

By the Lee Valley Waterworks, buried electricity cables emerge from their freshly dug tunnels back onto the pylons that once proliferated throughout the valley. Stop at the River Thames and winds its way up the River Lea and Lee Navigation alternately, following the most interesting top paths connecting rivers. This 16km walk passes close to the QEOP, extending northwards across Hackney Marshes; it is shown on the small scale map (01). The second and third walks both start at Stratford Station and meander towards the QEOP entrance at Hackney. Walk (B) 'Sixty Squirrels' takes a 11km route anti-clockwise through the neighbourhoods immediately north of the QEOP, while walk (C) 'Squirrels' takes a 8km circuit clockwise through the neighbourhoods to the south; both are shown on the larger scale map (02). Rail, tube and DLR stations that can be used to create shortcuts are highlighted.

Choose your path, there is something for all tastes here: try either the soft surfaced circuit around the playing field, or top through the trees to the grassed path, or the leafy undercroft with urban gym equipment dotted alongside, or perhaps adventure down the steps to find the muddy path through the riverside scrubland, dense foliage screening fishermen while they carry out their treasure hunts.

Wide stretching expanse of green... and another of blue grey. Horizontal lines take command of the landscape, the colours all seem brighter in this two-tone environment. Ahead lies another horizontal form, a long rust coloured slab, hovering dramatically at the interface of grass and sky. This building confidently commands its terrain, its sliding steel shutters both welcoming and repelling at will.

A vast slab of pretty blue and white chequered paving sits square beneath the sky. Over the concrete, the saturated cracked concrete, unkempt growth and brash advertisements. It has an air of wonderland quality, we stand in anticipation of the chess characters arrival, a shaft of light passes dramatically through the slice in the flyover above, eager to illuminate its next cast.

Hollywood style rooftop lettering invites visitors to the social scene of Hackney. On the roof, a tree planted holly in the centre of the tarmac road. The picnic tables, which appear naughtily scattered across the street are in fact an artistic and firmly secured to the hard surface, while surrounding car parking is unacceptably screened by a fence styled to be reminiscent of net curtains.

Leafy pastures, best enjoyed hard earned: 'The Road to Paradise is plain, / And holds scarce one, / Not that it is not fair / But we prefer / A plump Road / To more preferred / The Belles of Paradise are few / -- Not me -- nor you -- / But unsuspected things / -- Mine -- have me.' Emily Dickinson

The graffiti has taken on an artistic hue and galleries lurk behind broken windows. 1) The Counter, Cafe at Four Space Gallery. Exhibition, performance and studio, palm from chic, edgy, or top through the trees to the grassed path, or the leafy undercroft with urban gym equipment dotted alongside, or perhaps adventure down the steps to find the muddy path through the riverside scrubland, dense foliage screening fishermen while they carry out their treasure hunts.

Two parallel realities, severed by the A118. Gleaming, polished Porsches crouch in their showroom, peering through bulletproof glazing past the lorry traffic to the delapidated industrial warehouse of Superhouse Lane beyond; a centre of strong centre of making, manufacture and industry in suspended animation. The 'Ikea' developer supported 'Dane's' Yard Kitchen artist patios, its shiny new neighbourhood.

Monumental sports arenas lie dormant amidst a fluid landscape, will the Park ever lose its weirdness? The twisting red 'ArcelorMittal Orbit' rises from Olympic Land, a strikingly unaccommodated Tattler in Tower. Soon-to-be excellent and anticipated commodities waned up around the site's edges are less symbolic, but illustrative of the haltingly social forces at work; at the interface of grass and sky.

Abbey Mills original and listed 'Byzantine' pumping station of 1868 now houses reserve pumps to the new, architect designed, 'Station F'; the four spire topped domes of the original reinterpreted into industrial zinc, a shaft of light passes dramatically through the slice in the flyover above, eager to illuminate its next cast.

