

DIARY OF W L MASON: 8 JULY 1992

Brechfa 15/81 - Brechfa Forest Garden with N Danby, C Jones and R Donaldson (FDM)

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the interest in this comprehensive series of species plots and the possibilities for future management.

1. Recent felling along the roadside has improved the view over the plots from the other side of the valley. In addition, the upgrading of the track within the garden has made it much easier to walk around within it. However, the steepness of the slope means that it can be difficult to gain access to the plots. The comparative remoteness of the forest garden from the picnic site at the entrance to the forest makes it unlikely that there would ever be major visitor interest in the plots.

-MENS.

2. However, the wide range of species represented including an appreciable number of broadleaves means that these plots should be of considerable interest to the enthusiast and/or the casual walker who is prepared to walk up to them.

3. Silv(N)'s interest is to obtain growth and performance data from a wide range of species. My view is that this collection should be considered as a higher priority than Vivod because of its wider range of species. Mensuration have also shown some interest in the better plots. After discussion, N Danby and I agreed that the following plots will be given priority:

- Nos 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 29, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 44, 50, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 72, 75, 82, 83, 85, 87, 88, 89, 114.

43 plots

In all these plots, we shall attempt to measure height and basal area on a 5 year cycle. It will be acceptable to spread the assessments over more than one year if this is more convenient for local workloads.

4. Any plots planted in recent years (eg Sitka spruce) will be maintained but no further planting will take place until the assessment backlog has been completed.

5. Plots that are immediately adjacent to the roads should have small signs/labels set up on their edges listing the species and the year of planting. This will include plots where trees are growing poorly and no measurements are being taken.

6. Neville Danby should now draft a brief (two pages maximum) management protocol based on the preceding paragraphs and S Corcoran's draft plan of 1988. It should not assume an annual commitment from RD above 20-30 industrial man days. The date for review should be 1996 as for Vivod. I should like to see this draft by the end of the year.

Action: N Danby

7. The possibility of thinning in the plots, and future development for informal recreation needs to be explored further with the local District. We would be quite happy to make the plots available for part of a forest walk route and would be prepared to assist in the development of interpretive material if needed. However we would not wish to be put to major additional expense for this reason.

8. I would suggest that there should be an annual formal meeting between Neville Danby and a member of the local District staff so that both parties are aware of each other's interests and future plans. This meeting should be minuted and circulated to all relevant parties including myself and John White.

Action: N Danby to coordinate

What plots mensuration of Silv(N) do we need to double up. Give us info? mensuration

9. In 2-3 years time when the plots are properly labelled, it may be appropriate to give wider publicity to the existence of these plots as one of (the most?) comprehensive collection of forest plots in Wales and Southern Britain.

Action: W L Mason
10 July 1992

<u>Distribution:</u>	Diary file	1
	Experiment file	1
	CRO(N)	1
	N Danby	1
	Regional Director, Wales (FAO R Farmer)	1
	R Donaldson FDM, Llandovery	1
	Spare	<u>2</u>
	TOTAL	<u>8</u>