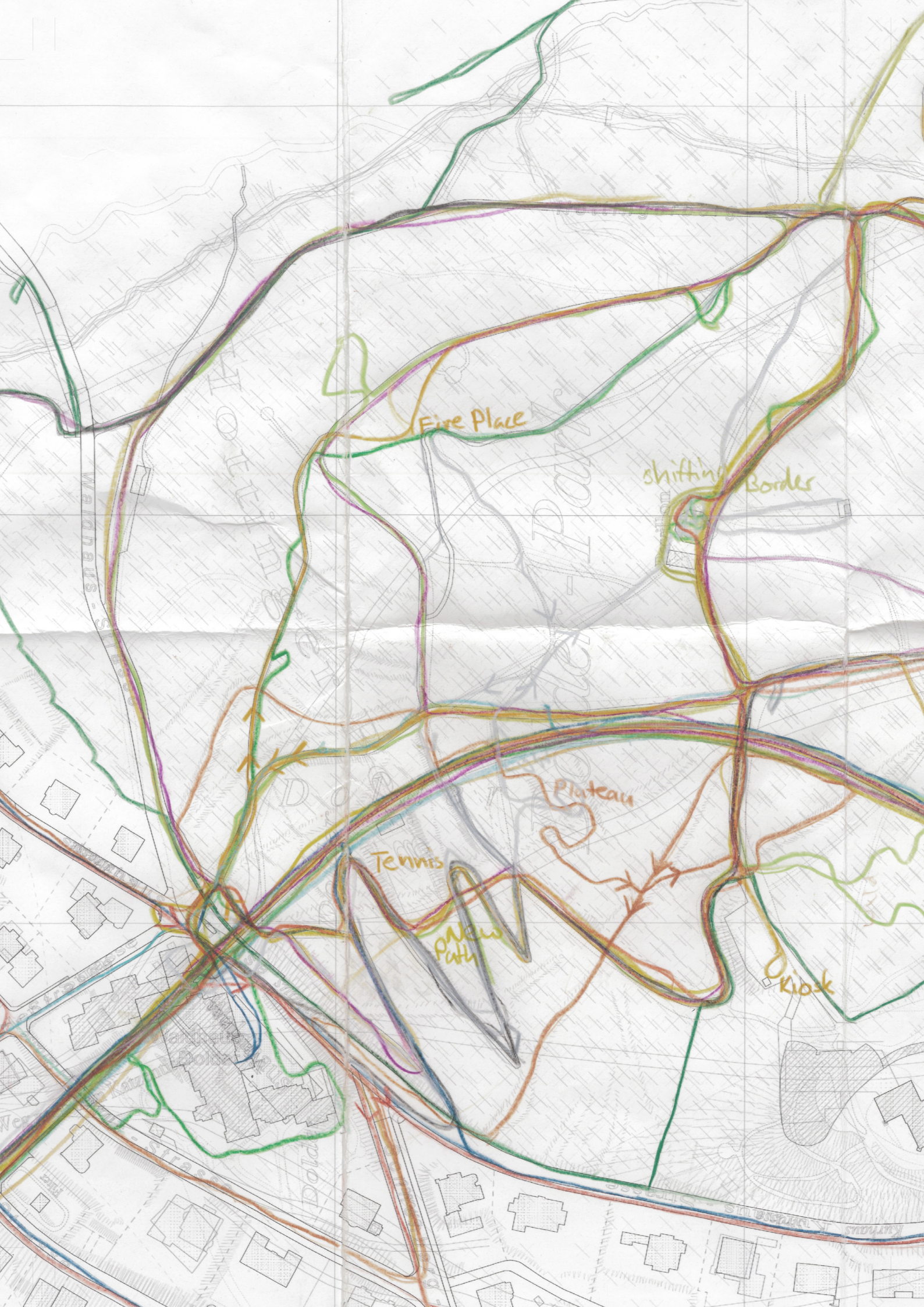


# Documentation of 17 walks on the Adlisberg, between 11 March and 18 April 2024



**Master Thesis Spring 2024**  
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Fire Place

shifting borders

Plateau

Tennis

New Path

Kiosk

Waldhaus-Straße

TELEFON

Park

D

Dold

Straße

Straße

Straße

Straße

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## Map of all Walks on the Adlisberg, between 11 March and 18 April 2024

*fold-out map*



The Dolder Ice Rink, one day after closure.

## 11.03.2024 - Leisure Architecture

Monday shortly after ten in the morning. The sun is shining and it's about 10 degrees.

I walk from Bergstrasse via Klosbachstrasse to the Römerhof, where the bakery "Le Pain Quotidien" has generously set out chairs on the Römerhofplatz. I take the Dolderbahn up to the mountain station. After a few people got off at the Waldhaus, three walkers, two amateur photographers and a dog join me at the terminus. What they all have in common is that they come to the Dolder for leisure. At the top, I make my way to the golf course. It has been private again for 10 days and is no longer open to the public. Although the city of Zurich owns the land, access to the "Dolderwiese" is only permitted from 14 November to 1 March. During the rest of the year, the Dolderwiese is leased by the Dolder Golf Club Zurich and is closed to the public. After walking a few hundred metres on the golf course, I am answered by shouts to stop, and I return to the path.

I continue eastwards into the forest. I walk along a wide gravel path, past several benches and finally come to a bike trail that crosses the path. The path consists of small jumps and steep bends made of earth and wood, and I return in an arc towards the ice rink. I come across two pedestrians.

There is a lot of dead wood in the forest to the left and right, but the forest looks very tidy and sparse. It seems that everything in the forest on the Adlisberg can be reached very quickly. From the path to the ice rink, as well as the distance to all other upcoming leisure architecture, can be reached in less than 5 minutes.

The ice rink looks deserted. The ice is still in perfect condition, but there are no visitors. The rink closed last night with an end of season ice show.

The Golf Adlisberg driving range is right next to the ice rink. It opened for the season when the ice rink closed yesterday, and three people are practising this morning. At the end of the driving range is a field with three horses. These seem to be the ultimate leisure animals of the modern age.

Below the ice rink is the Dolder outdoor pool. It is completely fenced in and still seems to be in winter sleep. I follow the pool fence and soon leave the formal path and find my way back into the forest. At the end of the pool is a mini golf course. It looks as deserted as the swimming pool. Further down, there is a fenced-in green area with two football goals, next to the swimming pool and surrounded on three sides by woodland. I walked along the footpaths again for a few minutes. At each junction there are signs indicating the different uses of the paths.

And again, seemingly out of nowhere, five tennis courts and a clubhouse appear in the middle of the forest. From here I walk a little more freely, off the beaten track, through the forest to another tennis court. Basically, it feels the same whether I'm walking on the wider, gravelled paths, the paths of varying sizes, or freely through the forest. The whole forest is very accessible. Even if you leave the paths, there is always a track again within a few hundred metres.

In a final bend in the forest, I find a fireplace with a bench about 20 metres from the path. Finally, I come out of the forest at the Waldhaus Dolder, where I wait a few minutes for the Dolderbahn to the Römerhof. Five people, three of them with their dogs, were on the funicular as it passed by on its way to the top station. They all seem to want to enjoy one of these first spring days in the forest on the Adlisberg.



01 The entrance to the Dolderbahn at Römerhof



02 The private golf course of the Dolder Golf Club



03 The bike trail



04 The Adlisberg golf driving range



05 View through the fence to the outdoor pool



06 The minigolf course at the outdoor pool



07 The football pitch on the sunbathing lawn



08 The tennis courts near the Grand Hotel



09 The tennis court near the Waldhaus







The roof spire of a villa at Kurhausstrasse 10.

## 12 March 2024 - Chalet Suisse

Tuesday shortly before four in the afternoon. It has recently rained and it is about 8 degrees.

I'm walking from Hottingerplatz along Asylstrasse towards Römerhof. At Römerhof, I immediately notice a building with four oriels and a tower on the corner, all with pointed roofs and spires rising into the sky. I start walking up Rütistrasse on the north side, parallel to the Dolderbahn. A few metres further on, I pass a house with a much larger tower on one corner. On the top floor, it pretends to be a neatly painted red "Fachwerk"-timbered structure. A balcony protrudes from the framework towards the street and appears to support the roof projection above with four pillars. The roof of the tower is pointed on all four sides and looks like a bell tower at the top.

I continue through the Kreuzkirche park, only to be surprised by what appears to be a chalet at the junction with Titlisstrasse. An almost black wooden extension to a reddish house.

The chalet as "Swiss iconography" dates to the founding of the federal state. Switzerland was looking for a plausible architectural framework for its appearance at international exhibitions. The Alpine country house or chalet emerged early on as the main motif. However, this type of building had already enjoyed considerable success in the architectural cultures of France, Germany, and England. As the embodiment of rural or suburban living culture, the "Chalet Suisse" was effectively imported from abroad.

I walk further up the hill through the neighborhood. The Waldhaus Dolder has been a constant presence for some time now. The building keeps popping up between houses and seems out of place with its architecture and size. Among the other buildings in the neighborhood, there are always villas that stand out with their perfectly painted "Fachwerk" structures and their dead-straight and almost ridiculously high sheet metal spires. The closer I get to the Waldhaus, the more the presence of the forest comes to the fore. As I walk along Kurhausstrasse, the forest appears between all the houses. I stay on the road, pass the Waldhaus Dolder and approach the Dolder Grand.

The architecture of the existing building is a forerunner of the iconography of tourism and holiday happiness. It is a mixture of castle and forest palace or chalet, completed by various towers and wooden balconies. A prime example of the historicism of today's alpine and pre-alpine Swiss architecture, built to evoke a sense of nostalgia.

The term nostalgia was coined by a Genevan doctor called Johannes Harder and refers to a disease that was apparently first diagnosed in Swiss soldiers serving abroad. In the field of architecture and the decorative arts, "nostalgia" signals less a pathology than a program: here, nostalgia as an ailment has morphed into nostalgia as aesthetic therapy.

I walk around the Dolder Grand and its extension towards the Dolderbahn mountain station. Both from behind the hotel from the forest and from the Dolderbahn itself, the architecture of the Heimatstil is unmistakably recognisable. The towers of the roof rise out of the forest like the trees themselves.

I take the Dolderbahn to the Dolder Waldhaus. From there, I mostly walk downhill on the southern side of the Dolderbahn towards Römerhof. Again and again, I see very large single-family houses, and again and again they are decorated with elements of the Swiss Heimat and Chalet style.

After returning from a longer stay in the USA and Mexico in 1953, Max Frisch described Swiss architecture as follows: "Almost everywhere, Swiss architecture has something cute, something adorable, something like a bric-a-brac, as if the whole of Switzerland wanted to be a kindergarten."



01 Asylstrasse 64



02 Rütlistrasse 14



03 Titlisstrasse 2



04 Rütlistrasse 70



05 Kurhausstrasse 34



06 Kurhausstrasse 65



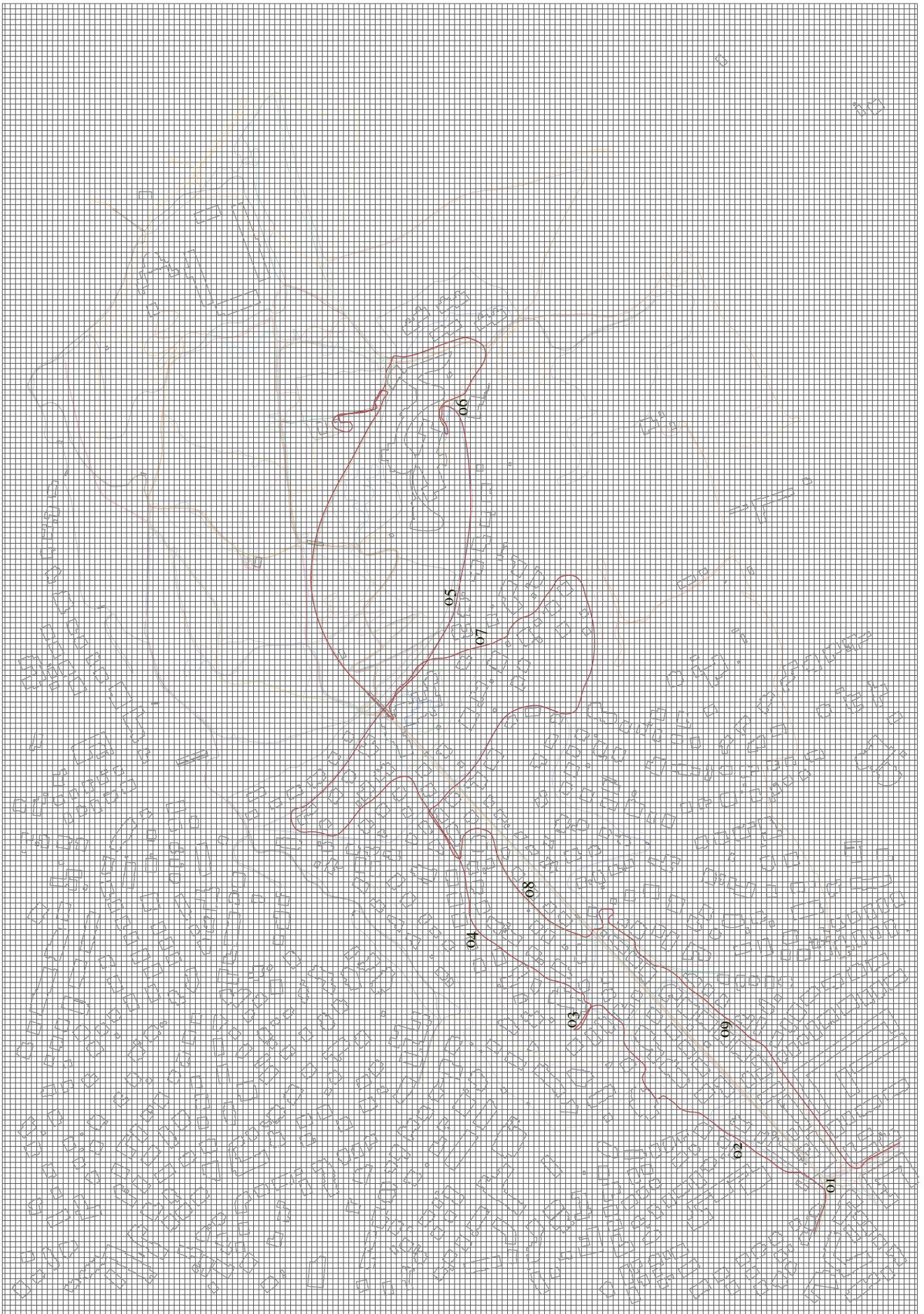
07 Kurhausstrasse 28



08 Rütlistrasse 70



09 Klosbachstrasse 134





The static forest boundary running around the tennis court.

