

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
at Cheltenham and Gloucester  
Cheltenham  
The Park  
University of Gloucestershire  
Registered in England as a Charity: 232580  
Robinswood Hill Country Park  
Conservation Centre  
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust  
Tel: 01452 383333  
Reservoir Road  
Gloucester GL4 6SX  
www.glocestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk  
Tel: 0844 8010001  
www.glos.ac.uk

As a supporter we'll keep you informed and involved with our progress and plans. You will receive: four mailings a year of our *Wildlife* newsletter, details of over 100 events to take part in and the knowledge you are doing your bit to look after Gloucestershire's wildlife and wild places.

The Trust then please join as a member. As a member you will receive your welcome pack with our magazine *Wildlife*, the national magazine *Natural World*, local new updates, events leaflet and information about the Reserves and volunteering.

**FOR OFFICE USE  
Park**

## Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

# Exploring the grounds of The Park

The history and wildlife of this beautiful University of Gloucestershire site.



Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future

### Membership Form

Your support is vital to our work so please do join The Trust as a Member:

- £24 Individual (annually)
- £42 Family\* (annually)
- £12 Concessions (annually)

\* Family membership includes membership of *Wildlife Watch*.

The most helpful way you can give is by Direct Debit. Please provide your email or phone number for us to contact you for your bank details, or request a form by ticking this box:

Please copy or send this form to the address below.

Title/s	First name/s
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Surname	
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Address	
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Postcode	
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Telephone	<hr/>
Email	<hr/>

As a member you will receive your welcome pack with our magazine *Wildlife*, the national magazine *Natural World*, local new updates, events leaflet and information about the Reserves and volunteering.

Please return to:  
**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust  
FREEPOST GR1123  
Conservation Centre  
Robinswood Hill Country Park  
Reservoir Road  
GLOUCESTER GL4 6ZZ**

## The Wildlife of The Park

### Natural History of The Park

With its distinctive teardrop or pear shape, The Park is a serene leafy sanctuary, hidden away from the bustle of Cheltenham's Regency town centre.

Surrounded by a road, the grounds cover 9.5 hectares and are typical of a formal landscaped garden of a large house. The public are welcome to join university staff and students in exploring the area all year round, from daffodils in the spring to vibrant autumn colours. The site has been surveyed by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, which is working with the university to develop biodiversity and encourage more wildlife within the site.

Common Oak

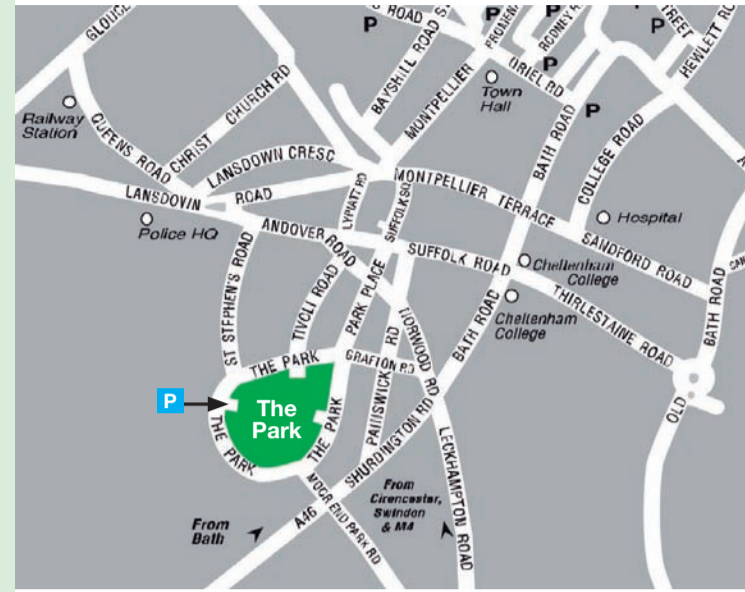


Autumn fungi



### How to find The Park

[www.glos.ac.uk/travel/pages/park.aspx](http://www.glos.ac.uk/travel/pages/park.aspx)



University of Gloucestershire  
The Park  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL50 2RH