A starving fox; Newham's new and improved 'One Bin and No Side Waste Policy' litter system has knock-on implications for the local eco-system. A plaque commemorates the Queen's Silver Jubilee 'My Lord Mayor, when I was 21 I pledged my life to the service of our people. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgement, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.'

Evidence of global forces inspire statements of local ownership; Ray and Friends' have heavily inscribed a new timber table; they got here first. Table tennis; spectators welcome, competitors arrive, a shaft of light passes dramatically through the slice in the flyover above, eager to illuminate its next cast.

Past Tesco - aromas from ousted cigarette smokers waft from a staff canteen - over the bridge where a more genteel heritage awaits. A large canal-side sign, 'Walking for your health'; '7% encouraging ambitions for personal improvement and fulfilment (and a populated footpath would reward the expenditure); past, present and future.'

Another nesting spot sits concealed beneath the lock gate bridge; young human couples appropriate this incidental, but appropriately scaled nook, as a private space in the open landscape; a safe refuge, a home in the wilderness (yet remain visible).

Floating bird tubes; installed to encourage greater nesting opportunities and increased hatching survivability for the local bird population. 'Bird tubes' are dependent on design; correct height, width, materials, locations - happy preening birds. Floating gardens; vessels of desire, or perhaps adventure down the steps to find the muddy path through the riverside scrubland, dense foliage screening fishermen while they carry out their treasure hunts.

Hundreds of temporary road signs are neatly stacked on a siding just beyond the Protegis business park. They are lying in wait, innocently unaware of the diversions and disturbances they will eventually unleash on an unsuspecting local populace. The gasworks sit linearly alongside, almost obsolete by the time it was built, over a century ago; white elephants in the industrial landscape.

Three convivially arranged benches sit on Twelve Trees Crescent outside the former London Gas Museum, whose contents currently reside in storage in Leicester, awaiting transport to provide the full 'gasworks experience'. A fine and leafy spot for a lunchtime sandwich, though the signage is notably absent.

A scandinavian styled log cabin erected 19 years ago. Open Sun-7pm Mon-Fri (longer hours inhibited by safety concerns). Owners suffering 'eco bus outrage'; customer starvation as all available car parking spaces are taken up by drivers waiting to join in the spotting at this more discrete location).

Popular with locals, £8.50 steak and chips not too pricey though cut unspiced (rump or rib-eye). Ordered shiny fizzy drinks mark back to an earlier fast food era. Classic blue, red and yellow colour scheme complements local coloured lorry traffic busy servicing the street (Royal Mail, DLR).

A wildlife haven is contained within the bend of the river: planted with care on previously contaminated land. A luxurious emerald habitat beyond the burnt steel gate at the beautiful pond, which is equally suited to mini bear dipping or the re-creation of Millais' 'Ophelia'. The true 'nature reserve' exists at the signposts under the train flyover, where visits are under very heavy surveillance...

Fantasy and other solutions for escapism; the station is clad in false plastic brickwork. Advertisements proliferate; unwrapped food (Cadbury); open your world (Benetton). Adjacent roundabout sports an engaging sculpture: dancer or violinist? Vision depends on the viewing angle. And what's inside the central fringed jungle?

A concrete shack sits on Pilots' poised over the Thames terminating a gated jetty. This simple but inspires fantasies of separated connectivities; long summers spent fishing, the Millennium Dome at background. Another Millais, providing a gleaming steel sign, suggestive of ship's sails and ladders, expresses the hopes and aspirations of locals.

Once the thriving home of globalisation, business moved west to the Isle of Dogs leaving a peaceful enclave for birds and insects. Bird hide (egg trays), a simple but effective structure of fence types from various eras and municipal authorities are distributed around the site. The financial of accretion is too slow for observation enjoyment; there is no 'fence watching' hide here.

Find your way from East India DLR by following Ben Wilson's 'Gum Art Trail'; a wayfinding device composed of hundreds of miniature masterpieces painted onto discarded chewing gum. Visit the American Diner and the hut where Faraday discovered electromagnetism, now manifest perceptibly from the plentiful overhead electricity cables.

