

Window on Lindow Art Trail

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Scan for full
online catalogue



**This is a wild landscape -
for your own safety please follow
these five golden rules:**

- 1** Keep to established footpaths.
- 2** Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather – hot or wet! Wellingtons or stout boots are advised.
- 3** Keep away from all ditches, open water and wet peat; many are deep and potentially dangerous.
- 4** Be aware that the site is fairly isolated and watch out for one another.
- 5** No smoking or open flames. Major fire risk in dry weather.

Please note that Art Trail route has uneven ground underfoot and may not be suitable for people with impaired mobility.

Art exhibitions are on at The Wilmslow Guild and a film of the Trail is being made as alternatives.
Path improvement work is being planned.

The Window on Lindow Art Trail is supported by:



V1 June 2024



Window on Lindow

Art Trail

A living Art Trail on a living bog

21 June – 28 October 2024

A temporary art trail commemorating the 40 years since the discovery of Lindow Man on 1 August 1984 and the commencement of the restoration of Lindow Moss to a living bog on 15 February 2022.

Curated by Phil Barton

You are welcome to go either way round the art trail, but the works are numbered in a clockwise direction. Keep a look out – artworks may be above or below you! A leisurely walk round the trail will take an hour plus. The route is marked with green arrows on a yellow circle in both directions. Please respect and do not touch the artworks.

1 Feel The Weight – Phil Barton (2024):

Lindow Moss was formed as glaciers 300m high covering the site began to melt some 10,000 years ago. This work, 300m long, invites you to visualise the same distance of ice piled way above your head.

2 Lindow Series – Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn – Phil Barton (2023/24):

A series of eight screenprints will be found at intervals around the Art Trail:

- 2a** Frost on the Moss: Compartment 7
- 2b** Frost on the Moss: Rushes
- 2c** Spring Moss: Sugar Brook outflow
- 2d** Frost on the Moss: Foxglove
- 2e** Summertime Moss: Sunset Foxglove
- 2f** Autumnal Moss: Fungal Fruit
- 2g** Autumnal Moss: Broom and Birch in low sunshine
- 2h** Summertime Moss: Canopy in Compartment 10

3 Lindow Inspiration – Iron Age & Bog Habitat – Phil Barton and 700+ Primary School Collaborators (2024):

School visits by Mel Giles presented Iron Age culture and drawings by Gee McCrory of artifacts and natural history provided inspiration for each pupil to make a banner to form part of this multiple artwork. Pupils and teachers from St Anne’s Fulshaw, Lindow, Gorsey Bank, Ashdene & Wilmslow Academy contributed to this work, with thanks. Details in the online full catalogue.

4 Bog Bodies – Juliette Hamilton (2002/24):

The figures are open to personal interpretation. They could be other worldly figures rising from the peat, menacing, or welcoming? Or gods that people worshipped, the spirits of the bog? Or maybe the humans who lived near the bogs and made the place their home.

5 [Re]Cycling Tree II – Phil Barton (2017 & 2024):

A two-part work reminding us all to value trees for the various forms of life support they provide.

- 5a** The banner shows some of these processes – photosynthesis, soil creation & enrichment and flood management
- 5b** [Re]Cycling Tree II represents the photosynthetic process with 12 hydrogen atoms, 18 oxygen and 6 carbon atoms catalysed by chlorophyl:
$$\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{CO}_2 \longrightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$$

6 Easels (Still Life) – Steve Sutton (2024):

- 6a** Easel I – presents a model of an ancient hand tool for cutting peat, an accurate replica of the unique style of hand operated peat cutter used at Lindow Moss
- 6b** Easel II “Forty” – Forty marks suggesting dates on a calendar, forty years, the mark of time since Lindow II, (Lindow Man) was discovered in the peat.

7 Homage to Lindow Man – Phil Barton with Wilmslow High School art students (2024):

Sited close to the spot where Lindow Man was found on 1st August 1984, the decoration of this piece was determined by the students inspired by Lindow and various works made by Phil on The Moss in 2022. Cyanotype Iron Age designs symbolise Lindow Man and his culture, leaf prints reflect the natural history of Lindow and the wind drawings represent the natural forces which have shaped Lindow Moss. Further details of contributors in the full catalogue.

