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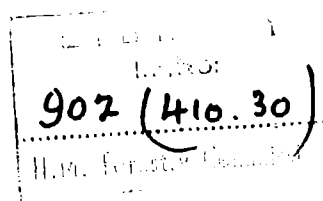
EDGARHOPE

FOREST

S(S) CONSERVANCY

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HISTORY

of

EDGARHOPE      FOREST

1929 - 1951

SOUTH (SCOTLAND) CONSERVANCY

## History of Edgarhope Forest

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## HISTORY OF EDGARHOPE FOREST

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Since this history was written I have visited the Spottiswood section. This has been a difficult area to establish due to rabbits, frost and heavy weed growth. Hardwoods in particular have been disappointing. But measures to make good failed areas have been largely successful over the last few years and I doubt if more than 10 acres now need any further treatment. The use of Scots pine to fill up blanks in very frosty areas has been satisfactory and will be extended over the remaining 10 acres.

(H. C. B. P.)

13th August, 1952.

### COMMENTS BY CONSERVATOR OF STATE FORESTS

#### SILVICULTURE

It is rather disturbing to learn that the Spottiswood section has still some fairly large areas which are not established. I knew that there were considerable difficulties during the war years and after, in getting labour to attend to urgent weeding, but I had thought that this had been largely overcome. I think Mr. Brown is probably a little optimistic with regard to his suggestions for an extension of hardwood planting at Spottiswood. Frost damage, extensive weed growth and, of course, rabbit and sheep damage have all contributed against the hardwood areas which have been laid down.

I agree with his observations regarding ploughing at Spottiswood generally.

(J. R. T.)

1st August, 1952.

## HISTORY OF EDGARHOPE FOREST

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FOREST

#### Situation and Name

The forest of Edgarhope is situated in Berwickshire about 28 miles south-east of Edinburgh and on the south-west fringe of the Lammermuir Hills. It is made up of twelve separate blocks, ten of which lie in the parish of Lauder, some two to three miles north of the town of that name and comprise the Lauder section of Edgarhope. Of the remaining two blocks the largest lies six miles east of the town in the parish of Westruther and forms the Spottiswood section of the forest. The remaining small block lies seven miles east of Lauder in the same parish and forms the Thorndyke section.

The forest takes its name from Edgarhope Wood which is now a prominent landmark.

#### Area and Utilisation

The total area of the forest land is 1,711 acres. Approximately two-thirds of this area was old woodland and, with the exception of Edgarhope block, consisted of felled shelter belts and blocks. The remainder of the area was made up of rough sheep grazing and some arable park land.

#### Table I

(See overleaf)

TABLE I

Estate	Owner	By	Date	Plantns. Acqrd.	Plant- able Excl.4	Nursur- ies.	Agric: acres	F. W. H. acres	Unplant- able Excl.4 acres	OTHER LAND				Total
										Land permanently Transferred		Land temporarily Transferred		
										Descr.	Area	Descr.	Area	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
Edgarhope	Earl of Lauderdale	Feu	Mart. '29	5.5	548.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	554
Edgarhope	Earl of Lauderdale	Feu	Whit. '30	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Spottiswood	T. Place	Purchase	Mart. '35	-	910.	-	28	2	79	-	-	Agric. Tencs. D.O.A.S.	490	1019
Thornydykes	J. O. Wilson	Purchase	Mart. '43	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Luggie Cottage	Earl of Lauderdale	Purchase	15/9/46	-	-	-	-	-	-	House & Garden	.25	-	-	.25
Thirlstane Castle	Earl of Lauderdale	Feu	8/8/49	-	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
Bourneholm House	E. S. Easton	Purchase	Mart. '51	-	-	-	-	-	-	House & Site	.01	-	-	.01
<b>Totals</b>				5.5	1596.5	-	28	2	79	-	.26	-	490	1711.2

≡ Included in Col. 5.

TABLE II

Utilisation of Land

(a) Plantations -			
Acquired	5.5		
Formed by F.C.	<u>1064.</u>		1069.5 acres
(b) In hand awaiting planting			
Blanks after felling	45.45		
Burnt areas	-		
Other land	<u>102.</u>		147.45 "
(c) Nurseries			-
(d) Agricultural			
No. of tenancies (managed by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland)			492.05 "
(e) F.W.H. No.1.			2. "
(f) Unplantable land in hand			-
(g) Other land			<u>.26</u>
	Total		<u>1711.26 "</u>

The 492.05 acres at Spottiswood were temporarily transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland during the war and the area is still not available for planting.

Physiography

Elevation varies from 560 ft. to 1171 ft. above mean sea level, the bulk of the forest being at more than 700 ft. Slopes are moderate generally, sometimes slight, and in Edgarhope Wood they are steep. Aspect varies through all points but is mainly west and south. Exposure is considerable on the higher ground but seldom severe, whilst on the lower lying areas exposure is slight to moderate.

Geology and Soils

The underlying rock in Lauderdale is Upper Old Red Sandstone and on this the bulk of the forest stands. The geological formation under the outlying portions of the forest, such as Pilmuir and the north end of Spottiswood, is Birkhill Shales of the Upper Silurian series. Soils vary from deep red loams to stiff grey clay, through brown clay loams. On the Edgarhope section of the forest the red loam is often six feet in depth and excellent for tree growth. The soils on the Spottiswood section are generally heavier and poorer. Here peat occurs locally, sometimes six inches deep and over-



lying stiff grey clay and occasionally as much as six feet deep overlying sandstone.

