

Walks Around Inchmarlo Estate



*Created by Inchmarlo folk
for Inchmarlo folk*

2021



Inchmarlo House c1880



Inchmarlo House 1983



Inchmarlo House c1890



Inchmarlo House 2021

Photos from "The Inchmarlo Story" by Margie Trewin and Edgar Trewin

Our Wildlife

Here are some of the animals and plants that you may come across in Inchmarlo Estate.

Birds Between 2004 and 2020, 80 species of birds were noted on the estate, or flying over. Some of the more common species are:

Robin, Blackbird, Blue, Great, Coal and Long-tailed Tit, Rook, Magpie, Jackdaw, Woodpigeon, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Wren, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Grey Heron, Collared Dove, Pheasant, Oystercatcher, Blackcap, Pied Wagtail.

Mammals (all nocturnal, apart from squirrels and, sometimes, deer)

Red Squirrel, Rabbit, Roe Deer, Badger, Fox, Mole, Pine Marten, Wood Mouse, Bank Vole, Hedgehog, Shrew, Pipistrelle Bat.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Common Lizard (rare here), Common Frog and Toad, Palmate Newt. Watch out for the occasional, late-summer “mass migration” of toads, toadlets and some frogs down from the old golf course towards Pinefield.

Butterflies

Red Admiral, Peacock, Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip, Painted Lady, Small White.

Bees and Wasps

Bumble Bees (including White-tailed b-b, Buff-tailed b-b, Early b-b), Solitary Bees (e.g., Common Carder), Honeybee, Common Wasp.

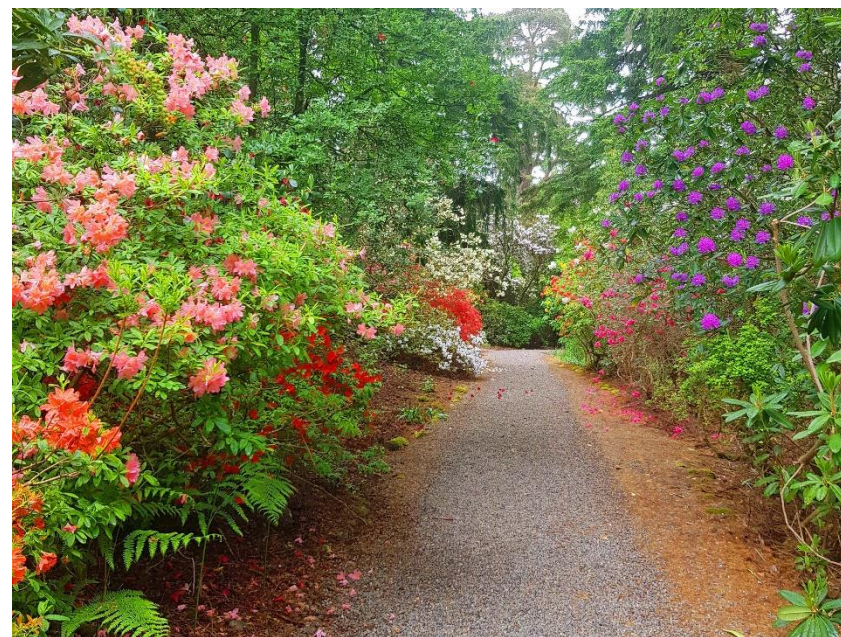
Wildflowers A small selection, in no particular order:

Primrose, Forget-me-not, Dog Violet, Foxglove, Bluebell, Wood Anemone, Yellow Pimpernel, Greater Butterfly-orchid, Northern Marsh-orchid, Bugle, Lily-of-the-Valley, Welsh Poppy, Wood Sorrel, Pignut, Orange Hawkweed.

Fungi Numerous species found in late summer and autumn, such as:

Fly Agaric, Stinkhorn, Puff Ball, Ink Cap, Bracket Fungus, Sulphur Tuft.

Walks Around Inchmarlo Estate



*Compiled by Inchmarlo Homeowners
Phil Allen, Margaret Bradley, Margaret Cinderey,
Richard Cinderey, and Elizabeth Claasen
2021*

Walks Around Inchmarlo Estate

Preface

This booklet was inspired by a similar publication, “Walks Around the Estate of Inchmarlo”, which was written 25 years ago. The authors were David Hutton, Margie Trewin and Edgar Trewin. The booklet was beautifully illustrated by Alice Hutton.

The present authors would be delighted if these pages were still being read in another 25 years.

Foreword

Fresh air and contact with the natural world are known to have immense benefits for the mental and physical well-being of humans.

A group of enthusiastic homeowners at Inchmarlo Retirement Village have combined their knowledge and skills to produce an up-to-date booklet highlighting the flora and fauna along five walks within the Estate. The result is a colourful and fascinating description of the natural delights surrounding their retirement homes that will interest visitors and fellow homeowners alike.”

Charles P Skene CBE

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Charles Skene, chairman of Skene Enterprises, for his enthusiastic and generous support during publication of this booklet. We also thank Helen Fitzpatrick for her assistance and proof-reading and Jim Wilkie, head gardener, for his advice and information.

We are immensely indebted to the remarkably detailed and well-researched publication “The Inchmarlo Story” (1998), by Margie Trewin and Edgar Trewin.

Our Trees

The Tree Register

Inchmarlo Estate has been visited several times by **The Tree Register**, an organisation which records notable and “champion” trees in Britain. Champion trees are exceptional examples of their species because of their enormous size, great age, rarity, or historical significance. Nearly forty Inchmarlo trees have been catalogued by The Tree Register as champion or notable trees. Several are Aberdeenshire or Scotland champions. We have one UK champion! (See p 18.) Watch out for the blue plaques.

