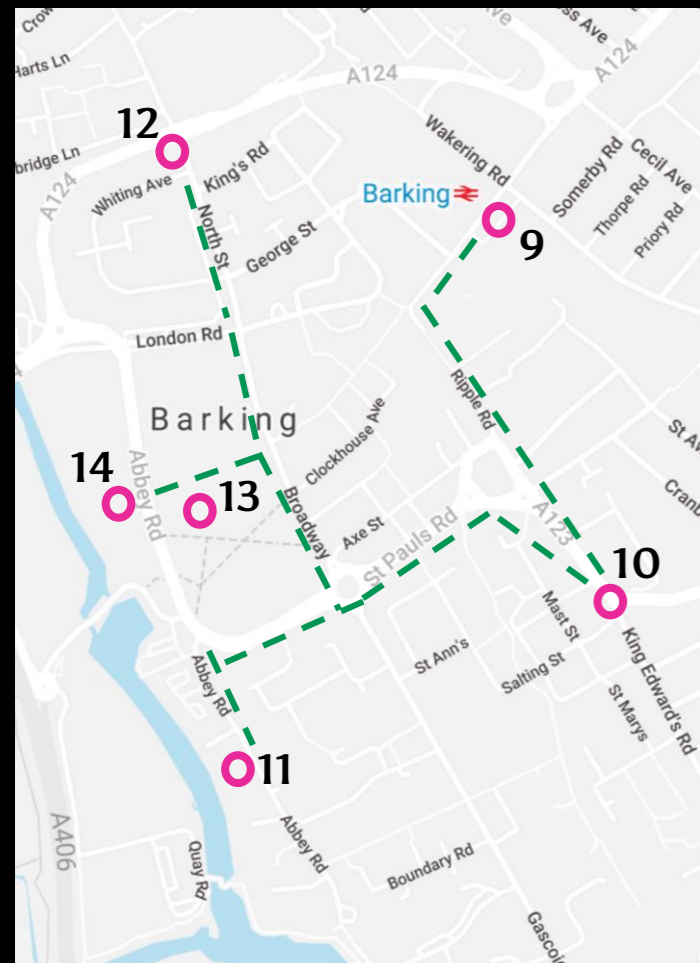




9 Hannah Dadds and The Olympic Park Bow Road Station/The District Line

Take an Eastbound District Line train from Bow Road or Bromley-By-Bow (step free access) to Barking to retrace the steps – or tracks – of another East London pioneer as you travel to the Barking section of this trail. In 1978 Hannah Dadds became the first female train operator on the London Underground, driving trains on the District Line. After working in various factories in Bow, Dadds worked as a 'railwoman' at Upton Park before training as a driver. She was later joined by her sister Edna and the pair became the first all-female train crew on the tube.

As you ride between Bromley-By-Bow and West Ham, look out for the twisting red spirals of the Orbit Tower on the left, built for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. London 2012 was historic for women in sport – it was the first time in the history of the games that every country had at least one female athlete in their team. Many records have been set here by women, including by Team GB wheelchair racer Hannah Cockcroft, who was the first person to break a world record in the new Olympic Stadium.



Google Maps



Valence House

10 King Edward's Road (house no. unknown)

Born in 1892 in Essex, Annie Clara Huggett moved to Barking in 1902 and became involved in the campaign for 'Votes for Women'. She is said to have hosted suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst in her home here on King Edward's Road. When Annie died in 1996 she was the oldest surviving suffragette, and was buried nearby in Rippleside Cemetery.



12 Elizabeth Fry Quakers' Garden, North Street

Although you might not expect it, famous prison reformer Elizabeth Fry is buried here in the Quakers' Garden on North Street. During her lifetime, Fry dedicated herself to improving the lives of women and girls, successfully campaigning for improvements in prison conditions, opening a shelter for the homeless, and founding a refuge for women involved in sex work. She was buried here in 1845.



13 The Abbesses of Barking Barking Abbey Ruins, Abbey Road

In the medieval period Barking Abbey was one of the most important institutions in the country with huge religious and political importance – and ran by women. The abbesses were some of the most powerful women in Britain and many became queens and saints, while the nuns that lived here include some of our earliest known writers and historians, like Clemence of Barking.



