

# Cement Fields

## New Art North Kent

### *The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads*

Adam Chodzko

*The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads* is a science fiction audio walk carefully leading its audience on a special route in and around Northfleet. It is a journey of strange inward and outward transformations through a place in an intense state of change. Diggers are busily reshaping Northfleet's landscape, erasing the last traces of its cement industry and mutating the identity of its community.

Leading you through this unsettled landscape, *The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads*' augmented reality soundtrack guides you to perceive new relationships between place, mind and body through its composition of vocal narration, instructions, music and sound.

This is a revised, updated and restaged version of *The Return of the Fleet Spring Heads* – a work commissioned by Cement Fields as part of *Estuary 2021* and presented during the festival in May and June 2021.

Both iterations of the work are an attempt to preserve what is disappearing by enhancing collective memory – each participant becoming a custodian of the soul of the Northfleet landscape.

Every experience of the walk is unique as the radical transformations of landscape escalate hour by hour. Many of the narrative's visual references, once true, are now buried under piles of rubble, as the bulldozers work to alter the audio's truths, turning them to fiction.

Presented as part of Ebbsfleet Citizen Archive, Cement Fields' community-led project capturing and preserving the varied stories and histories of the people and places of Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Swanscombe, and Northfleet as the area goes through a significant moment of change. *The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads* culminates a series of walks that have explored these locations over the last 9 months.

*The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads* was commissioned by Cement Fields and supported by Estuary Festival.

Ebbsfleet Citizen Archive is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported using public funding by Arts Council England. With additional support from Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Gravesham Libraries, Dartford Museum and Libraries, and Kent Archives.

## Credits

Devised, written and edited: Adam Chodzko

Voice: Leanne Henlon

Sound editing: Tim Barker

Music: Steph Horak

Thanks to Northfleet Big Local (Mandi Knight and Julie Collins)

## About the artist

Adam Chodzko is a visual multi-media artist, exhibiting internationally and living in Whitstable, Kent. His work creates a 'sci-fi proposition' suggesting new forms of human relationship and new encounters between us and the world we inhabit. Weaving together documentary and fiction, he has previously created assemblies of owners of a particular jacket, a late-night parade of nocturnal animals to the Frieze Art Fair, the offering of 'perception-changing footwear' for gallery visitors to wear at Bologna's art museum, etc.

[www.adamchodzko.com](http://www.adamchodzko.com)

## About Cement Fields

Cement Fields is a visual art organisation working collaboratively with artists and communities to create ambitious new art along the Thames Estuary in North Kent. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England, and the University of Kent.

[cementfields.org](http://cementfields.org)

@cementfields

## Tell us what you think

We would love to hear your feedback on this event.  
Please complete our survey by scanning the QR code.



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Thank you for coming *here*. Your walk will begin in a few moments!!

Your starting point: Towards the rear centre of the square you'll see a black bench decorated with coloured hexagons. To its left (when facing the laundrette behind it) is a low square brick plinth, a stage. Please sit on the edge of that brick plinth facing in the direction of the main road.

*(If someone is already there you may have to seek an alternative place nearby!)*

Press play on your phone/audio device at the exact time your walk is scheduled to start.

*(If you need it, there is a link to the audio below.)*

*The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads* is best experienced alone, but you will be carefully guided the whole way by the audio. If you have come with others, you will all be ending up at the same destination at the end of the walk.

The audio guide is timed to coincide with an 'average' walking speed but if you find you're arriving at locations before or after the audio describes them, then please pause the audio in order to reconnect with the audio description.

*We assure you that, after a while, you'll be in sync.*

Every major junction on the walk has a direction related to it, so, you will always be given guidance as to where to go. Please stick to the directions given in the audio.

You will not be expected to talk or interact with anyone as part of this walk. If anyone talks to you, they are beyond the world of *The Mysterious Return of the Fleet Spring Heads!*

*(Please stay safe, but smile kindly to all those you pass on the route. You are their guest!)*

### Key information

### Walk start

The Hive, Hive Lane, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 9DE

### Walk end

St Botolph s Churchyard, The Hill, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 9EU

### Walk duration

It takes approx. 1 hour 13 mins, at average walking speed.

### Walk distance

The walk is just over 3.5km / 2 miles. It's a continuous steady walk, but with lots of short standing pauses and a 1 minute seated rest halfway through. There are no steep hills and no fences etc that require climbing over.

### Toilets

There are facilities available at Northfleet Veterans Hall, 24 The Hill, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 9EU. This is on the route and a short distance from the end point.

### In case of emergencies

Speak to a member of staff or call 07850150928 if you need assistance. There will be a member of staff at the start and end point, who can be identified by their green lanyards.

## Accessing the audio

To take this walk you will need a device with headphones that is capable of playing audio. If you have any issues, or would like to borrow an audio device, please speak to the member of staff who greeted you.

You have been emailed a link to the audio ahead of your booking, but you can also access the audio at <http://q-r.to/fleetspring> or via the QR code.



Follow the link or QR code and your device will open the audio in Soundcloud. Once you are ready to start, click play.

It is also possible to download the audio at <http://q-r.to/fleetspringdownload>. Please note each device handles downloaded audio files differently, so this is best done before the start of your walk.