

Birmingham's Erratic Boulders

Natural Heritage of the Ice Age

JANUARY 2022 PROJECT UPDATE

We are pleased to advise that the project has now completed its preparatory stage and entering the main stage.

All the boulders have been moved to their final positions in Woodgate Valley Country Park (WVCP), Cannon Hill Park and Balaams Wood. We would like to thank all the volunteers that support those community spaces; the Rangers; Birmingham City Council and A.M.B Landscapes, for their enthusiasm for the project.



Moving the large boulder at WVCP from the field to the pathway

A decision was made to move the boulder from the riding school at WVCP to its new position at the crossroads by the brook



Riding school boulder's new spot



Whilst at the planning meeting with the contractors, it was decided to move a new boulder from the far side of Bourn Brook to the opposite bank.



Discovery of new boulder by Bourn Brook and volunteer Jo Stubbs

The boulder by the eastern bridge was moved a few metres, so is now fully visible



The boulder at Balaams Wood in Frankley was made more accessible by moving it from the wooded undergrowth to the public pathway.



Prof Ian Fairchild and Frankley Parish Councillor Bruce Pitt at the boulder's new site

The boulder in Cannon Hill Park was moved from its previously muddy moat and placed on more solid ground



The trail routes are well into the development stage. Information about the routes will be posted on the project's website and in printed leaflet form. One of the important aspects of the project is to make our heritage routes accessible to a wide range of people. So, as much information as possible will be available for people to plan their visit, including, public transport, accessible toilets, benches along the walking trail and disability parking.

Some sites, such as Broadhidley Wood, are not accessible to anyone who has limited mobility so it is hoped a "hands on" 3D model of the quartz boulder will be installed at WVCP visitor centre, which will also benefit those with a sight impairment.



Close up of the quartz stone

A 3D image of the quartz boulder created by Dr Andy Jones, Digital Technologies Officer at the Lapworth Museum of Geology, can be found following this link.

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/broadhidley-wood-erratic-4db8b35e25cb44799f584fa72c8e702b>

Another important outcome for the project is the discovery of new boulders and the “re-discovery” of the boulders that piqued the imagination of the Victorians. A campaign has been launched with the help of “Roland the Rockhound”, our very own sniffer dog, to raise public awareness of the existence of known erratic boulders and to be on the lookout for new examples.



Ranger Teresa Terry of WVCP has found a new boulder that Prof. Ian Fairchild has identified as an erratic



If anyone locates what they think may be an erratic, they are asked to send a photograph, with the precise location to, erraticsproject@worc.ac.uk Our geologists will then view the image and visit the site if they consider it a possibility.

Our social media details are as follows:



<https://www.facebook.com/birminghamerratics>



<https://twitter.com/erraticsproject>

Thanks for all your support.....and remember, heritage belong to all of us.

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