



Photographic record

1-5



We arrived by train to see snow covering the ground. Mist enveloped the near distance, an orange glow from street lights faded into the sky. Medieval towers and cobbled surfaces emerged above and below. We woke and left the hostage outside Nowa Huta which consisted of 10 tracks crossing in a complicated junction where cars mixed with trams. We got on the next tram and arrived at Plac Centralny



Everything was icy and walking was difficult but paths were beginning to be worn into the ice. Red and white hazard tape on sticks at the bottom of buildings warned of icicles falling from roofs. I walked up and down the large space that was directly above Plac Centralny. Small wooden stalls stood on most corners of the streets selling papers and refreshments. At the top of the space a park opened up the area and a restaurant sat on the corner.



I decided to follow a dog which ran out in front of me with no apparent owner. It took me around the park, back to the square and then into one of the inner courtyards where there were playgrounds. I left the courtyard and ran into another seemingly aimless dog and followed that. This one led me back into the main square again and up to some shops where it lingered and sneaked through some doors. It promptly came out again followed by an angry worker.



A map on a street corner shows the town plan with the fan layout clearly defined. Later I realised where the steel works are and what scale they are in relation to the town. This map only hinted at their size, showing the entrance and a slither of the plot on the right hand side. We went for a cup of tea and were disappointed to get a slice of lemon instead of milk. We set off to find the meeting point where we are hearing a talk from PIN



We struggle to work out exactly where we need to be and walk through some courtyards and ask some locals who give varying directions and help. I still have no map and cannot orientate myself as everything looks similar but is at angles. Leaving the meeting we walk around for an hour or so. The sun is going down and striking the buildings with a warm colour. A massive brick building with angular roof turns out to be a church. Inside the ceiling is covered in exposed wooden structure.

6-10



We stop at Bar 1949 to have a hot drink and a slice of home-made apple cake. The man invites us to watch a film downstairs, the bar turns out to be an art gallery too. The film is about the square I had spent some time in, and the Statue of Lenin that used to stand. This gives me more insight into the context of the place which is welcome as I was feeling like an aimless wanderer. It is dark now, we walk out to the perimeter of the fan and find the lake where a glowing dome is sitting



Ducks waddle along the icy surface of the lake in small groups. The snow is less trodden here and it crunches underfoot. It is getting much colder now there is no sun to warm you. In the distance I can hear a train starting up and shutting along. I imagine it's the steelworks and images of Blade Runner type industrial landscapes appear in my mind. We turn away from the lake and down a main avenue.



The road ends up being one of the main 5 and we arrive at Plac Centralny. A film crew has set up and are making preparations with lights and cameras. Police and hired security guard the set. One side of the square has been artificially lit. Apparently Michael York will be appearing soon to begin filming but we are too cold to wait and head home.



We are picked up by the University of Krakow and driven to the Stechworks entrance. We cannot go in but instead are taken around the edges and see industrial paraphernalia crossing above us and along side the road. Pipes, cables, lorries, trains and massive coils of steel plate and wiring. Every now and then we get a glimpse of some towers and smoke billowing out of them



The morning mist is still hanging in the sky. We walk up to the ancient burial mound and some of us make our way to the stop of the snowy hill. The intention was to get a view over the works but all I can see is a train pulling away near the fence and then it is gone from view, its engine noise all that is left as it disappears into the fog.

11-15



We all go for lunch in a milk bar (all the food is milk based making it more affordable for the poorest in society) A man and lady are relentless in asking for our leftovers. I feel gluttonous in ordering too much in an attempt to sample the variations, I give him the rest of mine.



We go to buy a kite for Renata and discover that the arches which lead into the courtyards house shops and offices. We ask a girl for directions to Akra Pana Kosc. She leads us out of the courtyard we are in and around its edge to a junction and points us down the street. We wonder why she wouldn't take us through the courtyard which was a quicker route.



We walk past the People's Theatre and out into what appears to be the edge of the fan. Here the buildings are more spread out and of a different form. Tall tower blocks appear. The large market is on the other side of the cross-roads. We wander around and look at the various stalls and buy some cakes. Old ladies inspect the price and stock differences between 2 competing butchers. Another stall is selling vegetables. The man has set up with just the crates the produce came in and has sited himself outside the built area of the market.



Monotonous balconies are rendered in a variety of colours. I wonder if it was done by individuals or maybe part of a communist scheme that was enforced to brighten the building. Three boys play on the compacted ice outside. They take it in turns to kick a stone and slide after it like curling. One wears workman dungarees and red gloves as if he is on his break and will return to work after seeing his friends



We take over a space in one of the courtyards and create a snowball olympics making various events and a shelter from string and chalk, and of course snow. Some boys come and join us for some of the activities and we award them medals to show their friends and parents. We got to Restauracja Stylowa to eat together. I order some fried cabbage and a chicken, bacon, cheese dish. We wait patiently as the courses come out individually. A woman charges 0.5 Plz to use the toilet.

## Nowa Huta

Drawn on Wednesday 12th December, 2007

Key:

- Movement walking
- - - on transport
- ..... fast tracking

Buildings:

- Observed
- Interacted with
- Entered and interacted with

This map shows my experiences of Nowa Huta over the 3 days we spent exploring and investigating the town and its history. I spent most of my time wandering and using various techniques to influence my direction choices and areas that I would encounter. We were taken in trams, cars and walked in the mist through woods. I have mapped the buildings in town that I interacted with and shown places of conversations or direct communication with the area with dots.

### Preconceptions

I knew nothing of what Krakow or Nowa Huta looked like prior to arriving. We had spent a day in Warsaw before getting the train down in the evening to meet the group so I had been introduced to Poland through its modernised capital city, rebuilt old town and freezing cold wind. I had read a little about Nowa Huta in a guide book and an essay from a research team but this did little to help visualise the physical appearance of the place.