

From: Conservator West (9)

1/10A Ardgartan

To: Mr. Petrie ✓

24th April 1951.

Forest History - Ardgartan

I append hereunder information relative to the supervision data in connection with the above.

Divisional Officers

1925 - 1934	J.M. Murray
1934 - 1938	O.J. Sangar
1938 - 1939	A.H. Gosling
1939 - 1945	J.A.B. Macdonald
1945 - 1946	A. Watt
1947 - 1948	J.E. James

Conservators

1946 - 1948	A. Watt
1948 to date	J.E. James

District Officers

1925 - 1927	J. Hunter - Blair
1927 - 1931	J. Fraser
1931 - 1938	A.H. Gosling
1938 - 1939 43	R.J. Waterman
1940 - 1942	Divisional Officer (H. Watson)
1943 - 1947	T.E. Edwardson
1947 to date	S.M. Petrie

Foresters-in-charge

1925 - 1926	J. Kennedy
1926 - 1931	D.S. Spraggan
1931 - Nov. 1948	J.M. Reid
Nov. 1948 to date	A. Mackay

for Conservator.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Mackay.

24th April, 1951.

History of Ardgartan Forest

I wonder if you could supply me with information on the following:-

1. Has there been ever any Research Work at Ardgartan other than the plots established last year by A. Mackenzie. If so, a note or two from you on what was done and any results would be appreciated.
2. When was Succoth nursery opened? Was it at the same time as the first planting? Was Corrow nursery started in 1945 or 1946?
3. Could you give me a figure for volumes per acre cut in thinnings from S.S., D.F., H.L. and J.L. Also a near figure of what is standing per acre after thinning.
4. Can I have the loan of your R.O. book (thinnings)?
5. I will get Morabel's figures on the areas of species; she need not worry if they are not complete as I will balance them up.

Shel

From: Conservator West (S)

1/10A

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

28th June, 1951.

Silvicultural Histories of Forest Units
Ardgartan
Barcaldine
Loch Ard

I refer to my memo of the 15th March and would be glad to be informed when you hope to be in a position to submit the forest histories of the above mentioned forest units.

You will no doubt be bearing in mind that similar histories are required for Benmore, Glenbranter, Strathyre and Inverinan.

2nd May, 1951


for Conservator

BK/EM'M

MEMORANDUM

1/10A

To: Conservator West (S)

2nd May, 1951.

Silvicultural Histories of Forest Units
Ardgartan Forest

With reference to your memo of the
12th March, I attach herewith History of
Ardgartan Forest.



MEMORANDUM

1/10a

To: Conservator West (S) 30th June, 1951.

Silvicultural Histories of Forest Units
Ardgartan

With reference to your memo of the 28th June, I forwarded the Silvicultural History of Ardgartan to you on 2nd May, 1951.



To: Conservator West (S)

13th Sept. 1951.

For the attention of Mr. Stewart

As requested by telephone yesterday,
I enclose herewith my own copy of the
History of Ardgartan Forest. I should be
glad to have it returned after you have made
use of it.



Enclos.

To: Conservator (West)

Silvicultural Histories of Forests
Ardgartan.

I shall be glad if you can now return
me my copy of the History of Ardgartan
Forest as requested in my memo of the
13th September.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. H. P.', is written in a cursive style.

18th October, 1951.

ARDGARTAN FOREST HISTORY

Director's Comments:

This History is rather diffuse and lengthy. The remarks in the main part on individual species are largely repeated in the Appendix containing District Officer's remarks.

I think that the information on points (1), (2) and (3) of Mr. Thom's comments might be provided and added to the History, and existing copies should have pages numbered (Mr. Thom's point (4)).

H. BENEFORD PERSE

25th January, 1952

FOREST HISTORIES - ARDGARTAN FOREST

This History appears to have been compiled before the Chairman's most recent Instruction on the order and set-up of Histories which he desired. The following points have been noticed by me:-

- (1) There is no Area and Utilisation Statement.
- (2) The only reference to labour is a brief note in connection with housing, and risks are not touched upon at all.
- (3) There is no reference to rate of growth of the different species.
- (4) The Report is not numbered.

As the Report has presumably gone to the Chairman, I suppose there is nothing one can do about its re-arrangement and its sequence.

J. R. THOM

18th January, 1952

From Conservator West (Scot).

1/10A
Ardgartan.

To: Mr. Petrie.

12th March, 1952.