## 13.03.2024 – Static Forest Boundary

Wednesday half past one in the afternoon. It's raining lightly and about 10 degrees.

I come off the Bergstrasse and turn onto the Wolfbachtobelweg. Unlike the last two days, today I'm not going to let myself be guided, but will walk as precisely as possible along a legal boundary, the static forest boundary.

In 2012, Parliament passed modifications to the Forest Law. These allow the cantons to set a static forest boundary in areas where they want to prevent the forest from expanding further. Areas growing outside these boundaries are not considered forest and can therefore be cleared without permission.

In the Dolderwald, this boundary runs through the Wolfbachtobel down to the Bergstrasse. I start on the Wolfbachtobelweg and walk, if possible, a little to the right of it, along the border into the gardens of the detached houses and apartment blocks. The boundary is clearly visible, either on the path I'm walking on or further to the right as a property boundary marked by garden fences or hedges. Shortly after crossing Kurhausstrasse, the border continues to the right of Wolfbachtobelweg. The boundary no longer forms a path, but is still clearly visible through the garden fences of neighbouring gardens.

The boundary then runs along Kurhausstrasse past Waldhaus where it is no longer visible as a fence, but is still recognisable as a transition from forest to tarmac.

In front of the Dolder Grand the boundary runs up the slope on the left. The actual static forest boundary is not accessible, it runs a few metres inside the fenced area of the Dolder Grand. The boundary runs around both sides of the hotel, which is completely fenced on this side. A lot of trees have just been cut down in this area, partly, I think, to prevent them from falling into the hotel's front garden.

After a while I reach the tennis courts. The boundary is still clearly visible and runs a few metres around the courts. In the area of the tennis pavilion it runs around the pavilion at a similar distance. As before, the transition from the forest is very abrupt. Immediately after the boundary, the tennis club tries to cultivate as perfect a lawn as possible. A charging station for a robot lawnmower, two metres from the forest, creates an absurd image.

I cross the Kurhausstrasse and walk past the Dolder housing estate. Here, too, the boundary is clearly visible as a property line, and here, too, an attempt is

being made to extend the perfect lawn of the garden to the edge of the forest. I follow the boundary around the whole estate until I reach Degenriedstrasse. I cross the road and follow the boundary on the other side of the road, where the forest meets the golf course. This is probably the most striking contrast so far. The perfect lawn of the golf course meets the forest. As everywhere, there is no edge of forest with border vegetation, which probably has an unpleasant effect on biodiversity and therefore on the ecological balance.

I turn around and walk along the Kurhausstrasse towards the ice rink. On both sides of the Kurhausstrasse there is a static forest boundary. Again, the boundary is very hard. A tarmac road with drainage runs right through the forest. I then walk along the car parks for the ice rink and the outdoor swimming pool. I pass behind the curling rink and then along the lawn of the outdoor pool, which is surrounded by construction fences. The static boundary of the forest is again materialised by a fence. On one side of the fence, the forest continues unchanged to the boundary, while on the other side, the green lawn is maintained. Only in one area is there an opening a few metres wide between the forest and the lawn. Further ahead, three deer are alarmed by me. I only see them as they run past me towards the pool. As I am moving in the forest, the deer are trapped on the other side of the fence on the lawn. I suspect they have entered the meadow through one of the openings in the fence. The forest boundary is no longer a natural line, and nature, and therefore the deer, for example, do not recognise the legal line of the forest boundary.

I continue in the direction of Wolfbachtobel. When I reach the Wolfbach I follow the boundary downstream on the other side of the river. The border is still clearly visible, either in the form of garden fences or changes of surface, mostly from nature to tarmac roads. After a few minutes I reach Bergstrasse again, where the static forest boundary ends.



01 The forest boundary runs along the Wolfbachtobel



02 Private gardens border the forest



03 A fence marks the border to the Dolder Grand



04 A private garden, seen from the forest



05 The forest meets the golf course



06 The ice rink car park



07 Construction site fences show the boundary to the bath



08 The Adlisbergstrasse



09 The end of the forest, just before the Bergstrasse







The view through the forest aisle of the Dolderbahn.

## 14.03.2024 – The View

Thursday half past three in the afternoon. It's sunny and about 16 degrees.

I get on the Dolderbahn at Römerhof and set off together with 10 other people and a dog. The train travels in a straight line for the first 850 metres, climbing just over 100 metres. The view of the city, the lake and the Uetliberg becomes clearer and clearer. It is as if all the houses along the Dolderbahn have been built to take advantage of its unobstructed and unplanted route. The higher you get, the more windows and balconies face the Dolderbahn. The Dolder Waldhaus stands at the top of this straight line and overlooks the whole area.

I continue to the top station, into the forest and finally around a bend. There is no view at all. At the top, five people go straight to the hotel, the other five have probably come up here for the nature, the forest and the view. I cross the Kurhausstrasse and enter the Dolder Park housing estate. Between the buildings I have an unobstructed view of the Alps, the lake, the Albis chain and the city. The houses in the estate, built in the 1970s, are positioned so that every house can enjoy this view. There are only a few thin trees in the complex, probably to keep the view.

I walk back along Degenriedstrasse to Kurhausstrasse and the Dolder Grand. There are four benches at the edge of the golf course. All of them are occupied this afternoon, people enjoying the sun and the wide view of the Alps.

I go to the raised terrace of the Dolder Grand. Again, the planting in front of the terrace has been chosen so that the view is guaranteed at all times of the year. I walk along the Kurhausstrasse towards the Waldhaus. I can see the golf club terrace through a still bare hornbeam hedge. Preparations for the new season are underway and the glass railing at the end of the terrace is being cleaned.

The roadside hedge will soon be evergreen and completely opaque. This will not only prevent unwanted views of the golf course, but will also block all views of the lake and mountains for pedestrians.

Above the Waldhaus I walk into the forest. There is a bench next to the Dolderbahn. The line of the Dolderbahn cuts through the forest and frames the view of the Uetliberg and the lake in all seasons.

Walking through the forest, I reach the Waldhaus, enter the building and step out onto the terrace of the former restaurant.

It seems as if nature is slowly taking over the building again. Many large trees in the garden restrict the view, but from the terraces there is still a largely

unobstructed view.

I continue along Kurhausstrasse into the Dolder district. Many of the villas here have roof terraces. It seems that everyone wants to be a little higher up to look over the buildings and gardens of the properties below.

I continue down the hillside on various roads. Only very rarely do I have a wide view. There are many hedges and trees between the houses. The only views are from the roads leading downhill and when crossing the Dolderbahn.

The owners of the houses up here seem to have a strong control over nature to keep their views clear. At the same time, however, they themselves use trees and hedges to shield their gardens from the view of the public or neighbours, thus blocking the view.

In many houses downhill from the road, it is easy to see that the tall trees are behind the house, probably to the annoyance of the neighbour uphill, while in front of the house, facing the lake and the Alps, there is little vegetation in the gardens.

I return to the area near the Römerhof. The people on the benches now face the sun, there is no longer a view. Further down, there are no more villas, just larger apartment buildings. The higher up you live, the more likely you are to have a view.



01 The view from the Dolderbahn



02 Benches above the golf course



03 From the terrace of the Dolder Grand Hotel



04 A hedge protects the golf course from views



05 From the terrace of the Waldhaus



06 Richly planted gardens in the Dolder Quartier



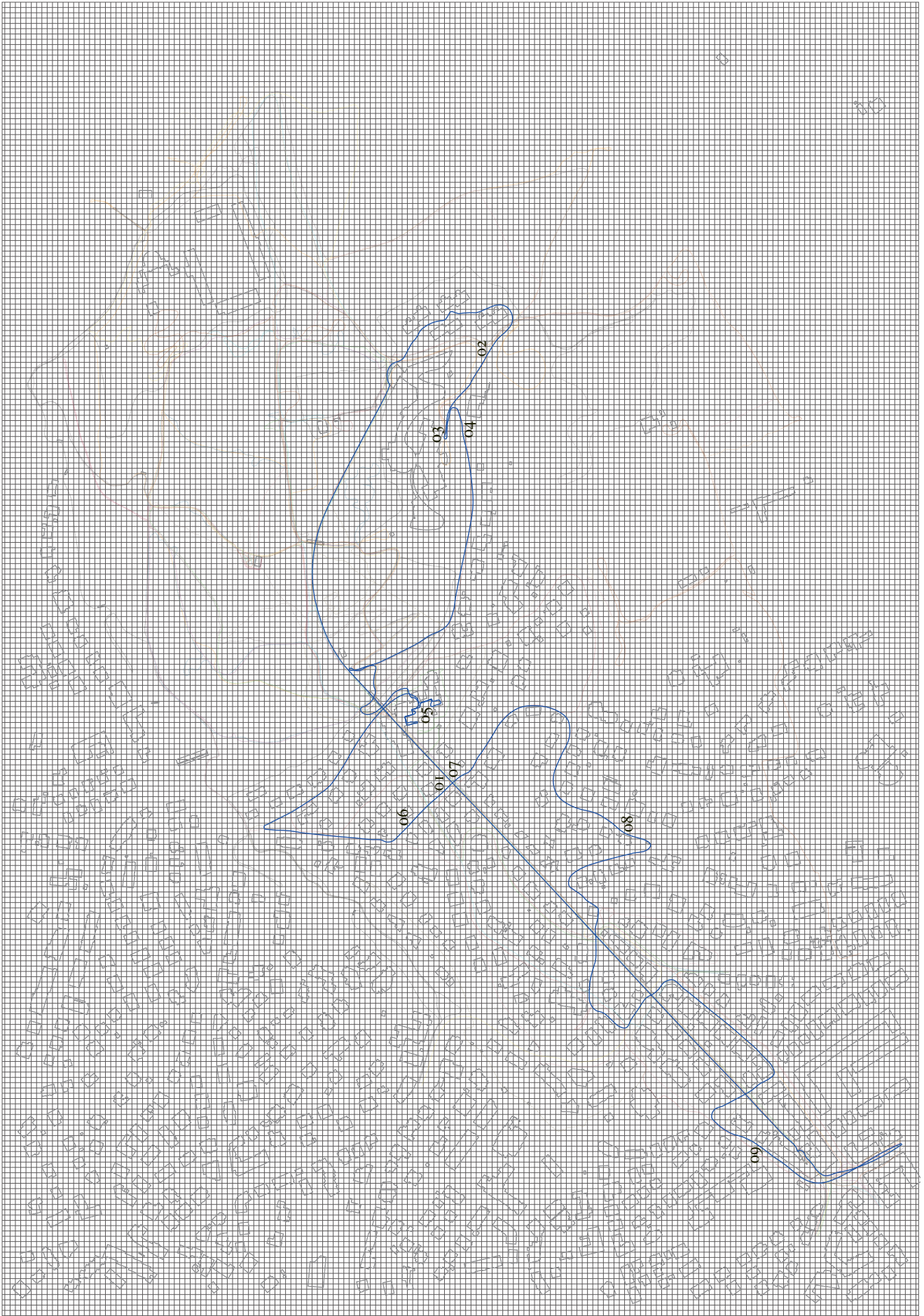
07 Bridge over the Dolderbahn at Aurorastrasse



08 View of the lake and Uetliberg from Sonnenbergstrasse



09 View onto Römerhofplatz





The slope to an unused plateau in the forest.

## 15.03.2024 - Modified Terrain

Friday half past four in the afternoon. It's sunny, partly cloudy and about 13 degrees.

I start walking up the slope of the Klosbachstrasse, the terrain on both sides of the road has been terraced for cars in the form of car parks.

Today I follow the tracks of the old maps. I walk across the mounded terrain of the Kreuzkirche. From the church I walk down to the Wolfbach stream. I discover a former flood basin of the Wolfbach, now filled in and used as a school playground.

I leave the Wolfbachtobelweg and cross the Bergstrasse before turning into the Doldertalweg. This slope down to the Wolfbach was extensively terraced over a hundred years ago. Even today the terrain is marked by embankments, retaining walls and entrances to underground car parks. All evidence that the area has been extensively excavated several times.

After a few minutes I return to the Wolfbachtobelweg and finally to the Kurhausstrasse, where the forest begins at the Waldhaus Dolder. I enter the forest and follow the excavations first mapped in 1909. It is a long trench, about a metre deep, that curves uphill through the ground.

As there are many of these, I assume they are made by humans. It is unclear to me what the purpose of these excavations was. Today there is only minimal water flow in some of them. The surface runoff map also shows that water flows through the channel-like excavations during heavy rainfall. However, there are so many leaves and branches in the channels that it can hardly be a large amount of water.

I come to a crossroads with three junctions. The old maps and the forest floor show that four paths once met here. The fourth path was abandoned in the 1970s when it was crossed by the extended Dolderbahn.

I follow the old path as closely as I can on the remaining rails and cross the Dolderbahn tracks. Just above the abandoned path, on the other side of the tracks, I see a plateau about the size of a tennis court. Dug into the slope on one side and raised on the other, it forms a straight surface in the middle of the sloping forest.

The oldest trees on this stretch are only about 10-20 years old. On maps I find the terrain change marked 1953 for the first time.

Continuing in the direction of the Dolder Grand, I walk along another channel-like longitudinal excava-

tion. At first it is interrupted by a path. On the other side, I follow it further up the slope until the excavation is finally cut by the lower Dolderbahn. In this area, the Dolderbahn is dug more than a metre into the forest floor. I follow a section parallel to the Dolderbahn excavation and further down the slope I come across another channel-like excavation. I follow it to the Kurhausstrasse. There is a lot of dead wood in the trench, including some tree trunks, but relatively little vegetation.

I reach Kurhausstrasse and follow it to Waldhaus Dolder. On both sides of the road the terrain seems to have been freely modelled to keep the road straight.

I walk downhill on the roads near the Dolderbahn. All the houses along this road have adapted their terrain to make their gardens as flat as possible.

From Titlisstrasse station I take the Dolderbahn to Römerhof. The Dolderbahn runs through the whole district. There are always embankments or walls to the left and right. Towards the Römerhof it goes deeper and deeper into the ground, until it is almost five metres lower than the gardens on either side.



01 A trench in the forest floor



02 View on a former path



03 A former path of the Dolder Park



04 A plateau in the slope above the tennis court



05 An excavation in the forest floor



06 The sunken route of the Dolderbahn



07 An excavation leads to the Kurhausstrasse



08 The artificial terrain around the Dolder Waldhaus



09 The Dolderbahn shortly before the Römerhof







The border runs orthogonally through the Wolfbach.

