

Birmingham's Erratic Boulders Heritage of the Ice Age

Project Update March 2022

The design of the 7 walking and cycling trails are well underway.

Trail 1, The Roland Kedge Trail, will be launched on Saturday 23rd April from 10am – 3pm, starting at the Great Stone Inn, B31 2LU



The leaflet features the same logos as the top of the page. The main title is 'Birmingham's Erratic Boulders Heritage of the Ice Age'. The text reads: 'Join us on an exploration of Birmingham's Ice Age Heritage. You can take a guided tour around the ancient glacial boulders with our volunteer geologists, or wander on your own through Birmingham's open spaces, along the Worcester and Birmingham Canal to the Aston Webb boulder at the University of Birmingham. The 5 mile mainly accessible route will take you past more than a dozen examples of erratic stones, that were deposited by melting glaciers in Birmingham, 450 thousand years ago. The Roland Kedge Trail Starting from The Great Stone Inn, Northfield, B31 2LU to University of Birmingham on Saturday 23rd April 2022 from 10am—3pm. The Lapworth Museum of Geology at the University will be open from 12-5pm. The Great Stone Inn will be open from 10am, serving refreshments and a breakfast menu. St Laurence Church will be hosting a Fairtrade Coffee morning from 10-12 noon and the unveiling of a millstone at 10.45am. There is limited parking at the Pastoral Centre (opposite) but there are rail and bus links to the Great Stone Inn, and return, from the University. Tours: 11.15am and 1pm plus a 12 noon tour for geology enthusiasts. Further information on the trail and transport links can be found at <https://erraticsproject.org/> from 28.3.22

A huge thanks go to Julie and John Schroder for designing the trail leaflet. Copies of the leaflet will be available at the start of the trail and at the Lapworth Museum, but an excellent description of the trail can be found at <https://erraticsproject.org/trail-1/>

The trail starts at the Great Stone Inn, named after the large boulder, that used to sit on the corner of Church Road, but was later moved into the adjacent animal pound when it became a traffic hazard. The trail passes at least a dozen examples of erratic boulders, through Birmingham's open spaces, including Selly Oak Park, and along the canal.



Roland Kedge who is dedicated to preserving the history of the ice age boulders of Birmingham

The route takes the walker through Selly Oak Park, which local historian Ken Pugh writes in his book “The Heydays of Selly Oak Park 1896-1911”, that the land was gifted to the people of Northfield and the recently formed Kings Norton, by Emma Joel Gibbins (nee Cadbury) in 1898, on condition that “no intoxicating liquor should be sold or used in the park; it should not be open for playing games on Sunday and the gates must not be closed for more than two consecutive days”.

There are two erratic boulders in the park.



This boulder was moved to the park in 1901 but was split during excavation

The route continues along the Worcester to Birmingham canal to the newly named Aston Webb boulder at the University of Birmingham. The name refers to the Aston Webb building, built in 1909, and where the boulder was first discovered when the land was excavated.



Steve Ashton, Senior Project Manager at the University, by the boulder's present location

An accessibility guide for the trail can be found at <https://www.accessibilityguides.org/content/roland-kedge-trail-northfield-university-birmingham>

The route along the canal tow path is not suitable for anyone with restricted mobility but there is an alternative route after Selly Oak Park that takes the visitor along Harborne Lane, right onto Bourn Brook Walk and then along the New Fosse Way to the University.

We will be running a training session for anyone interested in becoming a trail guide or community champion for the trail, on Saturday 9th April 2022 starting at the great Stone Inn. Final details of meeting times have not yet been confirmed but it will be either 11 or 11.30am. For further details please contact Zoe Jackson z.jackson@worc.ac.uk

We have scheduled the other trail launches as follows and more details including starting points will be available on our website <https://erraticsproject.org/> 2 weeks before each event.

Trail	Date
Northfield to University of Birmingham	23 rd April 2022
Kings Norton	14 th May 2022
Frankley	25 th June 2022 TBC
Cotteridge Park and Bournville	2 nd July 2022
Woodgate Valley Country Park	13 th August 2022
Cycle trail—Longbridge to Bromsgrove	20 th August 2022
Cycle trail—South West Birmingham	10 th September 2022

Val Turner, Project Manager.