

A PLACE
TO DISCOVER
YOUR GUIDE
TO THE CAMPUS





THIS PAGE:
The Lawn
FRONT COVER:
Grey Heron
North Lodge
The May Cippico Fountain

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A WARM WELCOME

Heriot-Watt University is a warm and welcoming place, which offers a superb environment for both study and research. Our student community is made up of bright, highly imaginative and self-motivated individuals, working closely alongside our progressive and energetic research-active academic staff.

Our Edinburgh Campus has a wealth of things to discover and explore. Set in 380 acres of beautiful green parkland on the outskirts of one of the most exciting and thriving cities in Europe, the campus is renowned for its open, accessible and spacious environment.

Rich in nature, wildlife and art, the campus is yours to explore. With history, landscape, tree, bird and art trails just waiting to be discovered, you are invited to take a stroll and find out what makes the campus so special and utterly unique for yourself. Enjoy!





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- 1. The Lawn
- 2. Ash Tree
- 3. Hermiston Walk
- 4. Fuchsia 'Riccartonii'
- 5. James Watt Statue
- 6. James Watt Centre Main Entrance



A BRIEF HISTORY

Heriot-Watt University is the eighth oldest higher education institution in the UK. From its groundbreaking origins in 1821 as the Edinburgh School of Arts, the first Mechanics Institute to give ordinary people access to education in science and technology, Heriot-Watt has equipped its students to meet the rapidly evolving challenges of the modern world. Acclaimed as the first true “people’s college”, the Watt Institution was a pioneer of equal opportunities, with female students being welcomed as early as 1869, 20 years ahead of other institutions.

The name Heriot-Watt commemorates two iconic champions of innovation, enterprise and education. In 1852 the School bought its own building with money raised by a campaign to build an Edinburgh monument to celebrate the achievements of James Watt (1736-1819), the pioneer of steam power. In his honour, the School changed its name to the Watt Institution and School of Arts. In 1885, a trust bequeathed by George Heriot (1563-1623), financier and benefactor of education in his native Edinburgh, assured the institution’s future.

In 1966 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second granted the Governors of Heriot-Watt College a Royal Charter to found a University.

Three years later, Midlothian Council’s gift of the parkland estate at Riccarton, south west Edinburgh, allowed the University to expand on a new purpose built campus. In 1998 the University merged with the Scottish College of Textiles, Galashiels, an institution with its own century-long tradition of excellence in specialist education.

Today, Heriot-Watt University is internationally renowned for its innovative education, enterprise and leading-edge research. With campuses in Scotland and Dubai and 17,000 students in 150 countries registered on its courses.

Home to Europe’s first Research Park, with a current turnover of over £70 million, the Park provides the best possible location for companies to undertake the development of new products, processes and services, with access to the services and facilities of the University.

Explore our past....

Discover the groundbreaking story of two centuries of learning at Heriot-Watt and the hidden history of our Edinburgh Campus.

Visit the University Museum and Archive open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1.00 to 4.00 pm and by arrangement at other times.

 0131 451 3218  archive@hw.ac.uk



1. The Lawn
2. The Loch



PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

In moving to Riccarton we inherited a proud tradition of stewardship dating back over 700 years. From day one, the University recognised the special challenge of building the Edinburgh Campus within the historic gardens and grounds of the old Riccarton Estate. The mature and attractive woodland, sloping lawns and loch were an enviable asset to be conserved and enhanced. The challenge for the architects was to allow easy passage across the campus without destroying the magnificent woodland landscape. So it was decided that the campus would be built here, drawing the woodland into the recreational areas.

After much debate, it was agreed to build an unobtrusive brown brick university which would blend into the landscape and not stand out as a landmark design statement. What's more, the 'spine and spur' design of the academic buildings and the link to the administrative buildings was intended to allow people to move around campus without having to brave the Scottish winter weather!

The planning authority also restricted the height of the buildings to a maximum of four storeys because of the proximity of Edinburgh airport at that time. This enabled much of the campus to be screened behind the trees, thereby minimising the visual impact of a university development in the green belt.

The formal gardens to the north had already been laid out during the 18th century but we believe Sir James Gibson-Craig constructed the walled garden and artificial loch. His son, Sir William, introduced many exotic trees from north-west USA that still grace the campus today. Unusual species include the Small Tasmanian Cedar, Wellingtonia, Corsican Pine, the Cucumber Tree, the Cedar of Lebanon and the Riccarton Sweet Chestnut.

There have been three essential elements in preserving and maintaining our heritage: a landscape consultant with vision; a site conservation committee which has monitored developments on campus with a view to protecting the environment; and a dedicated and skilled landscape staff who create and maintain our landscape.



1. North Lodge
2. Swans enjoying the Loch



A LITTLE ABOUT THE FORMER ESTATE

At the heart of the estate, on the site now occupied by the Library, Museum and Archive, once stood Riccarton House, a fine mansion in the elegant setting of ornamental gardens and a loch.

Despite its serene appearance, Riccarton's history is rooted in the violent struggle for land and power in medieval Scotland. The first written reference to Riccarton dates from 1296, when Marjory of "Ricardestone" was among thousands of Scottish landowners forced to swear loyalty to King Edward I of England. In 1315, King Robert Bruce, asserting Scotland's independence after years of bloody battle, gave the lands of Richardtoun as a dowry on the marriage of his daughter Marjory to Walter, High Steward of Scotland.

By 1508, the Wardlaw family, who held Riccarton as tenants in chief from the King, had built a substantial fortified tower to protect themselves and their land. In 1610, the Craigs, a family of wealthy lawyers, bought Riccarton. Sir Lewis Craig extended the tower in 1621, transforming the grim fortress into a luxury home. Over the next two centuries the Craigs built up an extensive estate including lands in Currie, and Hermiston House.

In the late 18th century Thomas Craig introduced agricultural reforms which brought prosperity to the estate and its tenants. He enclosed the land into fields and planted the shelter belts of trees that are still a distinctive feature of the campus. In 1827 Sir James Gibson-Craig commissioned a leading architect to remodel the house in the latest Scottish Baronial style.

The Gibson-Craigs made Riccarton a hub of social and political influence, and took an active part in community life. They gifted land and money to Currie Kirk, Baberton golf club and Currie bowling green and hosted curling tournaments at Riccarton.

During the Second World War, Riccarton became an army base and afterwards, it became a resettlement camp for ex-prisoners of war then headquarters of the Royal Artillery 3rd Anti-Aircraft Group. By this time, the house had fallen into a state of disrepair and as it had become structurally unsound it was demolished in 1956.

Since the University acquired the Riccarton Estate in 1969, its verdant landscape setting has been protected throughout the development of the Edinburgh Campus.



- 1. Velvet Walk
- 2. The Lawn
- 3. West End of Velvet Walk
- 4. Hungarian Oak outside the James Watt Reception
- 5. Students relaxing on the lawn



THE GARDENS

The old gardens of Riccarton House are at the heart of the campus. The front lawn, where the Henry Prais building now stands, was used for croquet and once echoed to the cries of strutting peacocks. The present Lawn was known as the Flower Garden, with flower beds designed and planted by the mid 18th century. It was extensively modelled during the 19th century by the Gibson-Craigs to include a summer house. The Velvet Walk is a garden terrace leading to the private burial ground of the Gibson-Craig family.

Riccarton Estate also housed the Walled Garden. On the east side of the Riccarton House site, now occupied by the Library and the University Museum and Archive, are the Fire Pond, Carriage Drive and Ice House. The Fire Pond was constructed as a convenient source of water for use in the event of fire in the mansion house. The Carriage Drive was the service approach to the house from the stables. The Ice House has a deep pit used to store ice collected from the loch during the winter.





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1. Drum Yews on the Lawn
2. Rose
3. Fuchsia 'Riccartonii'
4. Velvet Walk - Foxgloves
5. Foxglove
6. Fuchsia 'Riccartonii'



THE PLANT COLLECTION

The Gibson-Craig family were avid collectors of exotic trees. One of the earliest gardeners at Riccarton was James Young. He earned lasting renown in around 1830 by developing a new fuchsia, named *F.m.riccartonii* after the estate. It remains a versatile feature of borders around the campus.

