



# Woodland Walks

## Arboretum and

### KEELE UNIVERSITY

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unaccompanied exploration of those grounds. held responsible for any injury suffered while undertaking indefinitely to be as described in this edition, nor can it be however, guarantee that its grounds will continue included in this leaflet. The University cannot, to make use of the walks and tours Visitors to the University are welcome to make use of the walks and tours ends are free.

### Car-parking

Pay and display machines are available for the use of all visitors during daytime hours until 5.30pm. Evenings and week-

David Emley and Peter Thomas

www.keele.ac.uk/arboretum

Arboretum website :

Details of all the trees, plants, birds and other fauna at Keele can be found on the from this number. our website, you can identify the tree trees have a plastic numbered tag. Using by numbered circles. Most of the trees referred to carry a name tag while all the University embarked on building up a programme of tree planting. In 2005, preserve as many of mature trees as possible and has maintained an ongoing the University has been careful to Throughout the period of its construction, after inheriting the estate from his father, began planting on a grand scale in 1830, to the work of Ralph Sneyd (1793-1870) who and sports fields. The landscape we see today owes much woodland while the rest comprises the campus buildings is situated in 240 ha. of landscaped grounds of which Keele has one of the largest campuses in Europe and

Welcome to Keele University



of tree biology and ecology. ISBN 052145963X. Readable introduction on all aspects; *Peter Thomas*; Cambridge; Collins; ISBN 0002190354. Good illustrations. *Alan Mitchell*.

**Trees of Britain and Northern Europe**; *Alan Mitchell*; a little technical. **A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe**; *Alan Mitchell*; ISBN 0002120356. Excellent text;

**Collins Tree Guide**; *Owen Johnson and David More*; ISBN 007139543. Good text and illustrations, very comprehensive coverage.

**Natural History of Keele University**; *David W. Emley*; The essential companion for anyone interested in the Keele University campus.

Any of the following books will make an excellent accompaniment to your walks. **Recommended Books**

mix includes:

136 Birds	250 Plants
26 Butterflies	500 Moths
12 Dragonflies	170 Trees

Much of this variety results from the wide range of habitats here, many of which you will encounter as you follow these trails. Details of all our flora and fauna can be found on our website [www.keele.ac.uk/arboretum](http://www.keele.ac.uk/arboretum). Please send your sightings or any queries to [arboretum@keele.ac.uk](mailto:arboretum@keele.ac.uk)

Other flora and fauna Keele's wooded estate with its lakes, springs, streams and formal flower beds supports a wealth of flora and fauna. While there is little of great rarity here, Keele does have good populations of many birds and insects, some of which are in decline locally and nationally. This

## The Woodland Walks

Three colour-coded trails, two circular (red and blue) and one an extension (orange), start by Keele Hall and cover the lower reaches of campus. The red trail has an all-weather surface but parts of the other two can be soft under-foot so suitable footwear is advised. Please take care by open water. Where possible, trees mentioned in the text have labels affixed to them. The red trail takes about an hour. Note that the removal of Larch and Rhododendron in 2015 altered the landscape considerably and much new planting will take place in the coming years.

**A.** Take the path that leads down to the left of Keele Hall and bear left along the far side of Lake 1. On the left of the path is a **Giant Redwood** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. Notice the soft, fibrous air-filled bark, designed to protect the tree from forest fires. Notice also the small excavations, some with bird droppings. These are the roosting sites of Treecreepers. On the lake side of the track is a deciduous **Swamp Cypress** *Taxodium distichum* which is related to the **Dawn Redwood** but the leaves are alternate on the branch rather than opposite as in the latter species. Note the orange, stringy bark.

