



No 10

Tree Scribe

THE HOUSE JOURNAL OF TILHILL

October 1981

Cash boost for planting

IN LINE with the Government's December 1980 policy statement which provided for a continuation of planting in the country as a whole at broadly the rate of the past twenty-five years and an increased participation by the private sector, the Forestry Commission has announced its new planting grant scheme, effective from October 1981.

In parallel with this, grants for existing Dedication Schemes on Bases II and III and the Small Woods Scheme have been revised with effect from October 1 1980.

Aid for planting has been given a substantial boost. For areas of 10 hectares and over the new grant is £230 per hectare for conifers and £450 for hardwoods, payable in two instalments — 80 per cent on planting and 20 per cent after five years on satisfactory establishment. Prior to the latest revision the comparable previous Basis III grants were £100 per hectare for conifers and £225 for hardwoods.

Higher rates of grant are payable for smaller planting schemes, the complete range being per hectare:—

Area of Wood	Conifers	Broadleaves
0.25 — 0.9ha	£600	£850
1.00 — 2.9ha	£480	£700
3.00 — 9.9ha	£400	£600
10.00ha and over	£230	£450

Other features of the new scheme include the following:

- * A five-year plan of operations will require the Forestry Commission's prior approval before planting starts. The Forestry Commission may consult, as before, appropriate statutory authorities on land use and environmental considerations.
- * Felling approved within the plan will be exempt from felling

licensing.

* The Forestry Commission will not normally consent to the imposition of a Tree Preservation Order on any woods satisfactorily managed under an approved plan.

* Applicants for grant will be required to undertake to enter into discussions, if requested by the local authority, with a view to negotiating an access agree-



Argyl branch manager Vaughan Hammond with a P78 spruce growing vigorously in its setting overlooking Loch Melfort (see our centres).

ment. This undertaking does not however commit the applicant to concluding any such agreement.

* Grants will be subject to review every two years, the first review being on October 1 1982.

The revised grants for Dedication and Small Woods Schemes, which are closed to new entrants are as follows, all rates being per hectare:

Dedication Basis II		Dedication Basis III		Small Woods Scheme	
Planting grant	£105	Planting grant		Planting grant	
Management grant (per annum)		— conifers	£140	0.25 — 2.9ha	£420*
— first 40ha	£4.80	— broadleaves	£315	3.00 — 9.9ha	£350*
— second 40ha	£3.25	Management grant (per annum)	£4.20	*75% on planting, 25% after 5 years	
— remainder	£2.00				

Commenting on the new grants, Tilhill's managing director David Brierton told Tree Scribe: 'After years of allowing planting grants to be debased by inflation and witnessing the decline of private planting to half the levels of the early 1970s the Government has at last gone a long way towards putting its house in order as far as the levels of planting grant under the new scheme are concerned.'

'In these times of stringency

in Government spending the Forestry Commission is to be congratulated in getting the levels of the new grant set realistically and faith has been kept with the Government's policy statement of last December.

'The new scheme should provide the right stimulus for increased planting activity and Tilhill is geared to respond.'

'The remaining constraint is the availability of land for afforestation and Tilhill looks to

the Forestry Commission to implement the streamlining — identified as necessary in the Rayner scrutiny — of the consultative procedures associated with the clearance of land for grant-aided planting.'

NOTE: a booklet describing the new grant scheme has been published by the Forestry Commission — 'Forestry Grant Scheme, August 1981'. Copies may be obtained from any Tilhill or Forestry Commission office.

INSIDE

REPORT FROM CANADA

page 2



LONGLYF GETS 'TREATMENT'

page 3



ARGYLL: PROFILE pages 4/5
TECHNICAL WATER CONTRACTS page 7
P AND P page 8

Page 1

Prince Edward Island: report from Canada



Canadian forester Bill Glen spent four years as assistant branch manager to Andrew Binmore based at Thirsk, East Yorkshire branch. He returned last year with his wife to work on Prince Edward Island off the East Coast of Canada.

IT'S NOW BEEN a year since Elizabeth and I left Thirsk for Canada and this article provides a bit of background on forestry in Prince Edward Island.

The 'virgin' forest contained white pine (*Pinus Strobus*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), red spruce (*Picea rubens*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and smaller amounts of other species. The early French settlers started clearing areas for agriculture. The clearing was continued by large influxes of Scottish settlers in the early 1800s. Further cutting was done to support the thriving ship building industry.