Broadleaved Trees include: (*recorded by the Tree Register)

Maple*, Beech*, Birch*, Holly*, Oak*, Rowan*, Redwood*, Ash, Lime, Sycamore, Horse Chestnut.

Coniferous Trees include: (*recorded by the Tree Register)

Silver Fir*, Forrest’s Fir*, Pindrow Fir*, Noble Fir*, Cedar*, Cypress*, Larch*, Scots Pine*, Norway Spruce*, Douglas Fir*.

Know Your Cones:

Noble Fir

Large bracts, bent downward to give each cone a feathery outline.



Silver Fir

Cone turns brown and scales break away leaving a central “fir candle” standing.



Douglas Fir

Hangs downward, with a distinctive three-point bract outside every scale.



Scots Pine

Symmetrical, “pointed cone” shape. Each diamond-shaped scale bears a raised knob.



Introduction

Every walk through the estate of Inchmarlo provides the opportunity to encounter something new. The changing seasons, the magnificent trees, the colourful plants, the varied wildlife, and the fascinating history – all hold the capability to surprise and delight.

We would like to share our discoveries with you. We hope that a better understanding of the history and natural history of this unique estate will lead to a greater appreciation of the place which many of us have the privilege to call home.



Also on the right is the drive to **Garden Cottage (61)**. A 1926 map refers to this building as “Gardner’s Cottage”, but before that the building served as the estate laundry, with the laundry maid living upstairs. In fact, the field to the north of the laundry was known as “laundry field”. This is now Pinefield!



Continue up the hill and on the left, opposite Lower Pinefield, you will see **squirrel nesting and feeding boxes (62)** attached to trees set slightly back from the road. Inchmarlo folk are proud of their red squirrels and recent years have seen a big increase in numbers.

Many home-owners enjoy feeding them and watching their antics, such as territorial or breeding-season chasing.

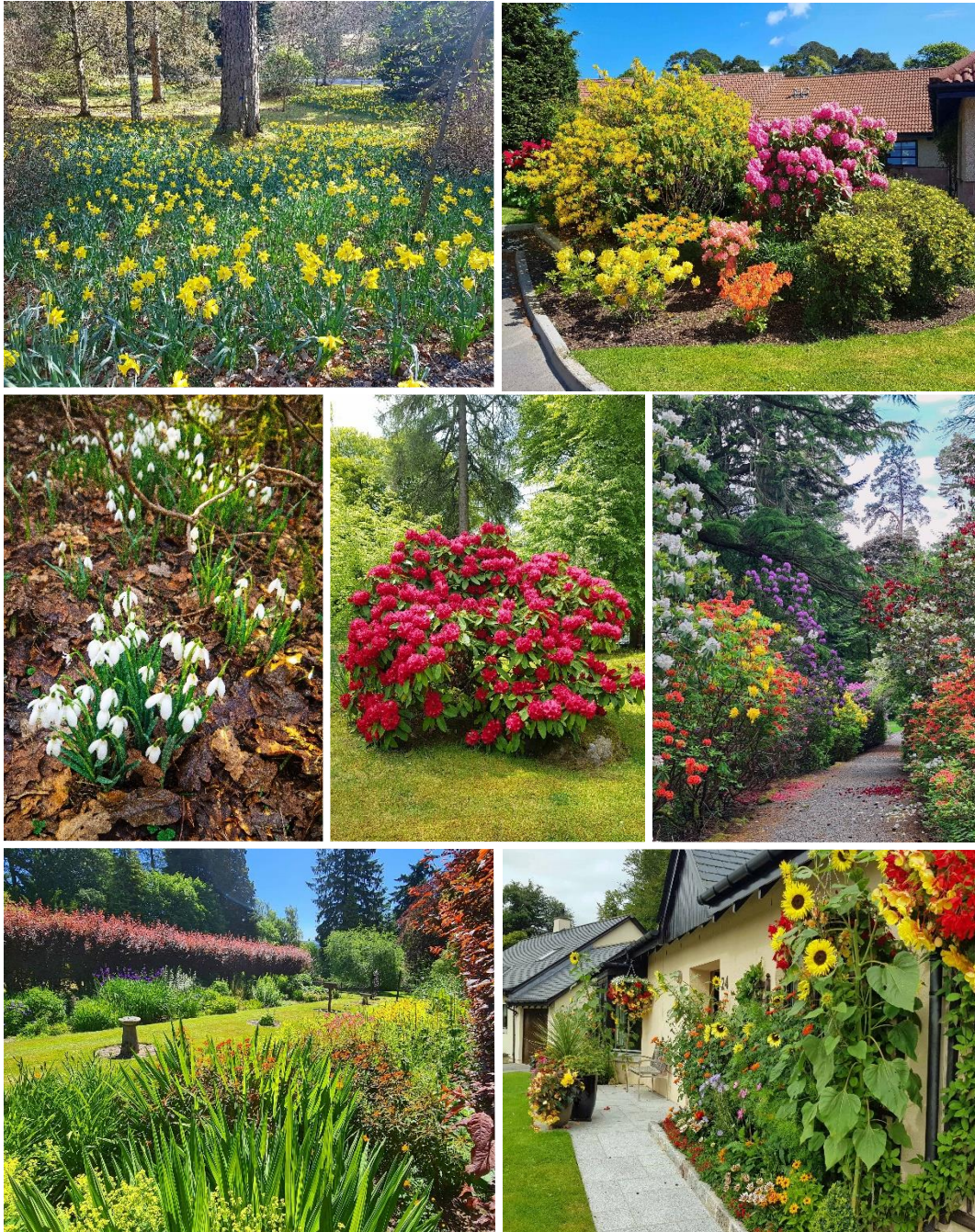
Red squirrels build nests (dreys) in the tree canopy or in the trunks. They are active all year round. Although they will stay in their dreys in very cold weather, they do not hibernate. In early summer, the females produce one (or occasionally two) litters of 3-5 young.

