

THE BIN.(Banff and Aberdeen.)

The Bin Forest takes its name from a prominent hill, 1,027 feet high, which rises 3 miles north west of Huntly, and over which the woods of the main block extends. Nearby are 11 smaller woods, including Dunbennan south of the River Deveron, and the Wood of Kinnoir. The high road from Huntly to Keith (with bus service) runs beside the main Bin block, while the outliers are reached by other roads radiating from Huntly. Several of these plantations, particularly those on Ordiequhill, are well seen from the Huntly - Keith railway line; there are stations at Huntly and Rothiemay. Most of this land was cleared woodland when acquired, but the remaining section of the forest, known as the Balloch, has been established on bare hill ground. This lies on the Balloch Hill, 1,199 feet, on the Banff - Aberdeen border, 3 miles east of Keith. It adjoins the main railway line at Grange Station, and is in full view of the Keith - Banff road (with bus service).

The main Bin area, 3,689 acres was taken over in 1925, and the greater part of the Balloch, 762 acres, in 1930. There have been nine other smaller acquisitions of land, at various dates between 1926 and 1951, and the total area of the forest is now 5,987 acres. This includes 1,005 acres of unplantable land. Plantations formed up to 1951 cover 4,731 acres, leaving 251 still to be planted. The main species grown are Norway and Sitka spruces, Scots pine, and European larch. The older plantations, dating from 1926 onwards, are now at

the thinning stage, the trees to be removed are sold standing to timber merchants, who dispose of them for pitwood, fencing material, and a small proportion of sawmill timber. Twenty-four people are directly employed, and there are eleven Forest Workers Holdings.

The main Bin block stands on basic igneous rocks, with a boulder-strewn surface and a heather^y vegetation. The Balloch area is on quartzite. All the land is over 300 feet above sea level. Roe deer and capercaillie are found in the Bin woods. A paper entitled "The Soils and Vegetation of the Bin and Clashindarroch Forests," in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (Vol. LX.Pt.1. (No.8) 1939/40) gives details of those features.

CLASHINDARROCH

(Aberdeen).

Clashindarroch, the largest forest in the north-east of Scotland, stands on the hills a few miles south of Huntly. The larger of its two sections lies between Strath Bogie and the Banffshire border, being almost completely enclosed by the circuit of roads from Huntly to Rhyⁿie, Cabrach, and thence down the Deveron back to Huntly. The highest point is the Tap o'Noth, 1,851 feet, a prominent landmark, which is topped by both an ancient vitrified fort and a modern look-out station for reporting forest fires; the Mount of Hoddoch, 1,711 feet, and over a score of lesser peaks stand within this section, and most of the land is above 500 feet in altitude. Most of the plantations lie along two valleys, those of the Log Burn and the ^{Kirkney}Kirtney Water; which leave the main road near Bridgend, some 3 miles south of Huntly, and run for several miles into the hills. A public road runs up each valley, and a network of forest roads connects the various approaches although the forest comes right down to the Huntly - Rhyⁿie road, no plantations can be seen therefrom, as this portion is at present used for agriculture. The woods lie farther back, but some are in view from the Rhyⁿie - Cabrach road.

The Gartly Moor portion of the forest, which covers 2,421 acres and was acquired in 1945, stands on the opposite, eastern side of Strath Bogie, on the high heathery moorland between the two main roads that run south-east from Huntly towards Inverurie and Aberdeen.

main railway line that passes below it at Gartly Station. Most of this portion is over 750 feet above sea level, the highest point being Knockandy Hill, 1,426 feet.

