC had to provide water supplies for a 10 day period to two farms, a hotel and a cottage.

The Fire season was not a particularly arduous one and there were no losses.

Ranger protection continued but there were no reports of any serious damage inflicted by wild life on plantations apart from some by sika deer at Achanalt (Achnashellach). A programme of fence maintenance continued especially at Achnashellach, South Strome and Torrachilty where a combination of deterioration and the 1978 storm damage have bequeathed us with a mounting backlog.

Improvement While a certain amount of cleaning, brashing and drain maintenance did take place, the major item of expenditure was fertilising.

645 ha were given Phosphate applied aerially by helicopter at both Skye and Torrachilty and a further 100 ha treated with P+K at Achnashellach. Difficulty was experienced in monitoring the deliveries in accordance with instruction, but visual inspection indicated a thorough job was being done.

Poor weather and other pressures on labour prevented the Heather kill programmes of 10 ha at Skye taking place. However there is a very widespread and noticeable natural mortality in calluna which may well have a beneficial effect on tree response.

(d) Forest Management:

The weather played a big part in constraining the year's work. The long winter of 1978/79 lasted well into May, but the 1979/80 winter was relatively good with little frost and protracted snow. The summer of 1979 was disappointingly dull and cool, but this, coupled with little unseasonable Spring frosts, resulted in a good establishment and growing season.

Some windblow was sustained in gales during December e.g. in Skye (Eynort) where some 600 to 700 trees were blown. A combination of winter and fire protection duty combined in Skye to keep men away from planting and so the season extended into June. This did not spoil the "take" however which was good.

Rainfalls were more or less up to average with recordings as follows:-

Achnashellach	2327mm (92ins)	Skye	1784.7 mm (70ins)
South Strome	1864mm (73.5 ins)	Torrachilty	857.5 mm (33.7 ins)

Programmes of Ploughing and Planting were as follows:-

	Ploughing Completed (Prog.)		Planting Completed (Prog)		Re Stocking Completed (Prog.)	
Achnashellach	64	(70)	75	(70)	8	(15)
Skye	494	(440)	561	(475)	41	(10)
South Strome	-	-	11	(8)	6	(9)
Torrachilty	95	(100)	106	(100)	7	(10)
District Total	653	(610)	753	(653)	62	(44)

Nearly 300 hectares of the ploughing (45%) was of double mouldboard and it is hoped to improve even further on this during succeeding years. The excess of new planting over programme reflects the late season with a substantial carry forward from FY 78/79.

The principal species used in new planting was LP (73%) with SS as runner up at 13%. 3% SP was represented.

In re-stocking SS occupied 72% of species spectrum.

Some 115K plants were used for beating up - about 5.6% of total plants used.

Some amenity plants were used but were generally in short supply this year.

551 hectares of the new planting were fertilised with GMP against a programme of 591 ha - the planting programme having in the interim been reduced. 145 ha of this - at Lewis and Torrachilty - were done manually and the rest by Dollar Helicopters.

New deer fencing continued at Grudie (Achnashellach and Skye (Kylerhea), so that 6888 metres had been done against a programmed 7000.

The stock fencing programme of 10300 metres was actually exceeded and the 12523 metres completed was all in Skye.- at Glenvicaskill - where the ring fence has now been totally completed.

(e) Harvesting and Marketing:

On the whole the year has been a successful one.

Mechanical breakdowns and illness among operators was offset by amenable working weatherwise, especially during winter.

The worries about the Pulp Mill's future tended to restrain Foresters' in Charge from recruiting too much and instead increasing use was made of contractors who are now established at all four of the District's Forests.

It is significant that Skye was well over on pulp and log deliveries because of what is virtually a resident haulier.

Achnashellach and South Strome continue to be the "Cinderellas" for uplifting sawlogs to Kilmallie from their clear fellings. Both forewent modest thinning programmes but some additional felling work was undertaken at these forests - special large douglas fir for Kilmally at Achnashellach and Larch logs for Culloden from South Strome.

