



Andy Howlett

Andrew Stuck is in Cannon Hill Park in Birmingham, in the heart of Britain's West Midlands, walking beside the River Rea with psycho-geographer and documentary film-maker, **Andy Howlett**, who recently completed "Paradise Lost" an essay-film about Birmingham's Central Library and the death of modernism. Just before the first pandemic lockdown, Andy joined forces with Pete Ashton and Fiona Cullinan to create a walking art collective called **Walkspace**. Despite the lockdown, WalkSpace has grown exponentially, attracting artists, walkers and writers from across the region and support from the British Council. Andy talks about his own enthusiasms as a documentary film maker, as well as adventures by the Walkspace collective, that have included, a mapping project involving 'extreme noticing', a search for the geometric centre of Birmingham and a moonlit night walk in which magic spells were cast, as part of a series called 'Walkspace erratics' as well as a forthcoming international exhibition on 'parallel walking'. 28'.10" 13.2MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in [Cannon Hill Park](#) in Birmingham in January 2022 and published in January 2022. <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

"Paradise Lost" an essay-film about Birmingham's Central Library and the death of modernism: <http://paradiselostfilm.uk>

Walkspace website: <http://walkspace.uk> founded by [Andy Howlett](#), [Pete Ashton](#) and [Fiona Cullinan](#)
Andy's documentary films: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCagsm9t-JVxYDF007xvuVmA>

Bourneville: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourneville> and Stirchley: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stirchley,_West_Midlands The Beer Mile in Stirchley: <https://www.thebrewerybible.com/posts/the-stirchley-beer-mile>

Mapping Stirchley Project: <http://walkspace.uk/mapping-stirchley/> "Extreme Noticing": <https://art.peteashton.com/extreme-noticing/>

Psychogeography: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychogeography>

Digbeth Delights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFWfAlj2qik>

[Gyro](#) / [Go-Pro](#) / [Lumix compact stills camera](#)

Walsall New Art Gallery: <https://thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk>

In search of the Brumphalos: <http://walkspace.uk/2021/10/photos-from-brumphalos-walk/>

Guardian article on the geometric centre of cities, including Birmingham: <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/gallery/2018/feb/23/city-centre-in-pictures-geometric-true-london-manchester-bristol-glasgow-sheffield-birmingham>

The original 'Omphalos' <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omphalos>

Duddeston, Birmingham's geometric centre: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duddeston>

Birmingham's erratics: <https://erraticsproject.org>

Parallel Walking exhibition: <http://walkspace.uk/parallel-walking/>

Andy Howlett recommends:

1. Follow pedestrian only routes until they end
2. Moonlit night walk close to water: for example in Stirchley & Lifford: <http://walkspace.uk/2020/03/fionas-full-moon-write-up/>