

# around and about

## The Calderstones

Orbis Conservation recently began a new important project on the Calderstones. This is a scheduled ancient monument in Liverpool comprising six Cheshire bed sandstone megaliths inscribed with prehistoric markings. They were originally part of a megalithic tomb dated to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age (c. 2800 – 2000 BC). The stones were probably part of a burial mound with a roofed passage leading to a simple chamber, like the passage tombs at Bryn Celli Ddu and Barclodiad y Gawres in Anglesey. They were moved in 1845 by the then owner of Calderstones Mansion who arranged them as a 'stone circle'.

They were moved again in 1954 to a Liverpool Corporation depot where they underwent cleaning before being placed in a purpose built glasshouse – known as Harthill Vestibule - in 1964 where they are today. The glasshouse was part of the Liverpool Botanical Gardens which were demolished during the 1980s. The stones have been locked away in this glasshouse with minimal interpretation resources, bad public access and a poorly controlled environment which is leading to their deterioration.

The Reader, a charity which pioneers the use of shared reading to improve well-being across different groups, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Liverpool City Council, has commissioned this project with the local community in mind. They are transforming the historic Calderstones Mansion into a new centre which will host a number of enterprises including a café, theatre and gallery, with any income generated supporting the sustainability of



Image: Orbis Conservation

At work on the Calderstones

the project for years to come.

Orbis Conservation will manage the de-installation, conservation and re-display of these magnificent objects in a secure area at the rear of Calderstones Mansion House right in the heart of the park. The aim is to carry out a thorough conservation treatment and create a more suitable home for The Calderstones, which will encourage the engagement of visitors with their heritage and make them as accessible as possible to the public.

The stones 'arranged in a circle' in a glasshouse

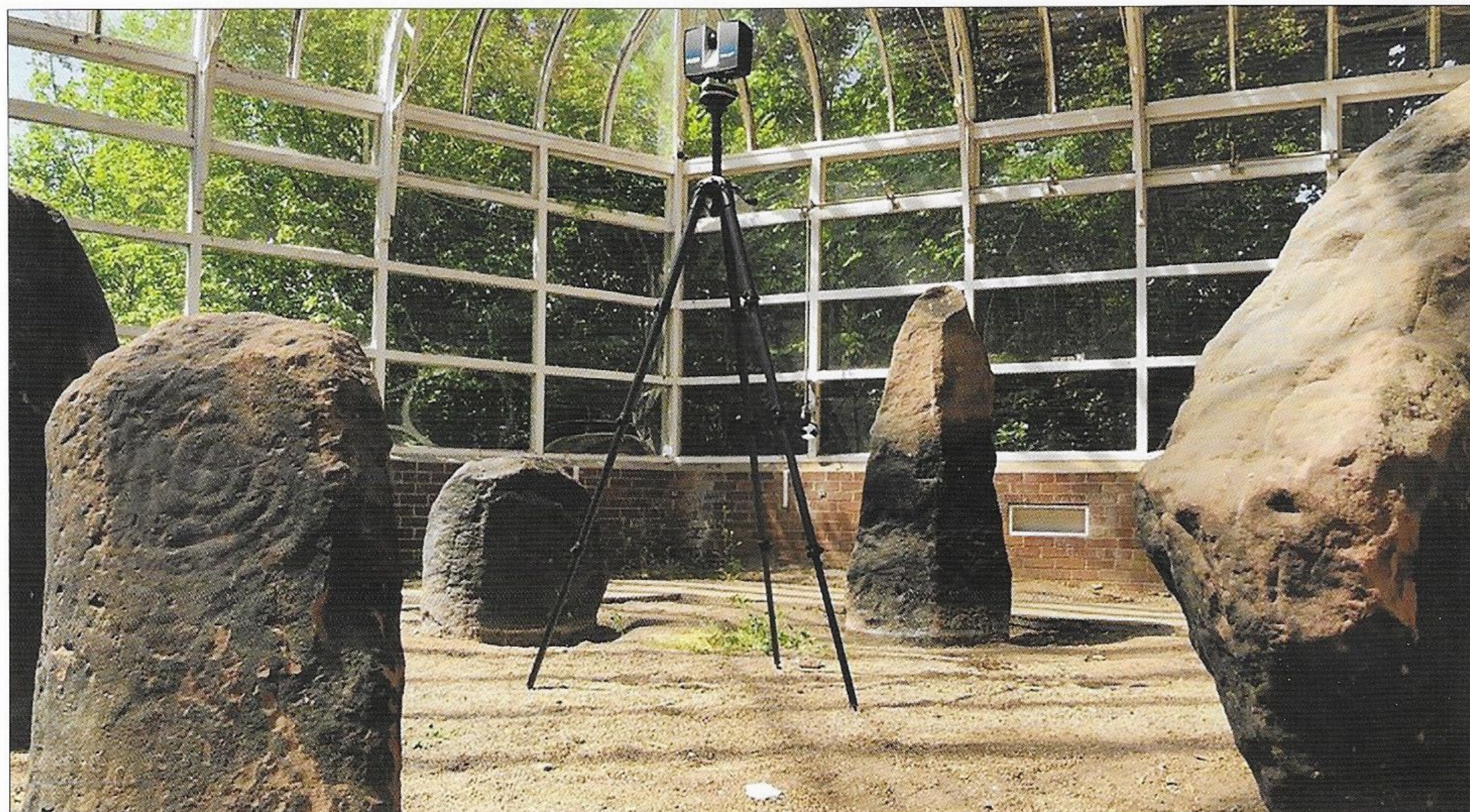


Image: Orbis Conservation