

THE IMPERMANENT EXHIBITION

/ Guide

1st Edition

Opening JUNE 7th 2022



HOW THE SOIL GETS THERE

As a parallel track to your visit to the three departments of the Impermanent Exhibition, the soil moves too. From being placed in a stratigraphic order underneath our feet, the soil is dug up from construction sites. The archaeologists and geologists take part in the initial process of digging, and biopsies of the underground and archaeological finds are separated from the rest of the soil. While the biopsies up until now have been investigated by GEUS and the Natural History Museum, and the archaeology has been conserved in the Museum of Copenhagen, the National Museum of Denmark, and the Natural History Museum, a common ground for investigating the finds is spatialized as The Laboratory of The Impermanent Exhibition. In The Exhibition Hall, the finds and biopsies exhibited are placed in their previous contextual soil, as it is stocked for the purpose of being the foundation of Lynetteholm.

INTRODUCTION

The Impermanent Exhibition is a collaborative institution within the University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen Municipality, and the Danish State. The exhibition is situated in three departments: The Construction Site Tent, The Laboratory, and The Exhibition Hall.

By rendering forward the relationship between the scientific and the narrative, a co-authorship within the construction of knowledge is the aim. When knowledge is excavated as an emergent property in construction sites, the finds are classified into natural and cultural institutions. This spatial dichotomy reproduces the discursive conceptualization of natural and cultural finds as parallel narrations of history. By democratizing the process of knowledge-making, The Impermanent Exhibition creates space for interacting with the excavation of history sealed underground, the translation into knowledge, and the curated narrative.

HOW TO GET THERE

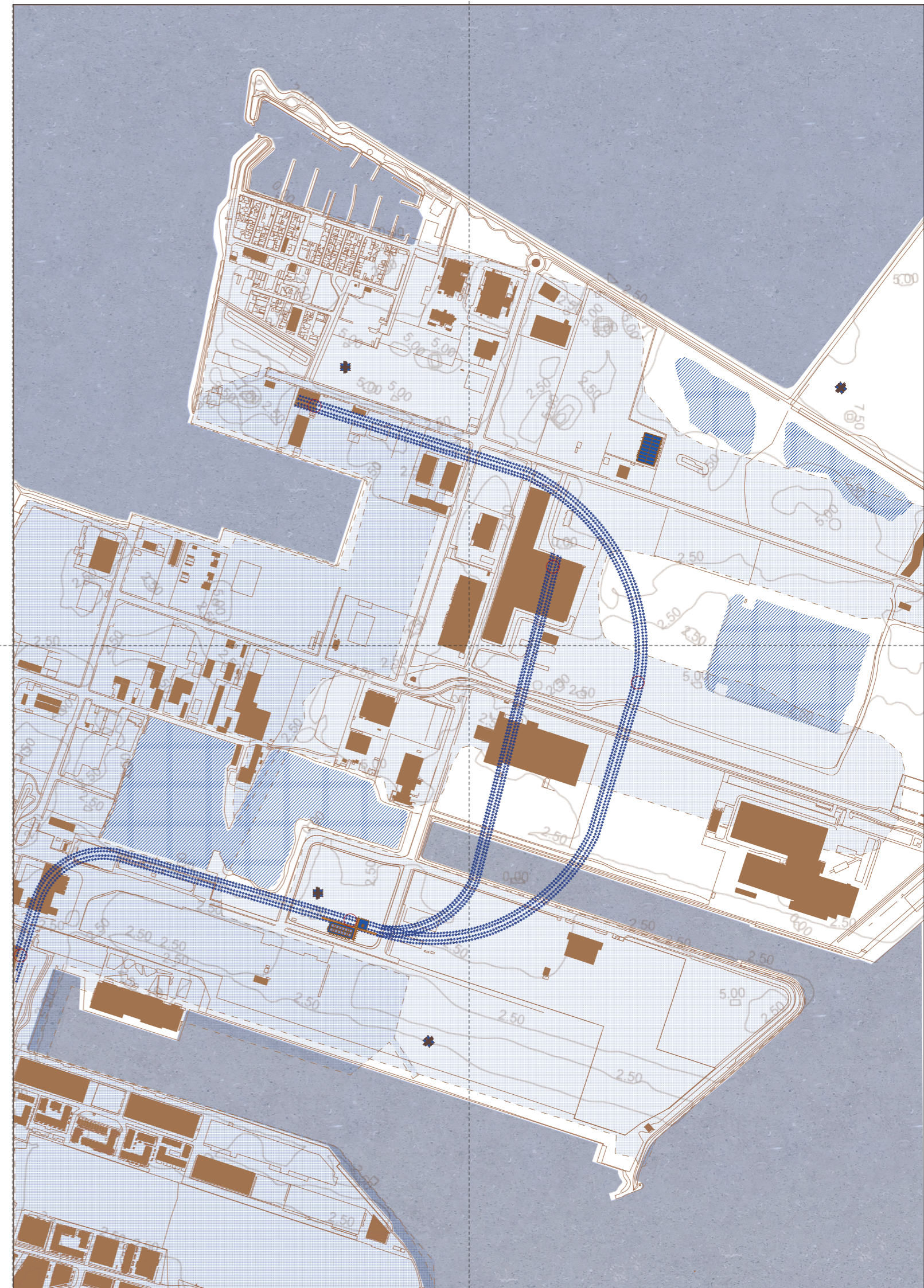
Metro /

The infrastructural entrance to the museum revolves, like the exhibition, around a current construction site. The three units are placed along with the metro in Copenhagen, of which the M4 Nordhavn line is under construction.

The Construction Site Tent is a moveable site, which is attached to ongoing construction sites in Copenhagen, and therefore the current location can be found on our website. To access the archaeological site, enter one of the two entrances in the blue tent.

