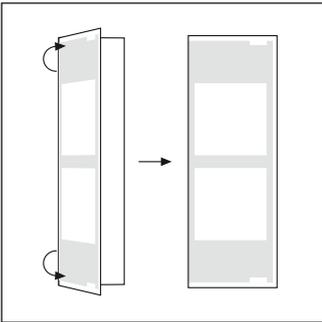
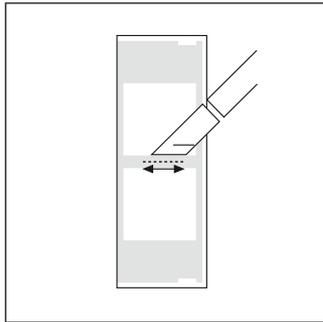


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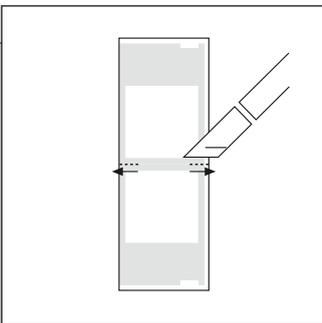


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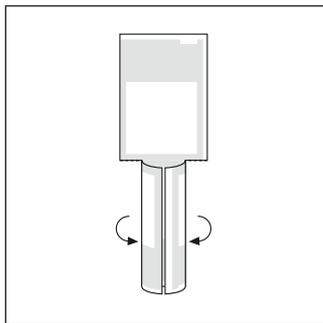


Construction

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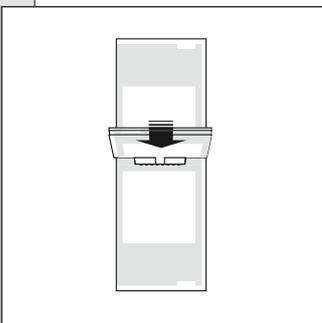
1: First, fold each A4 sheet in half along the vertical axis.

2: Using a craft knife or scalpel, cut a horizontal slot along the centre dotted line of the first A4 sheet. (pages 1/2/13/14)

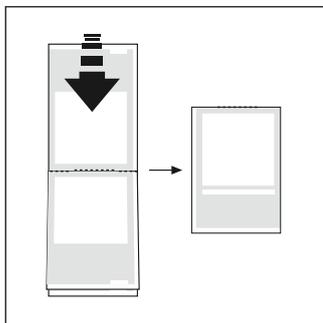
3: Then cut along the dotted lines on all the other sheets. Make sure to cut to the very edges of the paper.

4: Stack the folded sheets in ascending order with the even numbers at the top. Curl the bottom half of the second A4 page (pages 3/4/23/24).

5:



6:



5: Thread the curled page through the centre slot of the first A4 page. Repeat this process with the third (pages 5/6/21/22), fourth (pages 7/8/19/20), fifth (pages 9/10/17/18), and sixth A4 sheet (pages 11/12/15/16) with the even pages in ascending order.

6: When all the pages have been threaded through, check the pagination. Finally, fold the booklets in half along the horizontal axis.

Other Sources of Pollution

The following are historical sources suggested by participants that may have contributed to environmental pollution:

'Behind the children's playground, many years ago there used to be an illegal petrol pump. The building now on that site had to pay to have the soil decontaminated.'

'Before the 2nd World War a road used to run through London Fields along the line of the London Plane trees.'

'There could be industrial pollution from the old boiler room in the Lido.'

