M.P.s TOUR

EAST (SCOTLAND) CONSERVANCY

19th-21st JUNE 1967

Telephone Numbers

East (Scotland) Conservancy Office	-	Aberdeen 33361
Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen	-	Aberdeen 29233
Banchory Lodge Hotel, Banchory	-	Banchory 2625
Raemoir Hotel, Banchory	-	Banchory 2622

East (Scotland) Conservancy

General Statistics as at 30.9.66

Number of forests		49
Land Utilisation:		
Plantations	192,000	
To be planted	18,600	
Nurseries	150	
Agricultural	51,000	
Forest Workers Holdings and House	2,200	
Unplantable and Other	26,050	291,000 acres
Area planted Forest Year 66		5,400 "
Area thinned Forest Year 66		8,000 "
Volume thinned Forest Year 66		
by Forestry Commission	450,000	
by Trade	2,550,000	3,000,000 hoppus feet

Area felled Forest Year 66		155 acres
Volume felled Forest Year 66		
by Forestry Commission	117,000	
by Trade	312,000	429,000 hoppus feet
Roads - Total mileage		949 miles
Made in Forest Year 66		43 "
Housing		
Completed during Forest Year 66		4
Built since 30.9.45		175
Industrial Staff		700
Cash expenditure Forest Year 66		£895,000
Receipts Forest Year 66		£292,000

Profit from Sales of Timber Forest Year 66	£118,000
Dedicated Woods	
Number of estates	183
Acreage	112,800 acres
Approved Woods	
Number of estates	49
Acreage	21,500 acres

LABOUR

Mr. John Parker, M.P., C.B.E.	Member for Dagenham
Mr. G. Willis, M.P.	Member for Edinburgh East
Mr. P. Jackson, M.P.	Member for High Peak, Derby.
Mr. B. Hazell, M.P., C.B.E., J.P.	Member for Norfolk N.

CONSERVATIVE

The Viscount Stonehaven	House of Lords
The Lord Dulverton, T.D.	"
The Rt. Hon. J. Ramsden, M.P.	Member for Harrogate
Mr. W.H. Baker, M.P., T.D.	Member for Banff

The Party will be accompanied by Sir Henry Beresford-Peirse, the Director General of the Forestry Commission.

Forestry Commission,
London, W.1.

13th June, 1967.

Programme for the Tour

Monday, 19th June 1967

Morning - Visits to Durris and Blackhall Forests.

Afternoon - Visit to Dunecht Estate.

Tuesday, 20th June 1967

Morning - Visit to Glenlivet Forest.

Afternoon - Visit to Alltcailleach Forest.

Wednesday, 21st June 1967

Morning - Visit to Drumtochty Forest.

Afternoon - Visit to Fetteresso Forest.

Monday, 19th June 1967

Visits to Durris and Blackhall Forests and Dunecht Estate

Timetable and Itinerary

9.00 a.m. - Depart Aberdeen.

10.00 a.m. - Arrive Durris Forest.

10.30 a.m. - Leave Durris Forest and travel to Blackhall Forest.

11.00 a.m. - Arrive Blackhall Forest.

12.45 p.m. - Picnic Lunch.

1.15 p.m. - Depart for Dunecht Estate.

2.00 p.m. - Arrive Dunecht Estate.

5.00 p.m. - Depart Dunecht Estate and travel to Banchory.

Durris Forest

Supervisory Staff

P. F. McIntyre - District Officer I
G. Gilbert - Head Forester
J. C. Findlay - Forester

Situation

The main block of the forest covers the rising ground on the south side of the Dee valley, between the South Deeside and the Slug roads. There are, however, no less than 45 separate woods stretching from the outskirts of Aberdeen to within 2 miles of Banchory on the south side of the Dee, and to the slopes of the Hill of Fare on the north: an area of more than 120 square miles.

Area

The total area of the forest is 6,567 acres, made up as follows:-

	Acres
Plantations	6,103
Land in hand remaining to plant	33
Agricultural and grazing	-
Unplantable and other	431
	6,567

Previous Utilisation

Durris Estate, which provided the nucleus of the forest in 1931, when 3,680 acres were acquired, had a history of a century of afforestation and woodland management. Many of the plantations

formed towards the mid nineteenth century were felled before the opening of the present century. These were replanted, and the forest area of the property extended, in the 1890s. It was the cutting of this crop that led to the purchase of the felled areas by the Forestry Commission.

Much of the extension of planting now proceeding south of the original acquisition is on land that has carried little or no timber in recorded history.

All scattered outliers of the forest are former woodland.

Plantations

Sitka and Norway Spruces are the most important species used, comprising nearly half of the planted area. One third of the forest is under Pines, much of it in mixture with Sitka Spruce.

The age class distribution is as follows:-

1 - 10 years	-	2,164	acres
11 - 20 "	-	1,805	"
21 - 30 "	-	1,463	"
31 - 40 "	-	499	"
over 40 "	-	172	"
		6,103	"

The species distribution is as follows:-

Species	Acres	%
Larches	845	13
Pines	2,087	34
Spruces	2,811	46
Douglas Fir	240	5
Other Conifers	70	1
Hardwoods	50	1
	6,103	100

Production

The outturn for F.Y. 67 will be just over 100,000 hoppus feet. Long term forecast figures are:-

F.Y. 70	-	125,000	hoppus feet
75	-	200,000	" "
80	-	330,000	" "
85	-	540,000	" "

Roads

Forty-five miles of roads have been completed or formed. It is estimated that another 8 miles will be required before 1972.

Houses

Five houses are let to forest workers and 2 are occupied by supervisors.

Labour

The number of workers employed at present is 15. Timber merchants who have contracted to purchase and work the timber employ a further 16 men.

