

TO: CONSERVATOR (N)

FROM: DISTRICT OFFICE
DINGWALL

AD 3/3

62ND ANNUAL REPORT : PERIOD 1/4/81 TO 31/3/82

A. Administration, Staff, Labour and Training

A.1 There were no territorial changes in the District during the Forest year.

A.2 The following changes took place in non industrial Supervisory Staff.

Skye Forest. Forester John Campbell - for 13 years on Lewis - retired in October 1981. The post was not refilled.

Achnashellach Forest. Forester K W Mills was transferred from Slattadale to Naver on 27/7/81. His place was taken by Forester S M Smith (on 29/7/81).

South Strome. Forester F McCreadie was transferred to Farigaig on 20/7/81. He was not replaced.

Torrachilty. Forester J Spittal transferred to P & E (Fort William) on 16th November 1981. His place was taken (in Strathconon) by Trainee Forester W F Rayner.

A.3 Non industrial Staff.

Achnashellach. Numbers dropped from 16 to 14. One young man went to Affric for Ranger training and one production worker left to go to Kishorn Oil Construction Yard.

Skye. Ganger Donald Maclean died in December 1981 after 16 years service.

Trainee Forest worker George Michie was tragically drowned in November 1981.

SFW J MacPherson retired in October 1981 under the early Retirement Scheme. He had given 47 years service.

Torrachilty. Winch Operator G Ross died in September 1981 after 22 years service.

A.4 Training Non Industrial.

One Forester from Skye attended an update chainsaw course.

The district Forest Officer, all Foresters in Charge and one representative Forester from each forest attended a Foam Fire Fighting demonstration in February 1982.

A.5 Training Industrial

Achnashellach 5 men attended one day First Aid course.
2 men attended Foam Fire Fighting Course.

Skye 2 men were given Skyline Winch training.
2 men attended Foam course.

A.5 Training Industrial (contd.)

South Strome 1 man attended City & Guilds Course Stage I at Inverness
 1 man attended City & Guilds Course Stage II at Inverness
 3 men attended one day First Aid Course.
 2 men attended Foam Course
 1 man received power saw training.

Torrachilty All power saw operators attended a follow-up power saw course.
 2 men attended Foam course.

B. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

Skye The Forester's House in Lewis was sold.

A Servitude Right of Access has been negotiated at Kylerhea.

Some 4 ha. of land was sold for improvements to the A850.

South Strome Further disposals of houses at Achmore to sitting tenants were concluded (Nos. 1, 3 & 5) and No 8 Achmore was sold to the Skye & Lochalsh District Council.

Braeintra Grazing and Steading were sold --- 22.1 ha.

Achmore Grazings were sold --- 11.3 ha.

Torrachilty No 5 F W house at Achlorachan, Strathconon, was sold.

C. NURSERIES AND SEED COLLECTION

1. There are no nurseries in the District.
2. Only South Strome was able to collect seed - 1.25 Hecta Litres HL cones.

It was a poor season for seed generally although some acorns and beech mast were in evidence on Brahan Estate.

D. FOREST MANAGEMENT

The year was characterised by extremes of weather.

The spring of 1981 began by being fairly dry and warm apart from a late storm on 24th April which precipitated 6 inches of snow in the Fannich area.

A late frost plus a sudden gale destroyed much blossom in June. Thereafter the summer deteriorated to cool and moist, reaching a high level of rainfall from September to November.

The winter that followed (and the first snows appeared on the tops on 2nd October) was the most severe for many years.

Between 4 & 6 inches of snow fell on the middle and Eastern areas of the District on 9th December and over 9 inches on North Skye and Raasay on 17th December.

A severe frost and further snow gave a white Christmas but was superseded in early January by a greater snowfall that varied from 5/6 inches in Skye to 15/16 in Strathpeffer. There was no wind and fortunately little drifting but the trees remained laden for about 10 days (resulting in a good deal of snow-break particularly in S.P.), and the frost was intense and prolonged with 22° not uncommon.

No severe gales were reported and windblow was only sporadic and usually confined to areas recently thinned, or being felled.

The year closed with the weather fairly open and damp so that the fire season had not become a problem.

The take of the P81 season was on the whole satisfactory apart from some 20 thousand ALP tublings in Glensgitheach damaged by frost.