Haulage generally was never regular due to financial pressures forcing some hauliers to cut back on their fleets.

A feature of the DF log sale at Lael (Torrachilty) was that the purchaser (Catto) supervised the cross-cutting himself and much of the timber was exported to Germany in long lengths.

	<u>Thinning</u>		<u>Felling</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Programme m ³	Actual m ³ (ha)	Programme m ³	Actual m ³ (ha)	Programme m ³	Actual m ³
Achnashellach	1600	-	3900	4623 (12) ±	5500	4623
Skye	5500	* 6174 (150)			5500	6174
South Strome	500		5500	5682 (19.5)*	6000	5682
Torrachilty	6600	± 5828 (124)	3400	3172 (6) ©	10000	9000
District Total	14200	12002 (274)	12800	13477 (37.5)	27000	25479

Torrachilty took delivery of a new Falstone skidder with radio controlled winch, but ^{it} has not been regarded with so much favour as the older model.

Timber dispatches were as follows:-

	<u>Scottish Pulp</u>		<u>Kilmallie Sawlogs</u>		<u>Other Sawlogs</u>	
	Programme (tonnes)	Actual (Tonnes)	Programme m ³	Actual m ³	Programme m ³	Actual m ³
Achnashellach	1600	955	3300	2828	68	68
Skye	4000	5209			750	888
South Strome	1200	992	4000	3982	-	188
Torrachilty	5400	4950			2500	2429
District Total	12200	12106	7300	6810	3318	3573

Merchants concerned in other sawlog sales were as follows:-

Achnashellach - James Jones Larbert (ex Slattadale)

Skye - Hugh Murray, Portree

South Strome - FC Culloden Sawmill

Torrachilty - Scotlog Beaully (A. Catto) - DF

Gordon's, Nairn - DF

James Jones - Larch & SS

± 335.25 m³/ha

* 241.38 m³/ha

© 528.67 m³/ha

District roadside stocks were fairly high at the end of the Forest Year, viz.

Pulp - 1024 tonnes

Kilmallie Sawlogs 413 m³

other Sawlogs 346 m³

In addition the Lael sawmill satisfied a modest local demand by preparing some 51 m³ of sawn timber (receipts over £4000) and Skye produced 7963 pokers for Kinlochleven Aluminium works.

The major standing sale, that of James Jones at Slattadale made some progress. 2300 m³ from a balance of 2981 m³ were cut and extracted and about 480 m³ from a new contract of 3679 m³ had been handled by the end of the Forest Year.

Of the two minor sales, there has been very little movement in Raasay while at Torrachilty, I Cameron only cleared up 260 m³ of a 520 m³ sale of blown Scots Pine.

2780
260
3040

(f) Civil Engineering:

The upgrade to Cat. 1A project continued and roads were thus upgraded at Achnashellach, Skye and Torrachilty where some 2.7 km were upgraded between Torview (Contin) and Rogie.

In Skye work proceeded with the new timber production road through Glen Varrigil and on the preplanting roads in Vicaskill. A new bridge was completed at the beginning of the year in Vicaskill.

The forwarder track at Kinlochewe (Achnashellach) was not completed but should be so early in the new FY.

The lower landings were completed at Torrachilty - 2 at Tarvie and one at Achterneed.

(g) Mechanical Engineering:

The vehicle holding continued more or less as before with a gain of one vehicle at Achnashellach for a Ranger.

The programme of vehicle replacement proceeded slowly and good service was again given by mobile mechanics.

Skye faired well and enjoyed replacements of 3 Escorts, 1 Personnel carrier and 4 Hathaway Fire Pumps.

The Johnserred power saw No 452 did not give very efficient service and there would appear to be an oil pump problem.

The Malvern tractor at Torrachilty was particularly troublesome but by a process of cannibalisation was back working at Lael in the latter months of the Forest Year.