Stopping Places

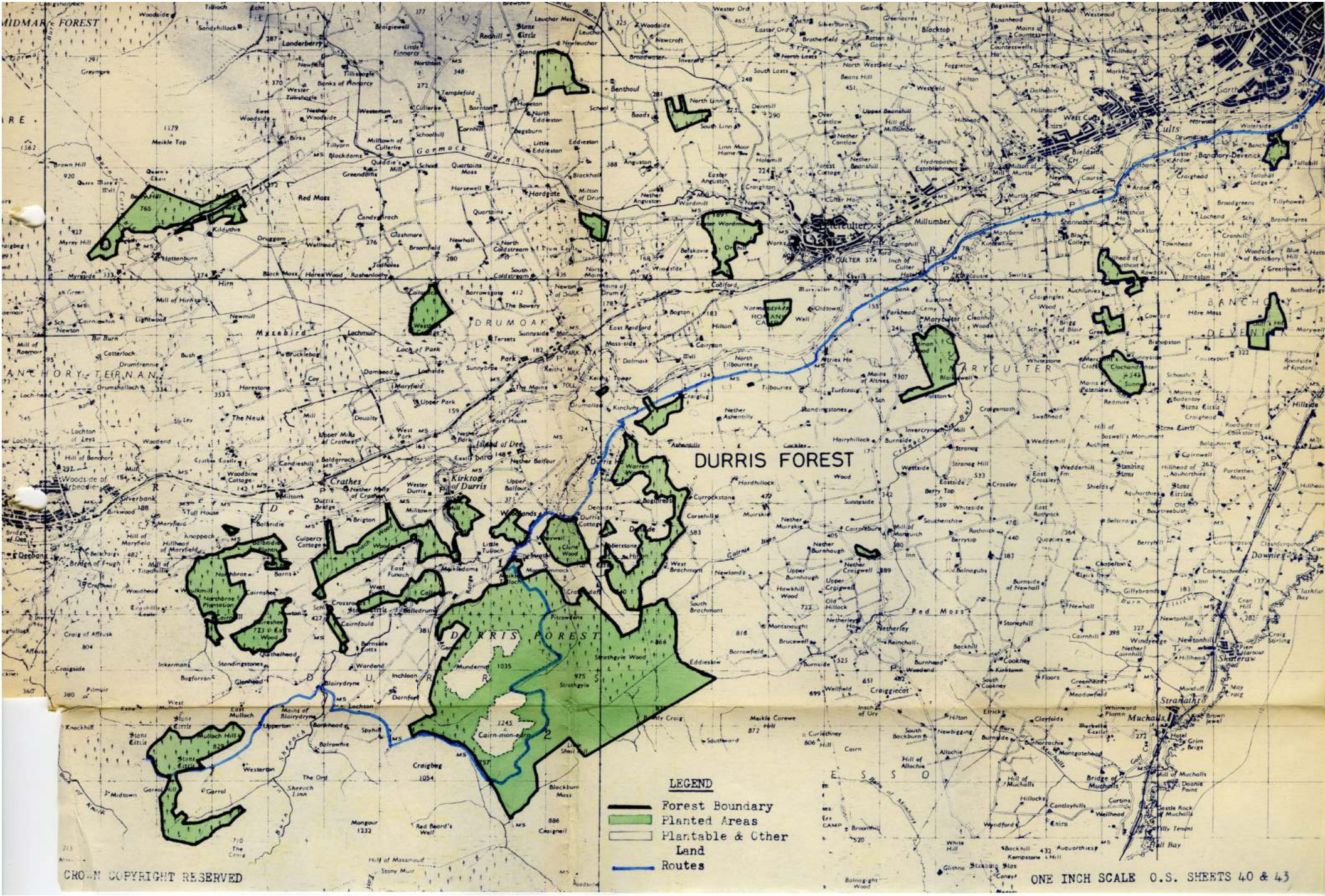
Pitcowdens Gate: Discuss species to be seen on drive through forest from Pitcowdens by Cairn-mon-Earn to Slug road.

(a) Strathie Wood: Japanese Larch underplanted with Douglas Fir and Sitka Spruce.

(b) Pitcowdens: Norway Spruce and Sitka Spruce.

(c) Cairn-mon-Earn: Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine in mixture.

Cairn-mon-Earn: Overall view of recent planting and the extent of plantable land on neighbouring properties.


DURRIS FOREST
DURRIS FOREST
LEGEND
Forest Boundary
Planted Areas
Plantable & Other Land
Routes
CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED
ONE INCH SCALE O.S. SHEETS 40 & 43

Blackhall Forest

Supervisory Staff

P. F. McIntyre - District Officer I
J. O. Webster - Head Forester
W. R. Taylor - Trainee Forester

Situation

The forest lies along the south bank of the River Dee between Potarch Bridge and Bridge of Dee at Banchory. The water of Feugh flows beneath the southern flanks of the forest, which occupies the 1,100 feet high ridge dividing the two drainage channels.

A northern section of the forest stretches from the edge of Banchory to Glassel.

There are outlying blocks south of the Feugh at Finzean, and south of Aboyne at Balfour.

Area Statement

The total area of the forest is 4,864 acres, made up as follows:-

	Acres
Plantations	4,744
Land in hand remaining to plant	-
Nursery	-
Agricultural and Grazing	48
Holdings	13
Unplantable and other land	59
	4,864

Previous Utilisation

Except for the Slewdrum section at the west end of the main block, which was formerly common grazing, the whole forest has been re-established on old woodland sites.

Former timber crops were mainly of Scots Pine and European Larch, with Douglas Fir on the slopes of Blackhall Estate. Much of this was felled by the Canadian Forestry Corps in the Second World War.

Plantations

The age class distribution is as follows:-

1 - 10 years	-	2,055	acres
11 - 20 "	-	2,398	"
21 - 30 "	-	161	"
31 - 40 "	-	33	"
over 40 "	-	97	"
		4,744	"

The species distribution is:-

Species	Acres	%
Pines	1,952	41
Larches	329	6
Douglas Fir	392	8
Spruces	1,959	41
Other Conifers	82	3
Hardwoods	30	1
	4,744	100

Production

The cut for F.Y. 67 is 45,000 hoppus feet. Long term forecast figures are:-

F.Y. 70	-	85,000	hoppus feet
75	-	140,000	" "
80	-	190,000	" "
85	-	310,000	" "

Roads

Twenty-four miles of roads have been completed or formed. It is estimated that another 8 miles will be required before 1972.

Houses

Seven houses are let to forest workers and one is occupied by a supervisor.

Labour

Seventeen workers are employed at present. Timber merchants who have contracted to purchase and work the timber employ a further 2 men.

