

In. charge.

1921-22	Ingram. (Ex Lemi.).	Jones Rehab.
1922-23	Parson Forester.	" F.C. & Estate
1923	J.A.B. W. McDonald	(Interim F.C.D.C.)
1923-24	R. Shaws. 2II	F.C. & Estate.
1924-32?	H. S. Anderson 7II	" " & N.O.W
1932-36	J. Calder. 7ar & 7II	"
1936-46	J. S. W. McDonald. 7II	" & M.O.S
1946?	J. Jackson	7II "
1946-51	A. W. Lean	7II "
1951-61	R.G. Murray.	7II - 1 - HD.
1961-70	D.G. W. Rae.	7L & HD.
1970? - ^{Nov 77} Date.	D. Black.	CF.
1977 Nov.	J.W. Lean.	CF
<u>Foremen, Asst Foresters.</u>		

1922-23	J.A.B. W. McDonald.	(Foreman)
1923-25	A. Cameron	"
1925-28	D. W. Rae.	"
1928-32	J. Calder.	Young & Foreman
1932-42?	R. Brodie	"
1942-45	J. Jackson	"
1945-47	A. Hillier	"
1947-50	"	7II
1947-54	J. Bramb.	Foreman.
1954-54	J. Allan	Foreman & Ex School

Asst Foresters {	1952	W. Blake.	D. Shaws
		S. Mance	K. Fryer
		A. Calder	P. Ferguson
		W. Mason	
		W. Turner	
	1961	K. Fryer	

In. Charge.

1921-22.	Ingram. (Ex Lemi.).	Jones Rehab.
1922-23	Paverson Forester.	" F.C. & Estate
1923	J.A.B. McDonald	(Interim For D.C.)
1923-24	R. Shaws. 7II	FC & Estate.
1924-32?	H. S. Anderson 7II	" " & N.O.W
1932-36	J. Calder. For & 7II	"
1936-46	J. S. McDonald. 7II	" & M.O.S
1946?	J. Jackson	7II "
1946-51	A. McLean	7II "
1951-61	R.G. Murray.	7II - 1 - HD.
1961-70	D.G. McRae.	7I & HD.
1970? - ^{Nov 77} Date.	V. Black.	CF.
1977 Nov.	J. McLean.	CF

Foremen, Asst Foresters.

1922-23	J.A.B. McDonald. (Foreman)
1923-25	A. Cameron
1925-28	D. McRae.
1928-32.	J. Calder. Gang & Foreman
1932-42?	R. Brooker
1942-45.	J. Jackson
1945-47.	A. Gillespie
1947-50	" 7II
1947-54	J. Bramb. Foreman.
1954-54	J. Allan Foreman & Ex School

Asst Foresters {	1952	W. Blake.	D. Shaws
		S. Maule	K. Fryer
		A. Calder	P. Ferguson
		W. Mason	
		W. Turner	
	1961	K. Fryer	

From: Conservator West (S)

1/10A

To: Mr. S.U. Robertson
Mr. S.M. Petrie ✓
Mr. J.G. Chrystall

Copy to: Mr. Dier
Files 1/F Ardgartan
1/F Bardsaldine
1/F Loch Ard

12th March, 1951

Silvicultural Histories of Forest Units

I attach a copy of a letter received from the Chairman dated 28th October 1950 and shall be glad if you will make an immediate start on the compilation of a history of Ardgartan/Bardsaldine/Loch Ard Forest.

In order to do this you will have to go through files of Inspection Reports in your possession and any other appropriate forest records which may exist. I am asking Mr. Dier to do the same in this office and to discuss the matter with you at a suitable opportunity. It is possible that Conservancy Office records may be more complete and form a better basis for the history. If there are any documents or records known to you which you would wish to borrow from this office please apply to Mr. Dier. When the drafts of the history and appendices 1 and 2 have been completed they should be submitted to Mr. Dier for approval before foresters' views are obtained.

I am passing a copy of the history of Allerston Forest to Mr. Petrie who will kindly forward to Mr. J.G. Chrystall as soon as possible. I am also attaching a copy of the draft history of Inverliever which may be a more useful specimen for you to work to.

I shall be taking up the question of Silviculturist's (North) contribution and will let you see his comments before the final draft is approved.

For your information similar histories are likely to be required, in due course, for Benmore, Glenbranter, Strathgryre and Inverinan in that order.

Yf.

for Conservator

TF/KH'M
Encls.

From: Conservator West (S)

1/10A Gen.

Mr. Dier
Mr. Petrie ✓
Mr. J.G. Chrystall
Mr. J. Chrystall
Mr. Townsend
Mr. S.U. Robertson
Mr. Macpherson
Mr. Stirling

Copy to: Mr. W. Stewart

22nd June, 1951.

