



**LONDON PLAN**  
**A submission by Wandle Valley Forum to Mayor of London**

**March 2018**

1. Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 120 community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle. .
2. The Wandle Valley has metropolitan significance and warrants explicit recognition in London Plan policy. The River Wandle flows through four London Boroughs (Croydon, Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth) and the Wandle Valley Regional Park also includes Lambeth and Hammersmith & Fulham. The Valley also includes River Graveney/Norbury Brook which is a significant tributary running through Croydon, Lambeth, Wandsworth and Merton.
3. The Wandle's rich heritage, network of open spaces and the Wandle Trail are especially important for the quality of life for millions of residents and thousands of visitors. Its role is recognised in existing supplementary planning guidance in the All London Green Grid's Area 8. It has been the focus of a multi-million pound investment by Heritage Lottery Fund in the first urban landscape partnership. The Wandle Valley also provides an economic focus in the current London Plan and is the site of major industrial estates. It is estimated 20% of London's manufacturing employment is in the Wandle Valley. The important economic role is recognised by the contribution of the Wandle Valley to Strategic Industrial Locations in the new London Plan.
3. We have established our priorities for the Wandle Valley in the [Wandle Valley Forum Charter](#). This is grounded in the views of community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses that support us. It sets out a number of issues to be addressed through development plans in the Wandle Valley and we ask that the London Plan responds positively to these and supports their delivery.
4. The London Plan is welcome for its emphasis on London's environmental assets and the important role which is played by river valleys. We welcome recognition of its contribution to London's waterways and the intent of Policy SI14. Yet, the wording of Policy SI14 restricts planning policy on waterways to Marine Management Plans and the Thames Policy Areas. It does not embrace the full range of London's waterways identified in Figure 9.6. We seek a strengthening of Policy SI14 to acknowledge and address the strategic contribution of London's entire network of waterways (including the Wandle and River Graveney/Norbury Brook).
5. We welcome recognition of the contribution of Regional Parks in Table 8.1, albeit this goes beyond their role in providing networks of open spaces. The London Plan plays an

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important role in identifying those assets which embrace more than one London borough. We ask that explicit recognition is given in planning policy to this role and that the existing Regional Parks in London, including the Wandle Valley Regional Park, are identified in the supporting text and in a new map.

6. We welcome recognition of the contribution of Metropolitan Parks in Table 8.1, as distinct from Regional Parks. The London Plan should support their designation by Boroughs and address those which involve more than one Borough. We have identified the potential of a new Metropolitan Park stretching from Beddington Park (Sutton) across Beddington Farmland and Mitcham Common to Mitcham Fair Green (Merton). This is an area more than three times the size of Hyde Park which would benefit from coherent management, better access and protection through planning policy. We seek recognition for the role of Metropolitan Parks which involve more than one Borough, including the potential new Wandle Metropolitan Park.

7. The Wandle Valley has benefitted from the focus provided by the All London Green Grid. Its role as supplementary planning guidance has given weight to the Wandle Valley Regional Park and it has been successful in bringing stakeholders together around practical management and delivery of projects. The future of the All London Green Grid is uncertain. We seek continuing support through a supplementary planning document for London's green and blue infrastructure and specific guidance for the Wandle Valley.

8. The Wandle Trail is a key recreational resource in south west London. It suffers from a lack of continuity in key locations and from inappropriate development, clutter and signage. We welcome recognition in Policy SI16 for better use and enjoyment of waterways. We seek recognition for the need to close gaps in access along London's waterways (including the Wandle) and for high quality development that respects waterfronts, wildlife and the quiet enjoyment of waterways. All new development along the river should include dedicated public access along the river front which is at least 3m wide. We seek an additional map of London's key waterway trails and paths, including the Wandle Trail.

9. We support Policy HC3 identifying the importance of strategic and local views. Wandle Valley Forum is supporting a significant original research project being undertaken as part of the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership to identify and protect key vistas throughout the Wandle Valley. This will be published in 2018. We ask that the London Plan recognises and supports these vistas which stretch across Borough boundaries. They should be identified in local and neighbourhood plans.