

## Biodiversity and sustainability

The University of Exeter recognises the importance of contact with nature, for staff, students and visitors to its sites. The University wants to raise the awareness of biodiversity and sustainable practices to help promote both formal and informal learning about the link between a healthy environment and a quality balanced ecosystem.



# Reed Pond

## Streatham Campus

Reed Pond takes its name from the nearby Reed Hall. In 1922 the house, then known as Streatham Hall, and the grounds were presented to the University College of the South West of England by Alderman W H Reed, a former Mayor of Exeter. The grounds included an extensive range of plants, laid out and provided by the famous Veitch family of horticulturalists and nurserymen. These plants still form the nucleus of the campus tree and botanical collections today.

The pond itself, in common with contemporary landscape features, is a man-made brick and puddle clay construction. It is home to 'stocked' ornamental fish and wildfowl. It also supports a variety of other wild birds including Mallards, Coots, Moorhens and the occasional Kingfisher.



**Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*) An unmistakable bright blue and orange bird which is widespread, especially in central and southern England. They may be seen all year round flying low over slow moving or still water.



**Waterlily** (*Nymphaea*) The UK native *Nymphaea alba* has golden-centred white blooms, which open in May and continue through to October.

## Other habitats

Ecologists have identified 16 habitats on the Streatham Campus which sustain a wide range of plants, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

- These are:
- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Amenity Grassland            | Semi-improved neutral grassland                          |
| Bare ground                  | Semi-improved grassland (poor)                           |
| Buildings                    | Standing water   |
| Hedgerows                    | Swamp  |
| Introduced scrub             | Tall ruderal   |
| Running water                | Woodland (broadleaved, mixed and coniferous plantations) |
| Scattered trees              | Woodland.  |
| Scrub                        |  |
| Semi-improved acid grassland |  |

The University's 300-acre estate includes a registered botanical garden and a National Collection of Azaras, which are evergreen shrubs and small trees native to South America.