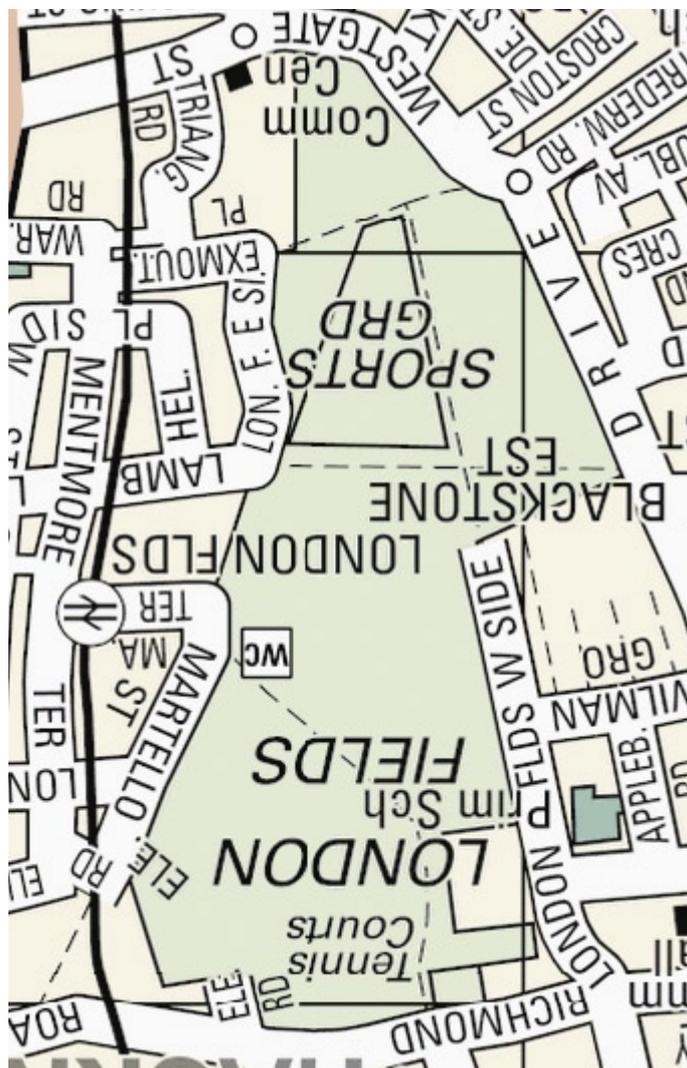
Under the arches there were small wood turning workshops and antique furniture makers. Chemicals would have been used in their processes. Residues may have been left behind.

'London Fields was used as a site for plague pits in the seventeenth century.'



- Does it depend on whether the content is deemed offensive?
 - Is this then pollution?
 - What about the graffiti over the organised graffiti?
- A: When it's not meant to be there??
- Q: When is graffiti visual pollution?

Visual Pollution



SOCIAL TAPESTRIES

Community Mapping Workshop

Robotic Feral Public Authoring

November 2005

PROBOSCIS

Robotic Feral Public Authoring is a Proboscis project in the Social Tapestries research programme, funded by an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Culture & Creativity award. DIFFUSION eBooks are freely available to download and print out. Under no circumstances should this publication, whether in print or electronic, be sold by any third party. The material in this publication can be obtained in large format on request. www.diffusion.org.uk

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Community Mapping Workshop:
 Robotic Feral Public Authoring
 November 2005
 London Fields & SPACE, Hackney, London

SOCIAL TAPESTRIES

Introduction

In November 2005 Proboscis organised a Bodystorming workshop (at SPACE Media) to map known and visible pollution in and around London Fields, Hackney as part of the Social Tapestries research project, Robotic Feral Public Authoring. Local knowledge and issues were used as the starting point to explore wider concerns about pollution (both visible and invisible) and how emerging technologies could be utilised by local communities to detect it.

A group of 15 participants took part in the workshop, exploring London Fields in small groups equipped with audio devices, digital cameras and eNotebooks. Each individual's relationship with London Fields varied greatly within the group – from those who know the space intimately (several having lived in the area for over 15 years) to those who were first time visitors.

What was emphasised by all was the use of the Fields as a social space, a place for meeting, playing, socialising, exercising, dog walking, picnicing, taking the kids; it is also a place to pass through on foot or by bicycle.