### Vegetation

The vegetation on the Edgarhope section at the time of acquisition is described as being largely fine grasses and bracken with Juncus species. During the years following planting, until the crop closed canopy, the bracken increased greatly. On the Spottiswood section the vegetation of the fields at the time of acquisition is given as mainly grasses such as Deschampsia caespitosa and Holcus lanatus. Juncus communis was also present. There has been little change in the open areas. Calluna and Erica, together with Sphagnum mosses, still dominate Jordonlaw Moss where the deep peat is found. Natural regeneration of Scots pine still persists on this area despite grazing and burning.

### Meteorology

Annual rainfall is about 34 in. and well distributed over the year. Snow may be expected in winter but seldom lies for lengthy periods, being often wet and liable to cause some damage. Frosts are moderate in intensity but frequently out of season and liable to cause widespread damage in the basin shaped area at Spottiswood. The prevailing wind is south-west. Cold, dry east winds occur in spring.

### Risks

(a) Fire. The risk of extensive fire damage on Edgarhope Forest is perhaps less than normal owing to the scattered nature of the forest blocks, a number of which are entirely surrounded by arable land. Muirburning is not intensively carried out on the moors adjoining the forest, but this occasionally leads to a high local risk where strong vegetation of a highly inflammable nature develops. One block is divided by a light railway line and bordered by the main Edinburgh-Lauder road but is past the most dangerous stage.

(b) Sheep and Cattle. Owing to the lengthy perimeter of forest bordering grazing land constant repair and inspection of boundary fences and dykes are necessary to avoid damage to crops.

(c) Rabbits. Rabbits abound in the district and are probably the greatest menace to the successful establishment of crops. The custom of farmers letting the right to kill rabbits on their land to professional trappers, who retain a "breeding stock" instead of exterminating them, means that there is an unending struggle to keep plantation fences proof against them.

The position on the Spottiswood section is most difficult where the forest consists of a series of belts and blocks surrounding fields temporarily transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland and let by them to farmers. Each section of this area was fenced and the rabbits killed out at the time of planting and a ring fence enclosing most of the area constructed. However, rabbits gained entry to the fields within the ring fence owing to gates being left open and in 1948, when the internal fences were dismantled, they obtained unrestricted entry to the plantations. The rabbits within the plantations are not numerous and except in checked areas damage is confined to barking. An attempt will be made this year to exterminate the rabbits within the ring fence.

(d) Game. Hares gain entry during snowstorms and do considerable damage in the higher outlying plantations.

Deer. Only roe deer occur locally and they are occasional visitors to the forest, doing only minor damage.

Black Game. Black game occur but little damage has been reported.

(e) Trespass. Although the forest lies only 28 miles from Edinburgh it is seldom visited by the public, with the exception of the Edgarhope block which lies close to the Earnscliffe Burn - a trouting stream.

(f) Insects and Fungi. No special risk.

(g) Other. Voles have done considerable damage in the Spottiswood section. They first appeared in large numbers in 1938 in Compartments 4, 5 and 8 and did much damage to the young trees especially to spruce and ash. The plague continued through 1939 and then the voles decreased rapidly in numbers. Trapping and poisoning were attempted with no effect. Minor vole damage occurred between 1939 and 1946 when there was a second plague, smaller than the first, which resulted in damage to Norway spruce in Compartment 8. There is some vole damage evident at present (F.Y.52) in

the Scots pine, Compartment 10, P.41.

### Roads

The forest is unusually well served by county and farm roads. The "allweather" road, F.1, built in 1949 has allowed the thinning of Edgarhope Wood to go forward. Produce may be extracted from most parts of the forest without further road construction except on a very small scale.

### Labour

In the early years the labour appears to have been adequate to cope with the planting programme, which seldom exceeded 50 acres per annum. However, there is some evidence of insufficient weeding and beating up which may have been due to lack of labour. Until 1952 the numbers employed never varied greatly - never less than 4 nor more than 8, except during the war years. Two of the workers who began in 1929 are still employed as gangers.

With the increase in brashing, cleaning and thinning programmes came the demand for more labour. This was not obtainable locally and there was some danger of delayed maintenance until labour was obtained in 1952 from Galashiels. These men are transported from and to Galashiels daily.

## SILVICULTURE

Preparation of Ground. Hand draining, (mounding, in later years), screefing and thinning of scrub have all been carried out depending on the site. No extensive draining has been necessary except in the lower areas of Spottiswood, Compartments 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and in Compartments 1, 2 and 3 of Lauder. The size and spacing of the drains vary considerably. Feeders are at least 9 in. deep and about 20 yds. apart normally, but deeper and closer where peat occurs, e.g. Compartment 8 Spottiswood. The drains in this compartment had originally been made to run directly down the slight slope and were of little or no value. In 1949 new drains were cut crossing the contours obliquely. Improvement followed but there still appears to be too few drains.