During the late 1880s the practice of building ships, filling them with lumber and selling both ships and cargo in Europe was common. The forest became very much depleted but fortunately with the change to iron and steel ship construction, the pressure on the forest was reduced.

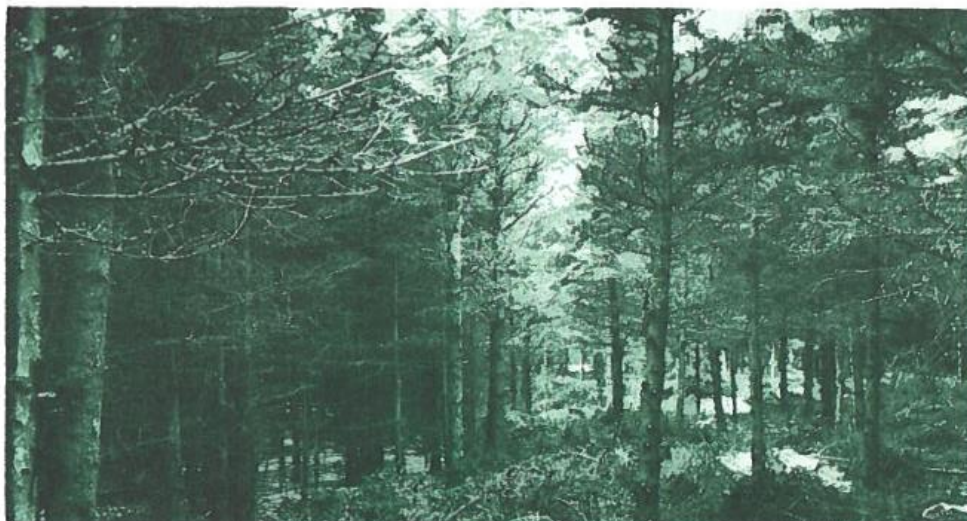
The treatment of the forest from the time of initial settlement until the present has been described as 'cookie jar' (biscuit tin) management: you start with a jar of mixed cookies; first the jam-filled or most desirable are taken and eventually you will end up with only the plain and broken cookies. This is a very close analogy of what happened to the forests of eastern Canada.

FOREST CLEARED

By the early 1900s approximately 60 percent of the forest had been cleared and soon it became evident that some of this land was not suitable for agriculture. The outcome was that many farms were abandoned and the fields naturally returned to forest. Of all the native species, white spruce (*Picea glauca*) competes favourably with grass.

There is about 100,000 acres of very dense old field white spruce and about 500,000 acres of high-graded forest in Prince Edward Island.

Unlike the other provinces of Canada, the forest of Prince Edward Island is 90 percent



Lack of road construction material means most woodland is accessible only when the soil is frozen or dry. Here white spruce is 30 ft- 35 ft high at 25 years.

privately owned and the average woodlot is only 20 acres. The small blocks of scattered woodland are similar to those of Britain and very different from the rest of Canada. Because of this woodland structure, most forest operations are on a small scale and most North American forestry techniques and machines are not suitable. British and European techniques and machines are gradually becoming more accepted.

Another unique feature of Prince Edward Island is its red soil of which the whole island is composed. The only rock is soft red sandstone which makes poor road building material. The sandstone is locally called 'shale' but is best described as 'hard mud'.

SPUD ISLAND

The red soil is famous for growing potatoes, hence Prince Edward Island's nickname, Spud Island. The soil is suitable for tree growth as well as potatoes but the lack of road construction material means most woodland is only accessible when the soil is frozen or dry.

The ownership pattern, woodland structure, access and state of the forest of PEI create challenging problems in practising forest management.

The Department of Agriculture and Forestry have a number of programs aimed at improving the productivity and quality of the forest.

One development is a tree breeding program in conjunction with other eastern Canadian provinces to provide planting material of higher genetic quality than that found naturally. The main thrust of the program is with black spruce (*P. mariana*), red pine (*P. resinosa*), larch (*L. laricina*) and balsam fir (*A. balsamea*). Other species, including European and Japanese larch are being worked with to a lesser extent.

A second program is aimed at the woodlot owner, to entice him to carry out silvicultural improvement on his land. This involves the preparation of a five-year management plan by a member of the forestry staff.

