

*Mr G A Day Esq
Dingwall*

FROM: CONSERVATOR NORTH (Scotland)

TO: District Officers, Area Engineers, Area Land Agents,
Recreation Planning Officer, Acquisition Officer

cc: Mr Roscoe, Mr Mackay, Mr Bramwell, Mr Flynn, Mr Malcolmson,
Mr Martin

Mrs Swanson, Drawing Office

REF: AD 3/3

61ST ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 1980 - 31 MARCH 1981

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 *including any Rainfall figures*

Please endeavour to let me have your reports by 15 April at the latest.

R B Urquhart
for Conservator
23 March 1981

GAD/CEM

TO: CONSERVATOR (N)

FROM: DISTRICT OFFICE
DINGWALL

AD 3/3

61ST ANNUAL REPORT : PERIOD 1/4/80 TO 31/3/81
DINGWALL WEST DISTRICT

A. Administration, Staff, Labour & Training:

There were no territorial changes in the District this FY and there were no changes in supervisory staff.

Industrials No retirements took place but one important resignation was that of J Strachan, ganger and skidder operator from South Strome.

Because of the situation, a policy of non recruitment was in force allowing the total numbers to drop from 91 at the start of the FY to 80 by the end.

Training Non Industrial The following attended courses ---

District Forest Officer, G Dey attended a one week course in HQ on Forest Design.

Achnashellach - Head Forester R Murdoch - Highland & Skyline Update
Torrachilty - Head Forester J Colling - Management (2 weeks at HQ)
" - Forester J Spittal - Cablecrane Extraction (2 weeks local).

Training Industrial Attendances at courses were as follows ---

	<u>First Aid</u>	<u>Chainsaw</u>	<u>Bruunett Forwarder</u> (3 weeks - Ae)
Achnashellach	10		
Skye			1
South Strome		3	
Torrachilty		3	

Additionally, both Achnashellach and South Strome had one man each City & Guilds courses at Inverness Technical College.

b. Acquisitions & Disposals:

Acquisitions were nil - in line with political policy.

Disposals continued of property declared surplus viz:-

Skye	House site, Glenmore Croft house site, Glenmore House, Strathord, Dunvegan.
South Strome	No 2, Achmore Tign na Furin (actually sold on 31 March 1980 to District council).
Torrachilty	One BTDH at Inchbae Land - (i) adjacent to Broompark, Strathpeffer of negligible area and (ii) at Braemore Square, Lael - 4.69 ha for Ullapool trunk road improvement. (A further series of cottage disposals are in negotiation stage at close of Forest Year).

c. Nurseries & Seed Collection:

Nurseries - Nil.

Seed Collection. Again this proved a poorish seed year for conifers although a magnificent season for blossom on broadleaved trees like gean, horse chestnut etc.

At Achnashellach a small quantity of old Caledonian Pine cones was collected from the Golden Valley area and sent to Dornoch Nursery.

Torrachilty Forest collected some broadleaved seeds including Birch (15 Kg - of both weeping and hairy varieties), Bird cherry, Gean and Horse chestnut.

d. Forest Management:

The year was characterised by a prolonged dry fire season lasting into May, by a cool, dull, wet summer and an open winter albeit prolonged by early and regular snowfalls.

There were no exceptional gales or spring frosts.

Generally the 'take' of planting and restocking was good except for some areas in Skye and Achnashellach which have been attributed in all likelihood to dipped plants.

Programmes of ploughing and planting were as follows:-

	(Ploughing)		(Planting)		(Restocking)	
	Completed (Prog)		Completed (Prog)		Completed (Prog)	
Achnashellach	34	80	31	40	13	15
Skye	380	500	406	440	12	10
South Strome	Nil	Nil	4	4	9	20
Torrachilty	90	86	100	100	2	6
District Total	504	666	541	584	36	51

Of the 504 ha ploughed, some 412 (82%) were double mouldboard - both turf and tine. The 504 ha actually reflects an area which is ahead of the seasonable planting programme and - for once - Skye was able to have a very substantial area prepared by mid summer.

The drop in programme at Achnashellach was occasioned by a failure in the planting programme thought to be due to use of dipped plants. It was decided to reduce the P81 programme and concentrate on replanting.

