

# Greenwich Peninsula Trail

## Teachers Notes

### INTRODUCTION:

This activity is designed to engage students with their local environment whilst developing their knowledge of the regeneration that is in progress in this part of the borough. Hopefully they will come away with a sense of the great maritime and engineering history that is associated with Greenwich.

### THE TRAIL:

This is a circular walk beginning at North Greenwich Station and ending at The O<sub>2</sub>. The trail will take about 1 hour 30mins to complete.

**A student 'quiz' booklet** is provided with 18 questions to be answered from observation as they follow the trail round the peninsula.

Answers and further information to enhance the experience are included in these teachers' notes.

**Facilities:** Schools may use a room at the Greenwich Peninsula Business Centre as a base for up to 30 pupils. For booking details and availability contact Greenwich EBP on 020 8319 0610.

**Toilets** are available in the station and in The O<sub>2</sub>.

**Refreshments** can be bought at the Station and in The O<sub>2</sub>. It is, of course, possible to picnic in the park, or on the riverside, weather permitting.

### Health and Safety Considerations

All health and safety aspects and conditions associated with educational fieldwork apply.

### Roads:

There are only 2 roads that require crossing. All should be crossed using the pedestrian crossings.

**CURRICULUM LINKS:**

<b>ICT</b>	Use of internet to research background topics.
<b>Art</b>	An opportunity to sketch the skyline will enable students to realise the recent significant change to the local area and reflect on previous land use.
<b>History</b>	Students will have the opportunity to explore some of the industrial history of Greenwich Peninsula and research the impact that scientists such as John Harrison and Edmond Halley had on the maritime industry.
<b>Geography</b>	Land use and regeneration
<b>English</b>	Students will work collaboratively during the trail to explore the peninsula and discuss their findings.
<b>Leisure/Tourism</b>	The trail provides an opportunity for students to see some of the leisure and tourism facilities we have in the borough e.g. Greenwich Sailing Club, The O <sub>2</sub> , The David Beckham Academy.
<b>Citizenship</b>	Issues of population growth and sustainability could be considered.
<b>WRL</b>	Consideration of the effects of regeneration upon local employment opportunities for students and their families.

**LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY:**

It is also possible to organise a field visit to Greenwich Peninsula where students can observe lichen distribution in the recreational parkland and path network around the site. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park is managed by TRUE (Trust for Urban Ecology) and provides an educational centre that features a freshwater, wetland habitat. This venue could be used as a base and information point for your site visit.

**USEFUL WEBSITES INCLUDE:**

<http://www.urbanecology.org.uk/gpep.html>  
[www.greenwichpeninsula.co.uk](http://www.greenwichpeninsula.co.uk)  
[www.theo2.co.uk](http://www.theo2.co.uk)

## LOCATION:

Greenwich peninsula lies within a sharp meander in the river Thames in the London Borough of Greenwich in the south east of the capital. The river surrounds the west, north and eastern sides of the peninsula with the districts of Charlton and Greenwich lying to the south. Greenwich has the greatest length of riverbank of all the London boroughs.

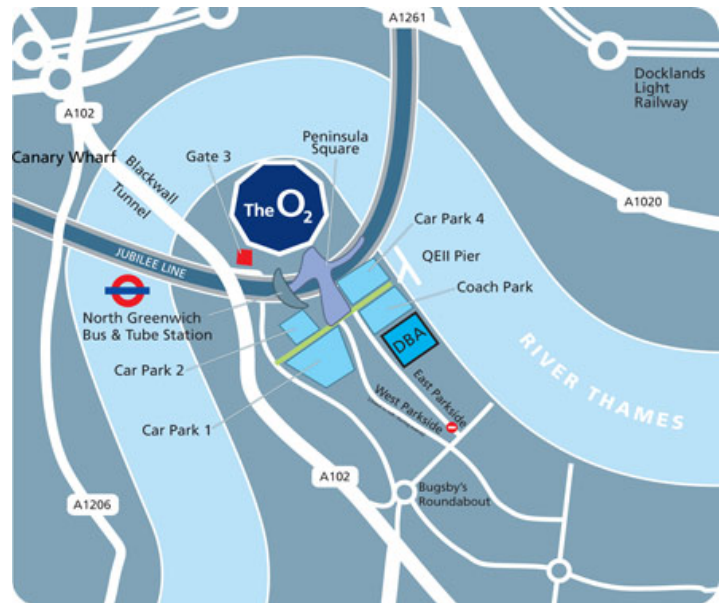
## ACCESS:

