The Dinosaur Gallery Star Objects:
Take a closer look at…The Rutland Dinosaur

My name is John Martin, Keeper of Geology and Curator at New Walk Museum & Art Gallery in 1970s and 1980s. I was the person who looked after the original preparation and display of the Rutland Dinosaur.

The Rutland Dinosaur was found in 1968 in a quarry in Rutland. The quarry contacted the museum when they discovered some interesting rocks. The museum team investigated the site and brought back the discoveries to the museum. When they began to investigate they found the remains to be of a Sauropod dinosaur.

Jack Mackintosh, one of the world experts in the field, was invited to Leicester to have a look at the dinosaur remains and he decided the dinosaur discovery should be called Cetiosaurus.

The preparation work for display on the Rutland Dinosaur began in 1980 and took four years to complete. By the time the preparations were complete, the museum realised they had about half of a complete dinosaur. One of the most complete dinosaurs found in Britain, and one of the most complete Sauropod dinosaurs found anywhere.

The museum team developed a new method of display to suspended the Sauropod skeleton from the ceiling of the gallery.

As the museum finalised their preparations of the Rutland Dinosaur they began to contact the media to promote the new discovery and contacted Blue Peter.

The museum team took the dinosaur down to the Blue Peter studio for the programme. This was followed by Janet Ellis from Blue Peter visiting the museum for the opening of the dinosaur exhibition, with thousands of people coming to visit the museum.

The popularity of the exhibition, established the Rutland Dinosaur as one of the star attractions at New Walk Museum & Art Gallery.