



**THE PUBLIC  
ART COMPANY**



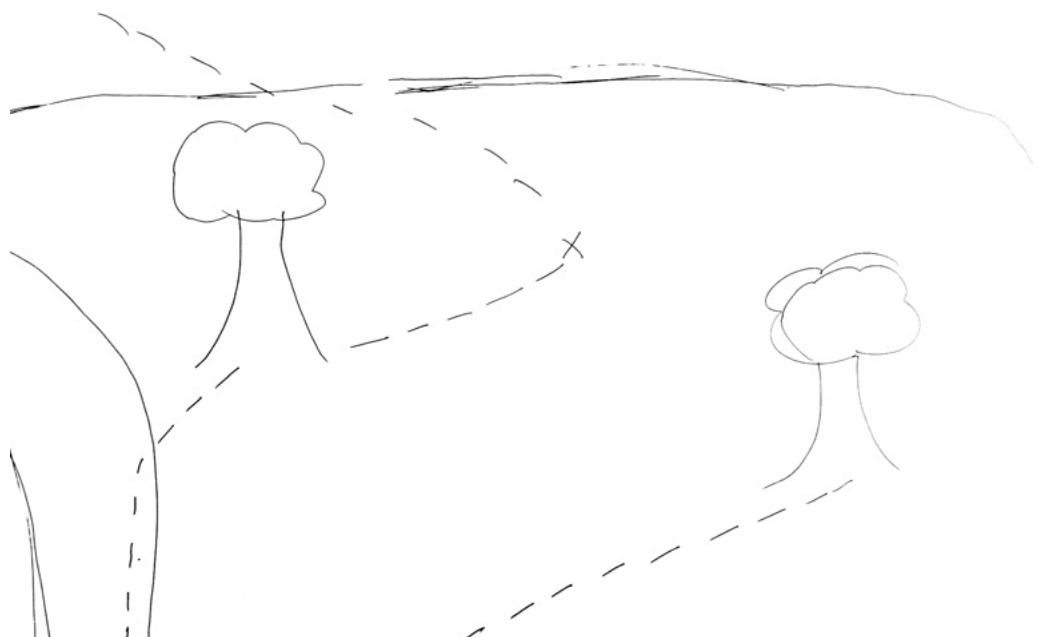
Exploring the Landscape of  
Woolwich and Charlton  
through Art

### What is Walking Art?

Walking Art is where we use the practice of walking and our creativity to explore a place. This may be a place you visit every day, but by using art you can look at the things around you in a number of different ways.

Be mindful and aware of what is happening around you as you walk, think about art, nature, geography, history and the way people use and navigate the spaces we walk in.

We suggest doing this walk in the daylight with friends.



### Background Information

This Walking Art Trail was designed by Sara Hayes of The Public Art Company for Art Hub Studios and was funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

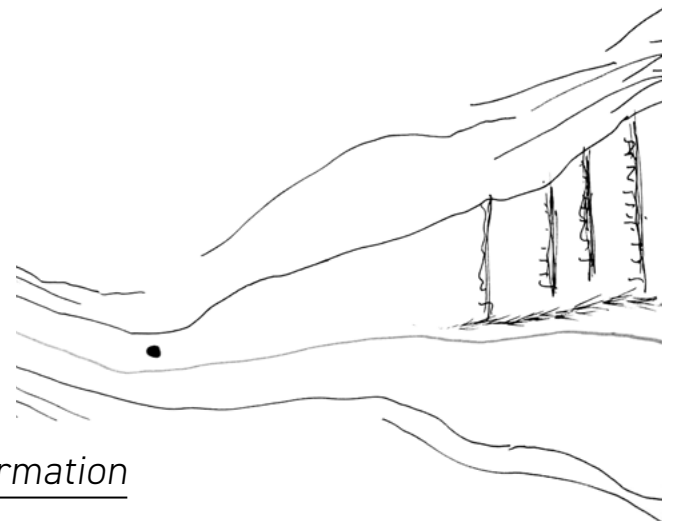
The Trail was launched at the 2021 Art Hub Open Studios (Woolwich). It is designed to allow communities to discover more about the history of the local area including the Thames Barrier and Bowater Road Conservation Area, which is situated across the areas of Woolwich and Charlton.

As part of the project, pupils from Royal Greenwich Trust School took part in a Walkshop with Sara, testing and mapping the final route.

The route can be followed by anyone wanting to discover more about the history of the area, although there are some sections involving steps and steep elevations (see reverse map for details).

