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RESTRY COMMISSION

BRITAIN'S FORESTS

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KIELDER

SIXPENCE NET

THE FOREST VILLAGES

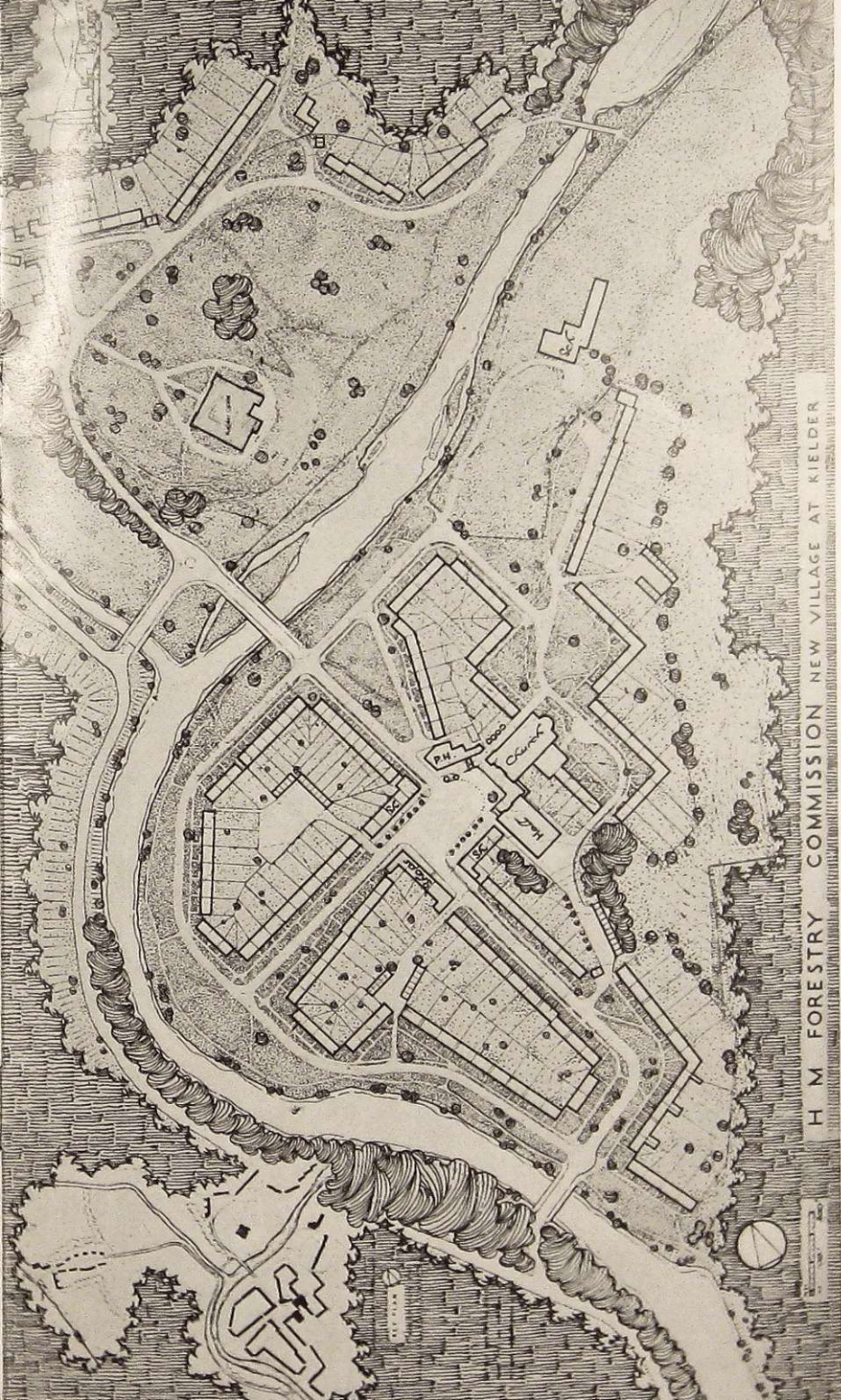
Reference has already been made to forest villages, of which there will be five in Kielder Forest. These villages are in fact the key to the development of the whole area. Designed specifically for this region by Dr. Thomas Sharp (who though not a Northumbrian, has lived most of his life in this part of England), they are intended to provide much more than homes for the two thousand or so forest workers who will eventually be employed in this district. Each village will become, in effect, the focal point for the life of its immediate neighbourhood; for this reason, each—and that at Kielder will probably be the largest—will have its own church, shops, inn and village hall, the last also designed for use occasionally as a cinema. Moreover, to ensure that there is from the start some of that communal life without which no village can flourish, not less than 25 houses will be built on each site at the very beginning. Thus Kielder village, with its final target of 250 houses and some 800 to 1,000 inhabitants, will be a complete community.