In felled areas, where birch and other species are growing, the practice has been to thin out the scrub to leave shelter for the young crop. The shelter trees have been, or are being, gradually removed in all

cases. In some cases standards were left for shelter and rung later.

Choice of Species. It is a very easy matter to criticise the choice of species years after planting but there appear to have been some mistakes made in this direction.

Edgarhope Wood carried some blown, rough Scots pine on higher ground and a very fine crop of hardwoods and European larch before being bought by the Forestry Commission. The oak, in particular, was reputed to be of very good quality. Unfortunately no figures relating to this crop are available. The soil is a red brown loam and 6 ft. deep at least on the lower slopes where Scots pine were planted in F.Y.31. The pine are not doing well and there are some deaths due to Honey Fungus (Armillaria mellea), Compartment 13 Lauder.

The European larch, planted on the slopes, suffers widely from larch canker (Dasyscypha calycina) as might be expected, but gives every promise of complete recovery to form an excellent crop. Scots pine has also been planted on the higher slopes and will form a good crop generally, if not a productive one, except on the highest tops.

It appears probable that the lower slopes of Edgarhope Wood could have carried a hardwood crop but it is possible that hardwood seedlings and transplants were not available in the early years in sufficient quantities.

Hardwoods were planted on Spottiswood but it appears that in this case much of the area was more suited to conifers. There does, in particular, seem to have been a lack of appreciation of the site requirements of oak and ash. Ash has, for example, been planted in F.Y.39, Compartment 8, on old dry pasture in a frosty site and failed almost completely. On the other hand at the east end of Compartment 1 where "moist grass-herb" vegetation is found and there is already excellent natural regeneration from good ash mother trees, Sitka spruce was planted in F.Y.44. This area is, however, being managed to obtain an ash crop.

Oak was planted in Compartments 4 and 6 in F.Y.37 and 38 on the low-lying moist ground near Spottiswood Loch. One year seedlings were used and they were notched into a screef made by drawing over a hinged turf. In Compartment 6 the oak was beaten up with European larch the following year and the oak were treated with about 2 oz. slag per plant at the time

of weeding. This had no effect. Frost and deer caused heavy losses and the area was again beaten up with one-year oak seedlings in F.Y.41. They also failed. The European larch on the lower ground in Compartment 6 has also suffered frost damage and has since been beaten up with Norway spruce. The present crop is poor and very uneven being 2 ft. to 10 ft. high, 70% stocked on the lower ground and considerably better on the higher ground further from the loch where a few oak still survive.

At the west end of Compartment 1 Spottiswood, an old hardwood site, a small area was planted in F.Y.43 with beech/oak mixture. The oak were planted at 2 ft. x 2 ft. in groups of 9 plants, 20 ft. between group centres, in a matrix of beech planted at 4 ft. x 4 ft. The oak were 2 year seedlings and the beech 1+2+1 transplants. The average height of the oak is now 6 ft. and the beech 4 ft. Dense bracken growth appears to have overgrown the plants and checked them in some places. The remainder of this end of Compartment 1, which appears to be suitable for hardwoods, has been planted with Norway spruce and Sitka spruce in F.Y.43.

Regarding the selection of sites for conifers, European larch has been planted usually where there was bracken, Norway spruce and Sitka spruce on Juncus and hairgrass and Scots pine on heather. There are exceptions to the above, e.g. Compartment 1 (Spottiswood) where Norway spruce and Sitka spruce were planted on a site carrying bracken, luxuriant willow-herb and numerous herbs indicating a site capable of carrying more exacting species - probably hardwoods - oak and sycamore.

Planting. Spacing was normal for most species but occasionally tended to be a little closer than is accepted at the present date. Scots pine 4½ ft. x 4½ ft., European larch and Norway spruce each 5 ft. x 5 ft., Sitka spruce 5½ ft., ash 4 ft x 4 ft., beech 4 ft. x 4 ft., oak varied from 2 ft. x 2 ft. in groups to 8 ft. x 4 ft. in mixture with European larch.

Plants used varied in age from 1 year seedlings of oak to 1+3+3 transplants of ash. On the whole the plants used were of the type normally used in planting in South Scotland. Two-year Scots pine and Norway spruce seedlings were used in Compartment 4, Spottiswood, P.37.

Methods of Planting. In 1928 and 1929, the first years planting on the forest, the garden spade was used and T notches made. The spruce in

Compartments 1, 2 and 3, Lauder, were planted successfully in this way. From 1930 to 1936 all species were pit planted, the Dumfries spade being used.

From 1937 to the present most species have been notched in using the Schlich and Mansfield spades. Mattocks have been used on hard ground for pine and larch. The notch made with the spades has been a single vertical cut which has been successful with the pines and larches but not altogether so with the spruces. Until F.Y.52 they were planted by making one vertical cut down through the turf into the soil and inserting the plant roots. Spruces are now planted on turves by slicing the turf and spreading the roots between turf and ground. The same single vertical notch was used for spruces on unturfed ground and was not very successful. In 1952, on undrained sites, the spruces were planted by cutting out a turf, inverting it in a screef and slicing as before. This applies to drier sites where turves were not available from drains.

Annual Rate of Planting. The annual rate of planting averages 43 acres, the greatest being in 1937 when 97 acres were planted.