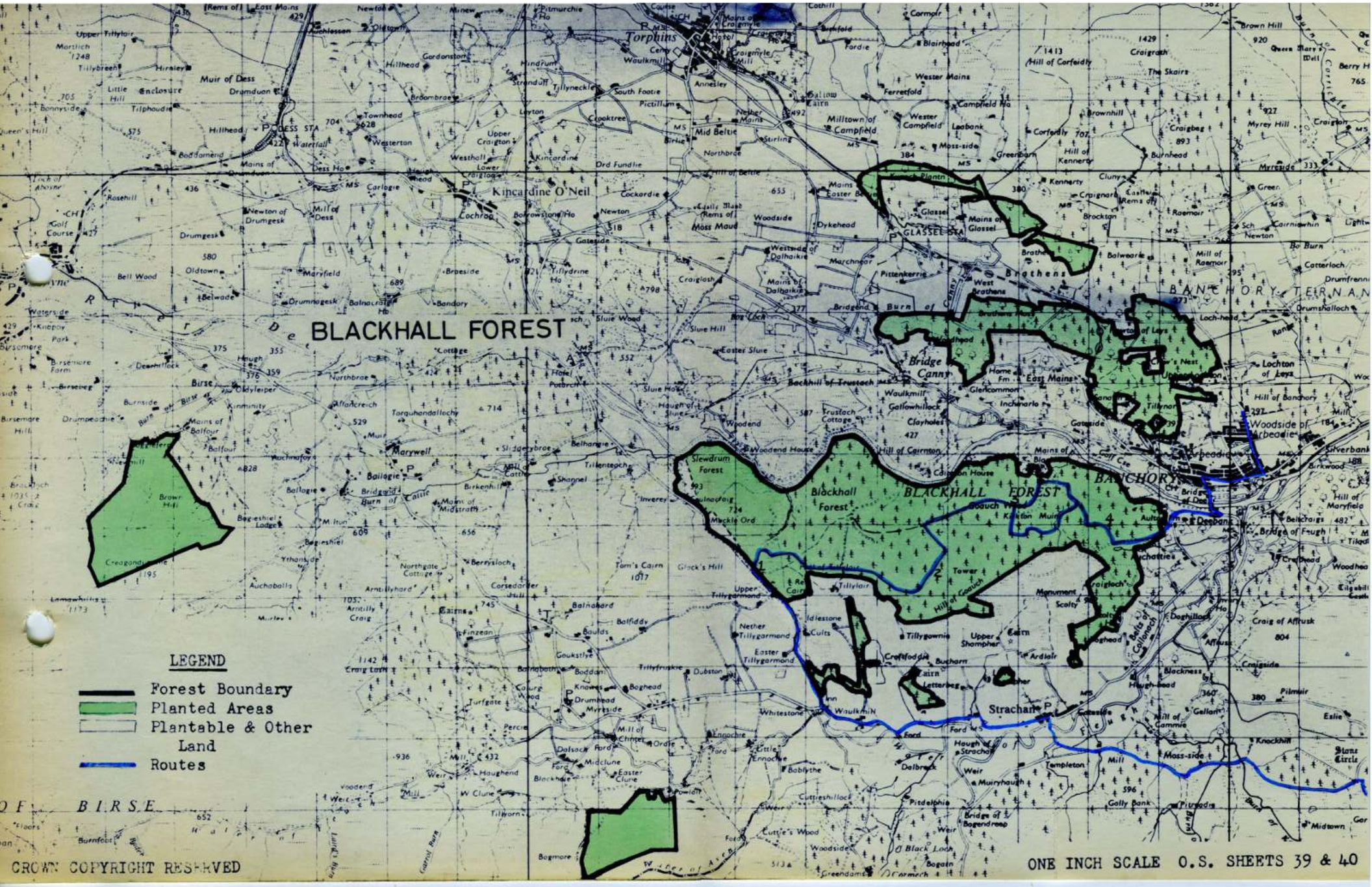
Stopping Places

Shooting Greens - Compartment 122: Illustrate species selection according to site.

Goauch Hill - Compartment 77: Study rates of growth of different species and change of species during walk down hill to

Kirkton Muir - Compartment 62: Inspect line thinning in P.48 Sitka Spruce.

Oak Knoll - Compartment 50: Retention of Oak and Birch over underplanted conifers. Lunch will be taken at this point before departing for Dunecht.



Dunecht Estate

Dunecht Estate has been owned by the Cowdray family since 1912. The woodlands are worked to an Approved Plan under the Dedication or Approved Woodland Schemes. They form part of a woodland management plan covering 6,000 acres.

The Dunecht Estate portion is the largest part of this and comprises 2,451.7 acres of which 604.5 acres are managed under the Dedication Scheme and 1,847.2 acres under the Approved Woodlands Scheme. The productive area at the end of F.Y. 65 was 2,392 acres.

The altitude varies from 275 feet around the Loch of Skene to 600 feet on the Hill of Fare. Soils are varied.

Consultant	-	Mr. D. D. Laurie
Factor	-	Mr. I. R. Douglas
Head Forester	-	Mr. C. Y. Ross

Itinerary

2.00 p.m.

Estate Sawmill, Joinery Shop and Yard. Use of home grown timber.

Via Policy Woods to Estate Nursery.

Braigiewell: replanting of area damaged by great gale of 1953. Remnants of original crop can be seen.

Garlogie: Replanting of area felled during 1939-45 war.

Scattie: Growth and production of Scots Pine, Norway Spruce and Sitka Spruce planted in 1934 on adjacent sites.

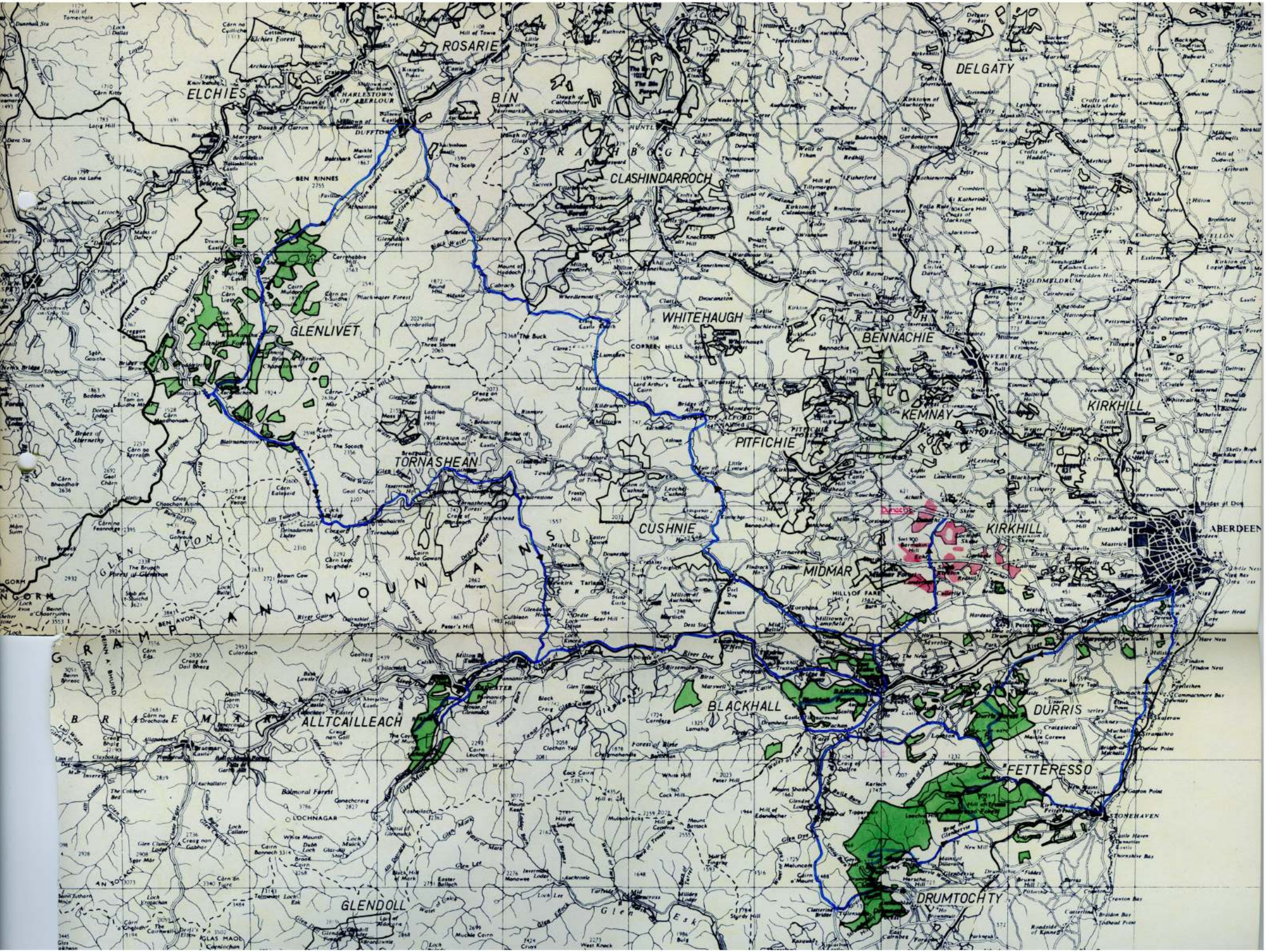
Hill of Fare: Post war plantings on grouse moor.