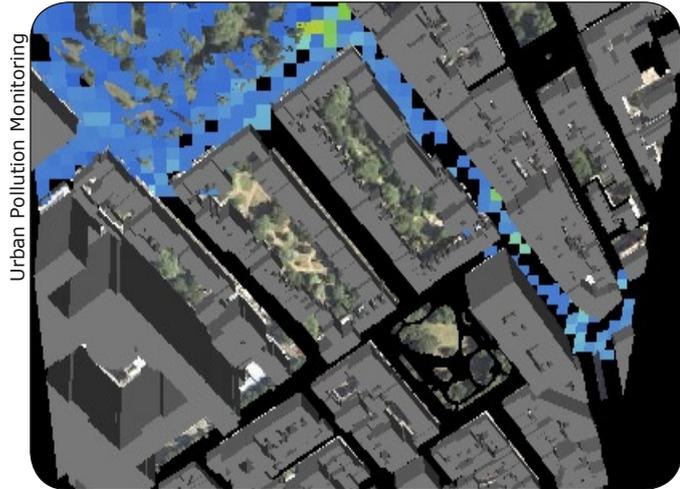
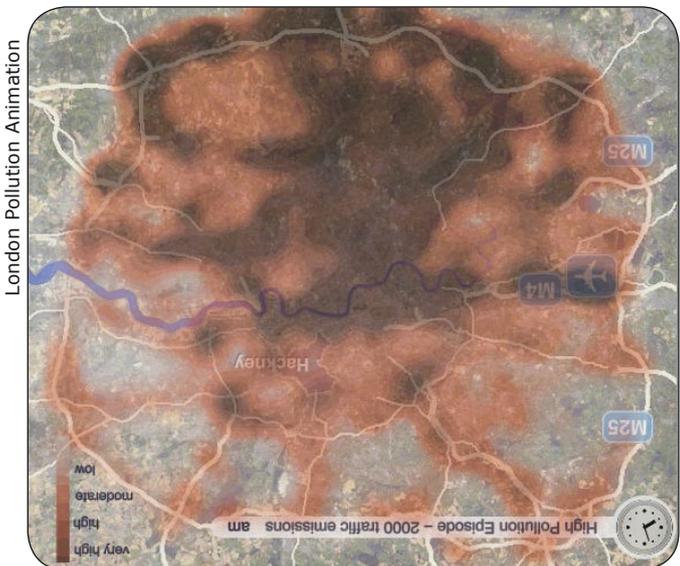
This eBook documents the findings of the fieldwork and discussions had that day.

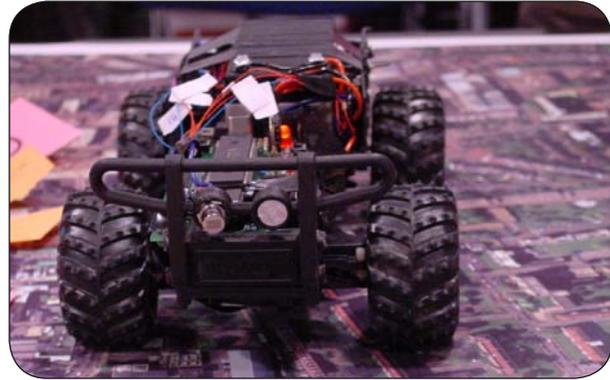
Feral Robots & Public Authoring

Members of the group did raise questions as to whether these sensors need to be linked to a mobile (robotic) device. Would it be more useful and technologically easier to have a portable pollution sensor to carry with you all day? Could this be done as an extension of a mobile phone?

The potential for feral robots to have a visual impact was discussed; the knowledge of what they are capable of whilst watching them sniff out a pollutant in an environment could have a stronger an impact than the information they collect. Feral robots could make invisible pollution visible; creating an aesthetic agenda whilst acting as a social tool; edging towards a collective set of devices available to facilitate pollution mapping at a grass roots level, including educational settings.

A prototype feral robot was presented, equipped with a gas sensor calibrated to detect solvents. Proboscis is working with Birkbeck College to develop a new generation of feral robots equipped with gas sensors, WiFi communications and GPS location sensing which can upload sensor data linked to location to the Urban Tapestries public authoring platform.





What is Pollution?

Thoughts on pollution, aired whilst walking in London Fields:

'Pollution = dirt = matter out of place'

'Are fallen leaves a problem? Does this make them a pollutant?'

'Pollution is anything that effects detrimentally the enjoyment, behavior, safety and experience of users, including humans, animal and plant species within a particular environment.'

'I hadn't considered bad building design as a pollutant until today.'

'Can a dilapidated building be considered pollution?'

'Do you find this attractive?'

'Does it come down to what an individual finds offensive?'

'What about all these alien bicycles passing through the park?'

'They do have their own designated lane though.'

'The focus on visible pollution made me actually think about the pollution we can't see but still effects us.'

'Could we initiate a shift in the perception of this activity, away from pollution mapping but towards an ongoing and permanent archaeology of the environments using sensors to gather data – a learning process and an opportunity to investigate our environment in a way we haven't had before?'

Most people's homes are more polluted than the outside space we occupy, through chemicals in furniture, upholstery and construction materials such as MDF.

'If we encourage people to map pollution in their area they suddenly think their area is polluted.'

'As soon as the word pollution is mentioned, one is made to feel like something is under threat or being destroyed.'

