As I began walking I had phrases from both Artur and James's texts in mind – 'to walk a different path' and 'like an ecotone'. I was also thinking about the word ecotone in relation to a text by Peter Szendy, where it signifies a 'stress line'.[1] I crossed from Springfield Park over the canal into the marshes, and soon found myself by Horseshoe Thicket, one of the areas I'd hoped to explore. This is a small fenced-off wooded area. In a patch of flat, grassy land as one enters were two picnic tables. Beyond these were a mini-thicket and a frozen pond. There was an abandoned blue sleeping bag among the trees, hanging on a branch.

I sat at one of the picnic tables. The wooden surface had been heavily charred by a disposable barbecue. This table-top reminded me of the charred bushes I'd recorded moving in the wind on Blackheath in May 2025, when I'd last done a Walking in Air activity. I sat and listened to the sound-filled air. I could hear people calling to their dogs, bird calls, trains running on the line that bisects the marshes and an aural overlay of aeroplanes. I began listening through headphones to the sounds around me while I processed the incoming audio with a granular effect. After a while, I settled on a balance between environmental and processed sound. Here was my ecotonal stress line, an acoustic extrapolation of the meeting between urban and semi-rural at the Marshes. I left the recording device to record for half an hour while I walked around the thicket enclosure.

I moved on. I walked in air for an hour or more, eventually looping back to my starting point by the thicket. I made another quite long recording, having tweaked the granular effect. Then Emmanuelle joined me and we made some sounds and recordings together. Later that evening, when I got home, I found that all of my recordings had failed: there was nothing useable on my device. So, the next day, a Sunday, I went back to Horseshoe Thicket and repeated the recording with the same settings. This time it worked. Sound crosses very line.

[1] Peter Szendy, 'Ecotonalities', *Ecotones: Investigating Sounds and Territories*, ed. by Valentin Bansac, Mike Fritsch, Alice Loumeau and Peter Szendy (Spector: 2025).