Quite substantial areas in Kyle Farm and Glenbrittle (both Skye) above present planted limit were inspected and classed as afforestable. Over 100 of the former were ploughed and a start had been made to a programme in the latter. A third area - at Tormore, Sleat, Skye - will similarly be reassessed and will yield some 87 ha of extra plantable ground.

Again the poorish quality of the ground restricted the plant species used largely to LP especially Skeena and Alaskan and Sitka Spruce.

Due to plant shortages a good deal of Alaskan LP was to have been foregone in favour of Skeena LP, SS and Alaskan Tubed seedlings. However, surpluses declared over the season, reduced the dependence on these alternatives. The effect of this will spread into FY 81/82.

The restocking areas were largely SS but some DF was used at Slattadale where difficult lodgement in steep rocky hag covered ground may jeopardise the take.

Once again the popular indigenous amenity species - birch, rowan, gean --- were in short supply this year.

All areas planted received fertiliser - either before or after planting and the programmes were as follows - 476 ha by Dollar Helicopters and 134 ha by hand --- i.e. at Lewis and Torrachilty.

Considerable programmes of new fencing were completed as follows:-

Deer fencing - 4901 metres - at Achnashellach (Grudie) and Skye (Kylerher)
Stock fencing - 5306 metres - all at Skye, Satran.

d. Forest Management Contd:

Protection The fire season was prolonged with the damaging fires outwith the official muirburn season. 9.7 ha of P71 LP and SS were destroyed at Waternish, Skye on 8 June - the fire started by a peat cutter. A week later, Skye very nearly lost further plantations at Kyle Farm (again a peat cutter's folly) but was saved by the wind direction (parallel to the boundary) and an intervening fire trace.

At Torrachilty - on 13 April - a fire spread in from above plantations on the slopes of Ben Wyvis destroying 3 ha of P71 LP and SS.

The biggest single outpouring of fire fighting money however, took place at Torrachilty (Lael) where a fire on a neighbouring estate was successfully kept out of FC plantations after a 3 day (from 16 to 19 May) battle.

Fire trace work continued during the year with some useful looking traces completed at Skye using the low pressure Hymac to clear 12 ft traces on soft peat at a cost of 16p/metre without oncost.

In October 1980 at a joint meeting with the Fire Services, FC District Officers and Chief Foresters were shown the potential of PLM Helicopters in fire fighting.

This was followed by a series of demonstrations in March 1981 in which District Officers, Foresters and Forest Workers were shown the helicopter in its twin capacity of laying out hose, and carrying men, pumps and beaters to the scene of the fire.

Although no outbreaks of Pine Beauty moth took place, a pupal count was carried out at Torrachilty and pheromone trap surveys were set up at Torrachilty and Achnashellach.

Programmes of Deer Fence maintenance or replacement at all units, but the 2288 metres at Achnashellach represented the major effort being concentrated on completing the ring fence and cattle grids at Slattadale.

Control of Wildlife continued and the signs are that the Rangers are getting on top of the Deer situation - especially that of Sika at Achanalt (Achnashellach) where some 30 beasts were culled.

Crop Improvement One interesting item was the start made to conserving the first of the old Caledonian Pine remnants at Achnashellach (Uig) by enclosing by deer fence and plough draining.

Fertilising also continued with programmes of ---

Achnashellach	100 ha (PK - Aerial)
Skye	210 ha (P - ")
Torrachilty	150 ha (PK - ")
"	100 ha (P - ")

e. Harvesting and Marketing:

The year has not been easy, the pattern being set by (i) the closure of the Scottish pulp mill at Corpach although ameliorated to some extent by the 'Norwimp' order; (ii) the drop in demand for sawlogs; (iii) the drop in price of sawlogs and (iv) the delay in demand for the small top diameter sawlog.

Programmes of Thinning and Felling were as follows:

	Thinning		Felling		Prog m ³	Total Completed m ³
	Completed m ³	Area ha	Completed m ³	Area ha		
Achnashellach	54	1	3601	9	4450	3655
Skye	4034	90	1303	6	6000	5337
South Strome	188	4	4518	8	7100	4706
Torrachilty	5483	104	3159	10.5	12000	8642
District	9759	199	12581	33.5	29550	22340

Use of contractors continued at all units.

