

LAPWORTH MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

Explore life over the past 3.5 billion years



WELCOME

The Lapworth Museum of Geology dates back to 1880 and is named after Charles Lapworth, one of the most important and influential geologists in the late 19th and early 20th century. It is one of the oldest specialist geological museums in the UK and holds in excess of 250,000 diverse and fascinating objects.

The Museum recently underwent an extensive £2.7 million redevelopment and our visitors can now explore life over the past 3.5 billion years. The Museum showcases exceptional objects from one of the UK's most outstanding geological collections with many of the items now on display originating from the Midlands area. A visit to the Lapworth Museum provides a fascinating insight into how the Earth formed and changed over time, and how life on Earth developed and evolved.

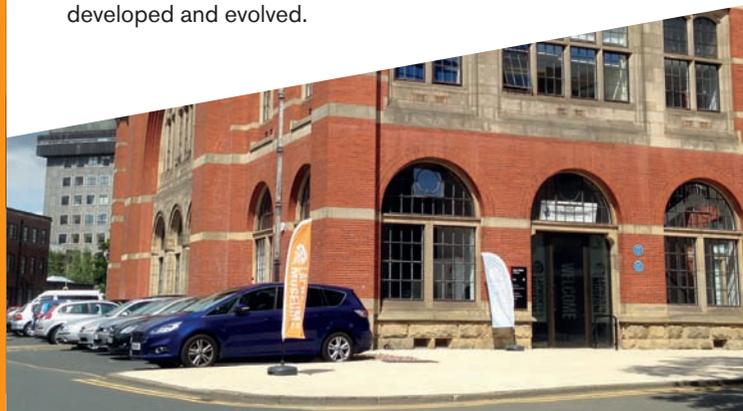
There are three new state-of-the-art galleries plus a range of innovative and interactive exhibits with new soundscapes and animations recreating the Midlands environment from up to 425 million years ago. From fossils to volcanoes, diamonds to dinosaurs, the Museum captures the imagination of all ages.



VOLUNTEERING

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.

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.



OPENING TIMES

Museum entry is FREE of charge and opening times are:
 Monday to Friday: 10.00am–5.00pm
 Saturday and Sunday: 12noon–5.00pm

FACILITIES

- Enjoy retail and café area with bespoke items for sale and light refreshments
- Full disabled access
- FREE identification service for geological items
 Please contact the Museum for further details

HOW TO FIND US

Further visitor information is available on our website:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum/visit



#LAPWORTH ROCKS

www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth



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LEARNING & DISCOVERY

The Museum is a valuable resource for schools, colleges, enthusiasts, adult education and community groups plus anyone with an interest in geology.

The Museum now has its own dedicated Learning and Resources Room that can be booked for educational sessions including school visits.

If you would like to discuss your requirements and how we can help you, please contact the Museum.



ACTIVITIES... for group visits can be arranged to suit specific topics and requirements. Loan sets of fossils, minerals and rocks are also available for educational use.

EVOLUTION OF LIFE

What are fossils and how do they form?

Life on Earth is incredibly diverse. Millions of species alive today evolved from a single ancestor that lived over 3.5 billion years ago. Since then, life has had to survive and adapt in a constantly shifting world. Earth history is divided into many time periods – some very long and others quite short. The Museum contains a record of the invasion of land, the growth of forests, and the rise of animals such as insects, dinosaurs and humans. The fossil record is not complete, but new discoveries allow scientists to keep writing fresh chapters in the story of life.



DISCOVER... 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.

ACTIVE EARTH

Why do we have volcanoes and earthquakes?

Earth is 4.5 billion years old and is still active. Its surface is divided into tectonic plates, which are always moving. Along the plate margins, where new crust is created and destroyed, volcanoes erupt and earthquakes happen. These, and events such as tsunamis, can have a devastating impact on life and the environment around them. Where plates collide they can also form mountain chains – the structures and layers in these help us understand how and when they formed.



EXPLORE... our collections alongside an innovative interactive globe that will act as a central focal point, showing how continents have moved over time.

MINERAL WEALTH

What are minerals and how do they form?

A mineral is a naturally occurring, inorganic substance with a distinctive atomic structure and well-defined chemical composition. There are around 4,900 recognised minerals. Some, such as quartz and calcite, are common. Others, such as diamond, gold and platinum, are rare and valuable.

Rocks are made of minerals – so minerals are the building blocks of the geological world. Minerals have a vast range of colours, shapes and texture. Our gallery explores the diversity of the mineral kingdom and shows the importance of minerals in our everyday lives.



ADMIRE... the beauty and aesthetic appeal of minerals and crystals, as well as exploring how minerals form, mineral discovery and extraction, and what they are used for.