Ploughing Programmes were completed as follows:-

Forest	Programme (ha.s)	Completed (ha.s)	Analysis (hectares)			
			SMB Tine	DMB Tine	SMB Turf	DMB Turf
Achnashellach	79*	53	1	52		
Skye	400	349		61		288
South Strone	-	-				
Torrachilty	22	25	13			12
District	501	427	14	113		300

* (Programme reduced to accommodate increased BU.).

For once the Skye programme was undertaken during the early summer months from May onwards being completed by early October.

The swing to Double Mould board ploughing is satisfying, and is virtually standard now.

Planting Programmes were as follows:-

	New Planting (Ha.)		Restocking (ha.)	
	Programme	Completed	Programme	Completed
Achnashellach	64	67.5	15	14
Skye	400	303.5	12	11
South Strome	4	4	16	.8
Torrachilty	80	97.5	10	13
District	548	472.5	53	46

Differences are mainly due to a reduction in Skye programme of 50 ha. and of the anomaly due to the overlap of Forest Year with 'P' Year. The Achnashellach programme continued at Grudie while at Torrachilty the last of the Glensgithach area was planted plus an area in Scadroy hitherto left unplanted.

Much of the Skye programme - in addition to Glenvicaskill - took place at Kyle Farm and Glenbrittle on areas above present planting limit.

Species used was as follows:- ALP 31%; KLP 28%; SS 33%; SP 4%; JL/HL 4%.

The restocking after clear felling took place as follows:-

Achnashellach - Strome Carronach
South Strome - Ardnarff
Torrachilty - Lael.

Replanting of burnt areas took place at Skye (11 ha at Waternish) and Torrachilty (3 ha at Garbat).

Species used in restocking of clear fell areas was mainly SS but with some JL and DF while LP was used on burnt areas.

Amenity was not overlooked and, despite shortages, nearly 6K broadleaved species were planted.

9K NS were also planted for future Xmas trees.

Beating up. Of the 313K plants used in Beating up some 54% were SS, 30% LP, 11% JL and 2.5% each SP & DF.

5K SS were introduced through Pine Beauty Moth damaged LP at Torrachilty.

Fertilising with PK of New Plantations took place in Skye (400 ha by Dollar Helicopters and 13 ha by hand in Lewis) and in Torrachilty 80 ha - again by Dollar Helicopters.

Fencing. The only new fencing in the district took place at Achnashellach where 1600 metres of deer fencing were put around a 35 ha enclosure which included what is believed to be a Caledonian Pine remnant.

Weeding. Poor weather once again constrained the amount of chemical weeding undertaken to only 20 out of a 114 ha programme (10 ha each Achnashellach and Torrachilty).

Poor growth generally kept hand weeding down to 123 ha., 86 ha of which was in Skye and 27 at Torrachilty.

Protection Torrachilty was free from the need for anti - Pine Beauty Moth measures although Pheronome trap monitoring continued there and at Achnashellach.

Another moth (*Zeiraphera Diniana*) appeared in Torrachilty and Lewis on LP but the outbreak was not serious.

In Raasay, build up of the vole *Clethrionomys glareolus* inflicted some damage on 2 to 4 metre LP. So far the damage has not been repeated.

Red deer has not proved a serious problem but pressure continued at Grudie where a high population of Sika threatened the new plantations there. During the F.Y. Achnashellach's kill of Sika rose to 55.

The Fire season rose to its peak with a dry spell in April moderating into May.

Achnashellach had to attend two fires virtually on the same day - both cases of neighbouring muirburn which got out of hand, one at Achintraid and the other at Fannich. Neither fire got into plantations.

Skye had a relatively trouble free season although a lot of squad time was set aside for adjoining controlled burning.

The worst incident took place at Torrachilty on April 9th where a grazing tenant's muirburn threatened a plantation above Rogie Quarry. The point of interest is that a PLM helicopter was called out and proved very useful. Between them the Forest Squad and the Fire Services succeeded in restricting damage to plantations to about 1 ha.

Torrachilty had a second scare later in April when a fire was lit high on the slopes of Ben Wyvis. It was kept well away from plantations.

Towards the end of the F.Y., representative forest workers and supervisors from all Forests in the District were given a short course in the application of Medium Expansion Foam carried by Muskeg.

