

Working with Community Groups

Earlswood Lakes Community Heritage Trail (April 2002 – May 2003)

Client – British Waterways

This community heritage project was funded through the Countryside Agency's Local Heritage Initiative and involved establishing a working party of local residents to research, develop and create a heritage trail around Earlswood Lakes. The outputs of the project included a series of marker posts with etched copper images and poetry, a family trail leaflet, display and children's activity sheet.



The project was kick-started with a community heritage day where local residents shared their thoughts about the route of the heritage trail and the stories it should tell.




Site visits provided inspiration for shapes and structures that could be used for unique trail marker posts. One member of the team put his woodworking skills to excellent use in making the wooden patterns for the cast iron marker posts.

Short pieces of poetry were written and etched onto copper plates to be inserted in the posts.

**Look in the ditches,
what do you see?
Water flowing from
A to B?**

**Perhaps a shy
moorhen hiding away,
or a dragonfly darting
to catch its prey.**

3





When the wooden patterns were complete the group visited the foundry to see the posts being manufactured.



The working party on launch day when a special family event was organised to officially open the trail.

