

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership
Landscape Conservation Action Plan
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1. Executive Summary

The River Wandle is a relatively small chalk stream which rises from the chalk bedrock of the North Downs in Surrey and flows just over 20 miles North before reaching its confluence with the River Thames at Wandsworth, the old town which derives its name from the river. Like many other small rivers flowing through urban, industrialised areas, the river has undergone many changes through the centuries.

The river today is perhaps best known for its recent, fairly remarkable recovery from neglect and pollution, and also the collection of relics from its industrial past which can still be found along its banks.

Over the past 15 years a collection of local groups, environmental charities and trusts, and various stakeholders have been working together with representatives from the 4 Local Authorities (Sutton, Croydon, Merton, and Wandsworth) and agencies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency to address the threats and challenges which the river still faces.

This partnership working culminated in the formation of the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership.

Consultations undertaken by partners in the formative stages of the partnership identified a range of aspirations, aims and residual problems for the river, and also a range of potential projects to address these, which were set out as draft proposals in the Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund LPS application of 2010.

In the development phase of the scheme these projects have been tested and developed in further detail with key stakeholders and potential beneficiaries in order to set out a 4 year programme of costed project proposals which now form the basis of this document.

The Landscape Conservation Action Plan sets out how the partnership intends to achieve its aims and objectives, based upon a shared vision of providing a healthy functional landscape, whose built and natural heritage features are well preserved and well cared for, with a local population that benefits from a restored connection to the river.

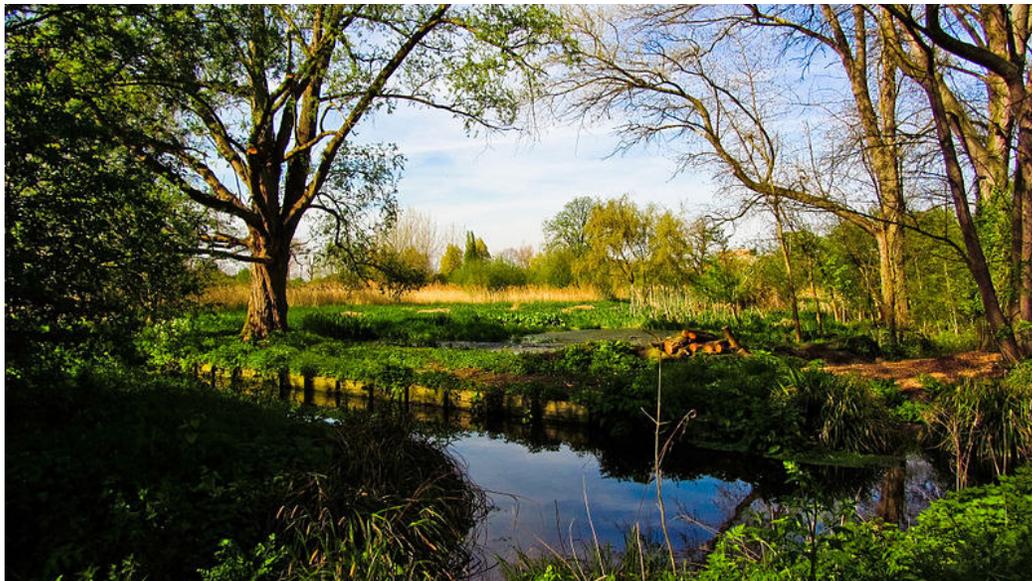
The partnership has given careful consideration to these initiatives and proposals, to ensure that they bring all the different aspects of the rivers heritage together in a series of related programmes, sharing skills and resources in order to bring tangible benefits to the river, its associated landscapes, and the communities which might benefit from this.

It sets out a strategy and methodology which will help to build skills and training within the communities and organisations which have been identified as having a significant role in the future stewardship of the river, and will put in place an improved network of communications, partnership working, and resource sharing in order to safeguard the future of the river.

Stephen Crabtree

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme Development Officer

December 2012



River Wandle at Morden Hall Park

2. Introduction

2.1 Introduction – Telling the story so far

The Wandle has been well used since Roman times and was heavily industrialised in the 17th and 18th century when it played a significant role in the Industrial Revolution with its waters powering over 100 mills, mostly engaged in the production of textiles and tobacco.

This intensive industrialisation of the river led to it being declared one of the most polluted in the country.

As London expanded, and the Wandle Valley became much more urbanised through the 19th and 20th century, the state and health of the river, and the apparent lack of love for the river, were reflected in the way that the emergent urban development related to the river.

As the old towns of Wandsworth, Merton and Croydon expanded to become a more homogenised suburb of South London, the new development of housing estates and industrial areas sprung up with their backs firmly to the river, which was often seen as an inconvenient, and potentially hazardous, open sewer.

The legacy of this development has greatly shaped the character of the river we see before us today ; an almost secret green ribbon, often difficult to access and disconnected from neighbourhoods, squeezing its way through a variety of landscapes and ecological zones over a relatively short distance. It is, however, in some of these perceived problems and failings of the river that we find a unique special character, and some clues to what the future might hold for the Wandle.

The green shoots of spring

Poor sewage treatment and pollutants from the heavy industries located along the river combined to make the river, and much of its surrounding floodplain, a very unappealing area through much of the 20th century. However, a number of factors have recently contributed to a renaissance for the river:

Improvements in sewage treatment at the Beddington plant have led to an improvement in water quality and diversity of wildlife around the river. Much of the heavy industry lining the river bank has gone, and environmental directives and initiatives, reflecting a growing understanding of environmental issues by the public, have emerged since the 1970s aimed at protecting and conserving natural watercourses. Perhaps most importantly, within this expanding urban framework which

surrounds the river, local people started to take an interest in the Wandle, coming together in little groups at first, and forming partnerships to try and bring the river back to life again.

Great improvements to water quality over the last 20 years have led to a burgeoning fish population, bringing anglers back to its banks again. The improved range of flora and fauna, again resulting chiefly from this improvement in water quality, meant that increasing numbers of urban South Londoners, looking for some change and respite from the built environment, started to find their way down to the river.

Little groups and networks of these people who were rediscovering the river started to come together and organise themselves, arranging working parties within their communities to remove litter and make minor improvements to the river. As their ranks started to swell and these groups became more organised, they started to forge links and relationships with their local Councils and the Environment Agency (seen as the de facto “guardians” of the river) as well as organisations such as Natural England, The Groundwork Trust, and the London Wildlife Trust, with the aim of recognising the river valley as a valuable amenity, and pooling everyone’s resources efficiently to restore and protect this amenity.

In 2000, the Wandle Trust was formed, an environmental charity dedicated to restoring and maintaining the health of the Wandle and its catchment area. In the past 12 years, the Trust has made a significant contribution to the return to health of the river, focusing not just on making physical and environmental improvements to the river, but most importantly engaging local communities in this process; involving them in both physical improvements and also the wider strategic process of partnership working with other organisations and agencies. The work of the Trust has effectively augmented the “tide turning” hard work undertaken by the other organisations, agencies, charities and other (often un-constituted and unaligned) groups of people and individuals all working towards the common goal of restoring, protecting and reactivating the River Wandle.

What we now see, looking at the Wandle compared to, say 20 years ago, is a river, and a landscape character area, which appears to be improving in health and fortune, due to the hard work of a lot of individuals and organisations working together in a partnership that is often loose and informal, but has developed a lot of ways of working together.

This change of fortune, and marked improvement to the river, is however still fragile.

There are still threats remaining which could detrimentally affect the river, and much more work still to be done. In a time of economic uncertainty where the budgets of some of the organisations, and the amount of time local people can devote to the river become reduced, political priorities change and there is a danger that a lot of the hard work could become undone, and the river slip back towards decline.

The Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme has come into being at a point which could be crucial crossroads for the river. It is a culmination of all of the various stakeholders and interested parties working together with all the agencies which influence the Wandle in order to capitalise on the successes so far and the ground-swell and momentum of the partnership approach to caring for the Wandle. The partnership which has emerged has already has a major influence informing and helping to develop a series of improvement projects and initiatives aimed at reconnecting more people with the river, addressing the threats and supporting a shared vision for the Wandle. They have consulted upon, refined and agreed upon a set of proposals which will have a great impact upon the river, and, crucially, peoples relationship with the Wandle.

2.2 What is the project vision?

“A vibrant healthy, sustainable, multi-functional landscape in which people recognise and are inspired by the natural and cultural heritage of the valley and river”.

The main aim of the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme is to revitalise the Wandle as an identifiable, high quality asset for the communities of South London, through engagement with the natural and built heritage of the river. Living Wandle will promote access to a healthy, multi-functional landscape with opportunities to involve local people in a range of projects and activities which celebrate the heritage, culture, landscape and bio-diversity of the river. The project will seek to establish the Wandle as a defining landscape signature for this part of London and provide opportunities for local people and visitors to explore the river beyond their doorstep.

There is an over-arching principle of “joining up the dots” helping to drive the project forward – taking the rich heritage of the area, the success stories so far and the key features, and the people of the Wandle, and connecting all of this together by delivering good examples of partnership working and examples of projects to restore the key features in strategic locations, delivering an effective programme of participation in these restoration projects, and by providing access improvements (both

physically and intellectually) as well as learning and training initiatives connected to the river.

The partnership recognises that there are a lot of identified opportunities which can help to revitalise the river and reconnect communities to it. Whilst some of these opportunities might involve manipulating some of the landscapes within the river valley to provide function for the adjacent communities and visitors from further afield, they can be undertaken in a careful, strategic manner. Interventions will be balanced in harmony with the protection of the river, its surrounding landscape, and the fragile ecosystems connected to it, whilst still retaining the original character and tranquillity of the area.

The individual projects we have chosen to implement to achieve this vision have been carefully selected from a “menu” of potential improvement initiatives which have emerged from the concerns and desires of local people and agreed aims and objectives identified in wider strategic visioning for the area (such as the All London Green Grid). The projects were carefully selected, consulted upon, and agreed as being the areas which we feel will give maximum impact for the costs involved. They will be effectively connected in order to realise the potentials of partnership working, and to address some of the major gaps and key priorities identified in stakeholder consultations.

2.3 How will we do this?

The projects selected have been developed in a balanced programme of proposals which address 4 key themes:

- Conserving and restoring the heritage
- Increasing community participation
- Improving access and learning
- Providing training and skills

As well as securing capital investment to restore and improve key features along the Wandle, all of the projects are designed to involve the communities living in the valley. The main driver for the partnership scheme is to “re-connect local people to the river”, an aim which will require more than just investing in the restoration and conservation of some of its key assets. Many of the “physical” projects involve local people in their development, design process and decision making, and in many cases, in the actual construction process of the projects themselves. Many of the community projects and the volunteering opportunities and associated training programmes “wrap around” or support these physical projects.

Some of the projects appear to sit slightly independently but have less obvious links, or make connections to other opportunities and initiatives outside the Partnership, offering links and “ways in” for new audiences. The individual projects themselves and how many of these links and connections actually work are described in Chapter 7 (Scheme plans and costs), with full projected plans and proposals included in the Appendices.

What gives this delivery plan its real strength, however, is the way in which they will be delivered in a carefully structured and well planned partnership, with the involvement, education and training of local people at its core.

This will be achieved, chiefly, by sharing resources and information. The coordination of resources, audiences and volunteers will be managed by a centralised programme delivery team. The programme has been sequenced over the life of the project so that specific projects support each other and so that some of the works (particularly contracts) can be shared (saving on start-up costs, overheads and contract preliminaries).

Materials produced in some projects (such as oral histories) are then used in later projects (such as theatre and arts projects and the “Discover the Source of the Wandle” programme).

Improved locations and features are then used as “venues” for other projects, such as river reaches improved through the catchment plan being used as outdoor classroom, or the re-modelled Merton Priory chapterhouse being used as another potential venue for a theatre/ arts production.

Audiences, participants, and volunteers will be engaged throughout the projects and managed efficiently by the delivery team controlling a well-planned “roster” or programme of participatory opportunities which is open to all and promoted widely across the project area.

2.4 How did we arrive at this project partnership?

2.4.1.1

The genesis of the LWLP partnership came about due to a desire amongst the key stakeholders and landowners to bring about more effective change in the improvements being made to the river through better communication and co-ordination, and by the initiative of establishing the Wandle Valley Regional Park (WVRP) in order to protect and enhance the river valley as a key community asset.

During the establishment of the WVRP, key working groups were established to gauge the opinions of user groups and members of the public, and to ensure that a two way communication process was in place as the aims and objectives for the WVRP were being formulated. These working groups drew in representatives from the local communities, as well the landowners and riparian managers of the river, societies and organisations with specialised interests in the river, and officers from both local and national government agencies with a stake in protecting and enhancing the river. As the complexities of planning for, and managing changes in the river valley became clear, it was apparent that a more global partnering arrangement, independent of the WVRP, was needed.

A landscape partnership “group” was initially formed by Wandsworth Council to try and coalesce the different, often complex, conditions and challenges associated with trying to bring about change. This partnership group brought together representatives from these identified stakeholders including organisations such as the Wandle Trust, the National Trust, London Wildlife Trust and Groundwork Trust; many of these already having a track record of working together in the Wandle Valley

This formative partnership was also bolstered by the inclusion of the Wandle Valley Forum – whose sole aim is to represent and air the views of the people and communities of the Wandle, independently from any of the views, policies and politics of any of the more formal agencies at the table.

The partnership, which now represented all the key landowners, managers, key stakeholders and, most importantly, the wider public, then set about trying to identify key issues and possible solutions for the River Wandle. This dedicated, and efficient, approach led to the recognition of the Wandle as a key asset in a lot of wider strategic planning initiatives (such as the All-London Green Grid Area Framework 8) and also the preparation and submission of the stage 1 project proposal in 2011.

2.4.1.2 Changes during the development phase

The original Stage 1 proposal set out a series of projects to deliver a range of objectives across the four themes seen as being critical to achieving the key aims of the partnership.

During the development phase, some of these proposed projects were not possible or feasible to take forward:

1) Due to major funding cuts and restructuring within Sutton Council, they were no longer able to provide resources to take forward the Gateways

project, nor the Climate Change Awareness project. The Gateways project has been taken on by the WVRP as the lead partner, and the Climate change awareness project was developed by the partnership development officer and scoped as a project to be cliented by the delivery team (Wandsworth council) during the delivery phase, using appointed consultants and enablers to deliver key elements (see also Chapter 7 “Scheme plans and Costs”)

2) The proposed restoration of Ravensbury Mill was eventually determined to be impractical within the lifetime of the partnership project, due to a protracted legal issue. This project was replaced by the inclusion of the Merton Priory Chapter House project which addresses the same objective of restoring and reactivating a very important historic building of the Wandle.

3) Poulter Park backwater, which was in the stage 1 application under the title “creating backwaters” was dropped from the scheme as it was proving almost impossible to establish ownership of the particular piece of land involved. The project was replaced by Ravensbury Park main channel which fulfils an almost identical objective.

3. Understanding the area and its heritage

3.1 Introduction

The River Wandle is a chalk river which emerges from a spring line at the foot of the North Downs and flows due north to its confluence with the River Thames. The Wandle Valley includes parts of the boroughs of Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton and Croydon.

The topography within the Landscape Area is relatively level: the shallow ridges that enclose the valley lie outside the Natural Landscape Area (see NLA 15 and NLA 17). The bedrock throughout this area is London Clay, with alluvium deposits along the valley bottom and gravel formations on valley sides. The gravels were deposited as river terraces mainly in cold periods between about 350 000 and 70 000 years ago. There are also deposits of undifferentiated glacial till at South Wimbledon and on the valley sides at Earlsfield and Southfields. The soil throughout the valley is seasonally wet deep clay surrounded by seasonally wet deep loam. The majority of the Wandle River is bordered by industrial developments and is crossed frequently by road and rail bridges. Long stretches of the river are channelled through revetment works. Historically the river was a focus for settlement and industry.

Watermills along the river banks milled flour from locally grown wheat and the villages along the river prospered from their proximity to London and ample opportunities to supply and trade with the markets of the City. The mills continued to drive industrial growth through the 18th and 19th centuries, when the Wandle Valley was a centre for paper making, metal working, leather, textiles, gun powder and oil mills. The growth of the railways led to a boom in housing development and a rapid transformation in the character of the river valley from rural to urban. Most of the industrial developments are surrounded by Victorian terraces. There are also post-war tower block developments in Wandsworth and extensive residential developments. Many of the open spaces close to the river (the original bleaching and drying fields for the mills) have become industrial estates, but some riverside parkland associated with the grand 18th- and 19th-century houses of industrial entrepreneurs are now public open spaces. The remaining open spaces make up a fragmented corridor along the Wandle. Most are maintained as amenity grassland at parks and recreation grounds, but there are small areas of semi-natural habitat: for instance patches of native woodland between the Mitcham industrial estate and Morden Hall, areas of reed bed at Morden Hall Park, and

acidic grassland at Lambeth Cemetery. The open spaces alongside the river have been 'squeezed' by urban development and there are very few places where a sense of the natural river, within its floodplain water meadow setting, remains intact. The natural signature of the river valley expresses the natural character of the meandering chalk river, which historically would have flowed within a narrow, intimate floodplain, with water meadows, ponds, oxbows and rush pastures grading to areas of drier meadow and woodland. There would have been patches of wet woodland in parts of the floodplain and the sinuous path of the river would have been marked by winding lines of trees. Elements of this pattern remain in open spaces along the river today. The River Wandle has long been a focus for settlement and industrial activity and the natural signature also includes bridges, riverside paths and river bank steps, as well as elements of industrial archaeology, such as mill traces, leats, ponds and moats.

3.2 The influence of human settlement on the landscape

The primeval natural landscape of wildwood, marsh and open clearings which would have been found in the valley was subject to some modification by the hunter gatherer peoples of the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. Flint axes were used to fell trees for firewood or wooden tools, particularly on drier land along the side of a river which offered good access to fish and water. Palaeolithic flint tools have been found in the gravel terraces which were deposited over the Palaeolithic land surface following the more recent glaciations which ended at about 10,000BC. Flint tools from this period have been found around St Anne's Church in Wandsworth. Mesolithic flint implements are more frequently found in the areas around the headwaters of the river at Waddon, Beddington and Carshalton, close to the camp site from this period which has been identified at Orchard Hill.

A move away from the nomadic towards a more settled lifestyle began during the Neolithic period, and this is likely to have led to woodland clearance occurring around each settlement site. Pottery making made use of clay deposits exposed along the river, and evidence of pottery from this period has been found at Mitcham. The development of metal alloying and casting skills during the Bronze Age between 2400 and 700 BC encouraged the development of settlements. Herding of livestock and sowing of cereals would have encouraged further woodland clearance and cropping of the lighter soils, most probably those located on the Thanet sands and the higher gravel terraces. Bronze implements from this period have been found at Beddington and Carshalton, whilst bronze age

weapons have been dredged from the silts at the mouth of the River where it meets the Thames.

3.2.1 Iron Age

The Iron Age period (700 BC to 43AD) was characterised by the construction of defensive encampments which have been found at Beddington Wallington and Carshalton. A series of underground chambers near Waddon Ponds, are also thought to date from this period. The development of iron tools would have made it easier to fell trees to create pasture and till the land, although it is likely that much of the heavier London clay soils were still marshland or woodland at this stage.

3.2.2 The Romans

The Romans would have found a partially cleared mixed mosaic of woodland marsh and grassland in the Wandle valley following their main invasion in 43AD. Native settlements on drier land along the edges of the valley would have been located close to a series of small cultivated fields with pasture land, marsh and woodland all of some importance to the local people who would have valued the fish in the river.

