

## Trail 2: Woodland and Grass Meadow

As you walk through the woodland, many creatures stir unseen, foraging for food - long tailed tits dart between the branches above, whilst grey squirrels hop about collecting acorns in autumn. Visit the woodland in April-May when the upper slopes become a stunning carpet of English bluebells. The woodland is left to develop naturally, but checked regularly for any invasive species. There are traces of human activity here too;



you may discover a large fallen tree on the lower slopes of the wood, carved with Maori symbolism at the time of the "Pacific Encounters" exhibition (Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, 2006). As you emerge from the woods, look out for the ancient sessile oak tree on the right-hand side, which is about 350 years old, dating back to the time when this was farmland! Sessile oak is hard, durable and water resistant, used in the past for barrels, casks and ship building.

The view from the edge of the woodland takes in the grass meadow, where rabbits graze amongst the wild flowers. As you walk through the meadow, you may notice mounds and hollows in the form of the land. These are the last traces of Earlham Golf Course, bequeathed by Norwich City Council as the site for the University in 1962, on the condition that it remains open parkland for the public. The grass meadows are mown in rotation to encourage flowers, bees, insects and birds.



From the grass meadow, the view is dominated by the iconic Ziggurats, modelled on ancient Mesopotamian pyramid-shaped towers. These form part of the original concrete buildings on campus, designed by architect Sir Denys Lasdun in the 1960s.

Subsequent generations of architects have all left their distinctive mark. Another striking building, to the left of the Ziggurats, is the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (SCVA). Designed by Norman Foster and opened in 1978, it houses the art collection of Sir Robert Sainsbury. Look out for the open air sculptures : two Henry Moore bronze sculptures and an abstract steel sculpture by Ian Tyson in front of the Ziggurats.



LOTTERY FUNDED