

Introduction



The Lapworth Museum is approximately 130 years old and contains the largest and finest geological collection in the Midlands, comprising 250,000 specimens of national and international importance.

A major redevelopment is being planned for 2014–15 that will greatly improve access to our fantastic collections and provide a unique and exciting visitor experience. The proposed redevelopment will include new galleries and innovative exhibitions to showcase exceptional objects that have not previously been displayed.

The new display will be based around four key themes: **evolution of life, active Earth, mineral wealth, and learning and discovery.**

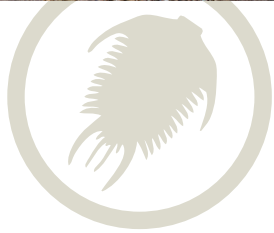
We are applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support this project and help us provide a high quality and outstanding geological museum.



Evolution of life



- What are fossils and how do they form?
- How complete is the fossil record?



The Museum’s collections will be used to explore life over the last 3.4 billion years covering major evolutionary event changes and mass extinctions.

We will demonstrate what a fossil is and how they form to provide a record of past life and the puzzles that scientists need to solve in order to understand the fossil record.

Local fossils provide evidence that over the past 450 million years the Midlands area has changed from tropical seas to deserts to ice sheets. We will illustrate the impact on life from changes in sea level, climate and continental drift.



Active Earth



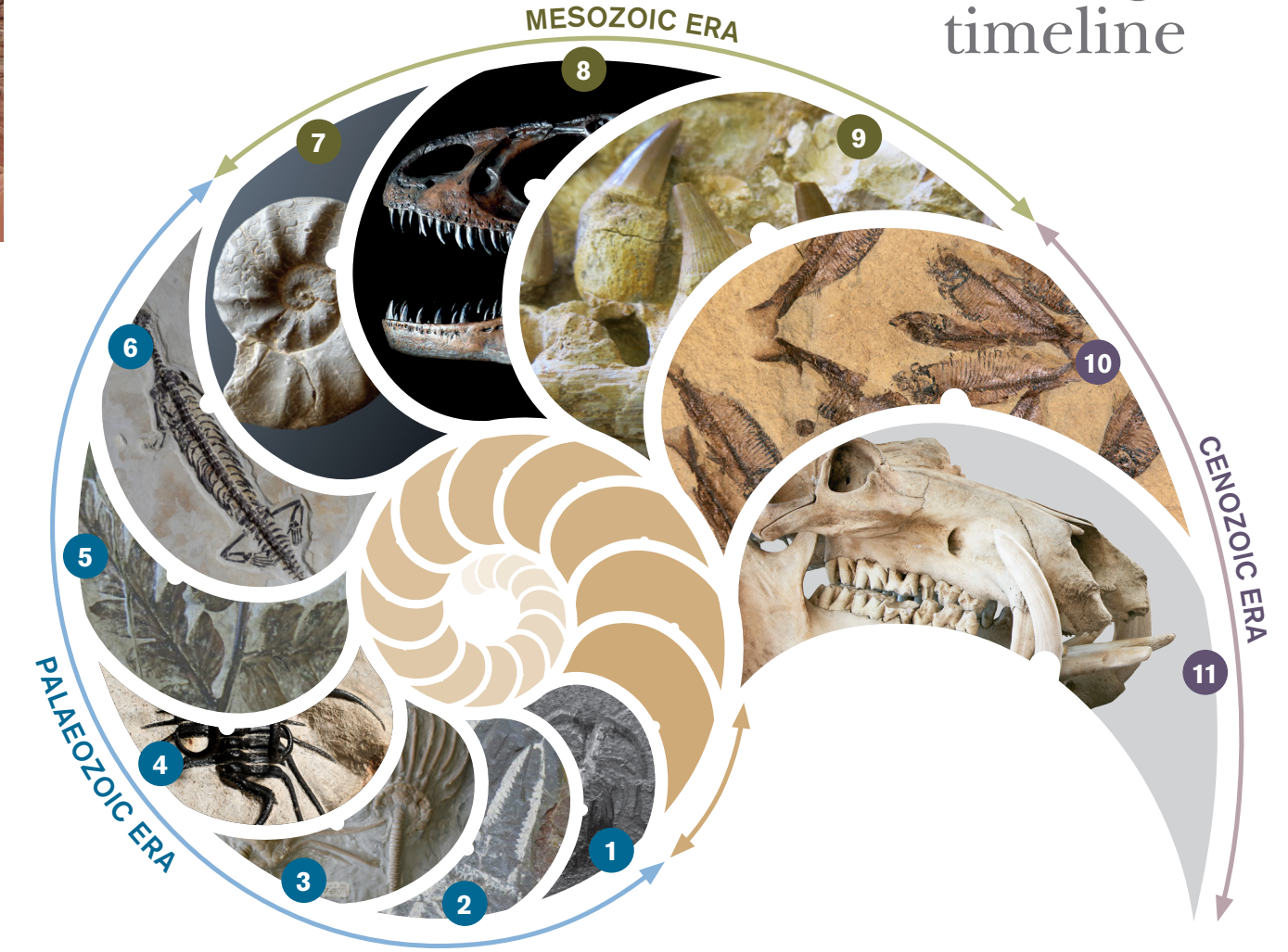
- Why do we have volcanoes and earthquakes?
- How do rocks record the Earth’s long and changing climatic history?

Come and explore plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, the formation of mountains and the rock cycle. Our collections will be displayed alongside an innovative digital globe projection that will act as a central focal point, for example by showing how continents have moved over time.