Sir James' successor, Sir William Gibson-Craig (1797-1878) was a member of the Oregon Association which sponsored famous plant collectors, William Lobb and John Jeffrey, who made many important introductions of seed from north-west USA in the 1850s. His son, Sir James Gibson-Craig 3rd Baronet (1841-1908) continued the tradition. In 1884, he invited the Scottish Arboricultural Society to view his collection and many of the trees seen and recorded that year were already large specimens.

The woodland surrounding the Lawn still contains several specimen trees from the collection and some of the exotic species are dated between 100 and 150 years old. The oldest trees on the estate are the native or naturalised hardwoods of beech, ash, sycamore and particularly the Riccarton Sweet Chestnut (also known as the Spanish Chestnut) which is several centuries old and can be found at the southern edge of the Lawn.

Gales in 1968 and 1972 removed many of the trees recorded in 1884, particularly in the Pinetum near the east avenue. Today the University continues the long tradition of conserving and replenishing Riccarton's woodland environment. Since 1969 over a quarter of a million trees have been planted here, helping to ensure that "the green woods of Riccarton" will enrich the campus for many years to come.



WILDLIFE

In 1969, the University established a site conservation committee to deal with development, conservation and management of site landscape. The continuing presence of wildlife on the campus has been one of the special qualities that make Riccarton such an attractive university environment. In recent years, it has been recognised that by aiming to conserve the natural environment, the University has achieved an environmentally sustainable campus.

Energy efficiency is exemplified by tree belts which are sited to buffer development and provide wind protection which conserves heat loss. Car park hedges filter dust and pollution and reduce wind speed for human comfort. What's more, separation of pedestrians and vehicles provides a safe and healthy environment for staff, students and visitors.

Increasing numbers of students are accommodated on-campus, reducing the energy costs of commuting off-site. Furthermore, water from roads and buildings is cleaned and returned to water courses rather than being sent down the sewers. New planting also provides green links throughout the campus, encouraging birds and wildlife to coexist within the built-up environment.

As the University has developed, wildlife has adapted to the changes in habitat. Looking ahead, the shrubberies and trees that have been introduced will continue to mature and as density increases, the quality of wildlife habitat will improve.

Visitors are invited to walk freely around the campus and enjoy the woodland, flora and fauna. This section describes what you may see on such a walk.

You can expect to see foxes, rabbits, hares, swans, hedgehogs, moles, weasels, stoats and grey squirrels on the campus.

Roe deer are occasionally glimpsed in the west strip, within the central woodlands and in the farmland of the north west fields. They are not found within the developed parts of the campus due to the high levels of human activity.

Badgers have been present in Hermiston Walk for more than 30 years and the sett has been used since the University acquired the Riccarton Estate. The sett was temporarily deserted in 1971 when building activity took place nearby but was re-inhabited in 1972 and has remained in use since. Badgers do not willingly desert sites to which they have become accustomed. Their nocturnal habitat will minimise their interaction with humans.

Little grebe are now using the fire pond which indicates that water quality is improving. Mute swans are also nesting on the fire pond which reflects a large and expanding local population. What's more, snipe are now seen regularly near the new ponds at West Gate which indicates improved habitat. The grasshopper warbler is also regularly seen. The wood warbler, siskin, collared dove, great spotted woodpecker and sparrowhawk are all now breeding regularly.



1. Velvet Walk
2. Woodland path running parallel to Velvet Walk



If you would like company walking around our beautiful campus why not join Watt Walks. Watt Walks is a Paths to Health workplace scheme led by volunteer staff who have been trained as walk leaders. It started as a research project to explore stress and anxiety levels in workers and the results showed that walking twice a week, getting away from the office, chatting with colleagues, and being in beautiful surroundings certainly does lower stress and anxiety levels as well as improving physical health!

The group meets on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the year to walk for 30 minutes. There are pick-up points at the James Watt Centre and on the Walk (look out for Watt Walks Meeting Point Signs) and there is no charge for participating.

And if you prefer a faster pace, then Watt Jog, a jogscotland workplace scheme, can take you out and about the grounds on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

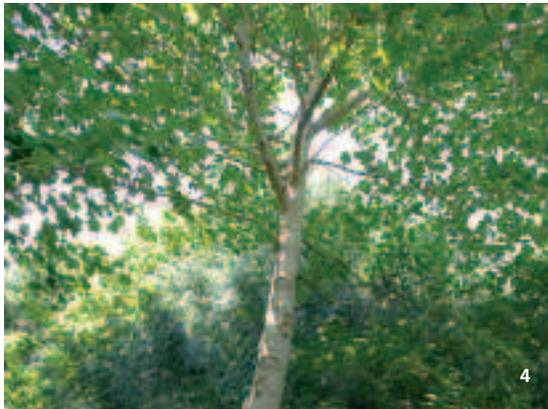
Watt Jog is a workplace scheme led by volunteer staff and students who have been trained as jog leaders. Catering for beginners through to experienced runners, the emphasis is on getting out into the fresh air, enjoying the scenery and improving fitness.

For further information contact:

☎ 0131 451 8400

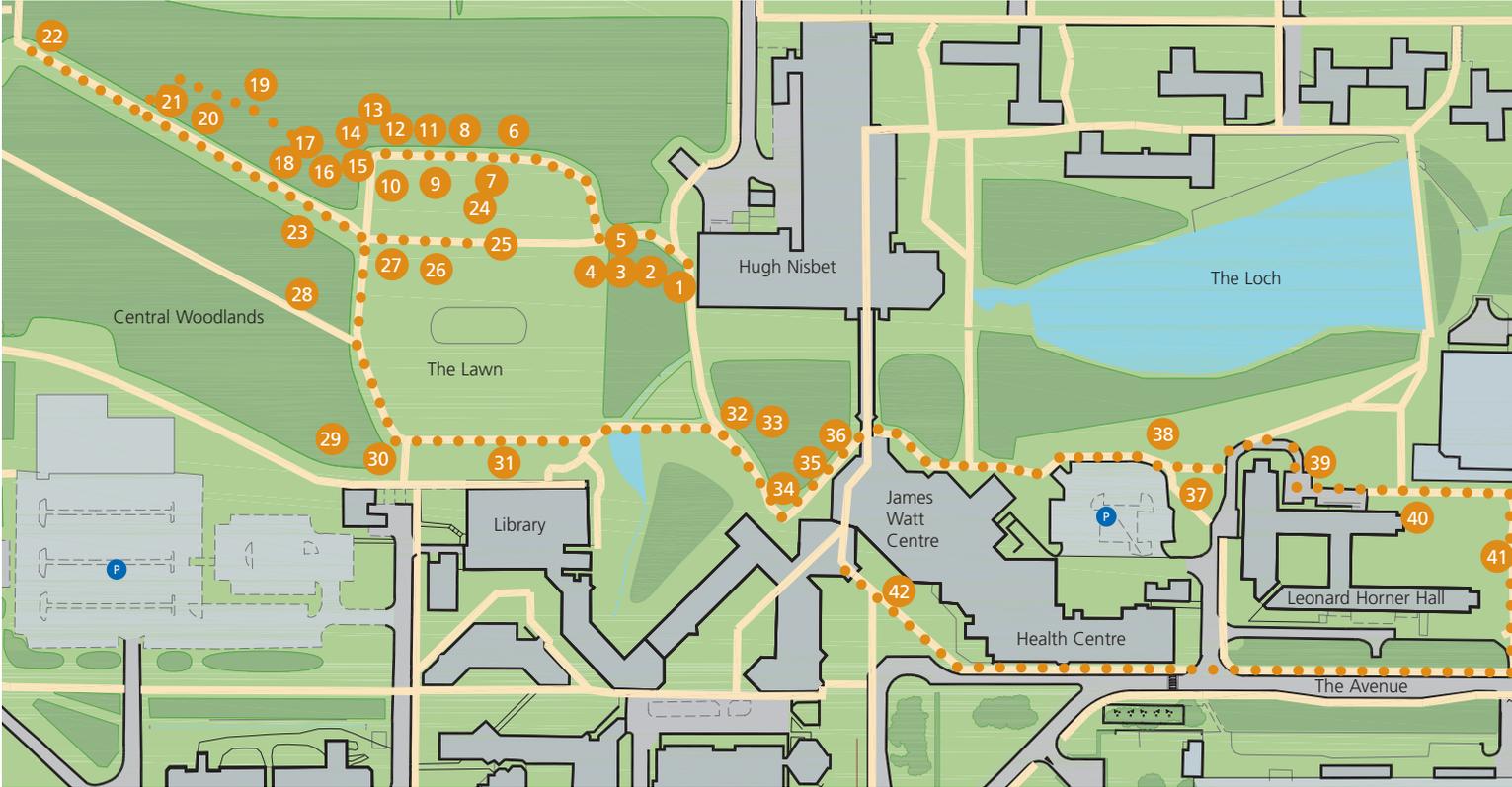
🌐 www.hw.ac.uk/sports/exdevserv/workshops.htm





