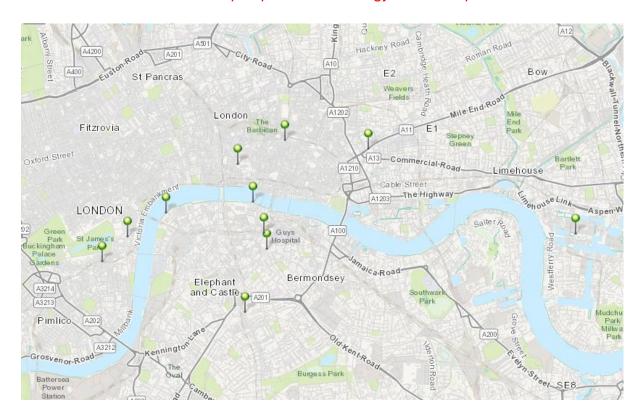
Archaeology of Austerity: A Line Across London

PublicArchaeology2015

https://publicarchaeology2015.wordpress.com/about/



Austerity politics does real things to real people. That means it's something you can see, something that has an effect at micro to macro scales. Austerity has fingerprints, detritus, dust, and it also has objects, buildings and landscapes. Contemporary austerity has long and recent pasts, both clear and tangled, messy presents, and consequences and long term futures. Austerity is political, politics is about things, and things are something archaeology does well. With this project, PublicArcheology2015 set out with colleagues from other disciplines to look for opportunities to work in and with the contemporary world to try to make a positive difference to people's lives. If we want to make a noise, we have the ability to do it from a solid evidence base.

In late 2015, a group of archaeologists and non-archaeologists set out to investigate the traces of London's austerity and politics past, present and future. We walked 11

miles from the business district of Canary Wharf to Downing Street, the centre of government. Between these two we encountered and explored the material narratives of inequality in Tower Hamlets, the connection between contemporary financial cuts and past City disasters, the micro-traces of a protest camp, the deeper transgressive histories of the Liberty of the Mint, the hole left by the demolition of a modern estate, creative occupations of space, and the place of politics in contemporary society.

Click on the link to take a walk with Austerity Walks: Line Across London Map where you will discover the narratives and photographs that accompany each stopping point on the walk.