The work of fire trace construction continued - by bulldozer at Torrachilty and Achnashellach, and Low Pressure Hymac in Skye.

Perhaps the most significant event bearing on fire protection was the opening of a new transceiver station on the new BBC mast at Craig near Plockton. Not only has this improved FC radio reception in the south Skye area but has now extended cover to embrace Patagan, South Strome and Achnashellach.

Crop Improvement. The prescribed programme of remedial fertilising all PK was completed as follows, using Dollar Helicopters.

Achnashellach	107 ha	(Kelso & Meall an Fluichard)
Skye	177 ha	
South Strome	350 ha	
Torrachilty	290 ha	
District	924 ha.	

Crop Improvement (Contd.)

In addition, 40 ha PK were applied by hand to plantations at Aline, Lewis.

Programmes of Drain Maintenance were undertaken at Achnashellach, Skye and Torrachilty.

E HARVESTING AND MARKETING

The recession which set in during FY 80/81 due to 1. Closure of Pulp Mill at Corpach 2. decrease in demand for sawlogs and 3. low prices continued to dominate the marketing side of things this FY.

Nevertheless considerable programmes were completed and the export pulp venture helped to keep the production side fluid - and jobs going.

Programmes of FC working were as follows:-

	Thinning		Felling		Totals	
	Completed m ³	Area ha	Completed m ³	Area ha	Completed m ³	Programme m ³
Achnashellach	216	3	3351	8	3567	5000
Skye	512	12	4483	18	4995	4400
Torrachilty	5483	104	3159	10.5	8642	9900
District	6211	119	10993	36.5	17204	19300

In addition 625 m³ (from research felling, windblow etc) was sold at Slattadale (Achnashellach).

Standing Sales

	Felled ha	ha	Programme m ³
Achnashellach (Slattadale)	1828	5	2303
South Strome	2540	5	4000

Some activity also took place in Skye where a buyer was found for the Balallan thinning in Lewis and who did manage to make a start, (13 m³ felled from 208 m³). J. Ferguson in Raasay also completed the felling of his small quantity of thinnings and is in the process of offering for a further small parcel of 33 m³.

In general the emphasis has been switched from Thinning to Clear Felling where possible. Cable crane thinning is virtually in abeyance and 1st Thinning is only being continued at Torrachilty where conditions are easy enough to allow the cheaper extraction of the Bruunett Forwarder.

A considerable de-escalation of equipment - power saws and cable crane winches - took place towards the end of the Calendar year with the object of keeping down unproductive VME costs.

Sales of Produce

The Major markets were as follows:-

	Small Round/ Pulpwood SPPD or Norwimp Tonnes	Saw		Logs	
		Riddoch	Kilmallie	Murray Portree	Other
		Large m ³	small m ³	m ³	m ³
Achnashellach	401	2667	88		
Skye	1006		1456	451	1582
South Strome Torrachilty	6060	1810			1363
District	7467	4477	1544	451	2945

Closing roadside stocks in the District were high due to a reluctance on the part of Merchants to uplift. Small round wood 818 tonnes; Sawlogs 1728 m³.

Other purchasers of roadside logs included Messrs J Jones of Larbert, A Gordon (Mairn), A Tulloch (Mairn) and G Catto (Scotlog).

Standing Sales involved two merchants - Jones at Slattadale and Riddoch, South Strome.

Small quantities were also sold of sawn timber (Torrachilty) and fence posts, firewood etc (Skye & Torrachilty).

Skye also continued its poker market, dispatching 11,094 pokers to British Aluminium at either Kinlochleven (12ft) or Fort William (20ft).

F. CIVIL ENGINEERING

The roads branch were active in all forests of the District during the year.

At Achnashellach, the work was mostly upgrading existing roads to Cat 1A, and constructing a new access from the A890 public road into the main Achnashellach block, north face, near Lair.

Work was also in progress on a new cattle grid at Ardaneaskan.

In Skye, a new access was put into the Kylerhea block and a preplanting road formed on the high ground at Glenbrittle.

A bridge held over from the previous FY was completed at Varrigil and a programme of general grading carried out at Glenbrittle.

At South Strone, upgrading and construction of two loading bays were completed on the Ardnarff face serving compts. 5 to 8 on the upper side of the County road.

Torrachilty was provided with a new bridge in Glensgitheach on the Newhouse/Rogie link, while a further new bridge at Rogie was partially completed.