By the end of the FY, a decision was taken to cease FC working at South Strome in favour of Sales Standing.

Generally speaking all clear fellings and Skidder extracted thinnings were worked on the long wood system and crosscut at roadside.

A small thinning marked in a small trial plot in Lewis - of LP and SS - was finally sold standing after some months of no offers.

The main markets served were as follows:

	Scottish Pulp m ³	Norwimp Pulp m ³	Riddoch(Kilmallie) Sawlogs m ³	Other Sawlogs m ³
Achnashellach	856	132	2924	
Skye	3269			890
South Strome	615	156	2268	
Torrachilty	4320	1411		1524
District	9060	1699	5192	2414

Skye also sold 13176 pokers to British Aluminium totalling 132 m³.

Standing Sales - apart from Lewis - were confined to Achnashellach (Slattadale) where Messrs James Jones of Larbert felled about 4679 m³ thus making good progress in catching up with arrears.

f. Civil Engineering:

Further progress on upgrading production roads to Category 1A was made at all units.

New roads were constructed in Skye - at Varrigill for production and Vicaskill for preplanting. A further preplanting road in Skye - in Glenbrittle - was well in hand by the end of the FY.

The Forwarder track at Kinlochewe (Achnashellach) was more or less completed, but the pressure to use it was relaxed due to the unlikelihood of the first thinning being started.

At South Strome, in addition to the Achmore Glen upper road being upgraded a deer grid was inserted at the Glen Uadlain access.

Work at Torrachilty was concentrated on upgrading the Torview to Rogie road, preparing a new approach to the level crossing over the Kyle railway behind Rogie, and commencing work on the new Longart formation.

Some formation work on the deep peat stretch of the Rogie-Glensgiach-New House protection road was undertaken by a low pressure Hymac.

g. Mechanical Engineering:

Vehicle strength remained at much the same level, and although some routine replacements took place, more requires to be done.

A move from Jonsered to Husquvarna 162 chainsaws was implemented and operators seem agreed that they now have a superior saw.

Some Hathaway Fire Pumps were replaced.

The attendance by mobile mechanics was very good and their being equipped with radio certainly speeds efficiency.

h. Estates:

Skye - A March fence was completed at Tormore.

South Strome - A good deal of repair work was undertaken on the Achmore houses.

Torrachilty - Work was concentrated on repainting the Forest Office, and houses at Torview and Strathconon.

i. Conservation and Recreation:

The financial constraints precluded any significant new recreational ventures so work was concentrated on maintenance of existing facilities.

The Balmacara caravan site at South Strome had a poorish season - like most of the North West - the total of adult nights being 3908 and child nights a further 760.

Mention has already been made to the Achnashellach project of fostering some of the old Caledonian Pine remnants under (d) Forest Management - Crop Improvement.

Whereas no formal approach was made to the FC by Messrs Fairclough concerning Ski development on Ben Wyvis, a tentative approach for wayleave was made by the Wyvis Rack Railway Steering Committee.

j. Private Forestry:

New Plantings inspected for grant were as follows:

<u>Dedication Basis III</u>	<u>Small Woods Planting Grant</u>
Braigh an Uird (Isle Ornsay) 199ha	Nil
Craig 9 "	
Coulin 8 "	
Scatwell 8 "	

Inspections made for Final Instalments

Attadale	-	2 ha (Approved Woods)
Langwell	-	5 ha (SWPG)
Letterewe	-	16 acres (Approved Woods)
Scatwell	-	20.2 ha (Approved Woods)

Inspections of Applications for new Schemes were as follows:-

<u>Dedication Basis III</u>		<u>Small Woods Planting Grant</u>	
Applecross	- 15.1 ha	Couldoran	- 2.2 ha
Broadford Hotel (Skye)	- 94.7 ha	Fannich	- 2.1 ha
Fernaig	- 192 ha	Lochinver	- 4.9 ha
New Kelso	- 170 ha	South Ascrib	- 2.8 ha
Rhidorroch West	- 182 ha	Stornoway Trust-	4.0 ha

k. Plant Health:

Pine Sawfly was active especially on LP at Coulin, Foich and Scatwell estates and on Torrachilty and Skye Forests. No dead trees have since been observed.

