

1

PLACE

40 Fountain Street

Fountain street, on which PLACE stands, is so named because a number of fountains were once positioned along the street. These fountains distributed fresh water, which was brought into the town along wooden pipes. It was necessarily to channel drinking water into the town centre from outside sources because all three of Belfast's central rivers were tidal, hence undrinkable.

))) **Sound to be heard:** Fountains recorded in various cities and the sound of water flowing along and onto wood.

2

Kelly's Cellars

30 - 32 Bank Street

Back in 1720, when Kelly's Cellar opened its doors, it would have stood upon the banks of the River Farset. The town map of 1685 shows Bank Street and the Farset bound by farmland to the north, the town walls to the west and adjacent to the Castle gardens and orchard.

))) **Sound to be heard:** The flow of various small rivers and streams; in particular, recordings of rivers coursing through numerous locations in the Mourne, Co. Down.

3

Bittles Bar

103 Victoria Street

The mouth of the Blackstaff River, opening out into the Lagan, previously occupied the land in front of Bittles Bar. In the late 1600s this channel was cut to veer the river further out of the city. Hence, the Blackstaff River was brought into entering the Lagan at the Gasworks. In the early 1800s a small dock named May's Dock was built upon the old channel of the Blackstaff River.

))) **Sound to be heard:** The lapping of water against riverbanks and the passage of small boats. Recordings of bird flocks around Strangford Lough, Co. Down are also presented.

4

Cloth Ear

35 Waring Street

Skipper Street is so named because it is where the captains of sea vessels porting in Belfast are thought to have taken board. At the entrance to Skipper Street, on High Street there was once a sluice gate which held back the Farset river, preventing flooding and giving depth to Belfast's main dock of the time. Chichester Quay, running along the north of this dock, was active for over 200 years.

))) **Sound to be heard:** The sound of ships and boats, both docking and docked; in particular, recordings of vessels on Lough Neagh marinas and Bangor Marina.

5

Waterfront Hall

2 Lanyon Place

The land on which Waterfront Hall stands has been reclaimed from the Lagan and the mouth of the Blackstaff, meaning for centuries water would have flowed right over the site of the hall. Even after the land had been reclaimed, the region around the hall, like much of the city centre, was prone to flooding by the Lagan or the Blackstaff River.

))) **Sound to be heard:** River flow recorded underwater, including that of the Lagan.

6

BBC Broadcasting House

25 Ormeau Avenue

When the Blackstaff River was diverted in the late 1600s it was brought to coursing along Ormeau Avenue and directly over the land on which the BBC now stands. Here, the River was bound in order to form Joy's mill dam which powered the nearby Joy's Paper Mill. In the 1800s the dam was replaced by a circular reservoir, used to store and distribute fresh water.

))) **Sound to be heard:** The flow of small rivers, and the water wheel and mill race of Wellbrook Beetling Mill, Co. Tyrone.

PLACE is the Architecture and Built Environment Centre for Northern Ireland. Year-round we host exhibitions, panel discussions and workshops at our premises in Fountain Street, we carry out projects across Northern Ireland to engage communities in new developments in their areas, and we work with teachers and built environment professionals to develop architecture in Northern Ireland's school curriculum.

For the latest events, news and articles, visit www.place.uk.net

Resounding Rivers is made possible by support from Belfast City Council and the participating venues.

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Opening Hours

Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat
11:30 - 17:30

Thurs
11:30 - 19:30

Belfast
part of it



Matt Green
Resounding Rivers

6 May - 5 June



place

place



Resounding Rivers

Belfast's forgotten rivers, waterways and associated industries have been given a renewed presence within the city. Six sound installations have been assembled at six different sites across the city. Each installation can be heard out in the street, presented as an enhancement of the everyday sound space. Each site has been selected because it is situated upon, or by, the previous route of one of Belfast's three central rivers. Two of these rivers, the Farset and Blackstaff, no longer flow over ground - they are constricted to large pipes running beneath the city. The third river, the Lagan, is still a prominent feature in Belfast but was once much wider. By deepening the Lagan's channel, a great deal of land has been reclaimed and built upon.

The sound that is presented by each installation is a re-imagining of what the city's buried and constricted rivers and waterways might once have sounded like. Each of the six sites would have had a different relationship with its respective water source, and this is reflected in the delivered sound. In order to achieve the reimagining, locations in Northern Ireland with similar water features to those previously found in Belfast have been visited and recorded.

Listen 9.30am - 5.30pm every day, Thursdays until 9pm.
Project conception, audio production and installation by Matt Green.
Graphic design and video installation by Ryan O'Reilly.
Advice and guidance by Ruairi Ó Baoill.

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 LAGAN RIVERBANK 1660
 LAGAN RIVERBANK 1791