A new Falstone with radio controlled winch came to Torrachilty and the older model was also left to bring the Torrachilty Skidder fleet to 3.

Use was made of Forwarders borrowed from e.g. Culloden and Ratagan. Despite breakdowns, the Clark Ranger impressed.

(h) Estate Management:

Achnashellach - A start was made to a new deer larder at the Lair site.

Skye - The water supply to the croft house at Kinloch was finally completed; the Head Forester's new house had a new wider lining inserted into the chimney.

South Strone - The houses at Achmore were permanently connected up to the new Regional supply.

Torrachilty - Some reconstruction was done to the Forest Office but a programme of repainting office, Torview and Strathconon houses has had to be carried forward.

(i) Conservation and Recreation:

Very little in the way of new projects was undertaken in view of financial cuts.

The Balmacara caravan site did not have a particularly good season, with a very slow start no doubt due to the petrol shortage.

Visitors who did use the site totalled 2800 adults and 933 children and cash receipts totalled £2830.

At Slattadale, some work was done on the Victoria Falls route and in providing toilets for the car park on Loch Maree shore.

Otherwise most of the work lay in maintenance and improvement of existing facilities.

(j) Private Forestry:

The year has not brought large increases of planting proposals under the Dedication III scheme. At the end of the Forest Year applications under Small Woods Schemes are such that neither will there be but small programmes next year.

The following new plantings were inspected and grant approved:-

Coulin (Ded III)	8.0 ha
Scatwell (Ded III)	6.4 ha
Leckmelm (SWFG)	3.3 ha
Inverbroom (SWFG)	2.4 ha
Scalpay (SWFG)	60.0 ha

Final installments were inspected and grants approved as follows:-

<u>IPG Scheme</u>	<u>Approved Woods</u>	<u>Small Woods Scheme</u>
Strathaird 0.6 ha	Attadale (P74) 52 Acs.	Inverewe 0.9 ha
Foich 13.9 ha	Letterewe	Lochcarron 0.3 ha
Fairburn 2.0 ha	(now Kensery) (P74) 54 Acs	Ord Cottage 3.0 Acs.
	Scatwell (P74) 20.1 ha	
	Scalpay (P73) 15.6 ha	
	(P74) 31.6 ha	

Felling Licence Applications were inspected and approved on:-
Scatwell Estate, Fodderty Farm, Couldorn (Kishorn), Fairburn Estate,
Brahan Estate and Scatwell Estate (2nd application)

Plans of Operations were revised for a number of Estates including
Applecross, Brahan, Coulin, Craig, Ledgowan and Lochluichart.

Applications for Dedication III include two schemes on Skye - at Isle
Ornsay (where a plan was completed for 290 ha) and Tungadale (approx.
1440 ha plantable).

Other proposals were for 14.5 ha at Craig and an area still to be
determined on Langwell, north of Ullapool.

An advisory visit was paid to Rhiddoroch Estate in connection with the
old Caledonian Pine remnant.

(k) Plant Health:

Reference has already been made to the Pine Beauty Moth outbreak at Torrachilty, successfully controlled by aerial spraying with insecticide.

Pine Sawfly was prevalent, inflicting much damage at Scatwell (Achanalt), Coulin and Beinn Eighe. Skye reported further deaths to Corsican Pine due to *Bronhorstia*.

(1) Public Relations:

Perhaps the most significant event was a two day visit to Skye by the RAC on May 10/11th. This was a very comprehensive tour covering the Trotternish peninsula, Glen Vicaskill, Glens Eynort and Brittle.

Skye Forest once more supported the Agricultural Show at Portree with a pavilion and display.

A talk with slides was given to 3rd and 4th year pupils of the geography classes at Portree Academy, followed a week later by a show of F.C. films.

The film show was also given to Scouts at Portree and a WRI at Braes.

The Scottish Wildlife trust spent a Saturday seeing something of Pine Beauty Moth damage at Strathannoch Torrachilty on June 9th.

