

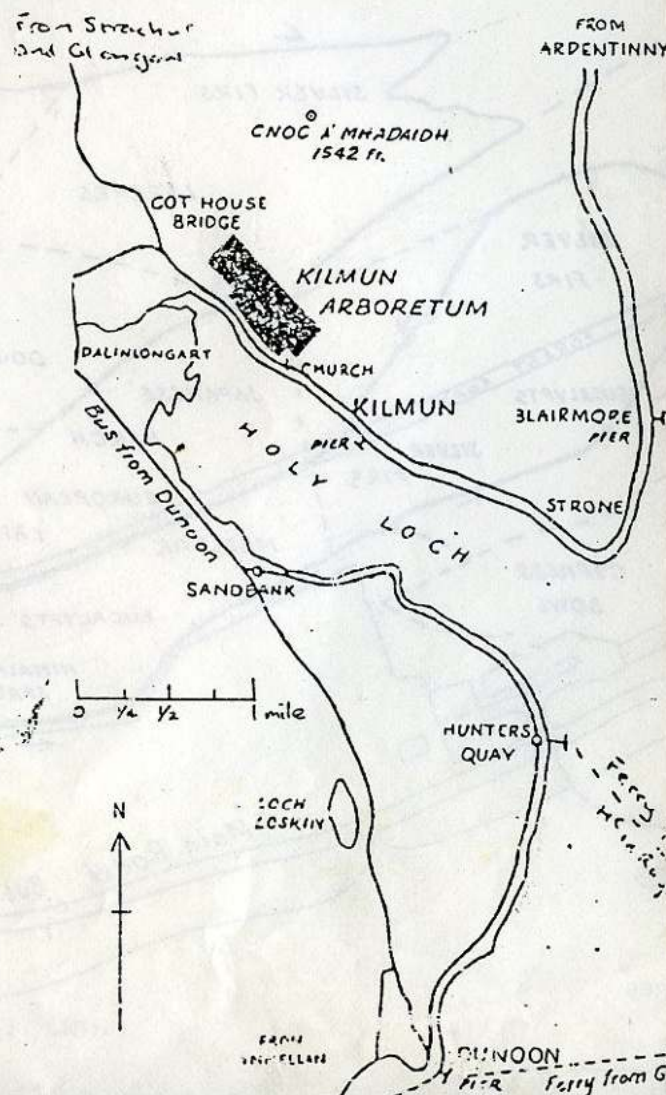
Kilmun Arboretum and Forest Plots, in the parish of Kilmun, near Dunoon in Argyll, are situated on the slopes of a hill to the north-east of the Holy Loch. They extend upwards from the low ground near the main entrance, only a few feet above sea-level, to an elevation of almost 1,000 feet on the slopes of Cnoc a' Mhadaidh (1,542 feet). The upper parts command fine views of the Firth of Clyde as far south as Ailsa Craig. Northwards there are grand inland views over Glen Lean, Glen Massan, Benmore Lodge, and the Argyll Forest Park. The total area, now almost completely planted up, is approximately 49 ha (120 acres) but the spacious setting and careful siting of the plots combine to create an impression of a much greater expanse.

shrubs by picking foliage or flowers. Because of the risk of starting a serious fire, all cigarette ends and matches should be carefully extinguished; no picnic fires are permitted.

Kilmun Arboretum lies within the Argyll Forest Park, established by the Forestry Commission in 1935 to give greater public access to these wonderful afforested hills, threaded by sea-lochs. An illustrated guide to the Argyll Forest Park is available from the forest office, or from H.M. Stationery Office.

The well-known Younger Benmore gardens are situated about 3 miles north of the Arboretum: they are open to visitors during the summer months at a small charge.

Kilmun Arboretum



Forestry Commission

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Because of its situation on the west-coast of Scotland, Kilmun enjoys a mild oceanic climate well suited for the successful growing of a wide range of tree species from the north and south temperate zones. The rainfall is high (approximately 85 inches per annum) but the spring and early summer months are often dry and warm; severe frosts and very cold winters are rare. The favourable climate was in fact one of the principal reasons why Kilmun was selected as the site for an arboretum.

In addition to the many forest tree species, Kilmun Arboretum has a fine collection of ornamental trees and flowering shrubs. The *Rhododendron* collection is at its best in early June, while the Chilean Fire-bush, *Embothrium lanceolatum*, with masses of scarlet flowers, comes into bloom in mid-July. The dwarf Japanese maples, *Acer palmatum*, and its allies, produce their wonderful autumn colours in October, when the fruits of *Cotoneaster bullata* and the *Sorbus* collection

are also at their best.

The locations of the more important species are shown on the map in this leaflet. The map also shows the three recommended walks of differing duration.

The Arboretum is open to the public from sunrise to sunset on weekdays and Sundays throughout the year, and there is no charge for admission. Cars may be parked in the car park within the Arboretum or at the Forestry Commission Office entrance and there is currently no charge for this facility. Visitors are asked to leave no litter and to refrain from damaging trees and

Recommended Walks through the Arboretum

!! of the recommended walks require a moderate degree of fitness and good footwear is advisable.
Elderly and less mobile visitors will find that stroll along the forest road within the Arboretum will provide an opportunity to see a wide variety of species without too much effort.

THE GREEN ROUTE (1/2 hour)

A short walk from the Arboretum car park and includes some of the earlier planted groups of Douglas fir, Western hemlock and Japanese cedar. Of special interest will be the group of Dawn redwood until recently (1945) only known from fossil remains.

THE RED ROUTE (1 hour)

This walk starts at the Arboretum car park and passes through an interesting and varied collection of tree species. Of particular interest will be the Monkey puzzle and Southern beeches from Chile and also a collection of Eucalyptus from Australia.

THE BLUE ROUTE (1 1/2 hours)

The upper reaches of this walk are primarily intended for the more active visitor. It initially follows the Green route before turning uphill to pass through a fine collection of Spruces and Silver firs. The views on a clear day from the top reaches of this path are outstanding.

— Recommended routes
→ and direction of travel
--- Other routes

(P) Car park

