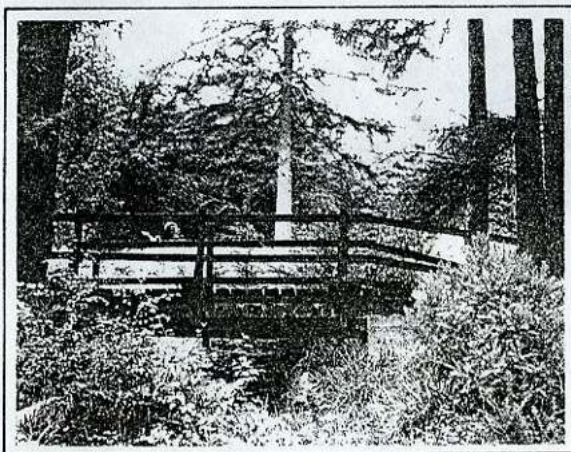


KILMUN ARBORETUM

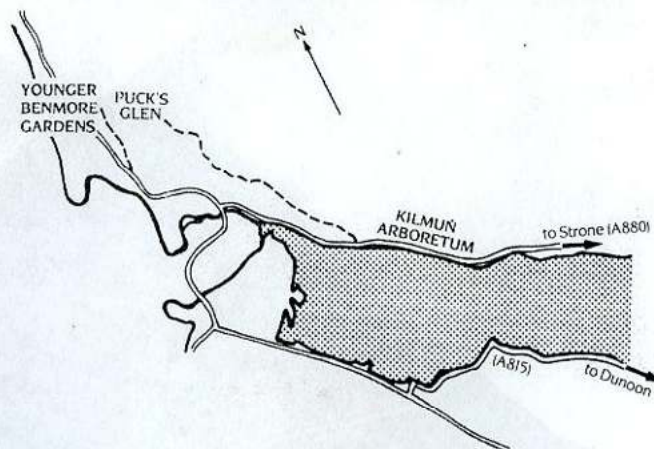
Kilmun Arboretum and Forest Plots were established in the 1930's. They are located in the parish of Kilmun, near Dunoon in Argyll, and are situated on the slopes of a hill to the north-east of Holy Loch. They extend upwards from the low ground near the main entrance, only a few metres above sea level, to an elevation of almost 305 metres (1,000 ft), on the upper slopes of Cnoc o'Mhadaidh (470 metres/1,542 ft). The upper parts command fine views of the Firth of Clyde as far south as Ailsa Craig. To the west and north 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 hectares (120 acres), but the spacious setting and careful siting of the plots combine to create an impression of a much greater expanse.



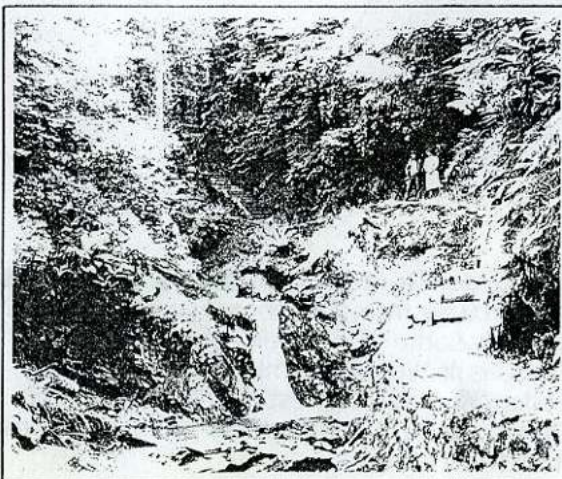
Because of its situation on the west coast of Scotland, Kilmun enjoys a mild oceanic climate, well suited for the successful growing of a wide range of tree species from the north and south temperate zones. The rainfall is high (approximately 2,160 mm/85 inches per annum), but the spring and early summer 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.

PUCK'S GLEN

Puck's Glen is close to Kilmun Arboretum and can easily be reached on foot or by car.



There are several walks to choose from, but the most spectacular is Puck's Glen Walk. This path was built during the last century by the estate owners and it follows the burnside all the way up a narrow gorge. The gorge is so rugged that the path fell into disrepair for many years and was only reopened in 1986 after extensive work by a Manpower Services Commission scheme.



ENV 600-BPW-3K-May 87

Design: Environment Branch.

Published by FC, Cowal Forest District, Kilmun, Argyll. T. 36984 666

 Forest Britain

Kilmun ARBORETUM & PUCK'S GLEN WALKS



Kilmun Arboretum – 3 walks through the arboretum lasting from ½-1½ hours. There are additional walks at **Puck's Glen**. All the routes require a moderate degree of fitness and **stout footwear** is advisable. Alternatively a stroll along the forest road will provide an opportunity to see a wide variety of species.

