

REPORT ON VISIT TO ENNERDALE FOREST ON 3RD DECEMBER 1970

I visited Ennerdale Forest on Thursday the 3rd of December and met Mr. Campbell and Mr. Charlton.

1. The object was to discuss the possibilities and potential involved in the development of wild fowl on Moss Dhub.
2. The building at High Gillerthwaite was also looked at and the possibilities discussed for creating a simple Information Centre and Forestry/Land Use Interpretive Centre.
3. A proposed project to catch-up roe deer for marking and release in the Broadmoor plantation was also discussed.
  - (a) The possibilities of Moss Dhub are extremely good. When inspected but the water level was probably at its highest and it appears that a simple turf dam is all that is necessary to maintain this level during the summer periods and it is suggested that Mr. Charlton and Mr. Brown to come to Grizedale to look at the method of building turf dams and sluices with a view to commence this work as soon as water conditions permit.
  - (b) The improvement of habitat looks as though it would be best served by a coppicing of the existing willows as suggested by Mr. Chard. The introduction of further willows, alders and other conservation trees to diversify the habitat could be supplied from Grizedale nursery. Introductions of Yellow Flag can also be obtained from various sources known to us at Grizedale, to provide emergent cover. This should be planted on and around the islands initially rather than around the shore line.
  - (c) The pattern for duck nest boxes and the necessary slab wood to make them are available and it was suggested that one or two nest boxes on the islands would be useful
  - (d) Conditions are obviously fairly acid and the better, firmer ground surrounding Moss Dhub would benefit from an application of NPK Fertilizer at the rate of 4 cwts. to the acres. When the water levels are low during the spring, the pond bottom should be blown to provide potholes using Ammonium Nitrate and it is suggested that a Home Office Permit should be applied for through Mr. Allan at the earliest opportunity.

- (e) The easiest and most convenient introduction would be mallard and Mr. Charlton has a source of supply next spring. It is suggested, however, that greylag are held over for one season to give the emergent vegetation time to become established and the fertilizer a chance to take effect on the surroundings. Greylags could then be introduced from Grizedale sources. Grazing by geese and also roe would develop a good sward and provide loafing areas for duck. The surrounding cover to the tarn should be kept as tight as possible

to preserve the seclusion and the public should be kept out until the facilities are properly established. Later a proper photo-safari seat could be supplied from Grizedale.

The potential for this project is considerable as there are already numerous wild fowl following Ennerdale Lake and with judicious feeding they can be brought into Moss Dhub.

- (f) The building at High Gillerthwaite has a great deal of local character and the very interesting interior offers great possibilities for development on simple lines as an Information Centre. Mr. Campbell and local staff have their own ideas on the specifics which could be incorporated if this project was undertaken but it is very attractive because of the small expenditure of money which would be necessary and the whole thing would have an immediate impact on the public as well as bringing in an immediate financial return.
- (g) The zoning of the area could be rapidly effected by means of well designed signs which could be supplied very quickly from Grizedale and could well be erected before Easter. These might well include Interpretive Signs on the Car Park, start of the forest trails, view points etc.
- (h) Broadmoor Plantation was looked at and in view of the numerous difficulties of catching up roe or of finding newly dropped kids it was considered that this was unlikely ever to become a viable proposition. The plantation comprised mainly of Norway and Sitka Spruce surrounded by a belt of Japanese Larch where the deer usually feed it was also thought that any results which might be obtained from this operation would be of minimum value. In view of the possibilities of developments in the recreational field with the considerable potential involved therein, it was considered that the Broadmoor project was not a proposition.

**FROM: Conservator, N.W. (E),**  
Forestry Commission,  
Dee Hills Park,  
CHESTER

**TO: Mr W Grant, Grizedale**  
Copies Mr D Campbell  
Mr H N Hoyle, Mr J Clark

**My Reference:** SF 35/20 6 January 1971

**Your Reference:**

ENNERDALE FOREST  
MOSS DUBBS WILDLIFE POND

I attach ANFO Licence in respect of Moss Dubbs.

The mixing and firing method should be as per Grizedale and the technique carried out strictly in accordance with my R8 Explosives Use dated 1 September 1970 and RM 23 of which you have a copy.

This widening of the sphere of boghole blasting means that the conveyance by public roads of initiating explosive is also increased. You will need the co-operation of Mr Clark regarding prompt issues from and returns to his most convenient explosives store.

*C.S.A.*

C S ALLAN  
Conservancy Civil Engineer  
for Conservator