Ardgartan Forest - History.

With reference to my 1/10A of 20th February 1952, I enclose copy of letter from Mr. R.A. Innes, H.Q. Will you please make the amendments and additions suggested by him and return the amended history to me as soon as possible.

B.

For Conservator West (Scot).

Notes

*Expt 22
24*

1/32

*Confit 192 on XF
and in P28
with fully solution
parental*

WS/B.
Encl. 1.

COPY.

Memo to Conservator, West Scotland.
(Copy to Director, Scotland).

From R.A. Innes.

Ardgartan Forest History.

It is unfortunate that no attempt was made to re-arrange the draft of this History to comply with the lay-out sent out by this office in May 1951.

As the history stands, there are some deficiencies (they have already been noted by the State Forests Conservator and Director) which the Chairman wants made good. These are:

- (1) Area Statement and Utilisation - Ref. S.M.13, Sect. 11.
- (2) Risks - Ref. SM.13, Sect. VII.
- (3) Labour - Ref. S.M.13, Sect. IX - a note on the supply of labour during the life of the Forest should be given.
- (4) Rates of growth - Ref. S.M.13, Sect. X (viii).

Appendix 1 - Notes from Inspection Reports - According to Headquarters files, the Chairman made in all 7 inspections; the dates of these are:

7/10/25
20/23/2/28.
11/9/29.
16/9/32.
31/8/41.
24/8/41.
24/8/47.
19/6/49.

This appendix would be improved if the main points of each report were extracted and noted separately.

(Signed) R.A. Innes,
23/2/52.

From Conservator West (Scot).

1/10A
Ardgartan.

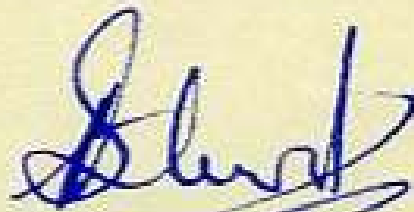
To: Mr. Petrie.

20th February, 1952.

Ardgartan Forest History.

I enclose a copy of the Ardgartan Forest History together with the Director's comments and comments made by Conservator of State Forests, Mr. Thom.

Will you please let me have in due course further details as required.



For Conservator West (Scot).

WS/B.

To: Conservator (West)

1/10A Ardgartan

Ardgartan Forest - History

With reference to your memo of the 12th March, I attach herewith as requested by Mr. Innes, paragraphs on areas, risks, labour and rates of growth.

I have no other inspection reports other than ~~the~~ those already referred to in the History.


28th April, 1952.

History of Ardgartan Forest

Area and Utilisation

The following table shows the area of ground, in acres, as acquired with dates:-

From	By	Date	Plantations Acquired	Plantable	Agricultural	Unplantable	Total
Trustees of late Sir G.J. Colquhoun		Martinmas Purchase 1924		2428	150	5107	7685
Glasgow Corporation	Feu	Martinmas 1928		1350		3445	4795
Glasgow Corporation	Feu	Martinmas 1929		800		2054	2854
Major G.E. Forman	Purchase	Whitsunday 1940	7	598	30	2157	2792
Totals			7	5176	180	12,763	18,126

Statement of Areas at end of F.Y. 51:-

	Acres
(a) Plantations	
Acquired	7
Formed By Commission	4252
(b) In hand waiting planting	953
(c) Nurseries	4
(d) Agriculture Number of Tenancies 2	9863
(e) F.W.H. No.16	71
(f) Unplantable land in hand	2976
Total	18126

Risks

The main risk has always been and still is from fire, This danger has decreased slightly as plantations near roads are reaching the thinning stage, many of them having now been brashed. In the early stages danger from fire in the spring months could be very acute due principally to tourist parties, picnic parties and holiday makers generally and to a lesser extent from muir burning by neighbouring farmers. This Forest is the principal unit of the Argyll National Forest Park and is the chief caravan and camping site of the district and special precautions are necessary on account of the frequent presence of large numbers of people.

Rabbits were never plentiful in this region due to the wet climate and nature of the ground. They occurred locally on drier slopes but were comparatively easily dealt with at the time of afforestation. They have been almost entirely exterminated.

Deer, both red and roe, have always been moderately abundant in this region and have to be constantly watched. They move over the entire Cowal peninsula at the dictates of weather and the food supply. Damage from these animals is not serious, due principally to constant patrol by two trappers but they are still to be met with regularly in the forest which now affords them useful shelter.