1. Ash
2. Wellingtonia
3. Birch
4. Tulip Tree
5. Sawara Cypress

TREE TRAIL



- 1 Small Tasmanian Cedar
- 2 Lawson Cypress
- 3 Birch
- 4 Western Red Cedar
- 5 Copper Beech
- 6 Tulip Tree
- 7 Grand Fir
- 8 Sawara Cypress
- 9 Corsican Pine
- 10 Japanese Red Cedar
- 11 Spanish Fir
- 12 Scot's Pine
- 13 Western Hemlock
- 14 Wellingtonia
- 15 Japanese Arbor-Vitae
- 16 Western Yellow Pine
- 17 Coast Redwood
- 18 English Oak
- 19 Spanish Chestnut
- 20 Scots Pine
- 21 Monkey Puzzle
- 22 Ash
- 23 Cucumber Tree
- 24 Adpressa Yew
- 25 Dwarf Lawsons Cypress
- 26 Irish Yew
- 27 Golden Yew
- 28 Douglas Fir
- 29 Yellow Buckeye Chestnut
- 30 Western Red Cedar
- 31 Spanish Chestnut
- 32 Western Hemlock
- 33 Noble Fir
- 34 Norway Maple
- 35 Wellingtonia
- 36 Coast Redwood
- 37 38 39 Sycamore
- 40 Cedar of Lebanon
- 41 Flowering Cherry
- 42 Hungarian Oak

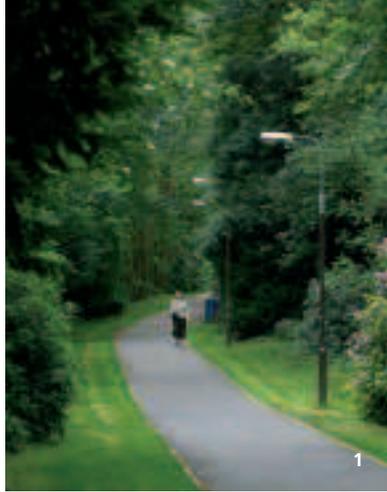
To help you find each tree on the trail, watch out for the green tree trail posts with metal numbered nametags with common names, and botanical name on white plastic nametags.

1. **Small Tasmanian Cedar** (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*)
One of the largest examples of this rare tree growing in Scotland
2. **Lawson Cypress** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)
This shows how large a 'garden' species can grow, although the top blew off in a recent storm. Note branch form drooping from the stem then upswept. North American origin.
3. **Birch** (*Betula pendula*)
A native tree. Knobbly outgrowths on branches are caused by mites.
4. **Western Red Cedar** (*Thuja plicata*)
Note how branches hang downward.
5. **Copper Beech** (*Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*)
Mentioned in an 1884 document about the estate.
6. **Tulip Tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
North American native tree also called a 'White Wood'. A heart stimulant has been extracted from the bark of this species.
7. **Grand Fir** (*Abies grandis*)
Can grow up to 300 feet in its native American habitat and was the first tree to exceed 200 feet in height in the UK. Very rapid rate of growth.
8. **Sawara Cypress** (*Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa'*)
Native of Japan. This ornamental variety is commonly planted in parks and gardens. Note the layered offshoot.
9. **Corsican Pine** (*Pinus nigra 'Maritima'*)
Form of this old tree is rather open. Most specimens of Corsican Pine have a much narrower crown.
10. **Japanese Red Cedar** (*Cryptomeria japonica 'Sinensis'*)
The Chinese form of this tree. Note the abundant cones on lower branches.
11. **Spanish Fir** (*Abies pinsapo*)
This species seldom does well in Scotland, no doubt because the climate is so different! The original tree fell down in 2000, and a replacement small tree was planted. Note the hard needles.
12. **Scot's Pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*)
Our native pine. Recognised by its reddish bark and twisted needles. Thick scale lower bark and thinner orange-red upper bark.
13. **Western Hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
An elegant North American tree with distinctive drooping leading shoot.

Starting Point: Walk through James Watt Centre and turn left before the bridge link. Follow path round to the right.
Approximate time: 45 minutes

14. **Wellingtonia** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)
Originates from above 5,000 feet in Sierra Nevada of California. Over 100 years old. Note night roost hollows carved out of the thick spongy bark by tree creepers.
15. **Japanese Arbor-Vitae** (*Thuja standishii*)
Introduced from Japan in 1860, where it is found on rocky mountain ridges. One of the largest examples of this species in Scotland.
16. **Western Yellow Pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*)
Appears in Western films. It can be grown in lower rainfall areas where forest thins out to treeless prairie.
17. **Coast Redwood** (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
The tallest tree in the world is a Coast Redwood in California, 112m tall. This young specimen is only about 2-4m tall and may live for several hundred years. It has a soft red bark.
18. **English Oak** (*Quercus robur*)
Broad dome-shaped head is a traditional feature of our countryside.
19. **Spanish Chestnut** (*Castanea sativa*)
Large diameter stem with sucker growths round the base which allows ready coppicing.