Trinity Mirror/Mirrorpix/Alamy

11 Ford and Women in Industry Ice House Quarter, Abbey Road

In the past 100 years industry has shaped the lives of countless women living in Barking and Dagenham (and beyond). In 1951, there were more than 10,000 women working in factories in the area, women who made everything from record players and machine guns to paint and popcorn. Many of these factories surrounded the banks of the River Roding where you are now standing. Working for large companies like Ford or May and Baker could offer women more independence and opportunity than other, lower paid jobs, but the work could also be dull, difficult and even dangerous.

In 1968 150 women working as machinists at Ford's Dagenham plant went on strike for equal pay. The women refused to work until they were paid the same as semi-skilled male employees. Although they were only partially successful, their strike was instrumental in the passing of the Equal Pay Act in 1970, which made it illegal to pay men and women different wages for the same work.



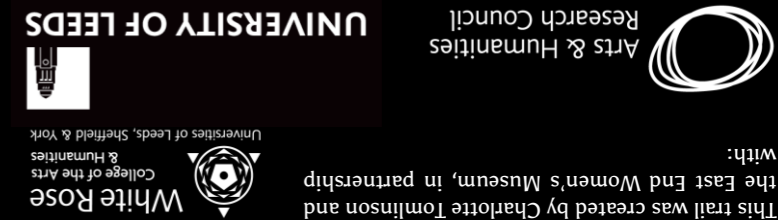
14 East End Women's Museum Abbey Road

Our final stop on the trail is the museum itself. For far too long, women have been confined to the margins of history, but East London women's lives have been filled with amazing stories of pride, of creativity, of humour, resilience, resourcefulness and resistance. We want to share stories of women and their incredible achievements and empower women and girls to tell their own stories too. The East End Women's exists through pop-ups and touring exhibitions, workshops, events and online. The new museum building will be opening on this site in 2021.

www.eastendwomensmuseum.org

Twitter: @EEWomensMuseum

Facebook: @EastEndWomensMuseum



www.eastendwomensmuseum.org

If you have a smartphone, you can access an extended version of this trail, with more detail on the stories shared and walking directions, online.