The local style of building in this part of Northumberland has hitherto been of grey, rather dour and forbidding stone. Already in the forest area, however, some houses can be seen whose brilliant whiteness singles them out—nor are they any the less pleasant for that. The houses of the new villages, too, will be white-fronted, bright, clean, and new, bringing a fresh and attractive style to the neighbourhood.

THE FUTURE

It is not, however, only the villages and the forest that will change this valley of the North Tyne. As new life reaches this area, subsidiary industries and interests will surely be developed. From a region of bare hills, supporting a limited number of sheep and a few farms, this will become the centre of what may be regarded as a huge rural industry—the forest—supplying timber to the whole Tyne Valley and feeding, with its associated forests elsewhere along the Border, a considerable area of the North. Despite the development of the forest, there will always be a place for farming here. Any good farm land in the area is to be left under agriculture, and sufficient hill grazing will be left to maintain considerable sheep stocks.

Almost as important as the forest development, however, will be the opening of a new “lung” for the people of Tyneside as a whole. No one who has walked the Cheviot hills, climbed Peel Fell and seen its superb views, or explored the lovely burns and cleughs of Kielder and Tarsset, can fail to appreciate the value of this area for fresh air



H M FORESTRY COMMISSION NEW VILLAGE AT KIELDER

Architect's Plan for the new Kielder Village.



Scale 1" = 100'

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES



Total area of Kielder Forest	73,974	acres
Area classified as "plantable"	42,634	"
Area planted at 1st September, 1949	23,661	"
Current annual planting programme	3,000	"
Current annual thinning programme	125	"

EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING :

Number employed at 1st September, 1949	210	men
Estimated future maximum	2,000	"
Existing accommodation for employees	51	houses
Accommodation planned for immediate construction	60	"
Accommodation planned for future construction	600	"

OUTPUT :

The plantations are now reaching the age when some produce is being felled. Thinnings in 1950 are expected to yield 30,000 cubic feet of timber, worth £1,800.

By 1975 the output will reach 1,205,000 cubic feet per annum, worth possibly £60,000.

At present the produce is mainly small material, stakes, strainers, posts, etc., used for farm or forest fencing. Very soon thinnings will produce pitwood for the Northumbrian collieries, and possibly those in South Scotland. Other probable outlets are pulpwood, telegraph and transmission poles, and packing case material, with larger sawmill timber to follow.

TREE SPECIES PLANTED :

Sitka Spruce :	50 per cent	Douglas fir :	3 per cent
Norway spruce :	40 per cent	Others :	2 per cent
Scots pine :	5 per cent		

ELEVATIONS ABOVE SEA LEVEL :

Highest : 1,975 feet	Highest for regular planting :	1,250 feet
Lowest : 500 feet	Highest for experimental planting :	1,500 feet

RAINFALL :

Averages 50 inches per annum.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS (One inch to the mile) :

Most of the forest, including Falstone and all areas to the north, appears on Sheet 86 of the Popular Edition for Scotland, entitled "The Cheviot Hills".

A large area south-west of Falstone is on Sheet 76 (Carlisle); and a small area south-east of Falstone is on Sheet 77 (Hexham); both in the New Popular Edition for England and Wales.

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