The F.O. undertook some evening slide shows including to Dingwall Round Table, Strathpeffer Women's Guild and the Dingwall Ladies Circle.

Meetings were attended by F.O. of Wester Ross Tourist Association and by F.O. and/or Foresters of Gairloch Conservation Unit and Mid Ross and Aird Deer Management Group.

(m) Items of Local Interest:

Perhaps the main item that affects the FC is the continuing interest in Ben Wyvis as a ski-ing Development area.

Fairclough's (Civil Engineering firm) have submitted a planning application to the Highland Regional Council covering access from Tarvie to Glensgiach, a hotel leisure complex at Glensgiach, a cable railway (or rack railway) to An Caber Coire and various ski tows in the coire itself.

The Highland Regional Council should be reacting in Summer 1980 intending to monitor the skiing conditions in winter and spring 1979/80.

Meanwhile a local school teacher J Murray is trying to seek local support to float a funding company to establish a rack railway to the top of Ben Wyvis from Strathpeffer.

So far, contact with the FC has only been informal, but certain reservations were submitted to HRC in respect of Fairclough's planning application.

APPENDIX I

Rainfall:

	Achnashellach	Skye	South Strone	Torrachilty
April 1979	162.4	86.2	100.1	49.0
May	137.6	86.1	118.2	67.5
June	137.4	80.6	124.5	77.0
July	165.4	147.4	155.8	64.0
Aug.	173.9	138.1	129.6	46.5
Sept.	337.4	233.5	252.5	49.0
Oct.	148.7	133.2	114.0	97.0
Nov.	471.7	308.0	303.4	123.0
Dec.	291.0	262.9	297.8	143.0
Jan 1980	146.3	131.7	108.1	80.0
Feb.	76.2	83.0	96.8	31.0
Mar.	77.8	94.0	64.0	30.5
Total millimetres	2326.6	1784.7	1864.8	857.5
(Equiv in inches)	92	70	73.5	33.7



ACHA SHELLACH.

MR. G. DEY,
DINGWALL (W.)

ANNUAL REPORT. FY. 79/80

1. WEATHER

The usual wintry conditions persisted into April and May and the year to December was marked by high rainfall and low sunshine levels. The only exception being October when rainfall was slightly below average.

The 79/80 winter was marked by its mildness and latterly; in January, February and March, by bright sunshine and few severe frosts, with much drier conditions.

Rainfall for the year was 2327mm/91.2INS.

2. STAFF.

- a.) No change in Forester grades.
- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| R. K. MURDOCH. | FINANCIAL CONTROL COURSE AE. (Jan.) |
| W. GRANT. | LOCAL CLIMBING COURSE (1 DAY). |
| K. MILLS | LOCAL CLIMBING COURSE (1 DAY). |

- b.) Squad numbers were held steady at sixteen. i.e. One transfer for target training. B. GREEN.
One retiral G. ROBERTSON
Two recruitment C. Paton + C. MacDonald.

During year C. Paton successfully completed an H.T.S.S. course and a Pound Saw Course.

D. Mackenzie successfully completed a Sticker course.

C. MacDonald successfully completed an H.T.S.S. course.



ACHNASHKELACH ANNUAL REPORT. (contd.)

3. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS.

NIL.

4. NURSERY AND SEED.

Poor seed year - no collections.

5. FOREST MANAGEMENT.

Ploughing: About 10 ha ploughed in April while machines awaiting transport. Ploughs back again end of October, ground conditions good, weather favourable. 54 ha completed on difficult ground split almost equally between S.M.B. trailed and S.M.B. mounted. About 5 ha was ploughed by D.M.B. mounted
Final result + £350, - 6 ha. Due to increased mounted time programme. PROPOSED 64 ha.

Planting: Difficult start to planting season due to severe weather. By using all available labour 75 ha planted by June. Cold and moist prolonged planting weather. Result + £230 + 5 ha. PLANTED 75 ha.

