



# Streatham Campus Horticultural Highlights



University  
of Exeter

The University of Exeter’s Streatham Campus is acknowledged as the most beautiful and botanically interesting of any UK University. Streatham Campus is described by *The Times* as the ‘best-gardened campus in Britain’ and by *The Independent* as having a ‘sublime’ setting.

### Map key

Reed Pond

Reed Arboretum and Italianate Garden

Poole Gate and Old Botanic Garden\*

Plantation

Business School Courtyard and Alpine Beds\*

Magnolia Lawn

Taddiforde Valley and Millennium Magnolias

Edinburgh Wild Conifer Collection

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Birks Bank Arboretum

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Reed Walled Garden and Azaras

**C**

International Garden

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**G**

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**L**

**M**

**N**

**O**

**P**

\*suitable for wheelchair access

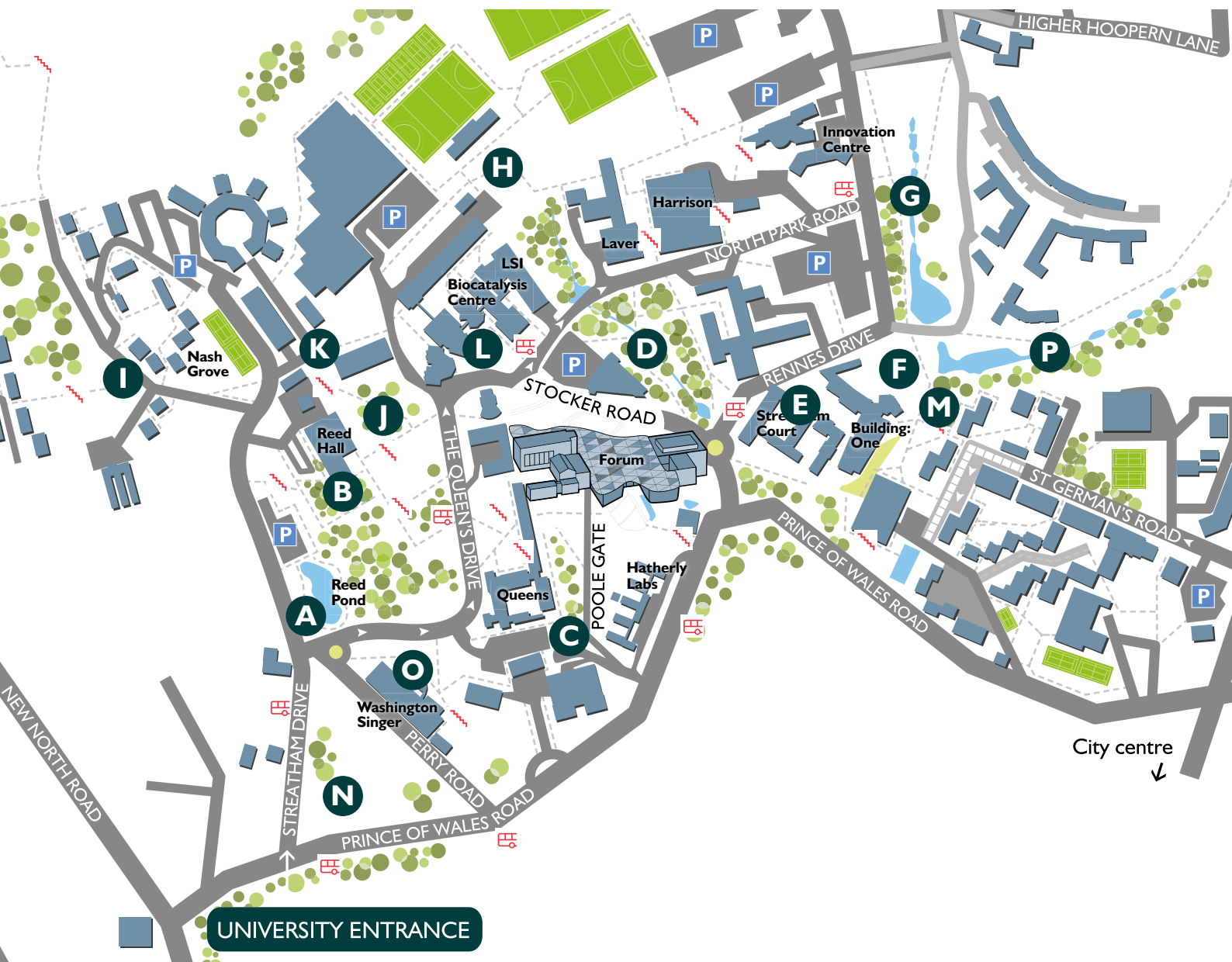
### Visiting the campus

The Line 4 bus stops at the Streatham Campus. Limited parking is available on campus. For further information on parking and directions to the campus please visit: [exeter.ac.uk](https://www.exeter.ac.uk) 🔍 ‘directions’

The campus is moderately hilly and may not be suitable for people with limited mobility.

