

Brechfa Forest Garden P57-63 with NPD. In the short time available we looked briefly at 34 of the approximately 90 plots which make up the forest garden, the initiative for which is believed to have come from J E James. The Garden is full of interest and fits well into the project for establishing a range of species comparisons on sites all over Britain so as to evaluate alternatives to the main species. It is still under Conservancy control, but I understand their interest is somewhat inactive, apart from recent construction of a road which cut through part of the Forest Garden at the southern end. Access at the northern end involves crossing a stream which at this time of year is quite deep.

ABIES. GP, NF, A. amabilis, A. Nordmanniana, A. veitchii, A. lasiocarpa, and A. homolepis are all growing well. "A. cephalonica"\* is growing well but does not look like this species. A. lowiana ex Montana is poor - moderate, while A. concolor, Colorado is a virtual failure. A. delavayi also growing well.

PINUS nigra var sustriaca mediocre. P. muricata some gaps, very vigorous, form variable. according to D. Fourt seed origin is probably 55/125 ex Eire, the blue form. P. strobus growing well, no obvious Cronartium, some resin bleeding at the nodes. P. resinosa few survivors. P. Thunbergii gappy and rather poor form but looks healthy. P. densiflora killed by 1978/79 winter? Except for one tree. P. peuce excellent survival and form, colour good, current growth rate 40 cm, some resin bleeding at the nodes. P. pungens 20 survivors, growth and form poor, unusual hooked cones. P. ponderosa fair stocking, does not look very happy.

\* Have asked AFM about the Garden. He shows nothing about it. I hope he will go there and identify the odd Abies species.

P. Jeffreyi fair stocking but now rapidly dying out. P. Banksiana, well stocked, vigour fair, form poor. P. mugo well stocked, slow-growing, P. contorta ex Long Beach, well stocked, basal bow absent, some stem lean, has been growing at 40 to 1 m per annum. Crowns now small, not self-thinning. P. radiata only 9 alive form rough but a few huge stems.

Other species Leyland cypress healthy and vigorous (replanted in plot 32 after ash failed?). Alnus rubra severe die-back and currently regrowth is being severely restricted by Chionaspis salicis scale. Betula maximowiczii adjacent to A. rubra fair growth, good stocking, one tree with squirrel damage. Betula lenta, fairly well stocked and looks healthy, form poor and dull bark makes it unattractive. Nothofagus obliqua very variable form mostly very poor, but largest trees are 45 cm in BHD and a few look quite healthy. Tilia cordata slow and bushy form, but healthy.

Roger Jones  
2 December 1981

I've asked CRO(N) about his taking over the F.G. and he has agreed verbally. I think it needs a further visit to decide what action we might take there.

The introduction of "economic rents" spells the doom of the average rent. "Economic rents" are assessed on individual houses not on the total number of houses, at present 668. This would, in its turn, remove the major prop underpinning our case for an overall minimum standard of housing for all foresters houses. (b)