There used to be grey squirrels here also, but during the 2000’s they were humanely removed.

At Upper Pinefield/Pinecrest, turn right. This road follows the line of another of the original estate paths, or Walks. This one was known as the **Birch Walk (63)**. It leads to the car park which was the start of Walk 1.

We hope you enjoyed your tour of the estate and gardens!

Inchmarlo Through



Walk 5: The Link

Use this route to walk from the end of Walk 4 (or Walk 3) back to the beginning of Walk 1 (or Walk 2), perhaps to return to a parked car.

From the main car park by the “Big House”, walk to the junction with the drive that heads north up the hill. This is the **Home Farm Drive**, one of the original drives on the estate. The Home Farm would have been tenanted during the 18th and 19th centuries. It provided much of Inchmarlo’s produce and was a source of income.



Shortly after beginning the ascent, you will pass the wrought iron **Main Gates (59)** of the woodland

garden. These gates, with their design incorporating Scottish thistles, were made by the blacksmith at Drumoak, in about 1950. The path beyond the gates was known as the **Garden Walk** and led directly to the ornamental gardens.

A little further up the hill, on the right, is a beautiful **Japanese Red Cedar (Cryptomeria japonica) (60)**. This tree is native to the central and southern islands of Japan where it is a major timber species.





Now walk along the front of “The Big House”. Pause when you get to the French-doors. Until 1888, this is where the **Main Entrance (57)** was situated. You can still see the original bell pulls. There was once a portico here, opposite which an imposing set of steps led to the

lower lawn. The short flight of steps you see today was laid in 1988, utilising corner stones from the demolished chalet (see below). There is a time-capsule, containing “mementos of our time” under one of the steps.

Before returning to the car park, take a quick peek behind Inchmarlo House. The arched cellars facing the main house are all that remain of a building known as **The Chalet (58)**. (See inside back cover.) This was a meeting room where services for the estate employees were held. The family had their own entrance via an overhead walkway!

In later years, it was used by the local Scout and Guide movements. In 1986, when Inchmarlo House was developed as a care home, the chalet was demolished to enhance the view from the back bedrooms. On the bank, to the east of the chalet, are the remains of stone steps which led to a now-demolished **Game Larder**.



You have now completed the circuit for Walk 4. If you wish to continue to Walk 5 (for example, to return to the car park at the start of Walk 1), take the main drive east from the car park.

The Seasons



A Brief History of Inchmarlo Estate

Early Times

The lands of the Parish of Banchory Ternan were granted to the Catholic Church in the 12th Century. The name “Inchmerloch” appears in 16th century maps and manuscripts.

During the Reformation, this land was taken from the Catholic church and handed to Protestant landowners.

The Douglas Family c1630 – 1808 (six generations)

Sometime around 1630, the extensive “Lands of Inchmarlo” were acquired by James Douglas of Tilquihillie.

Inchmarlo House was built around 1750. It was the basis of the present house but consisted of two floors with a pitched roof, two north wings and a centrally located portico.

Walter S Davidson, 1808 – 1838

The estate was purchased by an entrepreneur, Walter Stevenson Davidson, who lived most of his life abroad.

The Davidson Family 1838 – 1923 (four generations)

In 1838, the estate was sold to Duncan Davidson (no relation to Walter), who was from a Tarland farming family, for £14,500.

The Davidson family made many improvements during the 19th century. The gardens, including the walled garden and orchards, were laid out. Other changes include the re-alignment of the



Although the nests are very large, they are difficult to see. Look for the tell-tale droppings and then look up into the tops of the trees. You will certainly hear the herons in spring when they are feeding their young, as they make a loud cackling call or even a blood-curdling, bubbling scream.

Return to the junction and turn down the hill to the **Pets' Cemetery (55)**, where residents' and home-owners' pets have been interred for many years. Turn left below the cemetery to pass a plaque bearing Lord Byron's “Epitaph to a Dog”.

The path you are now on follows the line of the West Drive, which originally passed close to the front of Inchmarlo House on its way to West Lodge. Continue towards the House and after passing a hedge, you will see the **Inchmarlo Weather Station (56)**. Almost continuous readings have been recorded since 1989. Nowadays, observations are taken, and records kept, for interest only. However, until 1998, this station sent official daily reports to the Meteorological Office. Volunteer staff and homeowners went to Bracknell for training.

Opposite the weather station, pause to admire the **Sensory Garden** on the other side of the fence. This garden, used by residents of Inchmarlo House, was designed by Keig Primary School and opened on 13 May 2013 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee.





that Inchmarlo estate also has ha-has on its western and (part of) southern boundaries. The former is alongside the path you took when you walked up the hill from the West Lodge. The latter is visible from the A93.

About 30 metres past the old gate post, on the left, there is a **Common Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) (53)**. This venerable specimen, pollarded at about 1.7 metres, is among the oldest on the estate. It is beginning to show its age with some rotten wood and peeling bark.



At the next junction, our route turns down the hill. However, we now take a short diversion, up the path behind Inchmarlo House, to visit the **Heronry (54)**. Walk towards Pinefield until you come to a wooden bench on the left. Since moving from the Westfield Ponds in about 2003, the herons have nested in tall trees to the north of this path. The number of herons fluctuates from year to year, with as many as 10 nests and 20 young fledging. Nesting is usually between the end of February and late August.

main drive to its present location, and the building of the South Lodge. The house was extended by the addition of a third floor and an east wing and the front door was relocated.

In 1845, there were plans to extend the Deeside Railway through Inchmarlo Estate. However, in 1849, the estate was owned by Patrick Davidson, who happened to be vice Chairman of the Deeside Railway Company. Patrick sold them some land east of the Glassel Road and the line was re-routed!