**Tube:** North Greenwich Tube Station is on the Jubilee Line and will take you directly to the peninsula.

**Bus:** Routes 129 from Greenwich (Cutty Sark), 108 from Stratford and Lewisham, 161 from Chislehurst, 422 from Blackheath and Bexleyheath, 472 from Thamesmead, 188 from Russell Square and 486 from Bexleyheath all stop at North Greenwich tube station.

**Road:** Access from north of the river is via the Blackwall Tunnel (A102). From the south the A102, which connects to the A2 Rochester Way Relief Road, is the best route. Parking is available.

**River:** The Thames Clippers' service runs daily from 10.30am to 1.30am from the QE2 Pier to Waterloo via London Bridge.



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Greenwich peninsula was originally an area of agricultural fields, marshes and even a large millpond, and was historically known as Greenwich Marsh. By 17<sup>th</sup> century Greenwich led the world in astronomy and navigation. More and more ships arrived up the Thames with their cargoes from around the world and necessitated the building of the London docks. The peninsula area became heavily industrialised from the late 1880s onwards with gas and chemical works and a major shipbuilding yard. The Blackwall Tunnel, built in 1897, destroyed much of the remaining field and marsh. By 1968 there was *no green space left* on the Peninsula except the British Gas Playing Fields where the Sainsbury's and Comet superstores are now located.



The gasometer, the odd derelict jetty and wharf, a First World War Memorial (on the southern edge of Central Park), along with the Pilot Inn and the adjacent row of terraced cottages, are among the few remaining reminders of this era.

The gas works and most of the industry had closed by the late 1970s and lay derelict for a number of years. Clearance and remediation work began in the late 1980s. By the end of 1990s the peninsula was famous for the Millennium Dome, a structure that still dominates the site. It has now been renamed The O<sub>2</sub> and opened as a sports and entertainment venue run by AEG.



At the south-eastern corner of the peninsula, south of John Harrison Way, lies the ongoing Greenwich Millennium Village development. This area contains a great deal of new housing and community facilities such as the Millennium Primary School, health centre and ecology park. Across Bugsby's Way lies a retail and leisure park with Sainsbury's, Comet and B&Q superstores, food outlets, multi screen cinema and the hotel. Clearly a great deal of development has already taken place.

The western side of the peninsula is still taken up by industry and dock facilities. This area is effectively cut off from the rest of the peninsula by the Blackwall Tunnel Approach Road.



**REGENERATION OF THE GREENWICH PENINSULA**



The main area remaining to be developed lies to the north of John Harrison Way. The development is being undertaken by Greenwich Peninsula over the next 15 years and will be in a number of stages.

The development will include over 10,000 housing units with a mixture of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and four-bedroom housing. A significant proportion of the housing (37%) will be social housing for key workers and low-income groups. Other land uses that will be developed are shops, restaurants, business (with an emphasis on technology), green open space, a secondary school and higher education college.



The O<sub>2</sub> is run by AEG and comprises a 20,000 capacity arena, restaurants, bars and cinema.

The Greenwich peninsula will also host the gymnastics, basketball, badminton events in the London 2012 Olympics.

As an ongoing development, the Greenwich peninsula offers a fantastic opportunity to explore how the urban landscape has changed and regenerated over the centuries.

## ANSWERS TO THE TRAIL QUESTIONS:

- 1 Jubilee Line  
188 or 129 bus, Tube to Canary Wharf and then DLR to Greenwich, Thames Clipper
- 2 Lifts, level entrances, toilets and signage
- 3 Public events,
- 4 Waterfall on green wall, fountains on ground, Trees, green wall of plants (sedum), living willow fencing, large tv screen
- 5 8,750km
- 6 1980's
- 7 70
- 8 About to get to the station quicker if there is traffic on the road
- 9 Express by Holiday Inn
- 10 Health Centre
- 11 Eco-friendly designed
- 12 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- 13 Wetland
- 14 Plants and Wildlife
- 15 Underground parking
- 16 A) Millennium Dome 1997  
B) Gibbeting of Pirates  
C) 150,000  
D) Sir Francis Drake
- 17 Central London Waterloo and Woolwich
- 18 Tertiary and Quaternary, though you may still see some construction!