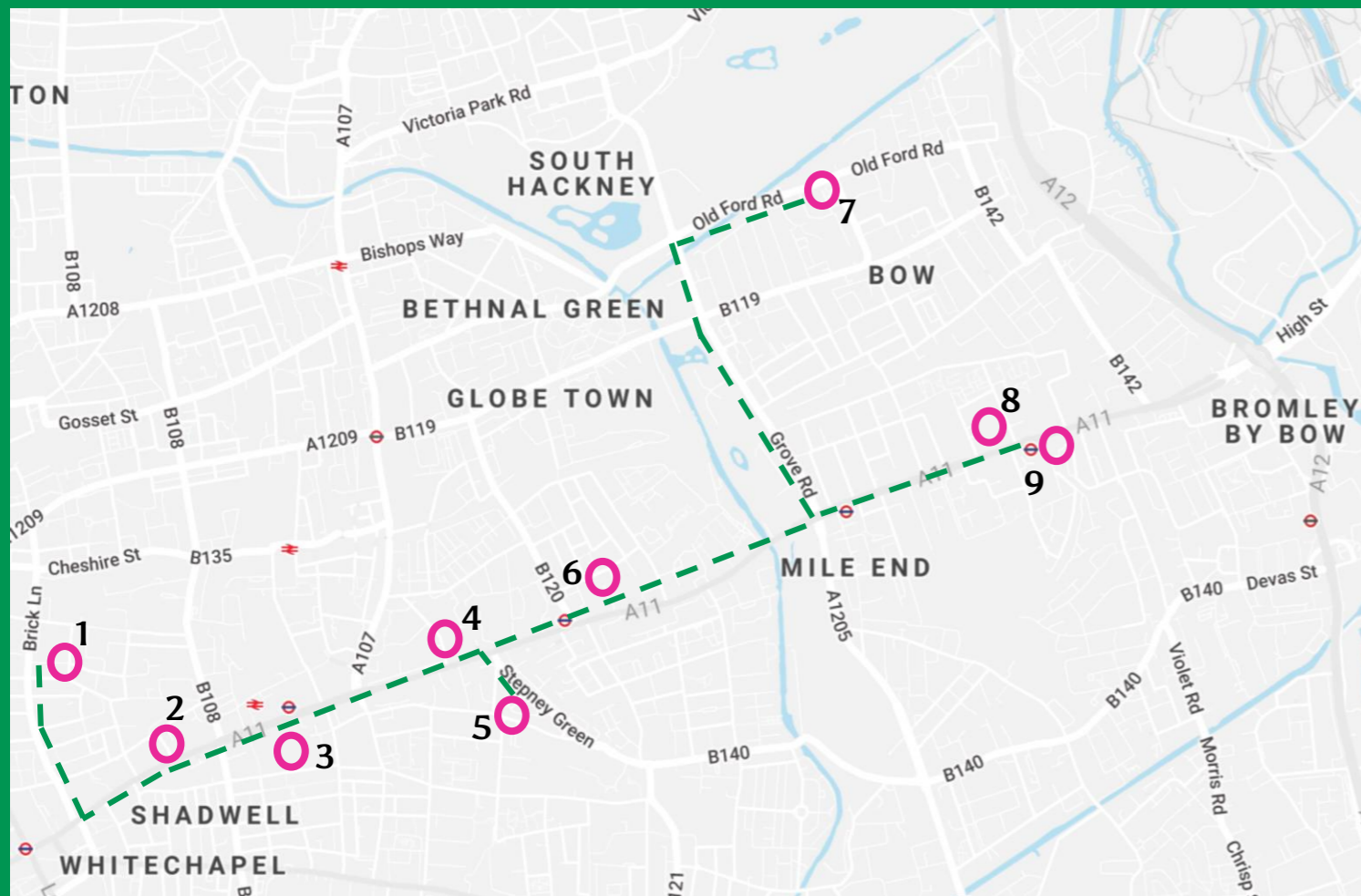
Depending on your pace, this trail will take 2-3 hours to complete, including a short journey on the London Underground. We've designed it to be flexible and accessible, so you can take detours, add your own stories, or complete it in sections. If you need them, buses 25 and 205 will take you along the A11 between stops 2 and 6, while bus 425 travels from Mile End to Victoria Park (close to stop 7), and between Victoria Park and Bow Road (stops 8 & 9).
The East End Women's Museum exists to record, research, share and celebrate the stories of East London women past and present. On this self-guided trail, you'll discover just a handful of the ordinary yet extraordinary women who have lived through the area's incredibly rich and diverse history – and shaped it too.

Brilliant Women of Whitechapel, Bow and Barking Heritage Trail



Eastside Community Heritage





Google Maps

Tip: Turn to the back cover to find information on which bus services run along the trail route.

© Charlotte Tomlinson and the East End Women's Museum



1 Mala Sen Woodseer Street, off Brick Lane

We begin our trail in the heart of the 'East End' with a story about social change, migration and activism. In the 1970s the Bengali community in Spitalfields was rapidly growing, but Bengali women and their families faced racism, prejudice and discriminatory housing policies that meant they often lived in slum conditions.

Mala Sen eloped to Britain in 1965, aged just 17, and began working in local sweatshops to earn a living. Working with local families and other activists, Mala Sen co-founded the Bengali Housing Action Group (BHAG) in 1976 and began helping families to squat in unused council buildings around Brick Lane and Spitalfields. Some of the key squatted houses were here on Woodseer Street. Although these buildings no longer stand, today Brick Lane is still a centre of Bangladeshi culture and community, thanks to the work of Mala Sen and BHAG.