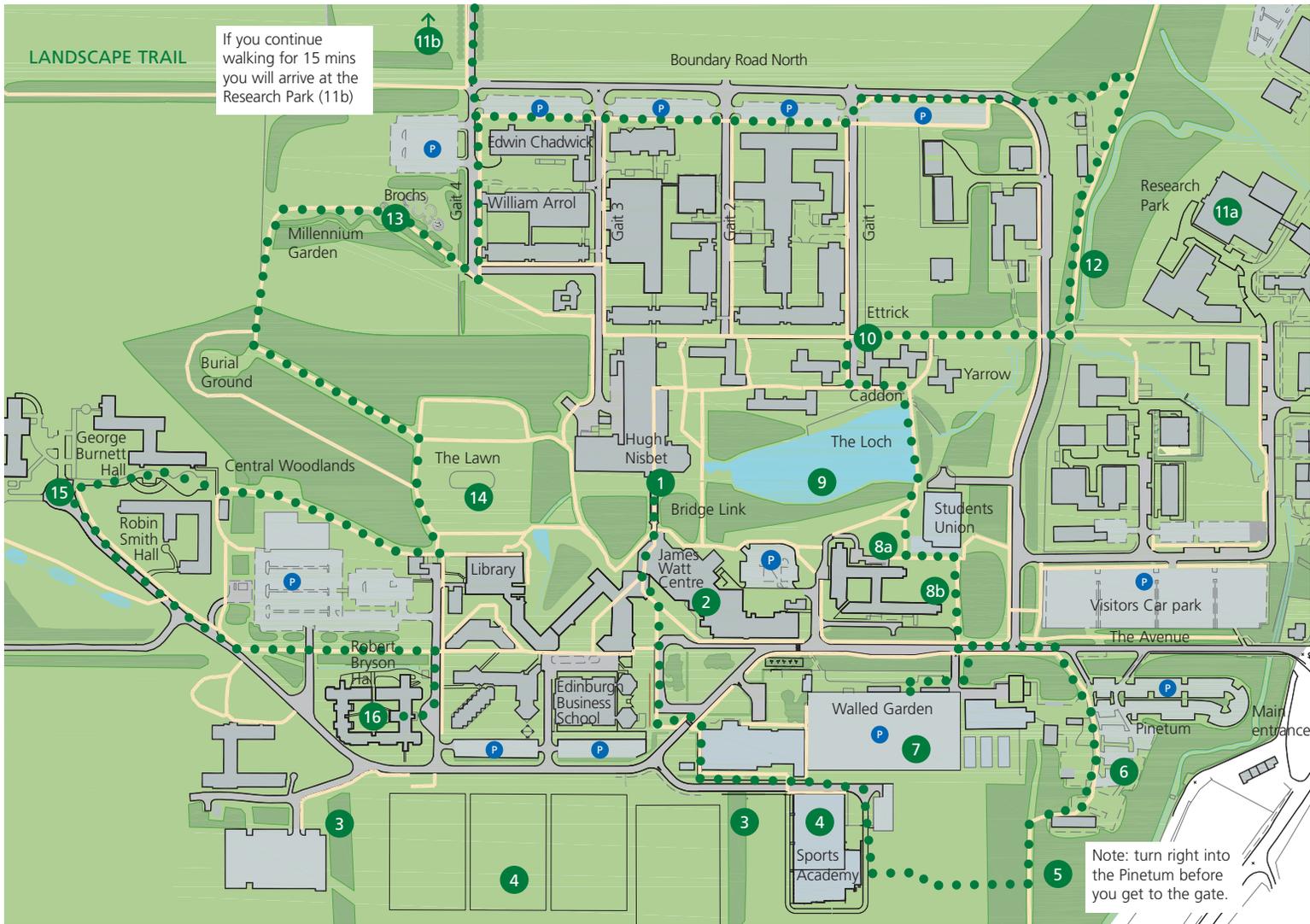
- 20. Scots Pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*)
Our native pine. Recognised by its reddish bark and twisted needles. Thick scale lower bark and thinner orange-red upper bark.
- 21. Monkey Puzzle** (*Araucaria araucana*)
Sometimes known as the Chile Pine, this unique species was introduced in Britain in 1795 by the Scots explorer Archibald Menzies. The large seeds are edible.
- 22. Ash** (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
With an impressive trunk girth of 13 feet and standing over 100 feet in height, this majestic specimen is thought to be around 200 years old.
- 23. Cucumber Tree** (*Magnolia acuminata*)
East North American origin. At least 100 years old. It fell over many years ago. Gets its names from young blue-green fruit spikes, later turning bright red in autumn.
- 24. Adpressa Yew**
(*Taxus baccata* 'Adpressa')
Has smaller leaves than the common yew.
- 25. Dwarf Lawsons Cypress**
(*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Nana')
Often planted as a dwarf rocky plant.
- 26. Irish Yew** (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata')
One of several in the garden. Note distinctive upright growth habit.
- 27. Golden Yew** (*Taxus baccata* 'Aurea')
Golden form of the common yew.
- 28. Douglas Fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
Named in honour of the Scots explorer and botanist David Douglas, who first introduced this species from North West America in 1827.
- 29. Yellow Buckeye Chestnut**
(*Aesculus flava*)
Introduced to this country from the South East USA in 1764.
- 30. Western Red Cedar** (*Thuja plicata*)
Note the low layering limb which has formed a new tree.
- 31. Spanish Chestnut** (*Castanea sativa*)
This is the Riccarton Sweet Chestnut, possibly the oldest tree on the campus. It is over 250 years old. A group of trees that originated from a single huge old tree which has died back leaving peripheral shoots.
- 32. Western Hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
An elegant North American tree with distinctive drooping leading shoot.
- 33. Noble Fir** (*Abies procera*)
Very straight gun-barrel stem, of North American origin and introduced to Britain in 1830.
- 34. Norway Maple** (*Acer platanoides*)
Leaves are more pointed than a sycamore.
- 35. Wellingtonia**
(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)
Over 150 years old and 26m tall, the tallest tree on the campus and still growing.
- 36. Coast Redwood**
(*Sequoia sempervirens*)
As a Californian coast species, more sensitive to a cold winter than the Wellingtonia. Note soft red bark. Also over 150 years old and 26m tall.
- 37, 38, 39. Sycamore**
(*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
Three very old wide branching parkland trees, over 250 years old.
- 40. Cedar of Lebanon** (*Cedrus libani*)
One of the finest trees on the campus, over 250 years old.
- 41. Flowering Cherry** (*Prunus avium*)
Now past their best, old woodland margin trees.
- 42. Hungarian Oak** (*Quercus frainetto*)
Distinctively different from common oak.



- 1. Hermiston Walk
- 2. Playing Fields
- 3. Millennium Gardens
- 4. The Loch

LANDSCAPE TRAIL

If you continue walking for 15 mins you will arrive at the Research Park (11b)



Note: turn right into the Pinetum before you get to the gate.

To help you find each place on the trail, watch out for the landscape trail posts with green numbered nametags.

Starting Point: The Bridge Link, Hugh Nisbet Building
Approximate time: 1 hour 15 minutes

- 1 The Bridge Link
- 2 James Watt Centre
- 3 Playing Fields Shelter Belts
- 4 Playing Fields & Sports Academy
- 5 Woodlands
- 6 Pinetum
- 7 Walled Garden
- 8a Leonard Horner Cedar
- 8b Leonard Horner Sycamore
- 9 Loch
- 10 The Walk
- 11a 11b Research Park
- 12 Hermiston Walk
- 13 Millennium Garden
- 14 The Lawn
- 15 West Student Village
- 16 The Freeway

1. The Bridge Link

The magnificent view from the Bridge gives the first hint of the protected historic landscape at the heart of the campus. To the east is the Loch, and to the west are the Gardens, hidden from this viewpoint. The entire site planning of the campus has been modelled around these high quality central landscape features. The Bridge respects the spatial quality by passing over the landscape.

2. James Watt Centre

The impressive Hungarian Oak (*Quercus frainetto*) in the Main Concourse was root pruned and protected throughout 25 years of progressive building construction. The Collegiate Lawn forms a welcoming open space at the heart of the campus.

3. Playing Field Shelter Belts

Shelter belts are a traditional feature of the lowlands of Scotland. They provide very effective wind shelter from the prevailing winds.

4. Playing Fields & Sports Academy

The playing fields were the first major landscape project at Riccarton, two years in advance of the arrival of the first students. Enjoyment of open space, sports and recreation go hand in hand with the campus landscape experience. The Sports Academy is one of the most recent additions to the campus.

5. Woodlands and South Strip

Several over-mature woodlands and young conifer plantations were inherited by the University in 1969 and are now being managed for increased species and age diversity. Glades of new hardwood planting are being established and valuable wildlife habitat created by log piles. Over 250,000 new trees have been planted since 1970.

6. Pinetum

One of the neglected over-mature woodlands that the University inherited, where the majority of original conifers were blown down in the 1968 gales. The oldest trees that remain are over 200 years old. A collection of new exotic conifers is now developing.

7. Walled Garden

The original kitchen garden of Riccarton House has been used as an all-weather sports pitch and a well-screened central area overspill car park.

8. Leonard Horner Cedar & Sycamores

Several 250-year-old parkland trees that were prepared two years in advance of construction by root pruning to ensure survival. The buildings were planned around the trees.

9. Loch

The ornamental loch is an historic landscape feature which has become a focus for the east student village. Wildlife, and birds in particular, add sound and movement in the landscape. This is understandably very popular with students, although the swans can be very defensive when nesting.