Silvicultural Histories of Forest Units

I enclose for your information and retention State Forest memo S.M.15 issued by the Secretary in connection with the above.

In preparing your forest histories will you please give effect to the additional information required. If any assistance can be given by this office please do not hesitate to ask for it.


for Conservator

BK/EM'M
Encl.

C.F.306

Forest Histories

1. S.M.13 deals with the layout of Forest Histories and contains a specimen (Table I) of the form in which area details should be presented.
2. There is no provision in this Table for recording land temporarily or permanently transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture or to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, or to any other body.

It will therefore be necessary to enlarge the number of columns under the heading "Other Land" and to re number the columns accordingly.

The attached amended form of Table I should be inserted at page 2 of S.M.13 to be read in place of Table I, illustrated therein.

H.A. TURNER.

Secretary.

7.6.51

Distribution

Directors (E. S. & W - 6 copies, R. & E - 2 copies)	}	Copies to be distributed to all Forest Officers down to and including District Officers.
Conservators (15 copies)		

Chief Research Officer (20 copies)	-	}	Copies to be distributed to all Research Officers down to and including District Officers.

Deputy Surveyors (2 copies)	}	for information.
Chief Education Officer (2 copies)		

H. O. Distribution List
Master File (Numerical)
Subject File

For future use

This memo. superseded by S.M.

This memo. amended by S.M.

[illegible]

Owner	Lease Fee etc.
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From: Conservator West (S) 1/10A Glenbranter

To: Mr. Petrie 22nd August, 1951.

Silvicultural History of Forests
Glenbranter

I refer to your memo. of 7th August 1951.
I hope that the following information is what
you require.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Previous Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Glenbranter	Harry Lauder	Mart. 1921	Feu
Balliemeanach	Duncan McNab	31st March 1926	Purchase

Paragraph three of your memo. is being
dealt with by Establishment Section.



for Conservator.

AL/C

From: Conservator West (S)

1/10A Glenbranter
5/3 Glenbranter

To: Mr. Petrie

31st August, 1951.

Silvicultural History of Forests
Glenbranter

I regret the delay in replying to the final paragraph of your memo of 7th instant but as my records were incomplete in respect of the information you required, it was necessary to refer the matter to Director.

2. I append the data given by Director from the information available.

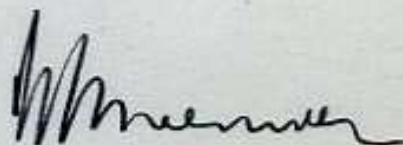
December 1921 to June 1923 R.W.Paterson, Forester II
October 1923 to January 1930

R.T.Anderson, Forester II

January 1930 to August 1936 J. M. Calder Forester II

November 1936 to May 1947 J.D.MacDonald Forester I

May 1947 continuing A. MacLean, Forester II



for Conservator (W)

BBM/MEP

MEMORANDUM

1/10A

To: Conservator West (S) 13th Sept. 1951.

Silvicultural Histories of Forests

I attach herewith completed History
of Glenbranter Forest.



Enclos.

Forest Histories - Glenbranter Forest

This Report is a big improvement on the Report submitted for Ardgartan and appears to me thoroughly sound. I am not clear whether the Research Branch has actually been asked for a contribution, but this should certainly be done to complete the Report.

J. R. THOM

18th January, 1952

GLENBRANTER FOREST HISTORY

Director's Comments:

A good History.

Paragraph 9:

The last paragraph of page 4 and top of page 5 gives a gloomy picture of arrears of brashing, thinning and drain maintenance piling up. Presumably plans have been made and steps taken to overtake these arrears and it would be well to complete the picture by adding a note on this point.

Paragraph 10:

The description of the early treatment of "scrub" makes one shudder. The methods employed cannot be altogether attributed to financial reasons: there must have been a lack of appreciation of the silvicultural value of the "scrub" and an unreasoning desire to establish a pure conifer crop in one jump. The methods used at Glenbranter were common elsewhere in scrub areas, but were particularly unfortunate at Glenbranter because some, at least, of the Oak was of much too good quality to be classed as "scrub". It would be interesting to know if use can be made of the felled Oak "still lying, hard and fairly sound", and if any girdled Oak can be sold at the time of first or second thinnings.

Page 11, last paragraph and first two paragraphs of page 12: - a sound appreciation of thinning requirements of Sitka Spruce.

H. BERKSFORD PETERSE

25th January, 1952

From: Conservator West (S)

1/10A

To: All Forest District Officers

Copies to: Mr. Dier
Mr. W. Stewart

6th February, 1952.

Forest Histories

Will you please note that when submitting Forest Histories the name of the person writing the History is given.



for Conservator

B/S/M

From Conservator West (Scot).

1/10A
Glenbranter.