Operations described in the plan are eligible for government incentives. These incentives are paid for road construction, which involves shaping of the natural material to a set contour, boundary line surveying, thinning, crop tree release, salvage of dead material, planting and plantation maintenance.

Most grants cover the costs of the operations so as one would expect, the response of the woodlot owners has been good.

Thinning trials are being carried out to determine the best treatment for the dense stands of old field white spruce which makes up our largest stand type. The density of the stands can be as high as 50,000 stems per acre, at a height of 15 to 20 feet, making access impossible. White spruce is suitable for both lumber and pulp, and growth can be such that small sawlogs can be produced in 20-25 years.

White spruce is susceptible to spruce budworm but can withstand severe defoliation for 2 or 3 years and survive, but may be predisposed to other damaging agencies such as bark beetle.

Marketing of the smaller diameter material produced by thinning and other harvesting methods is the biggest problem facing PEI since all pulpwood material has to be shipped off-island. Studies are being carried out to see if this material could be used to produce electricity which is produced by oil-fired generating stations at present. Since Prince Edward Island has no hydro developments, wood appears to be one of the cheapest renewable resources for power generation.

I feel this will give Tree Scribe readers an idea of forestry past and present on Prince Edward Island and how my Tilhill experience will come to good use.

'Treatment' for Longlyf timber treatment plant

ABERDEEN GRADUATE

Alistair Ballingall took over the Longlyf fencing plant full-time at Greenhills as timber treatment manager just over a year ago and is now happy to report turnover 30 per cent up on the previous year — with production flat out. He had joined Tilhill after two years in South Africa as assistant district officer with their Dept of Forestry, then served a year with Harvesting and Marketing as an assistant regional manager in SE England.

Tilhill's management of the treatment plants at Greenhills and in Shropshire was formerly under the control of one person. Obviously Greenhills is now responding to individual 'treatment'.

'Fencing stakes are the bread and butter,' says Alistair, who tells of his marketing tactics which include mail shots to the various market sectors as well as a well-chosen advertising programme.

'Full-time manning of the telephone is vitally important,' he says, 'as is the facility of buying in raw material from Tilhill's locally managed estates, helping owners get in revenue from their small thinnings.'

Alistair has identified 300 hop growers in Kent and Sussex as a 'target' group, with good potential for his produce, as are London's parks and gardens. Biggest single order last trading year was from brewers Whitbread — 2000 18ft poles.

But he will freight his stakes and poles anywhere within an area SE of a line from the Wash to Weymouth — and still sell at competitive rates.

Another line which helped to bring his first year's throughput figures up to 1300m³ — value over £100,000 — was play-ground timber. Landscaping contracts now frequently call for treated timber for children's play areas.

Annual sales peak is in autumn when farmers' minds turn to those fencing jobs and parks superintendents plan their requirements for tree stakes for the coming season's planting.

That's when Alistair's Greenhills telephone line is running hot.



The Greenhills automated vacuum/pressure impregnation plant was designed by Tilhill in the mid-70s, with many features, including automation, well in advance of their time. Here is a 'charge' of hop poles emerging ready for work towed by a tractor driven by supervisor and treatment plant operator Tony Harrison, who also handles cash sales, as well as loading lorries with the help of the Highland Bear crane, mounted on the tractor. Today's emphasis is hop poles, but the staple business of the plant — 90 per cent — is fencing and tree stakes. Peeling and pointing take place here (peeling-only for today's hop poles) and the bark is sold to local stables.



Longlyf fencing plant timber treatment manager Alistair Ballingall discusses aspects of production with plant operator Tony Harrison, responsible for work flow supervision.

Argyll: where the climate is mild

Claiming a 'first' or a 'biggest', or — as in this case — a 'most productive' is always a chancy business. But with pockets of Vaughan Hammond's Argyll branch territory realising yield classes well over 20 along Loch Awe side and at the west end of the Great Glen, and over 20 elsewhere, the 'most productive for forestry in Northern Europe' is at worst a realistic challenge thrown down to a discerning audience. David Reade reports.



Looking down Oude Glen to the head of Loch Melford. In the foreground is Melford Estate Woodlands — 350 acres of mixed broadleaf and conifers in an estate totalling 1950 acres.