2 Miss Muff's 'Molly House' Black Lion House, 45 Whitechapel Road

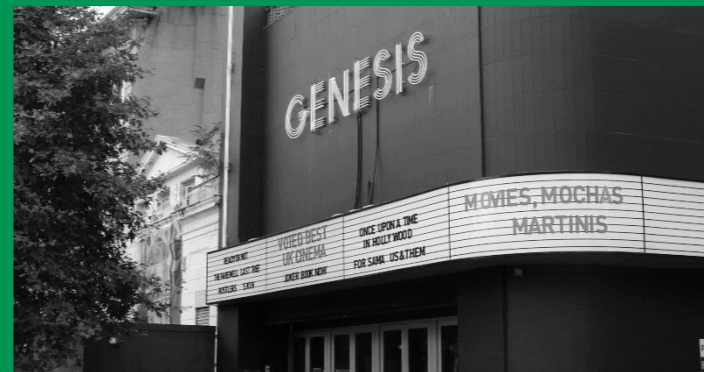
In the 1700s Miss Muff (also known as Jonathan Muff) ran a 'Molly House' here in Whitechapel in Black Lion Yard, where Black Lion House stands today. At that time a thriving gay subculture existed in this area which included 'Molly Houses' – places where men could meet to socialise and have sex, and sometimes take on more typically 'feminine' personas. For example, visitors to 'Molly Houses' could cross-dress in women's clothing and use alternative 'female' names.

The history of East London shows us that, like today, historical concepts of gender identity and sexuality have been fluid and constantly evolving, rather than simple and straightforward. Although we know little about how these individuals would define or describe their gender identities, it's clear that East London has always had a long and rich LGBTQ+ past.



3 Annie Brewster The Royal London Hospital

The Royal London Hospital has played an important role in women's lives in East London for centuries, for both the locals who have been patients and the women who have trained and worked here – many of them trailblazers. Annie Brewster, one of the first identified nurses of African descent working in London, was a nurse here from 1881 to 1902. She was known for her 'quick intelligence' and kindness to patients.



4 Josie Woods Genesis Theatre, 93-95 Mile End Road

Josie Woods was born in Canning Town in 1912 to a Dominican father and 'gypsy girl' mother who worked on the local docks, but pursued a rather more glamorous career than her parents – as a music hall star! Woods danced in theatres around the world as well as in East London, including at the Paragon Theatre which once stood here. In the 1950s, she organised a strike to demand fair pay for black extras in film and TV.



5 Milly Witkop Dunstan Houses, Stepney Green

Feminist, anarchist, and union activist Milly Witkop lived here in Dunstan Houses in the early 1900s. Born in Ukraine, Witkop moved to London to flee anti-Jewish pogroms and began working in a tailor's sweatshop to pay for her mother and sister to join her. She edited radical newspapers, organised trade unions and advocated 'free love' before emigrating to Germany and USA after the First World War.



6 Sarah Chapman American Snooker Hall, 229 Mile End Road

On 5th July 1888, 1400 women and girls working at the Bryant and May match factory in Bow went on strike to protest the dangerous and unfair conditions that they worked in. One of the strike leaders, Sarah Chapman, lived here on Mile End Road. Take a look down Mile End Place to get a sense of the home Sarah would have lived in, and look out for the red towers of the old Bryant and May factory as you travel to stops 7 and 8.



7 The Women's Hall Mural Lord Morpeth Pub, 402 Old Ford Road

From 1914 to 1924 the Women's Hall at 400 Old Ford Road was the headquarters of the East London Federation of Suffragettes and the home of their leader, Sylvia Pankhurst. The hall was a radical social centre run by and for local working-class women, and included a 'Cost Price Restaurant' where people could buy a cheap meal and get free milk for children. Today this mural plays tribute to Pankhurst and those who fought for the vote.



8 Minnie Lansbury Memorial Clock Electric House, Bow Road

Look up on the corner of Alfred Street and Bow Road to spot this memorial clock, dedicated to suffragette and campaigner Minnie Lansbury. Lansbury was an elected alderman on Poplar Council in 1921, when she was jailed, along with five other women, for refusing to charge full rates from her poorest constituents. She died shortly after her release from prison, but the Poplar Rates Rebellion paved the way for fairer tax legislation.