Vole damage was also noticed on Raasay on LP trees of considerable height - e g 15 ft.

Reference has already been made under (d) Forest Management to the losses on LP, SS, DF and NF due, it is suspected to dipping against Pine Weevil.

Nevertheless, it proved a fairly good growing season.

1. Public Relations:

An all party group of MP's accompanied by the FC's Chairman and Lord Dulverton visited Iael and the Strathrannoch area of Torrachilty. After spending a night at Garve they spent the following morning at Scatwell Estate.

Three coach loads of German Foresters (and wives and relatives) visited Iael to see extraction.

Included in a series of talks illustrated with slides were - the MP's party, the Society of Foresters, the WRI at South Strome and Braes (Skye), the Young Wives at Strathpeffer, an Alness Young Womans Group, and Dingwall Camera Club.

Praise continues to be made by visitors to the Torrachilty Walks.

Skye Forest mounted small shows in the prefabricated pavilion at Portree and Dunvegan Agricultural Shows. The Portree effort was greatly enhanced by an exhibit of stuffed birds and animals by Wildlife Forester Tony Hinde.

Forest Officer G Dey judged a landscape slide competition for tourists sponsored by Wester Ross Tourist Association.

m. Items of Local Interest:

See under (i) for reference to Ben Wyvis Ski-ing and Rack Railway ventures.

The oil industry took revised leases of life at both Kishorn and Nigg - the former putting pressure on labour at South Strome in particular.

Some reconstruction of the Tourism Organisations seems scheduled manifest in an amalgamation of Easter and Wester Ross groups into one, to coincide with the District Council area. Pressure has been exerted on the unwilling parties by both Regional Council and HIDE - both of whom contribute substantial funds.

n. Rainfall:

<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Achnashellach</u>	<u>Skye</u>	<u>South Strome</u>	<u>Torrachilty</u>
April 1980	64.0	31.9	28.6	14.0
May	21.0	17.6	18.0	11.5
June	214.0	100.3	189.8	130.5
July	95.0	97.8	125.3	135.0
August	190.0	98.5	148.2	62.0
September	357.0	333.0	295.7	106.5
October	282.0	224.4	194.0	87.0
November	323.0	260.8	219.4	124.0
December	486.0	302.5	272.2	183.0
January 1981	416.0	226.7	246.3	119.0
February	190.0	131.8	138.7	74.5
March	212.0	125.2	152.9	53.5
Total millimetres	2850.0	1950.5	2029.1	1100.5
equivalent in ins	112.0	76.7	79.8	43.3

ANNUAL REPORT NOTES (1/4/80 - 31/3/81)

- (a) FORESTIER STAFF - no changes. INDUSTRIAL STAFF - one Ranger left, not replaced, a worker on RAASAY is giving part time help to W. Sutherland.
TRAINING Chief Forester, H. Forester & North Skye ranger attended a one day Helicopter demonstration at Glenurquhart Forest. W. Miller H & M workers attended a 3 week Brunett Forwarder course.
- (b) Acquisitions - N.H. Disposals - Forester's house at Dunvegan. Croft house solum 1/3 Glenmore.
Croft house site No 2 Glenmore.
- (c) No seed collected, - in year was in present.
- (d) F.M. Ploughing & planting now in progress in the south part of the Glenurquhart acquisition, the replanting road from the Legion road at Struan has been a great help in this respect. Planting is in progress also in the higher part of Kyle Farm to the north side of the Kylehaas road. Ploughing & planting has also begun near the shoulder about the square mile in Glenbrittle.
trouble again with planting requirements, previously we had a shortage of SL, now there seems to be enough SL, but LF is in short supply.
Because of a very dry May 1980 we were bothered with heather burning, we lost 9.7 ha at Watonich & had a very near escape at Kyle Farm on 15-5-80. A trace done by the low pressure Skymal is now complete from the Kylehaas dump to Loch na Beiste, also along the upper Tote roadside near Staffin.
Site protection is now on a much better footing, deer populations in plantations are low.
- (e) H & M Pulp & log programmes on target at end of the F.Y. No small logs have yet been uplifted from roadside by Riddoch.
New method of C/F extraction in tree length