Clashindarroch Forest has a total area of 21,148 acres, which includes 4,748 acres of unplantable hilltops and farm land at lower levels. By 1951, roughly half of the remainder had been afforested, 8,081 acres being under plantations, while 8,319 acres awaited planting. Afforestation began in 1930, and has proceeded steadily since. The main trees grown are, Sitka and Norway spruces, European and Japanese larches, and Scots pine, much of the ground is ploughed before planting. The oldest plantations are now at the thinning stage. Forty people are employed and there are thirteen Forest Workers Holdings. Prior to afforestation, much of the land was heather moor. The underlying rocks are mostly metamorphic schists, but there are also large areas of basic igneous rocks. A good deal of research work has been done at this forest, and the results of one investigation have been published under the title of The Soils and Vegetation of the Bin and Clashindarroch Forests. (See Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Vol. LX. Pt. 1. (No.8) 1939/40).

CORRENNIE

(Aberdeen)

Corrennie Forest consists of a long strip of former woodland and rough hill ground on the eastward face of the extensive old deer forest of Corrennie, which lies 20 miles west of Aberdeen between the road to Alford and that to Tarland. It was acquired in 1948, extended in 1951, and now covers 1,914 acres. Between 1949 and 1951, 405 acres were planted; 1,310 acres remain for future work and 199 are unplantable. Thirteen men are engaged in forming the new woods, which will be mostly of Scots pine, Norway and Sitka spruces, and European and Japanese larches. The underlying rocks are granite and ⁿgneiss, and elevations range from 700 to 1,500 feet. High moors rise to the west, but to the east there is rich arable country. The nearest village is Alford, 4 miles west. The bus service from Aberdeen to Alford, which follows the main road, passes the north end of Corrennie Forest at Tillyfourie.

COUNTESSWELLS

(Aberdeen)

Countesswells Forest, which consists of eight small and scattered woods is situated just west of Aberdeen, being 5 miles from the city centre, and midway between the main ⁿNorth Deeside road and the road to Tarland. Most of the woods are accessible from the secondary road (3 miles long) from Bielside north to Kingswells, which, near Countesswells House, is joined by a road from Mannofield. The Aberdeen - Tarland bus service passes ⁿNorth of the forest, and the Aberdeen- Peterculter service on the south, the nearest station is Cults, 2 miles south-west. This area of 664 acres ~~was~~ mainly cleared woodland when acquired in 1946, but there were a few standing plantations, the thinnings, from which are sold for pitwood. The bulk of the area has been replanted with Scots and lodgepole pines, European and Japanese larches, Norway and Sitka spruces, and Douglas fir. There are smaller areas of beech, ash, red oak and birch. The woods stand on a granite formation at elevations from 300 to 600 feet above sea level, and are surrounded by farmlands. The area under plantations in 1951 was 543 acres.

X Six men are employed and there are two houses. X

D E E R

(Aberdeen)

The Forest of Deer is made up of 5 detached areas near the village of Old Deer, which lies 12 miles west of Peterhead and 15 miles south of Fraserburgh. Its largest portion is an irregularly shaped block of old woodland north-west of Pitfour House, between Old Deer and Strichen; this includes Drinnies Wood, Loudon Wood, and White Cow Wood, all acquired in 1926, and Saplinbrae, added in 1949. The three woods here, which amount to 1,367 acres lie at elevations of 140 to 466 feet amid the well-farmed country of Buchan. They are between the North Ugie Water and the South Ugie Water on a geological formation of quartzite.

The Lenabo section also acquired in 1926, consists of about 900 acres of hill ground, formerly an airship base, on a secondary road 8 miles west-south-west of Peterhead, near the Corse of Balloch; together with a smaller area on Rora Moss, which is 7 miles north-west of Peterhead. These two woods, which are on gently sloping ground at elevations of 250 to 400 feet, are on drift soils over granite rocks.

