WHAT IS A SKATE DOT?

It could look like this
Or maybe not?

So what is a skate dot?

FIND OUT!

WE DON'T REALLY KNOW YET–

HELP US!

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As part of our initial research for City Mill Skate, we caught up with a group of local skaters, the Girls Can’t Skate crew and battled the winds for a quick session at Victoria Park Raemers Skatepark. Afterward, we headed over to Hackney Bumps, a hidden but legendary skatepark in Clapton, to hear more about their experience of skating different spots and how their ideas around the ownership of public space could help the City Mill Skate project.

After dodging some patchy weather, we met up with the Girls Can’t Skate crew for a shred at Victoria Park Raemers Skatepark. They shared their experiences of working on skate-related community projects, where they like to skate and why, and what makes a skate spot good or bad. They also had some excellent ideas on how the design of skateable spaces can make them accessible to everyone.

For our initial research, we also met up with the Metal Pegs BMX crew to hear about the history of the DIY spot AKA ‘The Gym’ that they built at Mile End

They talked us through what led them to build the spot, as well as explaining their design and construction process. They had some great ideas to share on making a spot as inclusive as possible and how this could help our project.

Hackney Bumps is a project started by several local skaters, to renovate the amazing (but overlooked) skatepark at Daubeney Fields in Clapton. Alongside organizing several events, The Hackney Bumps team have been busy renovating sections of the skatepark themselves. Hackney Bumps also recently met with the Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, and representatives from Sport England to discuss further improvements to the site. For further updates follow the Hackney Bumps Instagram page: @hackneybumps

Although the Wickside DIY spot was demolished some time ago, the London Legacy Development Corporation and Make Shift architects are redeveloping the site. Clarmico Quay (as it is now known) will host an array of opportunities including workplaces, markets, and may open from 2022.

To help us understand the needs of local skaters, we met up with the Little Wednesday crew, to visit the Wickside DIY spot (now defunct) at Clarmico Quay.

The Little Wednesday skaters talked us through the history of the spot: how it was found, planned and constructed back in 2017 and how this process could influence our ideas for developing City Mill Skate.

We began our pilot research for the City Mill Skate project by talking to the ES Skate Rate, a group of younger skaters from Clapton in East London. As well as taking care of business at Mike End Skatepark, they were keen to share their thoughts on where else they like to skate locally and what makes a good spot vs a bad spot.

The City Mill Skate project aims to make the construction of permanent skateable architecture within the new UCL East campus. The UCL East campus will sit in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Construction on the UCL East campus begins in March 2020 and it will open from 2022.
City Mill Skate is a research project that uses a shared design process to build a proposal for the construction of permanent skateable objects within the new UCL East campus, in London’s Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

This is part of a wider set of initiatives across UCL that seek to broaden participation in education and ultimately to change perceptions of what attending university can be like.

Via a programme of events throughout 2020, City Mill Skate will build a diverse community of skateboarders around the site of the future UCL East campus. For 2020, this will include skate lessons, design and making workshops, DIY build test projects and more. Updates at:

Instagram @citymillskate
www.citymillskate.com