Tuesday, 20th June 1967

Visits to Glenlivet and Alltcailleach Forests

Timetable and Itinerary

9.00 a.m.	Depart Banchory.
11.00 a.m.	Arrive at Glenlivet Forest.
1.00 p.m.	Picnic Lunch.
3.00 p.m.	Proceed to Alltcailleach Forest.
5.00 p.m.	Arrive at Alltcailleach Forest.
6.30 p.m.	Leave Alltcailleach Forest and return to Banchory.


ROSARIE
ELCHIES
DELGATY
CLASHINDARROCH
STRATHBOGIE
WHITEHAUGH
GLENLIVET
BENNACHIE
KEMNAY
KIRKHILL
PITFICHIE
TORNASHEAN
CUSHNIE
MIDMAR
ABERDEEN
BLACKHALL
ALLTCAILLEACH
DURRIS
FETTERESSO
DRUMTOCHTY
GLENDOLL
BEN RINNES
CORRENNIE HILLS
HILLS OF CROMDALE
LOCHNAGAR
BALMORAL FOREST
HILL OF FARE
GRAMPIAN MOUNTAINS
BRAE MAR
STONEHAVEN

Glenlivet Forest

Supervisory Staff

K. N. V. Townsend - District Officer I
G. J. A. M. Murray - Head Forester
B. L. Foggo - Forester

Situation and Climate

The forest is in Upper Banffshire and consists of about 70 separate blocks of plantations, extending, in the north, from Glen Rinnes, where the first ground was acquired from Ballindalloch Estate in 1930, to the hills adjoining the Lecht road, some 5 miles south of Tomintoul village. In the west, parts of the forest reach to the boundaries of Inverness-shire, along Glenlochy and Strathavon, and in the east, several plantations have been formed along the lower slopes of the Ladder Hills and on the previously treeless Braes of Glenlivet.

The average annual rainfall in the Glenlivet area is 37 inches, but the important climatic factors are the hard winters, with frequent periods of frost and prolonged snow-fall and the severe exposure to winds experienced in nearly all planting sites.

Geology and Soils

The underlying rock formations which are of the Highland Schist series are mainly black schists with quartzite outcrops and limestone seams. Rock outcrops are rare but the over-lying drift is frequently formed from the parent material of the area. The soil varies greatly with site and parent material, being

generally rich in some of the flatter well-watered basins, but degenerating to stone or rock on the steeper and higher slopes.

Typically, the soils are heathland with a thin surface layer of peat, overlying several inches of leached mineral soil above a layer of deposition.

The formation of a definite pan is rare and usually discontinuous.

The underlying mineral soil is frequently compacted and full of boulders.

Area Statement

	Acres
Plantations	9,409
Remaining to plant (at present)	627
Agricultural	341
Unplantable	775
Other (Holdings)	52
	11,204

Previous Utilisation

Apart from a small area of old woodland, standing and felled, the greater part of the forest has been established on rough grazing mostly heather clad. An area of arable ground was planted at Morinsh on farms acquired from Ballindalloch Estate in 1930. The moorland which has been planted also formed part of the Glenlivet grouse moors.

Plantations

The age class distribution is as follows:-

1 - 10 years	-	3,913
11 - 20 "	-	4,137
21 - 30 "	-	513
31 - 40 "	-	664
over 40 "	-	182
		9,409

The species distribution is as follows:-

	Acres	%
Pines	5,707	63
Spruces	3,161	30
Larches	541	7
	9,409	100

Production

In January 1953, shortly after the acquisition of the Crown Estate woodlands, 390,000 hoppus feet of timber were blown. Since 1953, windblow has been slight, but the planned felling of woods seriously affected by windblow is now being undertaken.

The total thinning production to date has been slightly more than 400,000 hoppus feet. This has been mainly from acquired woods, but the annual timber volume yield of about 60,000 hoppus feet is now produced almost entirely from thinnings in plantations formed by the Forestry Commission.

The thinning volume is unlikely to increase substantially until the period 1970-75, when the estimated annual thinning yield will be 100,000 hoppus feet, rising to 210,000 hoppus feet in 1980 and 320,000 hoppus feet (60% Spruce and 40% Pine/Larch) by 1985.

Other than timber blown in the 1953 gale 60,000 hoppus feet have been clear felled in the acquired woods left devastated after the 1953 gale.

The long term forecast figures for thinning and felling are:-

F.Y. 70	-	100,000	hoppus feet
75	-	130,000	" "
80	-	270,000	" "
85	-	400,000	" "

Roads

Thirty-one miles of roads have been completed or formed. It is estimated that another five miles will be required before 1972.

Houses

Five houses are let to forest workers and two are occupied by supervisors.

Labour

The number of workers employed at present is 18.

Stopping Places

11 a.m. Main roadside 8½ miles from Dufftown.

Walk through a 19 acre compartment of 35 year old Sitka Spruce. The one tenth acre marked plot contains about 245 hoppus feet of

standing timber after yielding about 175 hoppus feet of thinnings. The compartment has yielded over 35,000 hoppus feet of thinnings and contains about 49,000 hoppus feet of standing timber.

The average annual growth per acre is about 175 hoppus feet.