There are many cafés and restaurants on campus for you to enjoy during your visit. Please see our website for a full list of places to eat and drink – [exeter.ac.uk](https://www.exeter.ac.uk) 🔍 ‘eat and shop’





## Walks

There are a number of self-guided walks to enjoy around campus. For further information and to download the guides, please visit:

[exeter.ac.uk](https://www.exeter.ac.uk) 🔍 'grounds'

A team of 29 staff work on the 141 hectares of Streatham Campus – including the nursery and outdoor sports facilities – 365 days a year.

The work of the Grounds staff includes the care of specialist plant collections, botanical specimen propagation, tree and arboricultural works, pot and bedding plant production, football, hockey, rugby, lacrosse, cricket and tennis playing surface maintenance, and floral decoration works.

The Streatham Campus is a registered botanic garden and displays examples of the University's National Collection of Azara (a South American evergreen shrub).

The original planting on campus dates back to the 19th century, when the grounds of Reed (then Streatham) Hall were laid by the Veitch family of nurserymen. This style and quality of planting has inspired the development of the campus. Since the University was granted its Charter in 1955,

when most of the estate was fields, successive Grounds Managers and horticultural staff have exploited the wonderful micro-climates which the buildings and natural undulations create, to grow rare, tender and exotic plants, continually enhancing campus collections and improving the biodiversity and resources for learning and enjoyment.

We support sustainability and lifelong learning, for example we have student projects studying magpies, squirrels, bees, newts and amphibians, using the campus as a living laboratory. We have created bug hotels and insect palaces. We retain the services of an RSPB recommended specialist to bi-annually undertake bird counts across the campus; this helps us monitor the ecology of the grounds.

## Guidance for visitors

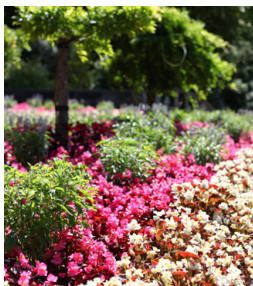
- Please remember that the grounds and roads on the University are private and you visit at your own risk
- Children must be supervised at all times
- Please keep to paths, do not disturb the wildlife or pick flowers and do not cause damage to property, trees plants or lawns
- We do not allow barbecues, fires or camping
- No skateboarding, roller-skating, aggressive cycling or any other activities which cause damage or annoyance
- Please listen to any additional advice given by the University staff
- Access may be restricted or permissions withdrawn at any time
- Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times
- Dog owners are required to clean up after their dog

## A Reed Pond



Created as part of the original 19th century landscape of Reed Hall, this is a traditional brick built and clay puddled pond. It features planting such as *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' and Water Lilies. The pond itself supports dragonflies, tadpoles and frogs and a variety of fish species.

## B Reed Arboretum and Italianate Garden



The original arboretum planting was laid out by the famous Veitch family of nurserymen and features some original trees and shrubs collected by plant collectors. The arboretum is a listed landscape and, as far as is practical, trees and shrubs are replaced on a like-for-like basis. The space also features artworks including a Barbara Hepworth statue 'Figure for Landscape'. The formal beds in Reed's Italianate garden are occupying the site of an old orangery. They feature a fresh display of annual bedding in spring and summer, with permanent planting of standard Wisterias. Leaving the area by the steps, a timeline has been created on the tree stump of the iconic leaning Monterey pine that was felled due to storm damage in 2016.

## C Poole Gate and Old Botanic Garden



This forms the main access route to the Forum and has been named after the Grounds Manager, Sandy Poole, who worked in and developed the grounds for over 45 years.

The Old Botanic Garden includes features such as *Photinia*, planted after the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 when she visited and opened the Forum. It also has an excellent example of *Azara microphylla* and a peacock sculpture created by students from materials recycled from hoardings used during the Forum development.

## D Plantation

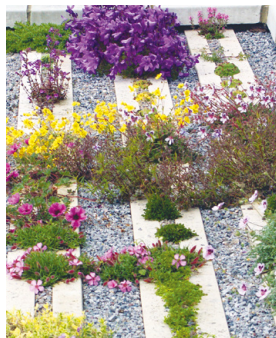


The area features a man-made watercourse following the natural contours of the grounds. It features a variety of planting including Camellias, Eucalyptus and a collection of Ferns and Azaras.

A bug hotel also provides an opportunity for wildlife habitats with the area having a peaceful and semi-natural feel in the centre of the campus.