## 16.03.2024 - Inner Forest Boundary

Saturday shortly before three o'clock in the afternoon. It's raining lightly and about 13 degrees.

I ride from the Römerhof to the Dolder Grand. From the Waldhaus Dolder station, the Dolderbahn runs through the private forest owned by Dolder Hotel AG. At the top, I stay on the train and ride back down to the Waldhaus Dolder.

Today I'm going to walk along the border between the private forest and the forest belonging to the city of Zurich.

From the Waldhaus, the border runs along the Carl-Wehrli-Weg. The path is about a metre lower than the terrain of the forest. The forest is very similar on both sides. There are only deciduous trees in all stages of growth. Several hornbeams line the path on both sides. Just before the bridge over the Dolderbahn to the Dolder Grand, there is a lot of dead wood in the public forest, and conifers can be seen here and there. In the small private part of the forest between the border and the Dolderbahn, there are only old deciduous trees. In the private part, up to three metres of soil has been excavated for the Dolderbahn. At the bridge, the border runs along the path that turns left off the Carl-Wehrli-Weg. The boundary always runs to the left of the path. The path itself is therefore on private forest land.

In the public part of the forest there is a storage area for round wood with around 100 trunks. Traces on the ground indicate that this storage area was originally larger. The wood is already dry and has probably been there for several months.

Just behind this storage area, the boundary bends to include a shelter and an unvegetated part of the forest in the private forest property. The shelter has no openings, but the inside can be seen through thin gaps between the planks, and contains several rattan loungers and parasols, as well as brooms and sticks. The shed is probably used as storage for the hotel. Some of the furniture looks broken. The wooden floor of the shed is floating, so I rule out the possibility of forestry machinery being stored there.

Next to the shed was the former Restaurationspavilion of the Dolder Park. It was probably demolished in 1916 when part of the forest was given to the city of Zurich. However, there are still no trees on its former site and the forest forms a small clearing.

The boundary then continues along the path. There are more conifers in the public part, the trees are

closer together and tend to be older. In the private part there are hardly any conifers. It is also noticeable that in the public part there are sometimes whole tree trunks lying around as deadwood, whereas in the private part there are fewer and only branches as deadwood.

Where the path heads towards Hottinger Bergstrasse, the boundary continues straight through Wolfbachtobel and the forest.

The Wolfbach has been built up with stones in both the public and private parts of the forest. On the other side of the ravine there are young yew trees along the stream. These have been recently planted in both parts of the forest and traces of the planting can still be seen. They have been wrapped in wire netting to protect them from deer.

After the ravine there is a lot of dead wood in both parts of the forest. There is evidence of storm damage and individual trees have broken off. Tracks of forestry machinery can be seen in the ground. After a while these tracks run along the border between the two parts of the forest, forming an unmapped path. The ground becomes marshy in this area and different grasses grow here because the forest is a little lighter.

The boundary between the two parts of the forest leads into Adlisbergstrasse. From then on, the whole forest becomes public, while the private part ends at the Dolder Bad.

I walk back along the border in the opposite direction. It is noticeable that there are no boundary stones or posts along the entire route. Nevertheless, there are some visible differences in the management of the forest. Back at Waldhaus Dolder, I take the Dolderbahn back towards Römerhof.



01 The border on the Carl-Wehrli-Weg



02 Public forest on the left, private forest on the right



03 A wood storage area in the public part of the forest



04 The evergreen part of the forest



05 The boundary meets the Wolfbach stream



06 Newly planted yew trees



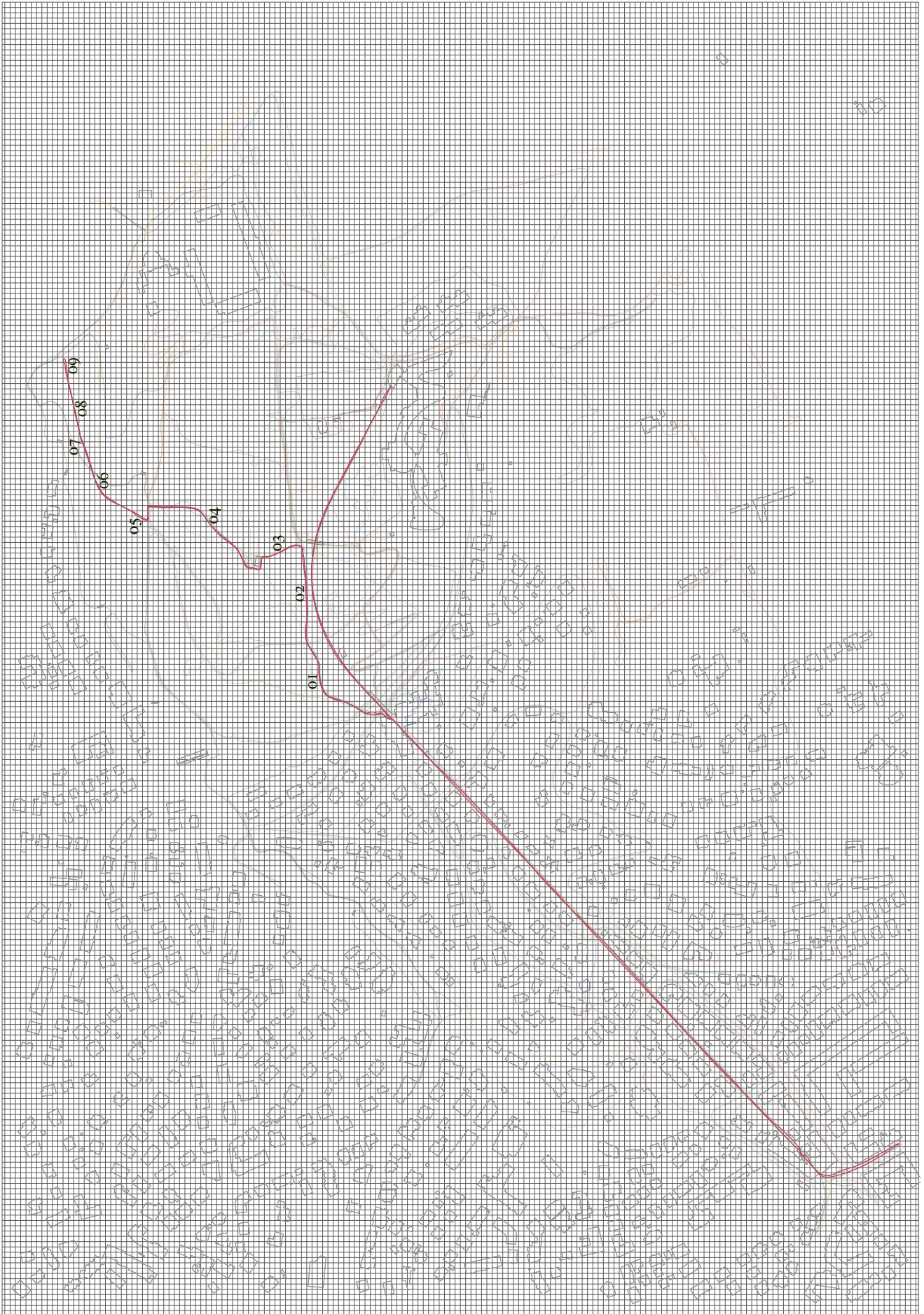
07 Lots of dead wood on the forest floor



08 Sedge grasses on the swampy forest floor



09 A tree marked for felling





An entrance to the water catchment on the golf course.

## 17.03.2024 – Infrastructure

Sunday half past ten in the morning. It's cloudy and about 11 degrees.

I take the Dolderbahn from Titlisstrasse to Waldhaus Dolder. There are 23 other people on the train, including 6 children and two dogs. They are all going to the terminus and most of them seem to be going to the Dolder for a walk. From the Waldhaus Dolder I walk along the Kurhausstrasse towards the Dolder Grand. Halfway I turn into the forest on one of the many paths. After a few metres I come to the first park bench, and a little further on a Dolderbahn carriage passes in front of me, taking other people up to Adlisberg. The forest path is very well prepared and consists partly of cobblestones.

Every few metres I come across a park bench and every few minutes I hear and see another Dolderbahn train passing through the forest. I cross the bridge over the Dolderbahn and enter the Carl-Wehrli-Weg. Although this is a footpath and cycle path, there are road signs on both sides of the bridge regulating the speed, right of way and maximum weight of passing vehicles.

There are several groups of walkers on the path. This part of the forest seems to be much more popular, and there are also signs in this area signalling all the activities of the Dolder, as well as a rainwater inlet in the middle of the forest.

I continue in the direction of the Dolder artificial ice rink. The gravel path is wider and almost perfectly smooth. There is a channel on the right-hand side that collects the water and I meet a lot of walkers in this area. At the ice rink I turn towards the golf course. All the car parks between the Dolderbahn and the ice rink on Kurhausstrasse are full. Every 50 metres there are parking metres, street signs and street lamps.

At the front of the golf course there are also lots of pedestrians in all directions, and occasionally people on bicycles or e-scooters. I walk along Degenriedstrasse, onto Dienerhölzliweg and finally onto the golf course. Degenriedstrasse presents a similar picture to Kurhausstrasse, all the parking spaces are occupied and there are street lamps and parking metres in the middle of the forest.

On the golf course I walk to the spring water wells. These are visible through the galvanised covers of the wells used to collect drinking water for the city of Zurich. Due to the drinking water intake, parts of the golf course are located in water protection zone S1. The Federal Office for the Environment BAFU defines

this as follows: "Zone S1 comprises the immediate environment of a groundwater well or a groundwater recharge facility. It extends over a radius of at least 10 metres around the catchment and the catchment lines. Only construction work and activities that serve the drinking water supply are permitted in this zone. This is to prevent damage to the system or direct contamination of the collected water. Zone S1 must therefore be acquired and fenced off by the owner of the catchment."

The ground on the golf course is very swampy and muddy in places, making it slippery and the grass grows poorly. The sound of rushing water can be heard in the area of the well pits. I walk in an arc along the Breitenweg back to the artificial ice rink. In this area of the forest, the streams are very much corrected, there are signs indicating the path as a hiking trail and the sounds of cars and the Dolderbahn are no longer audible.

More than 200 cars are parked in front of the artificial ice rink and the swimming pool. The number plates are mainly from Zurich, but other cantons and neighbouring countries are also represented. The main reason why there are so many cars parked here is that the Zurich Zoo offers a free shuttle bus from here to the zoo, due to its own limited parking space.

I continue along Adlisbergstrasse to Wolfbach, where I turn into a forest path and walk back to the Waldhaus. In this part of the forest, I see numerous benches as well as observation points, signs for water pipes and an air vent. Finally, I come to the Carl-Wehrli-Weg, which is almost like a road just before the Waldhaus. The gravel surface is very smooth, there is a border on both sides and a water channel made of cemented paving stones.

At the Dolder Waldhaus I take the Dolderbahn to the Römerhof. While waiting, a Dolderbahn comes towards me in the direction of the mountain station. It is even more crowded than in the morning. There are far too few seats for the 40 or so passengers. About half of them are children. There are 18 people on the Dolderbahn towards the Römerhof, and they all look like they've just come back from a walk.



01 The Dolderbahn in the forest



02 A water inlet at Carl-Wehrli-Weg



03 Parked cars on the Degenriedstrasse



04 A spring water catchment on the golf course



05 A sign marks the hiking trail



06 Parked cars in front of the ice rink



07 The shuttle bus brings visitors to the zoo

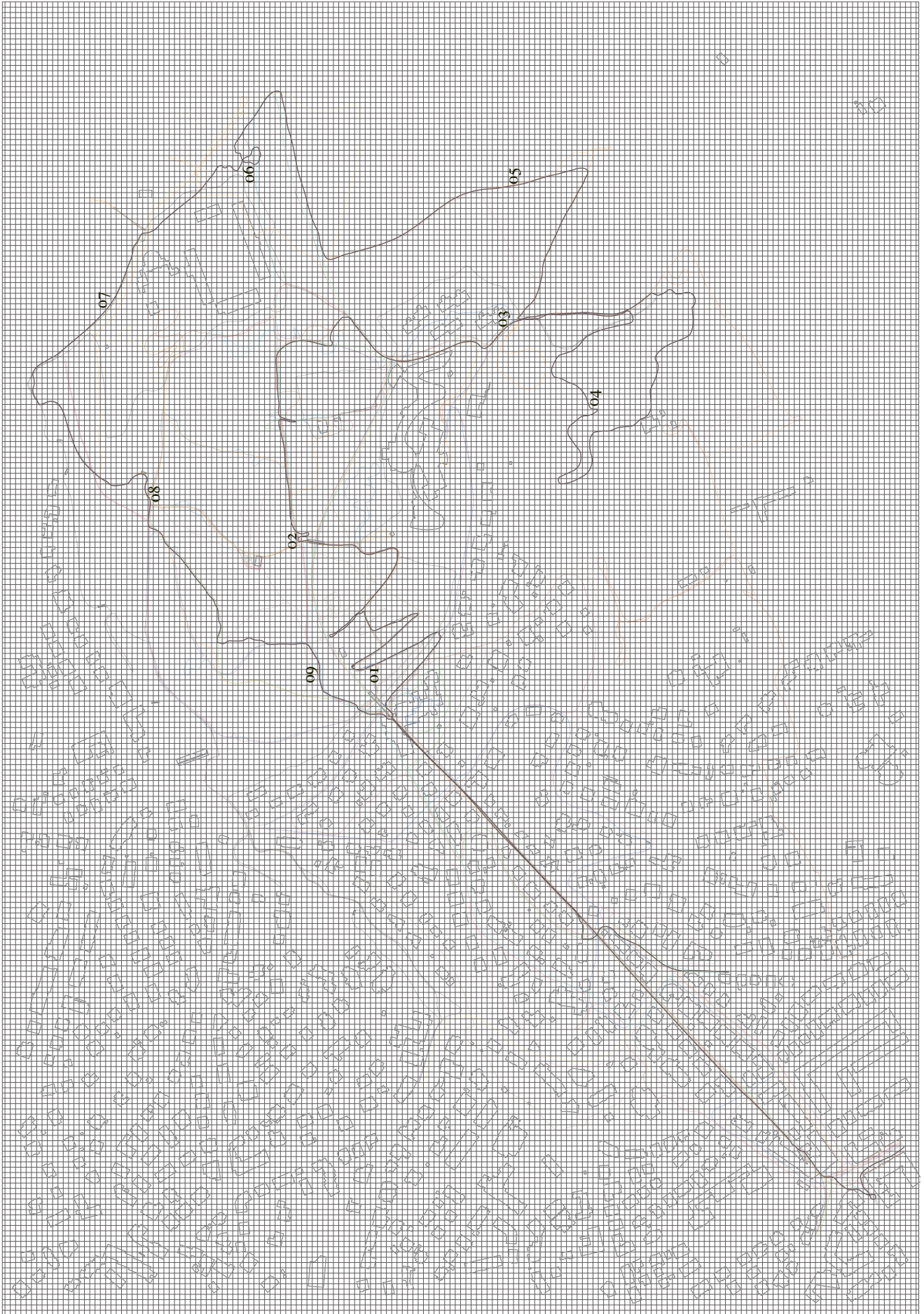


08 A sign for a water pipe in the forest



09 The very well maintained Carl-Wehrli-Weg







The lights of the street and houses shine into the forest.

