

Many thanks for booking a place on a Museum of Walking *Listening Safari*.

This document provides you with all you need to know about what will happen on the event and what you can expect:

The event will last about 90 minutes, during which we will walk a short distance, occasionally stopping to listen to our surroundings and to take notes and record our reactions to the sounds around us. Not only do we want you to discover things about an area's 'soundscape', but we want you to go away with techniques that you can use at other times to listen more deeply (both individually and collectively). We may ask you to remain silent for a short period, and other times, we may ask you to close your eyes or wear a blindfold and be guided by another participant. Similarly we may ask you to use other props or techniques to heighten your awareness of your acoustic surroundings. We may be taking photographs of the event - if you do not wish to appear in these photographs, please make us aware at the start of the walk.

We try to choose a start location close to public transport and a toilet open to the public - many of our walks are circular, and we won't leave you stranded far from where you began. We try to choose level terrain, however, this isn't always possible, so if you have mobility impairment, do get in touch with us so we can make sure we choose an accessible route. We don't expect you to write while you walk, so we make occasional stops; when the weather is poor, this can mean standing in the cold or damp, so please come prepared. Unless it is a complete deluge, we tend to run the event in whatever weather - if it doesn't run, we will let you know by e mail.

If you have booked in advance, you will receive an e mail from us a couple of days before the event, in which we will remind you of the starting point and time. We endeavour to include people who don't pre-book (although priority goes to those who have) - if you haven't pre-booked, then check our website for details of where and when the event will begin.

- <http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/events/sense-safari/>

We plan to start promptly at 6.30pm. Your walkshop host will be holding a small whiteboard with '**Listening Safari**' written on it. If you are running late, please text us on 0772 5555460 as we can let you know how far we have walked.

- *When you arrive, we will introduce each other.*
- *We will give you a journal and lend you a pen.*
- *We will guide you through 3 different areas that we describe as residential, semi-natural, and commercial, although these of course, overlap to some extent.*
- *In each of these 3 different areas we will encourage you to try 3 different activities: a) listening to yourself and each other b) listening to your surroundings and c) searching for sounds - each activity will be simple and (when we have tried them before) fun.*
- *We will ask you to record in your journal aspects of the sounds that you encounter. One can consider an individual sound in many ways, for example, trying to establish its source, whether it is close or far away, its duration, intensity or if it has a rhythm or tone. Likewise you can consider whether it is vocal: a call or an alarm by making judgements as to what it is telling you or how it makes you feel. Was it unexpected or is it familiar and or evokes a memory?*
- *A 'Soundscape' is your perception of the acoustic environment that surrounds you, and to which, your presence contributes. We will be asking you to assess the soundscapes that you encounter by rating them against a series of qualities: exciting, eventful, chaotic, annoying, monotonous, uneventful, calm, and pleasant.*
- *At the end of the walk, we may like to photograph your journals (to document what took place) and ask you to complete a short feedback card.*

Looking forward to meeting you on a Museum of Walking *Listening Safari*