Manuring. Manuring has not been carried out except in the case of the oak in Compartment 6, Spottiswood, when about 2 oz. of slag were applied to each plant in F.Y.39. The manuring had no effect. Phosphate is being applied at present to backward spruce on peat in Compartment 14, Thornydykes section.

Success of Establishment. Crops have, on the whole, been successfully established with the exceptions mentioned, i.e. Compartments 4, 5 and 8 Spottiswood, and Compartment 21, Lauder. On Spottiswood the trouble appears to have been in the selection of species, frost and rabbits. On Lauder, Compartment 21, exposure and hares have delayed establishment of the P.47 area.

Ploughing. No ploughing has ever been done on Edgarhope Forest. There is little doubt that had Compartments 3, 7, 6, 4, 5, 8 and 9 Spottiswood been ploughed the crop (especially the spruces) would have

made better progress.

Beating Up. Beating up appears to have been normal on the whole with several notable exceptions, e.g. oak was not beaten up until four years after planting regardless of deaths and then a new species was introduced. This was the case in Compartment 8, Spottiswood. The oak 1 year seedlings were planted in F.Y.39 at 4 ft. x 4 ft. and European larch introduced in F.Y.41 to form a mixture (European larch as nurse):-

x	x	x	x	
-	-	-		x Oak P.39 1 year
x	x	x	x	- European larch P.41 2+1
-	-	-		
x	x	x	x	

No beating up was done until F.Y.43 when all blanks were filled with Norway spruce. The present crop is almost entirely European larch and Norway spruce in equal proportions.

Late beating up appears to have been carried out to excess, e.g. as late as F.Y.49 areas on Spottiswood (Compartment 8 P.39) were still being beaten up. In this case it is probably justified owing to the very poor stocking, there being several considerable blanks and it is certain that some of these larger blanks require drastic treatment, such as ploughing and replanting. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to get anything like an accurate picture of the beating up (or for that matter the planting) on Spottiswood from the records, but the strong impression throughout is that this difficult area has been continually beaten up without much success on the poorer low lying ground. The higher ground is good and beating up has been normal. On the lower ground beating up has been habitual and on much of the ground there is now a crop although there are still areas without a crop, e.g. <sup>parts</sup> of Compartments 8 and 5.

Beating up on the Lauder section has been more normal although there is evidence of very late beating up, e.g. Compartments 4 and 3. These compartments, P.30 and P.31, were beaten up with Norway spruce in F.Y.44. Many of these trees are now available for Christmas tree markets where they are not suppressed.

There has throughout been a strong tendency to beat up very small blanks.

The species was often changed in beating up an area and this is especially true on Spottiswood, e.g. Compartment 5. This compartment was originally planted with European larch and oak in F.Y.39. No beating up was carried out until 1942 when Norway spruce was used. Beating up was carried out again using Norway spruce in 1943 and 1944. However, in 1945 Scots pine was used. This area is still very poor and is very far from closing canopy. The remedy would appear to lie in additional drainage on the lower ground, phosphating and mulching and cultivation on the higher and drier ground rather than in continual beating up with a change of species.

Weeding. The main weed species are grasses, bracken, willow-herb and some heather. Among the woody species are birch and goat willow (Salix caprea). Two very common grasses are the wavy hair grass (Deschampsia flexuosa) and the tufted hair grass (Deschampsia caespitosa). Where grasses alone occur weeding is not intense but in bracken and willow-herb it is considerably heavier. On the whole weeding is average; only a few areas have to be weeded two or more times in a normal season. The practice has been to cut clear lanes along the lines of plants in the first year and thereafter only the weeds around the plant. Damage, where it occurs, has been by smothering with falling vegetation but this is only local and has had little or no effect on the establishment of the crop as a whole.

Mixtures of Species. The oak/larch mixtures have been mentioned elsewhere. Sycamore/larch mixtures have also been planted on a similar pattern but failed (sycamore) probably owing to frost damage. A Scots pine/Norway spruce mixture was planted in Compartment 4 in F.Y.37. Both Scots pine and Norway spruce, which were planted alternately in the lines, were said to be 2 year seedlings although there is no mention of Scots pine 2 year seedlings being used on Spottiswood in F.Y.37 in the R.l. The Norway spruce were subsequently severely attacked by voles and the present crop is 90% Scots pine and 10% Norway spruce.

Two year Sitka spruce seedlings were turf planted in Compartment 2 in P.37. They were planted pure and were very successful.



No underplanting has been carried out.

Rates of Growth. One tree of each of the three main species on Edgarhope (L) section was selected as being of average development. During production a small section was cut from the base of each and another at every 5 ft. of length. From the information obtained from these sections age height graphs were made. These indicate the development roughly on Lauder section.

Past Treatment of Established Plantations. Brashing, which began in F.Y.47, has until F.Y.52 been almost 100%. Most of the brashing has been done in European larch and some in Norway spruce and Scots pine.

High pruning has only been done in a small area in Compartments 1 and 2 (Lauder) on P.29 Scots pine and P.10 Norway spruce (acquired) to a height of about 20 ft. It appears that most of this work was done by the forester then in charge. Cleaning began in F.Y.48 and has mainly been in European larch. Thinning of Forestry Commission planted crops began in F.Y.48 when 2.5 acres were thinned in European larch P.30, Compartment 6 Lauder.