## 18.03.2024 - Dolder by Night

Monday shortly before nine in the evening. It's foggy and cloudy and about 7 degrees.

I take the Dolderbahn from Römerhof to Waldhaus Dolder. There are 6 other people going up with me, 4 of them American tourists returning to the Dolder Grand.

From the Dolder Waldhaus station, I walk along Kurhausstrasse in the direction of the Dolder Grand and enter the forest halfway. The streetlights and headlights of the passing cars on Kurhausstrasse shine deep into the forest. After a few minutes, a Dolderbahn train passes by, its headlights and the light from the passenger compartment illuminating the surrounding forest.

I continue through the forest towards Carl-Wehrli-Weg. A little further into the forest, I make out the glow of the Dolder Grand rooms. On the Carl-Wehrli-Weg there is no longer any scattered light, but once again a Dolder train passes through the forest, illuminating everything around it.

I continue along the Carl-Wehrli-Weg in the direction of the ice rink and pass the tennis courts. They are already clearly visible 100 metres ahead thanks to the light shining into the forest. I approach the tennis courts and walk along the illuminated footpaths of the tennis club to the top station of the Dolderbahn, where a red light shines into the forest.

Shortly afterwards, the Dolderbahn leaves the station and heads towards the Römerhof. I walk back along Kurhausstrasse towards the ice rink. Both Kurhausstrasse and the path through the forest to the ice rink are fully lit.

The light in the forest disturbs the rhythm of nocturnal animals, insects and plants.

The car park in front of the ice rink is fully lit by four bright floodlights. As you pass the building, motion detectors switch on additional lights.

The car park on Adlisbergstrasse is also very well lit. I walk down Adlisbergstrasse in the direction of Wolfbach. At the end of the car park I hear a bird chirping. It is now shortly before 10 o'clock and pitch dark. I can imagine that the rhythm of the birds is disturbed by the brightly illuminated car park.

From Adlisbergstrasse, I first walk along Hottingerbergstrasse and then along Woflbachtobelweg back to Bergstrasse.

Although Hottingerbergstrasse is about 50 metres inside the forest, the path is indirectly lit. The streetlights of Tobelhofstrasse, which runs parallel 100 me-

tres away, and the houses on the edge of the forest shine through to Hottingerbergstrasse. The closer I get to Waldhausstrasse, the brighter it gets, until I finally cross the well-lit road.

I continue along the Wolfbach and soon the path itself is lit, with street lamps every few metres.



01 In the forest above the Waldhaus Dolder



02 Lights of the Dolder Grand Hotel



03 The Dolderbahn in the forest



04 Illumination of the tennis court paths



05 A path from the tennis courts to the Dolderbahn



06 The Dolderbahn sets off into the forest



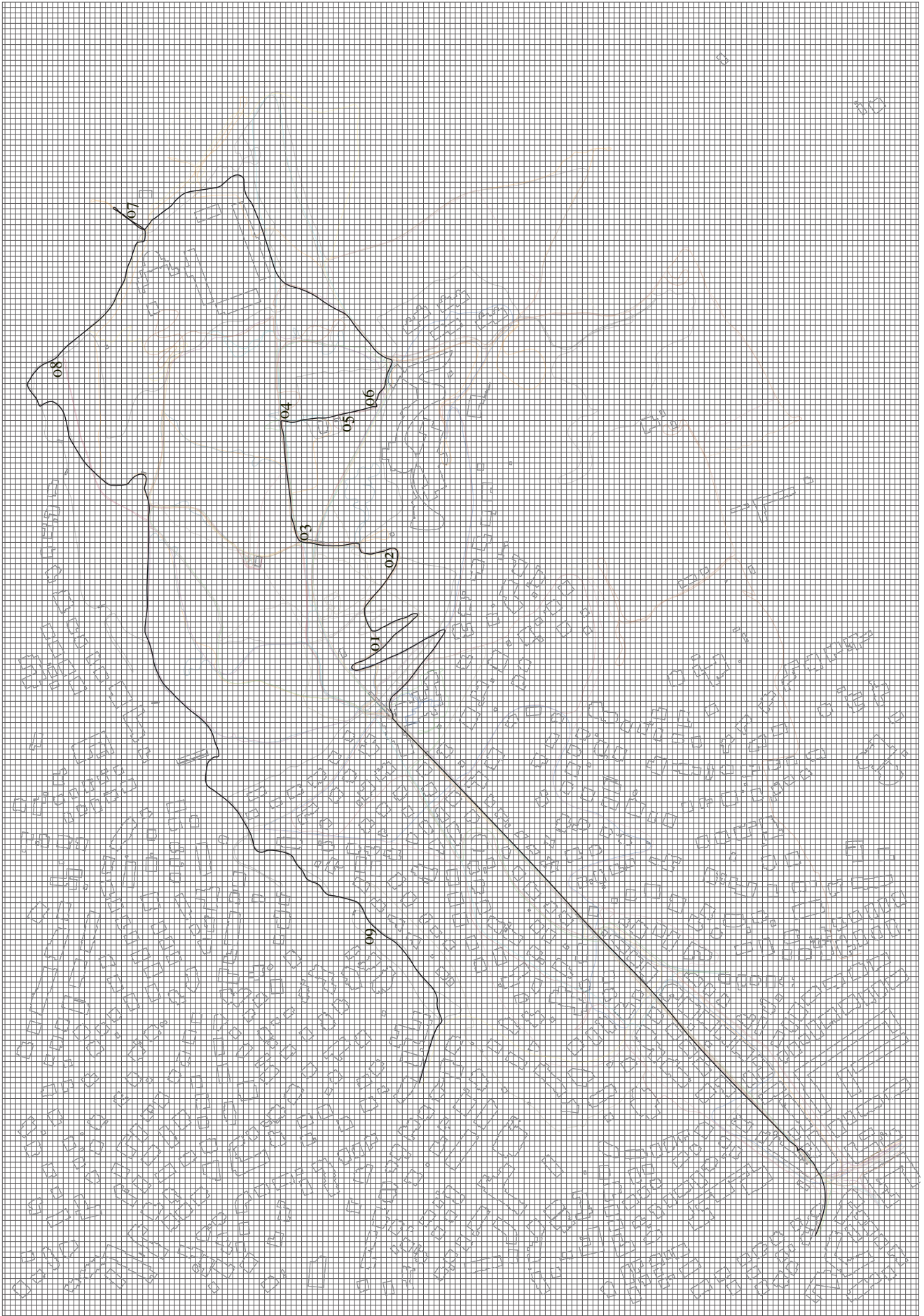
07 A street lamp in the forest



08 The lighted Adlisbergstrasse



09 The illuminated Wolfbachtobelweg





An evergreen holly in the still mostly bare forest.

## 19.03.2024 - Vegetation

Tuesday shortly after eight in the morning. It's foggy, partly sunny and about 6 degrees.

I come from Bergstrasse and walk to the Dolderbahn station on Titlisstrasse. On the way there, I notice the countless cypress trees in the neighbourhood's private gardens.

At Titlisstrasse, 3 other people are waiting for the Dolderbahn. Since yesterday, it only runs every 15 minutes due to repairs on the new Dolderbahn.

I take the next Dolderbahn to the Dolder Grand. The train is full this morning. 16 people get off at Waldhaus Dolder. Most of them look as if they are working in the interim use. Another 12 people get off at the top station, 8 of whom go directly to the Dolder Grand via the car park.

On the way to the top station, I ride deeper into the fog.

Once I reach the top station, I take a path into the forest and head towards the Carl-Wehrli-Weg. The path is a bit muddy from the rain of the last few days. On both sides of the path I see various old deciduous trees, including many young hornbeams and three single holly trees. It is obvious that many people walk off the path here. There is hardly any shrub layer and the herb layer is only present where few people stray from the path. The herbaceous layer consists mainly of sprouting sedges. A little further on there are more anemones in the herb layer.

I reach the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and walk in the direction of the old pavilion. The fog has lifted within a few minutes and I can't recognise anyone else in the forest. In this part of the forest there is a more pronounced shrub layer with many young trees, including hornbeams and young hazels, while sedges continue to grow on the ground. The large old trees are mainly beeches. I turn off onto a smaller forest track that leads to Hottingerbergstrasse, the forest floor in this area is covered with blackberry bushes and sedges grow right next to the path.

The only spruce in this part of the forest has recently fallen in a storm and now lies on the edge of the path. On the Hottingerbergstrasse I recognise traces of former wood storage. Although the trunks are no longer stored there, they are still visible as there is no herbaceous or shrub layer in this area of the forest due to the storage of the trunks. All the trees still standing in this area are several years old.

The path is now much better developed. On the left there are many brambles and sedges. On the right side of the path there are many small nettles. Soon I come to the part of the forest where large areas were

cleared in the late 1970s. Today there are mainly Douglas firs of various ages and the ground is covered with brambles.

I pass the site of the former Dolder Park pavilion. There are many stinging nettles growing here. There is a lime tree, a sugar maple and a beech next to the small clearing.

I continue on the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and cross the bridge over the Dolderbahn. After the Dolder Grand, I leave the path and enter the forest. The ground is covered with segge grass and blackberry bushes, and here and there I see spotted aronstab plants. Traces of forestry machinery are visible on the ground and in front of me there are many felled and discarded trees. Beech, maple and birch, among others. I return to the path and walk in the direction of Waldhaus Dolder. The vegetation in the forest looks similar, but I recognise some new yews. At the Waldhaus I cross the Dolderbahn again and walk along the Waldhausstrasse towards Wolfbach and finally along the Hottingerbergstrasse towards Wolfbach.

Again, I walk through the part of the forest that was once completely cleared. Once again I noticed that it was all conifers now. I turn back towards the Waldhaus. At the bend where I leave the Hottingerbergstrasse, I see several magnificent raspberry bushes. A little further on, back in the coniferous forest, I can see the most pronounced layer of herbs and shrubs, and a lot of moss.

When the forest becomes deciduous again, I can make out about 10 large holly trees.

When I arrive at the Waldhaus, I take the Dolderbahn back to the Römerhof. With me on the Dolderbahn are three other people, probably staying at the Dolder or coming from the hotel, and a walker with a dog.



01 View of the forest from the Dolderbahn



02 A holly tree in the forest



03 The trunk of a fallen fir tree



04 Traces of a former log storage area



05 The evergreen part of the forest



06 The plateau of the former Dolder Park pavilion



07 Felled trees behind the Dolder Grand

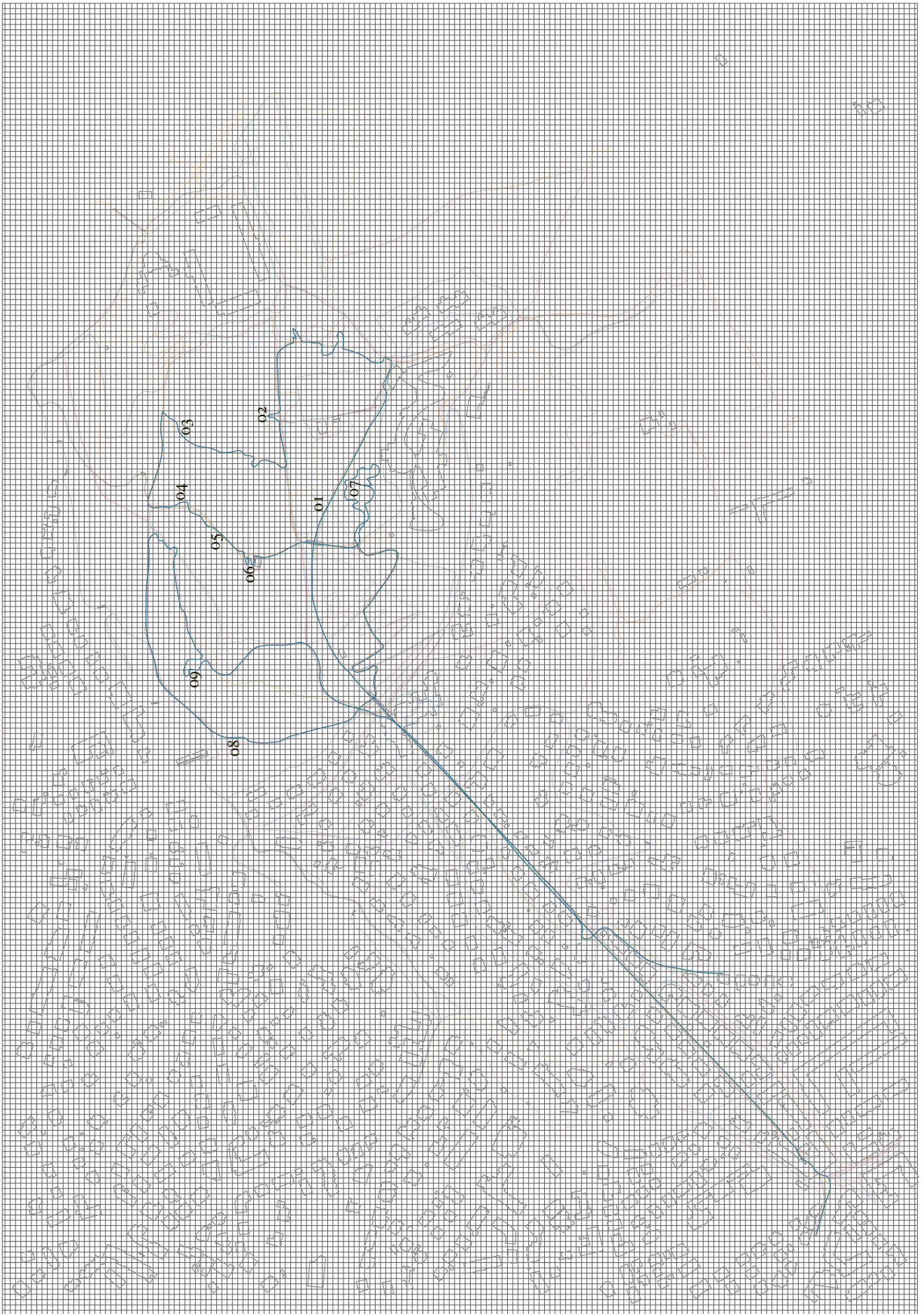


08 The herb layer in the forest



09 A dense shrub layer in the forest







The view down the Dienerhölzliweg.