Danger from wind has now to be feared when much of the area is at the thinning stage and where the ground is soft and peaty. Planting has been done almost entirely with spruce and the lack of other species, scrub belts and mixtures, makes plantations much more vulnerable to wind.

In the winters of 1929-30 and 1930-32 considerable damage was done to young plantations by voles. Damage consisted of pruning of the shoot, ringing of the stem and girdling of the roots. All types of damage were frequent in the same plantation. Damage was done to all species and on all types of ground and was usually severe in irregular patches. It was usually particularly severe on areas with a dense Juncus - Molinia vegetation. February and March appeared to be the months of severest attack.

Attempts were made to protect the trees from attack and to kill out the voles. Several of the well known preparations for painting trees against rabbit attack were tried. The preparation found to be most effective was "Trepar" which was somewhat expensive for extensive use and could more cheaply be used in applying to plants before planting.

In 1933 the vole population was very low but the summer of 1934 brought a substantial increase in numbers. The damage done was less than in 1931-32.

Where plants were eaten back new shoots thrown out were sometimes weakly in appearance but most of these made growth. The younger the plantation, the greater was the recovery from attack. In places as many as 70% of the damaged trees survived but this depended on the severity of attack. Seedling spruces did not survive severe damage. The survival of species other than spruces to severe injury was very small.

Labour

During the early years of establishment of the Forest, the labour supply from the immediate locality was sufficient to cope with afforestation and maintenance work. A good type of country man was available, the type used to outdoor work on exposed hills and the large planting programmes were accomplished due to the steady work and virility of these men.

During the war years, the squad had to be considerably reduced; men were called to the Colours and to the production side of forestry work. Labour was sufficiently plentiful between the wars but since 1945 it has not been possible to get the numbers or the quality of labour which is desirable. It has been necessary to recruit men from the cities and these men, although willing to work, have not the skill or the hardiness of the rural worker. They require training and they are very inclined to change jobs at irregular intervals.

In 1948, the labour position was helped by the erection of a hostel to take 10 men at Corrow and again in 1950, acquisition of a former S.V.F.A. hostel at Glenloin, to house Engineering Branch and Forest Workers meant a small addition to the labour force.

The erection of 12 new houses at Glenloin has helped to stabilise the labour supply but the Forest is still very understaffed with the result that the three principal maintenance jobs of brashing, thinning and drain repairs are in arrears. Seasonal work has had to receive priority and the need to carry out the Garelochhead Forest planting programme and preparation of ground with labour from Ardgartan due to the impossibility of getting local labour at Garelochhead has been a heavy drain on Ardgartan and has slowed up the programme there to a great extent. Standing thinning sales to merchants have helped the labour position only slightly so far as merchants are not keen to tackle this difficult ground and it appears now that almost all first thinnings will have to be tackled with Forestry Commission labour.

The average number of worker over the period since acquisition of the /

The area, over five yearly periods has been as follows:-

1925 - 1930	14
1930 - 1935	20
1935 - 1940	26
1940 - 1945	34 including
1945 - 1950	32 vocational workers

The squad today, 1952 consists of approximately 40 men and 8 girls.

Rates of Growth

The following table gives some examples and an indication of rates of growth in the Forest. In all cases the Geology and soil may be described as metamorphic, quartzites and schists with generally a free loose soil and on the pine areas a thin surface layer of crumbly peat.

Species	P. Year	(a) Altitude (b) Aspect (c) Slope (d) Exposure	Mean Height of Dominants Feet	Mean Annual Height Increment Inches	True girth at breast Height Inches
D.F.	25	(a) 50 (b) N.E. (c) Moderate (d) Exposed slightly	60	26½	25½
H.L.	25	(a) 100 (b) N.E. (c) Moderate (d) Exposed slightly	55	24½	24
S.S.	25	(a) 400 (b) N.E. (c) Steep (d) Exposed	47	21	25
M.P.	28	(a) 600 (b) North (c) Steep (d) Exposed	17	14	12
J.L.	34	(a) 200 (b) South (c) Steep (d) Exposed	32	21	18½
A.H.	26	(a) 300 (b) East (c) Steep (d) Mod. Exposed	47	21½	27
P.C.	29	(a) 150 (b) N.E. (c) Fairly Steep (d) Mod. Exposed	37	19	20
N.S.	33	(a) 300 (b) East (c) Steep (d) Mod. Exposed	37	23	16½