Above: Jean Simpson (right) hands over to Kathleen Campbell. Above right: Bob Wilson estimates the best haulage route for fencing material delivery. Left: Rupert Pearson Right: Vaughan Hammond inspects a new bituminised culvert on a forest road under construction at Upper Sonachan supervised by Argyll branch staff.



and growth is fast

VAUGHAN HAMMOND, 34, has an Edinburgh degree and was Tilhill's youngest branch manager when he was promoted from Carlisle — where he was abm — in 1974. Earlier he had worked in forestry in Zambia for three years. He explained how warm, moist weather from the Gulf Stream and oceanic influences work in conjunction with rich soil from the lava deposits produced by Ben More, once Britain's biggest volcano, on nearby Mull, to offer foresters some excellent sites, on terrain normally too severe for farmers.

He spelt out how an investor in suitable planting properties at current market values could expect in real terms a return on capital employed of three to four percent, excluding any tax advantage. Or, to look at it another way, if land purchase and afforestation/establishment/roading cost together about £520 per acre, with fertility put at YC14 overall then the net value of the timber per acre over 50 years to crop maturity would be some £7,000. And our investor would still own the land.

GOOD GEOLOGY

So the good geology and favourable climate send spruce, larch and lodgepole pine shooting up for profit. *Abies* do well too — *nobilis* and *grandis* — and the UK's tallest tree, a grand fir measured at 188ft several years ago, could now be over 200ft, on the Cairndow estate which is managed by Tilhill's Argyll branch (see Tree Scribe 2).

Vaughan's Argyll team is about to experience a rare personnel change. After four years as secretary/book-keeper Jean Simpson has to accompany her husband, lighthouse-keeper Tom, to his new posting at Dunnet Head, mainland Britain's most northerly point (north of John O'Groats nearby).

Taking over from her is Kathleen Campbell, from Kent, who married a gamekeeper, then on Atholl Estates. Their three children have grown up and her husband now works at Oban Glassworks. Kathleen is a keen motorcyclist who puts in a lot of her spare time as a Star Rider instructor at Oban Motor Cycle Centre, teaching novices to ride, under the auspices of the National Motorcycle Training Scheme.

Appropriately, Kathleen last worked — as a secretary — at a tree and shrub nursery.

Bob Wilson, 30, is the branch's forester, working towards his NDF qualification which opens up Tilhill's career ladder. Bob came to Argyll in 1974 before Colin Blyth, now manager at neighbouring Cowal and Bute, was the abm. He runs the contract squads — responsible, as Vaughan says, for 'quality control on the ground'.

Both Vaughan and Bob are involved outside of their Tilhill association with forestry and mountaineering. Vaughan is past chairman of the RSFS Western Region, and now chairman of the RSFS silvicultural group, and past president, now treasurer of Oban mountaineering club. Bob is the RSFS Western Region secretary and meet secretary of the OMC.

Fairly new arrival is abm Rupert Pearson, 28, from Cuxham, near Oxford. After school he went to Kenya for a year as a teacher at a charity sponsored school called Statehe. Then after his forestry degree course at Edinburgh, he returned to South Africa to practise forestry for four years. He joined Tilhill at Old Sauchie in April 1980, moving to Oban in June this year.

A prime reason for his move was the acquisition by a pension fund client of the 1,550 acre Upper Sonachan estate. As abm Rupert was needed to supervise road construction, prepare management reports and draft tenders, provide budget forecasts and budget controls on all the Argyll properties managed from Oban.

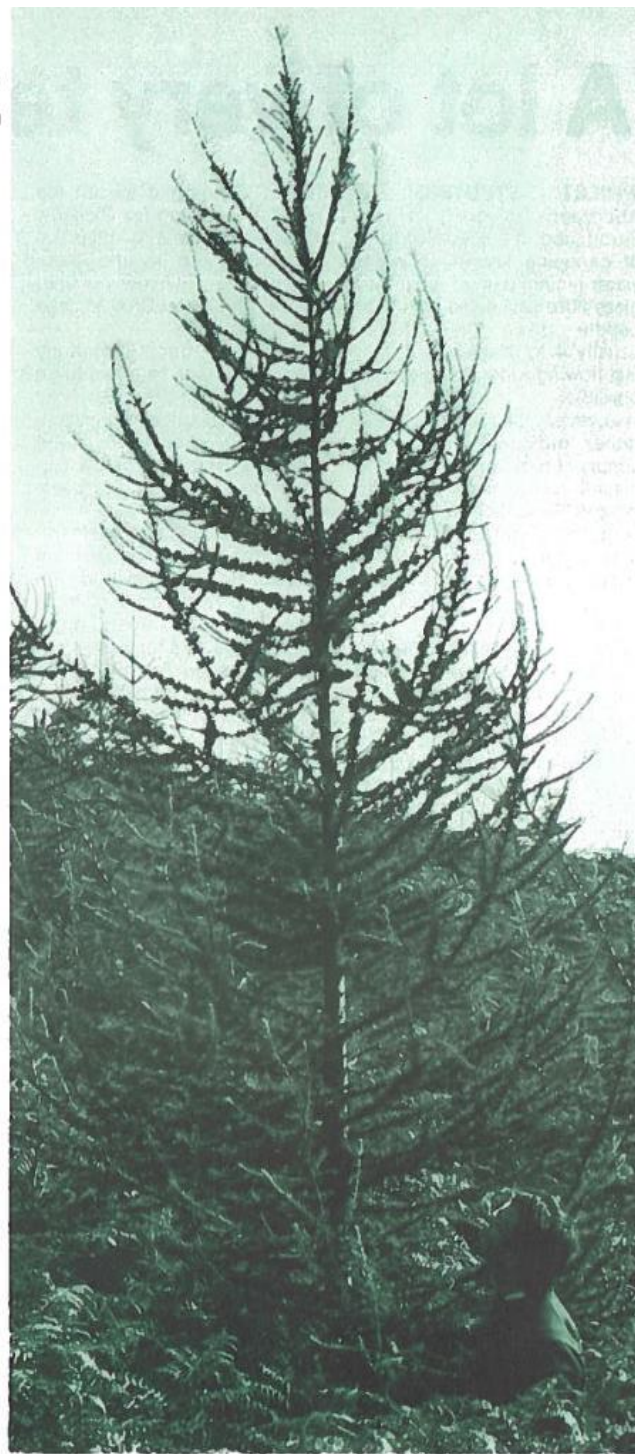
FERTILE LOCH AWE

Upper Sonachan has about 1,330 plantable acres on fertile Loch Awe side. At present — early September — deer fencing and forest access roads are under construction and an attractive mixture of sitka spruce and other conifer species will be planted in the current season.

First management responsibility for Tilhill in the area was Glencruitten, the first 640 acres in a management portfolio now standing at 6,500 acres.

Glencruitten's tree stock was predominantly 1920s planting, an attractive 'conifer amenity' woodland and this demands the complete and continuous felling — thinning — replanting — maintenance programme of mixed age class woodlands.

Two more principal estates are Melfort (300 acres) and Bara-



A six year larch already 16ft high at Barachulie

chulie (830 acres) lying side by side, one with mixed age ranges and the second a 'young' property of various conifer varieties in the establishment and maintenance phase.

Until recently the balance of the Argyll portfolio was made up of estates in which one major commercial block of woodland is the centrepiece and other smaller blocks are basically shelter belts, sited strategically for this purpose — such as Cairndow and Ardanaisig. But the increasing participation of pension funds is changing the balance, as elsewhere throughout Tilhill's branches.

Another pension fund has bought Glenkin, Dalmally and St Catherine's all in the Argyll district. Both the latter are afforestation investments and Dalmally is managed by the Argyll branch — Glenkin and St Catherine's by the Cowal and Bute branch (see Tree Scribe 5).

Vaughan Hammond reports that Dalmally is already fenced, ploughed, planted, and with roads almost complete is looking well.

The Douglas fir is 2 — 3ft high in only the second summer and is helping Argyll live up to its reputation for rapid growth.

'A lot of very technical water'

WHILST STUDYING at Aberdeen University, I was introduced to a specialist form of canoeing known as white water racing. Using a 4.5 metre glass fibre kayak, the idea is to paddle down the course, usually 4 to 5 miles of rough, fast flowing water, as quickly as possible.

However, this is often made rather difficult by a prolific supply of rocks all in the wrong places, waterfalls, weirs and rapids. These races are held all over the country, though the best water is found in North Wales and Scotland on such rivers as the Dee, Tryweryn, Tay and Tweed.

Events are also held on the Continent in the more pleasant parts of Europe such as the Alps, Ardennes and the Pyrenees.

The first races in the season are those in the Scottish series and this year I was able to attend most of these ending up with the Scottish Championships at Grandtully on the Tay.

March is not known for favourable weather and, sure enough, the event was very cold —

frozen fingers and ice on the paddles. Paddling for Glasgow Kayak Club I came in fifth in the individual, and in the team event we narrowly beat Roxburgh Canoe Club to take first place.

My results from Grandtully meant that I was selected to go to Monschau in West Germany and race for Scotland. Monschau is a lovely small town in the Ardennes and provided a picturesque setting for the international event.

Whilst training on a reservoir near the town, a German forester got most irritated with us — the reservoir was fresh water and no boats were allowed. Being a forester, I was hastily pushed forward to try and placate my German counterpart. Anyway, the event went well and all of us ended up with respectable positions in tough competition.

In the spring, most races were centred on Bala, North Wales where preparations were taking place for the world championships held in July.

This is a long course with a lot of very technical water. If the

paddler gets off a set line down the river, he is liable to do a lot of damage to his canoe on the steep falls and big boulders.

In July, the Scottish Canoe Association sent a full team to three events in the Spanish Pyrenees. All the races were held on very fast flowing mountain rivers which tested all our skills. The fine, hot weather and mountainous scenery made the tour very pleasant and the cold winter events in Scotland seem very distant!

TROPHIES!

We managed to come away with trophies and medals from all three competitions which nearly caused us problems at HM Customs.

The climax to this season was provided by the first Commonwealth championships, held on our 'home water' at Grandtully. The event was only a fortnight after the world championships which made it

easier for the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand teams to attend.

The river was very low which put a heavy emphasis on physical fitness, especially since poor access arrangements necessitated an extra mile's paddling.

The individual event was won by Dave Taylor from Gateshead who had been ninth in the world championships. I myself finished ninth.

The team event was held over the same course the next day. The Australians paddled unexpectedly well to take first place. Scotland's 'A' team came in 17 seconds behind the Australians, putting England 'A' into third place.

The last competition now over, a short break follows before the start of training in preparation for next season. The competition canoe is hung up in the bedroom whilst the practice boat is repaired and rebuilt to take the punishment from next season's races.

*Tim Liddon
abm Yorkshire branch*

People and Places

SCOTTISH DIVISION



Fergus Tickell joined Central branch in early July, immediately after graduating from Edinburgh University with a BSc (Hons) in forestry.

Fergus, who hails from Argyllshire, worked with the Forestry Commission in Argyll during summer vacations gaining experience in a range of forestry operations.

He also knows his potatoes; having worked as a seed potato inspector on a number of occasions Fergus eventually became a grade inspector.

DAVE HOULDERSHAW joined East Yorkshire branch in July. An ex-Forestry Commission woodman and Aberdeen graduate, he is well based at Thirsk to carry on his potholing and climbing interests. Being a keen backpacker — his walks include a 1,200 mile Lands End to John O'Groats route — he should find plenty of scope on the surrounding moors.



Peter Middleton, a graduate of Bangor, will join Solway branch in October. For the past 2 years he has been working on a timber concession in Indonesia.



Neil Aitchison graduated from Aberdeen University with a BSc (For) in July and has now joined Borders branch Southern division. His interests include mountain marathons which should mean that he finds the survey of Border hills an easy task.

SOUTHERN DIVISION



Andrew Aitken, a new graduate of Aberdeen University, joined Central branch as assistant branch manager on August 1, 1981.

Southern activity

Whatever the trees may be doing about regeneration there is no lack of activity among the staff viz:—
Ian and Morven Silver, a son,
Peter Layard Stuart, born on

October 15, 1980.
Steven and Eve Taylor, a daughter, **Kate**, born on May 15, 1981.
Chris and Mary Radford, a son, born in June 1981.

CONTRACTS

Southern division

LANDSCAPING BRANCH



Play areas with rangers' hut at Brighton Hill

CHILDREN'S playgrounds have become a major feature in the urban environment. It was with this in mind that landscape architects at the Basingstoke & Deane Borough council designed and put out to tender an elaborate woodland playground scheme situated at Brighton Hill, Basingstoke.

Tilhill Southern division Landscape branch entered into a £98,000 contract in September 1980 and work began the following month.