Restocking: Still experiencing difficulty on restocking sites mainly due to difficult site (bog) and inexperienced labour.
Some beating-up required on last year's restocking area.

Fencing: This year programme delayed by road re-alignment. Grouse fence completed - 3000 m.
Fence maintenance programme suffered because of delay in Grouse fence only half of maintenance at Skattadale done. This must be taken up in 8/81.



ACH-ASHKELACH Annual Report (contd.)

FIRE: High rainfall throughout the year eliminated any danger from fire.

WILDLIFE CONTROL: All returns from control shooting were down, by about a third. This is a similar result to stag shooting in most highland areas & is attributed to the poor winter. Buck stuffing appears to be coming under control & one would hope this is a result of increased control fencing.

Sika hinds continue to cause trouble at Strathdon & strict control must be kept on this problem.

DRAWS MAINT:

Continual work required in elect fell areas particularly this year with high rainfall. There is a continuing need for more work of this nature in selected areas with drainage problems, particularly in young crops.

FERTILISING: Initial fertilising programme - i.e. 81 ha. To maintain yield also to programme. i.e. 100 ha. at Ben Eige and Sleatdale.

6. H & M

Log programme healthy with elect felling at Strone Carronach reaching programme at 3,300 m³. Special logs totalling 220 m³ & 30 m³ of E.L. to Culhoden were also completed.

Pulp production at Strone reached the 1000 tonne mark but delay in providing the forward road at Kinlochewe cost us about 500 tonnes for this year.



CITY OF SHELLAGH ANNUAL REPORT (contd.)

6. H & M (contd.)

STANDING SALES: Contract 48/58 still has 600 m³ to cut and Contract 49/56 which expires 31 DEC 80 has about 200 m³ cut. Both contracts are being worked together. Hopefully a further contract will be offered in 1980.

7. CIVIL ENGINEERING

Work programme almost completed but very late start meant delay to forward road. Some tidying up to be done.

8. MECH ENG. Nothing to report.

9. ESTATE MANAGEMENT.

N. T. R.

10. CONS. & REC.

N. T. R.

11. PRIVATE FORESTRY

N. T. R.

12. PLANT HEALTH

N. T. R.

13. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

N. T. R.

14. LOCAL INTEREST.

Howard Dettis oil-rig yard with two current orders likely to be functioning over next few years. Lochcarron area therefore a poor prospect for recruitment.

L. L. Murdoch.

16.4.80

South Strome

14/4/80.

Annual Report F.Y. 79/80.

Rainfall
Figures

April	100.1	August	129.6	December	297.8
May	118.2	September	252.5	January	108.1
June	124.5	October	114.0	February	96.8
July	155.8	November	303.4	March	64.0

Total rain fall for the year. 1864.8 mm.

u.
Administration

Non-Industrial Staff

1 Head Forester
1 Forester.

Industrial Staff.

3 Forest Workers
1 Ranger
1 Clerkess
1 Part-time Campsite
Warden.

As the number of industrial men remained below the desirable level the programme of work was achieved by employing contractors.

b
Acquisitions

There were no Acquisitions during the year.

One house was sold to the Highland Regional Council

Seed
Collection

2 hectolitres of H.L. cones were collected and despatched to the Seed Store.

Forest Management

11 ha of New Planting and 6 ha of Restocking were completed in the year. Apart from protection against Wildlife Maintenance of Fences was the only other F.M. operation undertaken this year.

Wild life numbers controlled:-

Roe Deer (Bucks) = 24 Red Deer (Stags) = 2 Fox (Dog) = 1
" " (Does) 6 " " (Hinds) 1 " (Lions) = 2
" " (Cubs) = 18

H & M

Production was all from clear felling.

Felled ^{Vol.} 5,682 ^{area} M³ 19.5 ha.

Despatches Pulpwood 1047 M³

" Saw logs 3980 M³

" Larch Saw logs. 188 M³ to bullock.

Total despatches. 5215 M³

Extraction was mainly by skidder tractor, more use was required of the Forwarder for secondary extraction.