**B.** Continue past some **Scots Pines** *Pinus sylvestris* and a **Deodar Cedar** *Cedrus deodara* on your left and **Japanese Maples** on your right until you come to a path on your left. Here on the left are some **Western Hemlocks** *Tsuga heterophylla* with rather Yew-like leaves and a small, long-needled **Ponderosa Pine** *Pinus ponderosa*. A little further on the left is a small **Medlar** *Mespilus germanica* and on the right a large **Grey Poplar** *Populus x canescens* with a heavily sculptured bark and white felty undersides to the leaves which are quite spectacular in the sunlight.

**C.** Continue past the site of the old boathouse and the dam on your right until you reach a magnificent **Fern-leaved Beech** *Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'* on your left. The leaves are deeply dissected, quite unlike those of **Common Beech** *Fagus sylvatica*; one of which is growing behind it.

Continue along the path until you meet the main path. Here, you can turn right, cross the dam and return to Keele Hall. Our walk continues left following the blue trail.

**D.** On your right is Barnes Dell. Here there are a number of unusual trees including **Handkerchief Tree** *Davidia involucreata*, **Katsura Tree** *Cercidiphyllum japonica*, **Deciduous Camellia** *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, **Snowbell Tree** *Styrax japonicus*, **Rauli** *Nothofagus procera*, **Red-bud Hazel** *Disanthus cercidifolius* and various **Maples**. Note also the large arum-like plant **Skunk Cabbage** *Lysichiton americanum* growing by the stream.

**E.** Continue along the path and make a small diversion to the right to stand on the dam between lakes 4 and 5. Lake 4 is covered in yellow-flowered **Fringed Waterlily** *Nymphaeodes peltata* while on the left, below the dam, is a large **Caucasian Wingnut** *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*. Note long thread-like flower stalks, wingnut-like fruits, frond-like leaves, and the way in which it suckers.

Continue a short way along the path where you can bear right and continue around the far side of the lake 5 and back to Keele Hall, following the blue trail. Note that this section is not suitable for wheelchairs or those needing a flat path.

We continue southwards, following the orange trail markers; the path from here on is uneven and can be quite muddy and is not suitable for wheelchairs or those needing a flat path.

**F.** 100m along this path, on the right, is a small collection of ash trees including **Narrow-leaved Fraxinus** *angustifolia*, **Red F.** *pennsylvanica*, **Manna F.** *ornus*, **Caucasian F.** *oxycarpa* and, of particular note, **Oregon ash F.** *latifolia* with its woolly leaves and hairy twigs.

**G.** Follow the path past the **Norway Spruce** *Picea abies* plantation on your right and recently felled area on your left until you reach a track coming in from Lymes Road on your left.

**H.** Among the **Norway Spruce** are four **Giant Redwoods**.

**I.** Lake 6 is now hardly discernible so, continuing along the track, you reach Lake 7. Here there are the remains of a waterwheel in a building. On the left are some **Hybrid Black Poplars** *Populus x canadensis* and **Wych Elm** *Ulmus glabra*.

**J.** Continuing along the track, the stream is in a small gully which is covered in **Bluebells** *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and **Wild Garlic** *Allium ursinum* in the spring.

**K.** Follow the track as it bends sharply to the right and climbs steeply up the hill. This

is known as **Beech Clump** because of the large Beech trees that once grew here. The hill was artificially raised by Sneyd to improve the view from the Hall!

**L.** Follow the track down the other side and bear round to the left. On your right is a plantation of **Hornbeam** *Carpinus betulus*, while on your left, as you near the stream, is a grove of **Roble Beech** *Nothofagus obliqua*.

Follow the track left until you reach Lake 5 again and continue along the blue trail, past Lake 4 and Barnes Dell until you reach Lake 3 where we pick up the red trail again. Those needing a flat path should return on the right-hand side of lake 5.

