A  Bus terminus by Warwick Arts Centre

Over 144,000 daffodil and narcissus bulbs have been planted by hand across campus. Our gardeners are heroic!

White scented Thalia narcissus have been planted by the bus terminus, by Sculpture 10: Cat 1 by Laura Ford and by Sculpture 11: Let’s Not Be Stupid by Richard Deacon.

We support No Mow May – the longer grass and the dandelions and other wild plants create a habitat and provide food for bees and other pollinators in the spring.

B  Hedges along Gibbet Hill Road

Hedges are planted at right angles to the road, particularly around Bluebell roundabout and Scarman roundabout. They provide a habitat for small mammals.

The many small leaves of the hawthorn hedges help to capture air pollution. They also store carbon dioxide from the air.

We increase the length of our hedges by planting them in rows alongside the road. When we remove one metre of old hedging, it is replaced by five metres of new hedge.

C  Tocil Wood

Tocil Wood is a nature reserve managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. It has earthworks and pits that date back to the 1st and 2nd centuries, so please take care here. In April and May it is full of bluebells.

Also in this wood is Sculpture 14 by John Newling: Our Shadows Alone Touched You. The line of text comes from Dear Nature, a series of letters that he wrote to Nature. He asks us to think about our relationship to nature and how we might improve it.

D  Tocil Lakes

Walking alongside the banks of the lakes, you may see a variety of wildfowl. Native Greylag Geese have brown and grey feathers, an orange beak and a white rear.

Male Mallard ducks have green heads, the females are mottled brown. If you really want to feed ducks, please give them only sweetcorn, peas, lettuce or seeds. And be prepared – waterfowl that eat a lot, poo a lot!

E  Claycroft Lakes

On the path to Claycroft Lakes you might see a goldfinch with a red head and bright yellow wings. Or you might hear the loud bip bip bip bip call of a woodpecker from the high trees that surround the fields here.

Wildfowl by the lakes include Moorhens which are black with red and yellow beaks and Coots. Coots are also black but their beak is white and it extends up between their eyes.

F  Academic Square

The Liquidambar trees are coming into leaf here. Known for their long-lasting, vivid autumn colours, they can be late in coming into leaf in northern latitudes.

You might see herons here in the early morning. They have grey, black and white feathers, long legs and a long beak. They are among the birds that start breeding earliest, sometimes in February but usually laying eggs in March.

G  NAIC and University House

A rill is a narrow channel that carries water. You might see some damselflies or damsel flies hovering over the rill. Dragonflies hold their wings like an airplane when they are at rest while damselflies fold their wings alongside the road.

Outside University House is a new sculpture: Colour Connections by Tine Bech. The idea for the sculpture was to create a place for play. It was also partly inspired by the colours of the Baptistry stained glass window in Coventry cathedral. It is a reminder of Covid with its rainbow colours and the glass screens that used to separate us. It also creates a space for quiet thought.

H  Roundabouts on Gibbet Hill Road

The roundabouts are planted with bulbs including daffodils, purple alliums like lollipops and the pale spires of camassias. They flower throughout the spring and then give way to wildflower mixes.

I  Warwick Business School

On the other side of Gibbet Hill Road, wildflowers have also been planted around the white Business School. They provide nectar and pollen for many species of insects, which are themselves food for small mammals and birds.

Past the Business School, yellow daffodils are planted beneath white stemmed birch trees. Behind them is a new bed of brilliantly coloured magnolias and rhododendrons that are native through Asia into China as well as Spain, Portugal and Turkey.

J  Social Sciences quadrangles

Library Road is opposite the Business School. Near the big planters, there is a path between two redbrick buildings that leads to a steep grass lawn.

Sculpture 8: Grown in the Field by Avtarjeet Dhanjal was inspired by the rural view from the Alcan Factory in Banbury, where Dhanjal was artist in residence. Most plants that grow upwards in spirals, like beans or sweet peas, twine around their supports in a clockwise direction, following the orbit of the sun. Not all the spirals here go in a clockwise direction.

You may need to return to Library Road to access the main quadrangle in Social Sciences, either via steps or a ramp opposite the library.

Sculpture 7: Dark at Heart sits beneath the blossom of the crab apple tree in the main Social Sciences quadrangle. It takes its form from the natural world. Peter Randall-Page wanted to express ‘a sculptural equivalent of an emotional state—the dark knotted centre, the consciousness of being alone’.

K  Wisteria Walk

The path back to Warwick Arts Centre is covered by a pergola with wisteria hanging from it. Japanese wisteria twines clockwise, Chinese wisteria twines anti-clockwise. In the spring, large purple flowers hang down like grapes.

Wisteria is believed to have been named after the American doctor Caspar Wistar (1761-1818) who was President of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery.
FREE ENTRY
Visit the 
Springtime Trail
The University of Warwick Sculpture Park
FREE ENTRY

Relax and enjoy spring!

Walking, talking and looking at art and nature are all part of wellbeing. The University of Warwick's Springtime Trail takes in some of the amazing art in our Sculpture Park as well as the sights of spring. You are welcome to explore as much as you like, to do the whole trail or just take in one or two areas.

The Springtime Trail takes in paved areas, grassed areas, lakeside paths, woods and fields. Please wear appropriate clothing for the spring weather and soft ground and take care. Spring is unpredictable! This trail aims to cover March-May but plants and birds may be early or late. Please come again to see what has changed.

The University campus has a supermarket, cafes and toilet facilities that are open to visitors. Dogs on a lead are welcome.

Numbers refer to the sculptures on the Sculpture Park map. Letters refer to the different areas of campus.

Free entry all day, every day.

Getting here
By Train: The nearest mainline station is Coventry.
By Bus: We're connected to Coventry, Leamington and Kenilworth with regular bus services. Bus numbers 12X, 11 and 11U.
By car: You can reach the campus via the A45, A46, M40 and M42. Approaching Coventry, follow 'Warwick Arts Centre' or the 'University of Warwick' signs. Our car parks are all pay-by-mobile but you can pay at a machine in Warwick Arts Centre.

For information about the Mead Gallery's changing programme of exhibitions of national and international contemporary art visit warwickartscentre.co.uk.

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