The Romans founded Londinium shortly after their arrival and built a series of military roads to link their towns. Stane street, the road from Londinium to Noviomagus Reginorum (Chichester) runs across the Wandle near Merton Bridge close to the site of what later became Merton Priory, and then continued through Morden on the line which is now followed by the A24. Another road, towards Brighton crossed the river between Waddon Ponds and Purley Way.

Whilst much of the landscape which had slowly been cleared by the native tribes was unaffected by the Roman invasions, we do know that the Romans helped to increase the area under cultivation, for the production of cereals to help feed the army and associated camp followers. At this stage the first mills were built on the river to harness the steep falls for the milling of grain into flour. Roman villas were generally part of a large farm and the villa and bath-house which has been identified at Beddington may well have been part of such a complex.

3.2.3 Saxon Period

The Saxon period saw the development of small villages at strategic points through the valley, which included the sites of settlements which exist today.

A Saxon cemetery has been identified at Mitcham close to the River and may be the site of the Battle of Merton in 871 in which King Ethelred of Wessex was mortally wounded.

The villages of Croydon, Beddington Carshalton and Mitcham are all likely to have had Saxon origins. The pattern of parish boundaries and the locations of churches may also date from this period in a number of cases.

3.2.4 The Normans

The Norman Conquest brought the surveyors of the Domesday book to the Wandle valley and they have provided a record of the various manors, villages and landowners at that time. It tells us that the village of Carshalton held 12 acres of meadow and a mill, that Morden also held a mill whilst Beddington had 2 mills as well as 20 acres of woodland and 24 acres of meadow. Sutton and Mitcham are also mentioned as are Tooting and Streatham which were all small villages at the time. In all 13 mills were recorded on the river at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086.

3.2.5 Medieval Period

A series of manors and ecclesiastical institutions grew from the Saxon and Norman origins, profiting from the power of the river and proximity to London which enabled local producers to supply and trade with the markets of the city. The main product taken east is likely to have been the flour milled from locally grown wheat by the water mills on the river.

Merton Priory was an important religious institution which was founded in 1117 and given royal patronage by Queen Matilda, Henry III and Edward III. It occupied a key site next to the river and grew to occupy an area of 60 acres before its dissolution by Henry VIII in 1538.

Morden hall was owned by Westminster Abbey and subsequently sold at the time of the Dissolution. The deer park may have been added later in the 16th Century.

Carew Manor in Beddington was formed by the merging of two estates in 1381. The Carew family subsequently built a Tudor Great Hall and created a deer park in the 1530's which covered all of the current Beddington Park, the site of the sewage works and Mitcham Common.

In addition to areas of enclosed parkland there would have been areas of parish common land, woodland and meadow.

3.2.6 Post Medieval Period

Although the post medieval river was driving some 24 mills the water quality was still good and the river supported a brown trout fishery which is mentioned by Camden, and subsequently Isaac Walton. This was clearly an important amenity which was the subject of a Royal edict in 1606 which made the river a Royal preserve.

The Post medieval landscape of the Wandle valley was subject to the influence and commercial demands of the city of London. Better quality land would have supplied market garden crops to the city markets following enclosure of the open fields; however the process of enclosure was slow and had not been completed by the 19th century. Crops of carrots, parsnips and turnips were also being grown in open field strips throughout this period. Hay for London horses would have been cut from meadows and Lammas land in the valley bottoms, carters would return with manures from London stables after making the deliveries, to nourish the root crops on the gravel soils.

The mills were attracting other industrial processes to the area, this included the growth of the cloth industry which started with the fulling of woollen cloth in the 13th century and had expanded to occupy 4 mills in Carshalton Wandsworth Wimbledon and Merton by the 16th Century. Foreign expertise was attracted to the area and a number of French Huguenot émigrés settled in the Wandsworth area in the 17th century as a result of religious intolerance in France. They helped to develop the calico industry (treating imported cotton cloth) the dyeing industry and the felt hat industry, particularly in the Wandsworth area.

3.2.7 18th Century

The mills continued to drive forward the industrial processes of 18th century London, with further industries developing along the valley. These included paper and parchment making, leather, gunpowder and oil mills as well as snuff milling. The metal industry also became an important user of the rivers power, with iron ore being crushed prior to smelting and then iron blanks being rolled cut and drilled using the power from the river.

Copper was also shaped, stamped and pressed by mills on the Wandle to form kettles pots pans and even the blanks for farthings and halfpennies.

The industrialisation process made wealthy men of the entrepreneurs who owned the mills and often subsequently invested in building fine houses in the local area. An analysis of the homes of the local gentry in the 18th Century would have included members of the London aristocracy and

gentry who favoured the area for their country homes, as well as city merchants, lawyers and government servants. Many of the fine houses and large gardens from this period survive today including Grove House, Morden Lodge, The Grange, Strawberry Lodge, Wandle Villa and the grounds of Carshalton House. Morden Hall Park is now managed by the National Trust although the house, like many of the other buildings has been converted to a non-residential use.

The 18th century landscape of the valley was becoming more heavily populated with the expansion of the villages, and the ever increasing influence of London. Croydon in particular had expanded to a population of 6000 by 1801, making it the largest town anywhere near London. The city of London with a population of 900,000 at the end of the 18th century sucked in a prodigious amount of food and other supplies from the surrounding area and the Upper Wandle supplied large amounts of watercress to the hungry city.

The mouth of the Wandle had been developed as a harbour and was the starting point for the Surrey Iron Railway, which was to take horse drawn carts to Portsmouth, although it was only a limited success and was only built as far as Merstham.

Wandsworth was however dominated by the calico industry which employed three quarters of the population of the village at that time, focussed on the mills and factories along the river and associated bleaching and treatment ponds and drying areas.

3.2.8 Victorian Change

Improvements to the transport systems around London were a major feature of the changes which brought housing development closer to the valley during the Victorian era. London was growing rapidly to satisfy an international demand for goods and trade. The whole economy was booming and there was a massive demand for offices, docks warehousing, factories and staff to work in them. The development of the railways helped to provide transport into the capital and the London and South Western railway depot at Nine Elms was built in 1838 as part of the rail building programme which brought lines and stations to Wandsworth and Wimbledon. Rail links to Croydon were subsequently built, then a Croydon to Epsom line. Horse drawn trams followed the newly improved roads and took commuters into the city or to the stations. This stimulated the growth of the south London suburbs which were starting to spread into the Wandle catchment through the Victorian period.

The mills on the river continued to power a range of industrial processes, these changed from time to time as demands for one product dropped and others rose. Milling of flour continued, as did the iron, leather, dyeing and calico printing mills.

One of the Merton Abbey Mills was purchased by William Morris the pre Raphaelite artist, architect and social reformer in 1881 to expand his design and textile company producing textiles and subsequently glassware in accordance with his socialist principles. Another mill was used by Liberty and Co to produce their silk and other fabric designs up until the 1970's.

The production and treatment of fabrics was not confined to the inside of the mills. Initially during the 18th Century bleaching of the imported calico fabric took place in the open air in bleaching grounds, where the fabric was bleached by the sun. The printed fabrics were also laid out in the meadows to dry even during the time when Morris, Liberty and Co were using the area.

Historical mapping of the valley shows that in spite of the new railway embankments crossing the river the valley was still relatively rural at the end of the Victorian period. New housing had been built around the new railway stations at Croydon, Carshalton, Earlsfield, Mitcham, Morden, Merton Abbey and Merton Park.

The upper arm of the Wandle had originally risen above the old town of Croydon as a seasonal winterbourne, running from Purley in the south and joining a spring next to the Brighton road, but abstraction has now lowered the water table to make the springs next to Waddon ponds the current source of the Croydon arm

Croydon had reached the size of a small town in the 1830's and further growth put pressure on the river which supplied the town with drinking water and then received much of the towns waste. It was thought to be responsible for outbreaks of cholera in 1840. There were also a series of court cases between the mill owners and the Croydon Council over the quality of the water. This forced the town to appoint a board of health and undertake sanitary improvements in the 1850's. This included the building of a sewage works which was initially located on the east side of Wandle Park and discharged into the river. The town was one of the largest located so close to London and was incorporated as a Borough in the 1880's.

Victorian Carshalton was a large and genteel country village (4800 people in 1887) with a cluster of grand houses around the ponds, which had been

formed from marshland as part of a series of ornamental works by the owners of the two manors; Carshalton Park and Stone Court. Carshalton Park was the original source of this part of the Wandle, but abstraction from the aquifer has meant that the source is now often further downstream at the Upper pond, which is artificially maintained by pumping.

Merton Abbey station was built on the site of Merton Priory during the 1850's as part of a link between Streatham and Wimbledon, triggering some late Victorian housing in this and the adjoining Colliers Wood areas. The station was short lived however and was removed in the mid-20th century

3.2.9 The 20th Century

The 20th century has seen major expansions into the Wandle valley of residential development and industrial uses. The construction of what is now the Northern underground line in 1929, and the construction of a series of residential estates, particularly the Phipps Bridge and St Helier estates by the London County Council in the 1930's has changed the rural river valley of the Victorian era and dramatically squeezed the area of open space associated with the river. Many of the areas of open space close to the river, which were associated with the mills, such as the calico bleaching grounds and leather drying fields were to become industrial estates, as have some of the nine beds which once supplied watercress to London markets. The traditional mill industries have been replaced by either related or new industries; these include chemical, plastic, paint and electrical components.

Power for the industries and residential areas is now supplied by intrusive high voltage cables carried on tall pylons from the national grid to switching stations beside the river at Plough Lane. Depots for council waste Lorries are also based close to the river.

A growing population has led to increased pumping from boreholes, and the lowering of the water table which supplies the headwaters of the river. The supply springs have dried up in periods of drought and made what were once ornamental lakes little more than muddy puddles. This problem led to the culverting over of the Wandle through Wandle Park Croydon in 1967.

As well as the increased risk of drought, the increased population has produced considerable volumes of waste water, and up until the 1960's the Wandle was classified as an open sewer. Improvements to the Beddington waste water treatment plant in the 1970's and 1980's have

now helped to enable improvements in water quality sufficient for reintroduced brown trout to survive in the river.

The urbanisation of the valley has led to an increased rate of run off as precipitation falls in the catchment. This has caused problems with flooding which were particularly severe in 1956. Major flood alleviation works were undertaken in the late 1950's which increased the capacity of the river channels and the speed at which water flowed down to the Thames. The natural channels and channels which had been modified to serve the mills were deepened or straightened. In some cases the channels were lined with concrete or further culverted. The River Graveney which joins the Wandle at Summertown is now so heavily concreted and culverted from its source at the head of the Norbury Brook that most local people do not even realise it was once a river.

Although many of the grand 18th and 19th century houses have now been lost or redeveloped, in many cases local authorities have stepped in and bought the ornamental grounds which border the river and these open spaces are now in public hands.

There has been considerable and often vocal local support for efforts to safeguard the heritage of the river, dating back to the 19th century when John Ruskin the art critic and social reformer funded the clearance of a spring and building of a fountain in Carshalton.

The threat of development led to the formation of the River Wandle open spaces committee before the First World War, and the creation of some sections of river walk, it also enabled the purchase of land at Watermeads which was given to the National Trust in 1911. Further gifts to the trust included land at Morden Hall in 1941. The GLC created a River Wandle Liaison group in 1969, and then subsequently the Wandle Group was formed in 1973. These two groups helped to establish the Wandle trail and co-ordinated various improvement works. The Wandle Trust was formed in 2001 as an environmental charity and has masterminded a series of projects to help clean up and restore the river, taking a particular interest in water quality and community action.

A new attitude to the river has been brought about by the increased interest and awareness of environmental issues during the last thirty years. The remaining areas of open land in the catchment have been designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and local authorities are all working together to help enhance the river and recognise its value as an amenity. Redevelopments which take place close to the river are now

planned to take more account of the river and making provision for the Wandle Trail where appropriate.



The Wandle Chintz by William Morris, produced at Liberty Mill, Merton



Snuff Mill at Morden Hall Park

3.3 The landscape character found today

3.3.1 Upper River Wandle

Despite reductions in flow caused by water abstraction, the Wandle is still one of the finest chalk streams in London, and the river supports an exceptionally diverse aquatic flora. The river has natural banks for some of its length and here it supports abundant and diverse marginal vegetation. This often extends into various associated wetland sites situated alongside the river, sometimes developed on disused watercress beds. Other uncommon plants include ragged-robin, marsh-marigold, sharp-flowered rush and water chickweed. There is a large and diverse fish community, which includes dace, chub and bullhead. Breeding birds include kingfisher, grey wagtail and reed warbler and wetland invertebrates include several nationally rare moths. Small areas of wet woodland also occur beside the river and on islands.

3.3.1.1 Key spaces of the upper river

Wandle Park (Croydon) – Wandle Park is currently being renovated. It was an area of open space with occasional ornamental trees (which are located around the former pond which was filled in during the 1960's) over the culverted river. However a lottery funded project has restored the river and a pond as well as providing restored and enhanced facilities. These include a new playground, outdoor gym and bandstand, café, toilets, new skate park and ball court area.

Waddon Ponds - Waddon Ponds is a relatively small but well used area of ornamental gardens and ponds which is largely surrounded by pre and post war housing. Access along Mill Lane to the north now feeds a large industrial estate although the former corn mill remains, although the mill pond was replaced by watercress beds and later industry. The ponds are fed by springs which now act as the source of the Croydon branch of the Wandle, as the higher springs which once fed the river have dried out through over abstraction of the chalk aquifer. The facilities include the ponds, ornamental gardens, playground and toilets.

Beddington Park -The Grange and Manor gardens form the western most part of Beddington Park which was formerly a deer park attached to the medieval palace of Carew Manor (now a school) on the eastern side of the park. Historically Carew Manor dates from the 15th Century, and held a much larger area of land, and was laid out with grand avenues and a lake in front of the manor in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was purchased as a public park in the 1920's and is managed by London Borough of Sutton who are also responsible for Grange and Manor Parks on the

eastern side of the area. These more intensive ornamental gardens were laid out in the Victorian era and purchased by the council in the 1930's, along with the Grange which is now a restaurant. Current facilities include ornamental lakes and ponds which are fed by the Croydon branch of the river, football pitches, tennis courts, cafe's & restaurants as well as play areas and a skate park. Church Paddock and the Warren are areas of pitches and woodland which lie to the south and east of Carew Manor.

3.3.2 Middle reaches of the Wandle

The character of the Wandle and its water quality change to the north of Goat Bridge once the Beddington effluent carrier joins the river. This provides much of the water flowing through the middle section of the river, which becomes broader and deeper as a result. The river flows past a series of parks and open spaces, many of which incorporate former ornamental parks which were created for private landowners in the 18th or 19th centuries. The river becomes more urban in character below Morden Hall Park and is tightly squeezed between housing and industry although Wandle Park, Colliers Wood, and Wandle Meadow Nature Park offer open space adjoining the river. These middle reaches, are characterised by the wider and deeper channel which often flows through parkland with relics of ornamental plantings, although typically the river is defined by willow and poplar trees, which on occasion hide the river from the adjoining open space.

3.3.2.1 Key spaces of the middle reaches of the Wandle

Wandle Meadow Nature Park – The only sizeable area with wetlands beside the river is at Wandle Meadow Nature Park (a Local Nature Reserve). This valuable informal park was developed on the site of an old sewage treatment works. It includes temporary water bodies, wet grassland and wet woodland, drier grassland developing over the old concrete surfaces, and scrub and woodland on debris mounds and beside the river. It is an excellent place to see wetland plants and animals, including some which are otherwise uncommon in the vicinity. The drier grasslands support a rich flora and are colourful in the spring and early summer.

Morden Hall Park & Deen City Farm – One of the National Trust's few urban parks, Morden Hall Park spans the River Wandle, which is divided here into a network of mill leats, moats and other channels. Alongside there are meadows, marsh, wet woodland and parkland trees with a variety of aquatic flora and fauna. An area beside the Wandle is kept wet and supports a valuable stand of sedge and wet grassland, a remnant of the

original floodplain habitat. The wetlands support breeding kingfisher, grey wagtail, reed bunting and water rail. Away from the river, the value lies in the old trees and the meadows, now managed for their traditional wildflowers, which attract butterflies in the summer. The best meadows are on the old river terrace in the east of the park, including the former medieval open West Field of Mitcham, the ridges and furrows of which can still be seen.

Wandle Park – Wandle Park in Colliers Wood was formerly the site of Wandle Park House, built about 1791. The house was demolished in 1962. Before it was straightened, the River Wandle used to flow through the park, but after that the old course was left as an arm of the river, which subsequently dried up. It has now been restored and water once more flows south to north diagonally across the park from its southern corner. A new reed bed has been developed to enhance the quality of the water

3.3.3 Lower River Wandle reaches

Downstream of the Wandle River Nature Park the banks of the Wandle are well wooded, with some wetland influence close to the river especially north of Plough Lane. Upstream of Wandle Park the interest on the banks is more limited, as the adjacent open space is narrow and dry. Tributary streams such as Bunce's Ditch have been landscaped in conjunction with new housing developments. One of these – Pickle Ditch – is the sole remnant of the original course of the Wandle along this entire length in Merton, the other channels being the result of straightening and mill race construction dating back more than 300 years.

3.3.3.1 Key spaces of the lower Wandle

King Georges Park - King Georges Park is a narrow strip of former flood plain which runs parallel to the river and lies to the west of the Wandle. The southern part is contiguous with the river, whilst the northern part is separated from the river (which is in tunnel at this point) by the Southside shopping centre, housing, and offices, which are currently being redeveloped. King George's park is typical of the *Municipal parks and sports fields'* landscape character type, holding a range of facilities with few natural areas. The park is subdivided by Kimber road, which separates the leisure areas, a bowls club, tennis and pond from the playing fields to the south. A range of children's play facilities are located in the centre of the park. There are lines of mature trees and a limited area of riverside walk which does include naturalistic planting.



The Lower Reaches – Earlsfield



The tidal mouth of the Wandle

The Wetlands and their importance

Historically, when the river was less subjected to man's influence in channelling and controlling the flow, the Wandle would have been a much more meandering stream, with significant areas of wetlands which would have cushioned the peaks and troughs of water flow by absorbing excessive flows, attenuating the excess water within their marshy, springy confines, and then releasing it again during the floods ebb. Wetlands like this are traditionally located in lower lying "backwaters" and flood plains adjacent to the river, and crucially, at a smaller scale, in the bends of rivers where some alluvial silts and organic materials have collected and built up leading to the establishment of reed beds and other soft, permeable edges to the river, allowing the whole river system to absorb excess water.

Much of this character (and therefore the rivers ability to absorb and slow-release) has been lost over the years as the river has been straightened and canalised. Some (fairly significant) wetlands survive, notably at;

- Watermeads wetland Nature Reserve
- Morden Hall Park
- Bennett's Hole
- Wilderness Island
- Spencer Road wetlands
- Wandle Valley Wetlands

These are currently mostly managed by the National Trust and London Wildlife Trust, and conserved in their natural states (as much as possible). There are also a number of smaller projects which have been undertaken recently to restore some of the smaller "wetland" initiatives in bends and eddies of the river, mostly initiated by the Wandle Trust, the National Trust, and London Wildlife Trust. Good examples of this re-naturalising wetland edge can be seen at Carshalton, Wilderness Island, Bennett's Hole, Ravensbury Park, and Morden Hall Park.