Charles Cox 1923 – 1948

Mr and Mrs Cox fenced off and developed the woodland garden. Charles was probably advised by his nephew Euan who was a horticulturalist and had access to rhododendron seeds from Burma.

Col & Mrs A. H. Bowhill 1948 – 1983

The Bowhills made substantial alterations to the exterior and interior of Inchmarlo House in 1949. Mrs Bowhill created the keyhole garden and improved the woodland garden, planting many of the rhododendrons and azaleas that we love today.

Inchmarlo Continuing Care Retirement Community 1983

Charles Skene purchased six of the estate's 10 lots on sale and set about re-inventing Inchmarlo Estate as a retirement community.

Work began on Queen Victoria Park in 1985 and in 1986 the first resident moved in. Extensive restructuring took place to Inchmarlo House which was opened as a care home in 1987.

The Walks

We offer five walks, each one being quite different from the others. Points of interest are identified and discussed.

A map of Walks 1 and 2 appears on the back cover. In the centre pages (16 & 17) there is a map of the estate, showing Walks 3, 4 and 5. Points of interest are numbered in the text and posted on the maps.

For those wishing to drive close to the start of each circular walk, the parking suggestions are:

Walks 1 & 2: The east end of Upper Pinefield/Pinecrest.

Walks 3 & 4: The main car park for Inchmarlo House.

Walks 1 and 2, also Walks 3 and 4, can be easily combined to make longer walks.

Walk 5, the “Link Walk”, provides opportunities to complete customised circuits by linking the car park for Walks 3 & 4 back to the car park for Walks 1 & 2. There are several possibilities. For example, Walks 2, 3 and 5 can be linked to create a circular tour.

Indeed, all five walks can be combined into one circuit. (e.g., Walks 1,2,3,4,5 or Walks 4,5,1,2,3.) This would be approximately 4.8Km (3 miles) and would take about 2 hours.

In the descriptions of the walks (p7), the “Approximate Time” assumes a leisurely pace (about 1.5 miles per hour or 2.5 kilometres per hour) and short stops. It does not include time for lengthy stops and chats! Slow walkers should adjust the times appropriately.

with fine beech trees, originally planted as a shelter from the cold north wind, it was updated to its present state in 1998.

As you walk along this path, you will notice, on your left beyond the band of trees, what appears to be a ditch marking the estate boundary. However, all is not quite what it seems at first. We will take a closer look at this feature shortly.

Towards the eastern end of the walk, there is a seat where you can rest and enjoy the fine uninterrupted view of Scolty Tower, built in 1842 in memory of General Sir William Burnett of Crathes.



About 12 metres beyond this seat, on the left, are some foundation stones, all that remains of the **Pheasant House (51)**, where once pheasant chicks were reared for shooting. Later, this building became a **Wendy House** for the children of the estate.

Just before you reach a gate post (which has long since lost its gate), you will have an opportunity to take a look in the ditch that we noticed earlier. You will see that the inside, north-facing, side of the “ditch” is actually a beautifully constructed stone wall. This is a **Ha-ha (52)**, a type of boundary popular in 18th century estate design. It is believed that the term comes from the expression of surprise on coming across it. The “concealed wall” design restricted the range of animals without breaking up the view with fences. If you care to explore, you will discover

the disturbance from the building of Westfield. They are now often referred to as the “duck ponds”.

A path allows you to walk round the ponds, if you wish. Afterwards, exit back up the path to Westfield and turn left towards the West Lodge.

The last stretch of Lower Westfield follows the line of the old West Drive. (Part of Upper Westfield – in front of houses 28 to 30 - is also on the line of this drive.) The **West Lodge (48)** wasn't built until after 1888. Traditionally, it was home to the estate forester.

Turn right by the big shed and ascend the path by the western boundary of the estate.

At the top of the path lies **The Resting Place (49)** with three memorials surrounded by low iron railings. This is the last resting place of Duncan Davidson (1843-1919), the owner of the estate from 1881 to 1919, and his first wife Flora Frances Burdett (1846-1884). There is also a memorial to their eldest son Duncan Hamlyn Davidson (1877-1915). Duncan was a Captain in the Seaforth Highlanders who was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on 9th May 1915. This area has been respectfully restored and lovingly maintained by Inchmarlo homeowners.



Turn right at the Davidson graves and follow one of the old estate paths or “walks”. The **Pheasant House Walk (50)** is clearly shown on the 1884 plan of the Inchmarlo Estate. Lined

Walk 1. The Garden Walk (red on the maps) Page 8

A glimpse of the northern perimeter and a tour of the walled garden and lawns. Easy walking on gravel paths and grass lawn. 7 Seats.

Distance: 0.5 Km (0.3 mile)

Approximate Time: 12 minutes

Walk 2. The Woodland Walk (yellow) Page 13

A wander around the woodland garden. Hillside paths, mainly gravel or grass. 6 Seats.

Distance: 1.0 Km (0.6 mile)

Approximate Time: 25 minutes

Walk 3. The Old Drive Walk (purple) Page 20

After a brief visit to QVP, this route explores the Old Drive and adjacent woodland and parkland. Mainly flat on paved (tarmacked) road, gravel track and grass. 7 Seats.

Distance: 1.3 Km (0.8 mile)

Approximate Time: 35 minutes

Walk 4. The West Walk (green) Page 25

Starting at the Big House and continuing above and below Westfield. Moderate slopes. Paved road and gravel paths. 7 Seats

Distance: 1.6Km (1.0 mile)

Approximate Time: 40 minutes

Walk 5. The Link (blue) Page 31

Linking the car park for Walks 3 & 4 back to the car park for walks 1 & 2. Paved hillside roads. 3 Seats.