The Laboratory is situated by Levantkaj and the Exhibition Hall is situated by v/Nordhavn C, both stations are planned alongside the discussion revolving around the construction of the artificial island, Lynetteholm.

Opening hours:
Monday-Friday: 08:00-17:00
Saturday: 10:00-16:00
Sunday: Closed



FACILITIES / The Exhibition Hall

The Exhibition Hall is placed in Nordhavnstippen, where the soil of construction sites is all deposited, proposed as the foundation of constructing the island Lynetteholm. Covering part of the soil, during its placement in transition, the exhibition places the finds from construction sites back into the soil they were extracted from, a deconstructed context. An elevated pathway interacts and negotiates with the soil centered in the building, and what has been excavated in construction sites, and translated into the Laboratory, is now curated alongside the disposed context.

The structure is changeable, as the exhibition changes along with the excavation of finds, and the deposit of soil.

FACILITIES / Education

Primary Schools and High Schools are encouraged to book guided tours to the three locations of the Impermanent Exhibition, as part of the educational program. The students will experience the construction of knowledge, from the excavation to the scientific laboratory work and the narrated exhibition.

FACILITIES / The Construction Site Tent

The construction sites of Copenhagen are commonly known as introverted sites, guarded by walls and secured entrances, a hidden part of the city. The infrastructure of the sites requires a high level of management due to security risks, as there are large machinery and deep excavations. The Construction Site Tent is inserted directly into the scaffold structure surrounding a selected construction site, enabling an interaction with the digging. The tent resembles the scaffold structure, but the wooden materiality and the blue tent cover highlights the curatorial role of the space. During the opening hours of the tent, it is possible to either pass through and have a look at the site or to enter the tent and observe the work taking place at the site. The boardwalk shows the area that is open for entrants, to ensure the security of visitors. It can be changed according to the possible proximity to the excavation according to security and size. As part of educational programs or preliminary agreements, the archaeologists and geologists can invite the public to interact in the digging at smaller excavations.

FACILITIES / The Laboratory

By taking the metro to Levantkaj, the Laboratory can be accessed underneath the elevated path of the metro and is divided into two departments. Inspired by the diorama of museums, the Laboratory is an observatory of translating finds into science and narratives. Passing through the building enables a look into the washing area, the conservation area, and the storage space. Visitors to the building take part in the processes, a situation which is also taking place in The Archaeological Workshop in The Museum of Copenhagen and The Next Gen Lab in The Natural History Museum. Forwarding the existing collaboration between the two institutions, the Laboratory combines the fields of geology and archaeology, both concerned with the knowledge sealed under our feet. The work with the translation of finds takes place in a lowered area paved with rammed earth, while glass is staging the laboratory itself as a diorama. Echoes of the scaffold are represented in the structure, and the tent cover is present as curtains dividing the spaces. The second department hosts a storage facility of the finds, divided into organic finds in a cold and dark environment, and non-organic finds at street level. This department reaches from the perron of the metro and into the ground, where the environment resembles the layers of soil: where time and decay of finds are stopped.

CURRENT / Excavations

/ Trianglen, Østerbro. Metro-construction.

With the amount of construction work taking place in Copenhagen over time, leaving an anthropocene geology, it is rare to find glacial periods in the ground. In the 1800th hundreds, the digging preliminary to the construction of Frihavnen revealed traces of shells from mussels and snails, descending from a milder interglacial climate. The lack of methods to date the geological biopsies left the question open, but the digging at Trianglen, Østerbro hosts similar properties and enriches the knowledge of the unknown interglacial period.

/ Rådhuspladsen. Metro-construction.

Underneath the pavement in Copenhagen are traces of the history of its construction, as a parallel timeline just below our feet. The digging in Rådhuspladsen, as part of the metro construction, revealed parts of the history of Copenhagen, dating back to the Vikings. A 1000-year-old graveyard site of skeletons was dug up, witnessing the life and territorialization of Copenhagen.

CURRENT / Laboratory work

/ Trianglen, Østerbro. Metro-construction.

Enter the laboratory and take part in the analysis of biopsies of sediments found when digging in the ground of Trianglen, Østerbro. The laboratory is found in the second diorama space, visually connected to the washing area and the storage space of the translated knowledge. The biopsies are kept in the lower department building, entailing a walk from the lighter part of the building to the darker part, while descending the staircases. Underground, large, refrigerated storages are found, and a geologist will unfold the techniques of storage of the biopsies.

/ Rådhuspladsen. Metro-construction.

In the first diorama space, washing tables enable a close encounter with the archaeological finds. Guided by an archaeologist, the washing is facilitated as a careful process, as a first step into the conservation of the finds. The finds could be bones, human artifacts, or leftovers from built environments. In the third diorama space, conserved finds can be observed, and the window niches contain microscopes, in which the finds can be examined.

CURRENT / Exhibitions

/ Trianglen, Østerbro. Metro-construction.

Surrounded by the soil in which the geological layers have been deconstructed, biopsies of the interglacial stratigraphy are exhibited. The knowledge of ice ages is unfolded, relating to the current climate: we, too, are in an interglacial period.

/ Rådhuspladsen. Metro-construction.

The graves from the digging in Rådhuspladsen are re-inserted into the soil and placed underneath the boardwalk that curates the exhibition. Inhabiting the space underneath the boardwalk of other visitors spatially resembles the graves placed just one meter underneath Rådhuspladsen.

/ Moving soil: the making of cities.

Glacial geology and humans share a force; the ability to move soil. The moving of soil preserves history while paving the foundation for the future. The anthropocene landscape grows, alters, and interacts with the environment, redefining the formation of lands. Digging forward the history of human settlements and the interglacial geology frames a common history, of which all species and forces take part.