The level crossing beyond Rogie was also completed and work continued on a new Longart road.

An accommodation road resulting from the new Gorstan bypass on the Maryburgh/Ullapool road was formed in the adjoining plantation near Gorstan.

G. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mention has already been made of a return to the Longman of several items of unproductive equipment including 3 cable cranes, 1 skidder and 4 power saws.

This leaves the District with extraction equipment as follows:-

Achnashellach	1 skidder
Skye	2 Cable cranes
Torrachilty	1 skidder, 1 cable crane and 1 forwarder.

The Bruunett operator has gained confidence and skill and has been used at a number of other units eg Skye, Queens, Inshriach --- as well as his parent station, Torrachilty.

The policy of replacing vans and hathaway pumps continued and in the power saw field, a start was made to a move from Jonsered to Husquvarna 162s, which appeared to satisfy operators.

H. ESTATES

The main item was at Achnashellach where a new office was constructed at Lair.

The old office at Lael was adjudged not repairable and an alternative office - an old single room office from Rumster - was erected near the sawmill. Neither was ready for occupation by the end of the FY.

In Skye, the office in Glenbrittle was rewired and work is still in progress installing a new larder section within the old barn at Kinloch.

At South Strome, exterior painting was undertaken of the two Foresters houses and Nos. 1 & 2 Achbeg Crescent.

A good deal of repair work had to be carried out to the water supplies to houses and holdings at Lael because of heavy rainfall.

I. CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Once again, no new works were undertaken and the main activity was of maintenance to items already constructed.

The caravan site at Balmacara was quiet and seldom reached more than half capacity.

Adult nights totalled 2719 (children 520) bringing revenues of £2712.

Maintenance was carried out in particular to the walk at Storr (Skye) and forest garden at Lael. The walk at Lael had to be shortened because of a dangerous bridge, while the Slattadale walk near the Tollie path is temporarily closed because of a Standing Sale.

The plan to conserve the Achnashellach SP took a firm step forward with the enclosure of the largest patch in Glen Uaig by a deer fence. Some plough draining was also done.

A start was made to a Conservation Plan for Skye.

While nothing concrete has yet emerged plans to develop Ben Wyvis for ski-ing continue to be active and the HIBD have sponsored a marketing study into the viability of a possible rack railway to the summit from Strathpeffer.

J. PRIVATE FORESTRY

The year was not a particularly active one and there seems to be a slowness to apply for the new Grant Scheme.

One of the most active areas appears to be Skye where both SWOA and Fountain Forestry are seeking to purchase many areas close to FC owned land.

Nine applications for new Forestry Grant were looked at totalling some 165.7 ha, although one scheme in Skye (Broadford) of 84.6 ha now appears a non-starter.

Towards the end of the FY a further application involving nearly 300 ha near Portree was inspected but this too looks like a non-starter.

Inspections made for Planting Grant

Dedicated Schemes		Approved Woods 2nd Installment	Small Woods 1st Installment		
Brahan	0.6 ha	Kernsary	Fannich	2.2 ha	
Braigh un Uird	94.4 ha	(Letterewe)	Torridon	1.7 ha	
Coulin	13.0 ha	Scatwell	20.2 ha	Couldoran	2.2 ha
Lochluichart	24.5 ha		Stornoway		
Tungadale	121.4 ha		Trust	3.0 ha	
			Borve (Skye)	1.0 ha	
			Langwell	3.2 ha	
253.9 ha		26.7 ha	13.3 ha		

Felling Licences

(a) Clear Felling	Applecross	0.7 ha
	Coulin	1.3 ha
	Gairloch & Conon	38.0 ha (renewal)
	Cromartie	0.25 ha (renewal)
(b) Thinning	Little Scatwell	7.2 ha
	Scatwell	15.3 ha

Plan revisions were made for a number of Estates including Foich, Inverbroom and Lochcarron.

Scatwell sold Dedicated Plantations to the Thomson Organisation Pension Fund Trust (London) in Strathconon (37.7 ha planted ex 44.3 Total) and Strathbran (163.5 ha planted ex 209 ha total area).

K. PLANT HEALTH

It has been on the whole a healthy season.