8 Ferric Fox – Liz Ellis (2004):

Having been born and brought up, as had multiple generations of my family, in sight of Lindow Moss and Common, and of having ‘Fox’ as my family name, this project was very personal indeed.

- 8a** Ferric Fox – Hand built, life sized, 2D oxidised iron wire fox. Mounted on Perspex rods set into a scorched, stained and waxed oak block.

- 8b** Ferric Fox (Fleet) – Life sized fox built from oxidised iron wire as part of a body of work (16 pieces) made to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the discovery of Lindow Man.

9 Window on Lindow – Phil Barton (2024):

The viewer is invited to reflect on our relationship to the natural world. How often do we confine our view of nature with a window, whether from our home, our cars or the virtual windows on the World in our pockets? And how does nature see us; the outsider looking in? Or the invaded viewing the invader?

10 Bog Warrior – Steve Sutton (2024):

This work is a reconstruction of tree roots to realise a mysterious, apparently living, lurking unidentifiable being – a visceral response to the artist’s experience of this landscape which bears the marks of human activity over many years. The links between people and the natural resources of this environment provide a poetic and metaphorical comment on the past and the environmental challenges of today.

11 Caractacus Waving – Rupert Randall (2024):

Randall has previously made replica wooden items from the iron age – the same time period that Lindow Man was walking around Wilmslow, well, before he got bogged down. He made this figure from a willow trunk as a homage to Lindow Man and his discovery forty years ago. It is sited within hailing distance of the find site across The Moss.

12 Lindow Line Drawing – Phil Barton (2024):

Isobars from the scientific study of Lindow Man shortly after his discovery reveal a shadowy, simplified image of a complex human being who had been through 2,000 years incarcerated in a living eco-system. The reality is complex, so western culture reduces, labels and abstracts. This drawing is a rumination; the reduction of an amazing natural phenomenon, which preserved skin, nails and hair, developed into a self-sustaining system in the Cheshire landscape over millennia, has come to be simplified to lines and data.

13 Reaching Towards the Sun after J C Prestwich (1884) – Phil Barton (2024):

This drawing is derived – 140 years on – from Prestwich’s *Section of Peat Bog on Lindow Common* depiction of substrate sitting on a clay basin with 8 inches of “Sand” below 4½ feet of “Pine Forest Original Surface”, 3 feet of “Sphagnum Begins to Appear” and 7 feet of “Grey Turf Sphagnum” grading into “Modern Formation”. You can see the top three layers in the peat cliff before you. As the bog grew, it reached up towards the sun!

- 13a** Reaching Towards the Sun (Print) and

- 13b** Reaching Towards the Sun (Paint)

14 Lindow V – Steve Sutton (2024):

The making of this site-specific installation is heavily influenced by past discoveries of human remains found in the 1980’s. In this new work referencing the bodies found in the peat bog the principal form is lying on a raised circular platform to engage the onlooker. Many fragments of the ancient Scots pine forest found here are arranged to lead the focus towards the dais.

15 The Second Elizabethan Age – all that glistens is not gold – Phil Barton (2023):

The Second Elizabethan Age (1953 – 2023) has just drawn to a close in the UK. Elizabeth II’s 70 year reign coincided with unprecedented growth in prosperity, but at a cost – a sustained rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from 310ppm in 1953 to 427ppm in May 2024 and intense, mechanised removal of peat from this place. The drained Lindow Moss is releasing CO₂ into the atmosphere. Once rewetted and restored, it will again be a significant carbon sink.

16 Six Chimneys – Steve Sutton (2023)

The use of peat dug from Lindow Moss bog as fuel for burning is referenced in this evocative piece. As early as 1421 peat was extracted from the Moss, and much later the process was mechanised with mechanical diggers. These ‘chimneys’ reference industrial scenes, but here the product is no longer toxic and nature has taken over.

You can find out more details on each of the artworks and the participating artists at www.discoverlindow.org