10. The Walk

The Walk is the main pedestrian access thoroughfare shared by pedestrians and cyclists. It separates the residences to the south from the academic buildings to the north. No cars are allowed in the central area, and car parking is located at the perimeter of the site. The University's Green Travel Plan encourages use of cycles and public transport.

11a, 11b. Research Park

The Edinburgh Campus is home to Europe's first Research Park with a current turnover in excess of £70 million and 2,000 employees, 80% of which are graduates. Landscape infrastructure has always been established in advance of building construction. As for previous development phases, the landscape infrastructure, ponds and swales for sustainable drainage have been constructed in advance of further development at the Research Park.

12. Hermiston Walk

Hermiston Walk is another old woodland inherited by the University. It is typical of the older woodlands, with a wide species and age diversity, and it provides excellent mature wildlife habitat. All campus woodlands (total 33ha) are managed under a rolling five year Woodland Management Programme, with felling and replanting taking place every year.

13. Millennium Garden

This elevated position enjoys a distant view to the Forth Bridges. The site has been reclaimed using project construction spoil and the sculptural stone walled brochs provide a place for celebration of the University's progressive development as well as a place for memorials.

14. The Lawn

The Lawn is one of the delights of the campus. Students and visitors are always surprised to find this tranquil haven so close to the centre of the campus. The Lawn that you see today is a remnant of the 18th century pleasure gardens of Riccarton House, now much simplified in layout and landscape maintenance. The areas surrounding the Lawn are botanically very interesting, with a very high number of small growing plant species present. The bank of rhododendrons on the north side of the Lawn forms a stunning backdrop to the lawns in early summer. One of the highlights of the University year is the garden party after the graduation ceremony which takes place on the Lawn in July, leaving students with a rich memory of their time in Riccarton. The Tree Trail links a fascinating collection of historic trees.

15. West Student Village

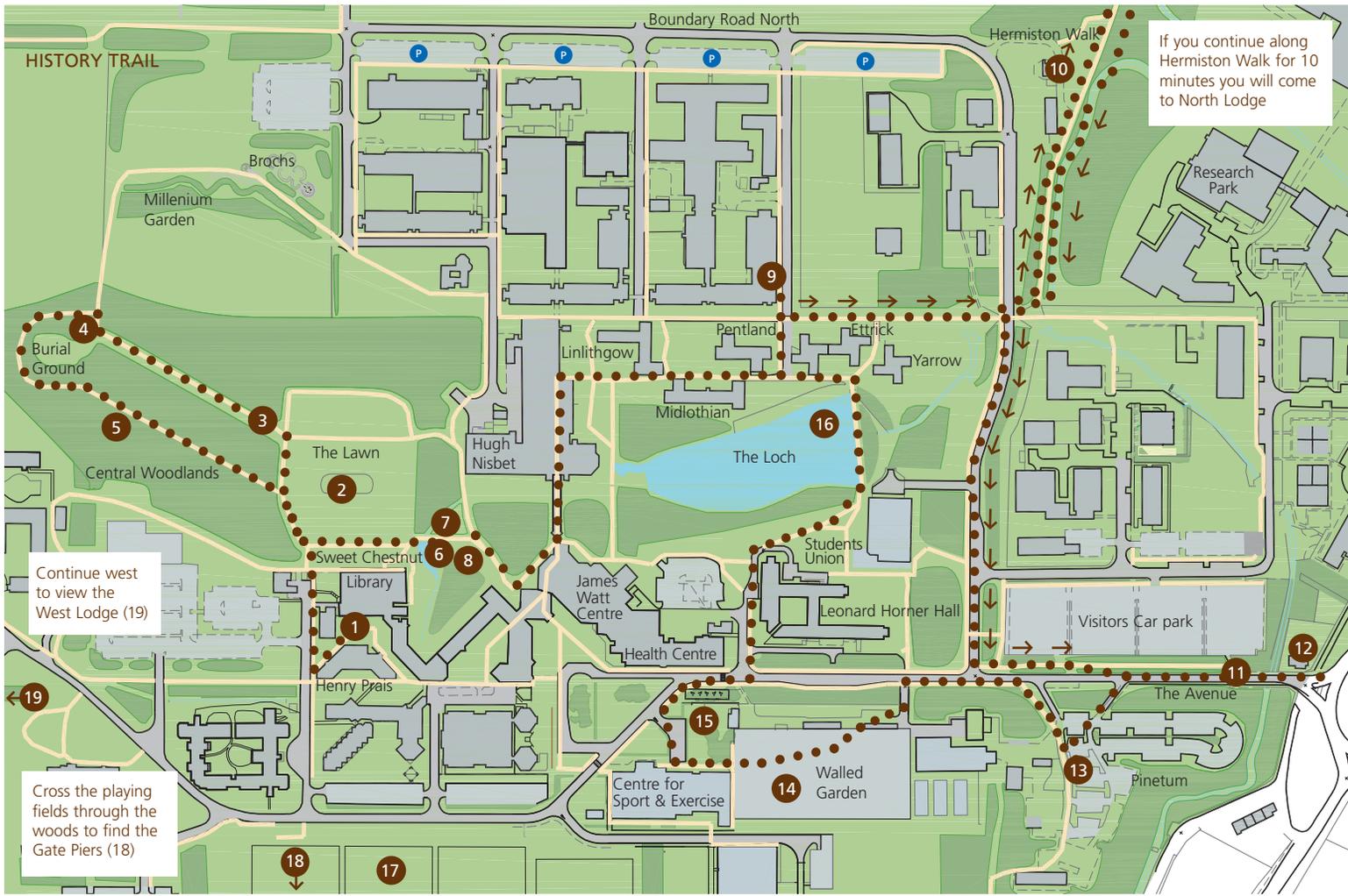
The West Student Village is the most recently developed student accommodation with a sustainable approach to drainage around the stream and ponds within a natural meadow. Since campus development began there has been an increase in the wildlife population on campus, as new habitats have been created. Water is an especially valuable habitat for birds, bats and amphibians.

16. The Freeway

A pleasant car-free route between the Student Village and the central campus, flanked by native Scottish planting of varieties of heather and birch.



- 1. Pinetum
- 2. The Loch
- 3. North Lodge
- 4. Gardener's Cottage



HISTORY TRAIL

If you continue along Hermiston Walk for 10 minutes you will come to North Lodge

Continue west to view the West Lodge (19)

Cross the playing fields through the woods to find the Gate Piers (18)

Boundary Road North

Hermiston Walk

Research Park

Brochs

Millenium Garden

Burial Ground

Central Woodlands

The Lawn

Sweet Chestnut

Library

Henry Prais

Hugh Nisbet

Linlithgow

Pentland

Midlothian

The Loch

James Watt Centre

Health Centre

Centre for Sport & Exercise

Walled Garden

Students Union

Leonard Horner Hall

Visitors Car park

The Avenue

Pinetum

Yarrow

Etrick

18

17

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19

To help you find each place on the trail, watch out for the history trail posts with brown numbered nametags.

- 1 Riccarton House
- 2 The Lawn
- 3 Velvet Walk
- 4 Gibson-Craig Burial Ground
- 5 Central Woodlands
- 6 Fire Pond
- 7 Carriage Drive
- 8 Ice House
- 9 Fuchsia 'Riccartonii'
- 10 North Lodge
- 11 The Lime Avenue
- 12 East Lodge
- 13 Pinetum
- 14 Walled Garden
- 15 Gardener's Cottage
- 16 The Loch
- 17 Parkland
- 18 Gate piers in South Strip
- 19 West Lodge

The old gardens of Riccarton House are at the heart of Heriot-Watt University's Edinburgh Campus and have been safeguarded during site development. Visitors are invited to stroll and enjoy the tranquillity of the estate. The history trail is mostly on surfaced paths but in wet weather the Velvet Walk should be avoided.

1. Riccarton House

At the heart of the estate, on the site now occupied by the Library, Museum and Archive, once stood Riccarton House, a fine mansion in the elegant setting of ornamental gardens and a loch.

2. The Lawn

The Formal Garden was immediately north of Riccarton House. The gardens date back to before 1750. The present lawn is quite similar to the original except that flower beds surrounded the golden drum yews. The yew tree drums, over 200 years old, are laid out in symmetrical fashion. The oval shaped impression in the lowest part of the lawn was a curling rink, flooded and frozen in winter. During the 19th century, the Gibson-Craigs extensively re-modelled the gardens and introduced many new varieties of tree.

In 1850, the garden extended further northwards and contained a summer house. The woodland contains several specimen trees from the plant collection and at one time would have had an informal path system.

The garden today is a remnant of the extensive gardens of Riccarton House (now much simplified in layout and landscape maintenance). The original gardens extended through to the Burial Ground, with ponds, shrubberies and a summer house. Much of the garden is now woodland as the trees have developed in height and spread.

Starting Point: Outside the Henry Prais Building
Approximate time: 1 hour

The Riccarton Sweet Chestnut (see page 19), which is several centuries old, is possibly the oldest tree on the campus. Nearby is a bench intriguingly dedicated to Olive Telford "a flower in the garden she loved". Olive's story along with that of many other people who have lived and worked at Riccarton through the centuries is told in the Museum and Archive in the Mary Burton Centre on the ground floor of the Library, opposite the Fire Pond (see page 3 for opening times).

Garden Chronology

- Riccarton House was built in the 15th century and greatly extended in 1621 and 1827. The oldest part of the house was the tower house.
- The then Formal Garden, now the Lawn, were laid out by 1755. A document of 1875 describes them as a flower garden with shapes cut in green turf and flowers planted in their seasons.
- The Velvet Walk was lined with rhododendrons and deciduous trees by 1850 and contained a specimen of magnolia conspicua.
- The family burial ground was laid out by James Gibson-Craig (1765-1850). It was surrounded by ashes, elms and hollies by 1878.
- The front lawn contained peacock, sheep and croquet in 1878. Sentinel sycamores were located on either side of the house.
- The loch is thought to have been constructed around 1850.
- The Summer House was removed by 1913.
- The gardens and paths below the Velvet Walk, and the stream were culverted by 1913.
- Riccarton House was demolished in 1956.
- By 1956 flower beds in the lawn no longer existed.
- First monkey puzzle tree removed.
- Sundial removed leaving stone base.

- Midlothian Council gifted the estate to Heriot-Watt University in 1969, marked with a commemorative border with a plaque which now lies within the grassy area at the top of the avenue.
- Corsican pine died and removed in 1970.
- Second Monkey puzzle died and removed in 1983.
- Rhododendron invasion was checked in 1992.
- Management Plan was developed in 1994.

3. Velvet Walk

The Velvet Walk, so called because of the fine turf, is a garden terrace leading to the Gibson-Craig family burial ground. Below the terrace were lawns, shrubberies and a stream, now culverted. On the northern side is a formal evergreen edge of yew, holly and laurel, a traditional garden style of the time. This formed part of the pleasure gardens of Riccarton House which were initially developed in the 17th century, and added to in the 18th century. Over the centuries they have gradually become simplified, and in this part of the garden are now woodlands.

4. Gibson-Craig Burial Ground

The iron railings and gate mark the entrance to the family burial ground which was laid out as an extension to the gardens in the middle of the last century. Please respect the privacy of the burial ground which still belongs to the descendants of the Gibson-Craig family.

5. Central Woodlands

Giant Redwood and Monkey Puzzle are typical of plants brought back by Victorian plant collectors. It was highly fashionable to include specimens of the new plants in the garden, although no-one knew how big they would grow in Britain.

6. Fire Pond

The fire pond was constructed as a convenient source of water for use in the event of fire in the mansion-house. Before fire brigades, each country house had to be self sufficient in fire fighting.

7. Carriage Drive

The carriage drive was the service approach to the house, from the stables where the James Watt Centre now stands. At the point where the walls on either side of the path reach their greatest height there was a footbridge passing overhead connecting the house to the gardens. The remains of the old steps and a bridge can be seen beyond the north wall. Also visible are foundations of more recent buildings and drains which date from the military period in the 1940s.

8. Ice House

During the winter months, ice was taken off the loch and stored in the ice house, a deep pit in the ground well-insulated with stone walls and roof topped with earth. This was the typical 19th century way in which ice would be available, well into the summer months, to help preserve food. It is now protected as a listed building.

9. Fuchsia 'Riccantonii'

Fuchsia 'Riccantonii', a hardy fuchsia, was raised by James Young in the 1830s at Riccarton. Fuchsias were an introduced plant brought to Britain by Victorian plant collectors from Chile, where the coastal climate is similar to our own.

10. North Lodge

The very fine stonework, wall, gate piers and decorative chimney have earned it "A" listed status.



North Lodge

11. The Lime Avenue

The limes were planted in 1882, at which time this was the main entrance to the house, rather than the south entrance. The sycamores pre-date the limes. A West Avenue may have been replanted at the same time, although this was removed in 20th century.

12. East Lodge

Records show the East Lodge may have been altered or rebuilt to conform to the new image of Riccarton House.

13. Pinetum

A collection of exotic conifers was a popular feature of Victorian plant collectors gardens. This is one of the neglected over-mature woodlands that the University inherited, where the majority of original conifers were blown down in the 1968 gales. The oldest trees that remain are over 200 years old. A collection of new exotic conifers is now developing.

14. Walled Garden

The original kitchen garden of Riccarton House has been used as an all-weather sports pitch and a well-screened car park and is a listed structure. The gardeners' bothies are still present on the north wall. The wall would have been heated by stoves, and probably had glazed lean-to glasshouses facing south to enable exotic fruit to be produced for the house.

15. Gardener's Cottage

In the 19th century, the Head Gardener was an important person, responsible for the food production and ornamental gardens. For an estate of this size there would have been more than 50 gardeners. The Gardeners Cottage and its small garden are at the heart of the estate. The Cottage, its boundary wall and very fine metal railings are listed structures.

16. Loch

The ornamental loch is an historic landscape feature which would have supported wildfowl and fish for use in the house kitchens.

17. Parkland

Much of the Riccarton Estate Parkland south of the house has become playing fields.

18. Gate piers in South Strip

Two stone gate piers, both listed structures, remain on the south boundary from the 19th century, although the gateway is no longer an access. At one time this connected to the public highway which ran to the south.

19. West Lodge

The West Lodge predates both the East and North Lodges.