Mention has already been made of some items under Section D. that

1. Pine Beauty was no longer a threat.
2. Zeiraphera Diniana (Larch bud moth) appeared on LP in Torrachilty (Garbat) and Lewis (Garrynahine). The attack appears to have aborted because of the lateness of the season, the caterpillars cuccooning themselves in a resin bound bundle of appressed needles.
3. Pine Sawfly was again in evidence eg in Skye and Garbat (Torrachilty) and on some Private Estates especially in Torridon. However the caterpillars seemed smaller than usual and many seemed to die naturally.
4. Browning of shoots of LP on Skye and South Strome gave rise to some concern. The pathologist's assessment was that the condition was climatic. Certainly a similar outbreak on Foich Estate seemed to coincide with a frost level.
5. Fairly sizeable LP had bark gnawed off stems and shoots by a high population of voles believed to be of species Cleithionomys Glareolus. No deaths appear to have occurred as a consequence and no similar outbreak seems to have occurred yet this season.
6. Apart from some tubed seedling ALP in Torrachilty which were lifted by frost the take has been good.
7. Some cases of SS being damaged by a late frost at the flush period were reported eg South Strome.
8. The heavy snowfall of January '82 caused a good deal of snow bend and snap in SS and especially young SPat Torrachilty.
9. In general the dull moist summer gave a fairly good growing season.

L. PUBLIC RELATIONS

The year was not a particularly onerous one although school parties did visit forests eg Skye (Glenbrittle) and Torrachilty.

Talks with films were also given to schoolchildren in Portree.

Skye mounted the usual pavilion at the Portree Agricultural show on 31st July and a few days later at Dunvegan.

Aberdeen University Agricultural students were taken to Strathconon for one of their annual field outings from Tarradale House.

The Forest Officers tally of slide shows on Forestry for the year was 9 given to various organisations etc. in Dingwall, Gairloch, Portree, Raasay, Contin and Strathpeffer.

M. ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Reference has already been made to Ben Wyvis Ski-ing Development in Section I.

The oil Industry continues to exert pressure in the Kishorn area by attracting labour with high wages.

The Forest Officer sat on a committee convened to set out guidelines on IDP (Integrated Development Plan) - a scheme which attempts to bring assistance to agriculture on the Outer Hebrides. The 5 year scheme commencing in 1982 seeks to distribute some £20^{million} over the period - much of the money coming from EEC - mostly in the form of enhanced grants.

The Forestry representation was essentially advisory on shelter belt planting.

The series of meetings were held in Inverness, Stornoway and Benbecula and the final report was produced just at the turn of the FY.

N. RAINFALL

Month/Year	Achnashellach	Skye (Portree)	South Strome	Torrachilty
April 1981	69.1	25.7	47	14
May "	69.8	77.2	51	14
June "	190.0	93.6	149	57
July "=	83.8	79.4	113	53
August "	141.3	96.7	111	15.5
Sept. "	354.7	274.6	259	58
Oct. "	343.1	289.3	230	57
Nov. "	609.8	363.0	349	59
Dec. "	149.9	85.1	90	117
Jan. 1982	251.3	124.3	132	117
Feb. "	181.8	177.2	173	67
Mar. "	240.1	162.9	201	104
Total Millimetres	2864.7	1849	1905	732.5
(inches)	105.7	72.8	75	28.8

South Strome.

5/4/82.

Annual Report ^{F.Y.} 81/82.

A. Administration Industrial Staff Training courses attended during the year. Chain Saw Course = 1 man.

City & Guilds Stage I 1 man.

City & Guilds Stage II 1 man.

One day Fire' Drill Course 3 men

Fire Protection using the Mustang 2 men.
with water and foam.

Present Industrial Staff :- 2 Forest Workers.
1 Senior Ranger.
1 Clerk.
1 Part-time Composite Warden

Non-Industrial :- Forester F. McCreachie was transferred

B Disposals.

No 1 The Square, Achmore. }
No 3 " " " } Sold to the sitting tenant
No 5 " " " }
No 8 " " " } Sold to the District Council.

Agricultural land sold.

Achmore Grazings 11.3 ha.

Boacitra Grazing and Stealing 22.1 ha.

C Seed Collection 1.25 H/L. of H.L. cones collected & despatched.

Forest Management

New Planting = 4 ha. Restocking = 7 ha.

Damage by spring frost to recently established S.S. causing the tree to die was fairly extensive especially in compartments 65 and 66.