X Taken together, the woods comprising the Forest of Deer cover 2,251 acres; 2,058 acres have been planted up, mainly between 1930 and 1939; 50 acres remain to be planted, and 143 acres of moorland ^{are} ~~is~~ unplantable. The main trees grown are Sitka and Norway spruces, Japanese larch, and lodgepole pine, with some white spruce and Serbian spruce (Picea Omorika), principally at Lenabo. Fifteen people are employed, mainly on thinning work, and seven houses have been built. This forest is now in the productive stage, and thinnings, which yield fencing material, pitwood, and sawmill timber, have been sold to timber merchants. The local roads are good, and bus services link Old Deer with Fraserburgh, Peterhead, and

Mintlaw. Historical features in or near the Old Deer woods include three stone circles, and an ancient camp, and a ruined abbey.

D E L G A T Y

(Banff and Aberdeen)

Delgaty Forest takes its name from the ancient castle and Wood of Delgaty, 2 miles east of the town of Turriff, in Aberdeenshire. In 1950, 390 acres of felled woodland and rough moorland were taken over here, and added to other felled woods, acquired in 1949, which cover 426 acres. The largest group of these woods lies on the Hill of Mountblairy and Brownside Hill (670 feet) about 5 miles north-west of Turriff, and thus in Banffshire. Altogether there are six blocks with a combined area of 816 acres; during 1950 and 1951, 112 acres were planted up, and work on the remainder is proceeding. The main trees used are Sitka spruce Japanese larch, and lodgepole pine. Three men are employed X These woods lie on hills surrounded by well-farmed arable land. The rocks are conglomerate of the Old Red Sandstone, except at Mountblairy, where slates are found. Turriff has a railway station, and is served by buses from Aberdeen and Banff, while local services pass nearer the plantations.

KEMNAY

(Aberdeen)

Kemnay is a very scattered forest, occupying no less than sixteen separate blocks of woodland to the north and east of Kemnay itself, a ^{village} ~~town~~ famous for its granite quarries. Some of these woods lie within a few miles of Inverurie, while others stand close to Kintore, the whole being some 15 miles north-west of Aberdeen and to the west of the main Huntly road. These blocks are essentially tracts of infertile land left untilled in an otherwise well-farmed region; some were cleared woodland when acquired, and others heather moors. The underlying rocks are granite and elevations range from 250 feet to 505 feet on Gallows Hill. Kemnay Forest has been built up by eleven separate acquisitions of land, from 1926 to 1950. It now covers 1,227 acres, nearly all being under young plantations, mainly of Scots^lpine and Norway and Sitka spruce. The older woods are being thinned, the trees being sold standing to timber merchants; ten men are directly employed. Bus services linking Kemnay with Inverurie, Kintore, and Aberdeen pass close to certain portions of the forest; Kintore is the nearest station. Some woods lie east of the River Don, others to the west thereof.

KIRKHILL

(Aberdeen)

Situated on either side of the main road from Aberdeen to Huntly and Inverness, where it crosses Tyrebagger Hill midway between Aberdeen and Kintore. Kirkhill Forest is one of the oldest of the State Forests in the East of Scotland. In 1921, 487 acres of cleared woodland were taken over, and subsequent extensions on to filled woodland and rough hill ground have brought the area up to 1,541 acres; apart from 130 acres of farm land, all this carries plantations, or will shortly do so. The main block extends from Elrick Hill north over Tyrebagger Hill, 823 feet, to the Hill of Marcus, 765 feet, occupying a high rocky ridge above the good arable land on either side; there are three small outlying woods to the west. The granite rocks are worked at a large quarry nearby. The principal trees grown are Scots^lpine, Norway and Sitka spruces and European and Japanese larches. The older plantations dating from 1922 onwards are at the thinning stage, the trees being sold standing, and ultimately used for ^{box} ~~bex~~making or wood pulp manufacture in Aberdeen.

X Besides the employees of timber merchants, eighteen men X are directly engaged. The bus from Aberdeen, 6½ miles south-east to Kintore, 5½ miles north-west passes through Kirkhill Forest; there are stations at both towns, and also at Dyce, 3 miles east.

