

SCOTS PINE REGENERATION SURVEY

Additional Information to the Standard Methods Handbook

Vegetation

The plot layout is exactly as laid down in the attached Handbook, except that the plots should be located by the aerial photographs provided. After getting as close as possible to the point marked on the aerial photograph, take 10 paces to the north. The centre of the plot is adjacent to the toe of the forward boot. No latitude is allowed (c.f. p. 4 Handbook). This is to ensure that the centre of the plot is not chosen for convenience. The ground flora survey is then carried out as described in the Handbook with the following additional procedures:

Seedlings and regeneration

Whilst going round the main plot for the species, mark, with the pins provided, the first 20 seedlings, up to 1.3 m (4' 3") height nearest to the centre of the plot, of each species present. Pine seedlings need to have leaves in pairs, birch, rowan and other species to be over 2.5 cm (1") in height. Note on the vegetation sheet which quadrat size the 20 seedlings occurred in, and how many seedlings were found in each quadrat size. (This will not be as bad as it sounds as seedlings are not abundant). Planted exotics and Scots pine should be recorded as such on the vegetation sheet e.g.

Sitka (1) Planted

Having finished the vegetation and located the seedlings, place the circular quadrat (excuse the non-sequitor) over the first five specimens of each species nearest the centre of the plot. If fewer seedlings are present these alone should be sampled. For the first five seedlings, of each species present, a non-seedling quadrat should be placed one pace to the north and recorded in the same way. To make these up to five in all cases, they should be placed progressively on the four corners of the 25 m square and in the centre of the plot (if there are no seedlings at all). The following procedure is followed in each of the circular quadrats:-

1. Measure the height of the tallest vegetative shoot in the quadrat i.e. flower spikes of grasses do not count.

2. Measure the height of the seedling (cross out this category if in a non-seedling quadrat).
3. Record the ground flora species with over 5% cover.
4. Record the ground cover categories.
5. Record the soil attributes, definitions are given in the Handbook Appendix 5 p. 4 and 5. The Sphagnum category is self-explanatory - the moss category is species other than Sphagnum and does not include cover of these species. The soil layers should be examined with the auger. The soil sample should consist of a section of the top 10 cm from each seedling measured (species to be kept separate) and bulked for each species. The non-seedlings bag to be labelled with the label provided, any other species to be labelled separately.

The remaining seedlings in the plot are then to be harvested and put in the plot bag together with the soils.

Trees

All trees to be measured, as described in the Handbook except that all saplings over 4' 3" (1.3 m) should be measured, rather than only those in two quadrants, as described.

Habitats

The habitat sheet should be completed as described.