John Johnston Shaw (1873–1948) a pawnbroker from the Black Country became interested in seismology (the study of earthquakes) and co-designed the Milne-Shaw Seismograph of 1913, which became the international standard. The instruments – which detected, recorded and measured earthquakes – were assembled by Shaw at his home in West Bromwich. We have Shaw’s original seismograph, as well as a [large archive](#) relating to him, which includes many of his printed records of earthquakes.



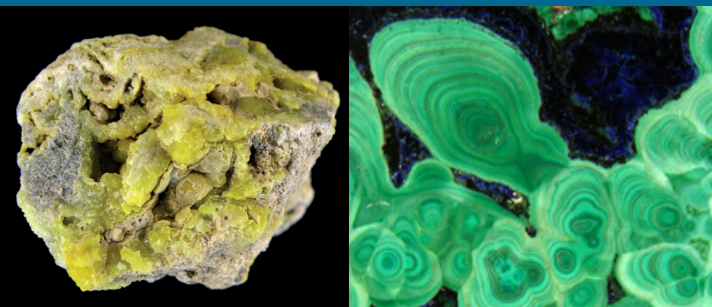
Geological timeline



4,600–541 million years ago	541–252 million years ago	252–66 million years ago	66 million years ago–present
<b>PRECAMBRIAN ERA</b>	<b>PALAEOZOIC ERA</b>	<b>MESOZOIC ERA</b>	<b>CENOZOIC ERA</b>
	1 Cambrian Period 2 Ordovician Period 3 Silurian Period 4 Devonian Period 5 Carboniferous Period 6 Permian Period	7 Triassic Period 8 Jurassic Period 9 Cretaceous Period	10 Tertiary Period 11 Quaternary Period



# Mineral wealth



- What are minerals and how do they form?
- Why are they so important?

There are many types of mineral: from the very common, such as amethyst (a type of quartz), to others that are rare and highly prized, like diamond, gold and platinum. Discover the beauty and aesthetic appeal of minerals and crystals using examples from our collection, as well as exploring how minerals form, mineral discovery and extraction, and what they are used for.

Our mineral and rock collections contain outstanding examples from the most important mineral localities in the UK.

The natural resources of the region were central to the development of the Industrial Revolution; and the establishment of early industry in the Midlands. This had a huge impact on the development of our region, its landscape and its people.



# Learning and discovery



- How do we learn and discover from our Museum collections?
- How have our collections helped to make important scientific discoveries?

Our extensive and rich collections are used for learning and, through display and events, public enjoyment. We will explore the history of the Museum, its collections, and collectors, and why people collect.

Our collections have also been used by a wide range of individuals to make ground-breaking discoveries and advances in science. Objects, associated archives, and personal stories, will show how our understanding of the science of geology has been enhanced by our collections. As new scientific technologies are developed, we can look at our collections again, in new ways, and continue to make new exciting discoveries.



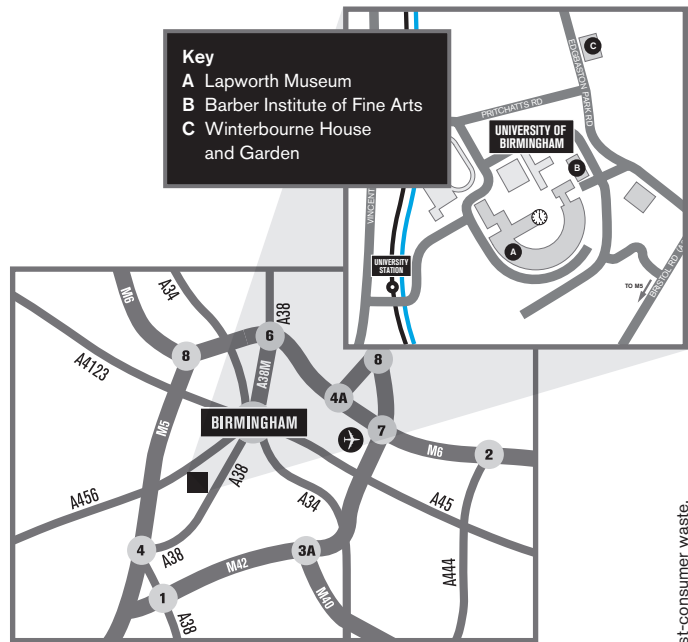
# Volunteering at the Museum



We are dedicated to providing volunteer opportunities and activities. We aim to provide valuable skills, knowledge and experiences to help support both personal and professional development and recognise our volunteers' achievements.

The Museum encourages volunteers from a wide cross section of backgrounds and experiences. We are committed to making volunteer opportunities as accessible as possible in order to create a diverse group of volunteers and to respond, where feasible, to the different needs of our volunteers.

There is a wide range of opportunities available requiring volunteer support including: working with our collections, retail, marketing and communication, learning resources, database work, and public engagement activities.



## How to find us

**Rail:** University Station, on the Cross-City line, is five minutes walk to the centre of campus. Up to six trains an hour depart for the University from Birmingham New Street.

**Car:** from the M6 motorway, leave at junction 6, at the end of the motorway, go over the flyover and join the A38, Bristol Road. The University is on your right, 2.5 miles from the city centre. From the South leave the M5 at junction 4 to join the A38. The University is on your left, 8 miles from the motorway.

**Bus:** numbers 61, 62 and 63 travel to the University's Edgbaston campus and all run frequently from the city centre.

Further visitor information is available on our website: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth)

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



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LAPWORTH  
MUSEUM OF  
GEOLOGY



# Discover...

...plans for an exciting redevelopment of our museum



[www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth)