

57 Cll
COPY

THATCHING COSTS F.Y. 50
CULBIN

Total Area Thatched

264 acres

<u>Labour Costs</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cutting	£ 9: 8: 5	£2487: 2: -
Dragging 4 men 2/3d per hour per load	6: 15: -	1782: -: -
Loading - Lorries and Tractors 3½ men @ 2/3d per hour per load	5: 18: 9	1567: 10: -
Haulage - 1 Lorry Driver @ 2/3½d per hour 5148 hours	2: 4: 8	589: 12: -
3 Tractor Drivers @ 2/8½d per hour - 6923 hours	3: 11: -	937: 4: -
Laying Thatch	5: 2: 7	1354: 2: -
Labour Cost per acre	£33: -: 5	£8697: 14: -
<u>Other Costs</u>		
Dragging - 2 horses @ 2/- per hour per load	3: -: -	792: -: -
Haulage - 1 Lorry @ 11/6d per hour - 5148 hours	11: 4: -	2956: 16: -
3 tractors @ 8/- per hour (average) 6923 hours	9: -: 6	2382: 10: -
P.O.L.	3: 15: -	997: -: -
Other Cost per acre	£26: 19: 6	£7128: 6: -
Total Cost (Labour and Other)	£60: -: -	£15826: -: -

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Mr. J.A.M.Kennedy.

S 7 cl.

THW/JW

4th July, 1950.

Dear Sir,

I have received a note from the Director with a copy of your letter to him dated 15th June, 1950. He has asked me to reply to the points in your letter marked a, b, c and d. I believe that you will be receiving a reply to your last paragraph from him.

So far as we know, planting undertaken at any time on the sand dunes has been of a simple notch type. When an attempt was first made to establish plantations on the dunes a mixture of Larch and Scots pine was planted and both species did well. This is rather surprising to us today since our efforts with Larch have not been successful, but there is no doubt that we are tackling what is probably more difficult ground than was tackled in the first place. There is an interesting account by one, Robert Grant of Kincoath, on planting round about the year 1847, and you will find it in the transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, July 1847 to March 1849.

It is probable that these early planters tried to establish trees to protect the arable ground and that the dunes where they planted were quite well covered and fixed by marram grass. When the Forestry Commission began planting in 1922 plants of marram grass were established at a spacing of 2' x 2' ahead of the tree planting. This was found to be too wide a spacing to have a decided effect on the movement of sand and it was reduced to a spacing of 1' x 1'. By 1934 this method was seen to be unsatisfactory for the moving dunes, and the method of thatching the/

the sand was begun and has been continued ever since. Broom and birch were first used as thatch and various degrees of pinning down the thatch were used until the method you have yourself seen became the standard practice. In all this work planting has been done by simple notching among either the marram grass or thatch.

When one season's planting is finished, about the beginning of May, work is begun on planting the area for next year. Thatch is laid almost continuously throughout the summer and winter and planting takes place in this thatch during the winter months from December to the end of April. The method of thatch you have seen is successful in stopping drifting of the sand and when this has been done the trees grow quite well without further treatment than the act of planting.

The following conifers have been tried at Culbin:-

European Larch
Norway Spruce
Douglas Fir
Lawson's Cypress
Thuja
Maritime Pine
Scots Pine
Corsican Pine
Lodge Pole Pine.

Apart from the last three species which you will have seen growing well at Culbin, all these conifers have not proved to be at all promising and some of them like Maritime Pine are quite hopeless. In the hollows among the sand, frost, at certain seasons of the year, is quite severe and this makes it very difficult to establish species like Maritime and Insignis Pines. Sitka Spruce has been tried and in its initial stages is promising on the moister areas.

Yours faithfully,

Lt. Col. D.G.H. de la Parque,
Croftcarnoch,
Killiecrankie,
Perthshire.


For Conservator.