## 20.03.2024 - Anonymous Adlisberg

Wednesday four o'clock in the afternoon. The sun is shining and it's 18 degrees.

I reach the Römerhof. On my walk today, I try to avoid the monuments of the Dolder and take a route that passes by them as little as possible. So the first thing I try to avoid is the neoclassical "Tor zum Dolder", built by Heinrich Hürlimann in 1899. I walk up the slope to the left of the Römerhof on Rütlistrasse. The road is mostly tarmac, partly cobbled, and gets steeper as you get closer to the Römerhof. The houses along the road range in age from twenty years to over a hundred.

I come to Bergstrasse, a busy and newer road in Hottingen, built after 1900 at right angles to the hillside. I follow the Bergstrasse for about a hundred metres before finally walking up the Dolderstrasse. Dolderstrasse is one of the oldest roads in the area. As is usual with old streets and paths in Zurich, it runs straight up the hill, on the one hand to drain the old paths as efficiently as possible, and on the other hand to be parallel and as far away from the streams as possible.

I arrive at the Haus zum Dolder, the oldest house and the one that gives the district its name. The house appears on maps dating back to the 17th century. To avoid the Waldhaus, I turn into Ebelstrasse after Haus zum Dolder. Ebelstrasse forms the eastern end of the triangle that was first developed after the construction of the Dolderbahn. In the early years, this triangle was a constructed image of the social pyramid. The more influence someone had, the higher up and closer to the Dolderbahn they lived.

From Ebelstrasse I follow Wolfbachtobelweg, cross Waldhausstrasse and enter the forest. In the forest I walk along Hottingerbergstrasse. As I enter the forest, I notice that the temperature is a little cooler on this sunny day, which makes the air more pleasant. I follow Hottingerbergstrasse until I reach the small clearing in the forest where the old Dolder Park pavilion used to stand. At the pavilion I take a path that is no longer on the map, but can still be seen on an old map as a path through the Dolder Park. This path takes me to the Carl-Wehrli-Weg, which I follow in the direction of the ice rink. Before reaching the ice rink, however, I turn into the forest and take one of the unofficial paths through the forest, across Kurhausstrasse and onto Breitweg.

There I see several walkers with dogs. From Breitweg, I walk through the forest to Krummweg, from where I turn into Degenriedstrasse. I actively avoid the view of the Dolder Grand, which is at the end of

the road. I walk past the golf course, where the grass is probably being mowed for the first time this year, after the ground was partially aired last week. Up to 500 holes 40cm deep per square metre are being drilled into the turf and filled with dry sand to aerate the soil.

I walk around the golf course on Dienerhölzliweg. Every few metres there is a sign saying that the golf course is private and not to be entered. Where the path parallel to the golf course ends, I walk through the forest above the Sonnenberg sports centre. The forest is much denser and has a well developed shrub layer. I assume this is because there are hardly any pedestrians walking freely through the forest. Back on tarmac, I pass the water reservoir and finally reach Sonnenbergstrasse.

Sonnenbergstrasse is newly asphalted and has plenty of parking spaces. However, none of them are occupied this early evening, so I assume that these car parks are only really used on Sundays. I walk back towards the Römerhof. Although I'm back in the neighbourhood, it feels as if the area hasn't really warmed up on this sunny day. I suppose this is partly due to the many trees that stretch like fingers from the forest down into the neighbourhood, and partly due to the Klosbach stream that keeps popping up.

On my way back to the Römerhof, I pass more and more apartment blocks. As the altitude decreases, the houses become larger and less exclusive. The streets on this side of the Dolderbahn run more parallel to the slope and are probably less old. Eventually I reach Klosbachstrasse, which again runs parallel to the Dolderbahn, on the other side of the Römerhof.



01 Rütistrasse, north of the Dolderbahn



02 View into the forest, seen from Hottingerbergstrasse



03 The same view, in the evergreen part of the forest



04 Many young hornbeams near the tennis courts



05 The forest behind the Dolder Grand



06 View from Breitweg



07 The Dienerhölzliweg, with the golf course to the right



08 Tall trees in the garden of Sonnenbergstrasse 69



09 Klosbachstrasse, south of the Dolderbahn





Strollers on the way to the top station.

## 29.03.2024 - Taking a Stroll

Good Friday two o'clock in the afternoon. The sun is shining, partly cloudy and about 19 degrees.

I take the Dolderbahn from the Römerhof to the Dolder Grand. There were 23 people on the Dolderbahn with me, including a family with four bicycles. Six people got off at the Dolder Waldhaus. All the others went to the end of the line. Once at the top, two people go straight to the hotel via the garage, while the others head for the forest. Today, for the first time in a few days, I'm out walking again, following hikers and letting myself be guided as a hiker.

I make my way towards the ice rink. I notice that spring has come a long way. Many small flowers have sprouted on the forest floor and the individual bushes and trees are slowly turning their first leaves. When I arrive at the ice rink, I walk onto the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and from there further into the forest. I see many walkers, both alone and in groups, as well as people riding their bikes through the forest. Two people pass me with two golf clubs in their backpacks. I assume they are on their way to the driving range on the Adlisberg.

I pass the former pavilion of the Dolder Park. Further on, I see an elderly man with his wife. He is waiting for her on the path, while she is peeing in the woods a little off the path. The first green leaves are starting to appear in the forest.

I reach the Hottingerbergstrasse and turn left, away from the sunbathing lawn of the Dolder Bad. A jogger comes towards me.

I reach the evergreen part of the forest and a campfire site a little off the path. I can see from the forest floor that quite a few people frequently stray from the path. There are hardly any shrubs or herbs. I believe that many people are walking through the forest looking for firewood.

Three people with a dog pass me and cross the path I'm on. They are walking on a small path that is not marked on the map.

I realise that I am saying hello to a lot of people here in the forest. This never happens a few hundred metres further down in the city.

I return to the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and walk towards the bridge.

I also meet a hiker there. I pass the Dolderbahn, where the unused plateau in the forest lies on the opposite side. In this part of the forest, the Dolderbahn practically runs at ground level, whereas almost everywhere else in the forest it is lowered into the forest floor.

I suspect that this proximity to the Dolderbahn is one of the reasons why nothing has ever happened on this plateau.

I then cross the bridge and walk down to the Waldhaus. I don't meet anyone here, although this is the part of the forest with the most benches, it doesn't seem to be very busy.

I pass the small tennis court where a man and a child with a rake and a wheelbarrow are preparing the surface for the new season.

A little further down I see an elderly couple out for a walk. They can't walk so well anymore and maybe that's why they've chosen this part of the forest, where the paths are relatively flat due to the many bends.

I continue parallel to the edge of the forest, first on the Kurhausstrasse and then on the Waldhausstrasse towards Wolfbach. Once I have reached Wolfbach, I follow Hottingerbergstrasse to the sunbathing lawn of the Dolder outdoor swimming pool. I pass the fence of the outdoor swimming pool and find concrete foundations, probably from former fences or signs. I walk back to the top station of the Dolderbahn, where 12 people of all ages are waiting for the Dolderbahn. I take the Dolderbahn back down to the Römerhof.



01 Sprouting herb layer



02 View from the Carl-Wehrli-Weg



03 The path leads through the evergreen part of the forest



04 A fireplace in the evergreen part of the forest



05 View of the city and the lake from the path



06 The unused plateau on the other side of the railway tracks



07 The surface of the tennis court is being refreshed



08 The curved path leads down to the Waldhaus



09 Concrete remains near the Dolder Bad







An oriental hornbeam already with many small leaves.

## 30.03.2024 - The Arrival of Spring

Saturday shortly after ten o'clock in the morning. It's cloudy and about 17 degrees.

I come from Bergstrasse and walk along Klosbachstrasse towards Waldhaus, then Hauserstrasse. Everywhere in the neighbourhood I see trees with fresh leaves and flowers in the gardens. From Bergstrasse to Waldhaus I walk 75 metres uphill. Before the Waldhaus, I cross the bridge over the Dolderbahn and enter the Waldhaus garden.

In the garden of the Waldhaus I notice a flowering Norway maple and various flowers in bloom in the meadow. I also see forsythia in bloom. The trees at the back of the house, facing the forest, have their first buds but no leaves yet.

Behind the forest house there are rock pears that have just begun to open their buds. Around the forest house there are box trees that are suffering from box fungus and only have a few leaves left.

From the Waldhaus I take the Carl-Wehrli-Weg into the forest. The forest looks much less developed than the trees in the gardens. The trees still have no leaves and the hornbeams in the shrub layer of the forest still have last year's dried leaves. There are a few bird cherry trees in the forest that have already put out leaves. These also stand out in the otherwise bare forest with their very young, light green leaves. Further into the forest, I spot a long-leaved hawthorn. It already had some small leaves.

I continue along the path, occasionally spotting hornbeams with leaves. These are next to other hornbeams of the same age that have no leaves at all. I pass a sycamore right on the path. It already has small leaves.

Compared to ten days ago, the differences are mainly in the shrub layer. The tree and herb layer seems relatively unchanged in this part of the forest.

I continue on a path through the forest towards the Dolder outdoor swimming pool and enter the evergreen part of the forest.

There I see some fire cherries just beginning to sprout their first leaves, and a blackcurrant and raspberry bush growing in a small clearing.

I continue along the path. The brambles that cover the forest floor here have not yet sprouted. I keep seeing raspberries sprouting between the blackberries. The path slowly becomes a forest track. And more light is coming down to the forest floor. There are small trees to the left and right of the path, for example a hazel that has been felled several times but

keeps sprouting.

Sawgrass is growing on the ground again. I reach the Hottingerbergstrasse and pass a black willow and several raspberry bushes. Wood anemone and wood forest violets at the edge of the path. I pass the old pavilion. One of the three trees at the edge of the wood, the Norway maple, is blossoming yellow. On the plateau of the old pavilion, many small nettles are sprouting.

Further on, I rejoin the Carl-Wehrli-Weg. There is a small clearing where blackberries are growing. There are also many wood anemones growing right next to the Carl-Wehrli-Weg.

A little further into the forest I see an oriental hornbeam. It stands out because it is the only green plant in this part of the forest, apart from a holly and a fir. As the holly and the fir are evergreens, it is the only tree here that has already developed leaves.

Just before the ice rink I turn right into the forest and walk to the top station of the Dolderbahn. In the area where I turn off, many young maple trees are growing right next to the path and have started to open their buds.

On the way back to the Dolderbahn, I see countless wood anemones. They have just opened their flowers. On my walk ten days ago, I particularly noticed the freshly sprouted sedges.

Just before the Dolder, the trees seem to be further along in their development than the trees in the forest. You can see this by the fact that they have some leaves. I suppose this is because there is less competition between them than there is between the trees in the forest.

Finally, I take the Dolderbahn down to the Römerhof with 11 other people. The trees along the Dolderbahn track also get more light and have more leaves than the trees in the forest.

Further down, I get a glimpse of the private gardens of the villas along the Dolderbahn, where various trees are in leaf or blossom.

Down at the Römerhof, many people are waiting to go up the Dolder this morning. Among them are six people, each with a bicycle, who prefer to cover the 150 metres in altitude from the Römerhof to the Dolder Grand Hotel by train.



01 Flowering plant in a private garden



02 The garden of the Waldhaus



03 A bird cherry with small, fresh leaves



04 Raspberry crops in a curve of the path



05 Flowering Norway maple by the former pavilion



06 Blooming wood anemones on the forest floor



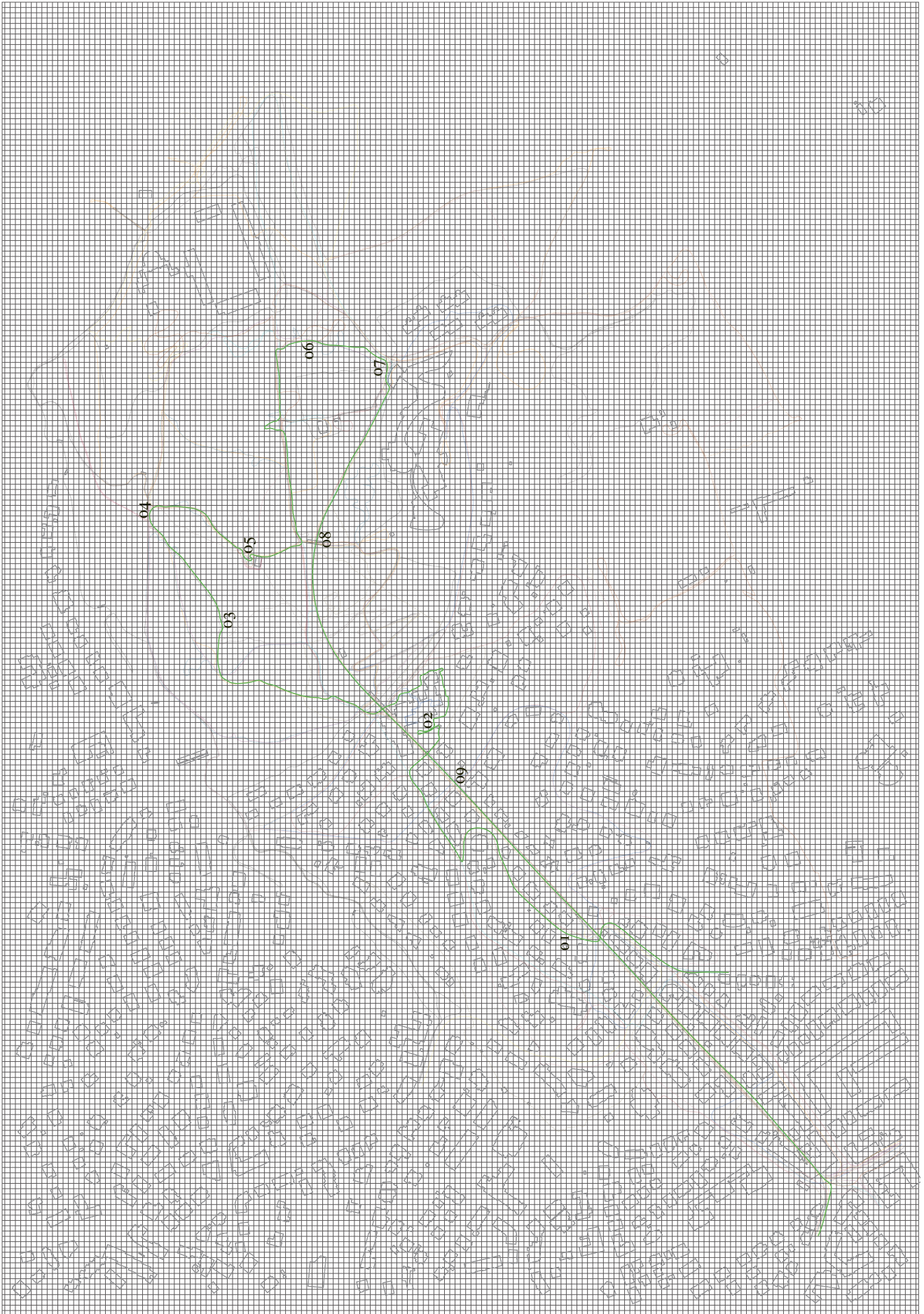
07 The plants at the Dolder Grand Hotel station



08 Further developed trees along the Dolderbahn



09 View into the gardens of the villas along the Dolderbahn





Two people on an e-scooter in the forest.