The initial work involved 15,000 cubic yards of cut and fill, 12,000 cubic yards of topsoiling; for this a specialist sub-contractor was employed.

Using D8 Caterpillar tractors and box scrapers a valley was formed into the hillside in which to accommodate the play equipment. After being delayed by bad weather the final slopes were formed and the topsoil replaced in late February 1981.

The undulating 7½ acre site provided grassy areas for games interspersed with shrubberies and surrounded by a woodland belt.

The play equipment had to be purchased from several sources, the majority manufactured in Alabama, USA. A sub-contractor from Cambridgeshire was employed to erect the equipment by the middle of March.

The woodland belts consist of some 20,000 transplants and whips, planted in March which were purchased on the Continent. The strong position of the £ at that time led to considerable savings.

In April all the slopes were hydro seeded, by spraying on the grass seed in a mixture of liquid fertilizer and a plastic binding substance, specialist equipment being hired for this process.

In recent years there has been considerable research into safety surfaces around play equipment. Because of the very informal nature of this scheme the designers considered many different surfaces, finally deciding upon forest bark. Areas around the equipment were excavated out and the formation line tipped.

A 6-in layer of gravel rejects was then put on as a drainage layer followed by 8-in of conifer peelings supplied from Tilhill's Longlyf plant at Greenhills.

This was compacted using a vibratory roller and followed by an 8-in layer of rough forest bark. Finally 6-in of pulverised bark was laid and compacted.

The result was a very good surface; it is fairly soft, it cannot be thrown around easily and it is very quick to drain. However, it does wear very quickly under the swings and requires constant maintenance.

The site is now open to the public and is being very heavily used by hundreds of children and adults and in years to come when the trees grow to stature it will become a very attractive amenity, adjacent to new housing developments in which Tilhill has already participated in landscaping.

Scottish division CENTRAL BRANCH



150 tree planting holes were excavated by JCB to turn this disused road section into a shelter belt.

IN JUNE Central branch of Scottish division completed the main part of a £33,000 fencing and tree planting contract for the Central Scotland Woodland Project (CSWP) in and around the village of Salsburgh, near Airdrie, Strathclyde region.

The CSWP was launched in March 1978 and is sponsored by the Countryside Commission for Scotland, and Central, Lothian and Strathclyde Regional councils.

By promoting tree planting the project aims to improve the quality and amenity of settlements and increase the productivity of the upland moors which lie between Glasgow and Edinburgh. The area was formerly the site of considerable mining activity and bears the scars of derelict mine workings and spoil heaps.

Salsburgh lies in this presently typically bleak country adjacent to the M8 (Glasgow - Edinburgh) motorway and was chosen as the first site within the project area, where the strategy of environmental improvement by intensive planting would be implemented.

Tilhill fenced and planted nine sites under the contract, using approximately 51,000 trees and erecting almost 5,000m of fences.

The sites varied from roadside verges to 15 ha of ploughable ground and the work combined the techniques of upland moor afforestation with those of landscaping and small woods forestry.

The entire planting stock was root-dipped with Alginate to prevent drying out during handling and planting. This has been effective as despite planting during a spell of dry weather, plant mortality is below ten percent.

For a variety of reasons planting schemes of this nature often suffer from a shortage of site maintenance after the completion of the contract. In an attempt to overcome the weeding problem polythene weed suppressors were used on all the unploughed sites.

These are 50cm squares of

1000 gauge black polythene held down by wire pegs or turfs.

At a cost roughly equivalent to three years' weeding they are not cheap to apply, but they should last for five years and provide the extra benefits of a mulching effect and reduced root competition.

The sheets become partially hidden by surrounding vegetation and quickly blend into the site.

Central Landscape branch have been awarded a £20,000 contract by **Biwater Shellabear** for landscaping work at Main Street, Harthill.

Central Landscape branch have been awarded a £15,000 contract by **Wimpey Construction UK** for landscaping works at the Royal Scottish National Hospital, Larbert.

Central Landscape branch (Scottish division) have been awarded a £13,000 landscape maintenance contract by **British Gas Corporation** for Bathgate compressor station.

