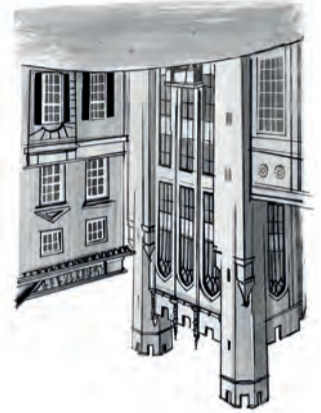


3 / Hollow

In 2016 a new public artwork called 'Hollow', made from tree samples from across the world was installed within Royal Fort Garden. 'Hollow' was commissioned to mark the opening of the University's Life Sciences building in 2016 and is produced by Bristol-based public art producers, Situations.

Created by artist, Kate Paterson, the samples took three years to amass, many of which have been donated by private collectors, arborists and botanic gardens across the world. Over 10,000 unique tree species have been gathered spanning millions of years, representing a miniature forest of all the world's forests and telling the history of the planet through the immensity of tree specimens.



2 / Physics Building

This gothic style building - HH Willis Physics Laboratory to give it its full title - was designed by Sir George Cadley, who also designed many University edifices including Willis Memorial Building at the top of Park Street. It was the first part of a conceived series of buildings, which if realised, would have destroyed most of the gardens under their foundations!

The building was opened in 1927 and used materials that Harry Willis stipulated should be of "such quality that no repairs are required for 50 years; hence bronze window frames to avoid rust... the best brick with cement mortar; and Keen's cement plaster... as it does not flake like lime".



1 / Tyndall's gates

English landscape designer Humphrey Repton laid out the main garden in 1800. It is almost impossible to visualise, but in Repton's time the driveway swept uninterrupted from this point, down through open parklands to Queens Road. These wrought iron gates and stone pillars gates (grade 2 listed) stood at that point; but were relocated.

The listed status identifies the feature as mid to late 18th century, having large square rusticated piers and spear-headed railings and attached gates.

The main gates are permanently open, but there is an ambition to make them operational again.



6 / Ivy Gate

In 2016 the University celebrated the official opening of the external realm of the Life Sciences Building and received an award in recognition of excellence in garden design from the Clifton and Howells Improvement Society (CHIS).

Officially opened by natural history film-maker Sir David Attenborough, who planted the first tree in the newly landscaped gardens, the area includes paving, a variety of seating and the renovated Grade II listed 'Ivy Gate'. The detailing of Ivy Gate's new setting is inspired by the light refracting prism motif carved in stone above the south door of the Physics Tower.



5 / Follow Me

In 2009 a new public sculpture by internationally acclaimed artist, Jeppe Hein, was unveiled as part of the University's centenary celebrations. Entitled 'Follow Me', the work is permanently sited in Royal Fort Gardens. The artwork was produced by Bristol-based public art producers, Situations.

The artwork comprises a square labyrinth of 76 vertical polished steel plates sited at the base of an incline leading down from Royal Fort House. Visitors are encouraged to enter the labyrinth to experience the effect of the work. Jeppe Hein was inspired by the University as a place of self-discovery, as well as by the history of the gardens - particularly the designs of 18th-century landscape gardener Repton.



4 / Nature pond

A great way to introduce biodiversity into an area is to build a pond. The pond in the Royal Fort has been extended in recent years and supports smooth and palmate newts, as well as frogs and toads. There are also wall lizards in the area, which are of interest even though they are not native.

The water-washed limestone in the rockery to the rear of the pond probably came from above Cheddar Gorge. This was the result of an unfortunate landscape fashion from the Victorian era and one which can be seen in gardens across Bristol.