Distance: 0.5 Km (0.3 mile)

Approximate Time: 15 minutes

Walk 1: The Garden Walk

For this walk, use the map on the outside back cover. Start at the car park at the east end of Pinecrest/Upper Pinefield.

Take the wide track heading north from the corner of the car park. This is one of the original estate paths which skirted **The Orchard** on the right (now The Courtyard). On the left, through the trees, you will see open ground which was once the third hole of the 18-hole **Laird's Course (1)**. This golf course was opened by Open champion Paul Lawrie in 1994. Unfortunately, it closed in 2013.

On the left, just before the gates leading to Fairways, there is a gap in the fence. Don't take it now, but if you were to walk along the edge of the lawn you would be able to gain access to the many paths crossing the disused golf course.

You will be able to explore the Laird's Course on your own. Meanwhile, continue along the track, pass through the gates and turn right (before reaching Fairways) down a wide track.

You will soon see, on your right, a gate in the stonework of the walled garden. Built into the NE corner of the wall, there is a small building. This was the **Tool Shed (2)**. It appears that this modest building was once the dwelling of an old watchman.



Alice Hutton 1996

Walk 4: The West Walk

Start Walk 4 at the main car park to Inchmarlo House. Take the road leading to Westfield and then turn left to Lower Westfield.



Immediately on your right, admire two large **English Oaks (Quercus robur) (46)**. This small group of trees, probably over 300 years old, would have been a feature of the 18th century parkland landscaping. One of them became triple-shooted after losing its leading shoot at an early age.

Next take the gravel path on the left, between houses 6 and 9.

This path takes you to the **Westfield Ponds (47)**. There has been a pond here for many years. (It is marked on an 1884 map.) Following dredging and landscaping in 1996, it consists of two ponds separated by a "bund". The original stock of fancy domestic ducks declined over the years and, following unsuccessful attempts at re-introduction, only visiting wild mallards can be spotted now. Occasionally they breed, but they lose most of their ducklings to predators such as herons, carrion crows and herring gulls. In Spring, oystercatchers often nest on the bund or nearby. They are able to fledge their young on most occasions.

This pond used to be known as the "heron pond", as herons nested in the surrounding trees until they moved away due to

protected status. It has beautiful, light, and durable timber which has led to over-logging and a massive decline in numbers. Ironically, fire-suppressing measures have also had an adverse impact, as the tree relies on catastrophic fires to regenerate.

Return to the cross-track and walk to the point where it crosses the Old Drive. One of the remaining beech trees is on the corner. Behind the beech, notice a rectangular area of flatter ground bordered by a low ridge. Although young birch trees grow there now, this was once a children's **Tennis Court (44)**.



From this crossing, take the path leading through a gate to a field which often has sheep in it. This is “**The Park**” (45) and it is an essential part of the estate design. At one time the parkland was much more

extensive, covering the land to the west of Inchmarlo House, including Westfield. Inchmarlo adopted typical 18th century estate landscaping, inspired by Lancelot “Capability” Brown, which featured grazing land broken up by small stands of trees and ponds or lakes.

Always remembering to close gates behind you, enter The Park and turn right on the outer mown walking path. Follow this until you are opposite Inchmarlo House. Take the track towards the house and pass through the gate. From here you can return to the **start**, or turn left towards Westfield to link with **Walk 4**.

If you stand at the NE corner of the tool shed, and look north, you will just be able to make out the stone foundations of one of the garden walls dating from the 19th century.

Enter through the gate into the **Walled Garden (3)**. This was a focal area of a garden believed to have been laid out by Duncan Davidson in the first half of the 19th century. There would have been plantings of flowers for the House and espalier fruit trees were trained along the walls.

Look at the top of the slightly curved northern wall. You will notice a pair of chimney pots which look completely out-of-place. A large greenhouse had been erected against this wall, probably in the mid-19th century. The labourer who lived in the building at the



corner may have been retained as a stoker for the greenhouse boiler, which was situated on the other (north) side of this wall. A 1947 sketch suggests that fruit such as peaches and figs were cultivated in the greenhouse. (There is a fig tree growing against this wall today.) It was demolished in 1984 after being extensively damaged by heavy snow.

Now pass through the wooden gate opposite the middle of the curved wall. You now enter the **Keyhole Garden (4)** which was designed by Mrs Bowhill around 1950. It is hedged with the Purple-leaved Cherry Plum (*Prunus cerasifera*).

Immediately inside the keyhole garden is a fine **Tibetan Cherry (Prunus serrula) (5)**. This tree has interesting foliage (dark green becoming rich yellow), but it is notable for its eye-catching mahogany bark which peels into honey-coloured sheets.

OPEN DAY 2015



Photo by Charles Skene

The interior of the keyhole garden now houses the **Rainbow Garden (6)**. This lovely garden was created in 2009 to commemorate the 50 years that Inchmarlo had been raising money for charity through Scotland's Gardens Scheme. The

plants were selected to reflect the colours of the rainbow

Now walk through the lower gate and turn left to admire a large **Pere David's Maple (Acer davidii) (7)** in the eastern border of the lawn. This Chinese tree is sometimes called the snake bark maple - due to its attractive bark of green and white stripes.

Follow the border down the lawn. You may be lucky, in early summer, to see the stunning blooms of the **Himalayan Blue Poppy (Meconopsis)**.



Walk on to the magnificent **Copper Beech (Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea) (8)**. This tree, planted around 1860, dominates the southern lawn and is a favourite land-mark with residents.

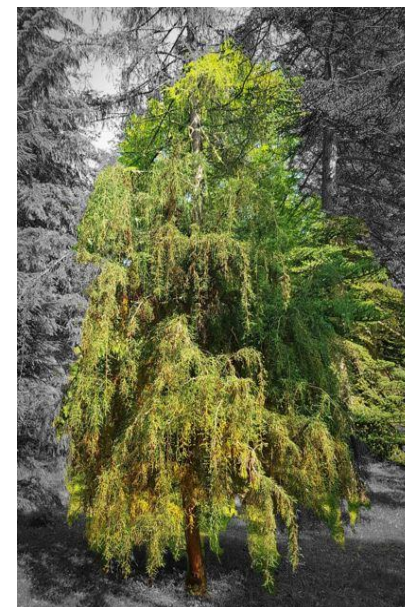
Walking up the Old Drive, one of the first trees you meet, on the left, is a **European White Fir (Abies alba) (40)** with massive spreading roots, L-shaped branch and a hiding-hole beloved by small grandchildren. The silver fir that we saw on Walk 2 is the tallest in Aberdeenshire. With a girth of 670 cm, this is the fattest!



Retrace your steps a few yards to take a grassy (mossy?) path that leads into the woodland. Take time to explore the **"Snowdrop Trail" (41)**, a series of tracks laid out as a

woodland walk on level ground. There are a number of notable trees, including a **Norway Spruce (Picea abies) (42)**. Another tree beloved by red squirrels, the Norway spruce was made popular by Prince Albert as a Christmas decoration.

Exit the Snowdrop trail at the wide track which crosses the Old Drive. Cross over and walk carefully amongst the trees to find two specimens of **Patagonian Cypress (Fitzroya cupressoides) (43)** (right). This species, from southern Argentina and Chile, has



The garden was officially opened by the actress and comedian Dame Thora Hird who planted a **Japanese Weeping Cherry (Shidare zakura) (36)** which can still be admired.

Leave QVP by the southern archway and re-join the main drive. Facing you is a fine **Noble Fir (Abies procera) (37)**. This tree grows to great height in vast forests along the west coast of North America.

Look down the drive towards the estate entrance. Beside the main gate is **South Lodge (38)** which was built about 1850 and was used as the porter's lodge. It was enlarged in 1923 when a "parlour", bathroom and two bedrooms were added.

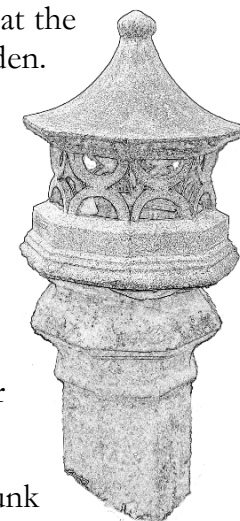
Before the South Lodge, we turn right off the main drive and then right again onto a wide track which is the **Old Drive (39)**. This drive, dating 1750-1850, entered the estate a little west of the present main gate. When South Lodge was built, a new drive was constructed, and the original drive became a woodland walk known as the "**Little Walk**". Over time the Little Walk became overgrown and when, in 1984, the area was cleared of brambles and weeds, the 14-foot wide Old Drive was rediscovered.

In 1750, this carriage drive would have formed a beech-lined avenue leading to Inchmarlo House. Today, three of these beeches remain. As the original trees were lost, they were replaced by other species, such as lime and oak. Two commemorative oaks were planted in the 20th and 21st centuries. We invite the reader to explore the Old Drive and discover these in his/her own time.

The south side of the garden was never walled. 19th century maps indicate that the formal garden originally extended south to a semi-circular border. A curved band of steeper lawn, just above the copper beech, may indicate this southern boundary.

We now follow the lawn's western border, starting at the bottom and heading back up towards the walled garden.

If you peer carefully into the borders to the west of the copper beech, you will discover a strange object. This is a **Chimney Pot Cover (9)** which was originally used on the mansion, in summer when the fires weren't lit, to keep birds out of the flues.



Nearby, in autumn, admire the patch of graceful **Guernsey lilies (Nerine bowdenii)** with their mass of pink blooms (see picture on p3).

Further up this border, find the aged, branched trunk of a lovely pink rhododendron. This is **Rhododendron hunnewellianum (10)** - the oldest rhododendron on the estate.

Near the centre of the lawn, a **Katsura Tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum) (11)** has heart shaped leaves which change to red/pink/purple in autumn. The Katsura is sometimes called the caramel, or candy floss, tree due to its caramel scent.

Nearby, our next tree is the **Joseph Rock Rowan (Sorbus 'Joseph Rock') (12)** This is smaller than most rowans with delicate white flowers and yellow berries which birds love.

Pass through the gate into the western half of the **Putting Green (13)**. Two nine-hole courses were laid out in 2000.

Residents can play putting (and croquet) during the summer months and regular meetings (and parties) are held.

Immediately on the right is a **Hubei Crab Tree (*Malus hupehensis*) (14)**. This tree is named after Hubei (formerly spelt Hupeh) province in China. It has fragrant white blossom in spring and bright cherry-sized crab apples in the autumn.



In the middle of this lawn, we find the **Mountain Snowdrop Tree (*Halesia monticola*) (15)** with its oval-shaped mid-green leaves which turn yellow in the autumn. It is named after the masses of white snowdrop-like flowers in the summer. It is a good nectar source for bees. This one was planted in 1954.

Our last trees in the walled garden are two fine **Redvein Enkianthus (*Enkianthus campanulatus*) (16)**. The natural range of this tree is from the Himalayas to Japan. It is characterised by clusters of cream or reddish, bell-shaped flowers from late spring to mid summer.



Exit the walled garden through the nearby gate, walk to The Courtyard and turn left towards Pinefield. Then either return to the **start** or turn left down Pinefield to join **Walk 2**

You will notice the buildings which are now used by the garden team and as a staff house. These were the stables and coach house. Later, the coach house became known as Garage Cottage and was home to the chauffeur. The short track on the opposite side of the drive led to a gasometer (long since gone!).



We are now going to walk a short way towards the main gate and take the first turn on the left towards Queen Victoria Park (QVP). But, before we turn off the main drive, notice the plant, ahead

of you on the right, with huge rhubarb-like leaves (which die back in winter). This is ***Gunnera manicata* (34)**, a native of Brazil where it is used in traditional medicine.

Walk towards Queen Victoria Park and enter the gardens through the northern archway. **The Oriental Garden (35)**, within QVP, was laid out in 1986 by head gardener David Hutton and



designed by Peter Rogers who had won gold medals at Chelsea.

Explore the garden and see if you can spot the distinctive **Corkscrew Hazel or Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana* "Contorta")**.

Notice the "**Kare-sansui**" (dry slate stream) with little bridges.

Walk 3: The Old Drive Walk

Walk 3 starts and finishes at the car park for Inchmarlo house.

Walk down the main drive towards the Main Entrance. Just after the bench on the left, notice a large **European Larch (*Larix decidua*) (30)** which is one of the few species of deciduous conifers. Opposite, just behind the street-lamp, is a rather unusual fir species, **Forrest's Fir (*Abies forrestii*) (31)**, which was brought from China by the Scottish botanist George Forrest.

Continue round the bend to the junction where four fine trees form a centrepiece when driving up from the main gate. These are **Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) (32)**. They have been given various nicknames such as "The Four Crinolined Ladies".

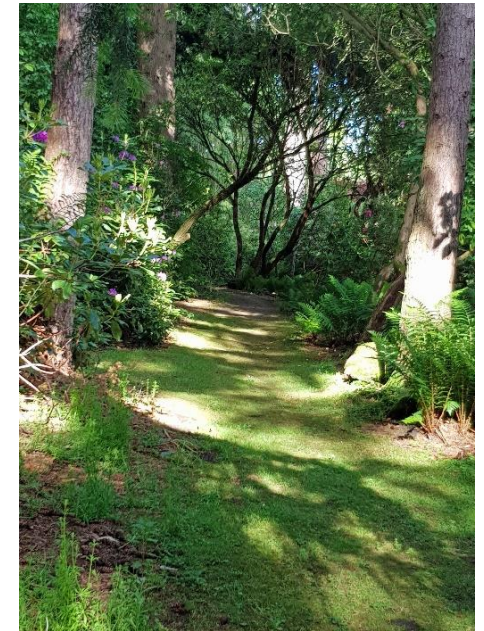


Take a look up the drive which leads to Garden Wood. This used to be known as **Queen's Drive (33)**. It is possible to walk the length of this drive to Queen's Lodge on the Glassel Road. It is named for Queen Victoria who used it when travelling by coach to Balmoral (before the trains). Apparently, she ordered the diversion through Inchmarlo because she loved the gardens.

Walk 2: The Woodland Walk

For this walk you may park at the eastern end of Pinecrest/Upper Pinefield. Walk round Pinefield to the post box. Turn left and go down the winding path that leads to the northern gate of **The Woodland Garden (17)**.

Controlled planting of many types of trees had taken place on the estate during the 18th and 19th centuries. The six-acre woodland garden, that we see today, was first developed in the 1930's by Mr Charles Cox. During this period, the first rhododendron hybrids were planted. Further plantings of Japanese acers, rhododendrons and azaleas, particularly along the "Garden Walk" between Inchmarlo House and "the gardens", took place in the mid-20th century, at the instigation of Mrs Bowhill.



As you approach the northern gate, you may be greeted by a cacophony of bird sound. This is the largest of Inchmarlo's **Rookeries (18)**. There are probably around 20 nests in this site, where there is considerable activity all year, with as many as 100 rooks roosting in the trees or flying around. Breeding can start in mid-February and youngsters can be seen from May onwards.

A few yards after entering the woods, turn left along a grassy path. In 100 yards, soon after passing over a burn, turn right down another grassy path, which crosses the burn again.

You will soon reach a small lawn with a bird bath, which we refer to here as the **Rockery Lawn (19)**. The rockery, alongside the stream and below the lawn, was developed by Mrs Bowhill in about 1950. However, many of the rocks are now overgrown and the most obvious features today are the beautiful mature Japanese maples (acers). With displays of yellows, reds, and oranges, it looks stunning in late summer and autumn (see p1).



Continue down the grassy path alongside the burn. You may spot, growing in the stream, the large white trumpet-shaped flowers of a plant from Japan, the **Asian Skunk Cabbage (Lysichiton camtschatcensis) (20)**. The flowers appear in April, and they die back completely in the autumn.

At the next junction look out for a dramatic colony of the aptly-named **Shuttlecock or Ostrich Feather Ferns (Matteuccia struthiopteris) (21)**.

Turn right and follow the gravel path, passing, on your right, a small rectangular pond which used to be covered in white lilies in summer.



constructed in the 1930's when Charles Cox developed the Woodland Garden. (The four White Swans suddenly appeared in 2019 – they are an Inchmarlo Mystery!)

Continue up the path but look closely on your left as you reach the main path. This small tree is another living-fossil, **Ginkgo biloba (28)**. Also known as the maidenhair tree, this is the only living species of this once-large group of plants. All the others, some dating back 200 million years, are extinct.



Now look up and to the east. The **European Silver Fir (Abies alba) (29)** in front of you is the tallest tree on the estate, at 49 metres (161 ft) (2018). This tree is native to the mountains of Europe from the Pyrenees to the Caucasus mountains.

You may now take the path opposite the silver fir, up the hill, to return to the **start**. Alternatively, take the main path west to the garden's main gate, in order to link in with **Walk 3**.



distributed throughout the Mesozoic era, and thought to be extinct for 150 million years. However, small live populations were found in Central China in the mid-twentieth century. Ours has an interesting, twisted trunk. Nobody knows exactly why this happens with some trees, but it is thought to be something to do with stress.