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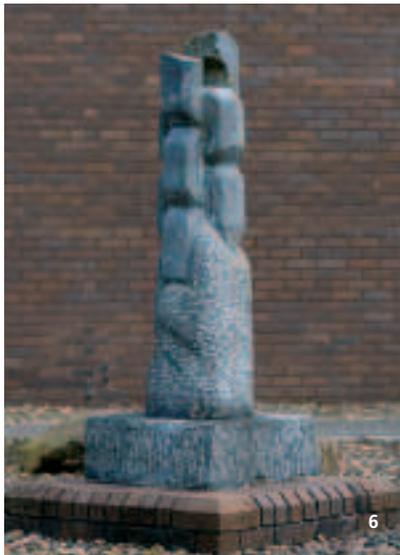
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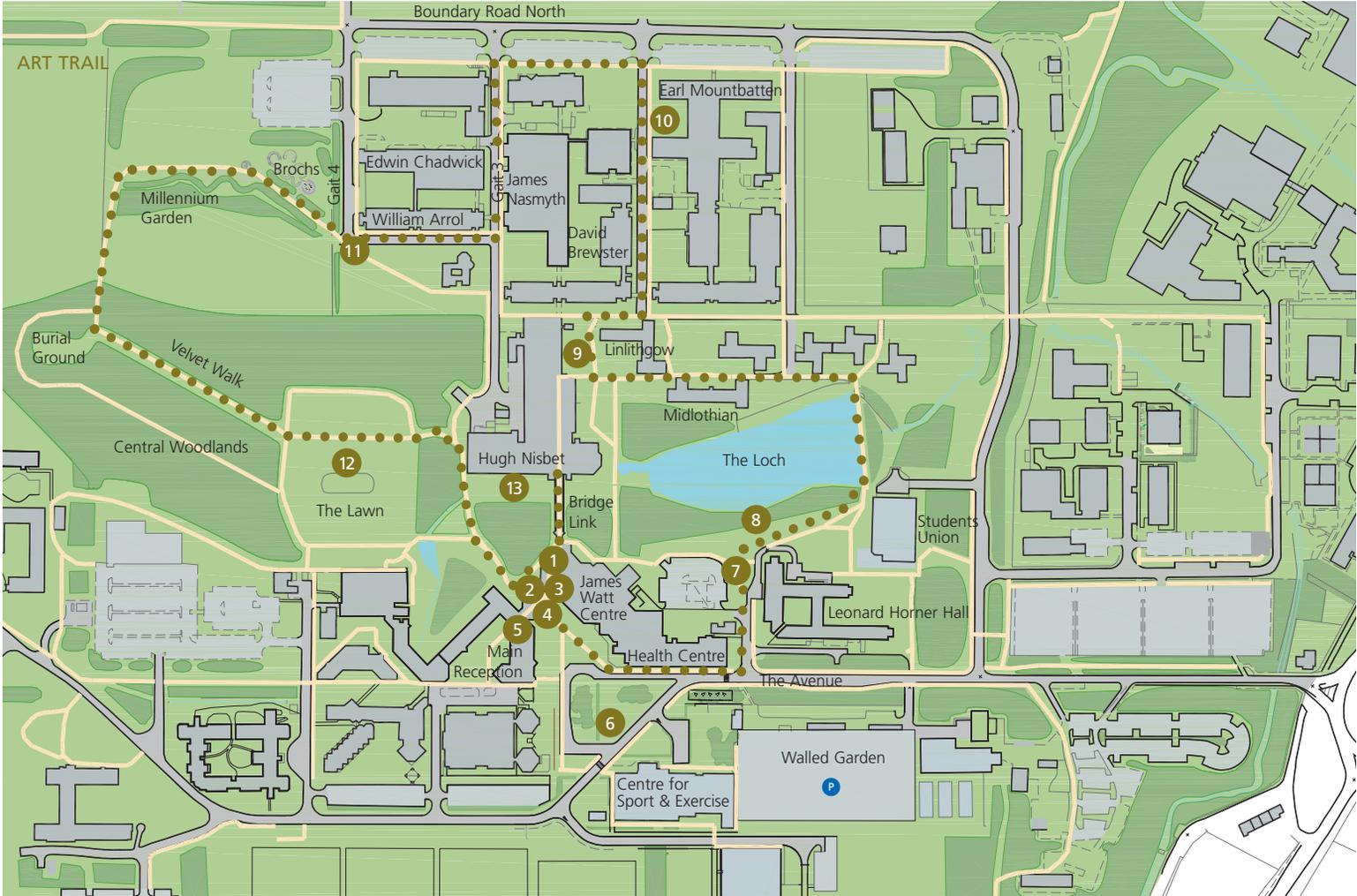


6



7

1. James Watt statue
2. The May Cippico Fountain
3. Finn Stone
4. James Watt Statue
5. A Stone for the Whales
6. A Stone for Ravenscraig
7. The Body



ART TRAIL

Boundary Road North

10

Earl Mountbatten

Brochs

Edwin Chadwick

James Nasmyth

David Brewster

William Arrol

Millennium Garden

Gate 4

11

Burial Ground

Velvet Walk

9

Linlithgow

Central Woodlands

12

The Lawn

Hugh Nisbet

Midlothian

The Loch

Bridge Link

Students Union

1

2

3

4

5

Main Reception

6

Centre for Sport & Exercise

Walled Garden

James Watt Centre

2

3

4

5

7

Health Centre

Leonard Horner Hall

The Avenue

8

To help you find each place on the trail, watch out for the art trail posts with gold numbered nametags.

- 1 The Body
- 2 3 The Busts of Leonard Horner and George Heriot
- 4 Stained Glass Window above the entrance to the James Watt Centre
- 5 James Watt
- 6 Watt a Clever Cow
- 7 Finn Stone
- 8 A Stone for the Whales
- 9 The May Cippico Fountain
- 10 A Stone for Ravenscraig
- 11 Old Milestone
- 12 Sundial Base
- 13 Two Blocks for Self Sacrifice

Art is a core part of the University's Registered Museum collection, managed by the Archive Records Management and Museum Service. Our collecting is focused on our history, going back to 1821, and also includes works by artists associated with the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA). This policy reflects our long academic connections and the fact that our campus was designed by an ECA alumnus. We acquire art by donation and commission the occasional purchase.

A continuing programme of placing sculpture into the maturing landscape is in progress with a particular emphasis on contemporary art. You are invited to walk freely around the campus and enjoy the landscape and sculpture. This section describes such a walk, taking in some of the highlights of the collection. In addition to the works featured on this trail, art is displayed in the Museum and Archive, library and other indoor locations across the campus which you are welcome to view by prior arrangement.

1. The Body

Begin this trail within the James Watt Centre. To the left of the main Reception is a steel pillar which was bought in 1993 by the University, from its creator William Edmonds, a third year sculpture student at Edinburgh College of Art, then an associated college of Heriot-Watt University. An upright steel structure, with mirrored glass central panels.

2&3. The Busts of Leonard Horner and George Heriot

Inside the glass entrance doors to the James Watt Centre are sandstone busts of two great heroes of Heriot-Watt's history: Leonard Horner (1785-1865), educational and social reformer, who founded the trailblazing Edinburgh School of Arts in 1821; and George Heriot (1563-1634), goldsmith and banker to King James VI, who left his riches to fund education in Edinburgh. In 1885 the George Heriot Trust merged with the Watt Institution to form Heriot-Watt College.

Starting Point: James Watt Centre Main Reception
Approximate time: 45 minutes

The busts were displayed on the façade of our former Chambers Street building for over a century until 1989, when the University left the building in the course of its move to Riccarton. The busts were conserved with support from the Scottish Museums Council and moved to their current location in 1998.

4. Stained Glass Window above the entrance to the James Watt Centre

This window by Shona McInnes was commissioned for the James Watt Centre which opened in 1990. Viewed from outside, in front of the entrance, the roundels represent the following subjects: top: engineering; bottom: science; left: economics and social studies; right: environmental studies.

5. James Watt

On a red sandstone plinth is the seated figure of James Watt, who has been revered as an iconic role model for students since the earliest days of the Edinburgh School of Arts. This statue was made for the University's predecessor, the Watt Institution and School of Arts, by Peter Slater, who taught ornamental modelling there. When the statue was unveiled in 1854 students and staff celebrated all night and formed the Watt Club – now the oldest graduate association in the UK.

Originally displayed outside the Watt Institution building in Adam Square, this stone carving was moved first to Heriot-Watt College in Chambers Street, then in 1990 to its current position. The plinth under the statue contains a time capsule.

The University also owns another statue of James Watt by Sir Frances Chantrey. Peter Slater's statue of Watt is based on this iconic image. The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, London gifted the Chantrey Watt statue to the University in 1996. The seven-ton marble statue is displayed in the splendid entrance hall of the National Portrait Gallery, Queen Street, Edinburgh until a suitable setting is found on campus.

6. Watt a Clever Cow

Capturing the hearts and imaginations of millions worldwide, *CowParade* travels to exciting cities around the globe. In 2006, the City of Edinburgh was delighted to take part and host its largest ever public art exhibition for charity. For three months visitors to the city could follow the Cow Trail through its buildings, streets and public places, experiencing the creativity and passion of the Edinburgh artistic community. Heriot-Watt was delighted to join in the experience and our cow, Watt a Clever Cow, designed by staff and students in the School of Textiles and Design happily grazed in Edinburgh's Festival Square. Our sponsored cow now lives on campus for all to enjoy.