Does framing this activity in terms of 'mapping pollution' effect how people perceive a space?

Perceptions and Assumptions



'I think much pollution is very [visually] obvious. It's the base level pollution of a world/London based pollution which is more scary/important.'

Some felt they couldn't play near the north edge of the park at times when the air quality is very bad. Others are just worried about pollution, which they know is there, but can't see. They also believe that they can do little about it.

With Mare Street to the East, and Richmond Road running along the North edge of the fields, cars are never far away. The effect of our transport system and reliance on the motor vehicle and thus it's effect on air quality was something many participants felt very strongly about.

Motivations for Pollution Mapping

Potential motivations for a community pollution mapping exercise could include:

- To make invisible pollutants visible, helping to imitate a shift in public consciousness and tangibly highlighting the effects of our reliance on the motor car.
- To trigger a larger investigation into pollution.
- To bring a community together and stimulate debate.
- To lead to a creative outcome.
- To allow other layers of data to be mapped onto an area, building up a contextual snapshot.



Other Invisible Pollutants

Some possible pollutants that come from visible sources:

Microwaves – emissions from mobile phone masts (one is situated towards south of the Fields) and also from people's mobile phones as they pass through the park.

Electromagnetic fields – from power lines and local sub-stations.

Hazardous Materials – potential of pollution caused by their transportation through the area.

DNA – The traces of DNA our bodies leave behind.



– Is it a tool to highlight concerns, to map knowledge and collect data to reinforce perceptions about an area?

– Is community led pollution mapping about producing accurate scientific data?

The notion that only experts can or should collect data was thought by others to be a dangerous one. Local historical stories highlighting previous activities which could have left a pollution thumbprint on the park, shared during the walks, and in the discussion illustrate how local knowledge can inform the reading of a space, something an outside expert would not be able to do without research.

Some were worried about how effective the use of such tools could be without the rigour to map comprehensively or the scientific expertise needed to interpret results.

The availability and use of sensing devices by local community groups created debate about what the data generated could actually achieve.

Do you need be an expert to map pollution?

‘...a disused building – “social pollution” – derelict for years, could be a community use space or could at least raise revenue for the park if sold.’

for others though, it was a useful concept:

‘The words “social pollution” is stretching the use of language.’

For some this was pushing things too far:

‘Can a disused amenity be considered a form of “social pollution”?’

‘Pollution is the presence of something – not dilapidation or decay.’

aesthetics:

Others thought that this was just a case of landscape and atmosphere of the park.

Visually, some people felt that they made the area look uncared for and were therefore a blight on the amenity be considered a pollutant?

Could a disused building, as a former public amenity be considered a pollutant?

There are several disused buildings within London Fields – the Park Keeper’s house, the toilet block and the Lido.

Disused Buildings and Public Facilities

Politics and Pollution

Does political motivation have an influence on how environmental pollution mapping takes place? Would mapping a specific area by a concerned local group make more sense than a report by Hackney Council, based on the one air pollution sensor in the borough, in Clapton?

Some councils are now handing out digital video cameras for people to record anti-social behaviour; enabling citizens to collect the evidence to initiate action. If there was the political will to stamp out causes of pollution, would we see similar availability of pollutant sensors?

'We have come to accept air pollution because we are culturally habituated in it... that's got to change and if this doesn't happen at a grass roots level with tools that we can handle ourselves governments will not shift because they are in with the big corporations'

Do you need physical evidence to take action?

'If you are worried about pollution to take action you don't have to prove it exists, the argument that you are being stressed by the fear of it is enough. Human Rights Legislation supports you in this.'

No More Free Water?

The plinth for a water fountain was found by one group – sparking off an interesting conversation about access to drinking water in public spaces.

Why was the drinking fountain dismantled? Was it taken down because the quality or safety of the water couldn't be guaranteed?

Is this an example of how an awareness of pollution or potential pollution has limited public access to a service?

'Now if you want water in a public space like this – it's totally privatised – you buy your bottle at about the same cost as petrol. Water is not a public facility at all any more. Maybe this is one of the effects of an awareness of pollution?'

Or was the water fountain removed because of vandalism, actual or potential?

'Living close to London Fields I would like to be part of an experiment which maps pollution in London Fields inch by inch... we need to know where it is polluted and then we can start to put up signs and warn people'
'The more I think about it, the less I want to have any access to any data about air pollution in my locality, or information about this park. I don't have a garden, I have a kid, I'll always use it.'