In Glen Molalain 350 ha received an application of P.K. fertiliser.

C. H & M.

Standing Sales 2540^m³ felled by Riddocks of Rotherham.
Logs at Roadside 1810^m³ lifted " "

Civil Engineering

The road serving compartments 5-8 was repaired and improved with two bays added in preparation for felling the area.

Mechanical Engineering

The holding of V.M.E.

1 Land-Rover 1 Escort Van

1 Allen Rotary Mower, 1 Fire Pump, 2 Chain Saws.

h. State.

The exterior painting of 1 & 2 Achbeg Crescent and the foresters houses took place.

Improvements have been made to Hillview, a system of radiators run from the living room fire and a new kitchen sink unit have been installed.

Conservation
Recreation.

Balmacara Campsite:- The numbers using the site are very low this year.

Adult nights = 2719

Child " = 520

Total nights = 3239.

Total cash receipts = £2712.

K.
Plant health.

Spring frost damage to SS. already mentioned under F.M., there were no other problems, in general it was a good growing season.

m.

Achmore and area now has T.V. reception on three channels through a self help scheme installed on the slope of Breac Mhaol.

N. Rainfall-

April 47	July 113	October 230	January 132
May 51	August 111	November 349	February 173
June 149	September 259	December 90	March. 201

(Rainfall for the year. 2105 mm.)

(1900)

TO: MR. G. DEY
DISTRICT OFFICE
DINGWALL

FROM: TORRACHILTY

62 nd ANNUAL REPORT. 1. 4. 81 - 31. 3. 82

- A. Administration Staff Transfer of one Forester, being replaced by a trainee.

Industrial Staff Reduction in strength. One man, J. Ross deceased.

Training All Power Saw operators attended a follow up P/Saw course. Two operators and the trainee forester were trained on fire fighting with foam.

- B. Acquisitions & Disposals:

Acquisitions NIL

Disposals - FW House, No. 5 Achlorachan, Strathconon.

- C. Nurseries & Seed Collection: NIL

- D. Forest Management Dry spell in April with high fire danger. One Muir fire got out of control and damaged 1 Ha. of trees and scrub.

The "take" of planting and restocking was good except for some LP ex BlackIsle cold store which appeared to have heated a bit. An area at Scardroy of 13.5 ha was ploughed and planted having been omitted the first time round. Total planting in year 101.5 ha.

20 Thousand ALP tubes planted at Glensgathead fared rather badly during the severe frost of the winter 81/82, many being affected by frost lift. 80 ha of initial planting were fertilised by helicopter. Younger plantations had their fence lines completely maintained following snow damage i.e. Scardroy, Strathrannoch and Garbat.

Protection Following demonstrations the previous year, the helicopter was used to fight a bad muir fire at Tarvie on 9. 4. 81, with great success. Some of the existing fire traces were "freshened up" by bulldozing.

Crop Improvement 290 ha of P72/73 plantations were fertilised with PK by helicopter.

- E. Harvesting and Marketing Pulp programme was on target and completed within budget costs in the main. There was a shift from all types of pulp working i.e. cablecrane, skidder etc. to only one method of Forwarder and the effects in cost will only be apparent in the current working of the last two months of the programme.
The spring sale of logs at Lael has still not been completely uplifted but this has been the merchants fault. Extensions have twice been granted. No offers were made for the parcel of logs at Lael offered in the autumn sale, but keen interest was shown in the 500 m offered at Faebait.
- F. Civil Engineering A new bridge was completed on the Glensgathead links road and the approaches to the bridge improved. However, the road is still impossible to all traffic except Landrovers. A new bridge was erected at Rogie Farm but approaches still have to be completed.

The extension of the Longart Road was bulldozed to the Inchbae connection. Formation and top dressing still have to be completed. Culverting has been carried out over part of the extension.