## 01.04.2024 - Traces of National Holiday

Easter Monday shortly before half past six in the evening. It's cloudy, partly sunny and about 10 degrees.

Today I am following the traces of the past holidays. There are 18 people on the Dolderbahn with me, including a cyclist with his bike, a group of four with a football and two people each with a golf club, probably practising their tee shots on the driving range. I drive up to the top station where 10 people are waiting for the Dolderbahn to take them down. I see full trash cans right next to the top station and start walking towards the ice rink. About half of the car parks on Kurhausstrasse are still full. I assume that all the car parks were full both yesterday and today. At Breitweg, I take a path into the forest in the direction of the bike trail.

I reach the path next to the bike trail. There I meet a jogger and a group of four walkers. I see a lot of mountain bike tracks on the cycle path.

On the way to the car park on Degenriedstrasse, an electric scooter with two people passes me on the forest path. There is also a wood store here in the forest.

I arrive at the Degenriedstrasse car parks. Most of them are free. Three people are hitting golf balls on the driving range. However, the large number of golf balls on the grass shows that many people have been practising here in the last few days.

One person has just left the driving range and is walking to his car, which is parked a few metres from the driving range.

The sun is now shining flat in the forest again. Due to yesterday's time difference, it is still light at this time of the day.

I walk on in the direction of Wolfbach apart from me, there are practically no other people in the forest.

I reach the sunbathing lawn of the Dolder outdoor pool via an unlocked fire access road in the area of the mini-golf course.

The grass is high and hasn't been cut this year. The pool looks very deserted, although the green meadow could be a park on a beautiful spring day.

I cross the meadow of the outdoor pool and go back into the woods where the fence has a gap and continue towards Wolfbach. The path here is very muddy and the Wolfbach springs up right next to me at the fence to the sunbathing area.

There are also a lot of mountain bike tracks here. I suppose some people use the forest as an unofficial trail.

Apart from a jogger, I don't see anyone else in this

part of the forest.

Back on the Hottingerbergstrasse, I turn off and walk towards the Carl-Wehrli-Weg. The sun is hiding behind low clouds on the horizon. The rain of the last few days has filled the hollows in the forest floor with water.

I pass the former Dolder Park pavilion, where a few metres further on a number of tree trunks are stored in a wood store. I reach the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and hear the Dolderbahn passing me.

I cross the bridge over the Dolderbahn and walk down towards the Dolder Waldhaus. I pass the tennis court in the forest. The court has been further prepared, but the surface has not yet been renewed for the new season.

I continue along the curved path, which is paved with small round stones. This is one of the oldest paths in the old Dolder Park. I reach the Dolder Waldhaus, from where I take the Dolderbahn to Titlisstrasse station.

There are only three other people on the Dolderbahn, all of whom go down to the Römerhof.

From Titlisstrasse I walk to Bergstrasse. Once again I am surprised to see that the trees are much more developed and already have small leaves. I suppose this is partly due to the lower position of the trees and partly to the fact that the trees stand alone and don't compete with each other.



01 A full rubbish bin behind the Dolder Grand



02 Traces of forestry industry in the forest



03 Bicycle tyre marks on the gravel path



04 Countless golf balls on the meadow of the driving range



05 The sun shines flat into the forest



06 The currently unused area of the Dolder Bad



07 Overgrown dead wood in the forest

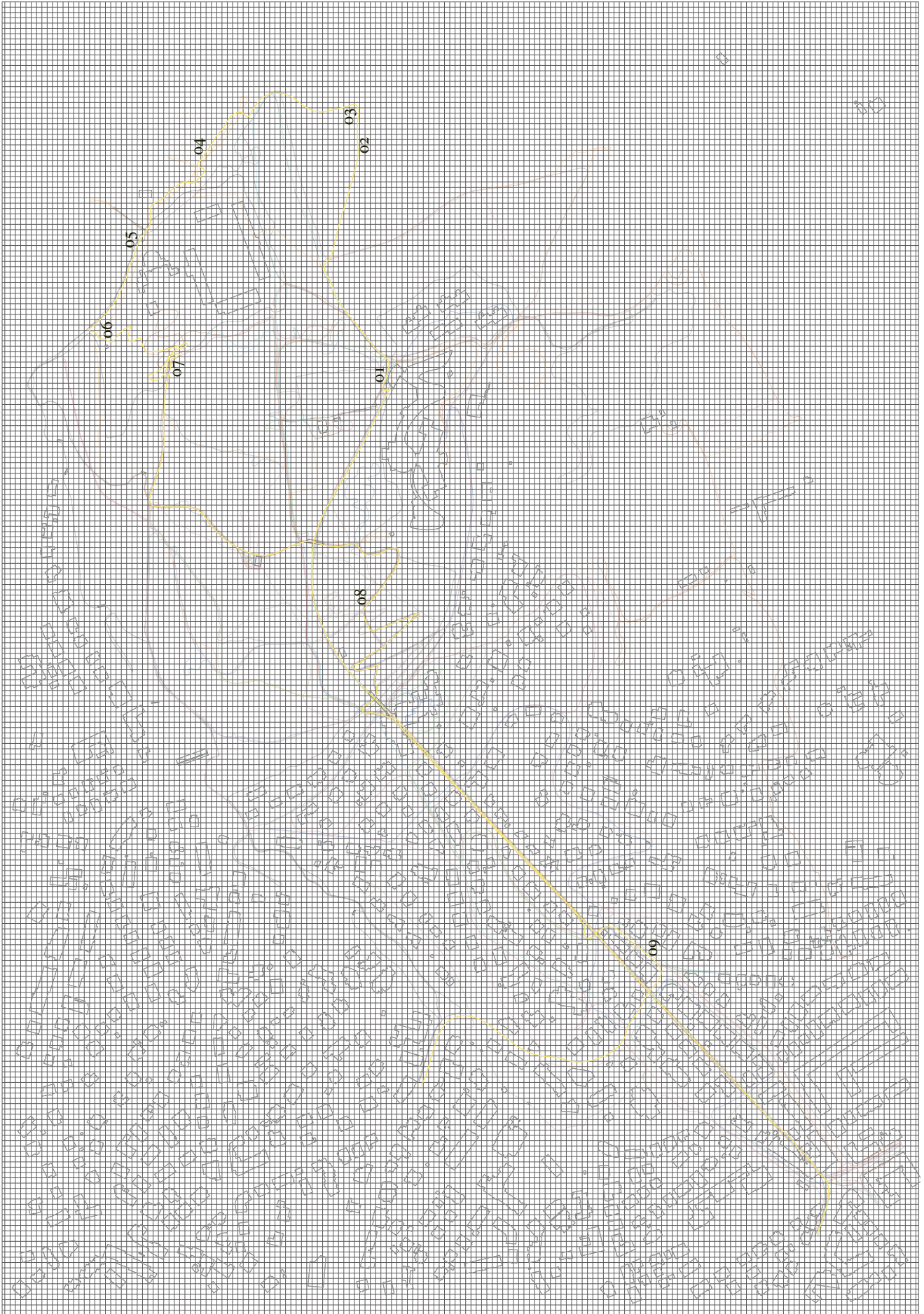


08 A bench behind the Waldhaus



09 Little traffic on the Bergstrasse







A former path can still be recognised in the terrain.

## 02.04.2024 - Absent Path

Tuesday six o'clock in the evening. It's sunny and about 14 degrees.

I take the Dolderbahn from the Römerhof to the Dolder Waldhaus. There are 19 people with me. Two of them with bicycles. One person is obviously on his way to the cycle track.

At Titlisstrasse, two mothers get off with their children, and at Waldhaus another 5 people get off with me.

On my walk to the absent path I start at the Waldhaus. I leave the station and walk over the possibly old entrance to the curved path. I walk up the path as it originally ran through the forest in this area. I refer to old maps. When I get to the top, I realise that the path is no longer the original one, but the old path is still recognisable in the terrain and the vegetation.

Today's path is steeper, but more direct.

Apart from the occasional branches, there are no obstacles to following the original route.

I follow this secluded path until it is crossed by the Dolderbahn. I pass the Plateau in the forest. I wait for the Dolderbahn to pass me and then cross the Dolderbahn track. On the other side of the Dolderbahn, it is much harder for me to see the old path. I cross the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and try to follow the old path using the old maps. This path leads directly to the pavilion of the former Dolderpark 100 years ago.

As the location of the pavilion is still visible through the clearing in the forest, I can orientate myself and follow the old path.

I walk through the forest, the ground covered with thorns and many broken trees. Many tree trunks lie on the ground and it is more difficult to walk through the forest.

Further on, I can easily make out the old path again and follow it. The closer I get to the clearing, the better I can orient myself and the more certain I am that I am on the old path.

Eventually I come to the small clearing where the old Dolder Park pavilion used to stand.

From here I walk into the woods opposite, where there used to be another building and two parallel paths, a few metres apart, wind around it. The forest is very dense in this area and there is nothing left of the building or the paths.

After a few metres I come across a fireplace and walk back to the clearing on the plateau of the former pavilion.

I look for more remains of the pavilion and find

evidence of the foundations, including a piece of concrete slab that I suspect might be part of the foundations.

I continue along a path which no longer exists and which leads away from the pavilion towards Hottingerbergstrasse. The further I walk along this path, the less visible it becomes to me, until I can no longer see it at all. One of the reasons for this is that the ground in this part of the forest is very overgrown. Following this path I finally reach the Hottingerbergstrasse.

I walk back towards the Waldhaus on a forest path, and after a few hundred metres turn off onto a path that no longer exists. This leads to Carl-Wehrli-Weg I follow the path with the old maps, but I can no longer see it.

I then join the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and walk to the junction of three paths, which was originally a junction of four. However, the extension of the Dolderbahn has removed the fourth path.

This former path is still clearly visible in the terrain and I follow it.

Again, I wait for the Dolderbahn to pass me before crossing it. The Dolderbahn is protected by fences on both sides of the forest, but they also prevent many animals from crossing the track.

On the other side of the Dolderbahn, the path is clearly visible to me. Where the path used to be, I find two metal posts, probably two old street lamps.

I follow the original path down to the Dolder Waldhaus. Where the original path follows the present track, it is very well prepared with a kind of cobblestone pavement made of small stones.

As usual, I can't see anyone in this part of the forest. I walk down to the Dolderbahn station and take the train back to the Römerhof. There was only one other person going down with me.



01 Parts of the original, over 100 year old path



02 The original course of the path



03 An old path shortly before the Dolderbahn tracks



04 The path that led to the former pavilion until 1956



05 A no longer recognisable course of a former path



06 Only old maps still show evidence of this path



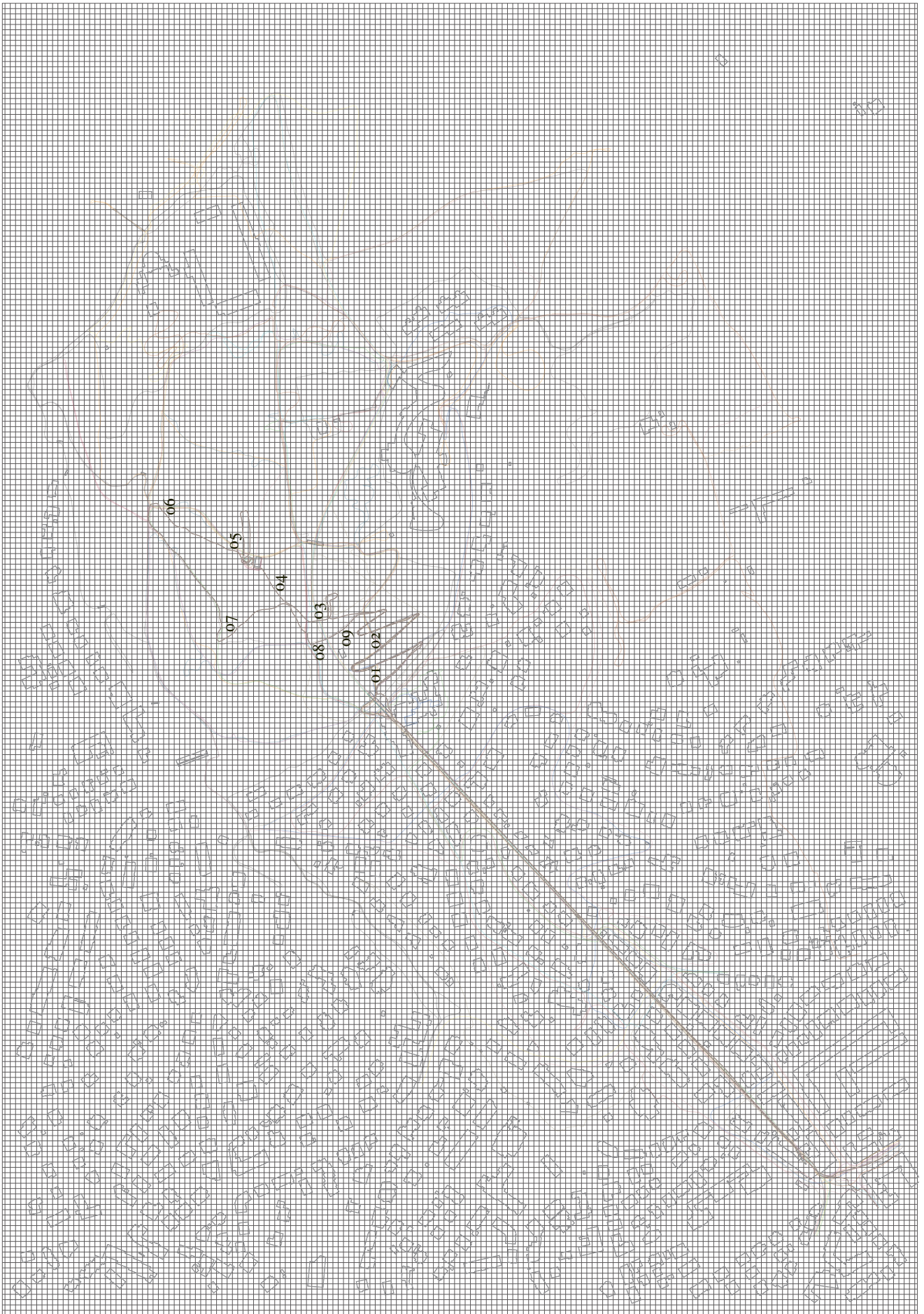
07 A former path is still used for forestry work



08 A junction of three paths where four paths originally met



09 The former path that was cut through by the Dolderbahn





Grass cuttings from the bath are disposed of in the forest.