The worlds oldest steamship on a smart new pontoon while under restoration... 'Dirty British coaster with a salt-crusted smoke stack, busting through the Channel in the mad March days, with a cargo of Tyne coal, Road-rails, pig-lead, firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays' ('Cargoes' by J. Hensfield). Is it comfortable as treasure?

ICOA Code:EGIC 12ZA Code:LCY Latitude:51° 30' 18" Longitude 21°. Three recommended spotting sites at plane-mad.com, A) carpark walkway (apron views possible), B) walkway by river (good benches), C) Terrace Terrace carpark (local police happy to join in the spotting at this more discrete location).

Immediately below the international hub of EXCEL lies a new public square, part of London's local regeneration strategy. A metal canopy has cut out lettering, listing the original ships that docked here. When the sun shines through, you can read these labels scattered across the paving, setting up a dialogue between the historical industrial context and its modern makeover.

Reminiscent of Henry Moore or Barbara Hepworth sculptures, and colloquially known as 'Dolly Partons', were these bollards designed with especially curvaceous characteristics to cheer up lonely sailors upon their arrival on dry land?

News International originally offered commercial sponsorship for this futuristic river crossing but pulled out in Jan 2011. Emirates Airlines took the chance and the Wilkinson Eye designed twisting towers opened in July 2012, connecting two of London's remotest spots. Could this be the backdrop for a 2012 'Get Carter' sequel? Or does Blackhall Colliery aerial conveyor still offer more style?



Lea Valley Drift has produced these maps with support from the London Legacy Development Corporation, to complement the opening of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (QEOP). The maps propose three walks: the first walk (A) 'Frog' starts at the River Thames and winds its way up the River Lea and Lee Navigation alternately, following the most interesting top paths connecting rivers. This 16km walk passes close to the QEOP, extending northwards across Hackney Marshes; it is shown on the small scale map (01). The second and third walks both start at Stratford Station and meander towards the QEOP entrance at Hackney. Walk (B) 'Sixty Squirrels' takes a 11km route anti-clockwise through the neighbourhoods immediately north of the QEOP, while walk (C) 'Squirrels' takes a 8km circuit clockwise through the neighbourhoods to the south; both are shown on the larger scale map (02). Rail, tube and DLR stations that can be used to create shortcuts are highlighted.

These maps propose a dialogue between the 'real city' with the 'reflected-upon city'. They invite walkers to create their own connections and narratives. Each of the three walks offers an extraordinary range of experiences; officially designated destinations are distributed amongst less recognised, and differently stimulating, traces of city life today. Lea Valley Drifters enjoy the Real City for all of its complexities and potentials. They experience moments of contemplation in a plane setting down neatly between two golden necklaces of glowing lights, a creatively discarded piece of litter or someone's abandoned Wellington boot. They are encouraged to reflect upon the complexities governing our experience of place, from the relative tolerances and efficiencies of municipal cleaning, to the more subtle effects of a change in wind direction.

**TOOL: DRAWING BOARD**  
**DRIFT: MAP (MEDIUM)**  
**POOR KNOWLEDGE: FILTERS**  
**PARADOXICAL: LOWEST**

**RECREATION**  
**FITNESS**  
**COMPETITION**  
**EDUCATION**

**FAMILIARITY**  
**NEW KNOWLEDGE**

**SWEET TOOTH?**  
**HE'S IN NEW YORK NOW...**

**ART TRAIL**

**ATHLETICS**

**FIFTY MEDALS!**

**CANDIDATES**

**NOT SEEN A DEAD DOG SINCE ITS...**

**CYCLING**  
**GOOD AND MUPPY TO DAY...**

**RATING**  
**IT RUNS DEEP YOU KNOW...**

**DOG WALKING**

**FISHING**  
**MAXIMUM OF FIVE DOGS! - ITS DIABOLICAL!**

**A HANDSOME BEAM!**  
**TEN KILOS**

**GALLERIES**  
**LOVELY, AND THE CAFE'S FANTASTIC...**

**GARDENING**  
**SPUD COMING ON THOUGH...**

**HERITAGE LOCATION**  
**ARTIFACTS CENTRES**  
**AND THIS IS THE SITE OF THE LAST TIN TRAY...**

**INCOMPLETE PROJECTS**  
**HMM, ENDELEA??**

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**50 SACKS AN HOUR - JUST LIKE ARTISTS**