**➡ Your Starting Point is North Greenwich Station ⤵**

**1** What tube line is this station on?



Imagine you have just visited The O<sub>2</sub> and now you want to go and see the Cutty Sark in Greenwich Town Centre. Suggest two different routes to get to the Cutty Sark.

**Option 1**

**Option 2**

**2** What facilities do they have at North Greenwich Station for people with disabilities?




 **Exit the station and enter Peninsula Square. Head towards the Stainless Steel Spire.**

**3** Peninsula Square is a public place, what could you use this space for?



**4** What different features (inc. water/plants) can be seen in the Peninsula Square?




 **At the Spire turn right and head towards The David Beckham Academy.**

**5** David Beckham has two football academies. One in London and the other in Los Angeles. How far away do you think Los Angeles is from London?


- A) 3,750km      B) 8,750km      C) 10,750km**



 **Continue past The David Beckham Academy, at the end of the blue gates turn right and cross the road.**

**6** In the distance through the trees, you should be able to see a gasometer, one of the original uses of the Peninsula. When do you think the gasworks closed down?  
**A) 1910's                      B) 1950's                      C) 1980's**



 **Turn left through the park and head towards a row of Victorian cottages and the Pilot Inn.**


**7** You may have noticed that the house numbers do not start at 1. What number do the houses start at?  
**A) 70                      B) 84                      C) 100**



 **Turn left at Pilot Inn and head towards the housing development in front of you**

**8** You are walking along a road with a bus lane. What advantages does it have for commuters?



 **At the traffic lights cross the road and go right down John Harrison Way**

**9** In the distance in front of you, you can see a hotel. What is the name of this hotel?



 **Cross at the pelican crossing and head into Greenwich Millennium Village**

**10** You are now in School Square. What purpose is the wooden building next to the school?

- A) Health Centre    B) Library    C) Shops**




 **Continue straight. At the Schoolbank Road sign go left**

**11** Look around you. Which statement is true about Greenwich Millennium Village?


- A) Eco-friendly designed    B) Old fashioned looking    C) Not environmentally friendly**



 **At the end of Schoolbank Road, cross the road at the bus stop and go up the pathway by the white bollards**

**12** In front of you is a wooden gate. This is an entrance to The Ecology Park. What Act of Parliament helps protect the wildlife in this area?



 **Go through the gate and follow the wooden pathway.**

**13** What type of habitat can be seen at the Greenwich Ecology Park?


- A) Desert    B) Wetland    C) Forest**

What wildlife can you spot?



**14** What is the roof of the ecology park's visitor centre made from?



 **Exit the Ecology Park and turn left along the Thames pathway.**

**15** You are now leaving Greenwich Millennium Village. There are 1,300 homes here where do you think all the residents park their cars?





**Continue along the Thames pathway until you get to the information board about the history of the river Thames**

**16** Use the information board to answers these questions

In what year did the construction of the Millennium Dome begin?



What happened in 1744 on the east bank of the Greenwich Peninsula?

In the 1500's how much did the population grow by?

In 1577 who sailed down the river Thames to begin his circumnavigation of the world?



**Continue along the Thames towards the QE2 pier**

**17** Where do the Thames Clippers travel to?



**Head towards The O<sub>2</sub> via the covered walkway**

**18** Enter The O<sub>2</sub> and find out the types of businesses that are inside?  
(tick all that apply)

- Primary     Collecting raw materials, mining
- Secondary     Manufacturing, making things, construction
- Tertiary     Providing a service to customer or another business
- Quaternary     Using advanced technologies and cutting edge ICT



**CONGRATULATIONS YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAIL!!**



## Greenwich Peninsula Word Search



- Canopy
- Development
- Ecology
- Entertainment
- Equator
- Fountain
- Gasometer
- Green wall
- Jubilee Line
- Leisure
- Longitude
- Maritime
- Marshland
- Peninsula
- Pier
- Pontoon
- Regeneration
- Spire
- Sustainable
- Transport
- Urban

## Greenwich Peninsula - Map