## 08.04.2024 - Noise and Smell

Monday nine o'clock in the morning. It's sunny and about 16 degrees.

Today I'm going for a walk with the theme of noise and smell. I start walking along the mountain road. The smell of car exhaust is in the air and the busy mountain road is correspondingly noisy. I turn and walk up Rütistrasse. A green waste truck is collecting the bins. After a few metres the air quality improves and now that the cars are no longer so loud, I start to hear a few birds.

The gardens here in the Dolder district are blooming in all colours and there are various bushes and trees. The birds seem to feel at home and sing.

At the intersection of Dolderstrasse and Hauserstrasse I hear the splashing of the fountain. I assume it is supplied by the spring water wells on the Dolderwiese.

The old houses here on Dolderstrasse have rich, bio-diverse gardens with trees and shrubs. The gardens of the newer houses are simpler and require less maintenance and I notice that this can also be recognised by the chirping of the birds. Birds are particularly frequent in the gardens of the older houses.

When I reach the top of the hill in front of the Waldhaus, I wait a few minutes under the bridge of the Dolderbahn. The fresh forest air flows down and it is still cool.

There are a few cars on the Kurhausstrasse, but in general it is still relatively quiet on this Monday morning and I can hear many birds chirping in the forest. Finally, I see the Dolderbahn passing above me into the forest.

I take Carl-Wehrli-Weg into the forest and walk towards the ice rink. After a few hundred metres I can still hear the city cars. The air feels very good and I can't detect any particular smell.

I pass the plateau on the other side of the Dolderbahn. It passes me and for a brief moment it is the loudest recognisable noise in the forest.

Now I can only hear the cars as a faint noise far in the background. It is no longer the cars on the Kurhausstrasse, but the general noise of the city.

The atmosphere in the forest is very pleasant and it smells as I imagine the smell of spring in a forest. The layer of herbs and shrubs has developed considerably since my last walk, but the sun still shines through the trees to the ground, as the trees still have very few leaves.

I keep hearing the rustling of leaves, possibly mice,

on the forest floor.

Guided by the sound of tennis balls, I made my way to the tennis courts. The season started the day before yesterday. The courts are neatly prepared.

I can see two people playing tennis on the far court and a man in an apron carrying a few bottles of beer from the warehouse to the clubhouse. In front of the clubhouse, there's a large area and I can hear the engine as the electric sun blinds are being pulled out in front of the clubhouse.

I walk back along Carl-Wehrli-Weg towards the ice rink. Near the ice rink I can smell freshly cut grass and hear the sound of a lawnmower.

Through the trees I can see that further down the lawn of the outdoor swimming pool is being cut for the first time this year. The outdoor pool will open in about a month.

Outside the fence of the outdoor pool, I spot a pile of grass clippings. I wait a few minutes to see how the grass cuttings are disposed in the forest.

I go back to the ice rink. While the outdoor pool season is about to start, the end of the ice rink season is now clearly visible. There is now a huge concrete area where the ice rink used to be. The rink's website describes the 6000m<sup>2</sup> rink as the largest open artificial ice rink in Europe. No mention is made of the fact that this leaves a 6000m<sup>2</sup> concrete surface out of season.

I walk on to the Adlisberg golf driving range. Three people are hitting golf balls and I can smell the smell of freshly cut grass.

I walk back along Kurhausstrasse to the top station of the Dolderbahn. The passing cars keep drowning out the birdsong in the woods. Only two other people are walking down to the Römerhof with me. Down in front of the Römerhof I see five people clearing neophytes from the Dolderbahn track. At the valley station, 12 people are already waiting for the Dolderbahn.



01 The busy Bergstrasse



02 The Rütlistrasse leading up to the Dolder Waldhaus



03 The noise of the cars slowly diminishes in the forest



04 The route of the Dolderbahn in the forest



05 The smell of the forest in spring



06 The electric sun blinds of the tennis club



07 The swimming pool lawn is cut for the first time this year

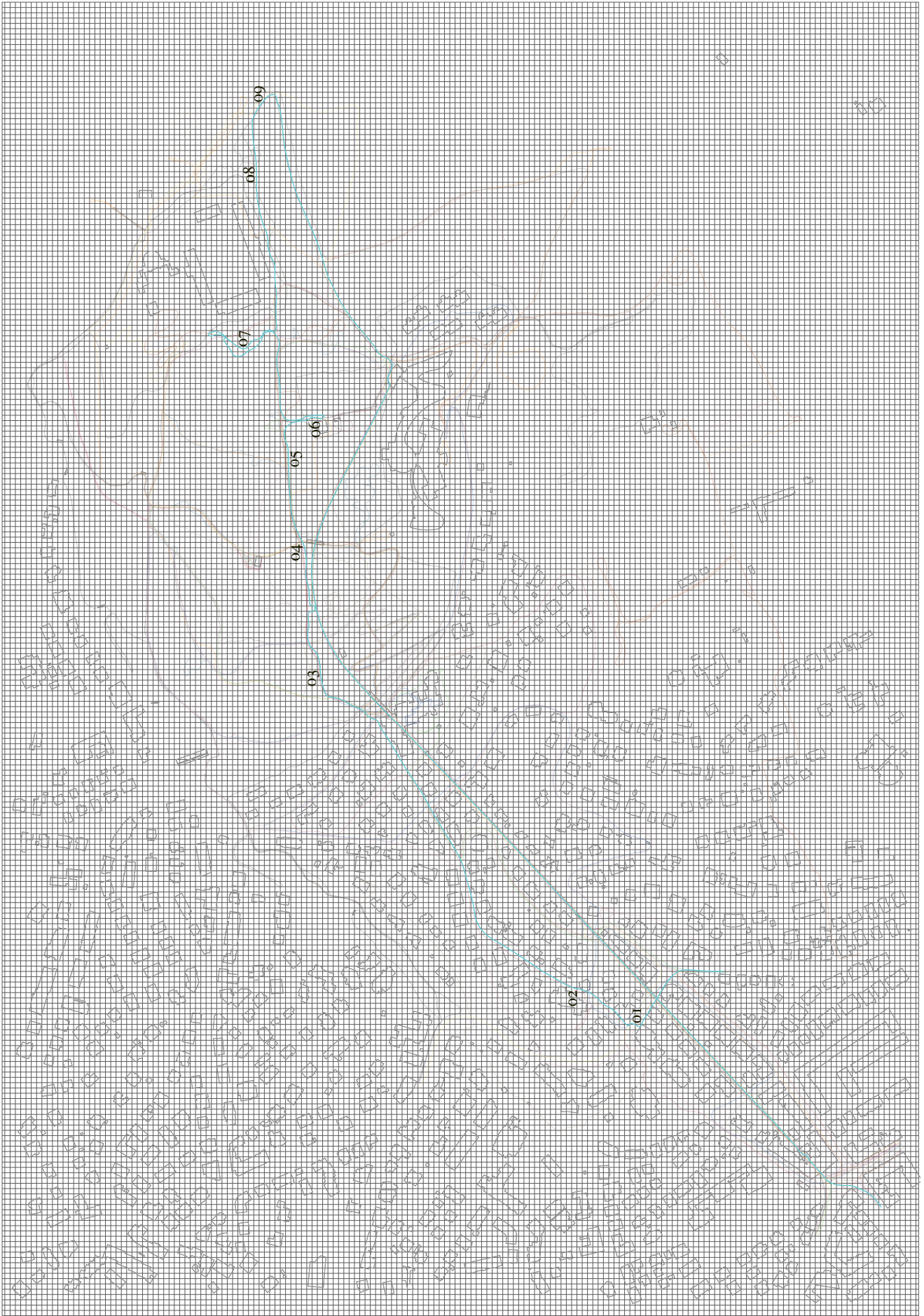


08 6000m2 unused concrete surface of the ice rink



09 The smell of freshly cut grass







Walkers in the shade of the forest.

## 14.04.2024 - Heat

Sunday shortly after four in the afternoon. It's sunny and about 26 degrees.

On the warmest day of the year so far, I go for a walk on the subject of heat. I come from Klusplatz and walk north along Bergstrasse. It's very warm and I notice how the buildings and streets reflect the heat. I start to walk up the hill at Heuelsteig. I notice how I try to walk in the shade whenever possible. I pass the last vines of the Adlisberg, below the Sonnenberg park. The vines are starting to sprout their first leaves and the trees behind the park are already in full leaf. I see a few people enjoying the sunshine on the terrace of the park.

The high hedges make it almost impossible to see into the gardens of the neighbouring villas. I follow Aurorastrasse for a few metres and then continue up the hill on Morgenweg. Eventually I reach the Oberer Heuelsteig and follow it towards the Sonnenberg sports centre. I pass the Sonnenberg pumping station, built in 1981. A fountain splashes in front of it, indicating that water is being collected on the Adlisberg. The water from the fountain is probably collected a few hundred metres up on the Dolderwiiese. I turn and walk into the forest, above the pumping station near the Sonnenberg reservoir and the other pumping station.

As I enter the forest, I immediately notice that the temperature has dropped a few degrees. I walk on until I reach the golf course meadow. I see 3 golfers. Judging by their age difference, they could be a family, and judging by their playing technique, they didn't seem to be the most experienced or skilled golfers. By the golf course it was getting warmer again. I walk back and continue towards the Dolder. I pass the tennis courts and the football pitch at the Sonnenberg sports centre. The tennis courts are very busy this Sunday afternoon.

I approach the golf course again and see an elderly couple playing golf. He is driving a golf cart and she is walking beside him. He is teeing off on the next hole while she is still looking for her ball on the previous hole. He seems to be enjoying himself, but I'm not so sure about her. Further on, the road becomes private and the public has to turn right onto a small forest track. I follow the road and arrive at the golf course maintenance centre.

Well camouflaged from the outside, this is the less attractive side of golf course maintenance. Huge piles of sand, plastic sheets and several garages for the golf course machinery are stored away from the

golf course.

I walk through the forest and come to Dienerhölzliweg. To the right of the path are small ponds and I see two ducks.

As I walk through the woods I occasionally hear rustling in the undergrowth. I assume it's mice, frightened by my footsteps. I walk towards the Dolder Grand, crossing hikers every few metres.

The benches above the golf course are all occupied and I notice that a fountain has been installed in the golf course pond. I look at the golf course but don't see any players. I walk onto Kurhausstrasse and notice that it's a few degrees warmer on this tarmac. The temperature in the woods is much more pleasant. Before the ice rink I turn into the Carl-Wehrli-Weg and walk down the slope.

The many hornbeams in the herb layer of the forest, some of them small, have sprouted their leaves and the forest is much more opaque than it was a few days ago.

As usual on a Sunday when the weather is fine, all the car parks at the rink are full and some of the cars are parked in places that are not meant for them. I think most people were on their way to the zoo from here.

I pass the tennis courts in the woods. All the courts are occupied by 10 people playing tennis.

The young leaves of the hornbeams glow a bright green in the sunlight. I turn and walk to the clearing of the former pavilion. I cross the sunbathing lawn of the Dolder outdoor pool and walk through the gap in the wood to the upper plateau of the lawn. There is still no water in the pool and the lawn has been mown for the first time. From the plateau there is a lovely view into the forest and the fence is not visible from up here.

On my way back to the top station of the Dolderbahn, I find the piece of grass from the sunbathing lawn that has been deposited here in the forest. I take the Dolderbahn back down to the Römerhof. There are 20 people on the Dolderbahn with me, all looking as if they'd come up to the Dolder because of the nice weather.