This guide was produced in partnership between the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and University of Gloucestershire, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on May 6, 2009. With special thanks to Graham King, the Mitchell Harris Partnership, the Estates Department and Archives and Special Collection Department at the University of Gloucestershire, and Jeremy Doe and Richard Spyyee, Ecologists at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust  
[www.glocestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.glocestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk)

University of Gloucestershire  
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Spring daffodils and crocuses near Fullwood House

### The Meadow

Native woodland species here include nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, lords and ladies *Arum maculatum*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, red campion *Silene dioica*, hedge woundwort *Stachys sylvatica*, and upright hedge parsley *Tonlis japonica*. Numerous weeds include ground elder *Aegopodium podagraria*, lesser burdock *Arctium minus* and green alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*.



Lesser Burdock  
Photo: Les Binns

Red Campion  
Photo: Philip Precey

Enchanter's Nightshade  
Photo: Dave Kilbey

Primrose  
Photo: Dave Kilbey

### People of The Park

The University Estates Department care for the site and more than 900 trees, supported by **Graham King**, from arboricultural consultants Tree King Consulting Ltd, and landscape architects **Mitchell Harris Partnership**.

The university is working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to increase diversity on the whole site, including putting bat and bird boxes in the trees. Grounds team leader **Gerry Archer** has worked for the team since 1970, and the three cedars he grew from seed now face the lake from Fullwood House.



Giant Sequoia

This leaflet is dedicated to the memory of former academic **Michael Hickey**, who wrote and published *Trees and Shrubs of The Park*.

This book, and a wide range of other information about the area, can be found at the University of Gloucestershire's Archives and Special Collections Service, which is open to the public by appointment.

Staff are always happy to help, and to find out more, telephone **01242 714851** or email [archives@glos.ac.uk](mailto:archives@glos.ac.uk)

### Shrub Borders

There are some old hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice stools. Large areas of ground are covered by dense stands of 'Irish ivy' *Hedera hibernica*. Within some of the borders are hybrid bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* x *H. hispanica*.

In one area of ivy there are more than 50 spikes of ivy broomrape *Orobancha hederae*. This is a 'Nationally Scarce' species mainly restricted to south-west coastal regions, but is extending its range eastwards using cultivar ivy species as host (it is parasitic on *Hedera*) in gardens, parks and cemeteries. In many parks and gardens it is probably introduced as a 'curiosity plant'. Its distribution in Gloucestershire is interesting: it occurs in a few sites in and near the Wye Valley (including Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Lancaut Nature Reserve), where its native status cannot be doubted, and in and around Cheltenham (including on Leckhampton Hill). It is recorded as growing in a garden in Cheltenham (from introduced seed) in the 1948 Flora of Gloucestershire and confirmed as still present in the same place in 1955 in the 1986 Supplement to the Flora of Gloucestershire. It has been recorded in scattered localities around Cheltenham in recent years. Whatever its origins, it is a notable plant for the campus.



Yarrow

### Car Park

The car park supports areas of low, herb-rich (but not species-rich) sward growing within the 'grass pavers' parking bays. Species present include yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, wild strawberry *Fragaria vesca* and black medick *Medicago lupulina*.

### The Lake

The shallow ornamental lake was designed in the shape of Africa by Thomas Billings, to complement other areas of his botanical gardens reflecting different parts of the globe. Today, it is heavily shaded by mature trees and shrubs, and populated by ducks, geese and kingfishers. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is working with the University to find ways of increasing diversity in and around the water to encourage more wildlife.



Mallard duck

### Winter in The Park

With a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, The Park changes colour and character throughout the year.



Fullwood House



Snowdrops



Wew

The Boathouse



Elwes



Digging for victory

### The Park Estate

Today The Park is home to more than 900 trees, thriving on elegantly landscaped grounds around a mixture of Regency and contemporary buildings.

It began life as it appears today in 1831, when Thomas Billings bought the land, intending to build the Gloucestershire Zoological, Botanical and Horticultural Gardens.

Plans included a bear pit, elephants, rhinos, polar bears and conservatories, but despite a share issue and official opening on the day of Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838, the business failed.

The following year the grounds were sold to architect Samuel Whitfield Daukes, who also designed Francis Close Hall, today another University campus.