PITFICHIE

(Aberdeen)

Pitfichie Forest occupies a high ridge between the main road from Aberdeen to Alford, and the River Don. It measures some 5 miles from north to south, and its greatest width is 2 miles. The principal summits of the ridge are cairn William (1,469 feet), Pitfichie Hill (1,244), Green Hill (1,307) and Tillyfourie Hill, while the lowest point, beside the Don, is 300 feet above the sea. The slopes of these granite hills carried, until quite recent years, a sparse covering of native Scots pine, but only the lower levels bore plantations, nearly all this woodland had been cleared when the ground was taken over, the last being cut in the 1939-45 war.

Although small areas of ground were acquired in 1926 and afforested between 1927 and 1930, the main extent of land was not taken over until 1945. Pitfichie Forest now covers 5,247 acres, including 1,782 acres of plantations, and 2,257 awaiting planting, while 1,208 acres are unplantable hilltops. Scots pine, Sitka and Norway spruces, and European and Japanese larches are the main trees grown. The small area (about 300 acres) planted before 1930, which lies at the south end of the forest, has reached the thinning stage; the remainder, planted since 1946, is still too young.

× Twenty-seven people are employed, and a group of ×
twelve houses has been built on the Aberdeen-Alford road, which passes the forest on the south and has a bus service. On the north, Pitfichie Forest adjoins Tilliefoure Forest, which lies beyond the Don; access from the public road through the Paradise glen is by

during the war for timber extraction. Pitfichie Forest is 5 miles from Alford, 20 from Aberdeen, 7 from Kemnay, and 12 from Kintore which has the nearest station. Monymuch is 2 miles east.

TILLIEFOURE

(Aberdeen)

Tilliefoure Forest stands on the south eastern slopes of Bennachie, 1,733 feet, an outlier of the Grampians which serves as a landmark for a wide region in the north-east of Scotland. It extends over Millstone Hill, 1,343 feet, and reaches down to the beautiful gorge known as Paradise, where the River Don, its southern boundary, divides it from the neighbouring forest of Pitfichie. Roads from Inverurie, 8 miles east, Kemnay 6 miles south-east, and Monymusk 4 miles south unite to run through this gap in the hills to Keig, a village 3 miles west. These granite hills have all the character of the main Highland ranges, and had long carried scattered remnants of the old Caledonian pines; they are still the home of red and roe deer, mountain hare, blackgame and capercaillie. Most of the woods, however, had been cleared by 1938, when the first acquisition of land was made. Extensions at various dates to 1945, have brought the forests area up to 3,632 acres, all in the main block except for an outlying wood of 88 acres at Pitcaple, 3 miles north-east. By 1951, 1,859 acres had been afforested, and 723 awaited planting, while 1,050 acres of hill ground was considered unplantable. Planting began in 1939, the main trees being Norway and Sitka spruces, Douglas fir, Scots pine, Japanese larch, and Lodgepole pine. X Fifteen men are employed, and six houses have been built, X close to the Don. The nearest bus service is at Monymusk^k, and the nearest station at Inverurie.

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WHITEHAUGH

(Aberdeen)

Whitehaugh Forest stands on the eastern ridge of the Correen Hills, on the north of the H⁸we of Alford. It is 4 miles north of Alford, itself, and forms a crescent shaped outline around the fertile dale that runs into the hills beyond Montgarrie. The only approach by road from the south is via Alford, which has the nearest bus service, from Aberdeen, 25 miles away. All the ground is high-lying, from 800 feet above sealevel to 1,355 feet at Knock Saul, and 1,362 feet on Sine Hill, which is topped by the ancient Sine Cairn. The underlying rocks are metamorphic schists; before the land was taken over it was mostly heather moor, with some scattered areas of cleared woodland. 1,576 acres were acquired in 1934, and plantations formed between 1936 and 1951 cover 1,202 acres, the balance being unplantable hilltops. Scots pine, Sitka and Norway spruces and Japanese larch, are the main species and the older plantations are approaching the thinning stage. Five men are employed and there are two Forest Workers Holdings.