The importance of these wetlands, and of creating more of these, is illustrated in the Landscape Character Assessment (see Appendices). Climate change is likely to lead to more extreme rainfall and greater storm surging in the river catchment area. These wetlands contribute enormously to improving flood management in the Wandle Valley. They also provide natural water treatment, contributing to aeration and oxygenation, and cleansing water through bacterial root action and removing nitrates (for

plant growth). One of the key recommendations from the LCA is that more projects to restore, repair, and provide new wetland areas where possible should be delivered in order to both make the river a much more robust one for addressing flooding and climate change, and also to help restore the “signature” of the River Wandle

3.3.4 The modern signature of The River Wandle

Landscape Signature is a term used to define a given areas unique distinctiveness or “sense of place”. It is the way in which a whole range of natural, built, and cultural layers help to give a place a sense of identity

Landscape Signature is derived from the complex interaction of a variety of different forces. These include the natural environment; geology, topography drainage, soils and biology and how human actions have modified the natural landscape character over time.

The River Wandle has a rich and often complex series of these layers which gives it its identity.

3.3.4.1 Underlining the natural Landscape Signature of the Wandle River Valley - Key Features

- Meandering river channel, picked out by sinuous lines of trees – willow, poplar and alder.
- Pollarded willow trees.
- Water meadows with traces of former river channels, ponds and wet flushes.
- Ditches bordered by rush and sedge pastures.
- Ridge and furrow.
- Small copses of wet woodland.
- Intimate narrow floodplain.

3.3.4.2 Key features of human intervention which contribute to the present signature

- Industrial archaeology – mill traces, ponds, mill leats and moats.
- The Wandle Trail – a footpath running most of the length of the river
- More “formal” parks and gardens created on land previously belonging to the Manors adjacent to the Wandle
- The modern urban fabric pushing into the sides of the river valley – the architecture of the buildings themselves is varied (industry, housing, offices and town centres). Some of this architecture is often fairly brutal

and oppressive – but given its framing by (and juxtaposition with) the river valley – it is certainly distinctive.



River Wandle near Watermeads showing pollarded willows

3.3.5 Key bio-diversity features

Chalk rivers and reed beds are recognised as a priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Habitat statements have been produced for various locations along the Wandle by each of the 4 boroughs. Statutory protection has been applied for at five Local Nature Reserves within the Wandle Valley.

In addition, the four Boroughs have afforded strong protection to rivers and wetlands against the adverse effects of built development, through non-statutory nature conservation designations in their Local Development Frameworks.

Some of the Boroughs have secured further protection and significant enhancement of sites for wetland conservation, through formal management agreements at key sites, (for example Beddington Farmlands).

The Environment Agency exercises a pollution control function over watercourses in the UK.

A considerable amount of management is carried out by individuals, committed voluntary and non-statutory organisations, often in partnership with the Councils. This small-scale enhancement work, including regular litter clearances along the Wandle, reed cutting, removal of vegetation to maintain areas of open water, silt removal, and reprofiling of banks, has contributed greatly to the maintenance and enhancement of these natural habitats. The majority of areas of reed beds are subject to programmed management. The largest privately owned land usage at Beddington Farmlands is subject to a Conservation Management Plan. This involves creation of new wetland habitat including lakes, reed bed and marginal aquatic habitat.

Future implications for water resources require a holistic approach to catchment management, with land use practices that reduce rapid runoff and peak flood flows, enhance aquifer recharge, and restore the natural function of river and floodplain. The Water Framework Directive requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015. It will do this by establishing a river basin district structure, within which demanding environmental objectives will be set, including ecological targets for surface waters.

Flagship Species indicators of bio-diversity found along the Wandle

- Sticklebacks Three-spined stickleback: (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*)
- Ten-spined stickleback: (*Pungitius pungitius*)
The three spined stickleback is one of the most familiar fish of Britain's freshwater streams and ponds.
- Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtiumaquaticum*)
A native species - watercress was grown commercially alongside the Wandle well into the last century.
- Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
Historical population decline but now recovering. Vulnerable to habitat degradation through pollution or unsympathetic management of watercourses.
- Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)
Often seen along the Wandle and more colourful than its name suggests with a distinctive yellow breast and under-tail.
- Water vole *Arvicola terrestris*
It is suggested that this species no longer inhabits Sutton's waterways. A London wide project seeks to reintroduce this charismatic mammal.

Local Borough Biodiversity Action Plans

Each of the 4 Boroughs have adopted Biodiversity Action Plans (B.A.P.'s) which seek to conserve and restore these important habitats where possible with the common aims;

- To maintain and enhance existing areas of rivers, ponds and wetlands for biodiversity throughout the Boroughs
- To survey and monitor rivers and wetlands to determine their ecological status.
- To promote the importance of rivers and wetlands for biodiversity.

The B.A.P.'s also share some common targets and actions in order to protect the biodiversity of the Wandle:

- To maintain the extent of existing wetlands and riparian habitats in the Wandle Valley LB
- To improve the condition of rivers and wetlands for nature conservation. (with quantifiable targets)
- To promote the importance of rivers and wetlands in the Boroughs for biodiversity and the need for protection
- To develop new nature conservation areas at rivers and wetlands.

Actions:

- Survey wetland habitats to identify key areas of importance, invasive species problem areas and areas of opportunities.
- Share results with GIGL to update opportunity maps.
- Carry out monthly riverfly monitoring with partner organisations.
- Ensure LDF has relevant policies to protect, create and enhance rivers and wetlands.
- Investigate feasibility to record wildlife pond resource in private gardens
- Ensure that all river and wetland SINCs are managed for biodiversity.
- Develop River Wandle Catchment Plan by 2015.
- Work with partner organisations to create backwater habitats to improve habitats for fish and water vole re-introduction at the River Wandle
- Implement a strategy to remove invasive species with partner organisations.
- Develop invasive species map and update regularly.

- Identify opportunities to remove obstacles for fish movement in the river
- Carry out regular river work parties to improve condition of the River Wandle and raise awareness.

3.3.6 Towards a strategy for the future

A key recommendation of the Landscape Character Assessment is that any strategy and any initiatives implemented to revitalise the Wandle should seek to revive the natural signature of the valley and should reintroduce and rebuild the natural signature features and species of the area, where this is feasible and relevant. The LCA recommends that;

“In the Wandle the re-naturalisation of the valley would include the re-introduction of signature species such as willows and their repollarding, replanting of alders and poplars, re-creation of reed beds, planting of withies and growth of watercress. It would also include developing guidance for new landscapes that provide a design palette of plants and material that promote the natural signature”

It also states that:

“Sympathetic methods of management and maintenance of the municipal parks and recreation grounds, and design and planting informed by the design palette would also embed the natural signature. In places where it is appropriate and feasible, the reintroduction of grazing would help to restore the wet grassland and associated signature species which once occupied much of the valley.

“The main natural feature, however, is the river, and further works to restore a more natural profile and banks should be the priority target for future landscape of the valley”

Design clues from this Landscape Character which should be used to influence any future interventions;

- Ideas for place making and shaping future design decisions - how the Natural Signatures for each natural landscape area might be expressed within the wider public realm, through new development and landscape management projects :

- Sinuous forms – expressed in pathways, hedgerows, lines of trees and bands of woodland.
- Curving swales lined with reeds and wider flood attenuation areas, which have extensive damp meadows, with deeper curving wetland scrapes, perhaps suggesting the meandering form of a former river channel.
- “Natural” flood defences with broad, sculpted embankments defining a linear riverside park which is designed to flood.
- Linear, sinuous bands of meadow sedge or rushes, enclosed by broad curving embanked pathways.
- Winding lines of trees, particularly willow and poplar.
- Play areas with a riverside theme using motifs such as eels, fish, dragonflies, bridges and stepping stones.
- Bespoke signage, benches, paving patterns and boundaries, designed in association with local artists and school children, to express the natural signature of the Wandle Valley within the wider public realm, neighbouring schools and housing areas.
- Make connections between fragmented open spaces (even if these are incidental spaces and focal points within the wider public realm), linking them back to paths and spaces along the River Wandle.

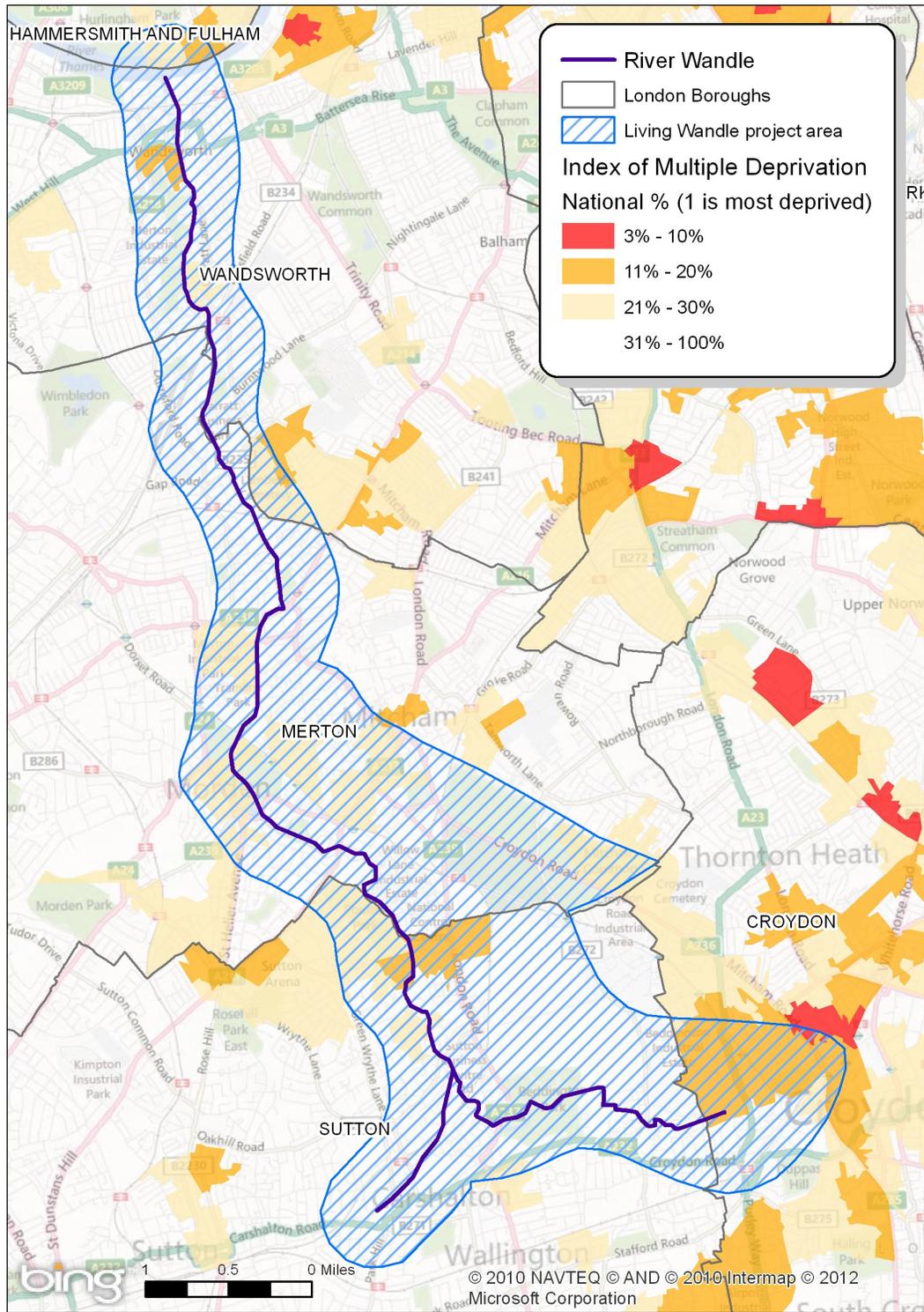
3.4 The modern population

Today the River Wandle flows through part of the UK's largest urban area. The river flows through four boroughs which reflect the complex mix of social and economic circumstances across the Capital. The 2001 census recorded a total population of close to 1 million in the four boroughs. The borough populations range from over 300,000 in Croydon to around 180,000 in Sutton. The recorded population densities range from 76 people per hectare in Wandsworth to 41 people per hectare in Sutton. Lambeth, which closely borders the river in the northern section, has a density of just under 100 people per hectare. The high numbers of people living close to the river place great pressure on local facilities, including parks and open spaces, but also represent a large and diverse potential audience for our scheme. The London Plan identifies ethnic diversity in London as one of the great socio-economic and cultural strengths of the Capital. The four London boroughs within the Living Wandle scheme area reflect the rich ethnic diversity of London. The 2001 census records that out of 354 local authorities in England, Croydon is ranked the 16th most ethnically diverse Borough, with Merton 22nd, Wandsworth 29th, and Sutton 55th.

There are notable populations from the Black Caribbean, Asian and Black African communities in all the boroughs and, like much of London; there are now significant populations from Eastern Europe. Rivers provide a focus for religion and celebration amongst many of these communities and this provides an opportunity to explore how the Wandle does and could contribute to the lives of these residents.

The Wandle Valley has a legacy of manufacturing industry, with many businesses in a supply-chain relationship with the central London economy. These industries remain important to the economy of the area, with the corridor still accounting for a substantial proportion of employment within the South London sub region, but, there has been a decline and loss of jobs in these traditional industries. Deprivation and unemployment are issues which affect the daily lives of many residents living close to the Wandle. In the Mayor's London Plan, the Wandle Valley was identified as a Regeneration Corridor due to its major potential for regeneration of business areas and residential communities. In addition, four areas within the Colliers Wood / South Wimbledon area were identified as major opportunities for intensification and brownfield redevelopment. In the pursuit of this regeneration, it will be vital to strike a balance between the demand for housing, the need to maintain and create employment and the need to provide open space for recreation, play, sport, and special places of high landscape quality for open air enjoyment and relaxation. The River Wandle can play a significant role in meeting this need.

Population Density and Index of Multiple Deprivation



3.5 How the modern population interacts with the river landscape

Historically, the settlements and populations evolved around the river in a symbiotic relationship. Throughout history, the people were drawn to the area because of the river itself. From the monastery and the manors and then most notably throughout the industrial revolution, the river was always central to the industries that provided employment and therefore increased settlement and an expansion of the population along the river corridor.

This harmonious relationship between the river and the local inhabitants fell into a serious decline during the 20th Century. As the industry became heavier and more polluting, people stopped going to the river for relaxation and leisure pursuits. The river itself became a negative feature, a fairly dirty open sewer. New housing was built either with its back (and back gardens) firmly turned away from the river, or even built well away from the river, with light industrial units taking up the new undesirable (and often cheaper) land parcels adjacent to the river.

This “turning away” from the river, particularly in the way town planning development addressed the river corridor, is still very much evident today. In fact, with the exception of the riverside parks and open spaces which were retained for leisure, the backwater feel characterises much of the Wandle, especially in the lower reaches.

Over this, fairly recent, period in history, the existing communities became very much disconnected from the river, forgetting even how the people, their settlements and communities, had evolved around the river.

New communities also moved into the area, as it became a dense South London suburb (as opposed to a collection of outlying villages as it had previously), many of the people actually unaware of the river existence, or aware of it only as a dark ditch flowing between the industrial lands – not a place to be visited out of choice.

Now that the health and fortunes of the river have seen a dramatic improvement in recent years, people are once again starting to rediscover it, although their current relationship to it is very different from that of the last generation of local people to enjoy a fruitful relationship with a healthy Wandle.

Firstly, no one now living within the Wandle corridor really “goes to work on the river” anymore. There are some jobs connected with the river itself, but there are mostly tied to the protection and conservation of a recovering natural resource, rather than working in mills and factories actually based

on the river. Most modern “Wandlesiders” work within the general mix of Greater London, commuting into town from the outlying suburbs of Croydon, Sutton and Merton; areas which have earned a reputation of being “reasonably priced, with reasonable amenities, reasonably close to Central London” (Wandsworth enjoys a slightly more salubrious reputation due to its proximity to some of the well-heeled neighbourhoods of West London, and acts, to some extent, especially recently, as an overflow from Wimbledon and Fulham). This river is now slightly isolated from the relationship between the people and the landscape that they normally move through to facilitate their working lives and, to a great extent, their leisure time.

This has some advantages, or at least gives a new distinctive character to the human geography of the river. The “de-humanising” of the river created a vacuum, and as that vacuum starts to be filled again, there are lots of little spaces along the river that have a feel of tranquillity and solitude, a great asset for a dense urban area. The Wandle Trail, although unclear and broken up in places, links these tranquil spaces together to more active spaces along the river and (to a fleeting degree) to the human settlements around the river. Of course, some of these spaces might be viewed by some people as too isolated, even dangerous, and as the whole space starts to become re-animated you can start to see the tensions, or at least subjective differences of opinions, between some of the uses, which are common to almost all projects that seek to rejuvenate open spaces as community assets; valid concerns over safety often culminate in initiatives to “over-activate” open spaces, remove bushes and put in wide straight paths; opinions which jar against the aspirations of more adventurous and imaginative users. When any previously underused and neglected open spaces become re-animated and re-activated in the way the Wandle has started to do, it is almost always critical to ensure that proposed and future alterations and improvements are planned carefully, in a holistic and strategic manner.

The relationships that we now see between people and the river can generally be characterised as:

- People on foot and bicycle using the river trail as a “green route” between various destinations along the river.
- The champions of the Wandle = the charitable organisations such as the Wandle Trust, the National Trust, and the London Wildlife Trust, their trustees and supporters, who are enthusiastic about, and committed to, the restoration of the river plus the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT), the Environment Agency and the 4 borough Councils

- Day visitors to the “honeypot” sites such as Morden Hall Park, Merton Abbey Mills, and Beddington Park, who might end up wandering on adjacent bits of the Wandle Trail.
- People using the river for the resurgent activities such as fishing, walking, canoeing and cycling (as a means of relaxation rather than just a mode of transport).
- Casual visitors who wander down for a little bit of peace and quiet.
- “Mis-users”: people fly-tipping or riding and burning stolen motorcycles.

It is this mix, the mix of a resurgent natural chalk stream, flowing with a sense of surprise almost, through a post-industrial landscape, that gives it its distinct character and sense of place; the fact that a small green ribbon of what appears to be a very unusual watercourse for an urban area, flows freely through several different character areas in a such a (relatively) short space. The fact that there are very discernible “lower”, “middle” and “upper” reaches to a river whose length can be walked in a few hours, from the centre of London, through a suburban industrial backwater feel, straight into a rich historic landscape of mills and manors, and then quickly out into a very rural feeling upper reach, is probably the rivers strongest attribute which gives it a very distinctive, unique character.

So, if the river appears to be recovering and enjoying a renaissance, why are we proposing to intervene in this process? :

- Public wishes and aspirations “jar “against each other in places when there is plainly enough to cater for all if planned sensitively. For example; many people consulted would like to see the Wandle Trail become much more open, a cycle-superhighway almost, whereas other feel it should be kept discreet. This potential conflict of activity against tranquillity is likely to re-occur in other situations if we are likely to see more and more people wanting to access the river.
- It is still a fragile system that needs protecting. The improvements to the quality of the riverside experience have been hard –won, but there are still threats to the river which need to addressed (see chapter 3.5 “risks and opportunities”)
- It is important to capitalise on the momentum now; a “groundswell” of interest in the river and participation in a lot of the initiatives to conserve it has been building up over recent years. Delivering a series of well-supported, strategic initiatives along the river, particularly with a focus on bringing people back to the river and engendering a sense of guardianship will help to sustain this. We feel that the menu of projects developed (and this is supported by consultation undertaken), will help

to “glue” a lot of the recent successes together and, importantly, establish a lot of efficiencies in the way the river is managed, particularly at a time when budgets are being challenged and protection of the environment is seemingly less of a political priority

- There are still some “sores” which need urgent attention; there are bad road crossings, lot of problems with fish movement in the river which could be addressed through Catchment Plan projects, and it is sometimes hard to find ones way along the river in certain places. A lack of understanding about the river and its importance and relevance to people’s lives in a modern environment often leads to people abusing this resource.
- There are still a lot of on-going and un-met needs that people have identified: play, leisure, and learning.
- There is a groundswell of “need” from people (this is explained further in Chapter 6 – “Aims and Objectives”).

