

How it all works:

Hidden Histories utilises the latest in wireless communication technologies such as WIFI and Bluetooth in combination with FM radio to create listening stations where particular stories and themes can be heard.

By broadcasting audio files using very weak radio transmitters with a range of about 10 meters a selection of stories from Southampton City Council's Oral History Archive can be heard along 10 nodal points (locations) from where byte-sized stories are transmitted. These nodes link together to form a media rich walk that transports people through the changing life of the city. In the not too distant future we hope to supplement the audio clips with images and film clips via Bluetooth direct to your mobile phone.

You may have already discovered that these nodes have the ability to communicate with you via Bluetooth. This may be how you found out about this project on your mobile phone. Each node scans the environment for phones which have Bluetooth turned on and sends them a message to tell them about the project. Once permission has been granted to allow further information to be sent, the node then sends a larger message, which contains the FM frequency and information about the type of content which can be heard on the respective listening station.

With this method of attracting passers-by to listen, the technology has the potential to be used for a great number of things. For more information about the technology and its potential uses visit: www.hiddenhistories.org.uk/technology



Easy to use guide:

- Step 1** - Get yourself an analogue radio that receives FM
(**Handy Hint:** this could be a mobile phone)
- Step 2** - Look at the map to find your nearest listening station and travel towards it
- Step 3** - Look for the Hidden Histories symbol on a nearby lamp post and stand within 10 metres of it
- Step 4** - Turn the radio on and tune it to **89.0 MHz FM**. If you are standing close enough to the lamp post you should start to hear voices over the radio
- Step 5** - Listen for as long as you like. The pieces should last no longer than 12-15 mins. When you are done, move onto the next listening station!

Tell us what you think:

Hidden Histories has been developed as a 'pilot' scheme to test how this type of technology works and to see how you feel about using it. To be able to find out how you feel about it we need your feedback. Once you have completed some or all of the trail please visit our website www.hiddenhistories.org.uk to leave us a message. You can also fill out a feedback form at the Tourist Information Centre.

We hope you enjoy it!