

University of East Anglia

# TREE TRAIL



[norfolkfestivalofnature.co.uk](http://norfolkfestivalofnature.co.uk)



The University of East Anglia's 145 hectare campus has many varied habitats, including five County Wildlife Sites, and is home to over 5,700 species. Our trail will take you to visit a few of its most notable trees.

Enjoy  
your tree  
discovery!



## A BIT OF HISTORY

The land on which the UEA was built in the 1960s was acquired by Norwich City Council in 1925, and laid out as a municipal golf course in the 1930s. Prior to this, the area had been agricultural land, owned by the Earlham estate: Earlham Hall and its park lie a short distance to the north. Trees were planted in the early nineteenth century to ornament the fields close to the approach to the hall and earlier still as parts of hedges at field boundaries on the estate.

## THE BROAD

The UEA Broad, fringed by magnificent trees, is a recent man-made feature, in spite of its wild and natural appearance. It was dug in the 1970s, after the University was established, to provide aggregate for building the new route of the nearby A11 road – and to provide an ornament to the campus grounds. Most of the surrounding trees have colonised naturally since then, but some are older, having grown on the banks of the River Yare or on the low meadows beside it before the University was here.

We would like to offer our thanks to Tom Everett and Prof Tom Williamson, both of the UEA, who provided invaluable information for the trail, and to David Luckhurst and Alexandra Last, the artists of this beautiful map.



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### 1 SWEET CHESTNUT *Castanea sativa*

Known as the Spanish Copse as the trees here, Sweet Chestnuts, were known as Spanish Chestnuts in the 18th and 19th centuries due to their southern European origins. These were planted in the early 19th century to ornament the fields of the Earlham Hall and the University was built around them.



### 2 DAWN REDWOOD *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

This prehistoric tree, thought to be non-existent for many years with only records from fossils surviving, was re-discovered in China in the 1940s. It is a deciduous conifer and mature specimens can grow to 100ft tall.



### 3 ENGLISH OAK *Quercus robur* HAWTHORN *Crataegus monogyna*

These native UK trees were planted into a field boundary hedge that was probably here for over 200 years, with the Oak and Hawthorn likely dating from the early 20th century.



### 4 FALLEN DOWN CRACK WILLOW *Salix fragilis*

Located down the boardwalk towards Cringleford, the Crack Willow acquires its name from the sound it makes when shedding its brittle branches. This native tree usually grows alongside river courses and shed branches can be carried downstream to colonise new areas as branches easily root.



### 5 ALDER *Alnus glutinosa*

Seen from the boardwalk on the other side of the river, the Alder, native to the UK, thrives in moist boggy soils especially near riverbanks. It rots slowly if kept underwater and was therefore used widely for jetties and piling. It also makes excellent charcoal which used to be used to manufacture gunpowder.



### 6 LIME *Tilia europaea*

The leaves are a great food source for caterpillars such as the Lime Hawk and the flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees. Throughout the war Lime blossom was used to make a relaxing tea. These trees can grow to 50-75ft.



### 7 FIELD MAPLE *Acer campestre*

The Field Maple is native to England and Wales but not Scotland or Ireland. Leaves are small and green with five lobes, turning a golden brown in autumn to produce a vibrant seasonal show. The wood has been highly prized throughout history for making musical instruments. The mature height is 40ft.



### 8 ANCIENT OAK *likely a hybrid*

The oldest tree on campus, this fine oak was probably planted in the 17th century. Its odd form is due to the fact that it was repeatedly cut to produce a crop of poles used for firewood, fencing and other uses. Veteran trees like this are important wildlife habitat, as well as being important parts of our historic landscape.



### 9 LARCH *Larix decidua*

A non-native tree that was introduced to the UK in the 1600s. The Larch is a deciduous conifer that produces clusters of green needle-like leaves in the spring that turn a wonderful golden brown in the autumn months. Larch trees can grow to heights of 70ft and can live up to 250 years old.



### 10 SCOTS PINE *Pinus sylvestris*

The Scots Pine is native to northern Europe and one of only three conifers native to the UK. This tree is seen throughout our Breckland areas, flourishing in the heathland habitat. Mature trees can reach heights of 100ft and can live up to an amazing 700 years old.