3.6 What does the area currently offer people and how do we plan to enhance this?

The River Wandle, by its very nature as a river flowing through an urban area, isn’t, on the face of things, an enormously “active” public space. Its nature and individual signatures lend it more to “passive” recreations (such as fishing, bird watching, walking and generally just finding a peace of respite from the hustle and bustle of an urban environment.). However, slightly further back from the main river corridor there is (generally) a fairly good network of slightly more active open spaces catering for a wider range of sports and play.

Within the project area itself however, the activity range is a bit more limited. The activities that the river corridor currently offers can be listed as

- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Walking
- Cycling
- Nature watching / bird spotting
- Getting involved in conservation and restoration projects through some of the partnering organisations
- Visiting the historic buildings along the river

- Growing food – there are 8 significant allotment sites directly on the banks of the Wandle (making the most of the rich alluvial soil) and another 11 in close proximity to the river (within the project area)
- Some other sports such as football and rugby in adjacent playing fields, but fairly limited
- Play and sports facilities in the adjacent parks

There are some sports and play facilities at Wandle Park (Croydon), Beddington Park, as well as sports /playing fields at Poulter Park. Children's play facilities also exist at Dale Park, Watercress Park (mostly older/youth play), Ravensbury Park, Morden Hall Park, Wandle Park (Colliers Wood), Garret Park and King Georges Park (Wandsworth).

There is also the potential for increasing some of the range of activities (particularly young children's play – something we know that a lot of the public we have interviewed have stated they would like to see more of) at both Ravensbury Park and Poulter Park, (both of which are currently subject to Borough led scoping exercises / feasibility studies being undertaken to determine future requirements)

There is however, an opportunity for a little pause for reflection here.

The whole character and signature of the river (its real strength) is its "passive green ribbon" feel (as borne out by the Landscape Character assessment), so although there are always opportunities for providing increased activity in the valley to cater for people's needs, it is really important to address this with a lot of care, rather than just promising people we can give them what they want without paying due respect to the real character, strengths and qualities of the river.

Rather than trying to (just) shoe-horn in too many potential new "activities" it is more appropriate to identify sites which could become more active in the future (sites like Ravensbury and Poulter Park) and concentrate on enhancing and promoting the possibilities of slightly more tangential activities the whole river can offer.

As noted above there are certain sites and spaces along the river which will lend themselves to further enhanced development of play and sports facilities. Most of these are already identified in the relevant boroughs Core Strategies and these wider needs will be considered further in the development of plans for the regional park. We know that there is room for achieving these objectives at some of the slightly larger spaces along the river such as Poulter Park, Beddington Park and also Ravensbury Park, but

what the river itself offers, is something that we are going to try and explore and promote through the LWLP scheme.

We know, for example that the river has improved dramatically as a first class coarse fishery in the last few years and one of our projects deals directly with supporting the main angling club on the river (the Wandle Piscators) to promote the resource, recruit new, young anglers and also train them, not only in fishing techniques but also in river craft, river safety and in the respect and care of a fragile natural resource.

The improved linkage of the Wandle Trail which will be brought about by the Wandle Gateways project, will also help to promote the river for walking, angling, cycling and exploring. This will also be enhanced by the "trailblazing" and mapping carried out as part of the Industrial Heritage recording project (which will map all the sites of historic industrial interest), the Climate Change Awareness project (which will map all of the features and initiatives along the Wandle Valley, including the Hackbridge low carbon zone, which teach about climate change and climate change adaptation) and the Discovering the Source of the Wandle project (which will map access to the sources of the Wandle).

On top of this, all of these new "trails" will be loaded onto the LWLPS web resource/ archive site, so that anyone planning a walk or exploration along the Wandle can access maps and information (probably as a series of layers on a "trail map"-as yet to be detailed). This we believe will help to enhance and promote the Wandle as a first class leisure resource for Londoners. We see this as being one of the projects big potentials.

there is hardly anywhere else in London where one can take a day's walk or a morning's cycle, from the urban heart of London, out into the countryside along such a varied and interesting route – a virtual timeline through history and ecology.

As well as this potential for multi-use trails, there are a number of other potential activity possibilities for the river we intend to exploit and promote through the partnership projects:

A "campus" for the Arts

The Wandle has a fantastic history of artistic expression. Some of Liberty's chintzes were inspired by the river itself, as were many of William Morris' designs. Ruskin, Pope and Walton wrote enthusiastically about the virtues of the river and Marquita Moberly and Lexdon Peacock painted it. The Wandle has, and can still provide, a fantastic resource and foil for the arts

and we are trying to re-stimulate and encourage this through some of the planned projects.

- Both the Reflecting the Wandle and Wandle through Time projects will teach and train people in elements of creative writing and theatre production – there are some potentially fantastic venues for both outdoor theatre along the Wandle (as demonstrated in last year's pilot project at Morden Hall Park) and also for indoor production (Merton Priory/Merton Abbey Mills).
- The recording of both the Industrial Heritage “guided tour” and a similar one for the Climate Change Awareness project utilise a module to teach young people to use high quality recording media where participants will learn how to use the river as a foil or backdrop for composing film sequences.
- A community arts project IS proposed for year 4, as a recommendation from the interpretation strategy . This has not been firmly detailed as yet, but there is a potential menu of possibilities including; commissioning an artist to work with local children to build some unusual (temporary) dens along the river, and/or highly crafted bird boxes and also an option for local people to work with Wimbledon Arts college and a professional photographer to produce drawings, paintings and photographs of the Wandle

Tying all of these creative functions together will be the fact that the great enhancements to biodiversity many of the other projects deliver, and the improvements to access and restored historical features, will mean that the Riverside is re-animated in a way which sensitively responds to its own natural character.

3.7 What we know about how people value the area

We know that a lot of people value the river and its environs, chiefly from the sheer number of people who have become involved in all of the partner organisations (and others) over the past few years, and the numbers of people who get involved in practical tasks such as clean ups and restoration projects. Organisations such as the Wandle Trust, The National Trust at Morden Hall Park, and the London Wildlife Trust have memberships and databases of supporters running into thousands, with good turnouts for most of their projects and events. But what do we know about *what* they value about the river, and more importantly; what about the people that don't get involved in the river?

Over the past few years the various partner organisations have undertaken a comprehensive programme of consultations and workshops with

residents, users, (and non-users) primary and secondary stakeholders with an interest in the Wandle. Conferences and workshops such as “A Wandleful Life” , Access to Nature, and also many of the individual project consultations, have all sought to capture the thoughts and views of all of these people including their aspirations for the future, the problems they currently perceive with the river, and also a bit about what they actually value about the area itself.

Looking back through some of these findings, it becomes apparent that there are two different types of answers when people are asked about “what they value” – their responses tend to be either about the overall unique character and signatures of the river, or about specific, individual areas and activities.

Some headlines picked from both the Wandleful, Life conference and also the Access to Nature consultations

- Value the ability to visit a lot of historic sites in close proximity
- Can get away from the busy streets for a bit of peace and quiet
- Go bird watching at Beddington Farmlands and travel via Wandle Trail – you can see some interesting birds there too
- Love it as a green trail
- A wildlife corridor – unusual parakeets and an improving butterfly corridor
- A place where we can play adventure games – hiding and chasing
- Love the diversity of the different landscape you pass through
- Somewhere you can actually see the whole sky

3.8 What we have found out about what people see as barriers to the River

We have a good understanding of the needs of our current audiences from the work that has been carried out to date by the various partners. For the most part, organisations such as the Wandle Trust, The National Trust, and London Wildlife Trust engage with enthusiastic supporters whose main focus is the restoration and conservation of the river, and to most of these it appears that this is an end in itself; they genuinely cherish having such an interesting natural resource on their doorstep where they can convene with nature.

This has been borne out by consultations where supporters and members were asked about the things they liked about the river, the problems they

saw and any potential barriers they could see to enjoying the river. People were also asked about the things they felt were missing, or the things they would like to see more of. Some of the findings were:

- Remove clutter and have a clear signage policy along the river
- Restore some of the mills and historic buildings and find new uses for them
- Better biodiversity including water voles
- Improved cycling and walking improvements
- Join the missing links on the Wandle trail
- Den building
- Tai chi classes and other outdoor exercise classes
- More and better sports facilities
- Education projects
- Better signage and access arrangements
- Better landscape design
- Better care /maintenance of the landscape – less vandalism
- Improved physical and social connections – better communications and networks
- More initiatives to attract children to the river and get them outdoors
- More organised river restoration projects
- Remove electricity pylons
- More volunteering opportunities
- Nature Park at Beddington Farmlands

(Taken from Wandleful life conference and also this year's visioning events for the Catchment Plan – summaries included in appendices)

However, we know that there are many potential audiences who live in close proximity to the river who do not access the river very much and even see that there are barriers to doing so.

Previous consultation undertaken during the development of the Landscape Character Assessment also identified the lack of a strong identity and identifiable 'natural signature' to the river as a significant barrier to engagement by local people with the Wandle.

Most of the partnering organisations running projects within the partnership scheme have fairly broad memberships: they have stakeholders who show a willingness to partake in their projects which cover a wide range of social, economic, ethnic and generational backgrounds.

The projects which have been developed by the partners have been developed in conjunction with audiences/ consultees/ participants with which the individual organisations have well established relationships (the Wandle trust for example has a database of over 450 friends; the National Trust likewise). These organisations have good communication systems with these supporters, particularly through newsletters, email, websites etc., and have therefore been able to garner a respectable level of interest in their projects, as well as carrying out consultation workshops with some of these audiences during the development phase.

We also identified some areas and communities (using indices of deprivation/ ethnicity mapping) which didn't appear to be partaking in some of these existing groups and planned activities and undertook some consultation exercises during Summer 2012, to try and find out what are the perceived barriers, and what kind of things/ activities might we be able to offer to try and address some of these issues.

Table 1 - Groups/ people consulted in targeted areas we felt as being under-represented at present

Groups/ people consulted	How	No.of questionnaires circulated	returned
Public in some of the poorer areas (Croydon/ Hackbridge)	Street interviews	9	9
Merton Youth Partnership	Meeting / questionnaires	5	4
South Wimbledon youth centre	questionnaires	1 (as email attachment)	4
Old town youth club (Croydon)	questionnaires	1 (as email attachment)	9
Arndale community project Wandsworth	questionnaires	1 (as email attachment)	3
South Mitcham community association	Meeting/questionnaires	4	4
Merton youth awareness programme	questionnaires	1 (as email attachment)	6

We found that generally the main reason for a lot of people not visiting the river was less for cultural or attitudinal reasons, but more because people felt there was actually very little for them to do there.

Table 2 - Barriers - summary of some findings from talking to groups not normally using the river

who	why	Ways to resolve/potential actions to address
People living not immediately next to the river	Not great links/pedestrian connections to the river	Better way marking between these communities and the river, improve green links and gateways and "lateral" connections (address through gateways project)
Young people	Nothing to do	Design engagement projects that might interest them using the river as a venue (i.e. photography/theatre/filmmaking) .Try to include some play elements in projects where practical (i.e. den – making project with an artist as outcome from interpretation strategy?) (address through wandle through time / reflecting Wandle/climate change and heritage recording projects and also potentially arts project (interpretation)
All	Lack of awareness about the river / feeling that the river may be "unsafe"	Ensure projects like River Guardians /any training includes basic river safety training Address lack of awareness through River Education Programme / project launch and marketing and promotion of partnership by Delivery team (via website/and twinning programme)
B.A.M.E. groups	Often little knowledge about the groups / activities concerned with conserving the river. A sense that its "not for them"	Ensure all marketing and promotion of the projects and partnership is getting to these groups; address through marketing via website and twinning programme

The findings, in summary, are fairly easy to understand: the lack of involvement from a lot of these groups appears to be less to do with attitudinal reasons, and more to do with practical reasons and an unclear communications network (which is perhaps endemic in a dense suburban area). The most common reasons for people not engaging with the river from these identified target groups appears to be (a) that there is little to do other than walk, cycle or fish – and a distinct lack of play opportunities, (b) that they were not aware of the existence of a lot of the partner organisations and the involvement and engagement activities they run and (c) that they did not know about the LWLPS and opportunities it could offer, particularly in offering learning and training objectives.

These are all issues that the LWLPS can address, and have been taken on board in the detailed development of the projects, and particularly in the way in which the projects and the opportunities for participation will be promoted and communicated during the delivery phase.

Without trying to promise people that we could make big changes to the quality of their life through the partnership project, we then tried to gauge whether or not there would be any interest from some of these groups in

partaking in the projects and whether or not we could shape some of the detailed activities within the projects to address their needs (through questionnaires and the facilitated discussions about the projects themselves).

We then set about putting together a plan for bringing these wider audiences into the project. The proposals for how we intend to bring in and manage these audiences is outlined in chapter 3.4 "scheme plans and costs"

A list of some of the things people felt we might be able to provide within the projects to address their needs:

Table 3 - common needs expressed in all consultations

Needs expressed	How we have tried to cater for those needs in the project detail
More learning about the river	Ensure learning /dissemination objectives in some of the community engagement projects – ensure these are promoted to hard to reach group / un-usual suspects. Ensure all knowledge can be disseminated (website / marketing strategy?)
Useful activities which might "up-skill" people	Ensure we identify all training possibilities in all projects and ensure that there are places in the training plan for "newcomers" rather than just partners "usual suspects" – ensure these opportunities are promoted / communicated to new potential audiences.
Better physical access to the river	Try to address some key nodes/points in Gateways project
People wanted to know more about the historic mills /buildings/history	Ensure a wide range of potential options in learning projects such as Industrial Heritage Recording. Ensure places on such projects are offered to new audiences
Safety concerns (some people see river as a bit too quiet and "scary")	Education about river safety through participation projects (i.e. River Guardians)
Young people wanting to do creative/artistic things	Build creative elements into projects in which people can partake (building a demonstration model in Climate Change Awareness / possible arts project as outcome of Interpretation Strategy)
Older people wanting to learn more about nature / ecology of river	Ensure all the projects which teach about this (Catchment Plan etc.) are offered to wider and older audiences – see also "twinning" programme as part of Interpretation Strategy
Need for better communications so people know what's available – what going on	Need a centralised communication resource for the partnership –possibly website/webpage etc.

Table 4 - Consultation events during development phase on “the partnership” as opposed to individual project development.(IE events where we promoted the overall partnership and gauged peoples appetite – verbal and returned questionnaires)

Event / organizer/location	date	What information did we get from this which will help us?	OUTCOME SUMMARY
Easter Fair at Merton Abbey Mills	6th -9th April	Views on Chapter house proposals Views on overall partnership	"first test" of consultation/promotion package (map and questionnaire) .good communication/promotion of chapter house project and feedback on LWLPS promo pack (some criticism that it's too long and complex-good feedback to help revise the material though)
Catchment plan consultation event- Duppas Hill, Croydon (Bella Davies)	4th may	Fine tuning of the catchment plan projects/consulted audience about overall project (sc)	Good return of partnership questionnaires.
River clean up- Richmond green (Wandle Trust)	Sunday 13th May	12 questionnaires returned to gather views on overall project/sub – projects, test any demand for participants/volunteers	Promotional material for LWLPS circulated (map and summary of project)
May Fair – Morden Hall Park/multiple	4th – 7th May	Nick Harte had stall with overall project map and questionnaires for LWLPS. Sc attended/presented on bank holiday Monday	– Well received and good comments . only 25 returns (terrible weather probably affected turnout) but very useful feedback and helpful for making final revisions to material
Catchment plan consultation-Croydon (Wandle Trust)	18th May	Fine tuning of the catchment plan projects/consult audience about overall project (sc)	6 questionnaires on overall partnership returned
Catchment plan consultation (Wandle Trust)	19th May	Fine tuning of the catchment plan projects/consult audience about overall project	4 questionnaires returned
“meet the species” Sutton ecology centre	June 9th /10th	Talked to audience about the partnership project – some indicative interest / sign-ups for partnership projects	Promotional material for LWLPS circulated – no returned questionnaires
River clean up- Beddington Park (Wandle Trust)	Sunday 10th June	also gathered views on overall project/sub – projects at this event, test any demand for participants/volunteers	12 partnership questionnaires returned
Wandle Piscators AGM	6th June	Will and ziggy talked about the LWLPS – well received	4 questionnaires returned

Understanding the area and its heritage

Big Green Day out (National Trust) – Morden Hall Park (Zoë Adams)	1st July	Also having table/stall with LWLPS info/maps/questionnaires and "sign-up" forms	21 partnership questionnaires returned
Ravensbury park open day (groundwork)	July 16th	Some overlap with our proposals for riverside edge of park/main channel. "piggy-backed" consultation on Ravensbury Channel and overall LWLPS onto this	Good consultation on Ravensbury park /channel proposals – 9 partnership questionnaires returned
A Day in The Park (Croydon Council) – Waddon Park	July	stall on overall LWLPS (big project map, questionnaires/sign up forms)	No questionnaires returned
Nature detectives – Wandle valley wetlands (Henryk)	August 21st	Really good opportunity to promote the partnership to a young audience who don't normally use the river	Partnership promoted – no questionnaires returned though (audience possibly too young)
Beddington Park batwalk	August 25th	Good opportunity to consult/get views on both the wider partnership and specifically for proposals effecting Beddington Park area	No questionnaires returned
Wandle Theatre event at Morden Hall Park	8th / 9th September	Pilot theatre performance for reflecting the Wandle / Wandle flowing through time – well attended	Giovanna gave quick presentation on LWLPS at start and circulated questionnaires – well received and 25 questionnaires returned in total
"Showtime" festival Wandsworth	September tbc	Presented overall project for discussion / views etc., map with questionnaires.	6 returned questionnaires.