F.Y.49	1 acre was thinned giving 150 cu.ft.	) 1st thinning
F.Y.50	29.2 acres were thinned giving 10479 cu.ft.	
F.Y.51	9.75 acres were thinned giving 2921 cu.ft.	

The intervals between thinnings will probably be 4 years except in the small areas of Sitka spruce where it may be necessary to thin every 3 years.

The produce to date has consisted of fencing stobs, net stakes, various poles and long pitwood.

#### Note on Research Work

In 1934 a collection of Japanese larch plants received from various parts of Japan were planted, mostly in long narrow strips. The different provenances soon began to interfere with each other and for this reason these plots are less interesting than the same sets planted at other forests in Scotland (e.g. Knapdale, Strathyre and Drummond Hill). In this forest they cannot be expected to yield growth data of any value.

M. V. Edwards  
Silviculturist (N).  
28/7/52

## Conclusions

It appears fairly certain that the Edgarhope section of the forest will produce some excellent timber and that the species for the most part have been well sited. Probably much greater use could have been made of Japanese larch on the areas at present carrying indifferent Scots pine of doubtful origin. A few of the better areas could have carried hardwoods.

On the Spottiswood section it appears that the difficulties of the poorer areas were underestimated at the start. There is little doubt that had the ploughing technique of the present been applied and a more careful selection of species made, the crop would have been established much quicker. The fact that the whole section consists of strips and blocks of woodland in agricultural land let to a number of tenants adds to the difficulties of management and particularly vermin control.

Much valuable information has been lost owing to the lack of accurate and detailed records.

N. M. Brown

District Officer.

## History of Edgarhope Forest

### APPENDIX I

#### Notes from Inspection Reports

##### Visit by Mr. James Macdonald, 29/5/47.

Mr. Macdonald made the following points in his notes:

1. Brashing and high pruning have been overdone and the practice should be more strictly controlled.
2. The Scots pine in Compartments 6 and 7, P.30, should be treated so as to remove the wolves without delay. The European larch in Compartment 6 and Sitka spruce in Compartment 7 should be thinned immediately.
3. The P.10 Norway spruce in Compartment 2, which is partly windblown, should be sold.

##### Visit by Mr. James Macdonald, 5/6/47.

Mr. Macdonald made the following general remarks:

1. Labour. Serious shortage and more men must be found to deal with accumulating work.
2. Access. Road to Edgarhope Wood to have priority (thinning extraction).
3. Production. A central site for crosscutting should be considered at Lauder station when all scattered blocks are producing.
4. Organisation. Plan of Operations required to ensure best use of labour available.
5. Choice of Species. Agreed with wide use of Scots pine. Preferred Norway spruce to Sitka spruce on better soils. Thought there was wide scope for Douglas fir. Retain natural hardwoods so far as possible.
6. Vermin. Reduce the numerous roe deer.

##### Specific remarks of note

##### Edgarhope Section.

1. Compartment 13, P.31 European larch. This requires thinning urgently.

2. Compartment 20, P.35 European larch. Good type; collect seed.

#### Spottiswood Section.

1. Very high fencing costs could be avoided by planting large poplars at 16 ft. to 20 ft. each plant being wired.
2. Compartment 1. Natural ash.  
Thin at once and fill large gaps with beech or Norway spruce and not Sitka spruce as was usual practice here.
3. Jordanlaw Moss. Treat area with caution. A few acres might be ploughed experimentally.
4. Compartments 6 and 7, P.38.  
Beating up not done intelligently - the plants were directly notched instead of mound planted.
5. Compartment 7, P.38. Plant up blanks with Scots pine.

Visit of H. C. Beresford Peirse, Esq., (Director, Scotland) and  
Mr. J. R. Thom, (Conservator, South).

28/10/47

#### Edgarhope Section

##### Director.

1. Agreed with foregoing remarks about the disposal of P.10 Norway spruce, Compartment 2.
2. Compartment 2, P.28, Norway spruce  
Very late beating up should be cut out and sold as Christmas trees.
3. Compartment 13, P.31.  
European larch requires heavy thinning immediately.

#### Spottiswood Section

##### Director

1. High fencing costs could be avoided by planting strips with large un-netted Sitka spruce. The trapper would keep a close watch on rabbits.
2. Compartment 1. Natural ash. Remove badly shaped trees immediately.
3. Compartment 7, Sitka spruce. Many blanks due to frost and probably lack of weeding.

4. Remove and utilise internal rabbit fences.

#### Conservator

1. Compartment 7, P.38 Sitka spruce. Blanks due to lack of weeding.

Visit of Mr. R. E. Fossey (Divisional Officer) and Mr. J. D. MacNab,  
District Officer, 24/11/48.

#### Spottiswood Section

##### Points made by Mr. Fossey.

1. Jordanlaw Moss. Considered this area plantable if ploughed but required further consideration.
2. Compartment 7, P.38. Intensify drainage.
3. Compartment 6, P.38 and P.39.  
Where oak are surviving sacrifice European larch to encourage them.  
Intensify drainage.
4. Compartment 14. Intensify drainage.
5. General. Late spring frosts, arrears in weeding and draining, unfortunate choice of species, especially hardwoods, and a plague of voles, together with inadequate drainage and too little turf planting have delayed development of the forest. Repair work progressing; vole damage still considerable.