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Why not visit...
The University Botanic Garden

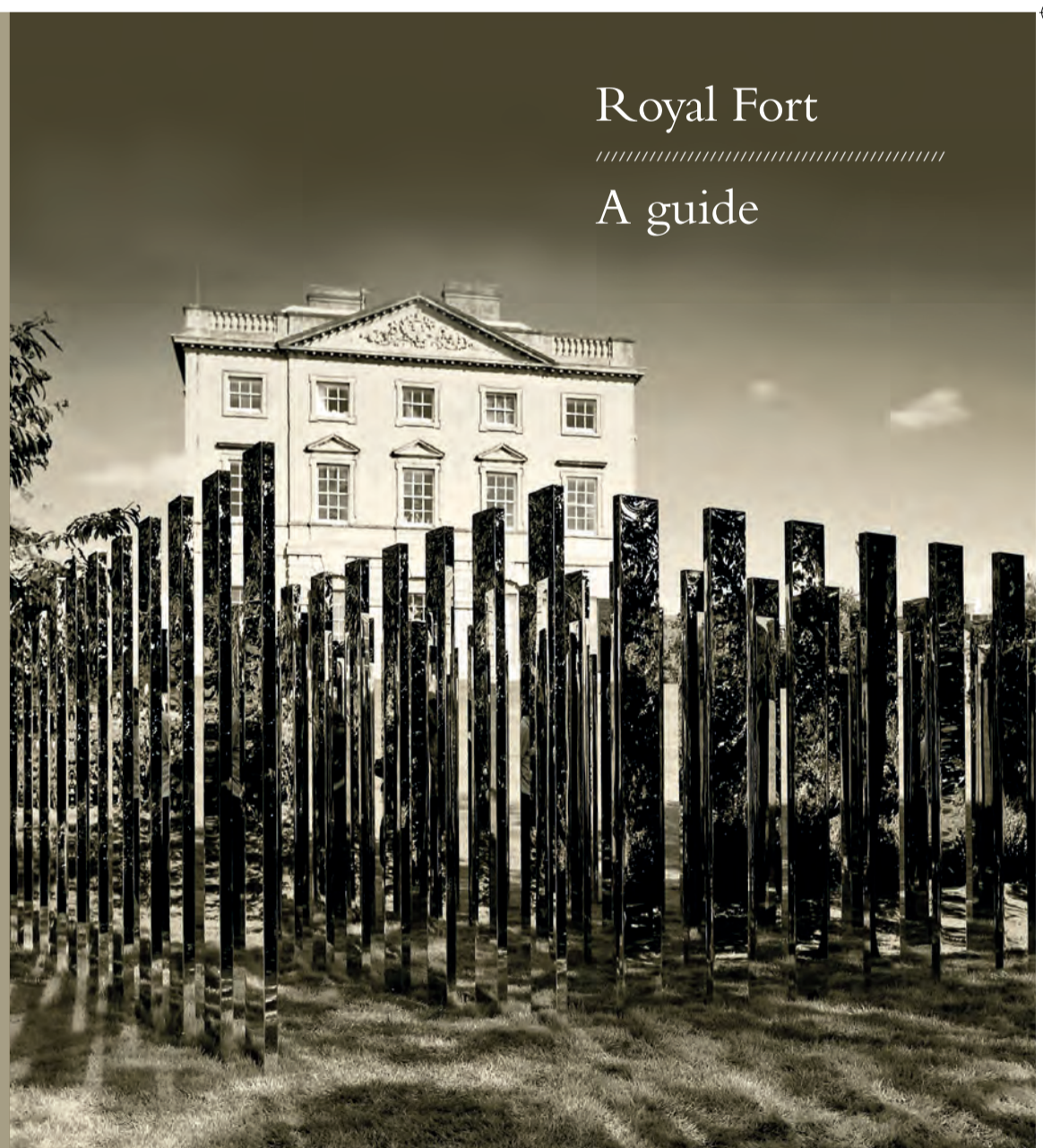
Located in Stoke Bishop, Bristol, the 1.77 hectare garden, managed by the University of Bristol, is home to 4,500 species. Arranged in four core collections: Evolution; Mediterranean; Local Flora; and Rare Natives and Useful Plants, each collection has been designed to be attractive as well as educational, with some displays allowing visitors to walk through and be 'immersed' in the plantings.

For information and opening times:
www.bristol.ac.uk/botanic-garden



Oct 2019

Design: www.greenhatdesign.co.uk illustration: www.adrianbarclay.co.uk



Royal Fort
A guide

University of BRISTOL
External Estates

Royal Fort Tour route

To get the best from the tour please follow the route marked on this map starting from position 1.



For more information about the **University of Bristol Historic Gardens** a book is available to purchase, written by Marion Mako. Please visit:

www.bristol.ac.uk/external-estate/gardensandgrounds/historicgardens/

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