

Damage of World War II and the building of the Barbican Estate

The Barbican was originally a high Roman watch tower that stood just outside the fort. An area of 40 acres here was flattened by the bombing of World War II. This gave the City authorities a chance to encourage people to come back and live in the City. A large housing estate was planned. The three tall blocks are over 400ft high and at the time were the largest in Europe.

The Barbican complex also includes the Barbican Library and the Theatre, opened in 1982, houses the Royal Shakespeare Company and London Symphony Orchestra. The Guildhall School of Music and Drama was moved here in 1977 and has practice studios, a theatre and concert hall.

The City of London School for Girls was built 1962-9 with an addition in 1990-1.



♣ ♣ (move away to your right past the ramp you have just walked up and walk along John Trundle Highwalk into Beech Gardens)

Beech Gardens are built above the busy road that runs along below.

As you walk along you will come across this bog garden that was created in the late 1990's from a pond that was part of the original landscaping.



As you walk on, in Ben Jonson Place you will find this **Dolphin Fountain** by John Ravera, 1989-90.

♣ ♣ (when leaving Ben Jonson Place from in front of the fountain bear right then left through the gates and you will find yourself in Upper Frobisher Crescent)