##### Observations by Conservator (S).

1. General agreement with above but advocates care in selection of hardwoods for planting.
2. Jordanlaw Moss. Defer ploughing meantime owing to equipment being required elsewhere.

Visit of Mr. R. E. Fossey (Divisional Officer) and Mr. J. D. MacNab,  
District Officer, 16/6/49.

#### Edgarhope Section

##### Points made by Mr. Fossey.

1. Compartment 13, P.31. European larch requires early thinning.
2. Compartment 22, P.34 European larch. Give priority to brashing and

light thinning of European larch in order to arrest spread of "die-back".

Large hardwoods over P.35 ash and P.38 oak to be felled.

Compartment 18, P.33 European larch. 10 acres should be brashed and dead and dying trees removed to allow in air and light to assist in arresting spread of "die-back". This work also to have priority.

General.

P.33 European larch. Mr. Fossey states "The prospect here has, in a few months, changed so alarmingly that immediate attention is necessary if we are to have any hope of preserving a useful proportion of the crop in what, so far as we know, in the only way in which this may be possible".

Visit of Mr. R. E. Fossey (Divisional Officer) and Mr. D. S. Spraggan, District Officer, 16 and 17/3/50.

Thorneydykes.

Points made by Mr. Fossey.

Compartment 14, P.45/46. Where Norway spruce have been planted on Calluna ground they should be interplanted with Scots pine as nurse. Intensify and deepen drains. Repair fences and exterminate vermin.

Edgarhope Section.

Compartment 23, P.37 and 40. Racks to be cut for inspection.

General Conclusions

1. The present labour was inadequate.
2. The trapper should have assistance in keeping down vermin.
3. Thinnings should be continued in European larch areas before commencing on the Scots pine and Norway spruce.

Spottiswood Section

4. Sheep and vermin must be more firmly dealt with at Spottiswood, Compartment 1, and at Thorneydykes.
5. Norway spruce should be turf planted, not notched.
6. P.10. Norway spruce Compartment 3, urgently requires thinning.
7. Mr. Fossey states "We are not keeping abreast of really urgent work and for this we need three or four additional first class men". He goes on to mention that plans for housing are complete but the delay is due to the provision of an adequate water supply for the district. A new scheme for water supply in the county should make three or four houses possible within two or three years.

Visit of Sir Henry Beresford Peirse, Bt., (Director, Scotland), and  
Conservator (South) with Mr. D. S. Spraggan, District Officer, 4/8/50.

Edgarhope Section

Points made by the Director

1. Compartment 5 P.29 Sitka spruce. Urgently in need of thinning.
2. Lower areas of Edgarhope Wood.

Scots pine were quite unsuitable for the deep mineral soil and the area could easily have carried hardwoods.

3. Edgarhope Wood. Extraction would be cheaper by chute.

4. Compartment 13, P.31.

Scots pine dying in groups probably due to Honey Fungus. Cut out groups and replant with Tsuga, Abies grandis, Abies nobilis or other fast growing conifer.

5. Compartment 15, P.32

European larch thinnings should be sold standing or at roadside in order to save labour for other work.

6. Compartment 1, P.28 and 29.

Norway spruce urgently requiring thinning and should be sold standing. High pruning was quite unnecessary.

General Conclusions

The Director thought that a good effort to catch up with arrears of thinning and maintenance with a totally inadequate squad had been made. Sales of standing thinnings or at the roadside should be arranged. Manufacture of produce is wrong when labour is so scarce.

History of Edgarhope Forest

APPENDIX II

Supervision

Conservators

1946 - 47	J. R. Thom
1947 (March to May)	F.W.A. Oliver
1947 - 51	J. R. Thom
1951 to date	J.A.B. Macdonald

Divisional Officers

1928 - 34	J. M. Murray
1934 - 38	O. J. Sangar
1938 - 39	F.W.A. Oliver
1939 - 42	A. Watt
1942 - 45	} J. R. Thom
1947 (March to May)	
1948 - 51	R. E. Fossey
1951 to date	W. N. Gibson

District Officers

1935 - 46	J. W. Mackay
1946 - 49	J. D. MacNab
1949 - 51	D. S. Spraggan
1951 to date	N. M. Brown

Foresters

1928 - 29	A. Drysdale, Foreman in Charge
1929 - 40	J. Lindsay, Foreman in Charge
1940 - 47	J. Lindsay, Grade II
1947 to date	J. Slater, Grade II



Edgarthope

EDGARHOPE (LAUDER)



--- E.L.  
 — N.S.  
 — S.P.

Lauder (E.L. Compt. 22 P.34. 700' contour) } W. aspect  
 Section (S.P. " 16 P.32 1000' " }  
 (N.S. " 3 P.29 600' " Nil

All situated on upper Old Red Sandstone.

