

# The War Stone

**This large boulder is known as The War Stone. It gives it name to a local road name - Warstone Lane. During the last Ice Age it was carried from a larger mass of rock in Wales.**



The boulder is made of felsite, an igneous rock formed by solidifying volcanic lava.

During the last Ice Age, more than 12000 years ago, stones like these were dislodged and shifted by the movement of the ice glacier. When the ice melted the boulders were deposited. They are glacial erratics.

Despite the name, it does not refer to a fight or battle. Originally called "Hoar Stone", over time it became known by the similar sounding title "War Stone". Hoar is an old English word meaning white or frosty, and shows a recognition of it's glacial past.

They were often used as boundary stones, a bit like signposts. The War Stone showed where the manors of Aston, Birmingham and Handsworth met.

A busy and industrial city has grown around the boulder in what would have been fields and these strange boulders have become linked with local legends and stories.

A similar stone known as The Gilbertstone, in Yardley, holds a tale that it was lifted by a giant called Gilbert who relocated it as part of quarrels over land ownership.

Describe the life of the War Stone as a biography or an autobiography. Maybe include:

- It's formation during a volcanic eruption
- A journey during the Ice Age
- Arrival in Birmingham and changes it saw
- Or make up an imaginary legend connected with the boulder, where it came from and what it was used for. What about a meteor from space? Think giants, goblins, fairies!



There are more glacial erratics across the city. Work out which one belongs in which place...

1. The Gilbertstone now located at Blakesley Hall in Yardley
2. The Great Stone in Northfield next to The Great Stone pub
3. Cannon Hill Park boulder



Answers: Clockwise 2,3,1