**M.** Lake 3 is covered with **Yellow Waterlilies** *Nuphar lutea* in summer and is a good spot for Grey Wagtail and Kingfisher. On the left of the track is an **Ash-leaved Maple** *Acer negundo* and a **Hornbeam** *Carpinus betulus*, while to the right is a **Tree of Heaven** *Ailanthus altissima*, **Western Red Cedar** *Thuja plicata* and **Sitka Spruce** *Picea sitchensis*

**N.** At the bottom of the lawn is a group of two Giant Redwoods and a Noble Fir *Abies procera*. To the right of the track is a **Holm Oak** *Quercus ilex* and behind that a **Cedar of Lebanon** *Cedrus libanini*. Lake 1 has attracted Coot, Little Grebe and even a Mandarin Duck.

**O.** Follow the path towards the Hall until you reach the White Well, formerly a water supply for the Hall. To the side of it is a **Pagoda Tree** *Sophora japonica*.



### The Walks

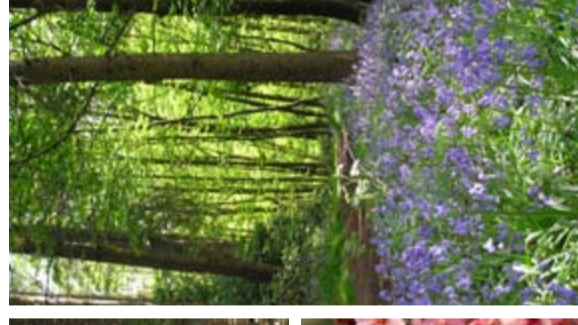
There are three circular walks indicated by coloured waymarking posts:

- An all weather trail suitable for wheelchair users (1 Km).
- The southern arm of the walk is unsuitable for wheelchairs and can be muddy (1 ½ Km).
- Rough terrain and can be muddy in wet weather. Some climbing. (1 ¾ Km extension to blue trail). You can leave the track and return along Lymes Road and Clock House Drive.
- Alternative tracks.

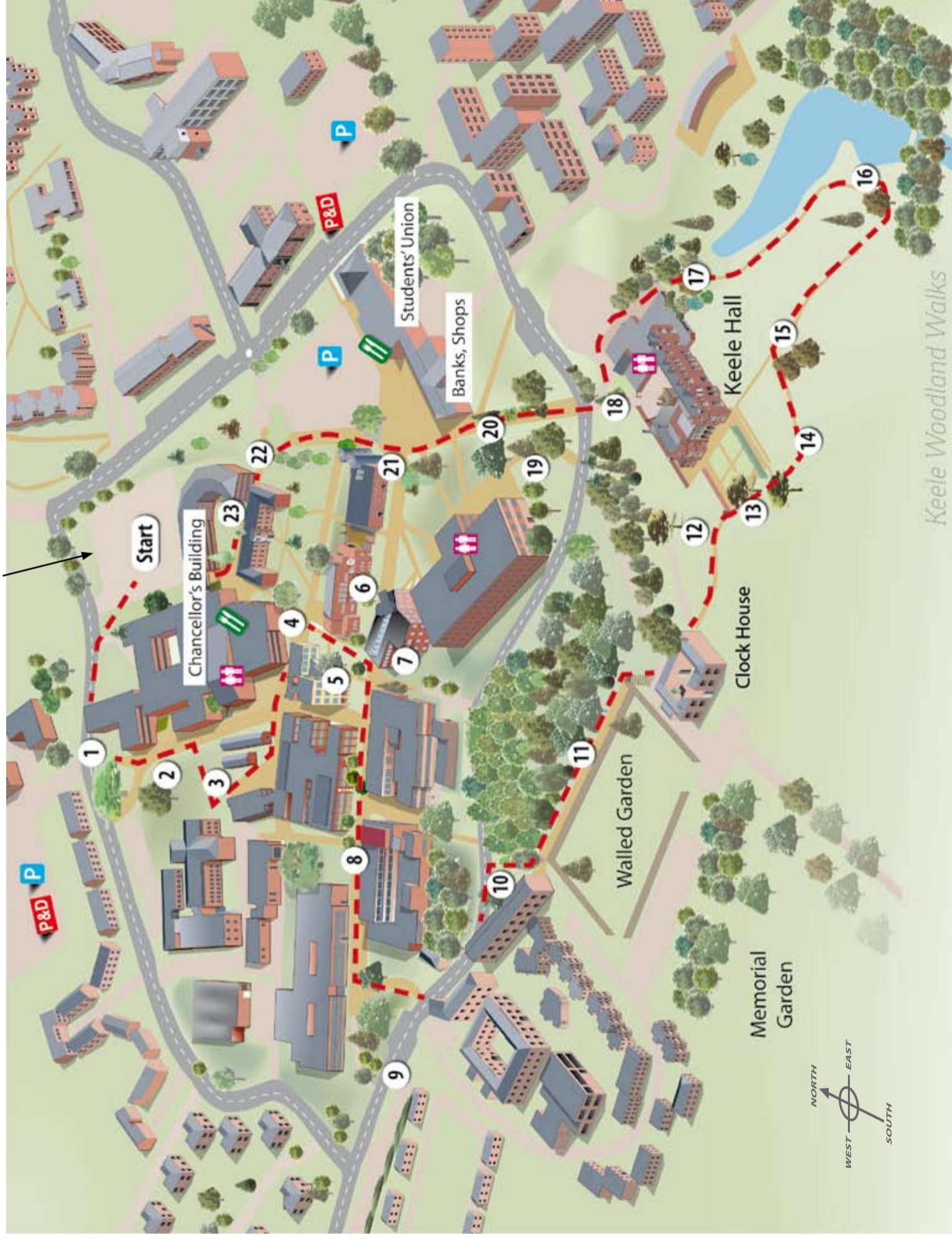
## Upper Campus Walk

- Here is a magnificent hybrid **Sessile x Pedunculata Oak** *Quercus x rosea*, one of the finest trees on campus. It is around 150 years old.
- On the lawn by the Mackay Building is a **Common Beech** *Fagus sylvatica*. Note the shiny leaves and compare them with the Hornbeam at location 5 later.
- Head towards the Dorothy Hodgkin Building and behind the two huts is a large **Turkey Oak** *Quercus cerris* that pre-dates the university. This non-native semi-evergreen tree is distinguished by its narrower-green, deeply lobed and glossy leaves, long whiskers around its buds and 'hairy' acorn cups. There is a smaller tree close by.
- Make your way between the Hornbeam and Chancellor's Buildings. On your left is a large **Sweet Chestnut** *Castanea sativa* - note the spiralled grooves on the trunk. On its left is a group of our native **Cherries** *Prunus avium*. Lining the sides of path that goes down to the car-park are flowering cherries, part of the Keele collection of over 230 varieties. In front of the Tawny Building is a group of two **Deodar Cedars** *Cedrus deodora* and an **Atlas Cedar** *Cedrus atlantica*.
- Between the Hornbeam Building and the Walter Moberly Hall is a magnificent **Hornbeam** *Carpinus betulus*; one of the finest in North Staffordshire. In front of it are a **Small-leaved Lime** *Tilia cordata*, Large-leaved Lime *Tilia platyphyllos* and a **Caucasian Lime** *Tilia euchlora*.
- Make a small detour to the left. In front of the Walter Moberly Hall is a **Silver Lime** *Tilia tomentosa* and two of our native **Large-leaved Limes** *Tilia platyphyllos* plus a Cork Oak *Quercus suber*. On the other side of the path, in front of the Moser Building, is a small **Maidenhair Tree** *Ginkgo biloba*.
- Heading back up the path, on your left, in front of the William Smith Building, is a group of three **Dawn Redwoods** *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*.
- In front the Huxley Building is a group of three American **Red Oaks** *Quercus rubra*; much planted around campus for their autumn colours.
- Follow the path to the ring-road. The **Holly** hedge behind the car-park was once one of the finest in the country. Planted in 1769 it was 200m long and 8m high. It is a roosting site for finches in the winter.
- Crossing the road and passing Lindsay T block we come to one of the largest **Sweet Chestnuts** on campus. It is part of a 500 year old avenue which extends along the Terrace and is all that remains of the driveway to the first Keele Hall built in Elizabethan times. By the ring-road is a **Lucombe Oak** *Quercus x hispanica* - a hybrid between **Cork Oak** *Quercus suber* and **Turkey Oak**. It is a grafted specimen, the line of the graft being clearly visible at knee-height.