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 H.M. Forestry Commission

SPOTTISWOOD

EDGARHOPE FOREST  
(THORNYDYKES SECTION)  
COUNTY OF BERWICK  
PARISH OF WESTRUTHER

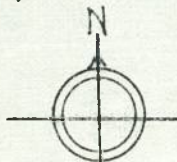
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10 Chains 0 10 20 30

1000 Feet 500 0 100

Howlets

To Duns



Thornydikes

From  
DALKEITH

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700

Steil  
Plantation

700

700

700

From  
DALKEITH

By Eagle Lodge

Sheriffmoor Plantation



21.0

P46

P45

14  
41

P46

20.0

BM 7198  
M.P. Lauder 6  
Greenlaw 5 1/4

BM 7194

Houndslaw  
P 81 736

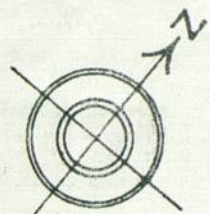
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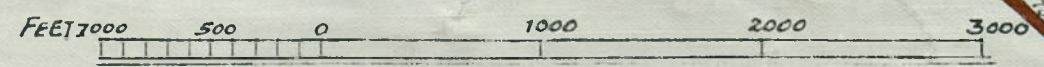
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H.M. Forestry Commission

LAUDER PARISH

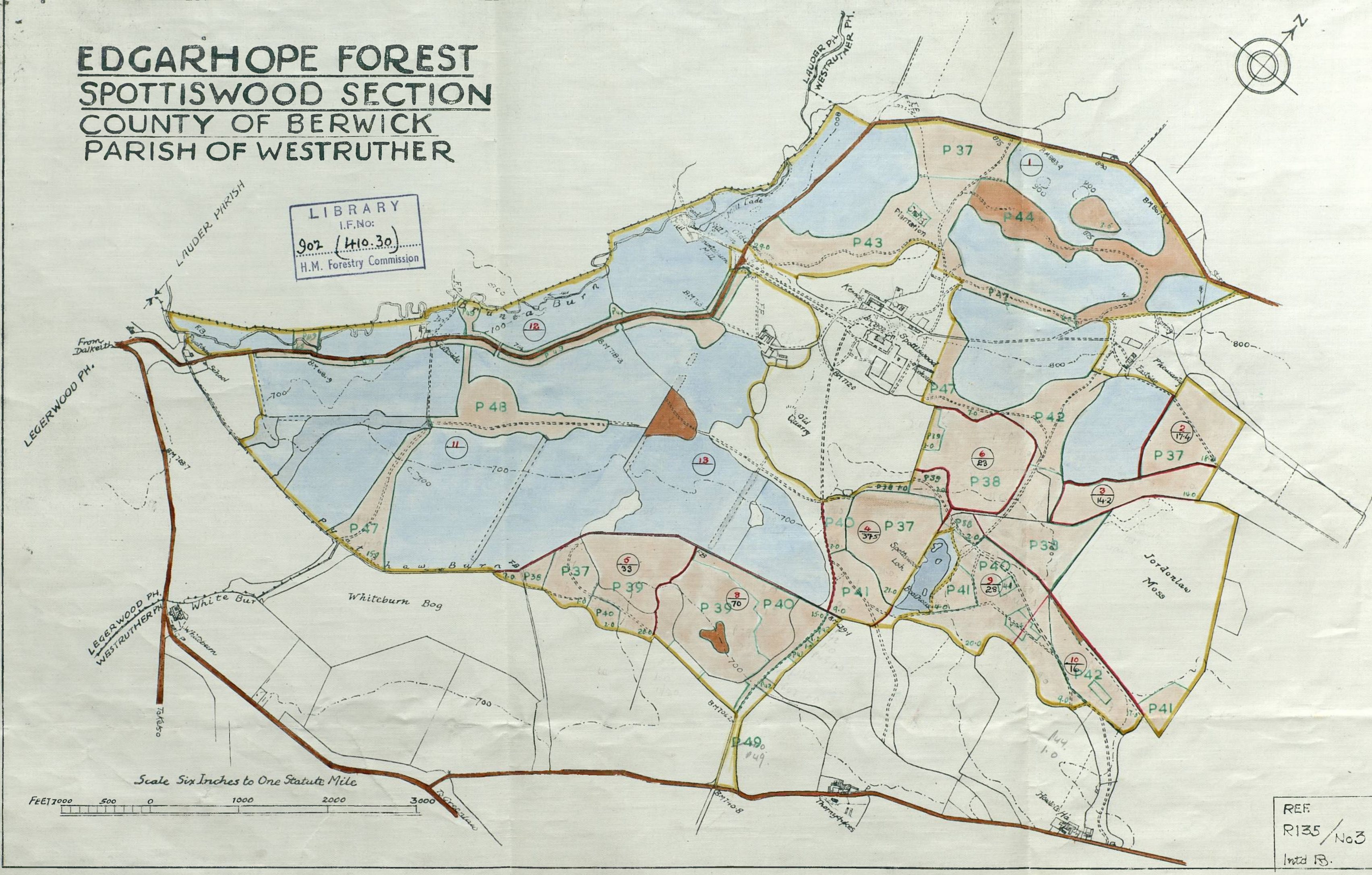
From Dalkeith  
LEGERWOOD PH.

LEGERWOOD PH.  
WESTRUTHER PH.