Table 5 - Individual project specific consultations and original mandate (need)

Project	background to "evidencing the need"	Who have they talked to in order to develop / firm up proposals
Waddon Ponds	Croydon's "parks to be proud of" strategy shows there is an identified need for this	Agreed detailed proposals with known user groups /park users and in-house stakeholders
Ravensbury Channel	Demonstrated that this is in line with principles already agreed with Friends of Ravensbury Park and known user groups	Communicated the project to known user groups and friends of Ravensbury Park.. Made some provision for how these groups might be involved in the delivery phase. Involved Friends of RP in the actual design of the project
Merton priory	Provided background to show where supporters have expressed a need for this project	MPT have communicated proposals to all of their current audience/supporters about the detail of what they are proposing.(newsletters and website/mail shots) -very well supported, some concerns about security which Marcus is now trying to address through detail design and liaison with English Heritage
Reflecting the Wandle/ Wandle flowing through time	Original demand came through consultation and engagement with Phipps bridge estate in 2009/10	Giovanna worked with identified theatre group and Phipps bridge participants to run pilot event in sep 12 – very well received and a demonstrated demand for similar events in the future
Catchment plan	Original demand was identified in Wandle Trust stakeholder workshops (between 2004-2008) and also addresses many of the aspirations of stakeholders captured in Wandleful life /access to nature workshops	Extensive detailed consultation undertaken in 2012 as part of catchment plan consultation and planning workshops (see table 5)
Invasive species action plan	Original demand came from EA and Wandle Trust assessments (chronic invasive problems throughout river – agencies struggling to deal with current capacities)	Invasives as a problem recognised by the public started to surface in Wandleful life / access to nature consultations. Extensive consultation undertaken as part of catchment plan this year has identified this as a high priority
Gateways Project	Almost every previous consultation undertaken cites the lack of recognised entrances and announced gateways as an issue	Stakeholder workshops undertaken in July and November 2012 to check long list of sites and over-riding principles are acceptable to main stakeholders (i.e. the people who will have to maintain them)
Morden Hall Park boardwalk		
Industrial heritage recording project	Desire for projects to learn about history of Wandle cited in Wandle Trust consultations and wandleful life / historic Wandle consultations	Came out as a "desirable" in consultations in development phase. Discussed and developed content with Wandle industrial museum, museum of London and Thames discovery programme

Understanding the area and its heritage

River guardians	The need /desire to enable members of public to be able to spot and react to incidents of pollution identified in Wandle Trust historic consultations / water framework directive/cuts to Environment Agency budgets mean that less monitoring of the river is undertaken/increasing development has meant an increased number of mis-connected pipes	Tested and developed through catchment plan workshop in development phase. Environment Agency.
River education programme	Schools contacting Wandle Trust identified this as a needed initiative	Developed with key schools identified during development phase. Thames Explorer Trust which has 20 years' experience in delivering river education projects for schools.
Discovering the source of the Wandle	Catchment plan consultation in scoping phase identified that people knew little about where river comes from, but want to learn more	Developed with Sutton librarians (archiving)
Climate change training	Groundwork's "green doctors" programme identified that local people wanted to understand more about how cc effects them and how it can be mitigated	Scoped / tested in development phase with Sutton council climate change officers and London Wildlife Trust staff-came out as "desirable" in development phase consultations
Wandle Piscators	Wandle Trust having waiting list of young people wanting to join but need more capacity to induct and teach (particularly basic river safety)	Discussed with anglers on river bank and at Piscators a.g.m.

Other groups that we have spoken to about the Overall Partnership Scheme (generally promotion and discussion rather than consultation):

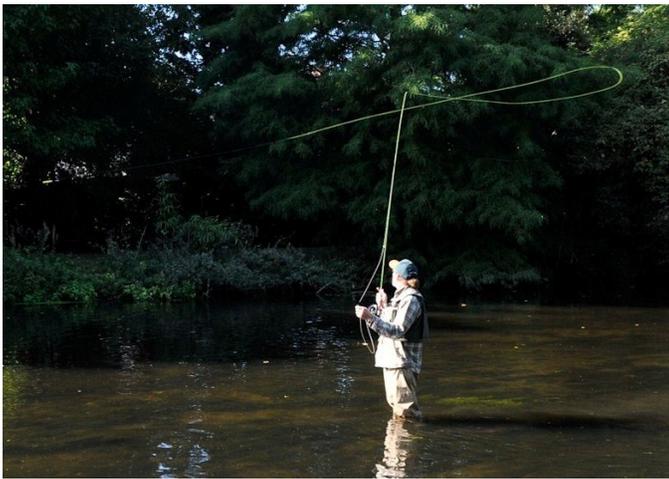
- Dog walkers . walkers and anglers along the river
- The WVRP/Wandle Forum working groups(Landscape and biodiversity /access and transport / heritage)
- Tooting and Mitcham Football Club
- Wandsworth Cycling campaign
- Carshalton society
- Beddington Farmlands birds group
- Dean City Farm
- Allotment holders
- Museum of London and Thames Discovery Project

- Thames Explorer Trust
- Bennetts Hole volunteers
- Wandsworth U3A
- Wandsworth Cycling Campaign
- FORP
- Peter Scott Tree Care & Drain Scan company
- LB Merton Councillors
- Wilderness Island volunteers
- EA – pollution
- KCL MSc aquatic science students
- Woodland Trust
- Metropolitan Public Gardens Association
- Croydon Rifle & Pistol Club
- LB Merton
- Mitcham Common Conservators
- Carshalton Society
- Natural England
- Wandsworth Society
- Morden Hall Park Angling Group
- Beddington Farmlands Bird Group
- Hackbridge & Beddington Corner Neighbourhood Development Group
- Good Companion Social Club (based in Croydon – cinema, art, walks etc)
- Friends of Beddington Park
- Friends of Wandle Park
- Croydon cubs and scouts
- Henry Prince Estate

- Wandsworth Society
- Croydon Natural History Society
- National Trust volunteers
- Deen City Farm
- Hindu community
- Buddhist community
- Allotment holders
- Independent anglers
- Wandle Piscators

LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Bennett's Hole volunteers
- Spencer Road Wetland volunteers
- Wandle Industrial Museum
- Mitcham Golf Club
- Melanie Nunzet
- U3A Merton
- Network Challenge



3.9 Some summary points ;

- The heritage is of some importance to science (Ecology); it shows a living example of what happens when a river is re-colonised after being almost “dead”.
- Some of the heritage is endangered: the natural heritage from pollution and invasive species, the built heritage from a lack of “functionality” and therefore the ability for buildings to be used and therefore maintained.
- The heritage is of great historic importance. It is associated with important people or historic events (the industrial revolution, the monasteries and their dissolution for example) the preservation, restoration, and re-activation of many of its features contribute enormously to our understanding of the past.
- There are artistic qualities to many of the objects, buildings, and spaces.
- People value and treasure the Wandle enormously. There is a large database of willing and interested participants and we have identified and targeted groups /sections of the population which we feel would benefit from this partnership, and we identified means to bring more people in during the delivery stage.
- A lot of the heritage is of archaeological significance. There is a very rich vein of remnants from the past; hidden roman ruins, the abbey, the mills and the manors. Involving these in the projects (either directly restoring them, using them as “venues” or referencing them in learning project) will help people to learn a lot about past events.
- Much of the heritage has been used in paintings and in literature.
- The river has spiritual significance for some of the Hindu communities living in the area.
- It is a source of informal enjoyment.
- The story of the Wandle’s conservation is important. There is much to learnt / disseminated about how a small river, once heavily polluted, can be brought back to life.

4. Statement of significance

4.1 Introduction

The River Wandle and the wider valley landscape does not benefit from overall protection at an International, National or even Local level. The concept of the River Wandle as a landscape entity is recognised at a Regional Level though the London Plan, as part of the Blue Ribbon Network, and as one of the eighteen London Natural Signature Projects set out in the Regional Landscape Framework prepared for London on behalf of Natural England (April 2010).

The promotion of the valley as a Regional Park also benefits from strong support at a local and regional level. The idea of conserving the Wandle for public enjoyment can be traced back to 1910 when the Metropolitan Gardens Association annual report noted that they were "working to secure open spaces and walks along the banks of the Wandle".

The Wandle links a number of sites of national and local heritage significance, with strong links to its industrial past. The Surrey Iron Railway, which opened in 1803, ran from the mouth of the Wandle to Merstham in Surrey. Although very few relics of the railway survive, its legacy, along with the significance of other lost industrial features such as the Upper Mill, are celebrated at two registered museums, the Wandsworth Museum and the Wandle Industrial Museum.

There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the scheme area; Merton Priory and a Roman Villa East of Beddington Park. Morden Hall Park is listed as Grade II on the national Register of Parks and Gardens. There are a number of listed buildings within the scheme area, including the Grade II listed Morden Hall.

The natural heritage of the river is protected through a chain of 12 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs):

- Morden Hall Park
- Wandle Meadow Nature Park
- Ravensbury Park
- Sutton Ecology Centre Grounds
- Watermeads (Mitcham)
- Bennet's Hole Wetlands

- Wandle Valley Wetlands
- Spencer Road Wetlands
- Wilderness Island
- Beddington farmlands
- Mitcham Common
- Cranmer Green

Other aspects of the rivers natural and built heritage are further protected at a local level through Conservation Areas, locally listed buildings and archaeology protection areas.

The river links a number of important heritage sites, many of which do not benefit from national or regional designation, although many of the buildings are locally listed. Merton Priory was one of the founding sites of English Law which saw the issue of the first Statute of Law in England in 1236 and is considered by many to be the birthplace of the English Parliament. William Morris created fabrics at Merton Abbey Mills in the late nineteenth century and Liberty acquired the site and continued to produce textiles until 1972. The river is dotted with mills dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth century (there are records of 49 mills).

In the previous chapter we outlined how the mix of post-industrial landscapes, relics of older industrial heritage and a new generation of suburban settlers who are starting to rediscover a landscape once blighted by pollution, all united by a rich resurgent chalk stream running right through the middle all contribute to giving the area its unique sense of place and character. We will now set out some quantification of these assets, along with our understanding of why this seems to be of importance, both to local people and potentially wider audiences as well.

The River Wandle, through time, has been a hard working river. The industry which proliferated along the River during the industrial revolution has left a lot of interesting relics and remnants, some of which have been restored and cared for, some which have been left to decay, or removed altogether. Some even older features such as the Merton Priory chapter house remain but are hidden.

The natural heritage of the river is also notable, particularly as it demonstrates the remarkable ability of eco-systems to recover from what might have seemed like a terminal decline. There is also significant cultural heritage value associated with the people of the Wandle Valley. People

such as William Morris and Arthur Liberty made the Wandle one of the country's most successful textile producing centres. The art critic and philosopher John Ruskin wrote about the Wandle during his time living in nearby Herne Hill, as did the most famous of anglers Sir Isaac Walton.

We have set out below a brief description of these key assets, including a summarisation of how they are currently looked after and maintained.

4.2 Built Heritage, Natural Heritage, and the Cultural Heritage

4.2.1 The Built Heritage

4.2.1.1 Merton Priory

500 years ago by far the biggest group of buildings on the banks of the River Wandle was Merton Priory, where Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer's now stand. It was founded in 1114, and grew into one of England's largest and most important monasteries until Henry VIII's "Dissolution".

Henry was determined to reduce the power of the church, whose monasteries had huge wealth in land and property, and they were abolished in 1537/38. The monks and nuns were mostly pensioned off, and some of the buildings continued in use as cathedrals, churches and schools. But many were demolished and the materials recycled— as in Merton, where Henry used the stonework to build Nonsuch Palace near Cheam. So Merton Priory completely disappeared until major excavations were undertaken when the Sainsbury's hypermarket was built in 1988. Although the Priory itself completely disappeared after 1538, a good length of its boundary wall survives. It stretches from the Sainsbury's recycling centre to the Christchurch Road roundabout, and can be seen from the Priory Retail Park, amid the undergrowth on the other side of the Pickle Ditch. A small stretch can also be seen in Station Road. A Norman arch to the Priory survived as part of a large house to the West of the Priory (next to Merton Abbey Mills). When the house was demolished in 1914 the arch was reconstructed as the gateway to the St Mary's Church in Merton, where it can still be seen today.

Little remains of the actual Priory today. During the construction of the Sainsbury's development in the late 80's most of the foundations were covered over by the new industrial park. What does still exist however are the remains of the Priory's Chapter House, which are preserved underneath the flyover of the Town Centre by-pass (Merantum Way). Although often difficult to locate, this offers an interesting snapshot of the history of the Abbey and is cared for by the Merton Priory Trust (in

partnership with the landowners – Merton Council). The Trust are very active in promoting the space as a learning resource, which proves to be very popular with schoolchildren and visitors from further afield. The Trust are now a registered charity and, although responsibilities for maintaining the site have historically been slightly unclear (the tasks required to maintain the space being shared between the Trust and the Council) a draft management agreement is currently being formalised to itemise any tasks and requirements and agree on a shared management plan for the space. The space itself offers huge potential, both as a preserved historic artefact and as an exciting learning resource. Proposals to make the space much more accessible and visible are included as an individual project proposal as part of the LWLPS, potentially a first phase in a major project to “reveal” the Chapter House as a landmark visitor destination.

4.2.1.2 The Manors

In 1086, the Domesday Book recorded the manor as Mordone, part of Wallington Hundred. It was held by Westminster Abbey and its assets were: 3 hides; 1 mill worth £2 and 7 ploughs. It rendered £15 in total. Fourteen people were recorded as living in the area.

The Garth family

The manor and village remained abbey property until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in Henry VIII's reign when the manor was sold to Lionel Duckett and Edward Whitchurch. Together, they sold it on the following year to Sir Richard Garth who became Lord of the Manor. The Garth family owned the land and maintained their connection with the parish for the next four centuries, living at Morden Hall Park until the manor was sold by another Sir Richard Garth in 1872. The prominence of the Garth family is recorded locally in the name of Garth Road, Lower Morden and the former Garth School. The two lions included in the present civic arms of the London Borough of Merton are adopted from the arms of Sir Richard.

Carew Manor

Beddington Park was the former manor house of the Carew family. The Domesday Book mentions two Beddington estates and these were united by Nicholas Carew to form Carew Manor in 1381. The Manor, once a medieval moated house, was home to the Royal Female Orphanage from 1866 until 1968. It now contains council offices and Carew Manor School.

In about 1591 Sir Walter Raleigh secretly, and without royal permission, married one of Queen Elizabeth I's maids of honour, Elizabeth Throckmorton of Carew Manor. Raleigh spent time in the Tower of London

for this and Elizabeth was expelled from the court but the marriage appears to have been a genuine love-match and survived the imprisonment. A popular story is that when Raleigh was beheaded by James I in 1618, Elizabeth claimed his embalmed head and kept it in a bag for the rest of her life. His body was buried in St Margaret's, Westminster, and after his wife's death 29 years later, Raleigh's head was returned to his tomb and interred at St. Margaret's Church. Local myths claim the head remains in Beddington Park or was inherited by his son and buried with him.

The Grade I listed great hall (or banqueting hall), containing a fine hammer beam roof, survives from the mediaeval house. In the grounds are part of the orangery built in the early 18th century around orange trees planted by Sir Francis Carew (claimed to be the first planted in England) and an early 18th century Grade II* listed dovecote.

Queen Elizabeth's Walk is a short wooded trail that dates back to the first Elizabeth. Local legend has it that the Monarch and Sir Walter Raleigh used to stroll together there [citation needed]. However, this was actually land left unused for the proposed M23 motorway extension.

Archaeologists have recently discovered a Tudor garden including a grotto at Carew Manor, believed to have been created by Sir Francis Carew in the 16th century. Its exact location is currently not being disclosed in order to protect it from looting.

The 14th Century flint parish church of St Mary's is situated in the park next to the house. It is Grade B listed and contains an organ screen by William Morris.

4.2.1.3 Morden Hall and Ravensbury Hall

Morden Hall and Ravensbury Park were both once part of the former estates of Morden Hall and Ravensbury House respectively. Morden Hall was built in 1770 by Richard Garth on land formerly owned by Westminster Abbey. The ownership of the Hall and the Morden Estate passed to Gilliatt Hatfeild in 1872. Gilliatt Hatfeild actually lived in Morden Cottage, within the grounds of Morden Park, as it was apparently better suited to his Bachelor existence than the Hall. He was a keen huntsman and fisherman and he converted and adapted many of the estate buildings to suit these interests and the grounds were used as a deer park. The Hall has seen a variety of uses from a family home to a boarding school for young gentlemen and a military hospital during the First World War, Council Offices and most recently it was fully restored and converted into a public house and restaurant. The Estate was bequeathed by Gilliat Hatfeild to the

National Trust in 1941 in order to secure it intact for future generations and it, therefore, survives as open parkland. The estate includes a number of other historic buildings including Morden Hall, Morden Cottage, Mill Cottage, Morden Snuff Mill and the Stables. The park extending over some 124 acres represents an oasis of tranquillity amidst the busy London suburbs. Morden Hall Park contains many of the other historic estate buildings, including two 18th-century cottages, a stable block, gathered around the two watermills, which until 1922 were used for grinding snuff. One of the mills buildings, the Snuff Mill eastern block, has recently been converted into a study centre by the National Trust for children from the area.

The present Morden Lodge occupies the site of an earlier house, also called Morden Lodge. This was the home of financier and philanthropist Abraham Goldsmid. The son of a Dutch merchant who settled in this country around 1763 and who set up business with his brother Benjamin as bill brokers in London. Both were noted for their public and private generosity, and he had a part in founding the German and Dutch Jews Hospital in Mile End. The entire estate is now open to the public all year round. It remains as one of the highlights of the entire Wandle Trail and a big draw for visitors

Ravensbury Park was once part of the Ravensbury Manor an Estate dating back to the 13th Century and on which the 18th Century Ravensbury Manor House stood. In the 17th and 18th centuries the Ravensbury Park area was an important industrial area. Ravensbury Mill was located on the banks of the Wandle at the western end of the site and a calico factory was established to the north, just outside the current park boundary. At this time the site formed part of the Ravensbury Park Estate of Ravensbury Manor. The Manor House stood on the northern bank of the Wandle, immediately to the south of the present day staff yard. The foundations of the manor house can still be seen amongst dense young woodland and ivy. The original alignment of Morden Road used to pass through the Park, following the route of the present day Ravensbury Lane. It passed directly in front of the Manor House and crossed the Wandle on a small bridge. In the mid-18th century the then owner of the estate, John Arbuthnott, applied successfully for the road to be diverted further west, along its present route. Mr Arbuthnott also set about laying out the gardens of the Manor and developed walks along the banks of the river. A circular walk ran around Ravensbury Meadow, the open grassland area in the centre of the Park, which may have been used for calico bleaching and drying or as a hay meadow. Diversions to the river, to supply water to the calico factory, were also made around this time. By the late 19th century the

Manor house had fallen into ruin and a substantial mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland had developed around the house and along the banks of the Wandle. In the early 20th century the former Ravensbury Park Estate was partitioned and sold for residential development. Faced with increasing development pressure and recognising the recreational potential of the area, the Urban District Councils of Mitcham, and of Merton and Morden jointly purchased the remaining grounds of Ravensbury Manor in 1929 to set aside as a public park. The park was formally opened on 10th May 1930. The surrounding area became increasingly urbanised in the years following the establishment of the Park

4.2.1.4 The mills

From early times water mills flourished along the river. At the end of the 17th Century French Protestant refugees found the power of the water and its quality ideal for the trades they brought with them. Industries such as silk weaving, copper engraving, hat making, fabric printing, bleaching and dyeing flourished. Eventually, there were almost 100 water mills along the Valley, and the Wandle became known as the world's most industrialised river.

The textile mills were attracted to the River Wandle, not only as a source of power but also because of the special quality of its water, a chalk stream ideally suited to the washing, dyeing and printing of textiles. By 1792 over a thousand people were employed by the various print works or associated businesses in the area. Once established in the Wandle Valley, the printing industry attracted skilled workers from all over the UK, several important advances in the technique of printing textiles were developed here. Whilst the huge steam powered mills of the Midlands dominated the industry in terms of mass production, the Wandle Valley textile industry led the way in quality and innovation. For centuries afterwards it was a centre for the manufacture and printing of textiles, and until 1970 was the silk-printing works of the famous Regent Street store Liberty's.

Of the (approx.) 100 watermills on the River Wandle, that existed 200 years ago, only four still survive, Grove Mill in Carshalton, The Snuff Mill and Ravensbury Mill at Morden, and the great wheel at Merton Abbey Mills, which is the only one in fully restored working order.

4.2.1.5 Merton Abbey Mills



Merton Abbey Mills

Merton Abbey Mills is a former textile factory near the site of the medieval Merton Priory, now the home of a variety of businesses.