Awarded planting and seeding contract with **Wimpey** (£6349)

Awarded maintenance contracts with **GMC** (approx £7000)

Southern division

Landscaping a council housing development for **Eastbourne Borough Council** £15,454
Landscaping for **Coastal Counties Housing Association** at Redhill £15,218

Extension landscaping work for **Bovis** at Reading £7,000
Maintenance contract at Basingstoke £6,000
Landscaping a new building site at Walton-on-Thames £7,000

Forestry contract on estate near Guildford £11,000

A £61,000 tree planting contract at Fareham, Hampshire was won by the Landscape branch in November 1980 and work commenced at the beginning of January 1981.

Wider powers of disposal for the Forestry Commission

ONE OF THE last pieces of parliamentary business completed before the summer recess was the passing of the Forestry Act 1981.

This short act gives the forestry ministers wider power to dispose of Forestry Commission land and plantations. It also makes provision for the appointment of an additional commissioner, one with commercial experience beyond the forestry and wood-using industries.

The new act requires ministers, in performing their functions under the 1967 Forestry Act, to

have regard to the national interest in maintaining and expanding the forestry resources of Great Britain.

Following the passing of the 1981 act the Forestry Commission has outlined its programme for disposals. Out of total assets of some £1,000 million it is proposed to raise some £40 million over three years - £10 million in 1981/82 and £15 million in each of the two subsequent years.

Some 7,000 hectares of bare land awaiting planting will be offered for sale, together with between 7,000 and 15,000

hectares of plantations and will include properties in the following categories:

- * small plantations which are difficult for the commission to manage efficiently

- * woodland blocks, generally less than 100 hectares, either offered individually or in geographic groups or packages

- * sale and leaseback of large plantation blocks of 500 hectares or more

- * plantation blocks of 100 hectares or more for outright sale

* areas of plantable land.

Plantations for sale will be selected from all parts of the country. The first sales, totalling some 3,000 hectares, will reach the market in the autumn of 1981.

Sales will be advertised and sold competitively on the open market, except for sales or surrenders to former owners under offer-back agreements, sales to adjoining owners on clear rational land use grounds, and surrenders to lessors of land which is subject to lease restrictions.

Tilhill's new chairman heads the Rolls Royce pension fund, having retired after serving on the board during a distinguished career.



THE NEW CHAIRMAN of the board of Tilhill is Mr H E Trevan-Hawke FCA who succeeded to this post in June. Mr Trevan-Hawke is known to his colleagues and contacts in many walks of life as 'T-H' and declared himself happy to be so referred to in Tree Scribe.

T-H's contact with Tilhill has arisen through his chairmanship of the trustees of the Rolls-Royce pension fund, the fund being already a substantial client investing in forestry in Scotland, England and Wales.

He likes the way that the Tilhill management put their faith in their future on quality of performance, eschewing longterm management agreements, and, speaking as a client, he was generous about the company: 'We feel Tilhill has done us

proud and we also feel that being foresters with an interest in finance is getting the priorities the right way round.'

T-H leads a busy life. In addition to his chairmanship of Tilhill and the Rolls-Royce pension fund, he is a director of Short Brothers, the aircraft manufacturers, the Agricultural Land Improvement group and Meritor Investments and serves on the management committees of the Fleming Property Trust, the American Property Trust and the Hill Samuel Agricultural Fund.

An accountant by profession, T-H began his career in aviation with Cunliffe-Owen Aircraft, a company whose engineering skills were applied to 64 types of aircraft during the war.

After the war he moved to Chrysler UK and was soon appointed finance director and company secretary. There followed a little flirtation into publishing with Caxton, but before long he returned to an engineering company with one of the most famous names in engineering history - Rolls-Royce - and was heavily involved during the sad receivership period when the company, and the pension fund, was split into two parts, aero engines and cars.

He retired from Rolls-Royce as secretary/treasurer in 1978, but agreed to continue in control of the pension fund, a fund which over the past decade has seen its assets grow from £47 million to £400 million.

T-H is a Westcountryman - with a still perceptible burr - and now lives with his wife in Buckinghamshire. His son is in the RAF, one daughter is married to an oil company executive and the younger daughter lectures in psychiatry at Oxford University.

The chairman is looking ahead to continued growth for Tilhill. 'Britain is desperately short of timber resources in relation to its needs' he says 'and over the timespan of a spruce rotation the changing balance of world supply and demand will in all likelihood be reflected in higher prices for timber.'

'We have a highly professional team here in Tilhill, well geared for the challenges of the future. Quality of performance will continue to be the company's watchword.'