The accomodation road between Gorstan and Silver Bridge was finished off and would appear to be most satisfactory.
- G. Mechanical Engineering During the year under review the mechanical stock on the unit has been dropped by 2 Cablecranes, 1 Skidder and 3 P/Saws. Extraction equipment has been enhanced by the addition of a Bruunett Forwarder which is hired out part of the year to other units.
- H. Estate Management Heavy rainfall in the west caused trouble with private water supplies to FC Houses and Holdings, especially at the Lael section. New dams etc. had to be erected and water lines relaid more than once.
- I. Conservation and Recreation Again policy was to maintain and improve existing walks and Gardens. All facilities well used by the General Public. Wind and water caused damage to the Lael walks and bridges thereby reducing the overall length of the trail.
- J. Private Forestry NIL

- K. Plant Health Another year of heavy attack by Pine Sawfly.
No Pine Beauty Moth damage.
Snow damage quite noticeable in SP and LP plantations.
- L. Public Relations Two visits from Dingwall Primary school with short
conducted tours in the area of the picnic site at Torrachilty.
- M. Items of Local Interest NIL

G. W. H. L.
7.4.82

BEECHWOOD
PORTREE
ISLE OF SKYE
5-4-82

MR. G.A. DEY.

ANNUAL REPORT NOTE

HAD A KNOCK ON MY RIGHT
THUMB & FOUND DIFFICULTY IN
WRITING WITH THE BANDAGE.

DONNIE HAS COMPLETED
ABOVE NOTE.

GOOD PRACTICE FOR HIM?

→ C. F. BERTON.

ANNUAL REPORT NOTES 1/4/81 - 31/3/81A, ADMIN,
STAFF, LABOUR
TRAINING.

One forester retired + not replaced. Staff complement now 1 C/F, 1 H/F, + 2 foresters.

One craftsman + one trainee died during year. One trainee taken ill at Glenkiln.

One forester + C/F. trained in fire-fighting (delapensham).

One " " " on updated chainsaw course

Two forest workers trained on Nylis Finish.

B, ACQUISITIONS
+ DISPOSALS.

No acquisitions. One forester's house (Lewin) sold.

C, SEED.

No seed available for collection.

D, FOREST
MANAGEMENT

349 ha ploughed during year + 371 ha areas drained. 326 ha planted during year including 95 ha of the current programme, where start was delayed by weather conditions. The delays so far from fire danger. Some winter weather also inhibited a fair trial of the Smalley drainer. A new fire trail was cleared round the Brao block + repairs to the Hallowish west side marsh fence were completed. There is little fresh damage from bank rats in Traoy + all plantations now have low deer populations.

E, H & M

Log + pulp programmes exceeded by 1000 m³. 5000 m³ filled + 5500 m³ sold.

Briddons small log sales proceeded on programme, about 1600 m³ sold.

Scotlog sales started in October with 450 m³ logs sent to Germany. A further 600 m³ logs + 700 m³ pulp uplifted by same firm in March.

H. Murray Ltd. bought 500 m³ sawlogs.

B.A.C. Kirkcaldy bought 7000 pickers.

A small amount of pulpwood has been sent to Norway after the initial 1000 m³ which completed over contract.

Logging was again undertaken by contractors, + most extraction was by cable-crane using F.C. Salwood. 800 m³ was extracted by Brownlie. This machine was a great success + will no doubt be used again.

F, CIVIL
ENGINEERING.

New access into Kaperken - repairs to existing road almost complete. Glimkittie pre-planting road completed & other roads there graded. Track constructed for Bruneth forwarder. New bridge on Glimkittie forest road.

G, MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING.

Several machines replaced. One tractor & one cargo. Two Excavators replaced by Martins.

H, ESTATE

Joint Office at Glimkittie re-ward. Work in progress (by forest squad) on new Larder at Kinkok.

I, C. & R.

Additional hand-drawing done on forest walk at Kott. Visit by Mr. Bell in connection with production of new Joint Hake Leaflet.

J, PRIVATE
FORESTRY

Visits to Abanyany Trust plantings & proposed plantations at Ganyamini, Eshken & Sulikader. Inspection of Jointain Jointain plantings at Tengadale.

K, PLANT HEALTH

Outbreak of deformation of L.P. in Lewis identified as attack of Lardok Bud Moth (*Zeiraphera Nimiana*). Too early to say if another attack is likely in the coming year.

L, P.R.

Visits to Glimkittie & Glimkashil by primary & secondary school children. Visit to one primary school. Slide show by D.O. for Portau Apemini field & film show by Wild Life forster to local Wild Life Society. Film publications to Portau school.

1) Admin, Staff, Labour and Training.

a) K. W. Mills was transferred to Naver on 27/7/81, and replaced by S. M. Smith on 29/7/81.