To: Mr. S.M. Petrie.

20th Feb., 1952.

Glenbranter Forest History.

I enclose a copy of comments made by Director and Conservator of State Forests and I shall be obliged if you will submit as soon as possible the additional information for paragraphs 9 and 10. I have asked Silviculturist North to supply the Research Branch Appendix for the history.



For Conservator West (Scot).

WS/B.
Encl.

Chairman's Comments

Mr. Petrie has written a good and concise account of the Forest from the purely silvicultural and management aspects. It is not quite complete, for example, as regards housing and holdings and employment.

Undoubtedly the early rate of planting (P.22 438 ac., P.23 340 ac., and P.24 340 ac.) was too rapid for good work especially in view of the difficult ground on parts of Glenshellish. Nevertheless when with Mr. Hopkinson I inspected the first year's work after a season's growth I was pleased with the work. We did not then realize the intensity of drainage which was necessary, nor the fact that flat-planted spruce often looked well for a year or so and then checked. The "inversion" of the Norway spruce and Sitka spruce zones also took place in other forests at this time. I myself knew that Sitka spruce stood more exposure but it took several years to get that knowledge to local officers.

As the technique of Spruce planting was developed, new methods were applied at Glenbranter and my recollection is that (apart from vole damage) the rate of establishment of plantations improved greatly from P,27 onwards.

The period of vole damage was one of some anxiety to plantations in Cowal generally and led to a cessation of new planting in Glenbranter in 1934. No practical method of dealing with voles was discovered, in spite of much enquiry, but mercifully the epidemic, both here and at Lake Vyrnwy in Wales, came under natural control of some sort.

The Research Section of the History has not yet been received but I would be glad if it will provide an assessment of the dumping experiment of large spruce in what was known

as the peat nursery experimental area (see Reports on my inspections of 20th March 1939, 2nd October 1931 and February 1928).

I am concerned at Mr. Petrie's comments on the thinning position. He says (page 11) "many of the plantations have reached a stage at which the crown depth is little more than a ninth to a tenth of the tree's total height...." It is of the first importance that such fast growing plantations, situated as they are in a wet and windy district, should consistently be kept well thinned, even if the resultant produce cannot be removed for a couple of years. The possibilities of that procedure, which has extraction advantages should be thoroughly investigated.

In spite of mistakes and voles Glenbranter is a very fine forest. In my last inspection (August 1951) I was able to get comprehensive views from the new roads and I went away well satisfied with what I had seen.

R
22.2.52

From Conservator (West).

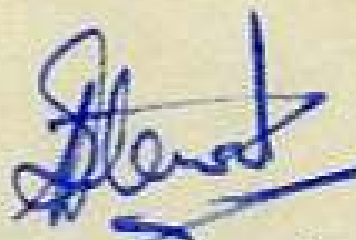
1/10A.

To: Mr. S.M. Petrie.

23rd April, 1952.

Glenbranter Forest.
Silvicultural History.

With reference to my letter of the 20th February 1952, will you please let me have at your earliest convenience the additional information asked for in paras. 9 - 10 of the silvicultural history. I enclose, for your information, a copy of the Research Branch Appendix for the history.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. H. West', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

For Conservator West (Scot).

WS/B.

Encl. 1.

GLENBRANTER FOREST HISTORY

RESEARCH

In 1926 an experiment on turf nurseries was started at a high elevation peat site. This method of planting on close turfs, moved later by hand to the correct planting distance, was originated by Sir John Stirling Maxwell and described in the Scottish Forestry Journal, volume 50, 1936, p. 19-22. The method was found to be too costly to be practicable, especially after the advent of mechanical ploughing.

In November 1949 three permanent sample plots No. 217 hybrid larch, No. 218 Norway spruce and No. 219 Sitka spruce were established at Glenbranter.

The hybrid larch in Compartment 135 are excellent quality and at 21 years of age have a top height of 51 feet and a total volume production of 2531 cubic feet Q.G.U.B. per acre.

In order to allow easier extraction of timber from the hinterland, the plot was again thinned in 1951 and now a total volume of 1111 cubic feet Q.G.U.B. has been removed by thinning.

With a top height of $35\frac{1}{2}$ feet at 23 years of age the Norway spruce in Compartment 138 were just ready for a first thinning when the plot was established. This thinning produced 223 cubic feet Q.G.U.B. per acre. Height growth has been rather irregular throughout the area, and in places the canopy is open owing to slower growth. Branching is light and the stems straight and free from defects.

The Sitka spruce in Compartment 140 have a top height of 43 feet at 23 years of age which puts them into Q.C.III of that species. In a first thinning 562 trees with a volume of 439 cubic feet were removed per acre. Although crowns are deep at $56\frac{1}{2}\%$ the foliage is inclined to be light.

