

# **SGI 6 University College Hospital, Monolith & Shadow**

London Borough of Camden

**University College Hospital entrance, 235 Euston Road, NW1 2BE: Monolith & Shadow**

Grid reference: TQ 2936 8234

A large 'pebble'-like sculpture, a public artwork designed to be used as seating, is situated outside the main entrance to University College Hospital (UCH) on the Euston Road. It is the work of sculptor John Aiken and it was installed here in 2005.

The sculpture is made from a spectacular conglomerate, containing well-rounded clasts of quartzite, granitoids, gneiss, basic volcanic rocks and ironstones just supported in a green, epidote and chlorite-rich matrix. Marketed as Verde Tropicalia by stone contractors Granitos Maceiras, the stone is derived from quarries at Morpará and Caetité in Bahia State, Brazil. Geologically, it is derived from the metasediments of the Mesoproterozoic Espinhaço Supergroup, more specifically rift-related, alluvial fan conglomerates from the Pajeu Synthem, a unit also called the Riacho Fundo Formation. The Pajeu Synthem lithologies consequently underwent contact metamorphism at hornfels facies. This explains the green, epidote and chlorite-rich matrix observed in Monolith & Shadow as well as the heterogeneity of strength across so many different rock types within this stone.

## **Access**

UCH is located at 235 Euston Road, NW1 2BU. The sculpture is accessible without permission. It is located outside the main hospital entrance on Euston Road, at the top of the steps to the left hand side of the doorway. Nearest Tube stations are Euston Square (Circle, Metropolitan, and Hammersmith & City) or Warren Street (Victoria & Northern Lines). Buses 18, 30 & 205 stop outside the hospital at Bus stop W.



*Photos: Ruth Siddall*

## **References**

- Danderfer, A., De Waele, B., Pedreira, A. J. & Nalini, H. A., 2009. New geochronological constraints on the geological evolution of Espinhaço basin within the São Francisco Craton - Brazil. *Precambrian Research* **170**:116–128.
- Siddall, R., 2016. There's an awful lot of conglomerate in Brazil: 'Monolith & Shadow' revisited. *Geology Today* **32**:205-207.