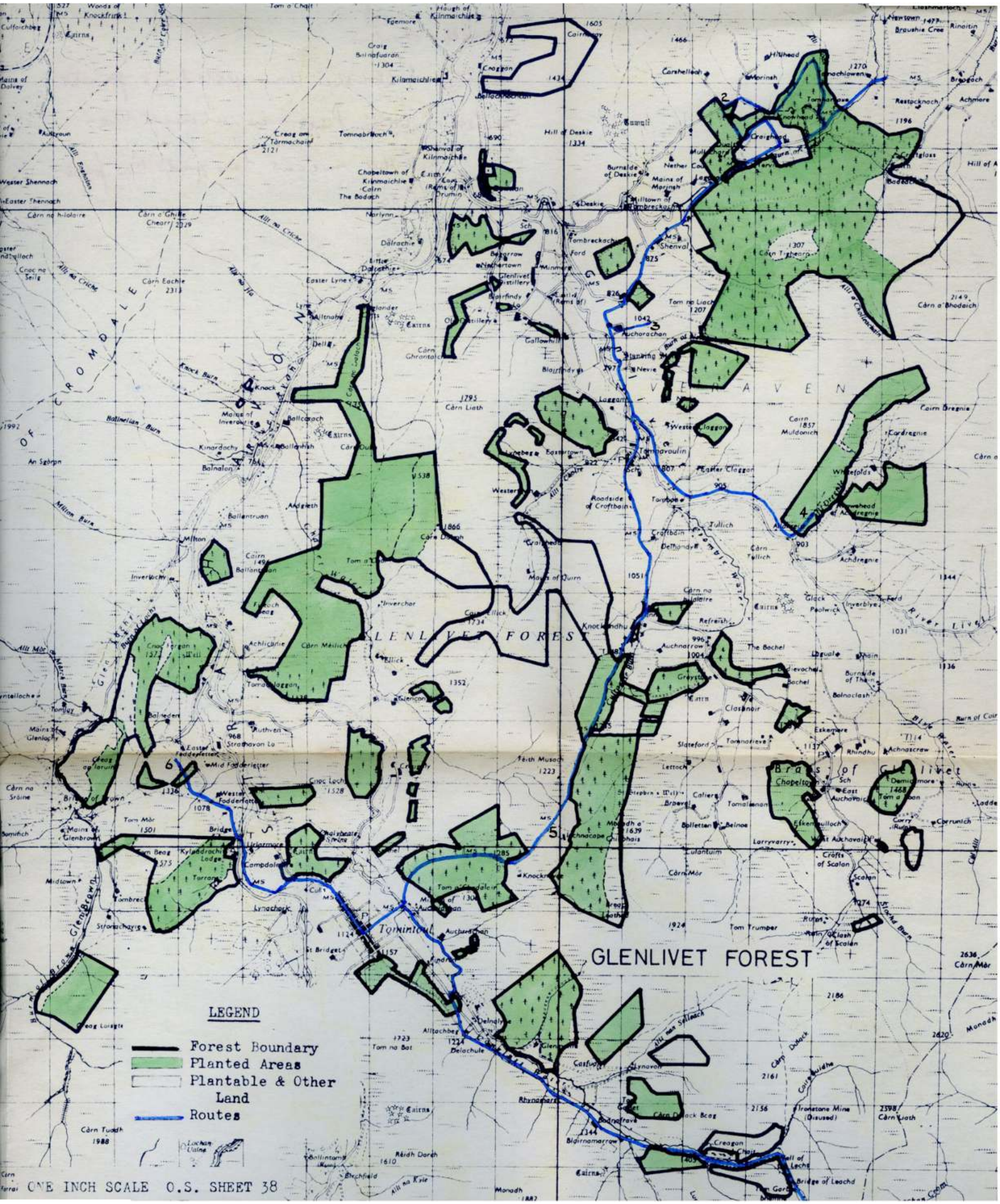
Achfad: One hundred and twenty years old Scots Pine (Crown Estate) adjoining 32 years old Norway Spruce (Forestry Commission). The Scots Pine has grown at somewhat less than 70 hoppus feet per acre per annum and the Norway Spruce at a little more than 105 hoppus feet per acre.

Achorachan/Nevie: Land use - agricultural and forestry. Here can be seen the Achorachan/Nevie block with a view of the Achorachan/Lynbeg/Westerton plantations.

Cordregnie: View of the Braes of Glenlivet. Examine Disposition of Plantations, Farms and Grouse Moor on the ground and with a large scale Estate Map. Picnic lunch.

Feithe Musach: Remnants of Caledonian Forest exposed by peat cutting in peat on main roadside.

Fodderletter/Strathavon: View point. Examine Disposition of Plantations, Farms and Grouse Moor on the ground and with a large scale Estate Map.


GLENLIVET FOREST
LEGEND
Forest Boundary
Planted Areas
Plantable & Other Land
Routes
ONE INCH SCALE O.S. SHEET 38

Alltcailleach Forest

Supervisory Staff

P. F. McIntyre - District Officer I
D. M. Marnoch - Head Forester
J. Rose - Forester

Situation

Glen Muick - the glen of the pigs - runs north east to join the valley of the Dee opposite Ballater, 42 miles by road west of Aberdeen.

Alltcailleach Forest lies along both flanks of Glen Muick, the highest plantations being on the upper shoulders of the Coyles of Muick at about 1,650 feet. The terraces of the Dee across the river from Ballater are at 650 feet.

The rocky crags of Pannanich Hill, south east of Ballater dominate a detached block of the forest. Ten miles up the Dee at Inver is a further separate section of nearly 500 acres.

Geology and Soils

The shallow basin beneath the Coyles of Muick is of felspathic gneiss, rich in mica. The lower slopes are overlain with boulder clay.

The upper rim of the basin is of serpentine, and there are outcrops of hornblende schist along the northern flank.

The river terraces of Dee and Muick are of fluvio-glacial material.

Pannanich and Inver sections are of granite.

The principal soil type is a climatic podsol,

influenced by topography and tree crops. Areas of impeded drainage show gley conditions in the boulder clay

Area Statement

	Acres
Under plantations	3,681
In hand to plant	6
Unplantable	117
	3,804

Previous Utilisation

One thousand two hundred and thirty four acres of the main Birkhall area were under woodland at the time of acquisition in 1932. The rest was used for grazing and sporting.

Much of the Inver block carried a previous timber crop, and Pannanich Hill was cleared of timber during the 1939-45 war.

Plantations

The age class distribution is as follows:-

1 - 10 years	-	72	acres
11 - 20 "	-	668	"
21 - 30 "	-	1,427	"
31 - 40 "	-	934	"
over 40 "	-	580	"
		3,681	"

The species distribution is as follows:-

Species	Acres	%
Scots Pine	2,221	57
Lodgepole Pine	120	3
European Larch	182	6
Japanese Larch	79	2
Hybrid Larch	14	1
Douglas Fir	68	2
Norway Spruce	476	13
Sitka Spruce	490	14
Miscellaneous Conifers	10	1
Hardwoods	21	1
	3,681	100

Production Programme

The outturn for F.Y. 67 will be 82,000* hoppus feet. The long term forecasts are:-

* 53 standing sale
30 FC fellings.

(000's hoppus feet)

	Forest Year			
	1970	1975	1980	1985
Thinning	104	131	138	144
Felling	40	50	65	116
	144	181	203	260

Roads

Twenty-five miles of road have been built. 16 miles remain to be built.

Houses

There are 2 houses for supervisory staff and 5 for industrial workers.

Industrial Staff

There are 14 forest workers, 1 trapper and 1 clerkess. Timber Merchants who have contracted to work the timber employ 4 men.

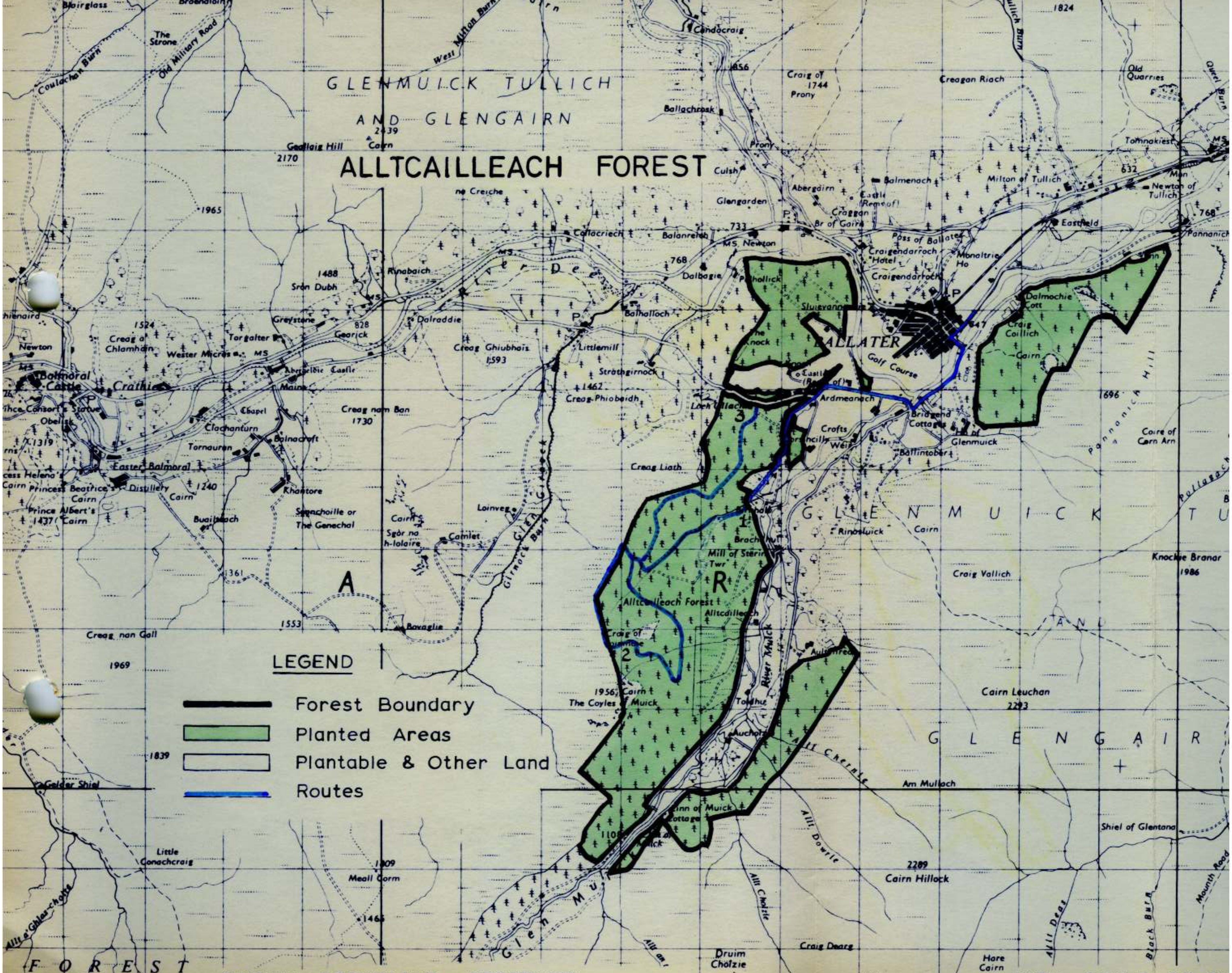
Stopping Places

Corrie Basin entrance - Compartments 21/22: Discussion of structure of forest.

Craig of Loinmuie, Compartment 59: Panoramic view of Corrie Basin. Discussion of species used.

During walk along upper rim of forest, see protective measures against fire, deer; high elevation species.

Birkhall Top Drive - Compartment 16: Amenity block of over-mature Scots Pine/European Larch in process of artifical renewal by Scots Pine/European Larch, Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce, Abies species.



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Wednesday, 21st June 1967

Visits to Drumtochty and Fetteresso Forests

Timetable and Itinerary

9 a.m.	-	Depart Banchory by Cairn o'Mount.
10 a.m.	-	Arrive Drumtochty.
10 a.m. 12 noon	-	Walk through south section of forest by Compartments 70, 79, 82, 78, 77 and 72.
12 noon	-	Board transport at forest office to drive through northern section.
12.15 p.m.	-	Research Branch Japanese Larch thinning plots.
12.45 p.m. 1.30 p.m.	-	Viewpoint and Picnic Lunch.
1.30 p.m.	-	Drive by Corsebauld Farm to leave forest at
2 p.m.	-	Continue by Auchenblae-Stonehaven road to
2.30 p.m.	-	Arrive Fetteresso Forest, Quithel Hill access, Compartment 54.
2.45 p.m.	-	Stone Quarry: walk down to Cowie Water by Ladys Ley, Stonehouse to Compartments 6, 5.
4.45 p.m.	-	Rejoin transport to drive by Swanley to Cheyne Hill - and
5.15 p.m.	-	Depart for Aberdeen.

Drumtochty and Fetteresso Forests

Supervisory Staff

Drumtochty Forest

P. F. McIntyre	-	District Officer I
W. McDonald	-	Head Forester
R. Adam	-	Forester
G. D. Smith	-	Trainee Forester

Fetteresso Forest

P. F. McIntyre	-	District Officer I
G. L. McBain	-	Head Forester
G. S. Thirde	-	Forester

Situation and Climate

The forests each consist of one main compact block of plantations with smaller outlying areas. At Drumtochty the main block occupies the land on both sides of the Glen of Drumtochty and extends northwards to cover Goyle Hill and Glenfarquhar where it marches with Fetteresso. The main block of Fetteresso forms the larger part of the catchment area of the Cowie Water. It extends from the march with Drumtochty on the west to cover the whole Cowie valley, Craiginour, Hill of Trusta and Hill of Three Stones to close proximity with the Stonehaven-Banchory road on the east. At Fetteresso, slopes are on the whole moderate and gentle and the high ground is frequently quite flat; exposure in parts is very severe particularly along the south eastern margin where the effects of sea winds are noticeable. Drumtochty on the other hand has some very steep slopes and dens where working of timber is difficult but the Glenfarquhar area, a more

recent acquisition, is more similar to the Fetteresso type.

Rainfall and temperature are recorded at Glensaugh farm (elevation 600 feet) which is situated about a mile west of the Drumtochty forest boundary. The average annual rainfall recorded there over recent years is 40.3 inches. The driest period of the year is from March to June. Frost has been recorded at Glensaugh in every month of the year and it is noteworthy that a reading of 10° F. (-12° C.) was recorded in the last week of May in 1961. Snowfall can be heavy. Prevailing winds are from the south west and exposure is moderate to severe over both forests except in the valley bottoms and where there is protection from higher ground.

Geology and Soils

The forests extend from the Hill of Strathfinella on the west, northwards across the Highland Boundary Fault into the edge of the Grampian Hills and eastwards to the Hill of Swanley.

The Hill of Strathfinella is carved from sandstone and conglomerates of Lower Old Red Sandstone age and is overlain by glacial drift which may be divided into two parent soil types. The hill slopes up to 1,000 feet are covered by a light textured till derived from the underlying sandstones and conglomerates with a slight mixture of highland schist material. This material gives rise to soil whose podsolic characteristics may be locally partially obscured by strong colluvial erosion and deposition on the steeper slopes. Above 1,000 feet the glacial till is derived from highland schist material moved in by the sheet ice off the hills to the north with only a limited dilution of local sandstone and conglomerate material. Under the more severely exposed conditions podsol and peaty podsols with thin iron pan are developed.