The rather less striking tree behind the Metasequoia is **Dipteronia sinensis (25)**. Another Chinese plant, Dipteronia is usually found as a shrub in the UK. Examples this tall are rare and this one, at 10 metres (2018), is classified by the Tree Register (see p 33) as a UK Champion.



Continue downhill towards the south gate. Before reaching the gate, you will notice two paths off to the right. Just beyond the

second path there is a fine and rather rare fir, the **Pindrow Fir (Abies pindrow) (26)**.

Take that second turn to the right and walk through the rhododendrons to start heading uphill again.

As you walk, you may hear the sound of water cascading over tiny waterfalls and filling small ponds. This is an entirely **Artificial Watercourse (27)**, probably



Almost opposite the “lily pond”, on the corner of a path which leads downhill, is an interesting maple – the **Paperbark Maple (Acer griseum) (22)**. This tree, which is native to Central China, has orange-red bark which peels back in thin, papery layers.

Continue on the path passing an entrance to the Rockery Lawn and head west along the main path of the garden. You will soon be walking through a plantation of tall **Douglas Firs (Pseudotsuga menziesii) (23)** which are native to western North America. Notice their distinctive “corky” bark. These trees, planted around 1901, are some of the tallest on the estate, several being over 40m (139ft) tall. Despite their name, they are not really firs!

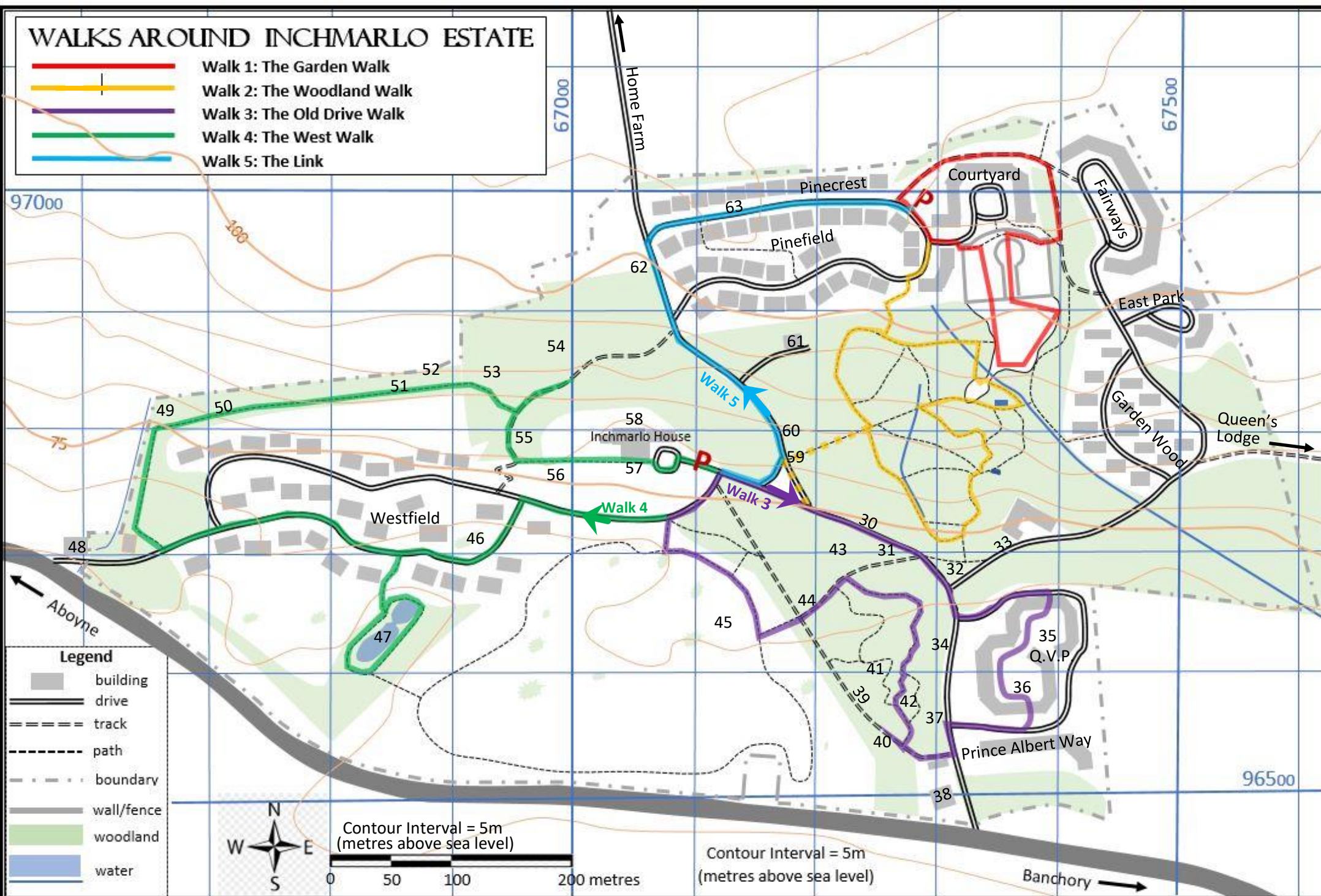
When you are among the tallest Douglas firs, take a path to the left (south). Take care. This is a fairly steep, windy, and rocky path. When you get to the junction at the bottom, though, you will be rewarded by a pair of interesting trees.

The most obvious is the red, spiral trunk of the **Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) (24)**. The Metasequoia is an example of a “living fossil”. It was widely



WALKS AROUND INCHMARLO ESTATE

- Walk 1: The Garden Walk
- Walk 2: The Woodland Walk
- Walk 3: The Old Drive Walk
- Walk 4: The West Walk
- Walk 5: The Link



Legend

- building
- drive
- track
- path
- boundary
- wall/fence
- woodland
- water