**LANDSCAPE**  
**STILL QUITE A WILDERNESS**

**NATURE**  
**HISTORIC CREATED**

**PLANES LANDING**  
**AND NOW WE DESCEND TO LONDON - HOME OF HER MAJESTY...**

**PLANE SPOTTING**  
**WHY ANOTHER LOCKJET 'FK976'**

**RECYCLING**  
**400 BALES AND THAT'S JUST THE MAPS FROM THE TOWN!**

**RIDING**  
**PRICE OF MANURE PLUMMETING**

**ROWING**  
**LOOK OUT! SAS ON BOWSIDE!**

**RUNNING**  
**QUICK, WERE COMES THAT DOG AGAIN!**

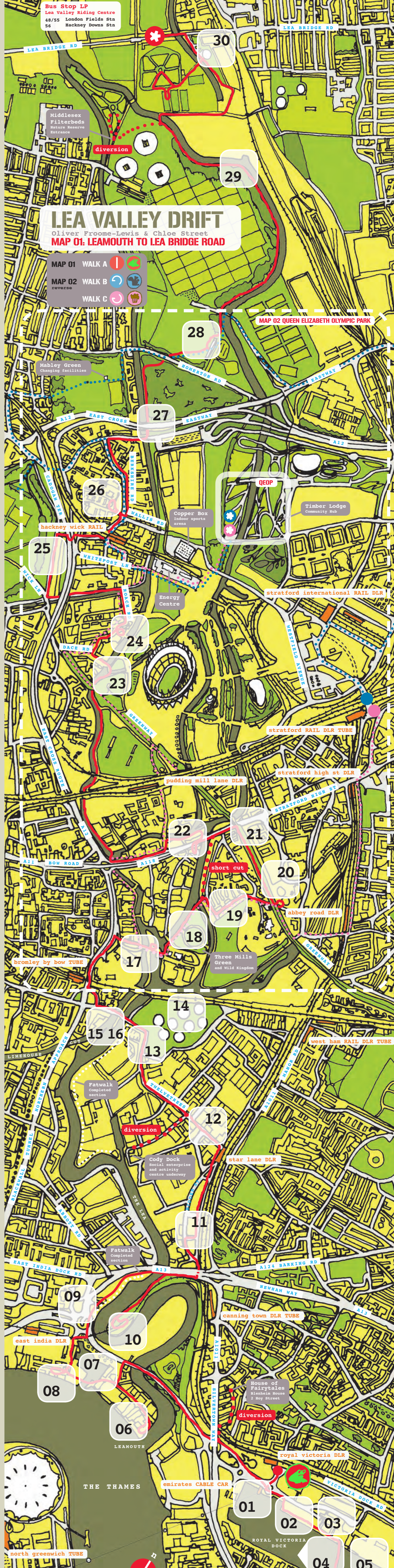
**SCULPTURE**  
**WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT THEM?!**