In 1951 an experiment on the economics of brashing was carried out. In this experiment, different methods of brashing and subsequent extraction were carried out and costed to find if the cost of brashing was recovered in the savings on extraction. The results are not yet available.

To: Conservator (West)

1/10A Glenbranter.

Glenbranter Forest History

With reference to your memo of the 20th February with enclosures from Mr. Thom and the Director, I have to report:-

Paragraph 9.

The picture of arrears of maintenance work at Glenbranter is not ^{now} so gloomy. Standing sales are being worked over more speedily, our own thinning work has kept up a good pace lately and would have been well forward had we not unexpectedly had to cope with the trees blown by the gale of 30th December last and additional female labour has meant that for the first time, brashing is definitely far ahead of thinning and we have approximately 100 acres of brashed crop in hand. Extra labour, better organisation of the work and the encouragement of piece work has greatly developed the forest and we are adhering as closely as possible to the plan of operations. Extraction by rope and caterpillar tractor has helped out the horse work and the large volume of pole length material in the plantations is being steadily reduced.

Paragraph 10.

It appears that in the early years of preparation of ground work ~~that~~ scrub was completely cleared from the ground and there is evidence of this in the P.22, P.23 P.24 and P. 26 areas. Cutting was complete or ringing was complete. I think there must have been a lack of appreciation of the silvicultural value of the scrub because we should be glad of its presence today. A few strips or clumps of this hardwood crop would have been of great advantage in sheltering and stabilising these large conifer blocks. A good deal of the oak which was girdled was of too good a quality to be classed as scrub.

I am afraid my wording of "stems of felled oak are still lying hard and fairly sound, all over the forest floor" was a bit exaggerated and was the result of seeing a few of those only. The better trees must have been extracted for splitting for fence stobs and for roadways in the old arboretum but there are in places, single pieces and heaps of old scrub lengths which are sound although outwardly soft and moss - covered. They are however, too crooked, inaccessible and ancient to be worth extraction. It may be possible to sell some of the girdled oak in compartments 63 and 64 at the time of the first thinning of silver fir there.



Glenbranter Forest History

With reference to the Chairman's comments on the above History, I append beneath a table to show the fluctuation in the labour force at the Forest during the entire period of its existence. In the early years, the force was affected by relief schemes for employment and squads of men, chiefly engaged on roadmaking, were h used at Glenbranter and Balliemeach camps. It appears that the Forest was started with a squad of eight men which quickly rose to between the 30 and 40 mark but fluctuated very much during the year as men came and went. In 1946 a scheme of training men for forestry was begun, known as the Forest Workers Training Scheme and this supplied some extra labour temporarily. The following list shows the numbers of men employed at the various seasons throughout the lifetime of the Forest :-

Year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
1922	27	35	40	14
1923	25	24	23	23
1924	25	30	32	24
1925	23	28	32	31
1926	34	31	29	30
1927	35	37	36	29
1928	32	33	38	32
1929	31	29	23	24
1930	24	28	28	22
1931	20	22	23	21
1932	21	26	24	21
1933	25	23	22	24
1934	24	23	24	22
1935	21	22	20	20
1936	18	20	18	18
1937	16	16	15	18
1938	24	24	24	22
1939	20	22	26	16
1940	20	27	22	27
1941	27	36	29	22
1942	25	26	28	25
1943	24	24	23	25
1944	23	24	25	24
1945	24	20	19	17
1946	17	25	29	24
1947	26	25	36	39
1948	41	44	33	25
1949	32	35	34	38
1950	38	40	35	40
1951	37	43	41	49
1952	49	54	57	

With regards to housing there are now 35 houses in the Forest. Of these, two are occupied by Foresters, the Forester and under Forester, one by a Foreman 28 are occupied by Engineering branch employees. The number of forest workers holdings is 16, of which one ~~is~~ comprises the original Balliemeach farm and fifteen were established by the Forestry Commission in the years 1926-27. The Forester in charge occupies the original Glenbranter Farm house and the under Forester the renovated Balliebeg croft. Fourteen new Swedish houses were completed in 1951 and are now all occupied. Two of the former estate Houses /

by forest workers and 4

houses are occupied by Forest Workers and an iron hut in the Camp by an Engineering Branch employee. Approximately half of the total forest staff are housed and a site has been reserved at Balliemeanach for the erection of a further dozen houses when these become available. This should be sufficient for a considerable period provided standing sales of produce proceed as at present and forest labour is there by assisted by that of the timber merchant.

A hostel in the Camp can provide accommodation for a further 20 men and timber merchants are assisted by giving their workers room in the hostel. The wives of workers in new houses have assisted the carrying out of the programme by offering themselves for the lighter types of job in the summer months.



6th June, 1952.