Full details and labelled photos of the two climbing blocks are on the website and in other fact sheets

SEDIMENTARY CLIMBING BLOCK
This block is made of:-

- **sedimentary rocks,** i.e. grains which have been cemented together. You can find sandstones, shelly limestones, mudstone and pebble rock (conglomerate).
- **fossils** - can you find some ammonites, tree bark, sea urchins, bivalves? The large fossil on the top is a Jurassic Nautilus and next to it you can see a cross section though another one. Can you find the little sea snail that crawled into the body chamber of this one?
- **minerals** - there are mineral veins, iron nodules, some calcite crystals and lots more.

CRYSTALLINE CLIMBING BLOCK
This block is made of:-

IGNEOUS ROCKS - these cooled and crystallised from molten rock (magma)

- some have large crystals so they cooled slowly
- some have tiny crystal which you cannot see. They cooled quickly and came out at the surface in volcanoes as lava. Lots of bits of lava can be seen on the top of the block.

METAMORPHIC ROCKS - these used to be other rocks which have been changed by heat and/or pressure. Some show that they have been deformed and others are just made of one mineral. Can you see -

- slate? The little house is made of slate which is metamorphosed mudstone. The house shows how slate tiles can be used on a roof
- gneiss? This is a banded rock and shows beautiful folds
- marble? This is metamorphosed limestone and there is pure white marble and beautiful streaky marble in the climbing block.

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Fossil rubbings have been provided by the Curry Fund, Geologists' Association
Full details of other generous donations can be seen on the website.

BOX ROCK CIRCUS

http://www.boxrockcircus.org.uk

- lower recreation ground - parking in Selwyn Hall car park
- access for the disabled - SN13 8NT

A magical circle of rocks, fossils and minerals; experience the wonder of travelling back in deep time. Did the big dinosaur really eat the little one? What *was* it like to be there?

OBELISK and FOSSIL RUBBING BLOCK

What rock is it? oolitic limestone (famous 'Bath' building stone), formed in a warm, shallow sea

Where is it from? Hartham Quarry, Corsham, *donated by Hanson Bath and Portland Stone, Corsham*

How old is it? Between 164 to 169 million years (Jurassic)

Where was this bit of tectonic plate at the time? Approximately 30^{0}N, Mediterranean latitudes

What was it like then? Box would have been under a warm, shallow sea with ammonites, belemnites and fish swimming around. In deeper water there were huge marine reptiles (ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs), large dinosaurs on land and pterosaurs in the sky.

Details of the fossils on the rubbing block are on the website and in another fact sheet.
Can you find? -

ammonite	trilobite
sea lily	fish (with eggs)
dragonfly	feeding trail
pterosaur	starfish

LAVA

What rock is it? volcanic lava (andesite)

Where is it from? Moon's Hill Quarry, Stoke St. Michael, Somerset, *donated by John Wainwright and Co. Ltd*

How old is it? between 423 to 428 million years (Silurian)

Where was this bit of tectonic plate at the time? South of the equator, at 30-40^{0}S (roughly where New Zealand is now)

What was it like then? We would have been in a volcanic area but there would have been sea scorpions, up to 3m long, in the nearby sea. There were also coral reefs and fish. On land there were only mosses and primitive plants at the water's edge.

OLD RED SANDSTONE

What rock is it? sandstone, deposited by rivers

Where is it from? Herefordshire, *donated by Black Mountain Quarries*

How old is it? between 391 to 417 million years (Devonian)

Where was this bit of tectonic plate at the time? South of the equator, at about 23·50S, tropic of Capricorn (roughly where the Kalahari desert is now)

What was it like then? It would have been hot with large rivers flowing over the area. There was a lot of life in the sea and in rivers and plants were beginning to cover the ground encouraging the evolution of insects.

TROPICAL LIMESTONE

What rock is it? limestone formed in tropical seas

Where is it from? Wickwar, Gloucestershire, *donated by Cemex UK*

How old is it? between 334 to 341 million years (Carboniferous)

Where was this bit of tectonic plate at the time? South of the equator, at about 3^{0}S, (roughly where Padang, Sumatra is today)

What was it like then? We would have been in a tropical sea with lots of fish and sharks. Can you find the coral near the top of the block? Amphibians were just beginning to crawl on to land and there were huge dragon flies and spiders.

NEW RED SANDSTONE

What rock is it? sandstone, deposited by rivers

Where is it from? Near Williton, Somerset, *donated by Capton Sandstone Quarry*

How old is it? between 242 to 248 million years (Triassic)

Where was this bit of tectonic plate at the time? North of the equator, to about 23.5^{0}N, tropic of Cancer (roughly where the Sahara desert is now)

What was it like then? It would have been hot with monsoonal rains causing large rivers in the area. The first small dinosaurs and mammal-like reptiles appeared on land. Fish, corals and ammonites were in the seas.