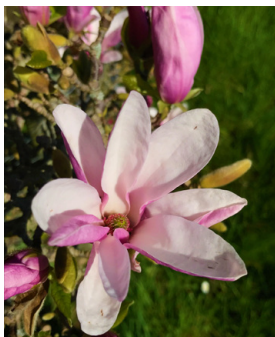


## **E** Business School Courtyard and Alpine Beds



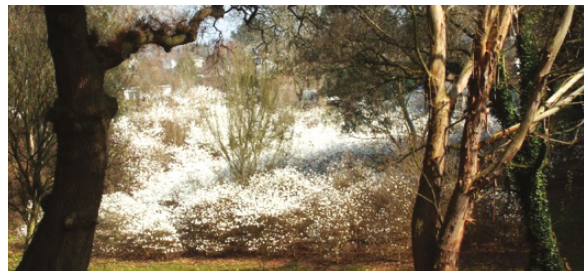
Streatham Court has a courtyard with a heather bed, water feature and art installation; the features of this small garden support a variety of habitats for wildlife. The alpine beds are located outside the Xfi building, these mimic the crevices of limestone (alkaline) and slate (acid) outcrops which specialist plants have adapted to.

## **F** Magnolia Lawn



Over a dozen Magnolia species have been introduced to the lawn at the front of the Xfi Building. Provided there has been no late frost to spoil flowering, they produce an excellent display in April/May each year.

## **G** Taddiforde Valley and Millennium Magnolias



Palms and Tree Ferns grow in and around the pond areas. The head of the Valley features landscaping planted in the Millennium with a mix of Cornus and Magnolia stellata underplanted with bulbs giving spring and autumn interest. The group planting of white stellata can resemble snow in April/May. A variety of bird life uses the watercourses, including mallards and herons some of which also nest in the area. It is vital that dogs are kept on leads to avoid disturbance of wildlife.

## **H** Edinburgh Wild Conifer Collection



The Edinburgh Wild Conifer Collection has been established in association with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Their scientists

collected seeds from the wild in various parts of the world and they monitor the performance (vigour, form, etc) to determine what trees may be suitable for cultivation in the UK.

**I Birks Bank Arboretum**



The arboretum boasts, within its features, rare Pine trees such as the Bristle Cone Pine (*Pinus aristata*) and the Big Cone Pine (*Pinus coulteri*). These are rarely found growing and thriving in the UK.

**J Reed Walled Garden and Azaras**



The large walled garden around Reed Hall would have been used historically to produce fruit and vegetables for the house. The microclimates it produces are now used to grow tender and unusual plants.

Sections are also used to display our National Collection of the semi-evergreen shrub Azara from South America.

**K International Garden**



Opened in 2016 to celebrate the University's Diamond Jubilee, this garden reflects the original continental plant collecting expeditions of the Veitch family of nurserymen. It has been designed to acknowledge the Veitch family's important role in our heritage and to also celebrate the University's international link with students from every continent studying here. Five feature gardens incorporate plants from Asia, Australasia, Africa, the Americas and Europe.

**L Cacti Beds**



These cacti beds were originally created from plant donations from the local Cacti Society. They are designed to mimic the natural conditions of arid

Central America and illustrate natural plant survival mechanisms eg, spines reducing surface area for translocation and protecting fleshy stems.



## M Hybrid Azaleas



A spectacular display of Exbury Hybrid Azaleas can be seen on this banking during April and May.

## N Cherry Orchard



In spring the lawns to the front of the Washington Singer building burst into life with an abundance of pink and white blossom, demonstrating the variety of ornamental flowering cherry trees planted in the area. The bankings are also full of purple crocus, depicting support from the local Round Table to eradicate Polio from the world. Vaccinated people have purple fingers in some areas where the eradication programme is active.

University of Exeter Grounds Office  
Estate Services Centre  
Off Cl desdale Avenue  
Exeter EX4 4QX

## O Wildflower Roof, Henry Wellcome Building



The wildflower roof acts as magnet for pollinating insects, creating a habitat which further enhances biodiversity on the campus.

## P Diamond Waterway



The Diamond Waterway is a man-made landscape designed and created during the 1970s to

work with the contours of the campus and to channel existing streams and watercourses into a series of weirs and ponds. The flow through the waterway networks had deteriorated over time, but a recent investment via Alumni meant the issue could be addressed through silt removal and improvements to the watercourse walls and weirs. This has had a positive impact on the oxygen content and invertebrate numbers, creating a more diverse aquatic ecosystem and sustaining this campus feature for the future.

Telephone: 01392 725531  
Email: [grounds@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:grounds@exeter.ac.uk)

[exeter.ac.uk/visit/campuses/gardens](https://exeter.ac.uk/visit/campuses/gardens)