Merton Abbey Mills were established by Huguenot silk throwers in the early eighteenth century although there were already textile works nearby from 1667. The Abbey was restructured for textile printing in the early nineteenth century and was acquired by the Pre-Raphaelite artist and textile designer William Morris in June 1881 as the new home of Morris & Co.'s workshops. The complex, on 7 acres, included several buildings and a dye works, and the various buildings were soon adapted for stained glass making, textile printing, and fabric, tapestry, and carpet-weaving. Morris refused to destroy existing buildings, and adapted them or built new ones.

Morris employed a number of former Spitalfields silk weavers at Merton Abbey to produce hand-woven textiles, and used the gardens to grow dye plants and the water of the River Wandle to dye and rinse his fabrics.

Liberty & Co. had been involved with the site since the 19th century, as their popular ranges of fabrics for dress and furniture were nearly all made there by Littler and Co, Morris's immediate neighbours to the south. In 1904 Liberty & Co took over the Littler site, and then in 1940 the Morris facilities as well. They continued to operate the Merton Abbey Mills until 1972, and textile production was continued by other firms until 1982. During World War II part of the site was used to construct gun-turrets for the Bristol Blenheim fighter-bomber.

Today Merton Abbey Mills is a crafts market and the site of a summer theatre and music festival called Abbeyfest. A number of buildings from the Morris period, and even earlier, survive, and there are displays on the history of the site. A water-mill still turns in the summer, and the "colour house", a mid-18th century industrial building, is now a children's theatre.

4.2.1.6 Ravensbury Mill

Ravensbury Mill is a solid yellow stock brick building with a hipped roof which sits astride a mill pond. It was once a tobacco and snuff mill that was originally built in the early 19th Century. Portions of the buildings have recently been converted into accommodation, but the main mill building remains intact, although currently vacant. This is actually the oldest part of the mill complex (built in the 18th century). It was reputedly the last working mill on the river, and the wheels were still turning until the 1960's when the main stream was diverted. The wheels are still in place and mostly intact, their last use being to drive dynamo's used to provide light for the mill. The Mill is a grade 2 listed building and there is an initiative underway to convert this building into new premises for the Wandle Industrial Museum. It was originally anticipated that the restoration of the wheels could form part of this partnership scheme. This has however, proved to be unachievable within our project timescale due to on going legal issues concerning the lease agreement and planning issues.

4.2.1.7 Beddington Mill

This may be on the site of one of the two Mills at Beddington mentioned in the Domesday book. In the late 16th century it is supposed to have been owned by Sir Walter Raleigh and used as a snuff mill. However, an early 17th century lease shows that it was and had been a flour mill which belonged to the Carews, so the Raleigh story can be dismissed. In 1805 it was a snuff mill belonging to Mr Williamson. Charles Lambert had taken over by 1839. Piles Directory of 1876 still lists R Lambert Snuff Mills, Beddington Road. By 1878-9 the Lamberts had moved to Hackbridge and M Brand was running the mill. The mill was subsequently burnt down and was replaced by the existing brick building which was erected in 1891-2 by

Wallis & Co as a flour mill and bakery. The old mill house still survives. This may date back to the 18th century but it has been refaced.

The building is currently used as a storage warehouse and, although not in an evidently bad state of repair, it would be a desirable restoration project in its own right –albeit too big a project on its own to form part of the LWLPS scheme.

4.2.1.8 Upper Mill Carshalton –Grove Park

It is likely that a watermill existed here from Anglo-Saxon times, although much of the current structure is a recent restoration (2004) carried out after a fire. The current building is interesting and of great significance in the history of the Industrial Wandle. Scoping exercises for the LWLPS examined this as a potential restoration project but it was discounted on grounds of cost and project value (the interior is very inaccessible down some very steep steps with very constricted access due to the proximity of the park boundary fence). The mill has an excellent example of an iron water wheel and mill races which are kept in a good state of repair and maintained by Sutton Council

4.2.1.9 Merton Mill – Wandle Bank

In Wandle Bank, beside Wandle Park, the buildings of 'Merton Mills' still stand, though now they have been converted into flats. For centuries there was a large corn mill on this site, but it was latterly taken over by Connolly's, the famous leather firm who specialised in seating for quality cars such as Rolls and Jaguar. Nothing remains of the mill wheels, but you can still see the 'mill-race' – the sloping bed of the river which channelled the water to them.

The loss of the mills, and the loss of the memory of the mills is a great blow to the heritage of the Wandle, and a desire to find out more about this history has been cited in a lot of our consultations. Many of the original locations and sites are lost to the collective memory now. We have therefore put a great emphasis in developing an industrial heritage recording project which will seek to map these sites and involve local people in an interactive project which will revive, at least, the memories and learning from this critical facet.



Beddington Bridge c 1910

4.3 The Natural Heritage

Once the river teemed with wildlife including trout and otter, but by 1960 it was officially declared a sewer. Despite this, the river retained some areas of good habitat, and due to the improvements to the water quality (brought about by the upgrading of the water treatment plant and concerted efforts from local communities) the river is seeing a massive improvement to natural habitats and biodiversity, to the point where the Wandle has been identified as one of London's five flagship rivers by the Environment Agency. Significant stretches of the River Wandle – and adjacent sites - from its upper reaches to mouth are identified, at various levels of importance, as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). A few stretches/sites are of Metropolitan Importance:

- Tidal Thames (M31); mouth of the Wandle
- River Wandle (M91): Upper Wandle from Waddon Ponds to Morden Hall Park and Deen Farm, including:
- Wilderness Island and Spencer Road Wetlands
- Bennett's Hole, The Watermeads and Ravensbury Park

For most of its length the river now displays many typical characteristics of a natural, healthy chalk stream with long, flowing beds of streamer weed clinging to the gravel bottom throughout the river, and beds of water crow's-foot colonising the margins. Although there are now some non-native / invasive species colonising the river (dealt with in more detail in chapter 6 –Risks and Opportunities) there is a healthy proliferation of fauna and flora now successful established in the river;

The Wandle is noted for its comparatively rich aquatic flora, including species such as water starwort, arrowhead, and water crowfoot, Fennel-leaved pondweed, and broadleaved pondweed, amongst others. Particularly prominent in the Lower Wandle is unbranched bur-reed whose grass-like leaves form extensive underwater meadows.

For the most part, the banks are lined with a concrete toe-wall or by sheet steel piling and prevent the development emergent and marginal vegetation.

Occasional muddy shoals can be found on the margins where trees have encouraged deposition. Higher up, the banks are generally covered with bramble scrub or tall herb vegetation dominated by species such as stinging nettle. Ivy often dominates the areas under trees (see below). Pellitory-of-the-wall grows on the concrete river wall towards the northern end of the river.

A tributary stream joins the Wandle from the west, about half a kilometre north of Plough Lane. The channel is lined with a corrugated material and is devoid of vegetation. Water quality in the channel appears poor.

4.3.1 Riverside trees & woodland

Mature trees line the banks of the Wandle throughout much of the site. These include a number of large crack willows. Some of these have been pollarded, whilst others are beginning to collapse and split. Large hybrid black poplar trees are also frequent, especially in the central section opposite Garratt Park and allotments. Sycamore (a non native species) is occasional and groups of these trees are particularly common throughout the river in the south. In places the trees are sufficiently dense as to form a narrow strip of secondary woodland, with a sparse understorey of elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

The main ground cover in these areas consists of bramble, stinging nettle, cow parsley, cleavers and ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), with ivy common in the shadier parts. Rarer species include garlic mustard, stinking iris (*Iris foetidissima*) and lesser celandine.

4.3.2 Scrub & hedgerow

Areas of scrub are frequent, especially along the western margins of the site. Elder is the most abundant shrub species but hawthorn, buddleia, grey willow and goat willow are also frequent, as are saplings of sycamore and ash. Laburnum (*Laburnum anagyroides*) occurs in one area in the central portion of the site. Bramble is also a common scrub component, both

amongst shrubs and also forming dense patches on its own. The field layer of the scrub areas generally consists of stinging nettle and cow parsley but in places it features species such as Spanish bluebell, green alkanet and garlic mustard. Carpets of the mosses *Brachythecium rutabulum* and *Eurhynchium praelongum* are common under the more mature areas. Russian vine occurs as a scrambling climber in some areas.

Sections of native hedgerow have been planted in places to help screen boundary fences and factory walls. Typical species include hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, silver birch and English oak.

4.3.3 Tall herb

As noted above, stinging nettle and cow parsley are abundant in the woodland and scrub areas of the site. They are also widespread in the more open sections, forming the main tall herb cover on the banks of the Wandle and elsewhere. A variety of other tall herbs also occur, including hemlock, hogweed, teasel, lesser burdock and great willow herb, amongst others. Hemp agrimony, an uncommon plant in Greater London, is present in damper areas, together with reed canary grass and quite a lot of pendulous sedge. Of particular concern are non-native invasive species such as giant hogweed, which can reach a height of 5.5 metres and which contains a toxic sap which can cause dermatitis in the presence of sunlight. Another non-native invasive species of concern is Japanese knotweed, which forms dense monoclonal stands and can spread at the expense of other vegetation. It presents a particular challenge as it can grow through concrete and is easily spread.

4.3.4 Grassland

There are several small areas of semi-improved neutral grassland associated with the margins of the footpath. These are generally fairly disturbed and have been kept short by rabbit grazing and regular mowing during the growing season. Typical species include ryegrass, annual meadow grass, cut-leaved cranesbill, ribwort plantain, yarrow and creeping cinquefoil. Where rabbit grazing has been less intense and mowing has not been so frequent this grades into ranker grassland dominated by false oat grass, with herbs such as perforate St. John's-wort, ragwort and Michaelmas daisy.

4.3.5 Mammals

There is a healthy rabbit population within some of the reserves, mainly concentrated in the more open areas. Foxes are much in evidence. Small mammals are present in the grassland and scrub areas. Bats may be

attracted to forage along the river and some of the older trees with cavities offer potential roosting sites.

4.3.6 Birds

A range of common birds have been recorded, including dunnock, robin, blackbird, wren, great tit, chaffinch, starling, magpie and carrion crow. Mallard, moorhen, coot and grey wagtail are noted along the river. LEU (1998) state that grey wagtail and moorhen breed beside the river, whilst pied wagtail, blackcap, reed bunting, goldfinch and linnet breed nearby. Grey heron and kingfisher can be seen foraging along the river and lesser egret are increasingly being recorded at various sites.

4.3.7 Invertebrates

No comprehensive invertebrate survey has been carried out, however the Environment Agency monitors occasionally (The Wandle Trust have some data). LEU (1998) note that the site supports numerous bees, grasshoppers and butterflies, whilst damselflies are associated with the river.

4.3.8 Fish

One of the biggest success stories of the Wandle in recent years is its recovering fish population, which is seeing the River being lauded by anglers as “a hidden gem” for fishing. Chub, dace, and roach are now found in the river in fairly healthy (although still fragile) populations. Barbel is also found in good numbers along most of the river and is proving to be a big draw for visiting fishermen. A by-product of the Wandle Trust’s Trout in the Classroom education project has been the reintroduction of the iconic brown trout which once made the Wandle famous but died out in the 1930s due to pollution. There is now strong evidence that the introduced fish have started to breed in the river. Trout ‘nests’ known as “redds” are evident to the keen eye, particularly in the upper stretch above the inlet of the Beddington carrier stream where there is much more gravel on the bottom. In the lower reaches eels, an increasingly rare species, are also found and flounder are found at the mouth of the river at its confluence with the Thames, whilst smelt are known at the interface between the Wandle’s mouth and the Thames.

4.4 The significance of the spaces themselves and the significance of their entirety (i.e. the signature)

All of the main green spaces, parks and nature reserves are described in the last chapter, and also in greater detail within the Landscape Character Assessment in the appendix. Many of these have significant historic significance as they were formed out of the remnants of private gardens from the manors themselves (see also summary table of significance below). They are of varying degrees of local, regional and national importance.

However, it is the collection of all of these different spaces together, viewed in their entirety in the context of a “river park” that gives them a special significance.

4.5 Cultural associations

The river Wandle has many interesting cultural associations, the river valley has been featured in the works of a series of writers and artists who have either lived in or visited the area over the centuries:

- One of the first writers to mention the Wandle is Camden's *Britannia* in 1586 which refers to 'the cleared rivulet Wandle so full of the best trouts'.
- The quality of the fish in the river is a favourite subject for later writers; Isaac Walton's first edition of the “*Compleat Angler*” in 1653 says that Wandle trout had marbled spots like a tortoise.
- Alexander Pope the 18th century satirical poet mentions the river in his poem *Windsor forest*
- The presence of Lord Nelson, who had become a national hero before he bought Merton Place, has endowed the area with considerable Nelson folklore. He is recorded as having fished and caught trout in the river at a series of different locations, as well as having watched cricket at Mitcham Green
- The art critic and writer John Ruskin lived nearby, often visiting relatives in Croydon, by way of the river he wrote a lively description of the river in his book “*Praeterita*” in 1830
- Members of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood of artists are linked with the valley, as were the arts and crafts movement through the work of William Morris. Morris produced a Wandle chintz which he mentions in a letter to his daughter, saying that 'although the wet Wandle is not big but small,' he wanted to make the pattern 'very elaborate and splendid to honour our helpful stream'.

- The pre Raphaelite artist Arthur Hughes lived at Wandle Bank, just downstream from Morris's mills. Also close by was the potter Wilfred De Morgan who had worked with Morris but established his own workshop close to Merton Abbey mills. Local artists who worked in the area at the turn of the 19th century include William Tatton Winter, who spent 13 years in Carshalton and painted a number of views of the Wandle
- There is a wide range of cultural associations tied to Merton Priory and the Chapter House
- Contemporary cultural associations: today the Wandle has some important cultural associations for the Indian and Bangladeshi communities – Hindus hold water courses to be sacred to all forms of life. Offerings, particularly small statues of the god Ganesh and the goddess Vishnu are often ceremoniously dropped into running waters. Several examples of these have been recovered from the Wandle in recent years.



4.5.1 Internationally significant features

Name	Reason
Merton Priory and chapter House	Scheduled ancient monument Statutes of Merton drafted here- birthplace of English Law
Roman Villa at Beddington Park	Scheduled ancient monument

4.5.2 Nationally significant features

Name	Reason
Merton Abbey Mills	William Morris created fabrics at Merton Abbey Mills in the late nineteenth century and Liberty acquired the site and continued to produce textiles until 1972
Morden Hall Park and Snuff Mill	Grade II listed Morden Hall. Morden Hall Park is listed as Grade II on the national Register of Parks and Gardens.

4.5.3 Features with Regional (London) significance

Name	Reason
Whole river	The concept of the River Wandle as a landscape entity is recognised at a Regional Level through the London Plan, as part of the Blue Ribbon Network, and as one of the eighteen London Natural Signature Projects set out in the Regional Landscape Framework prepared for London on behalf of Natural England (April 2010). The promotion of the valley as a Regional Park also benefits from strong support at a local and regional level
Ravensbury Mill	Listed building "at risk"
Upper Mill Carshalton	Listed structure "at risk"

4.5.4 Features of Local significance

Name	Reason
Wandle Meadow nature park	Local nature reserves
Ravensbury Park	
Bennett's Hole	
Spenser Road wetlands	
Wandle Valley wetland	
Wilderness Island	
Sutton Ecology centre	
Beddington farmlands	
Watermeads Park	
Mitcham common	

5. Risks and Threats

5.1 What is currently happening to the heritage?

As we have stated in earlier chapters, the river and its valley environment is a very different landscape to the one found here historically: very different from the working river we would have seen here fifty, a hundred or even two hundred years ago. There are some fairly obvious strengths and weaknesses in this difference; we have a (fairly) clean and healthy river today as opposed to a heavily polluted one, but on the other hand, a lot of the historic built features of the river associated with the historic heritage of the Wandle have fallen into neglect.

The improvement in the water quality and the improved biodiversity of the river is seen as a big success story – the natural heritage that can be experienced along the river today is as good as it has been for a very long time, but this does not mean that it is a completely recovered aquarian landscape – it is still very fragile. The river itself depends upon waters from, firstly, a fairly intermittent aquifer system which rises in the North Downs, in an environment which is already fairly urbanised at source, meaning it is quickly subjected to the possibility of pollution and abstraction, and secondly, it is dependent on treated water being processed at the Beddington treatment plant. The water itself is still subjected to incidents of pollution, both low level pollutions (from fly tipping, badly plumbed washing machines etc) and infrequent but often quite serious, major incidents coming from the water treatment plant itself and sometimes from industrial sites and building developments on the banks of a river which has become increasingly urbanised over the past hundred years.

Many of the open spaces which sit alongside the River have also changed dramatically; many of the grounds of the old Manors such as Beddington and Morden Hall Park have now become public parks and open spaces to cater for the recreational needs of much denser urban settlements. Allotments have been squeezed in on pockets of the rich alluvial soils in order to augment people's food requirements (and provide a much needed reconnection with the land). The urbanisation of the entire Wandle Valley has meant that houses and industrial parks now run right up to the rivers edge in places, whilst thankfully (and it really is a huge bonus) a fairly consistent trail still runs along most of the river linking all of these spaces together.

The built heritage has changed dramatically. The key signature of the river was, at one time, its huge array of mills and workshops. As the river changed from being a working river to one of urban settlement, these mills

and buildings went into rapid decline, so much so that only a handful now remain. Some of these (such as Merton Abbey mills) have found new functions and uses. Some, such a high mill at Carshalton have proved almost impossible to find a new use and function for, due mostly to their idiosyncratic designs, and therefore hang on only as relics, always under some degree of threat (usually under the guise of being dangerous to Health and Safety). A couple of other historic building, particularly Ravensbury Mill, have dedicated "guardians" ; individuals and collectives within the community who are striving to find new uses and functions (and funding) for them, often a huge challenge when trying to adapt (often listed) buildings to modern, financially viable, uses.

5.2 Who is looking after this Landscape?

Historically almost all of this landscape and the buildings and features within it would have been privately owned. The large private estates and manors were sold to industrialists who built mills and kept the adjacent river bank spaces for drying, cutting, and storing their products (and to some limited extent, for the recreation of their workforces).The landscape, and the heritage features found within it, its now owned and managed by a variety of different landowners and agencies; Merton Abbey is owned and maintained by Merton Council, who have an agreement with the Merton Priory Trust to look after the monument. Merton Abbey Mills is now a complex of privately owned enterprises, with almost all of the historic buildings run as commercial enterprises; this helps to ensure that they are retained in a pretty good state of repair, and is one of the better "models" or examples of how buildings of this nature can be kept viable and safe. Morden Hall Park is owned and managed by the National Trust, which keeps the buildings and grounds in a relatively good state of repair and upkeep. The National Trust also own and maintain some of the nature parks which have been formed from the remnants of some of the old estate lands (such as Watermeads park).Most of the riverbanks themselves are divided between the 4 borough authorities (Merton, Wandsworth, Sutton and Croydon) and are managed within the open space portfolios of these authorities. This means of course, that the Wandle Trail is currently managed by 4 different unitary authorities, with different management regimes and varying styles of livery and furniture dotted along the trail. This has led to a perceived sense of "clutter" along the Trail, something which we are endeavouring to overcome through the initiatives set out within the Gateways project. This sense of separation is also evident in many of the parks and green spaces which line the whole length of the river, although overall, the standard of maintenance and upkeep in these spaces is generally quite good.

There are however certain spaces along the river and some sections of the Trail which appear to be less well cared for. In some instances this is purely where some elements of furniture and equipment have become somewhat tired and worn out and haven't as yet been prioritised for replacement. The Wandle Trail and the Green spaces along its length are, generally, given high prominence and priority in the unitary plans, open space strategies and section 106 / CIL strategies of all 4 of the boroughs, although currently we are seeing some of these authorities responsible for maintaining the Wandle-side environs struggling somewhat to secure much needed funding to replace some of its outdated infrastructure.