01 The Heutelsteig leads up to the Sonnenberg park



02 The green of hole 8 of the golf course



03 The maintenance depot of the golf course



04 Two players exclusively use the almost 10 hectares



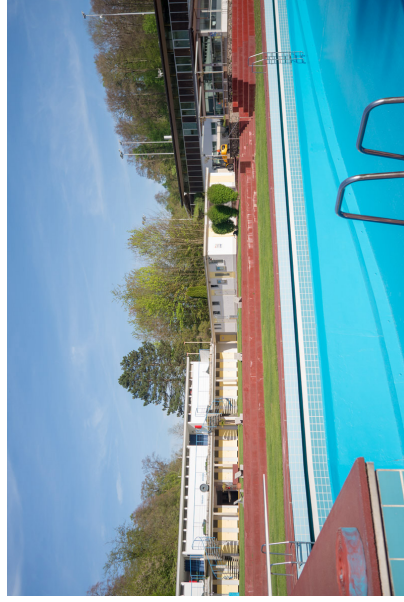
05 The tennis courts seen from the forest



06 The trees on the Carl-Wehrli-Weg are getting leaves



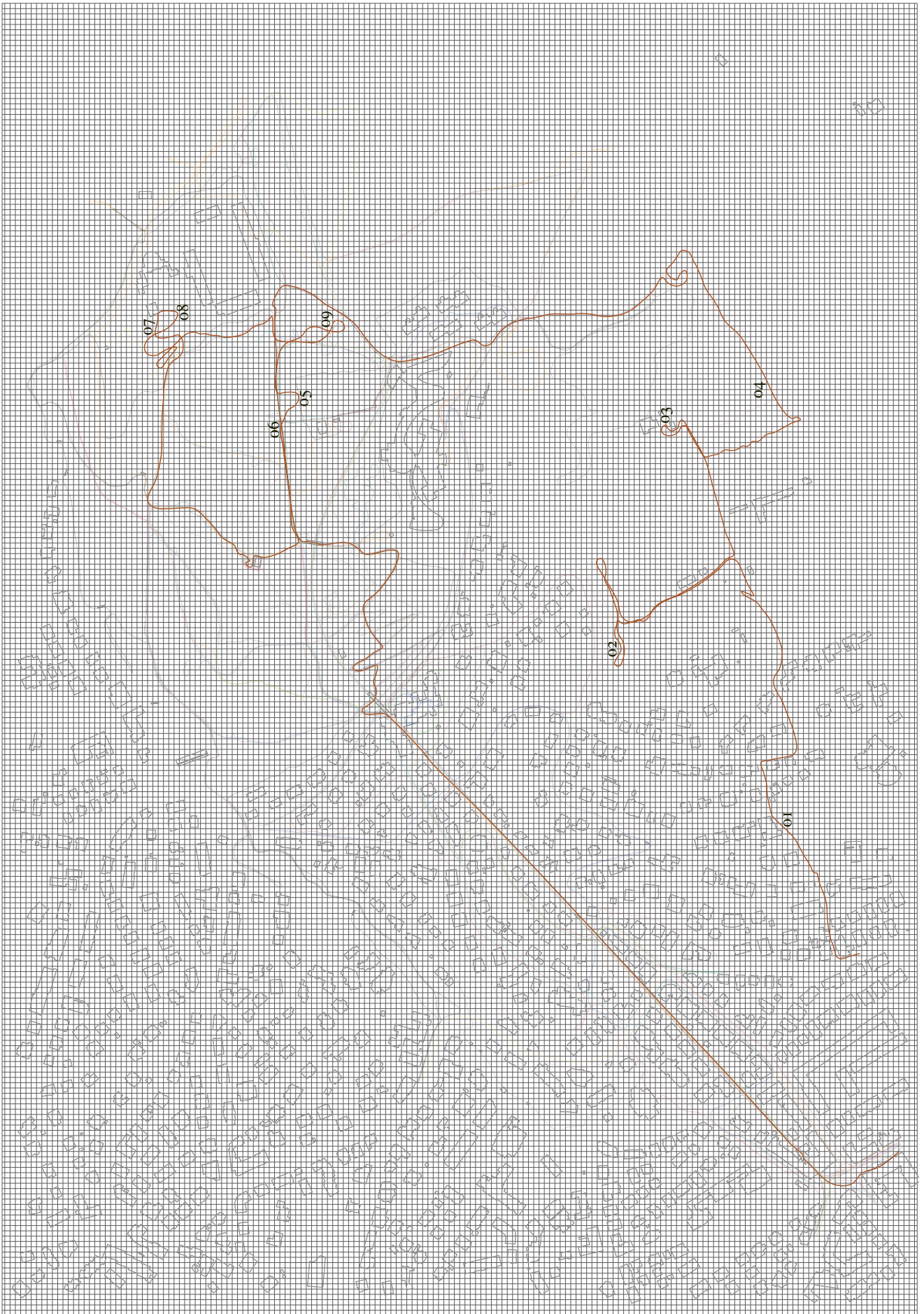
07 The inaccessible meadow of the Dolder Bad



08 The Dolder Bad swimming pool, not yet filled



09 The forest behind the Dolderbahn terminal station





The snow-covered track of the Dolderbahn.

## 18.04.2024 - Snow in April

Thursday shortly after ten in the afternoon. It's snowing and about 1 degree.

I take the Dolderbahn from the Römerhof to the Waldhaus. There are 12 other people on the Dolderbahn. No one seemed to be going up for leisure activities in this weather. From the Waldhaus I walk along the snow-covered sidewalk towards the Dolder Grand Hotel. I turn off at Sonnenbergstrasse and walk down towards the golf course. The view of the Adlisberg is very unusual. On the one hand, I can hear the birds singing and see the fresh green of the trees, but on the other hand, everything is covered in a wet, heavy layer of snow.

I take the path to Haus Sonnenberg, which runs through the golf course. The golf course is completely covered in snow and obviously won't be used at all today and probably not for the next few days due to the weather.

I cross the golf course on my way to the water reservoir and finally to the tennis courts at Sonnenberg. Inside the pneumatic tent I hear the sound of tennis. I continue in the direction of Degenriedstrasse, along the golf course on the right.

The forest presents itself in a beauty I have never seen before. The paths are covered with snow, and the heavy snow lays on the light green young leaves. The branches bend downwards and snow keeps falling from them to the ground. The golf course in the background is completely covered in snow.

It is cold, wet and there are only very few people out this morning. Although the Dolderwiese is supposed to be open to the public for sledging in the winter months, it has been private again for over a month and is off limits. And this is even though today is only the second time it has snowed in Zurich.

I turn into Degenriedstrasse and then Kurhausstrasse to walk towards the Adlisberg driving range. From Kurhausstrasse there is a spectacular view of the white golf course. The view does not extend further than the end of the golf course, after which the sky is nothing but white.

On Kurhausstrasse, in the forest, I see the first bushes and tree branches that have given way under the weight of the heavy snow and snapped, and I must dodge into the forest in places as branches lie on the path. I also see a broken branch lying on the ground near the car park on Adlisbergstrasse.

I arrive at the Adlisberg golf course and walk across the unused field. The snow reflects the light and it is very bright. I walk back to the artificial ice rink and

from there back into the forest. I keep seeing people waiting in their cars.

The gullies at the edge of the forest paths carry more water than I have ever seen before. In some places the water is rising and almost spilling onto the path. I walk back towards the Dolderbahn mountain station. In the small wooded area, I pass a group of little children who have built two simple tent-like shelters with tarpaulin. They have also lit a campfire just outside.

I take the Dolderbahn from the top station back to the Römerhof. The Dolderbahn has just arrived at the top station and about 30 people, mostly businessmen, are getting off. I've never seen the Dolderbahn so full. There are 5 other people travelling down with me, including 3 tradesmen who are probably working at the Dolder Grand. Down at the valley station at the Römerhof, more than 40 people are waiting for the Dolderbahn. Most of them are business people again. I assume that there is an event or congress taking place at the Dolder Grand today and that these people are travelling up to the Dolder for it.



01 The Dolder Waldhaus station



02 The Dolderbahn travels into the snow-covered forest



03 The football pitch at the Sonnenberg sports centre



04 The private path leading to the golf maintenance depot



05 The golf course under a blanket of snow



06 View of the golf course from Kurhausstrasse



07 Tree branches give way under the weight of the snow

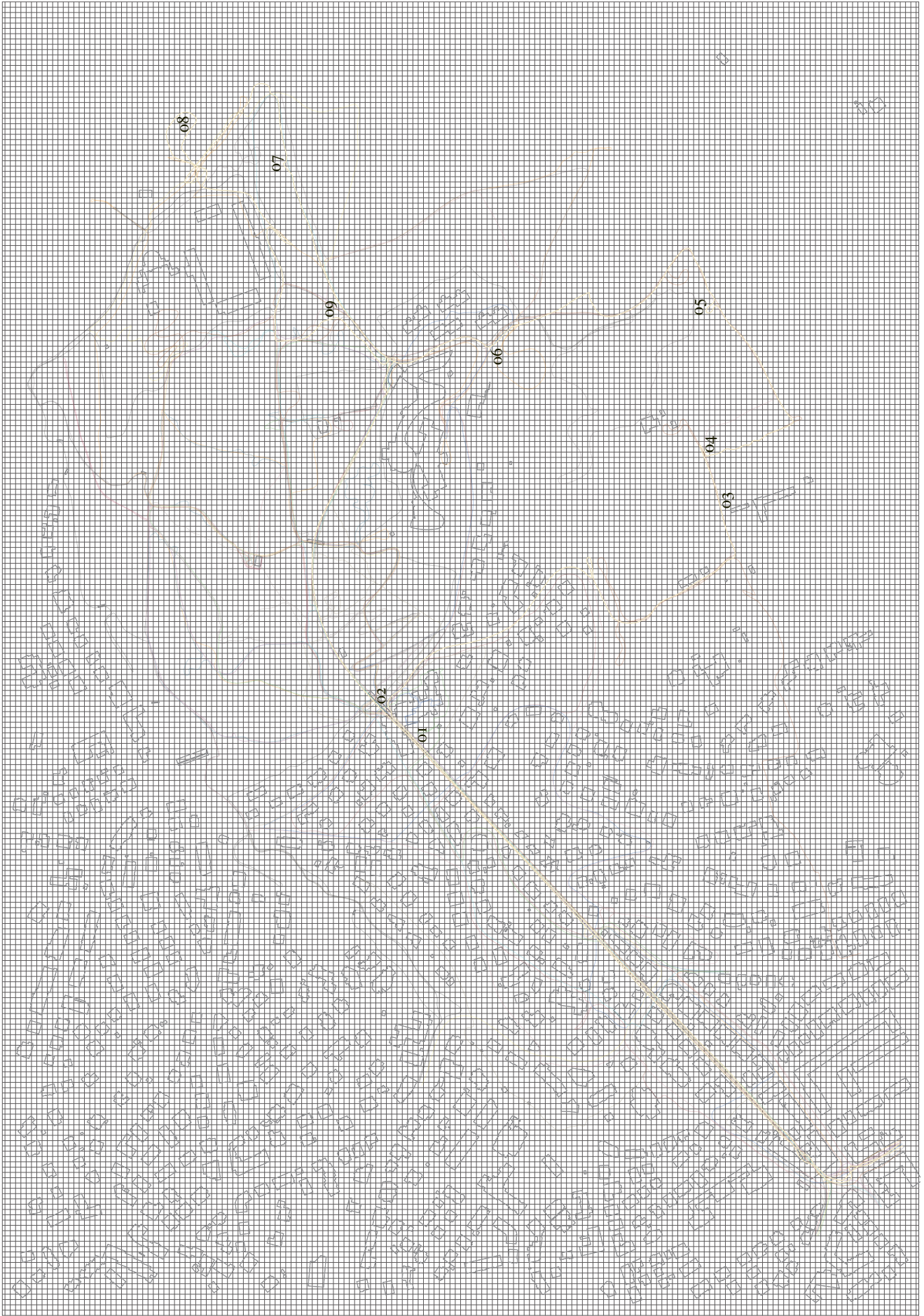


08 The Adlisberg driving range

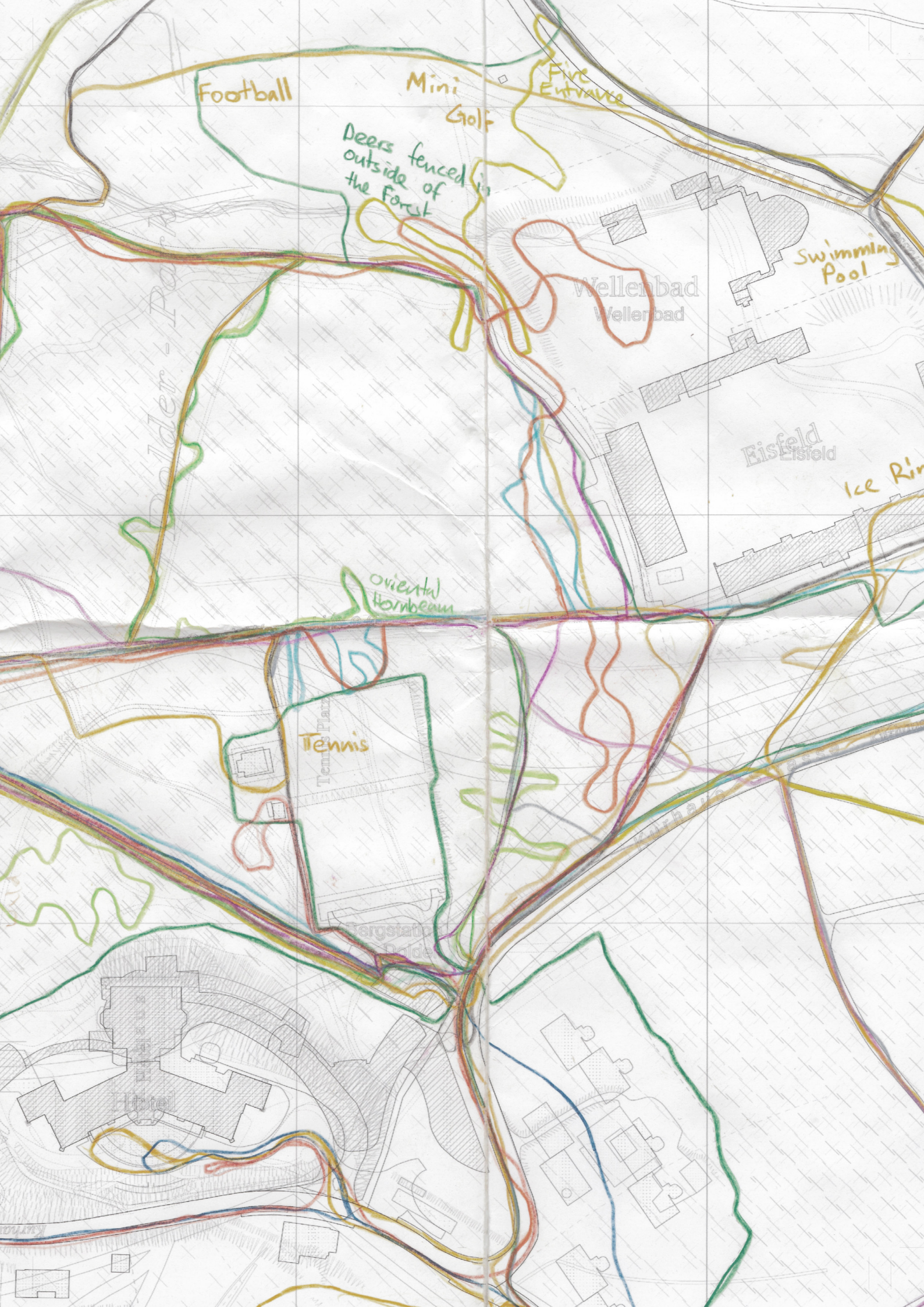


09 A group sheltering from the weather under a tarp









Football

Mini Golf

Five Entrance

Deers fenced in outside of the Forest

Wellenbad  
Wellerbad

Swimming Pool

Eisfeld  
Eisfeld

Ice Ring

oriental  
Hornbeam

Tennis

Bergstation  
Dolde

Hotel

