

trails + tales

‘Stacks’, 2019, Black Basalt Aggregate Concrete (cast in collaboration with Gabion Designed Concrete Surfaces)

Three sculptural works for Lenzie Moss as part of Trails and Tales by Toby Paterson, Simon Whatley & Dug MacLeod

Made for Lenzie Moss as part of the wider Trails and Tales project, these small cast sculptural objects act as a series of subtle route markers, rather as traditional milestones might. The intention is that they might become familiar ‘punctuation marks’ for those who walk and cycle the Moss on a regular basis, carefully located as they are adjacent to existing routes around and through it.

The artists' aim was to make a series of objects whose form is derived from the traditional peat stack, making reference to the historic approach to such landscapes as a resource as well as to more recent 20th century attempts to industrialise peat extraction from Lenzie Moss. They also reflect on contemporary concerns regarding the conservation of such unique natural sites and their vital environmental role as ‘carbon sinks’, this being achieved through the suspension of a carbon black pigment in the black basalt aggregate concrete from which the ‘stacks’ are cast.

The locations for the installation of the artworks were identified following several site visits by the artists and the project team, including one in the company of representatives of Friends of Lenzie Moss and the Council’s Environmental Officer. Due to its environmental sensitivity, sites on the Moss itself were avoided in favour of peripheral paths and wooded areas.

These small scale works, reflecting the idea of ‘lures’ within the wider Trails and Tales project, are not intended to perform any specific practical function beyond presenting intriguing forms that visually punctuate a walk on the Moss, but they *are* however of a height that allows a weary walker to take a momentary perch to catch their breath.

Trails and Tales is an arts and heritage learning programme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Creative Scotland, which has engaged local and international artists with communities to explore local history and heritage. Interpretation about the artworks and their response to the heritage of the site is a major part of the Trails + Tales project and each artwork will be accompanied by either a small plaque and/or a weblink and QR code which will direct to information about the particular artwork on the project website <http://www.trailsandtales.org>.

