

# Benmore

Forestry Commission's - Foresters training School (1930-1965)

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Benmore Arboretum

B&W Photos taken 1928-30

By

**Robert Moyes Adam**

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Colour Photos taken 2006

By

**Alexander Robertson**

St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

# Benmore Country House

**Up to the 18th century**, Benmore Estate was mostly deer forest and favourite hunting ground for the *Duke of Argyll's*.

**1831:** The estate was bought by *Ross Wilson* in, who built a small house on it.

**1849:** *John Lamont* bought the estate and enlarged the house.

**1862:** *Piers Patrick*, a wealthy Californian, bought the estate enlarged the house, added the tower and stable block and the gate lodge (which today is the shop and restaurant). It was *Piers Patrick* who planted the magnificent *Sequoiadendron giganteum* avenue.

**1865:** *James Duncan*, a sugar broker, bought the estate and built the glass houses and an experimental sugar refinery. He also had 6 million trees around the estate.

**1865:** *Henry John Younger*, of Younger's Ale fame, acquired the estate which remained in the family for 40 years. To the Younger family we all owe a debt for gifting their beloved and famous **Younger Botanic Garden**, now known as the **Benmore Botanic Garden**.

**1829:** The estate was taken over by the **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**. Today, Botanic Garden extends over 120 acres and over 300 species of rhododendron; Bhutanese and Chilean plantings and, of course, *Piers Patrick's* spectacular avenue of Giant Redwoods.

**1930-1965:** The mansion served as **Forestry Commission Forester Training School** from **1930**. Students lodged in the tower and most of the mansion was used for class rooms.

Source: **Country House Life in the Highlands: The Younger Family at Benmore, 1889-1929** by David Younger in which he shares his memories of the life and times at Benmore. The *booklet is available from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and at the shop at Benmore Botanic Garden*







## Benmore Mansion – Forestry Commission Forester Training School 1930



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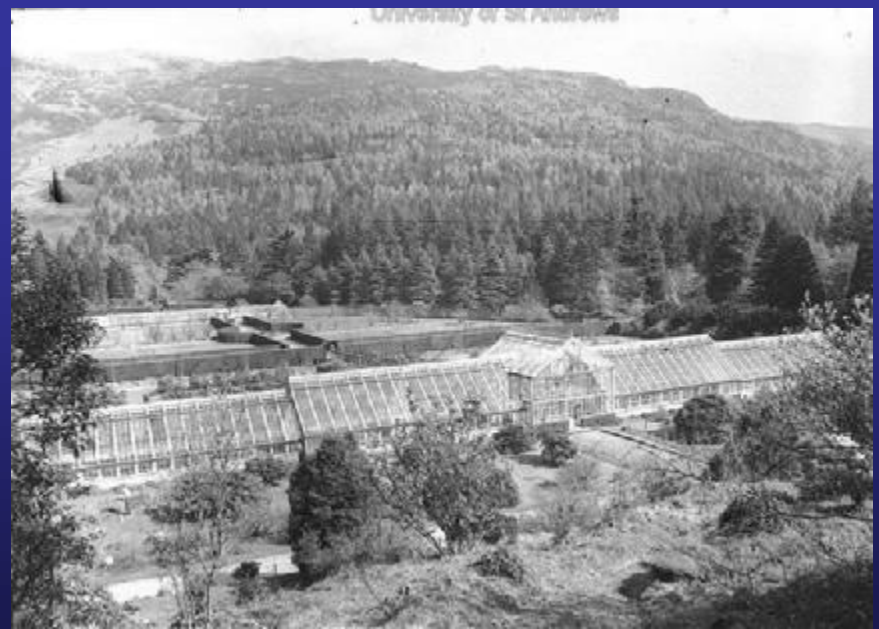




Piers Patrick's giant redwood avenue planted in 1863



Left: Piers Patrick's giant redwood avenue he planted in 1863; (*top right*) The policies planted by James Duncan in 1865 and (*bottom right*) some of his glass houses



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River Eachaig

























Sitting by a Douglas fir one of the two tallest trees in Britain at 213 ft (69 m). The other, also a Douglas fir at 213 ft is by the Hermtage Falls, Craigvinean Forest, Inver.





Douglas fir, one of the two tallest trees in Britain at 213 ft (69 m), dwarfs its neighbours