If we had access to information about air pollution on a local level then would it effect our behaviour or be useful? Would you want to know just how polluted your park is?

'In London we have the highest level of asthma in the world. There must be a reason for this. If people don't have the tools they can't make this jump... to enable them to visualise the pollution that they in part cause.'
The quality of the air we breathe was felt to be an important concern. Does the air quality in London Fields vary from the areas around or London as a whole? The Building Exploratory animation of air pollution in London over a 24 hour period illustrated that there are large variations, depending on time of day, and from area to area.

Mapping Air Pollution



An Environmentally Agreeable Space

London Fields was found to be pretty clean, thanks to the fastidious daily cleaning by the park keepers and the notion that fewer people use the space during the winter than the summer.

The forms of pollution encountered by the participants whilst out was generally considered to be cosmetic and, apart from dog mess, it didn't really alter how people use the park.

What was more worrying to participants were the unseen pollutants which were considered to be present but invisible: carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.



Dog Mess

Dog mess was the top pollutant mentioned which had an effect on how adults and children use the park. Dog mess was found whilst out in the park but not in excessive amounts. The park is cleaned daily by the parks department.

A lack of dog poo bins was noted – and of those that were found, some were overflowing. London Fields, as reported by the user group, has recently had several of its dog waste bins stolen. Apparently this is a problem common to many London parks.

One group found it so hard to locate any dog mess that they resorted to asking a park user to direct them to where the dogs like to poo in the park. They then spent the next 15 mins stalking unsuspecting dogs...

London Fields used to have specific areas marked out as dog toilets,

'Were there reading lessons for dogs so they could read the signs?'

enquired one participant.

The following pages detail the discussion and reactions to the prototype feral robot demonstrated.

– How can sensing equipment become available and be used at a grass roots level to make enquiries into pollution?

– What is the motivation behind mapping pollution on a community level?

– What have we found?

Following points:
 A short animation commissioned by the Hackney Building Exploratory, mapping air pollution in London over a 24 hour period was also shown, and a group discussion was initiated exploring the following points:
 After the field work, participants returned to SPACE to take part in a Bодystorming Experience, mapping data and information collected back onto a large aerial photo of the area.

Group Discussions at SPACE





Wildlife

Pollution was generally considered in relation to the effect it might have on the human population of the park, but wildlife did feature:

We are often going to put ourselves central to this [the effect of pollution] ... but if we can consider the animals plants and children [sic] then even better.

There are not so many bats round here any more. I do come out and watch bats and there used to be several hundred round here about 2 years ago and now they're not here any more. Would that come into your study? Bats are here when it's not polluted.

Wildlife questions raised:

'Are squirrels pests?'

'Will birds bring bird flu?'

Pollution in London Fields considered to have an effect on wildlife:

Light – the main thoroughfare of the park is lit at night to make the park feel safer and combat crime, but this may have an adverse effect on wildlife

Noise – causing stress to wildlife

Litter – plastics bags found in trees, broken glass and cans on the ground

Toxins – in grass and soil.



Mei

Car drivers

Government policies

Anarchists

become abandoned) care of facilities that

Inconsiderate cyclists

(for not providing services or taking

Aircraft

Cars

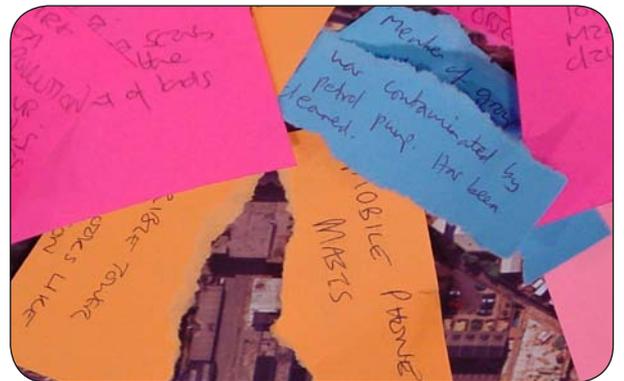
Environmental overspill

Litter

Dogshit

People

Who is Responsible?



Airplanes passing over head (albeit quietly).

Sirens – 'are sirens always necessary?'

The sound of traffic ever present.

Trains passing – 'that was a quiet one'

'WE DONT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE NOISE!!'

Comments and sounds recorded whilst out:

Noise Pollution