



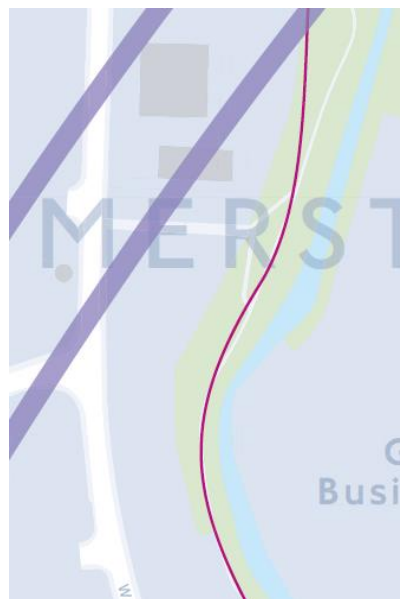
CROSSRAIL 2 – WEIR ROAD PROPOSALS

A response by Wandle Valley Forum to the Crossrail 2 consultation

January 2016

Wandle Valley Forum was established in 2005 and is the primary consultative forum on Wandle Valley issues for the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust; the London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton and Croydon; Greater London Authority and other statutory bodies

1. Wandle Valley Forum has reviewed the proposals for locating a major work site for Crossrail 2 on the Weir Road Industrial Estate. This would provide for the 'stabling' of trains along with facilities for train washing and cleaning and a maintenance depot. The site will also include a shaft providing ventilation and emergency access to the Crossrail 2 tunnels. We understand this would take 5 years to complete and leave a two-storey 625 sq m head-house as a permanent structure.
2. The proposed site lies within the Wandle Valley Regional Park. This is recognised in the London Plan, All London Green Grid and Local Plans. The eastern side of the proposed site runs along the course of the River Wandle. The diagrammatic maps of the proposed boundary suggest the loss of both the Wandle Trail and a significant part of the already very narrow corridor of green space immediately south of the proposed Crossrail 2 tunnels.



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Please respond to Chair, Wandle Valley Forum, c/o 43 Bramcote Avenue, Mitcham CR4 4LW

We hope this is an unfortunate drafting error because it would be a very provocative proposal to sacrifice this land for the Crossrail 2 work site. Overwhelming evidence would need to be provided to demonstrate that this small fraction of the proposed area of the work site was essential for its viability and that the benefits outweighed the very considerable negative impacts. We have seen no evidence to justify this loss.

3. We would welcome the opportunity of further discussions about the details of the proposals and to see a full assessment of their impact on the River Wandle and Wandle Valley Regional Park. This includes a vital section of the Wandle Trail – a dedicated long distance footpath running the course of the river – and conservation of the green corridor. In an area of green space deficiency this stretch of the River Wandle and the associated green corridor and Wandle Trail has been the focus of much attention and investment by TfL, local authorities, voluntary organisations (including Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, Living Wandle Landscape Partnership and Wandle Trust) and community groups. This section of the river provides an important natural habitat and an essential public amenity. It is also used as a feeding ground by a variety of species of bat, a protected species. The green corridor is already extremely narrow and needs to be enhanced rather than diminished by any new development.

4. In summary we urge the new proposals to be based on further assessment of the likely impact on the River Wandle and associated green corridor and Wandle Trail to show how they:

- Respect the vision of the Wandle as a “*naturally functioning, self sustaining*” river
- Amend the current plans to avoid any loss of existing green space or negative impact on the Wandle Trail
- Provide a sensitive boundary which enhances the urban landscape, improves habitat and supports use of the Wandle Trail
- Enhance the green corridor and improve the Wandle Trail, including its extension north of Trewint Street bridge

5. We would welcome a meeting bringing together local community groups and voluntary organisations (including Wandle Trust and Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust) to discuss the plans and look forward to further engagement as the proposals develop.

About Wandle Valley Forum

Wandle Valley Forum brings together people and organisations that care for the River Wandle and its diverse network of open spaces. We provide support and an independent voice for over 80 community groups & voluntary organisations and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle. Wandle Valley Forum monitors planning applications for developments which impact on the special qualities and character of the Wandle Valley. We make representations on developments which raise Valley-wide issues by reason of their strategic significance or potential to set a precedent.