We hope you enjoy :)

**[www.thepublicartcompany.co.uk](http://www.thepublicartcompany.co.uk)**  
**[www.arthub.org.uk](http://www.arthub.org.uk)**



### Key Trail Information

Start/End: Art Hub Studios, Westminster Ind. Estate, SE18 5TF

Time: 2 Hours

Total Distance: 2.63 Miles

Elevation: 111 ft (steep incline)

#### Materials:

Sketchbook (or some sheets of A4 paper),  
black biro, thick black marker, coloured pens/pencils,  
post-it notes, mobile phone to document

#### Warnings:

- There are multiple steps throughout the walk, including one steep ascend and one descend.
- Pay attention when crossing roads and look out for your fellow walkers.
- Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and wear weather appropriate clothes.
- Always move at the pace of the slowest walker, there's no rush.

### 1. Thames Barrier - Everyday Barriers

Built in 1982, the impressive metal sculpture of the Thames Barrier is a retractable barrier system, designed to prevent Greater London from being flooded by exceptionally high tides and storm surges moving up from the North Sea.

**Art Style: Problem Solving/Discussion** Starting your walk here, think a bit about the barriers there are to walking? How can barriers stop some of us walking every day? How can we help? List the barriers to walking you can think of and how we can overcome them.

# WALKING ART TRAIL

### 8. Royal Iris (Boaty) - Future Dreams

The poor old Royal Iris has been abandoned on the River Thames since 2002. For 40 years she graced the River Mersey in Liverpool, hosting The Beatles and the Queen and Prince Philip. She now sinks and rises with the tide.

**Art Style: Free Style** Let's give her a quick facelift! Draw or write your dreams for the Royal Iris moving forwards... Think about how this reflects your own dreams and goals? How could the boat be used for good?

### 2. The Victoria - Urban Decay

This late Victorian pub is one of the only surviving landmarks of an area full of houses. Now in ruins it is still an impressive building. Why do ruins create atmosphere? Are they a metaphor for social decay, or for rebirth.

**Art Style: Archeology of the Everyday** In the area surrounding the pub, be on the lookout for abandoned objects. Collect one and find a place to exhibit it next to the pub. You've just held your first 'Found Objects' exhibition! Take a photo and share online.

### 3. The Mount - Mapping

We are now at the highest point of the walk. There used to be a Roman-British settlement up here over 1500 year ago and more recently a Naval signaling post connecting to Shooters Hill.

**Art Style: Observation** Draw a map to represent what you can see. Think about structures, landmarks, natural formations and textures. Finally, add your route to this point.

### 4. Gilbert's Pit - 55 Million Years Ago

Gilbert's Pit is an important site from the Paleogene period. It displays one of the most complete sequences of sediments in Greater London. Formations date to around 55 million years ago. Some of the beds yield many fossils of plants, sponges, molluscs, fish and reptiles.

**Art Style: Mix Media** Try to recreate the layers using your black pen and black marker to create different thickness. Perhaps use some of the fallen clay from the site to add layers of colour. Use your imagination to reflect on the types of animals that might be captured in the fossils.

### 7. Maryon Park - 'Desire Paths'

As we walk, we often choose the quickest route, sometimes cutting through nature, often leaving a mark, these marks are called 'Desire Paths'. Walking artist Richard Long created a 'A Line Made by Walking' (1967) by walking backwards and forwards until he created a visible line, a new path.

**Art Style: Land Art** Replicate the method above and create your own 'Desire Path'. Think about how many steps it takes to create a new path. Take a photo and share online.

### 6. Maryon Park - Movement & Imagination

As you emerge out of the trees you enter a green space. This area was once a huge sandpit. A scene from cult classic film BlowUp (1966) was filmed here. Actors used movement and imagination to create a pretend world.

**Art Style: Movement** Create your own walking art piece. Follow your walking partner and copy their movements. Have fun changing your speed or direction, there's no right or wrong moves this is an experiment in how we can walk with others.

### 5. Steps & Railings - Lines and Shapes

As we head down the winding steps into Maryon Park, you are surrounded by ancient woodland, know to locals as 'Hanging Wood'. There are metal railings, mesh fencing, steps and turns.

**Art Style: Line Drawing** Overlap shapes and shadows inspired by the lines you see in the steps and fences to create a drawing based on them. Use different thickness of pens to draw the lines and shadows. Put a post-it note over an area and add in lots of details (maybe the branches of hanging trees).