

THE  
LOW  
DRIFT



**ARTIST** The Low Drift  
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Songs inspired by the land. The beauty and the concrete, the mysteries and the folklore. An album about family, childhood and the memories that landscapes invoke.

In 2019, friends in music Emma Thorpe, Matt Hill, and Huw Costin came together to write songs about the land. Working under the guidance of psychogeographers Jane Samuels and Dr. Morag Rose they made a plan to explore edge-lands and barren fields.

That journey, to nowhere in particular, is tracked on their debut album, the eponymously titled The Low Drift. Inspired by the English folk and poet musicians of their youths – Julian Cope, Robert Calvert, Kate Bush - they travelled beyond the Keep Out signs, to the ancient green lanes and sunken tracks where our ancestors buried their bones. The music they found there is natural and elemental, even stark in places with Thorpe's haunting voice taking the lead on **Deadwood** against a backdrop of primitive 70's TV flute-synth – "I saw comets, fields burning, earth turning, clay furrows in ancient ground". It's a song that wouldn't seem out of place on a Twin Peaks Soundtrack or the Fuzzy Felt Folk compilation.

Elsewhere the album features shimmering 12 string guitars, minimalist folk picking, echoing electric and primitive synths sounds straight out of children's TV that scarred a generation in the 1970's and 80's. But this is no retrospective nostalgia fest, on the John Martyn influenced **Come Alive A Second Time** Costin evokes the present day home of his father in the South Wales valleys. With a narrow bleak focus, the song mirrors the changing physical geography of the valleys with the declining health of the last generation of coal miners.

These are songs that speak of ancient mysteries just below the concrete. Hill spent his formative years as a member of the 'Ley Hunter Society', obsessed with earth energies, dowsing and mystery lights in the skies. On the song **Gift of Unknown Things**, wrapped in haunting three part harmonies, he evokes the "old chalk figures and standing stones, fairy paths and spirit roads"

Costin explains "...where we tried to write epic - we could only stumble towards the personal, and where we tried to write history – we could only heed the warnings in the weather, and where we tried to understand - we could only find soliloquies – and arrive nowhere in particular..."

This album is a soundtrack to that journey.

## THE LOW DRIFT

Emma Thorpe has released two EPs and has dueted with Mark Lanegan. Her traveller ancestry is perhaps telling in her emotional closeness to the land and elements around her, so well expressed in her songs.

Matt Hill's songs speak of history and community. His albums have gathered glowing reviews from the likes of Uncut and radio play from BBC6 Music.

He's performed with Billy Bragg at Glastonbury festival and showcased at the English Folk Expo

Huw Costin is a artist and producer known as much for his emotional and experimental output with Torn Sail as for his collaborations with slow disco outfit Smith & Mudd, He's been A-playlisted on BBC6, received album of the year in the NME yearbook, and 8/10 reviews in Uncut