North of the Glen of Drumtochty the glacial drift on which the soils have developed is derived from Highland schists. Below 1,000 feet the soils are podsols in which a discontinuous thin iron pan may be present. Above this level podsols and peaty podsols with well developed thin iron pan are general.

On areas with moderate to steep slope and convex form the peat depth is from 3-9 inches, the greater depths occurring on north aspects. As the degree of slope diminishes the depth of peat increases and on flats or where concave slopes level out depths of 3 feet and more occur. It is only on the very steep slopes that a peat covering is absent and even then only on the more fertile sites with a south aspect.

Area Statement

	Drumtochty (Acres)	Fetteresso (Acres)
Plantations (including P.67)	6,763	6,652
To be planted	43	2
Other land - Agricultural, etc.	51	263
Unplantable	2,332	1,198
	9,189	8,115

Previous Utilisation

Sporting and sheep grazing were largely featured prior to afforestation.

Plantations

The age class distribution is as follows:-

	Drumtochty (Acres)	Fetteresso (Acres)
1 - 10 years -	2,695	668
11 - 20 " -	1,580	3,995
21 - 30 " -	45	1,779
31 - 40 " -	1,976	159
over 40 " -	467	51
	6,763	6,652

The species distribution is as follows:-

	Drumtochty			Fetteresso		
	Acres	%		Acres	%	
Scots Pine	1,085	14	34	1,731	26	43
Lodgepole Pine	1,413	20		1,079	17	
Sitka Spruce	1,413	20	27	2,020	30	37
Norway Spruce	484	7		513	7	
European Larch	373	6	29	47	1	15
Japanese Larch	1,343	18		762	11	
Hybrid Larch	268	5		234	3	
Douglas Fir	110	3		97	2	
Tsuga	42	1		-	-	
Other Conifers	167	4		51	1	
Hardwoods	65	2		118	2	
	6,763	100		6,652	100	

Production Programme

Drumtochty

(000s hoppus feet)

	70	75	80	85
Pines	7	12	11	29
Spruces	38	87	117	182
Larches	67	114	115	113
Other	23	29	31	29
	135	242	274	353

Fetteresso

(000s hoppus feet)

	70	75	80	85
Pines	-	-	-	5
Spruces	54	121	184	212
Larches	6	26	45	46
Other	-	-	1	3
	60	147	230	266

Roads

Drumtochty

The whole forest road system has been laid out and surveyed. The total mileage of road in the road plan is 81 miles of which 46 miles have been built to formation stage or the metalled stage. The older block of the forest which is now almost all in the thinning stage has been completely roaded for extraction purposes. In the Glenfarquhar section a skeleton road system has been formed in conjunction with planting i.e., the main communicating roads are made for the transport of labour, plants and materials and for fire protection and administrative purposes. The development of the full road system will be

delayed until the need for extraction and transport of produce arises.

Fetteresso

Thirty-nine miles of roads have been completed or formed. It is estimated that another 6 miles will be required before 1972.

Houses

Nine houses in Drumtochty Forest are let to workers and four are occupied by supervisors. In Fetteresso Forest five are let to workers and 2 to supervisors.

Labour

Fifteen forest workers are employed in Fetteresso Forest and 14 in Drumtochty Forest. A timber merchant who has contracted to purchase and work the timber in Drumtochty Forest employs a further 12 men.

Stopping Places

Drumtochty

The large Sitka Spruce beside the road in Compartment 70 had the following dimensions in 1961 -

Top Height - 134 feet:
Timber Height - 126 feet:
Breast Height Quarter Girth over Bark - 58¼ inches:
Volume over Bark - 892 hoppus feet:
Age - approximately 100 years.

The adjoining plantation is of P.29 Sitka Spruce having a Top Height of 80 feet and a yield class of 220. It has had four thinnings.

Compartment 79 - P.28 Hybrid Larch:
This has been thinned 4 times and the present thinning will be followed by underplanting with Sitka Spruce and Douglas Fir. Standing volume is 2,000 hoppus feet of which 650 hoppus feet will be removed. The present stocking of 300 trees per acre will be reduced to 140 trees. Above the road in Compartment 82 is Japanese Larch marked with a normal thinning. Underplanting here will take place after a further thinning.

Compartments 78/77 - P.58 Sitka Spruce fills a windblown hole from the 1953 gale. P.27 Douglas Fir has been damaged in recent gales on the flanks.

Compartment 72 - P.34 Tsuga was planted beneath P.1905 European Larch. The European Larch was reduced in numbers to favour the Tsuga in early thinnings. Thinning now takes place amongst both species. About 50 European Larch per acre are left.

Adjoining is a P.34 plantation of Cryptomeria Japonica, beneath P.1905 European Larch. Three hundred European Larch per acre have been left.

The return to the Forest Office will then be made through Sitka Spruce and Japanese Larch plantations for the second stage of the tour which will take place in the northern section of the forest by vehicle. Shortly after leaving the Forest Office the party will cross the Highland Boundary Fault, where sandstone conglomerate rocks are replaced by Highland Schists.

P.32 Japanese Larch thinned for under-planting with a range of coniferous species by the Research Branch. The plots have been reduced to different densities, ranging from 40 to 200 stems per acre, in order to study the

development of the underplanted species.

Lunch will be taken at a view point looking over young plantations before driving through the forest by Corsebauld farm.

Fetteresso

The forest is entered from Drumtochty by Quithel Hill.

Compartment 54 P.60: From the top of the hill is seen Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine mixture with fire breaks of Hybrid Larch on heather. On the richer, lower slopes is pure Sitka Spruce.

The descent is made by vehicle as far as a prominent glacial moraine which is being used for the supply of road metal within the forest. From here a descent on foot passes through Sitka Spruce approaching the thinning stage on the left, and younger plantations of Scots Pine and Sitka Spruce on the right.

This is within the catchment area of Stonehaven's water supply and at the foot of the hill the intake is passed. The steep unploughed banks above the Cowie water reveal the poorer growth rate where cultivation by ploughing has not been possible. Passing the Stonehouse picnic place at the junction of the Cowie-Dumer burns we reach:

