

Guide to Site Types in Forests of North and Mid-Wales.

By D. G. Pyatt, D. Harrison and H. S. Ford.

Forestry Commission: Forest Record No. 69. H.M.S.O.
40p. (8s. 0d.) p.p. 35.

This Forest Record describes a site classification applicable to a region comprising slaty rocks of the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian systems. The region includes 275,000 acres of Forestry Commission land and a good deal of land afforested by private owners.

The site classification is based on soil type and is derived principally from soil surveys carried out in a number of forests between 1964 and 1967. The classification is presented in the form of three tables listing the pedological, ecological and topographical properties of each site, an assessment of the windthrow hazard associated with each, and some silvicultural and management properties including cultivation, drainage, fertilization, weed control and thinning requirements in addition to guidance on species selection. The guide also includes sections on geology, topography, climate and the various kinds of soil parent material found in the region. Ten colour photographs are included showing a range of the site types described.

The development of modern silviculture requires a thorough understanding of the soil as a medium for tree growth. Data about the distribution of the various kinds of soils, their physical and chemical characteristics, their management requirements and suitability to various tree species are indispensable. For this reason and the many pedological similarities between parts of Ireland and Wales this Record is strongly recommended. It is concise, to the point and easily read.

M. L. CAREY.