



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for nature

Inverewe

Pinewood Trail

Description

The landscape around Inverewe has changed a lot over thousands of years. Trees have come and gone, depending on the climate, soils and influence of humans and animals. Walk the Pinewood Trail and find out how the landscape has evolved and what may happen next.

Grade

Moderate

Terrain

There are some inclines and the terrain is rough in places. There are also steps which make it unsuitable for wheelchairs.

Distance

1¼ miles / 2km

Time

Approximately 45 mins

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 19

Facilities

Parking
Restaurant
Suitable for picnics
Dogs welcome on lead
Shop



The Trust is supported by



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

1 A sapling's story

Admire the view overlooking Poolewe village. The majestic Corsican pines, just in front of you, were planted 100 years ago. When those trees were tiny saplings, many visitors to Poolewe arrived by steam ship. The disembarking passengers would have seen crops growing in the fields and stacks of peat by each croft house, but not the wooded landscape you see today.

Enter the plantation by the stone steps.

2 Shades of green

Notice the different shades of conifers in the plantation. Scots pine is the only native conifer used for timber. Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine were introduced from North America. They can grow in our poor soils but may be blown down before they mature.

3 Clinging on

The moorland landscape you see on the other side of the loch is typical of large areas of Wester Ross. More woodland existed here thousands of years ago but climate changes and clearance by people have reduced the amount of native woodland.

4 Ancient woods

The mountains in the distance are the spectacular Torridon hills. An ancient Scots pine wood still grows there, having survived at Beinn Eithe for thousands of years. The 'Great Wood of Caledon' covered vast areas of Scotland thousands of years ago when the climate was more favourable.

5 Clues to the past

The rock you are standing on is Torridonian sandstone, forming the underlying geology for much of the surrounding area. The stunted trees you can see are struggling to grow in the rocky terrain. Typical moorland plants such as heather and crowberry, growing nearby, provide clues as to how the landscape looked before this forest was planted.



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Scots pine



Pine marten



Crossbill

6 Future harmony

The blocks of forest that blanket the moor are typical of many post-World War II forestry plantations that were planted to provide timber. These dark plantations do not favour wildlife and will not be replaced. Future management on the wider Inverewe Estate will encourage the natural growth of native trees wherever they are able to flourish. The aim is to achieve a diverse landscape that includes a harmonious mixture of native woodland and moorland, which will provide a habitat for wildlife.

7 Hill of the shieling

The beautiful mountain before you is Beinn Airigh Charr (meaning hill of the shieling). In the past people lived in shielings during the summer while their animals grazed the mountain pasture. Grazing has increased with the introduction of sheep and rising numbers of deer. This has prevented trees from growing, resulting in the treeless landscape in front of you.

8 Food for thought

This area was cleared of lodgepole pine in 1998, allowing plenty of light for new trees to grow. The birch is a pioneering tree with a near-weightless seed that can travel far on the wind. It is the first tree to colonise this open ground, forming new woodland.

The attractive trees with orange bark are Scots pines that eventually may become very old 'granny pines'. They will provide food for seed-eating birds such as crossbills and some of the seed may grow into the future generation of pines.

Follow the trail back to the forest gate and restaurant.

Inverewe Pinewood Trail



Visitor Centre and Garden Entrance

Car park

Restaurant

A832

Steps

Road crossing point

Gate

Steps

Steps

Pinewood Trail

Viewpoint

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