

Trail 3: UEA Broad

Wherever you happen to join the Trail, the UEA Broad is most outstanding for its sheer size and situation on campus. It has become a site of great beauty and biodiversity over the years. The Broad teems with many different species of fish, which makes it a prime spot for fishing; there have been some brilliant catches in recent years, including a carp weighing 36lbs! The large quantity of fish also attracts a number of birds, including black-headed gulls, grey herons and the magnificent great crested grebes, which perform a unique mating dance in the spring. Some birds are seasonal visitors whilst others make their homes here.

The UEA Broad appears to be a natural habitat, but it is in fact entirely man-made! Formerly wet marshland, it was dug out for gravel and sand extraction in the construction of the University from 1973-78. Over time it filled with water. The uneven underwater profile shelves to a depth of 10 meters in places, filled with entangled plants and pockets of cold water. Because of these dangers swimming is strictly prohibited.



If you are walking alongside the River Yare from Trail 2 - Fen and Wet Woodland, you may cross the 'Mathematical Bridge' over to UEA Broad. This is a copy of the bridge over the River Cam at Queen's College, Cambridge. If you pass the west end of UEA Broad, make sure you have a peek at the water's edge, you may spot one of the two non-native terrapins that live here. In the summer months, you can see these colourful reptiles basking in the sun

on an old log. We suspect that they were unwanted or escaped pets! At the east end of UEA Broad there is a path uphill to Eaton Park where the **Friends of Eaton Park** community group work to maintain the biodiversity of the park and woodland.

The management of UEA Broad includes monitoring the water quality, maintaining the edges and cutting back tree growth to enhance the vistas. The UEA Broad provides an ever changing visual environment; it is a mirror for the clouds overhead and reflects surrounding trees. The water captures the bright colours of autumn leaves, and the blossoms of spring. As you walk around the Broad, observe the tall buildings behind the Ziggurats. The wide grassy area in front is known as "The Harbour" because the buildings and chimneys give the impression of a large ocean liner with smoking funnels!