7. Finn Stone

Facing the front door of the Leonard Horner Hall is the Finn Stone. Carved from fossil rich Kilkenny limestone, this sculpture was created by Stanley Wilson and placed here in 1992. Stanley Wilson graduated with a BA in sculpture from Edinburgh College of Art in 1992, and was employed as the University's sculptor in residence to produce various works.

8. A Stone for the Whales

This sculpture made of Kilkenny limestone, of a whale and calf leaping from the waves, was also created by Stanley Wilson, and placed here in 1994.

9. The May Cippico Fountain

Situated on the grass, this delightful bronze sculpture of a girl by a pool was gifted to Heriot-Watt University by the Constance Fund in London, under the auspices of the British Society of Sculptors. It was designed by James Butler and sculpted in memory of Countess May Cippico who died in 1980.

10. A Stone for Ravenscraig

This sculpture, commissioned especially for the Mountbatten Building in 1989, was also created by Stanley Wilson using Kilkenny fossil limestone, and placed here in 1992.

11. Old Milestone

This old milestone came from the A1 at Haddington. It is part of the museum collection of Institution of Civil Engineers, East of Scottish Branch which is displayed in the William Arrol Building.

12. Sundial base

At the heart of the Lawn is the oval impression of a curling rink and beside it the plinth for a sundial which was removed in 1956.

13. Two Blocks for Self Sacrifice

Two mysterious bronze boxes appear to be set at odds to the building and landscape. This thought-provoking sculpture by William Edmonds was placed here in 1994.



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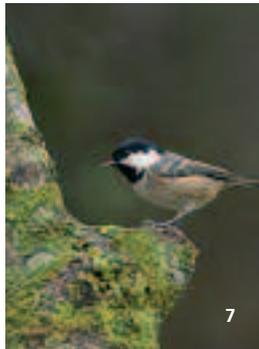
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- 1. Blue Tit
- 2. House Sparrow
- 3. Barn Owl
- 4. European Robin
- 5. Grey Heron
- 6. Song Thrush
- 7. Coal Tit
- 8. Pheasant



If you continue along Hermiston Walk for 10 minutes you will come to North Lodge

BIRD TRAIL

Research Park

Central Woodlands

The Lawn

Hugh Nisbet

The Loch

Students Union

Visitors Car Park

West Shelter Belt Central

Library

James Watt Centre

The Avenue

Pinetum & East Shelter Belt

Walled Garden

Sports Academy

South East Strip

West Shelter Belt

South Strip

To help you find each place on the trail, watch out for the bird trail posts with blue numbered nametags.

- 1 The Lawn and Central Woodlands
- 2 West Shelter Belt Central
- 3 West Shelter Belt South
- 4 South Strip
- 5 South East Strip
- 6 Pinetum and East Shelter Belt
- 7 Hermiston Walk
- 8 Loch

When the University took over the Riccarton Estate, studies of the wildlife present on the campus were immediately undertaken. As development commenced in the early 1970s, studies continued year upon year to check the effect on bird life and a later report showed very little impact. Since that time, development has continued and new landscape on the campus has created favourable habitats for more bird species. The wildlife is enjoyed by staff, students and visitors throughout the year.

Visitors are invited to walk freely around the campus grounds. This section describes the important areas for bird life and lists the species which have been recorded over the past 10 years.

1. The Lawn and Central Woodlands

This is an area of mature woodland, with an open shrub understorey. One of the main features of this woodland in spring and summer is the large rookery, which can contain up to 50 breeding pairs. The shrub layer is a haven for several warbler species, notably blackcap, garden warbler, and the occasional chiffchaff. This is one of the best areas in which to observe great spotted woodpecker. Most of the common resident woodland species are also to be found here.

2. West Shelter Belt South

This area contains a larger population of warblers due to its location, as it adjoins an area of dense birch scrub outside the campus. There is a large population of willow warblers to be found here as well as sedge warbler, white throat, blackcap, garden warbler and one or two pairs of chiffchaff. Goldcrest and coal tit can also be found feeding in larch trees.

Starting Point: The Lawn
Approximate time: 1 hour 15 minutes

3 West Shelter Belt Central

This is an area of mixed woodland with trees of varying age. There are areas of dense scrub and bramble thickets. The species most likely to be found here are magpie, woodpigeon, great tit, blue tit and goldfinch. In summer, willow warbler, whitethroat and blackcap, are known to breed in small numbers. One species to be looked for at dusk during summer is the woodcock, which can be seen displaying through the more mature trees.

4 South Strip

This area consists mainly of mature spruce and larch trees, with a few mature broad-leaved trees scattered around. This is probably the best area to see a sparrow hawk as it hunts along the main path. Other notable species in this woodland are siskin, goldcrest and spotted flycatcher. Just to the north of this area are the playing fields which act as feeding grounds for several species during the winter e.g. curlew, oystercatcher, common gull, lesser black-backed gull and herring gull. The shelter belts around the playing fields are important habitats for redpoll, bullfinch, goldfinch, song thrush and blackbird during the breeding season.

5 South East Strip

This is an area of semi-mature mixed woodland with a few mature trees throughout. The more important species to be found here are tawny owl, stock dove, blackcap, sparrowhawk and spotted flycatcher. Most other resident woodland species are to be found here in quite large numbers.

6 Pinetum and East Shelter Belt

This is an area of mainly mature mixed woodland with a fairly dense understorey. The species to be found here are very similar to the south-east strip, but you also have a better chance of seeing jackdaw and treecreeper on the more mature trees.

7 Hermiston Walk

This is an area of mature mixed woodland with a very poor understorey but still has its own merits. This is one of the few places where you might find barn owls, as they feed along the field edges from time to time. There are also tawny owls to be found. Looking over the fields to the west of the woodland you can find yellowhammer, meadow pipit, skylark, greenfinch, brambling and stock dove feeding on the ground.

8 Loch

The main feature of this area is the small loch which is the main attraction for species such as mute swan, tufted duck, moorhen, mallard, grey heron, black headed gull and grey wagtail. The areas of mature woodland surrounding the loch are good areas for seeing siskin, which have become more numerous in the past ten years and have started to breed here over the past few years. Other species to be found in this area are wood pigeon, collared dove, bullfinch, mistle thrush and during summer feeding, swallows and sand martins.

List of recorded species

Barn owl	Housemartin	Stock dove
Blackbird	House sparrow	Stonechat
Blackcap	Jackdaw	Swallow
Black-headed gull	Kestrel	Swift
Blue-tit	Lapwing	Tawny owl
Brambling	Lesser black-backed gull	Tree creeper
Bullfinch	Linnet	Tree sparrow
Buzzard	Little grebe	Tufted duck
Carriion crow	Long-tailed tit	Waxwing
Chaffinch	Magpie	Wheatear
Chiffchaff	Mallard	Whitethroat
Coal-tit	Mistle thrush	Willow warbler
Collared dove skylark	Moorhen	Winchat
Common crossbill	Mute swan	Woodcock
Common gull	Oyster catcher	Wood pigeon
Coot	Peregrine	Wood warbler
Corn bunting	Pheasant	Wren
Curlew	Pied wagtail	Yellowhammer
Duncock	Pochard	
Fieldfare	Quail	
Garden warbler	Redpoll	
Goldcrest	Redwing	
Golden plover	Reed bunting	
Grasshopper warbler	Robin	
Great black-backed gull	Rook	
Great spotted woodpecker	Sandmartin	
Great-tit	Sedge warbler	
Greenfinch	Siskin	
Grey heron	Snipe	
Grey partridge	Song thrush	
Grey wagtail	Sparrowhawk	
Herring gull	Spotted flycatcher	
	Starling	



Cedar of Lebanon

Please note that certain parts of the trail may not be suitable for those with mobility problems.
For further information please contact  0131 451 3218  archive@hw.ac.uk  www.hw.ac.uk