Much of the care of the river itself falls between the Environment Agency and the various charitable trusts which have emerged over the last twenty years, formed solely with the purpose of regenerating and rejuvenating the river itself. This building of partnerships along the river has made a big difference in turning around the health of, and access to and use of, the river in past 20 years, and to a great extent, the natural and built heritage assets that adjoin the river. The LWLPS will seek to build upon and enhance this.

5.3 The underlying Issues

There are a number of underlying issues which have led to the problems and threats we see facing the river and its Heritage today:

- Urban expansion and the change of use from a working river to a landscape with (seemingly) no or little functional use.
- Historic modifications made to the river channel itself

Most of the problems we see facing the river today (and some of the opportunities) result directly from the massive changes the river has undergone in the last hundred years or so, that have seen it change from a working river to a more benign landscape, coupled with the mass urbanisation of this part of South London, which has seen it change from a collection of villages and crossing points into a homogenous suburban sprawl. These two factors together have led to

- The dereliction of many of the old historic buildings through lack of function (and functionality)
- Pollution of the river from the urban settlements, and the water treatment plant which serves them (although in some ways, just a different type of pollution than in its industrial era)

- Bad planning and land management as councils and developing agencies are put under huge pressure to cater for a rapidly expanding urban framework
- Modifications made to the river itself – culverting and straightening of channels, with the intention of removing flood water quickly, which has unfortunately led to a loss of habitat, and excessive silt build up

These are probably the most tangible problems we can see as having effected the river, but all of these combined have contributed to two other major problems which still pose great threats to the River, namely

- A complete disconnection between the River and the people who live alongside it
- The evolution of a “disintegrated” landscape, divided up into many different spaces, with lots of potential new recreational uses, but with no discernable significant incomes to help maintain a much more varied landscape

5.4 Threats to the River

As we outlined earlier in the plan, despite really significant improvements to the river, its water quality, and the way in which it is treasured by the community, this is still a fragile situation and there are still factors which pose a threat to the river. The main threats to the river, as identified by all of the partners in the partnership are currently seen as being:

Pollution – as with almost any river, this poses easily the biggest threat, only it is probably more serious a risk than on many other rivers due to the high density of housing and industry along the river and the fact that a lot of its water passes through the Beddington water treatment plan

Invasive species – In the water itself, floating pennywort poses a significant threat to the river, and most of the work currently undertaken by the various authorities and agencies along the river, with a remit to control invasive species, focuses on the removal, and ultimately the eradication, of this species. Along the bank side, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed are present (although thanks to the on-going ,co-ordinated, actions of the Wandle Trust ,the Environment Agency , and their partners and supporters there have been significant programmes of removing these over the past few years)

Silting of the River – channelling and canalising of the Wandle over the years has led to natural flows slowing down, allowing sediments (often originating from road run-off) trapped in the water to settle on the river

bed in slow stretches, rather than be washed down river and towards the sea. These settled sediments trap pollutants (often washed in from roads and adjacent streets/footpaths) which can lead to high toxicity levels in the silt, hampering the ability of natural and native species to breed successfully.

Bad urban design – As we discussed earlier, when the river went through its worst period of neglect with planning and development objectives ignoring or even turning back on the river (often due to the bad health of the river itself – it was objectively viewed as an environmental element to be protected against rather than cherished) the river became choked by bad design and planning along its bank side. Industrial units were built backing onto the river, no one (40 years ago) would have wanted a domestic dwelling overlooking a dirty polluted river, so the river was not very protected against bad planning and design. Although the fortunes of the river have improved, it doesn't mean that we can take for granted an initiative (and drive –particularly economically) to ensure that any new development planned for the banks or the surrounding areas of the Wandle is thought out in way which is sympathetic and harmonious to the signature and character of the Wandle, nor that the pressures that any new development might put upon the river.

5.4.1 How can we address some of these threats through the partnership?

Although these identified threats are not insurmountable, many of them are clearly threats that are common to most river systems, and to actually neutralise them, or even reduce them right back to being minor threats is a big aim to achieve solely through the partnership and its component projects.

We have however, carefully constructed and selected some projects to address a lot of these issues, and tried to identify how some other aspects of these threats might be dealt with, not necessarily by the partnership projects themselves, but by the success of the partnership helping to influence wider factors, perhaps through the capacity building and up-skilling of partner organisations, and even also by just raising the profile of the river, helping people to regain a sense of connection with the river and engendering the stewardship and appreciation of the river amongst its riparian communities. This sense of ownership that we are trying to revive will be perhaps the most important factor in the future to guard against threats as well as the capacity building the project will impart upon the various partner organisations, and the sense that “something is finally happening” which will serve to inject a lot of much needed momentum into the process of “reclaiming” the Wandle.

However, until then we need to plan some effective and efficient ways in which we can start this process.

Pollution

This is being addressed by the River Guardians project, which will show a wide range of Wandle users how to spot and report incidences of pollution quickly.

The River education programme, as well as some of the training modules being delivered within other projects (and some of the learning modules) will teach people a lot about how fragile the river system actually is and how easily it can be polluted. This will help to promote a “caring and telling others” attitude amongst the people of the Wandle

A successful partnership project that delivers successes across the board helps to “up the ante” against corporate polluters –it’s easy to spill chemicals into a river that no one cares about and get away with it – less so once the river has become an active community resource.

Invasive species

As this was always identified as one of the major threats against which we felt we could make a very tangible improvement on with some more resources for coordinating the whole approach, the partnership decided that an action plan (and the delivering of this action plan) should be a whole, discreet, project in itself. The invasive species action plan has very clear targets for improving reduction /treatment /eradication rates for dealing with some of the most pernicious invasives on the river. Just as importantly though, it will also streamline future practices and identify efficiencies in the way all of the agencies and authorities deal with this issue in the future

Excessive silting of the River

Many of the environmental improvements that are being delivered as part of the catchment plan (action plan) will address the silting issue.. Re-contouring of the river beds, removing straight channels and replacing them with sinuous, banks with bends in them helps to shift the silt and carry it downstream. Removing small weirs and other artificial structures which trap silt (which will happen as part of the catchment plan, and has been undertaken by the Wandle Trust at several locations along the river) also helps to shift the silt and stop new settlements occurring. The major restoration project to re-naturalise the bank side at Ravensbury Park, which

also contributes toward restoring the river back to its natural, curving and bending form, is another project which will address this issue.

Bad Planning and Bad design

One of the main aims of the Gateways project, as well as resolving some of the linkages along the Wandle trail, and way marking some important entrances, is to start putting down some examples of good design along the river. There is a distinct lack of good quality landscape design along the Wandle trail and we feel that, resolving the issue of clutter, setting out a clear palette and hierarchy of materials etc. will make a significant impact and set out a very clear marker for design standards along the Wandle.

On the bigger issue of planning development along the Wandle; earlier on in the development phase we looked at some of the major projects such as the redevelopment of the ram brewery and some of the other key development sites on the Wandle. After a quick assessment we decided that getting involved in these was too much to take on, even as a discrete aspect of any of the projects (the gateways for example, could have tried to address the access along the river next to the brewery, but it's just too big and too expensive a project to take on as part of the partnership – it would have sucked up resources, and our aim is to spread our impact along enough of the river for people to make the links themselves).

However, due in a lot of ways to the momentum gathering around the Wandle in general, and some capacity building and forging of relationships that have been happening in the development phase, a joint effort from the WVRPT and the Wandle forum has been able to influence the planning design brief for the Ram Brewery. This also means that there is now a clear protocol in place whereby major planning applications for riverside developments are being put to the trust as a primary consultee. As we start to put all of the building blocks in place to restore the Wandle as a vibrant community asset, this kind of influence on major developments is something we see as being a key element; good architecture, against such as fantastic foil as the Wandle – will be one of the key signatures in the Rivers future.

5.4.2 Risks to the Built Heritage

As previously outlined, many of the historic buildings which gave the Wandle its unique character have now, sadly disappeared. Of the key built heritage features which remain Morden Hall Park and its historic mill buildings, and Merton Abbey Mills, are both well preserved and well managed and maintained. These two sites are well known and often cited

as “Jewels in the Crown” of the Wandle heritage experience. There are however a number of other historic buildings still at risk such as Ravensbury Mill and Upper Mill, Carshalton (see also statement of significance) which are currently deemed to be at risk. Carshalton Upper Mill is kept under a watchful eye by the Honeywood Museum who, along with LB Sutton, are currently looking for solutions to potentially re-activate the small building as a “micro-museum”. Ravensbury Mill, as mentioned in other parts of this document is currently subject to negotiation between LB Merton’s planning department, the Mills owners, and the Wandle Industrial Museum, and it is envisaged that this will become a new base for the museum sometime in the near future. The LWLPS will address the risk to built heritage by firstly delivering an exemplary project at Merton Priory Chapter House, which demonstrates a problem solving approach to the restoration and reactivation of the Wandle’s historic buildings, and secondly by up skilling and building the capacity of organisations such as the Wandle Industrial Museum through the LWLPS Training plan.

5.5 Risks to the Partnership

- Small partner organisations surviving long term –we would attempt to assist by building their capacity and providing extra organisational training (through volunteer & training plan)
- There is also a risk/threat to the long term maintenance and management of the river from the budgets currently set out for maintaining the various bank side spaces becoming threatened. We intend to address this by upskilling and training volunteers (and also potentially a “green team” for the Wandle), and by ensuring that any new interventions and changes to the landscape made by any of the projects are both robustly designed and build, and also have cheaper and easier maintenance implications than whatever currently exists (re-naturalised river banks for example are much cheaper and easier to maintain in the long term). We also intend to add “belt and braces” to this by quantifying and costing all of the tasks necessary to ensure new works become properly established (in the 10 year management plan). There is also the potential to review (and re-measure) a basic maintenance plan for most of the Wandle Trail as part of a “re-thinking” of the way this is currently managed – this is however not part of this project, but a separate piece of work currently being investigated by the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust.

5.6 Partnership Risk Register

5.6.1 Risks and threats to the River and environs

Risk / threat	Pollution
Effect if left unchecked	Fish and invertebrates being killed off, river reverts to becoming "dead" again
Mitigating measures	Enhance local stewardship and love of the river through partnership scheme thereby making it more difficult for individuals/organisations to get away with polluting and easier to prevent the apathy currently around doing something to remedy the situation. Deliver education about the fragility of the river to combat small scale pollution through River education project. Deliver River Guardians project to enable local people to spot, monitor and report pollutions incidents quickly and tackle domestic misconnected pipes.
Risk / threat	Invasive species
Effect if left unchecked	River and surrounding banks could become smothered with invasive species – loss of habitat and biodiversity
Mitigating measures	Deliver invasive species action plan enabling local volunteers to help reduce invasive species and better co-ordination of agencies in removals/reductions and management
Risk / threat	Silting
Effect if left unchecked	Eutrophication, flooding, trapped toxins = pollution
Mitigating measures	Delivery exemplary projects through Catchment Plan / Ravensbury park which improve hydrogeomorphology and localised flow to deal with suspended silts and trapping
Risk / threat	Bad planning and design
Effect if left unchecked	Puts extra pressure on river parks as a community resource Makes river experience much poorer
Mitigating measures	Being dealt with by capacity building of WVRP and Wandle Forum. Lay down some good design examples through gateways project
Risk / threat	Lack of maintenance of river features
Effect if left unchecked	People deterred from using the river if it feels neglected; Wandle trail becomes difficult to use, etc
Mitigating measures	10 year extra maintenance /establishment plan. Extra tasks identified and costed. Use examples/projects which are robust and easier to maintain (catchment/gateways/Waddon etc). Upskill the maintainers through volunteer/training plan

Risk / threat	Lack of maintenance of riverside green spaces
Effect if left unchecked	As above
Mitigating measures	Look to upskill long term maintainers through training plan – possibility to develop and upskill “green team” in years 3/4
Risk / threat	Climate change
Effect if left unchecked	Fluctuations in river levels (flooding + drying out) – death of species
Mitigating measures	Teach people about effects and learning to mitigate through Climate Change Awareness + delivery projects
Risk / threat	Any remaining historic buildings falling into complete neglect
Effect if left unchecked	Serious loss of heritage and signature of river – history and heritage becomes forgotten
Mitigating measures	Build capacity of Wandle industrial museum etc (training plan).deliver good example of what can be done and how with Merton priority to set ball rolling –highlight the plight of other (high mill/Ravensbury etc) through Heritage recording project and try and get some long term momentum going
Risk / threat	Failure to recruit project delivery staff
Effect if left unchecked	Delays in project startup
Mitigating measures	WBC ready to recruit as soon as permission to start received = job specs approved.
Risk / threat	Climate change (global)
Effect if left unchecked	
Mitigating measures	Plant climate change resistant planting (gateways + waddon Ponds) Encourage cycling and walking by

5.6.2 Threats to overall Partnership

Risk / threat	Lack of skills from smaller partner organisations to sustain their organisations (and therefore the river) long-term
Effect if left unchecked	Loss of some of the smaller, charitable organisations involved in the renaissance of the river would lead to a potential re-decline of the river again
Mitigating measures	Build capacity of some of these organisations, and their skill bases, through the delivery of some of the partnership projects.

Risks and Threats

	Bolster their skills and capabilities with some extra organisational training as part of the LWLPS training plan
Risk / threat	Financial threats to larger partner organisations (local authorities etc)
Effect if left unchecked	Effects ability to deliver LWLPS and maintain long term success of river
Mitigating measures	Ensure clear and detailed workplan for delivery team with clear reporting structure so management input is succinct /concise

5.6.3 Threats to delivery of Partnership scheme projects

Risk / threat	Projects failing to meet specifications
Effect if left unchecked	Not conforming to specifications / targets set out in application leads to poor project not achieving its objectives , could affect drawing down of HLF funding if deviating from scope without good reason
Mitigating measures	Regular reporting to steering group / board by delivery team on project progress. Delivery team need to work very closely with delivering partners to advise and direct.

Risk / threat	Budgetary over-runs
Effect if left unchecked	Individual partners would overspend on their budgets on not being able to drawdown enough to cover their bills.
Mitigating measures	All potential contingencies already identified = project scheme manager to advise partners on good procurement/ tendering techniques.

Risk / threat	Lack of maintenance in establishment period (and beyond)
Effect if left unchecked	Reed beds turn back to scrub, bankside planting does not establish but erodes etc
Mitigating measures	Training courses identified and costed for voluntary maintainers. Extra budget identified in 10 year maintenance/man plan to ensure proper establishment

Risk / threat	Failure to recruit project delivery staff
Effect if left unchecked	Delays in project startup
Mitigating measures	WBC ready to recruit as soon as permission to start received = job specs approved.

Risk / threat	Climate change (global)
Effect if left unchecked	
Mitigating measures	Plant climate change resistant planting (gateways + waddon Ponds)

5.6.4 Any residual threats from the actual projects being implemented?

Risk / threat	Bats / birds / wildlife etc. disturbed by works
Effect if left unchecked	Disturbance of habitat (also illegal)
Mitigating measures	Bat surveys to be undertaken at Merton priory prior to works starting. Capital works at Waddon, Ravensbury etc. undertaken outside of nesting season
Risk / threat	Contractors working near watercourses (chemical spillage / materials spillage etc)
Effect if left unchecked	Pollution incidents
Mitigating measures	Contractors to be ISO 14001 compliant; extra training and toolbox talks to be given.
Risk / threat	Any new physical interventions being "out of character" or inappropriate
Effect if left unchecked	Conflicts with natural signature increase clutter and chaos.
Mitigating measures	All detail proposals to be vetted/ approved by steering group and project board.
Risk / threat	Any abuse to children or vulnerable adults
Effect if left unchecked	Prosecution, bad publicity.
Mitigating measures	All project staff, delivery partners/ contractors to be CRB checked.
Risk / threat	Cannot engage enough of our target audience and help break through the "barriers" they see to using the river.
Effect if left unchecked	Project is a failure if we only engage "the usual suspects".
Mitigating measures	We have placed a big emphasis on identifying target audiences, discussing their needs, and designing projects to cater for these needs; also, there is a big emphasis and mechanisms in place for the project officer to engage with these audiences when the project starts up.

6. Aims and objectives

6.1 Vision

During the initial stages of formulating the Living Wandle partnership project stakeholders were consulted on what they felt were the main problems facing the river, and what kind of broad aims and common goals could be agreed upon to address these problems and safeguard the future heritage of the river. These broad aims were encapsulated in a vision statement in order to summarise what the project is hoping to achieve, namely:

To plan for, and provide; A vibrant healthy, sustainable, multi-functional landscape in which people recognise and are inspired by the natural and cultural heritage of the valley and river”.

This vision is defined in slightly more detail as five **aims**, agreed upon by stakeholders as “the real things they would like to see happen to safeguard the river” i.e. the ways in which we see our partnership achieving this Vision.

6.2 The LWLPS Aims

The Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme has five over-arching aims. These are laid out below.

Code	Long description	Short description
A1	To revitalise the River Wandle as an identifiable high quality asset to the communities of South London through engagement with the Natural and Built Heritage of the river	Revitalising the river Wandle
A2	To provide a multi functional living landscape which is accessible to all and an open space resource that contributes to health and well-being	Multi functional landscape
A3	To strengthen the partnership of people who look after the river	Partnership strengthening
A4	To reintroduce the local diverse community to the river and to find ways in which this re-established relationship can enrich the lives of local people	Local community benefits
A5	To help make the river valley a clear, safer and much more sustainable environment	Clean, safe, sustainable environment

6.3 The LWLPS Objectives

The objectives we developed to support our Aims are as follows;

- Obj1** Celebrate the natural, cultural and built heritage of the river
- Obj2** Celebrate the diversity of our local community
- Obj3** Restore and conserve some of the key built, and natural features of the river.
- Obj4** Encourage more people, and a wider range of people, to take part in their local landscape heritage.
- Obj5** Provide training opportunities in local heritage skills for local people
- Obj6** Strengthen the river partnership and enable the launch of a number of cross borough initiatives which draw in support and expertise from a number of partners
- Obj7** Provide more and better opportunities for people to access the river and its adjacent heritage sites
- Obj8** Raise awareness of the river as an educational resource and a source of local pride
- Obj9** Improve promote the use of the river as a key asset in regenerating the adjacent urban fabric.
- Obj10** Support and promote activities that help to mitigate or adapt to the impact of climate change
- Obj11** Improve the network/framework of communications between partner organisations concerned with conserving the river.
- Obj12** Clarify and consolidate volunteering networks in the river valley and increase range of opportunities for volunteering.

These objectives will be achieved by delivering a balanced range of projects and initiatives across 4 programmes

Programme A	Conservation & Restoration
Programme B	Increasing community Participation
Programme C	Access and Learning
Programme D	Training and Skills

The following table summarises the relationship between aims, objectives and projects.