Scale Six Inches to One Statute Mile



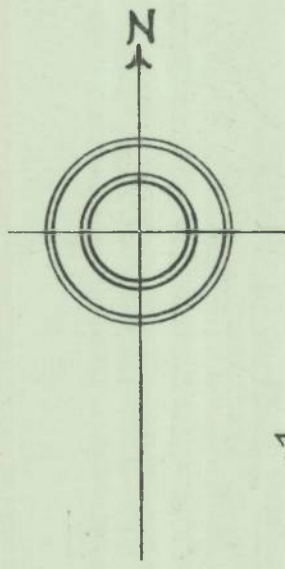
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R135/No3  
Intd B.



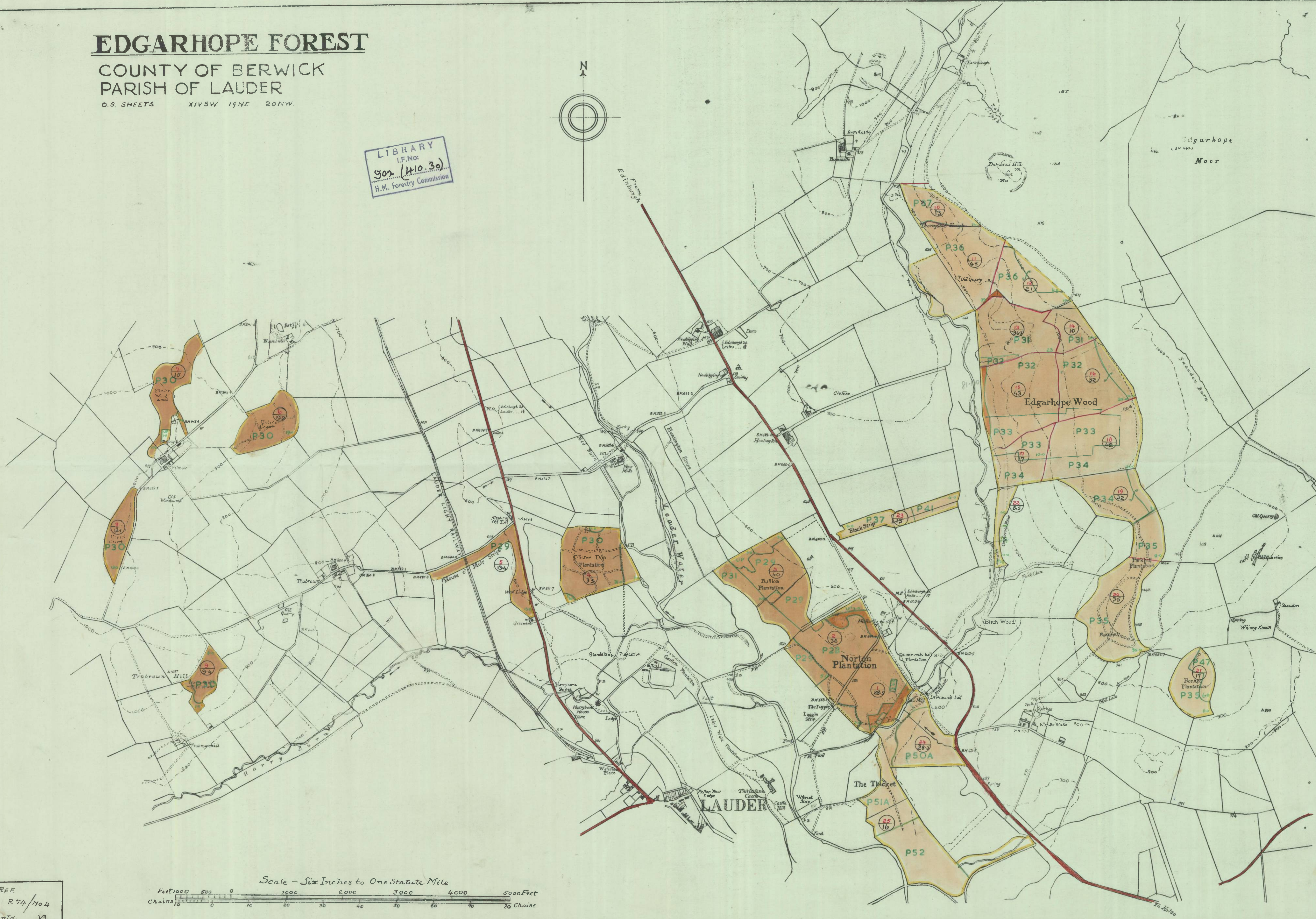
# EDGARHOPE FOREST

COUNTY OF BERWICK  
PARISH OF LAUDER

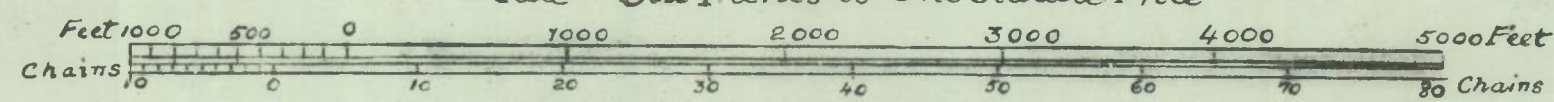
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H.M. Forestry Commission



Scale - Six Inches to One Statute Mile



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