

## Annual Study Tour

North Wales—May, 1969

The first morning was spent at Newborough Forest consisting almost entirely of plantations on blown sand. Planting began in 1947. Corsican pine is the only successful species on the drier areas, and contorta pine grows vigorously on the moister.

On Tuesday afternoon, the first visit was to the National Nature Reserve on Llandwyn "Island", led by Mr. M. Gash, Assistant Regional Officer for North Wales. Mr. Gash outlined the conservation problems on an area with historical, archaeological and natural history interests, and visited by 120,000 people each year.

This was followed by a visit to the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Science of the University College of North Wales, where Professor Richardson outlined the methods of selection of undergraduates, the courses, and the prospects for graduates. Only one-third of these can find jobs in Britain.

Wednesday began with a visit to Gwydyr Forest, 15,000 acres of forest land staffed by a Chief Forester, 2 Head Foresters, 6 Foresters, a Forest Warden and 100 forest workers. Annual production is over 400,000 cubic feet, of which half is sold standing and remainder worked by forest staff.

Since Gwydyr forms part of the Snowdonia National Forest Park amenity is an important consideration. A 2.5 mile forest trail attracted over 5,000 users last year.

At the first stop Mr. C. B. Pyne, County Planning Officer, Caernarvonshire, dealt at length with Snowdonia National Park, the second largest of the ten National Parks in England and Wales. Major forestry development such as new planting, road construction, and clear felling, within the region is controlled by a panel representing the Forestry Commission, the planning authority and private interests.

Mr. J. H. James, Conservator, North Wales, spoke on landscaping principles and amenity planting in general.

The final stop was at a recently opened picnic site. Litter bins were not provided but an exhortation to "take it home" seemed, here at least, to be successful.

The afternoon was devoted mainly to permanent sample plots of Douglas fir, Corsican pine, Sitka spruce, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Abies grandis*, *Abies nobilis* and Lawson's cypress, established between 1927 and 1931 and all accurately measured since first thinning.

Finally the party visited the exhibition mounted by the local staff to mark the jubilee of the Forestry Commission. All aspects of forestry work in the area were shown by means of photographs, charts and scale models, together with stuffed specimens of the local fauna.

Thursday was spent in Beddgelert Forest. One point of interest here was a high elevation species trial, planted in 1929, and believed to be the first forest experiment in which the Latin square design was used. In the Forest Garden, begun in 1927, over fifty species have been tried. Also seen was a 32-acre area where Norway and Sitka spruce crops, planted in 1928, were blown down in December 1966.

(Compiled from notes supplied by Messrs. M. O'Donovan, E. Joyce, M. Boland and Miss E. E. Furlong.)