



Look out, Look up, Be present

Why not take time to find some calm, peaceful spaces around the Campus where you can de-stress and enjoy the surroundings.



Laver Pond

Enjoy the sound of water while admiring the wild flowers

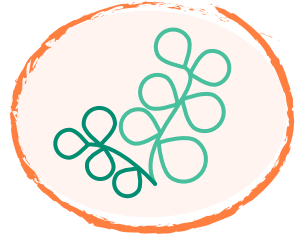
/// [dated.chair.slave](#)



Sunken Garden

A shaded garden that used to have a huge glass canopy (now at the Imperial!)

/// [medium.chemistry.twice](#)



Eucalyptus

Marvel at this impressive tree growing by a stream

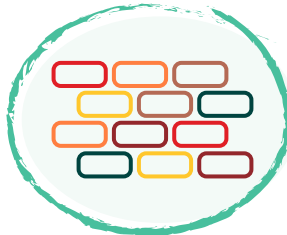
/// [hooked.finishing.vent](#)



Plantation

Sit on a bench and enjoy the exotic plants – can you spot the bug hotel?

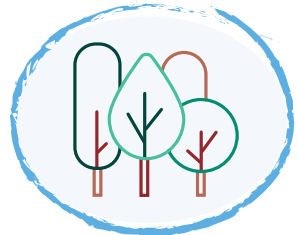
/// [gravel.works.gossip](#)



Redwood & Walled Garden

Admire one of the tallest trees in the World!

/// [fairly.sticks.buzz](#)



Lower Hoopern Valley

A grassy slope where you can look over the stream to the Millennium Woods

/// [shells.sushi.start](#)



Conifer Collection

An interesting collection donated as part of Edinburgh conservation

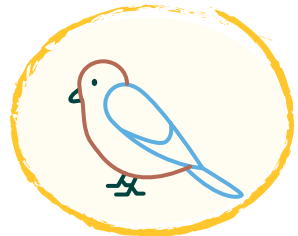
/// [beyond.vision.usage](#)



Reed Hall Pond

A formal pond home to ducks, dragonflies, frogs and koi carp

/// [vivid.enjoy.gown](#)



Birks Arboretum

A bench where you can listen out for the wild birds

/// [deceased.author.pillow](#)

Look out, Look up, Be present



Laver Pond This is a manmade watercourse where water can run from the top of the campus through the plantation and ends in a pond at the bottom of Stocker Road. Biodiversity is considered strongly in the plantings choices in this area including a strip of wild flowers along the roadside. The more exotic Gunnera is planted where the stream runs into the pond, this plant is related to rhubarb and the leaves can reach 8ft in height. Several insects live in this pond, badgers live in the shrubs and trees running up the hill and woodpeckers and tree creepers have been seen in the area.



Sunken Garden This area is planted with some wonderful shade loving plants including quite a lot of ferns. Originally it was covered by a large glasshouse which can now be seen at the Imperial Wetherspoons down the road. You can still see evidence of its presence in the design of the sunken garden and the boiler chimney just on your right up the steps towards Reed Hall. This location is very peaceful and hidden away while still being very close to the centre of the campus.



Eucalyptus This Eucalyptus is such an impressive specimen, they develop amazing reaching crowns and beautiful peeling bark that comes off in huge strips. In the UK Eucalyptus are planted most often for specimen trees but are also being experimented with as a climate resilient forestry tree. Eucalyptus are evergreen trees and have nectar rich flowers which attract a wide range of pollinators. They have been found to have positive impacts on soil health, their deep root systems help to stabilise soils and the compounds in the leaves help to inhibit the growth of certain pathogens.



Plantation This is a naturalised area that runs along Stocker road from Laver Pond to the pond at the bottom of Stocker Road. There are a lot of exotic plants throughout the whole area and several benches to relax on. A bug hotel has been constructed at the pond near the bottom of the stream to encourage more insects to overwinter here.



Redwood & Walled Garden The tallest trees in the world are Coastal redwood trees, they can live for up to 2200 years and can reach up to 115m in height. They are native along the Pacific coast of North America where there is enough water for them to grow. The tallest trees grow in valleys and gullies where there are streams all year round and high levels of fog. They grow so tall in some places a habitat can evolve in the canopy living in the leaf litter and fog. Clouded Salamanders have been found living 40m up in the air in the canopy.



Lower Hoopern Valley There is a grassy slope here where you can sit and look out into the Millenium Woods planted on the other side of the stream. The area is managed for wildlife and biodiversity with mosaic mowing and some native tree and hedge planting. You can either sit on the bench at the top of the hill or walk throughout the area on the public rights of way including down to the stream at the bottom of the hill. There are many species of bats and raptors that live in the valley.



Conifer collection There is a collection of conifers planted through here that have been donated to the university as part of a conservation project from Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Some of the trees along here are very rare and interesting including Pinus ponderosa native to the Western US and Canada. It has amazingly long needles and can reach 70m tall where they are native. The species name 'ponderosa' is derived from the latin for heavy or ponderous referring to the impressive sizes of the tree.



Reed Hall Pond This pond was created as part of the original 19th century landscape around Reed Hall. The planting around the pond and Reed more generally was laid out with help from the famous Veitch family nursery based near to Exeter. More modern and recent plantings try as closely as possible to follow this theme. The pond is home to ducks, dragonflies, frogs and Koi Carp fish.



Birks Arboretum Birks Bank was planted as an arboretum and is home to several interesting conifers. It is also an important area for wildlife including having a new bug hotel built alongside the path.