- 1 cross-cutting at roadside is proving successful.
Large programme of pockets has gone a little way to offset the reduction in the Skye pulp programme.
Thinking at Galaban in Lewis marked a solid standing.
- (f) Roads Dept. have culverted the preplanting road constructed into Glenivaskill from Struan road. Formation of a new preplanting road in Eynar - Glenbute now in progress. Fire dam at Kyle Farm being constructed.
- (g) All the old pumps have now been replaced by by new hathaway pumps. Older (JONSORE) chainsaws have now been called in, & we are now using the more efficient Husqvarna 162 model of saw. We have still learned much about logging equipment, quality of machines sent to SKYE-POOL. Still get tractors coming singly to a forest & getting bogged, a very expensive business.
- (h) Tormore north fence completed, meeting between Foresters & Estates with ref. to more plantable land at Tormore.
- (i) Most of the work done on maintaining Walks etc. was carried out on Kessay.
- (j) Head Forester & D.O. visited Ascrib Islands on P.W. visit.
- (k) Severe outbreaks of sawfly especially in the South part of Skye.
There was some die-back of lodgepole pine shoots, very noticeable in the Glenivaragill Block, samples sent to Research.
Still clear of Beauty Moth so far.
- (l) Tourist Office supplied with free booklets. Free posters & free publications to Portree School.
Slides on Forestry shown by D.O. at Braes, in March 81.



RAIN FALL

	<u>MILLIMETRES</u>	<u>INCHES</u>
APRIL 80.	31.9	1.26
MAY 80	17.6	0.69
JUNE 80	100.3	3.95
JULY 80	97.8	3.85
AUGUST 80	98.5	3.87.
SEPTEMBER 80	333.0	13.10
OCTOBER 80	224.4	8.83
NOVEMBER 80	260.8	10.29.
DECEMBER 80	302.5	11.91
JANUARY 81.	226.7	8.93
FEBRUARY 81	131.8	5.18
MARCH 81	125.2	4.93

TO: MR G. DEY,
DINGWALL (W).

FROM: ACHNASHELLACH.

REF: AD 3/3 - 61st ANNUAL REPORT.

1. Admin., staff, labour and training.
 - a) No change in supervisory staff. R. K. Murdoch attended Highlead and Skyline Update Course (February).
 - b) Squad numbers as before at sixteen.
 - i.e. One left own accord - S. Keenan.
 - One recruited - Chris. MacDonald.
 - c) Ten squad members attended a local First Aid Course in February. P. Russell attended City and Guilds Course, Stage 2.
2. Acquisitions and disposals.

NIL.
3. Nurseries and seed.

A small amount of Native Scots Pine seed was collected, from the Golden Valley. Sent to Dornoch for Achnashellach use only.
4. Forest management.
 - a) Ploughing.

Total ploughed 34 ha. This due to failure of last years planting. Only needed to make up planting area for 81/82. SMB 13 ha, DMB 21 ha.
 - b) Planting.

Planted 31 ha only because of heavy B. U. programme. Only plants which were successful were the Larch (not dipped), heavy deaths occurred through all other species. It would appear that dipping was the main cause of failure.
 - c) Restocking.

Restocked 13 ha at Slattadale during December/February. Very difficult site, steep and very rocky. Poor take from D.F.
 - d) Fencing.

Mainly fence maintenance at Slattadale, closing ring fence for restocking, including two deer-grids. Remainder of maintenance on Ben Eighe, Kinlochewe, Achnashellach (S) and stock fence at Strome Carronach.

e) Fire.

A very dry spell occurred during April/May, this lasted for about four weeks and was quite severe. June came in cold and wet and so ended the fire danger for 80/81. A short spell in February lasted for about a fortnight in 81 - high, but not severe.

f) Wildlife control.

The Red Deer cull continues to fall, even with Slattadale area now being effectively controlled. Not counting Slattadale the cull would be down almost 50%, compared with two years ago. When Slattadale is included it is down by about 30%.

The Sika cull is now at 30 beasts, which is double what it was two years ago. Roe are down by about a third, to ten. Beasts were in very good condition, this being a reflection of the open winter.

g) Beat - up.

55 ha of beat - up was completed at Strathbran. This heavy beat - up was required because of the heavy damage from the Sika deer resident in this block. A very difficult animal to control, can cause great damage.

h) New drains in existing plantations.

