



WANDLE DELTA MASTERPLAN
A submission by Wandle Valley Forum on the draft Supplementary Planning Document

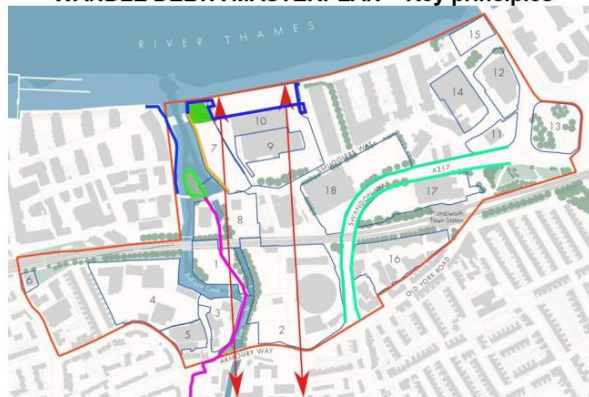
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1. Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 140 community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle. Many of our supporters are based in Wandsworth.

2. We welcome the initiative of producing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Wandle Delta. It is a neglected area of the Wandle Valley rich with opportunities for environmental improvements and increased public access and connectivity which will in turn provide economic opportunities that draw on the area's improving environmental quality. Strengthening the network of Wandle-related open spaces and the Wandle Trail are especially important for improving the quality of life and they provide the means to connect important areas of the Borough, including Wandsworth Town Centre and the Thames, and to support active travel and mental wellbeing.

3. We identified the following principles as part of the earlier masterplanning process for the Wandle Delta:

WANDLE DELTA MASTERPLAN – Key principles



	New Pocket Park		Extension of Wandle Trail		Enhancement of Wandle Trail
	Greening of Swanton Way "boulevard"		New routes for Thames Path (including use of Feathers Wharf walkway)		
	Enhancement of The Spit		Waterfront Wandsworth - better links between Wandsworth town centre & Thames		

The Masterplan should also be guided by the [Wandle Valley Forum Charter](#) setting out the Wandle community's priorities for the future of the Wandle Valley.

Wandle Valley Forum July 2020



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4. We have assessed the draft SPD against these principles and also the priorities established for the Wandle Valley in the [Wandle Valley Forum Charter](#). We note that in the outcome of public engagement over the Masterplan the “*most frequently made comment was to deliver the Wandle Trail*” (paragraph 1.5.5) and the final SPD needs to reflect this strong public support. We have also made [representations](#) on the Area Strategy for Wandsworth Town in the draft Local Plan which covers the SPD area.

5. We welcome the strategic intentions of the SPD. If delivered they would have a transformational impact on the area. They give strong recognition to the many roles played by the Wandle in securing improvements. We warmly welcome the intention to address longstanding community ambitions for an extension of the Wandle Trail through Feathers Wharf to reach the confluence with the Thames and to recognise this with a significant new public open space. This can be delivered in the very short term.

6. We believe the SPD can be strengthened in the following ways (with examples of relevant paragraphs):

- Explicitly recognise the need for a net gain in biodiversity within the Placemaking objectives through the “*biodiversity and habitat improvements*” (para 4.2.2) and for the Wandle Trail (para 5.3.10)
- Identify the Wandle Trail in Figures 22, 23 and 40 consistent with the commitment to make this “*a focus for the whole area*”, and include its route south of Armoury Way (para 5.2.3)
- Require green margins to be provided along the Wandle as well as new paths
- Secure a consistent approach to waymarking and identifying the Wandle Trail as part of the wider Wandle Valley Regional Park extending upstream to Sutton and Croydon as well as locally, and rationalise and remove the existing diverse and confusing collection of signs and route markers (para 5.3.10)
- Require all new and existing routes along and across the river to be designed and surfaced to minimise conflict between different users, especially between those on bike and on foot. For the Wandle Trail we commend the pedestrian priority and approach developed for towpaths by the [Canal and River Trust](#)
- Establish high design expectations of any new bridges over the Wandle (para 5.3.10, para 5.7.9)
- Support the extension of the Wandle Trail through Feathers Wharf to the confluence with the Thames independent from securing the high level walking connection at Western Riverside Waste Transfer Station for the Thames Path to ensure they can be pursued separately
- Ensure the new “Feathers Wharf Park” is located at the confluence of the Wandle and the Thames and not further south – this would fail to achieve the primary objective of recognising the point where the Wandle and the Thames meet and completing the Wandle Trail (para 5.3.19)
- Put more emphasis on the opportunities for enhancing The Spit as a critical point where Bell Lane Creek and the main river meet which provides compelling views of the confluence with the Thames from by the junction of the Wandle Trail and the Thames Path

- Ensure significant uplift in all routes within the area, including Swandon Way, as assessed by the [Healthy Streets Scorecard](#)
- Identify Wandle Valley Forum and Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust as key partners in enhancing the Wandle Trail as well as the River Wandle Catchment Partnership (which plays a less direct role in the Wandle Trail) (para 5.3.10)
- Address the need for work on the Wandle to contribute to naturalising the way it functions as a water course, as supported by London Plan Policy S117 and the Wandle Catchment Management Plan
- Recognise the historic significance of the Wandle itself and its related weirs and other structures in the river whose heritage value should be considered when determining planning applications for their alteration or removal
- Support development which creates more opportunities for local people to manage and run buildings as well as open spaces along the Wandle (para 5.3.31)
- Recognise the Wandle Vista of the Wandle Delta, acknowledging it is physically located in Hammersmith and Fulham. There is a strong evidence base supporting identification of this Wandle Vista from the [Wandle Vistas](#) report prepared for Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust and Wandle Valley Forum with funding from the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership. This work has been recognised with the RTPi's Excellence in Plan Making Practice award and the Landscape Institute's Award for Landscape Policy and Research.



- Require any new development in the Frogmore cluster to avoid shadowing of the Wandle or Bell Lane Creek which is likely to require a reduction in the proposals for up to 10 storey buildings adjacent to the river
 - Address the relationship with the All London Green Grid SPD which isn't mentioned and is retained as SPD as part of the new London Plan
 - Recognise the potential contribution of neighbourhood planning to delivery of the SPD – there is active consideration being given to development of a neighbourhood plan including the SPD area
7. We look forward to being kept involved in the SPD's progress.