There’s a world of trees to discover at Lael Forest Garden. You’ll find species from across the globe including New Zealand, Australia, North and South America, the Far East, Europe and Scandinavia. Native British species thrive here as well.

Lael Forest Garden is part of the National Tree Collections of Scotland. This project helps to protect and promote this special part of our natural and cultural heritage.

In addition to the network of paths which wind through the Forest Garden, there is also a longer waymarked trail for you to explore.

Gorge Trail

Follow the red waymarkers to explore the forest surrounding the garden and the spectacular Allt na h-Ighine gorge. Return through the forest garden.

Long steep slopes for 400m with several sets of steps. Mostly firm gravel surface. Includes uneven earthy section with some exposed tree roots.

For more information on other sites you can visit in the area see below

1 Slattadale Forest - Forestry Commission Scotland picnic area and walks located at Loch Maree and Victoria Falls

Other Gardens privately owned within the area are:

3 Lelkmelm - Private gardens open to the public. Planted in 1870 and restored in 1984.

4 Inverewe - Owned by the Natural Trust for Scotland. Created in 1863 by Osgood Mackenzie, tel: 01445 781200

If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example, in large print or in another language, please contact:

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Welcome to

Lael Forest Garden
We have around 200 species, how many can you find?

Explore the forest garden on our network of firm gravel paths. There are wide gates at each entrance and the higher paths have steeper gradients. To complete the outer loop, allow ¾ hour (1 mile / 1.6 km).

KEY TO SPECIES

1. Wych elm - Ulmus glabra
   The durability of this native tree of Great Britain, means that it is traditionally used to make coffins. ‘Wych’ is anglo-saxon for pliable and refers to the twigs of the tree.

2. Sitka spruce - Picea sitchensis
   The Sitka spruce is the most common conifer in Scotland and was introduced in 1831. Its name derives from a small seaport in Alaska and it was used for making Mosquito aircraft in World War 2.

3. Southern beech - Nothofagus obliqua
   Also known as the Roble beech, meaning ‘oak’ in Spanish. The Roble beech is one of several species of ‘nothofagus’, meaning ‘false beech’ which occur in the southern hemisphere.

4. Red oak - Quercus rubra
   Native of the United States of America, the bark is rich in tannin and is used to tan leather.

5. Serbian Spruce - Picea omorika
   First discovered in Yugoslavia in 1875, its leaves develop too late to be damaged by frost. It survived the Ice Age by clinging to limestone in a small valley in Yugoslavia.

6. Western Red cedar - Thuja plicata
   The bark is a reddish-brown colour and it is used for timber-clad housing, roofing shingles, garden sheds and rugby goalposts. The Native Americans also used it for their canoes and totem poles.

7. Lawson cypress - Chamaecyparis lawsoniana
   The seed from the USA in 1854 was first raised by the Lawson nursery in Edinburgh. There are now over 200 cultivars and it is the most planted garden conifer.

8. Tulip tree - Liriodendron tulipifera
   The Tulip tree, from the USA, is named because of its tulip-like flowers. Its wood was used by Native Americans for making canoes.