A start was made to improving the hill drainage on the Native Scots Pine enclosure, known as Glen Uaig. Approximately 33 ha were drained with the Humpy deep drainer plough.

i) Fertilising.

Initial fertilising programme completed at 80 ha. Improvement fertilising amounted to 100 ha. Very straightforward job.

5. Harvesting and Marketing.

a) Long term log contract;

Prog: 3000 m³; Uplifted: 2856 m³; Roadside: 680 m³; B/F 79/80 560 m³.

b) Scottish pulp;

Prog: 1450 T; Uplifted: 778 T; Contract closed.

c) Small log contract;

Prog: 400 m³; Uplifted: 33.m³; Roadside: 25 m³.

d) Export pulp;

Prog: 350 T; Uplifted: 120 T; Roadside: 130 T.

A poor year for production.

e) Standing sales were reduced from 5000 m³ to just over 2000 m³ because of poor markets.

Civil Engineering.

6. Work programme completed, though Grudie access limited to entrance and turning place only. Great difficulty was experienced due to very wet weather and one or two of the jobs require finishing.

7. Mechanical engineering. N.T.R.

8. Estate management. "

9. Conservation and recreation.

A start has been made to the conservation enclosure in Glen Uaig. The objective is to provide the most suitable conditions for natural regeneration of Native Scots Pine. This initially requires complete deer fencing ~~xxx~~, and some deep draining in particularly wet areas. The project will be completed next year.

10. Private forestry. N.T.R.

11. Plant health. N.T.R.

12. Public relations. N.T.R.

13. Local interest.

The local oil construction yard continues to win contracts, at Kishorn. Not as well as expected, but it still employs about one thousand workers.

14. Weather.

The year started fairly dry, a particularly dry spell occurring during May, by mid - June a cool, wet pattern developed and this kept up through the remainder of the year, except for a short dry frosty spell in February.

Rainfall for the year was 2852 mm/112 ins. However the true picture is more appreciated when it is noted that from September to January 90 inches fell - in a period of five months.

As a result of this weather, the winter has been remarkably open and mild, with very little frost.

R. K. Murdoch

R. K. MURDOCH,
6th April, 1981.

Achna shurrock

<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
64	21	214	95	190	357	282

<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>
323	486	416	190	212

South Strome
6/4/81

Annual Report F.Y. 80/81

a.
Administration

J. Strachan leaving at the end of February is the change in the staff, which will have an effect on working methods for the future.

Training. 3 men had a Chain Saw course and one man attended a Stage I City and Guilds course.

Industrial Staff:-	3	Forest Workers
	1	Senior Ranger
	1	Clerkers
	1	Part-time Campfire Warden.

b
Disposals.

One timber house was sold. in No 2.

c
Seed
Collection

No cones were gathered this year.

d. Forest
Management

New Planting = 4 ha. Restocking = 9 ha.

Expenditure in F.M. operations was mainly on protection, Rangers wages and fence maintenance.

A main burn fire on 28/2/81 threatened the plantation in Glen Udalain.

d. F.M.

Wild life numbers controlled.

Roe Deer (Bucks)	26	Red Deer (Stags)	5	Fox (Dog)	1
" " (Does)	14	" " (Hinds)	3	" (Vixen)	3
				" (cubs)	10.

e. H. & M.

Production	Felled	4518 m ³
	Thinned	188
	Total	4706 m ³

Despatches	Pulpwood (Scottish)	615 m ³
	" (Norwimf)	157

Saw logs.	2268
Total.	3040 m ³

Uplifting of Saw logs stopped in the last quarter of the year. The decision to sell the timber standing in the future was taken towards the end of the Forest Year.

f. Civil Engineering

The road round the forest above the Glen was improved out to Glen Udalain where a Deer/battle grid was made near the public road. A foot bridge at the baravan site was also erected.

g. Mechanical Engineering

The holding of V.M.E.

- 1 Transit, 1 Landrover
- 1 Tractor with skyline cable crane.
- 1 Allen Rotary Mower 1. Fire Pump.

H. Estate Management

The roofs of all the houses were checked and necessary repair carried out. There is still no indication when external painting of Nos 1 & 2 Akhleg Crescent and the 2 Foresters houses will take place.