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Parking here at weekends only (P&D during weekdays in other marked carparks)



11. The Terrace overlooks the walled garden with distant views southwards across the M6 to Maer Hills - a former haunt of Charles Darwin. Backing the Terrace is the line of **Sweet Chestnuts** referred to in 10. Continue down the steps, past the Clock House, noting the **Yews** *Taxus baccata* on your left, and head towards Keele Hall which was rebuilt in the 1850s to the design of Anthony Salvin.

12. On your left is a **Sweet Gum** *Liquidambar styraciflua*, a **Pin Oak** *Quercus coccinea*, a **Scarlet Oak** *Quercus palustris* and, overlooking the Hall, a **False Acacia** *Robinia pseudoacacia*. Look carefully and you will see a birch tree growing out of it!

13. By the fountain is a **Cedar of Lebanon** *Cedrus libani*. Like many of its type it has lost branches due to heavy snow falls. To the side of the Hall is the restored Italian parterre garden.

14. Close by is a **Common Lime** *Tilia x europaea*. It is a hybrid between our native **Small-leaved** and **Large-leaved Limes** and, whilst it can form a magnificent tree, it is prone to aphids which produce a "rain" of sticky honeydew. Near the weather station is a stand of **Lawson Cypress** *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*.

15. Following the path down to the lake; on your left is a golden form of the **Irish Yew** *Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata Aurea'*. The lake was originally two and Sneyd combined them into one, the excavated spoil being used to build the embankment on the far side. Planted on this is a **Giant Redwood** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, **Swamp Cypress** *Taxodioidium distichum* and a **Grey Poplar** *Populus x canescens*. You should follow the Woodlands Walks trail to see these.

16. At the foot of the lawn are two young **Giant Redwoods** and a **Noble Fir** *Abies procera*. To the right of the track is a **Holm Oak** *Quercus ilex* and behind that a **Cedar of Lebanon** *Cedrus libani*. The recently renovated lake has already attracted **Coot**, **Canada Geese**, **Little Grebe** and **Mandarin Duck**.

17. Continue alongside the lake until you reach the White Well, formerly a water supply for the Hall. To the side of it is a **Pagoda Tree** *Sophora japonica*.

18. Continue until you reach the entrance to Keele Hall. On your left is a stand of **Scots Pine** *Pinus sylvestris* with **Western Hemlocks** *Tsuga heterophylla* in front of them, **Sitka Spruce** *Picea sitchensis* and a single **Douglas Fir** *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

19. Cross the road and head towards the Chapel. On your left, beside the library is a **Red Horse-chestnut** *Aesculus x carnea*, a **Monkey-puzzle** *Araucaria araucana* and a young **Foxglove Tree** *Paulownia tomentosa*.

20. Passing some **Dawn Redwoods** on your left you reach a **Scots Pine**; one of our native conifers.

21. Heading towards Chancellor's Building, by the side of the Chapel is a row of **Rowans** *Sorbus aucuparia*. They produce red berries in the autumn.

22. Passing through an avenue of **Beech** you reach the Chancellor's Building and a **Copper Beech**. Note the **Norway Maples** and the **Cherries** that line the ring-road.

23. Between the Chancellor's Building and Tawny Building is a row of **Whitebeams** *Sorbus aria*. Follow the path to the car-park to complete your walk.

Keele Woodland Walks