



A Saturday walk exploring biodiversity in the Square Mile and beyond

Map 3

2.5km, from Old Street underground station to Lincoln's Inn Gardens

Recommended by Garden Co-Ordinator Marion Blair

This Saturday morning walk will take you from the cluster of community gardens created and maintained by volunteers in the shadows of the Barbican Towers to the beautifully tended herbaceous garden and courtyards of Lincoln's Inn – gardens of great contrast, but all with an underlying connection of greening with biodiversity in mind.

Starting at Old Street underground station, walk along City Road in a southerly direction looking for the entrance to Bunhill Fields burial ground on your right. This historic site was the burial site for non-conformists including Daniel Defoe and William Blake; it was originally called Bone Hill, and was created when the old charnel house at St Pauls was closed and all the bones removed. A group of volunteers led by the Friends of City Gardens (FOCG) have created **Bunhill Fields Historic and Wildlife Garden (Saturday 10am-3pm)**, a fascinating wildlife garden behind the railings, and have worked extensively to increase biodiversity and reduce lawn cutting and strimming. They have also planted areas of not only shade-loving but also drought tolerant plants, to reflect the changing climate. Visitors can take a tour behind the railings to explore the volunteers' work more closely.

Leaving Bunhill Fields by the exit onto Bunhill Row, cross into Dufferin Street and head towards the Barbican Towers. Ahead of you, in Fortune Lane, turn right and enter the Golden Lane Estate with its colourful panelling and modernist architecture, inspired by Le Corbusier's Maisons Jaoul. Behind the Sport and Fitness centre is the glorious community driven allotment gardens of **The Golden Baggers (Saturday 10.30am-4.30pm and Sunday 11am-4pm)**. Plenty of excellent cakes and coffee await you in the community hut and you can chat with 'the Baggers', who each have a plot growing an array of vegetables and fruit in raised beds. Emphasis is on biodiversity and sustainability, with best garden practise and productivity key to the success of the gardeners.

Cross the estate to Fann Street and enter the fascinating **Barbican Wildlife Garden Fann Street (Saturday and Sunday 11am-4pm)**. This award-winning, beautiful green space – maintained by volunteers – is an exemplar of gardening for biodiversity. The volunteers have recorded over 300 species of wildlife, and there is a wildflower meadow, two ponds and a bird hide.

Leaving Fann Street walk down Aldersgate Street and cross the road, taking Carthusian Street to pass the historic buildings of The Charterhouse. Next you enter the area of Smithfield meat market – quiet now, but on any other day it will be bustling with vans, traders and carcasses of meat. Soon all this will be gone, and the new Museum of London will open its doors inside this iconic Victorian building. At the end of Charterhouse Street turn right into Holborn; you could either jump on a bus for a couple of stops, or walk along Holborn until you turn down Chancery Lane on your left.

Your walk now takes you to a totally contrasting space – a garden of one of the historic Inns of Court where barristers are trained and work. **Lincoln's Inn Gardens (Saturday 10am-5pm)** is a tranquil and beautiful space with tree-lined walks and stunning herbaceous borders planted with biodiversity in mind. Explore the kitchen garden and enjoy refreshments and activities for all ages.