I. Conservation Recreation

The number of people using Balmacara campsite is still disappointing.

Adult nights = 3908
 Child " 760
Total. 4668

58
 100

Total cash receipts = £3,358

J. Private Forestry.

The E. F. C. have ploughed and are planting an area of Fernaig Estate adjoining the forest.

K. Plant Health.

There were no problems with growing stock and no wind blow damage this year.

L. Public Relations

There were no organised visits by the general public. Mr G. Day gave a show of slides to the S.W.R.I. in the Village hall.

M.

Rainfall figures.

April 28.6	July 125.3	Oct. 194.0	Jan. 246.3
May 18.0	August 148.2	Nov. 219.4	Feb. 138.7
June 189.8	September 295.7	Dec. 272.2	March 152.9

Total rainfall for the year 2029 mm.

TO MR. DEY DINGWAKH WAST.
FROM TORRACHIKTY

61st Annual Report Period 1/4/80 - 31/3/81.

COMMENTS REGARDING THE ABOVE.

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

- (i) Non industrial staff level remains unchanged.
- (ii) 2 industrial men ~~resigned~~ during the period both from the main area
- (iii) 2 replacements recruited for H+M work, one at local & one at main area.
- (iii) 3 industrials were trained for chain saw work
- Forster J. Spittal completed a 2 week course on cable cranes ^(local) n.
- H. Forster J. Belling completed a 2 week course on management at H.Q.

(B) ACQUISITIONS & DISPOSALS :-

Inchbar BTDH sold.

(C) NURSERIES & SEED COLLECTION

(i) Planting stock received were of very good quality, well packed & preserved.

(ii) Seed collection at TORRACHIKTY.

BIRCH (WILLOW) 5 Kg. BIRCH (HARD) 10 Kg.

The above were forwarded to Aber Holt seed store.

Collection of Bird cherry, Yew & Horse Chestnut were sent to Blackisle & Donnoch nurseries for amenity purposes.

Again no hardwood plants were available either from conservancy nurseries or others for amenity. This is a great miss.

(D) FOREST MANAGEMENT :-

Agreed programmes were completed successfully on time & within budget costs.

A further Beauty Mith survey was conducted both in the spring by traps & in the autumn by bare count.

Deterioration of perimeter fences especially on the older blocks proved difficult with increasing repairs necessary much in excess of budget.

(E) HARVESTING & MARKETING

Scottish Pulp programme completed on time.

Log production on target, but slow pick up by merchants caused delay in extraction at Lael.

The reduction in the Larch & D.F. pulp intake has caused management problems for H. & M. work. Considerably more cable crane work is now being thrown up in comparison to ground machine extraction.

(F) CIVIL ENGINEERING

A further section of the Regie road was up graded and a level crossing connected to the road system.

The formation surface was prepared on part of the longest extension road.

G MECHANICAL ENGINEERING:

Quite a number of the Jonsved 621 were replaced by Husqvarna 162 power saws. The chain saw operators find these Husqvarna saws superior to previous ones.

Some of the transit vans are quite old and should be replaced. They are becoming troublesome and rust is a problem.

The shortage of supervisory transport makes efficient work difficult especially when coupled with the trouble experienced by some of the transits.

(I-I) ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The painting of the office, Torvik house and Station on semi detached block was completed.

(II) CONSERVATION & RECREATION.

No new projects. Work mainly concentrated on improving existing facilities. Slip on bare forest walk may make for costly repairs.

(J) PRIVATE FORESTRY & CONTROL OF FELLING.

NIL

(K) PLANT HEALTH.

An excellent year for beech growth. Pine sawfly extremely bad especially on the young h.p. areas throughout the whole forest. Virus needed urgently.

IV

(L) PUBLIC RELATION..

Praise received from visitors to forest walks + picnic areas.

Relations with farmers estates & neighbours remain very good.

Much help regarding fire spotting has been received from people living in or near the forest area.

(M) VIEW OF LOCAL INTEREST.

NIL.

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>
	14.0	11.5	130.5	135.0	62.0
<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	
106.5	87.0	124.0	183.0	119.0	
<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>				
74.5	53.5				

J.W. [signature]
1/4/87.