No road improvements or maintenance took place during the year.

The holding of V.M.E 2 Transit Vans, 1 harrower,

1 Fals tone, 1 Tractor with skyline cable crane,

1 Allen Rotary Mower and 1 Fire Pump. We continue to get good servicing of vehicles and machines from the workshop.

Civil Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

h.
Statute
Management

The houses in Achmore were permanently connected up to the Regional water supply. Some external maintenance took place but has not been finished to date.

i
Conservation
Recreation

The Balmacara campsite had a very slow start due to the petrol scarcity in the early part of last summer. It was the middle of July before numbers using the site started to pick up. Visitors using the site:-

Adult night	2800
Child "	<u>933</u>
Total	<u>3733</u>

Total cash receipts = £2,830

j
Private
Forestry

Nothing to report.

k.
Plant
Health.

The year was very favourable to tree growth in general, there was certainly no lack of moisture. Sunshine and warmth during the summer was in short supply.

Public
Relations

The provision of Recreational facilities is an immense amount of good in public relations. There were not arranged visits by any organised parties this year.

TO MR G. DRY. DINGWALL WKST
FROM TORRACHILTY.

60th Annual Report Period 1/4/79 - 31/3/80

COMMENTS REGARDING THE ABOVE:

(A) ADMINISTRATION, STAFF, LABOUR & TRAINING:-

Leslie W. Beattie retired and was replaced by Leslie J. Spittal.
2 Power saw operators transferred to other conservancies and one
further operator W. Beattie commenced study at Bamberland & Westmorland
College of agriculture.

M^r. D. Mac^Grimmond, a power saw operator at Lael, completed and
passed a skidder course in Wales. S. Stewart - Radio Falstone.

No additional staff training ^{was} undertaken until the position of the
pulp mills' future became clearer. Contractors used to make up
the short fall.

(B) ACQUISITIONS & DISPOSALS:-

Nil.

(C) NURSERIES:-

All planting stock received ~~where~~ of a very good standard.
The L.P. cloche seedlings proved very successful at the high
elevations on steep cut peat.

(D) FOREST MANAGEMENT:-

The agreed programmes were completed successfully.
With regards to remedial fertilising it was found impossible
to monitor spread as directed in SM 33 APR 4. Using
the prescribed equipment for measurement, speed of flight & weather

Made control impossible. Visual appraisal by staff on the ground proved the best method of spread control.

Aerial spraying for Beauty Moth of infected and surrounding areas proved most successful, no pupae being recorded in the autumn survey.

Again deterioration of perimeter fences on the older blocks proved difficult, increasing repairs being required especially in areas with a large stocking of LP of the fire bark type.

(E) HARVESTING & MARKETING.

The log & pulp programmes were completed on time. The use of the Galstone skidders for thinnings helped pulp extraction to a great extent as did the Chain Ranger for large logs at Lael.

(F) CIVIL ENGINEERING

The roads dept upgraded 2.7 Km of the Rogie Road and built excellent lower landings on the Tervie section of the forest. A new culvert was installed on the east road at Strathconon above Achlorachan.

(G) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Some of the older type skidders proved troublesome i.e. MAXVERN. but these have been replaced.

The new 452 power saws appear to have an inherent oil pump problem.

H. ESTATE MANAGEMENT:-

The planned programme of painting the office, Torrens house and houses at Strathcoran fell down due to the painter contractor leaving the job ^{started} too late ~~in~~ the year.

I. CONSERVATION & RECREATION:-

No new projects undertaken. Work concentrated on improving the facilities already in use.

J) PRIVATE FORESTRY & CONTROL OF FELLING:-

Nd.

K) PLANT HEALTH:-

Excellent year for height growth.

L) PUBLIC RELATIONS:-

Remain excellent with both estates & neighbours.
Much praise from visitors for our recreational work.

M) ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST:-

SKE Development and associated industries

J.W. for.
17.4.80