Samuel Daukes turned The Park into pleasure grounds and built the villas which can be seen today. The entrance gateposts near Fullwood Lodge, where the walk begins, date from this period.

The focal point of the estate, Fullwood House, was built in 1847, and in 1899 owner Mrs McKnight Crawford installed the conservatory which bears her initials. In 1931 the house was bought by St Mary's Training College, with Earl Grey laying the foundation stone for halls of residence in 1939. Although damaged by bombing the following year, today Fullwood House remains at the heart of The Park.

The site has seen numerous changes but still retains much of its character, with the original pleasure grounds still fulfilling their role with regular sporting events, picnics and strolls.

### The Planned Park

The ambitious design by Thomas Billings, which included a crescent of villas and grand promenade. The plan was engraved by J. Fisher from *Griffiths History of Cheltenham and its Vicinity*, by Samuel Young Griffith 3rd Ed, 1838 London: Longman, Hurst and Co.



Fullwood House

### For your Safety

Some areas are uneven under foot, and can become muddy, so please take care. Beware of the water and please be careful around the pond's edge. Keep children with you at all times. Dogs, apart from assistance dogs, are not allowed on the site. Please remember that The Park is a working environment for students and staff.

### Facilities

Refreshments are available during term time from the refectory and vending machines. Pay and display parking is available. Information boards can be found in the car park and near Fullwood Lodge.

### Trees of Interest

Most trees are numbered, and those of interest have been painted with a small yellow spot, which will not harm the tree. Some of the specimens, such as the Dawn Redwood, are now endangered in the wild. Inevitably, some trees are nearing the end of their natural lives or are diseased, and need to be removed. New trees are regularly planted. All trees have a T number for identification purposes.



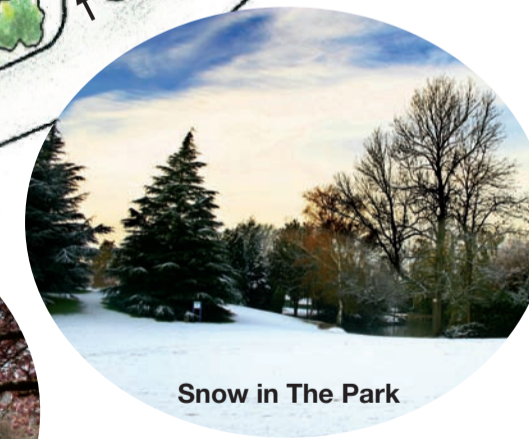
Strawberry Tree



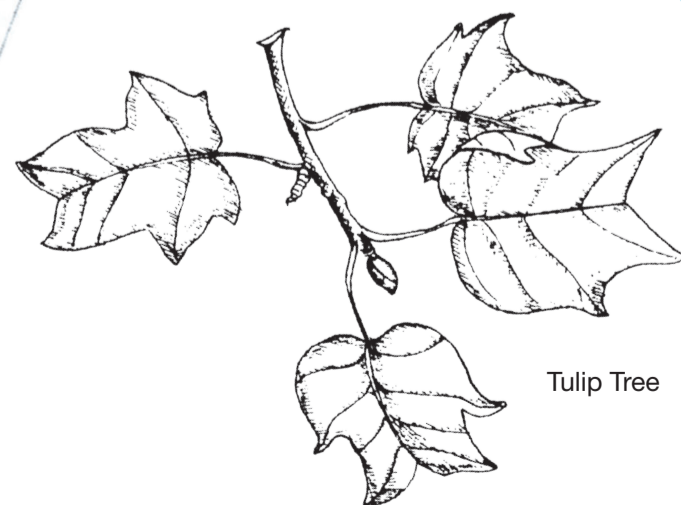
Tree life



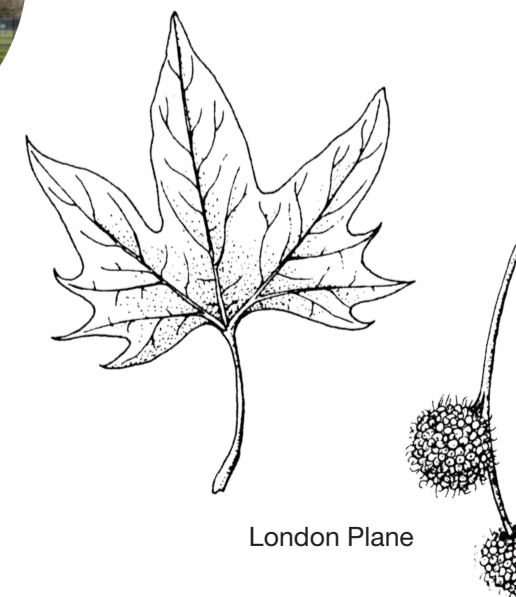
Cherry blossom



Snow in The Park









Tulip Tree



London Plane

### KEY

-  Suggested route
-  Hard surface paths
-  Trees of interest
-  Information boards
-  Parking
-  Refectory & Toilets

- A Red Oak** *Quercus rubra*  
Planted c1996  
This tree has distinctive striped bark and its hard wood has a wide range of uses.
- B London Plane** *Platanus x acerifolia* (T585)  
Planted c1879  
A cross between the Oriental Plane and the Western Plane from North America, this fast growing tree adapts well to urban living and is seen in many cities around the world.
- C Felled Beech** *Fagus* (T578)  
Planted c1909  
This tree fell victim to honey fungus and sadly had to be felled. It now provides seating next to where it once stood.
- D E Corsican Pine** *Pinus nigra maritima* (T589, 590)  
Planted c1849  
Unlike most pines this fast growing species can tolerate limestone soil, and is therefore widely seen in the Cotswolds. It is one of the Black Pines which range from the northern Mediterranean from Spain to the Black Sea.
- F R Giant Sequoia** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*  
Planted c1889 (T597, T459)  
Introduced to Britain in 1856, this rapidly growing tree's timber has few uses. It stands well against the wind but is prone to lightning strikes.
- G Strawberry Tree** *Arbutus unedo* (T612)  
Planted c1959  
More a large shrub than a tree, this is native to Cornwall where it just survived the ice ages. Flowers and fruit appear at the same time, and it gets its name from the resemblance of the red fruit to strawberries.
- H The Cedar of Lebanon** *Cedrus libani* (T593)  
Planted c1944  
The resin of this ornamental tree was used by the ancient Egyptians for mummification, and it carries significance for a range of civilisations in the ancient and modern world. Today it can be seen on the Lebanese flag.
- I Tulip Tree** *Liriodendron tulipifera* (T534)  
Planted c1964  
A distinctive species which takes its name from the tulip shaped flowers produced by trees over ten years old.
- J Yew** *Taxus baccata* (T452)  
Planted c1831  
A long lived native tree often seen in churchyards, with durable and decorative timber. Its foliage was once used to produce taxol, used in cancer treatments, and now produced artificially.
- K L M Dawn Redwoods** (T467, T468, T469)  
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* Planted c1989  
Known from fossil records to have existed since the Liassic period, it was discovered in 1941 in Szechuan Province. This 'living fossil' was introduced in 1948, and is a deciduous conifer, distantly related to the redwoods of North America.
- O The Blue Atlas Cedar** *Cedrus atlantica 'glauca'*  
Planted c1969 (T457)  
One of the four distinct species of cedar, ranging from the Atlas Cedar in the mountains of north Africa, to the Deodar Cedar in the Himalayas.
- P Q N Cedars** *Cedrus deodora* (T456a, T458, T466)  
Planted c1979  
Three cedars planted by Grounds Team Leader Gerry Archer.
- S Sweet Gum** *Liquidambar styraciflua* (T494)  
Planted c1969  
North American species, best known for its autumn colours.
- T False Acacia** *Robinia pseudoacacia* (T541)  
Planted c1869 - 1889  
Suited to dry and poor soils, this Mediterranean native is not a member of the Acacia family, but like them is related to the pea family.
- U Common Oak** *Quercus robur* (T313)  
Planted c1839 - 1859  
Native to the northern hemisphere the oak tree supports a huge and diverse range of species, from tiny invertebrates to birds. Its wood is used widely and the tree symbolises strength.