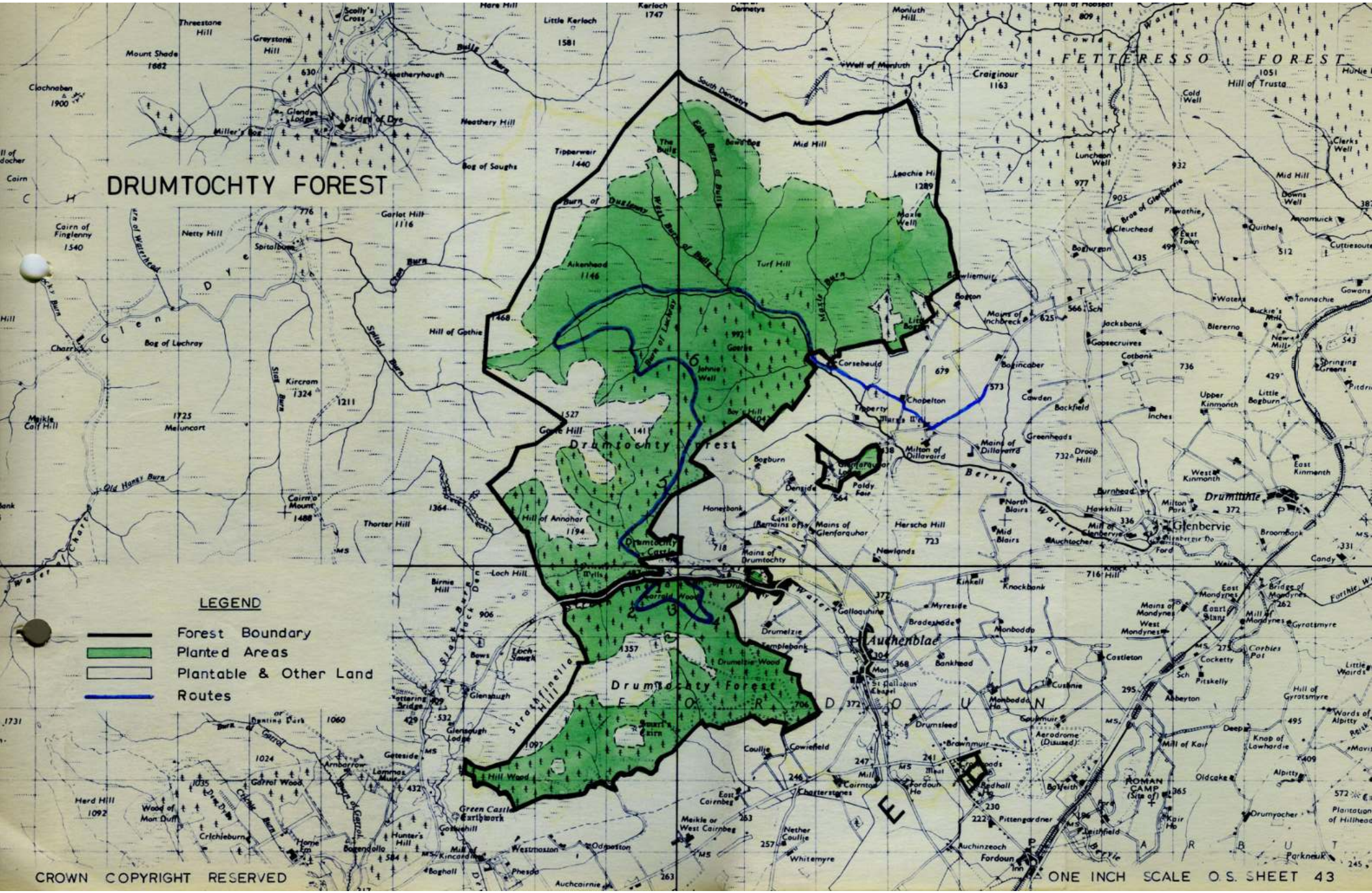
Crossing the Cowie water by foot bridge we enter a fine Sitka Spruce stand dating from P.28.

Rejoining the road the walk continues beside the river with natural hardwoods along the bank and acquired Norway Spruce plantations across the water.

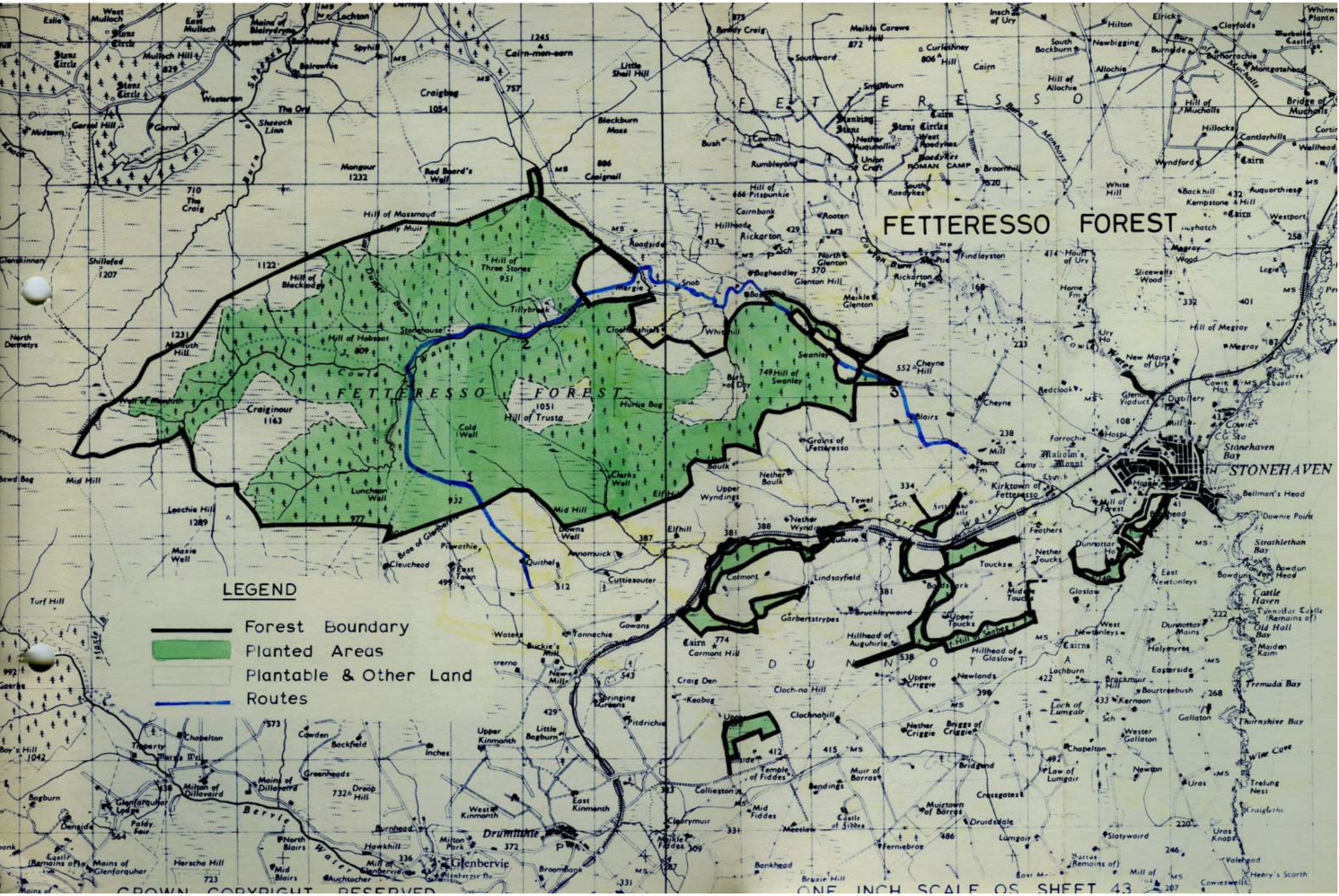
The vehicles will then be rejoined to drive

by Swanley to the south east extremity of the forest at:

Cheyne Hill above Stonehaven: From here the detached blocks around Dunnottar may be seen, providing shelter amidst farm land.



ONE INCH SCALE O.S. SHEET 43



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