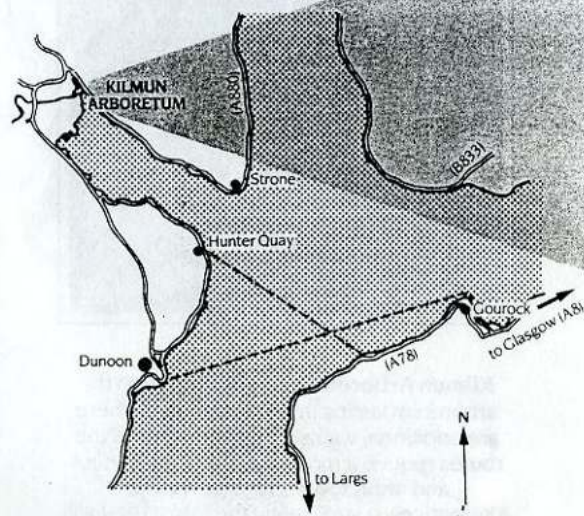
 A Forestry Commission Trail 

In addition to the many forest 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 arboretum is open to the public every day and there is no charge for admission.

Cars may be parked in the car park within the arboretum. Visitors are asked to leave no litter and to refrain from damaging trees and shrubs by picking foliage and 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 forested hills, threaded by sea lochs.



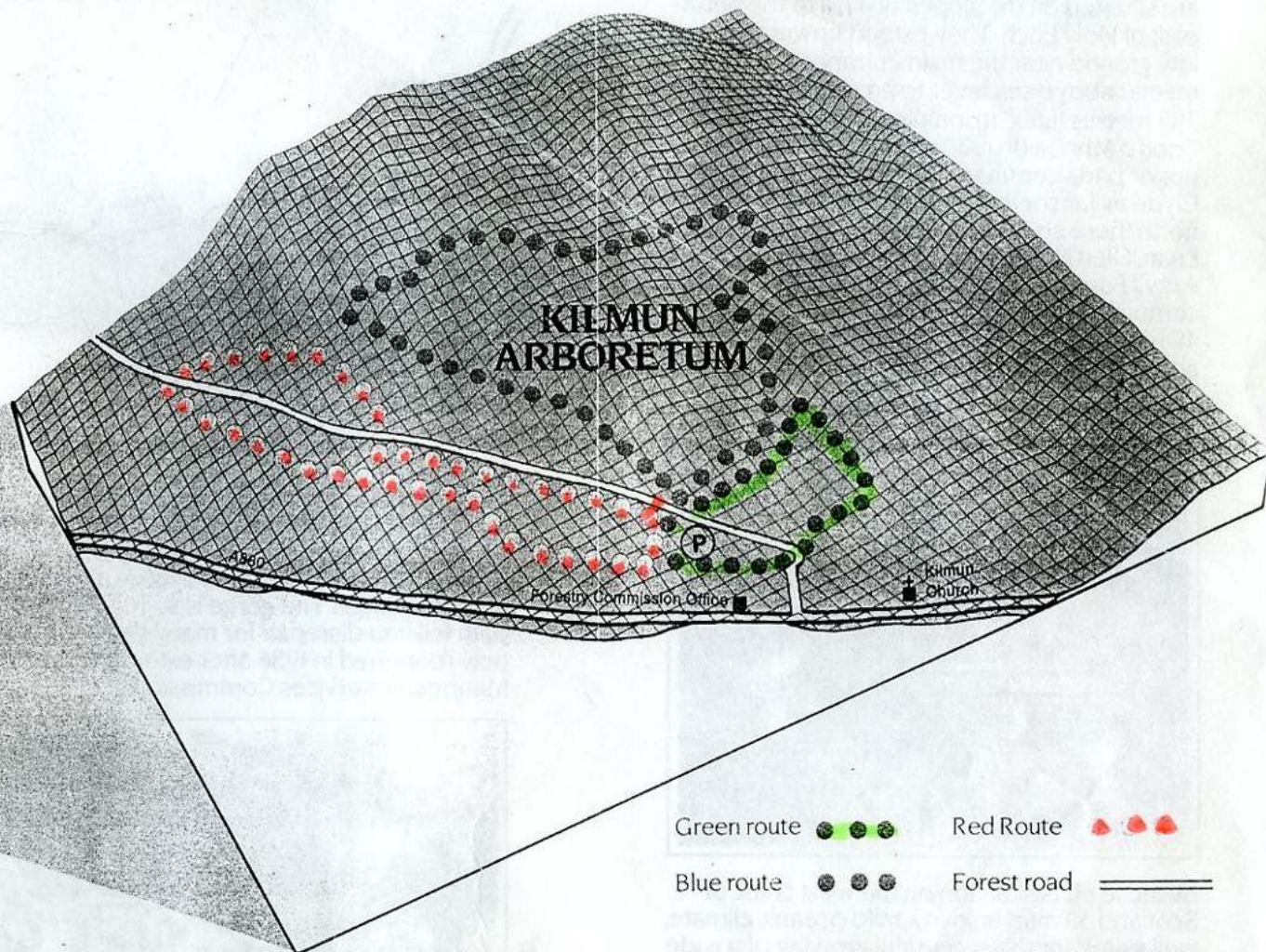
The well known Younger Benmore Gardens are situated about 3 miles north of the arboretum; they are open to visitors during the summer months at a small charge.

Recommended Walks through the Arboretum

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

The Red Route (1 Hour)

This walk also 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.



- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| Green route | | Red Route | |
| Blue route | | Forest road | |

The Green Route (½ 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 Blue Route (1½ 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.