No courses for staff, apart from local one day courses. i.e. First Aid and Med. Expansion Foam.

b) Squad numbers now down to 14; one member transferred to Affric for Ranger training and one left of own accord, for Kishorn Oil Construction Yard.

c) Five squad members attended First Aid Course thus all at Achnashellach have completed the course.

Two squad members attended the Med. Exp. Foam course at South Strone.

A. R. 81/82 Achnashellach.

2) Acquisitions and Disposals.

Nothing to report.

3) Nurseries and Seed.

N. T. R.

4) Forest Management.

- a) Ploughing amounted to 53 ha. i.e. S.M.B. Tine mounted 1 ha ; D.M.B. Tine mounted 52 ha.
- b) Planting of 67 ha was completed.
- c) B.U. of New Plant 80/81, due to deaths, was made on 23 ha.
- d) Restocking of 14 ha in Strome Carronach was completed. This mainly by S.S, on previous S.S./D.F. site.
- e) B.U. Restock of 4 ha D.F. at Slattadale on very difficult site.
- f) Chemical Weeding severely restricted by wet and windy weather. 10 ha completed.
- g) Fencings:
 - i) New Deer (internal) to protect Native Scots Pine enclosure - 35 ha, 1600 m completed.
 - ii) Deer maint. Extensive repairs (7000 m) to Slattadale, Kinlochewe, (contingency wash-out) Strathbran and Achnashellach (snow damage).

4) g) Fencing:

iii) Stock Maint. Mainly routine, but extensive at Reraig where Crofting neighbour insisted on legal maintenance. This accounted for 1700 m out of 6750 m. and was not budgetted.

h) Wildlife. Deer continue to be a serious problem, particularly Sika on the Strathbran/Grudie section. Red deer appear to be well under control throughout the forest. Roe pose no problem at present.
Cull: Red - 67, Roe - 26, Sika - 55.

i) Fire. Very dry spell during March/April. Three fires April - two from muirburn, one from suspected train. May onwards fire danger high but moderating with fresh growth and rain

j) Drains maint. Considerable work in felling areas particularly in heavy hag sites ex S.S. Also with ~~almost~~ continuous rain from summer onwards, peaking in November to 24" repeated wash - outs and culvert blocking occur. 114 ha completed.

k) 107 ha of P.K. This was on part of Kelso block and the main L.P. component of Meall an Fluichard, to maintain yield.

5) H. & M.

a) Continued difficulty in obtaining suitable labour - cannot compete with Kishorn. With a further loss to Kishorn, it is now accepted that standing sales are the only answer - at present.

b) i Long term logs:

Prog. 3180, Lifted 2667, Rdside 400.

ii Small logs:

Prog. 416, Lifted 88, R'dside 50.

iii Pulp:

Prog. 430 T, Lifted 401 T., R'dside 190 T.

iv Standing sales:

Contr. 80/57 - 2370, finished by February.

Contr. 81/90 - 3319, started, only 260 cut to date.

6) Civil Engineering.

Roads programme virtually completed, some tidying up still to finish. Probably finished just after Easter. This programme mainly in anticipation of timber sales at Achnashellach. Roads 1a, 1b and 1c; 111 and 113, 4, 5, 31 and 32 all improved. Grid in process of construction at N. Strome also Rd No. 3 maintained.

7) Mech. Engineering. - N.T.R.

8) Estate Man. - N.T.R.

9) Conservation and Recreation.

A quiet year. Slattadale Forest Walk now eliminated by standing sale. Native S.P. reserve completely fenced, some regeneration evident already. No monitoring so far due to pressure of work.

10) Private forestry - N.T.R.

11) Plant health - N.T.R.

12) Public relations - N.T.R.

13) Local interest.

Kishorn Yard continues to absorb any free labour over a wide area (e.g. Portree) and is likely to do so for a good number of years.

14) Weather.

A very dry warm spell through April and May started the year. Very soon after an increasing amount of rain became the normal pattern. The summer tended to be blustery and cool.

Autumn was if anything wetter, and this built to a peak in November with 610 mm (24"). This continued to the year's end. No muirburn was possible to date this spring.

The Winter was not particularly severe, though there was prolonged frost over December to mid-January.

R. K. Murdoch
R. K. Murdoch,

6th April, 1982.