**TABLE TENNIS**

**TAGGING**  
**WHAT'S NEEDED IS A SHOP WITH BATS AND BALLS...**

**WALKING**  
**HARRY IS INNOCENT!**  
**NEAREST BEER TAP... I'M STARVING TO FEEL THE MELANCHOLY OF THE MARSHES.**

- 30** **Lee Valley Waterworks**  
Cross river at Orange bridge and take 2nd right path, over open field to cross bridge into Visitor's Centre
- 29** **Outdoor Gym**  
Continue across fields to find waterside path beyond Hackney Marshes Centre, then left to head north
- 28** **Hackney Marshes Centre**  
Join towpath and then cut right along woodland path onto Homerton Rd, cross over to playing fields
- 27** **Crazy Paving under**  
All return to Wallis Rd, turn left along Berkshire Rd, then right at junction and over road bridge
- 26** **See Studio + Hackney**  
Pearl take footbridge over A12 onto Wallis Road, continue under train bridge and take first left to 'square'
- 25** **Victoria Park**  
Head down canal footpath, under A12, ascend to Wick Lane and bear right to reach Victoria Park
- 24** **Art + Cakes beyond the**  
Head straight down From Dace Rd turn right 3 times, head straight down From Dace Rd, over bridge to canal
- 23** **Fish Island + Hackney**  
Head straight down canal, continue north along towpath, left through two lock bridges and onto Dace Rd
- 22** **Dane's Yard Kitchen**  
Ascend steps to the Greenway and turn right towards stadium with Abbey Mills visible on your left
- 21** **Olympic View**  
Head straight down the Greenway emerging onto Stratford High Street, turn left to Strand East tower
- 20** **Abbey Mills + Greenway**  
Ascend steps to the Greenway and turn right towards stadium with Abbey Mills visible on your left
- 19** **Newham Residential**  
Continue straight through arch over footbridge, wind through housing to find steps to Greenway
- 18** **Olympic Upgrades**  
Beyond Tesco turn right, over bridge past Three Mills, left at blue gates & into Three Mills Green
- 17** **Tesco + Three Mills**  
Up steps onto A12 (over), turn right and continue past tube station down slope to Tesco
- 16** **Lock Gate**  
After bridge, turn right and through gated entrance to housing, then left along narrow passage
- 15** **Floating Gardens and Nesting Tubes**  
Head straight north to roadbridge with island and lock gates down on your left
- 14** **Bromley Gas Works**  
Pass memorial park on right, turn left at end (Gas Works) and head towards roadbridge
- 13** **Assembly Point**  
Continue along Cody Road and across roundabout down leafy Two Rivers Litter Point (Cody Dock to left)
- 12** **Cabin Cafe**  
Continue north to reach Star Lane DLR station and turn left down Cody Dock to find Cabin Cafe on right
- 11** **Mapp's 2 Cafe**  
Retrace steps to A13 flyover and through tunnel beneath, bear left down Sudder St and right at cafe
- 10** **Bow Creek Ecology Park**  
Follow waterfront path to right of petrol station across POMO footbridge and turn right for park
- 09** **Petrol Station on Roundabout**  
Head back inland across lock, keeping water to right, then back out onto road
- 08** **Radio Shack**  
Continue through New Wind through park and over sluice gates find pond on waterfront and view of the 02
- 07** **East India Dock Basin**  
After visiting 'Fairytales' and 'Fairytales', retrace steps and enter EIB through rusty crinkled gates
- 06** **Trinity Buoy Wharf**  
Turn West Western Gateway beneath pier on, under A1011, cross over at A13 and turn right once across river
- 05** **SS Robin**  
See waterside mooring visible on left bank, retrace steps back to cable car, cross road and descend slope
- 04** **City Airport**  
Take lift up onto square heading for View Olympic Park and Waterskiers to right, aeroplanes overhead
- 03** **Royal Victoria Square**  
Pass through new square heading for the raised Royal Victoria Dock footbridge
- 02** **Thames Mooring Posts**  
Stroll left along dockside past restaurants towards Excel, view to left cable car across dock
- 01** **Cable Car**  
Victoria Dock in DLR or cable car, buy a coffee or two!



ROUTE	DISTANCE	FAST	DRIFT
WALK A	10m/16km	2h30m	6h00m
WALK B	07m/11km	1h50m	4h30m
WALK C	05m/08km	1h10m	3h00m

minutes: 0.5, 1.0  
kilometers: 0.5  
miles

small print: neither touching the city, Lea valley drifts nor any leader or organizer shall be held liable for death, injury or accident, or for theft, loss or damage to personal property of any one of the participants.

www.leavalleydrift.com