OBJECTIVES	OVERARCHING AIM SERVED	PROJECTS (ACTIONS) THAT WILL HELP DELIVER THIS
<p>OB1 Celebrate the natural, cultural and built heritage of the river.</p>	<p>A3, A4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Heritage Recording • Wandle Flowing Through Time • Reflecting the Wandle • Discovering the Source of the Wandle • Merton Priory Chapterhouse
<p>OB2 Celebrate the diversity of our local community (past and present).</p>	<p>A3, A4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wandle Flowing Through Time • Reflecting the Wandle
<p>OB3 Restore and conserve some of the key built and natural features of the river.</p>	<p>A1, A2, A5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Plan • Invasive Species Action Plan • Waddon Pounds • Ravensbury Channel • Merton Priory Chapterhouse
<p>OB4 Encourage more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in their local landscape heritage.</p>	<p>A2, A4, A5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Plan • Invasive Species Action Plan • Wandle Flowing Through Time • Social Landlords • Morden Hall Park Boardwalk • Industrial Heritage Recording • Volunteer & Training Programme • Climate Change Awareness • River Guardians • Interpretation Plan
<p>OB5 Provide training opportunities in local heritage skills for local people.</p>	<p>A1, A3, A4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Plan • Invasive Species Action Plan • Volunteer & Training Programme
<p>OB6 Strengthen the river partnership and enable the launch of a number of cross borough initiatives which draw in support and expertise from the various partners.</p>	<p>A3, A5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Species Action Plan • Social Landlords • Gateways Project • Volunteer & Training Programme • River Guardians • Interpretation Plan • Gateways Project

<p>OB7 Provide more and better opportunities for people to access the river and its adjacent heritage sites (both physically and intellectually).</p>	<p>A4, A2, A1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waddon Pounds • Social Landlords • Piscators Youth • Merton Priory Chapterhouse • Morden Hall Park Boardwalk • Industrial Heritage Recording • Climate Change Awareness • Interpretation Plan
<p>OB8 Raise awareness of the river as an educational resource and a source of local pride.</p>	<p>A4, A1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovering the source of the Wandle • Reflecting the Wandle • River Education • Industrial Heritage Recording • Climate Change Awareness
<p>OB9 Improve and promote the use of the river as a key asset in regenerating urban areas.</p>	<p>A1, A2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateways Project (demonstrating good design) • Climate Change Awareness • Also delivery of overall partnership scheme successfully
<p>OB10 Support and promote activities that help to mitigate, or adapt to, the impact of climate change.</p>	<p>A5, A1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Plan • Ravensbury Channel • Volunteer & Training Programme
<p>OB11 Provide an improved network/framework for communication/information between partners and other organisations concerned with conserving the river.</p>	<p>A3, A4, A5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive Species Action Plan • River Guardians • Interpretation Plan
<p>OB12 Clarify and consolidate / expand volunteering networks in the river valley.</p>	<p>A5, A3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Plan • Invasive Species Action Plan • Volunteer & Training Programme • River Guardians

Each project has outputs: measurable successes of what we want to achieve (such as the number of people trained, or hectares of parkland improved). The outputs for each project are described in detail in each individual projects plans in the Appendices, however we can summarise

these outputs, and which objectives these individual outputs actually help to fulfil (and therefore the overarching Aims as well) as follows:

Programme A	Outputs	Objective which this fulfils
Waddon ponds	2 ponds renaturalised (hard and soft works)	Ob3 – Conserve and restore
	Improved interpretation	Ob7 – improving access
Ravensbury Channel	Creation of 100m of narrow, sinuous river channel	Ob3 – conserve and restore
	Creation of scalloped river channel banks (100m)	Ob3 – conserve and restore
	Riverine habitat/biodiversity enhancements (general)	Ob10- address climate change
Catchment plan	4 river restoration projects delivered	Ob3 – conserve and restore
	10 participants trained in river restoration	Ob5 – training Ob10-address climate change Ob12-volunteers
Invasive species action plan	120 volunteers trained in monitoring	Ob5 –training and skills Ob4 –encourage more people Ob12- improve and expand volunteering
	Invasive species reduced by 50% over life of project	Ob3 conserve and restore
	Co-ordinated cross borough strategy for dealing with invasives	Ob6 –strengthen partnership Ob11 –improve network of communications
10 year management and maintenance plan	All establishment and maintenance tasks for physical improvements identified, quantified, and costed for 10 years. Financial measures put in place to ensure carried out	Ob3 – conserve and restore
Programme B		
Reflecting the Wandle	4 outdoor theatre Performance delivered along the Wandle bringing in 30-50 audience members per performance	Ob1 – celebrate heritage Ob2 – celebrate diversity Ob8 – raise awareness of river Ob12 – expand volunteering networks

Aims and Objectives

	12 Community workshops, Set and costume design workshops and taster sessions delivered	Ob4 – encourage more people
	4 Volunteers recruited, 30 Participants engaged in performance 15 Participants engaged in set and costume design	Ob5 – provide training
	1 induction session for volunteers	Ob5 – provide training
	Training in health and safety and first aid for volunteers	
	4 (monthly) one to one support sessions for 4 volunteers	
Wandle flowing through time	1 Oral history recording project delivered and uploaded to web archive	Ob1 – celebrate heritage Ob2 celebrate diversity
	8 workshops held engaging 60 participants	
Social landlords project	8 guided river walks taking 75 residents from their estates and 8 social landlord (staff) representatives from the 4 targeted estates to their local stretch of the Wandle to record and map perceptions and identify "ways in" to the Wandle	Ob4 – encourage more people
	4 estate Wandle ambassadors recruited and supported from 4 geographical areas within the Wandle Valley to act as "lynchpins" between the LWLPS and all of the targeted housing areas / TRA's etc	Ob6 – strengthen partnership Ob2 – celebrate diversity
	32 resident Wandle engagement events/facilitated workshops across the estate communities reaching 800 residents of different ages and backgrounds to promote all wandle opportunities and recruit new participants to LWLPS	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob12 – consolidate and expand volunteering networks
Discovering the source of the Wandle	1 community project delivered enabling people to find the source(s) of the River Wandle	Ob1 – celebrate heritage
	1 printed / digital map produced to guide people to the source	Ob7 – access Ob8 – raise awareness
	1 guided walk run with 40 people attending	Ob7 – access Ob8 – raise awareness
	1 exhibition on the source of the Wandle	Ob8 – raise awareness
	Training session for 20 volunteers (researching / archiving techniques)	Ob5 – training Ob12 - volunteers

Aims and Objectives

Wandle piscators	1 child welfare officer appointed and trained	Ob5 - training
	3 angling coaches secured	Ob5 - training
	1 juniors section launched for club	Ob4 – encourage more people Ob7 – access
River celebration event	1 launch event run promoting the LWLPS and recruiting new participants and volunteers	Ob1 celebrate heritage Ob 4 –encourage more activity Ob 7 – encourage access
	1 closing celebration event run	Ob1 – celebrate heritage Ob2 – celebrate diversity
Programme C		
Gateways project	10 physical projects delivered to improve entrances to wandle trail	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob 9 – promote river as design assett
Morden hall park boardwalk	240 m of boardwalk giving access to wetlands	Ob7 –provide more and better access
Interpretation strategy	1 web site/resource developed	Ob6 – strengthening partnership
	1 digital archive established and loaded with all learning/recording information (specified in the individual projects)	Ob11 – better communications
	1 "twinning" plan developed and delivered bringing 12 - 20 new organisations into the partnership as participants	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob6 – strengthening partnership Ob2 – Celebrate diversity
	1 communications/dissemination exercise delivered to enable public to access web/archive (QR codes)	Ob7 –provide more and better access
Merton Priory	Increased visitor numbers by 20%	Ob4 – encourage more people
	New glass wall to replace 60m brick wall	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob3 – conserve and restore
River education programme	1 (National Curriculum standard) Rivers Education pack developed, produced and disseminated	Ob 8 – promote educational resource
	18 "wandle in the classroom" lessons delivered	Ob 8 – promote educational resource Ob4 – encourage more people

Aims and Objectives

	4 "classroom at the Wandle " sessions delivered	Ob3 – conserve and restore Ob10 –climate change adaption
	2000 schoolchildren engaged as participants	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob4 – encourage more people
Industrial heritage recording project	1 film produced recording the changes at Merton priory	Ob4 – encourage more people Ob5 – training Ob7 –provide more and better access
	1 "treasure hunt" delivered with 30 participants learning about , and mapping historic sites	Ob 8 – promote educational resource
	1 heritage trail map produced and loaded to web archive	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob5 – training Ob4 – encourage more people
	2 guided tours planned, delivered, recorded and uploaded to web archive with 12 participants up skilled	Ob7 –provide more and better access Ob5 – training
Programme D		
Volunteer and training programme	850 -1300 volunteers engaged over the life of the project (across all programmes)	Ob4 – encourage more people Ob12 –improve and expand volunteering networks Ob2 – celebrate diversity
	All of these receiving training at different levels (from basic health and safety to level 1 Diploma standard)	Ob5 – training
	Between 15 and 45 staff from smaller partnering organisations trained in skills to build their capacity	Ob6 – strengthening partnership
	70% "satisfaction of experience " target	Ob4/5/7
River guardians	450 volunteers trained in spotting, monitoring, reporting, tackling pollution incidents	Ob3 – conserve and restore Ob12 –improving volunteer and communications networks
	10 river clean up session delivered (as vehicle for "classes")	Ob3 – conserve and restore

	1 information leaflet/webpage produced to disseminate this learning, uploaded to web resource and disseminated via appropriate web forums etc	Ob3 – conserve and restore Ob11 – better communications Ob6 – strengthening partnership
Climate change training	3 schools have school travel plans refreshed	Ob 8 – promote educational resource
	1 project delivered to find, record, map and understand all examples of climate change adaption/mitigation within the Wandle Valley	Ob10 –climate change adaption Ob4 – encourage more people
	2 guided tours planned, delivered, recorded and uploaded to web archive with 12 participants up skilled	Ob11 – better communications
	1 Design and build demonstration project delivered with 8 volunteers	Ob5 – training

6.4 Some guiding principles to support the Aims & Objectives

The Projects themselves are the actions which when enacted should deliver our Aims and Objectives. However there are also specific **ways** in which we can deliver these projects *in detail* which will also underpin and strengthen this process. Some of these more detailed ways of working are outlined below

- *Projects should conserve or enhance each of the different types of heritage, whilst meeting conservation standards and ensuring work is undertaken to an appropriate standard of quality*

This will be achieved by:

- 1) Ensuring that all proposals are designed to satisfy the appropriate conservation standards. All works proposed to the natural environment (Waddon Ponds project, Catchment Plan project, Ravensbury Channel project, Invasive Species project) are subject to permissions and approvals from the Environment Agency.
- 2) Ensuring appropriate contractors are in place to undertake the works. Some of the (smaller) river restoration projects are undertaken directly by the Wandle Trust (with volunteers) and the partnership/Steering Group have been satisfied that they have the experience and expertise to undertake works of this nature (based upon previous similar projects already undertaken on the river). Other contracts will be tendered and commissioned using industry standard contract

documents (JCLI/JCT) with fully detailed specifications. These contracts will be tendered competitively as per the partners own standing orders and procurement regulations.

These principles also apply to the built elements of the access and learning themes such as the Gateways sites and Morden Hall Park boardwalk.

- a. *Projects should resolve any conflicts between different types of heritage.*

The main conflicts envisaged are those in which in the built elements might impact negatively upon the natural heritage. The partners have been briefed to bear this in mind in formulating detailed proposals. For example, works at Waddon Ponds will be scheduled to take place outside of any identified nesting season. Works proposed at Merton Priory will not proceed until surveys have been undertaken to ensure there are no bat roosts present.

- b. *We will ensure that broad audiences are engaged from different background, representative of the mix of people that live and work in our project area*

Some of the community participation projects already have identified audiences (from current stakeholders) and people who have “pledged” interest during the development phase. Whilst aiming to keep these opportunities for participation open to all, we have a strategy for bringing in new participants from some of our identified /targeted harder to reach groups (see Chapter 6: Scheme plan and costs)

- c. *When we are Improving physical access we should ensure that it doesn't damaging heritage;*

Sites selected for the gateways project have been checked in workshops with key stakeholders (including the Environment Agency, Wandle Trust and relevant officers from local authorities) to ensure that they do not impact negatively upon the natural heritage or any site of important historical significance. As the detailed designs are developed, these will be checked again through the same channels, including comments from the authorities planning and conservation officers. This principle also applies to emerging proposals for Merton Priory.

There are some areas of the overall project area where physical access is inappropriate, such as nature reserves. Although an improved Wandle trail will bring people close to these sites existing access arrangements for

these sites remain as they are now and are not effected by any access improvement proposals that form part of this scheme.

Ensuring that any materials proposed in our access improvements respond directly to the nature of their location is fundamentally critical to the success of the project. The materials proposed for Morden Hall Park boardwalk are mostly in wood and are in keeping with existing materials and the vernacular of the site itself. When we move into the detailed design stages of the Gateways project, all proposed materials will be subject to similar scrutiny, principally by the project lead and the board/steering group, but also by the relevant authorities who will need to approve and adopt these.

We intend to improve the access to the heritage in many different ways; as well as ensuring that physical access improvements are appropriate and comply to accessibility guidelines and regulations (e.g. no barriers that make it difficult for wheelchairs to access), projects such as the Catchment Plan projects, and the Ravensbury Channel works will greatly improve people's access to nature. Access to information about the Wandle will be greatly improved by projects such as the Industrial Heritage Recording project, the Climate Change Awareness project, the River Education, Discovering the Source of the Wandle and Reflecting the Wandle projects, as these will strive to improve people's understanding of the river. We also see the web resource and the digital archive, and the way in which information is managed concisely and disseminated/promoted through this as being key factors in improving accessibility.

- *We will ensure that staff and volunteers are fully skilled to be able to deliver the aims of the project (s)*
- *We will maximise the opportunities which the project creates to offer training and work experience to the local community*
- *We will seek to assist service providers and community groups within the Wandle Valley/ Regional Park to fully develop their potential and maximise their contribution, particularly to the future management of the park*
- *We will seek to reduce effects on the environment from our interventions*

The Gateways project, which will seek to address some of the missing links in the Wandle Trail, is aimed at encouraging people to use the trail as a green walking and cycling route, thereby reducing carbon emissions.

- *In order to manage any potential conflict we should ensure that approval, and appropriate mandate is attained for detailed proposals*

All detail design work subjected to public consultation, culminating in Planning Permission applications for projects such as Merton Priory, Morden Hall Park boardwalk and possibly some Gateways sites. Final detailed development of any projects for year 2 onwards is deliberated and approved at steering group and project board meetings and also brokered with key stakeholders and communities.

- d. *The outputs we deliver should show that we can manage visitors in a way that does not damage heritage*

Improvements to the Wandle trail by way of the Gateways project and the development and promotion of the various "trails" (Industrial Heritage trail, Climate Change trail, Discovering the Source of the Wandle trail), and the way in which these will be communicated and promoted through the web resource and archive, encourages walkers/cyclist to stick to the main path whilst still experiencing the natural and built heritage. Adding a new boardwalk at Morden Hall Park allows visitors to experience the landscape without damaging the natural heritage. Access improvements at Merton Priory will increase visitor numbers to a monument which is still quite fragile – however this will be mitigated by training curators / guides within Merton Priory Trust.

- e. *We need to ensure that any changes we make comply with management standards and can be adopted and maintained by the relevant authorities/agencies*

All of the physical improvements are being negotiated with the authorities that will ultimately take responsibility for maintaining them – e.g.: all gateways "principles" have been agreed with Boroughs through workshops and the detail proposals will need to be approved and adopted to the relevant Borough standards.

- f. *We should ensure that all the recording and learning, all the information about the projects, their evaluation and lessons learnt will be stored somewhere where it can easily be accessed and updated in the future*

This will be achieved through the digital archive project and the way this is organised succinctly and then promoted and disseminated via the web resource. This also applies to the way in which we will ensure volunteers, staff and contractors have access to information about the heritage.

Maintaining the Assets

One of our core objectives (objective 3) states that we will restore and conserve some of the key physical features of the Wandle. The specific actions and outputs we will deliver to achieve this involve significant projects at Waddon Ponds, Merton Priory, Ravensbury Channel, and Morden Hall Park (Boardwalk). The restoration of these assets (and specifically the accessing of the wetlands at Morden Hall Park by way of the new boardwalk) therefore needs to have robust maintenance arrangements put in place to ensure that they are also conserved in the long term.

In the project proposals for Waddon Ponds and Ravensbury Channel, the improvements will be maintained by the landowners (in both cases the Local Authorities) who have confirmed that the works proposed can be maintained within their existing grounds maintenance contracts (the fact is that the improvements, particularly once established and matured, should actually be easier and cheaper to maintain than the current, man made, high maintenance landscapes we currently see in these locations). Morden Hall park entails slightly more maintenance, as this will see an entire new structure placed in the landscape. The National Trust have though confirmed that this will be added to their asset maintenance register / grounds maintenance contract to ensure that longevity is ensured through adequate maintenance.

The improvements at Merton Priory will be maintained by the local authority (Merton Council) who has also confirmed that they will be responsible for maintaining the improved site in good order. The details and terms of this will be included within the management agreement which the council are currently preparing, in order to allow the Merton Priory Trust to continue to operate from here. The Trust has also prepared a long term management and maintenance strategy for the Priory (which is included in the appendices). Although the overall responsibility of maintaining the site rests with the Council, the Trust itself undertakes a lot of the day to day requirements of maintaining the site (and propose to continue doing so).

Most of the proposed sites for the Gateways projects have been brokered (in principle) with the relevant officers from the Local Authorities who will ultimately be responsible for adopting and maintaining these interventions. There is a possibility in the future that some of these might be maintained by a community resource (such as a "green team" of volunteers). However, for now the assumption is that the tasks associated with maintenance of the gateways will fall to the Boroughs. To this end the

outline proposals have been scoped to be simple, robust and easy to maintain. As the proposals become more detailed in the stage D/E design stages soon to be undertaken, they will be discussed and negotiated again with the maintaining/adopting Council teams to ensure that any tasks required to maintain them can be contained within existing budgets (and therefore approved for adoption by the relevant Boroughs).

In order to strengthen and underpin any of these adopted maintenance tasks, most of these (built) projects also have detailed and costed extra tasks identified and specified as part of a 10 year maintenance and establishment plan. This is included in the appendix of supplementary documents.

7. Scheme plan and costs

This section gives an overview and brief summary of what each of the individual projects consists of, together with an overall budget cost (all inclusive – including all volunteer values, fees and overheads. Full project proposals including detailed costs and plans are included in appendix number 1.

Programme A	Programme B	Programme C	Programme D	Programme E
<i>Conservation and Restoration</i>	<i>Increasing Community Participation</i>	<i>Access and Learning</i>	<i>Training and Skills</i>	<i>Scheme costs and overheads</i>
Catchment plan delivery	Wandle flowing through time	Wandle gateways project	Volunteer and training programme (including cross-borough training for hard to reach)	Scheme manager
Waddon Ponds	Social landlord community project	Merton Priory chapter house	Climate change awareness programme	Project assistant (communities)
Ravensbury channel improvements	Discovering the source of the wandle	Morden hall park boardwalk	River guardians	Part time project assistant
Invasive species action plan	Reflecting the wandle	River education project		Evaluation project
10 year management and maintenance plan	River celebration	Industrial heritage recording project		
	Piscators youth	Interpretation plan		

7.1 Some cross – cutting initiatives ;

In order to deliver an effective programme of works, addressing all of our key aims and objectives we need to ensure that we are delivering an appropriate amount of *impact* across all of the 4 theme area (ie that there should be a good balance of community engagement, training and ways to access the project, as well as just undertaking physical improvements). We have sought to ensure that this is the case, but there are actually quite a few projects that, although they might ostensibly be “restoration” projects, contain a lot of other elements which address the other key themes (i.e. that they are “cross-cutting”). The Catchment Plan projects, for example, although on the face of it, a project top restore natural river habitats actually contains a significant element of community involvement and engagement and training.

7.1.1 Programme A

Catchment Plan – also contributes to programme B objectives (increasing community participation) and Programme D objectives (training and skills) by teaching members of the local communities about river restoration and then training them to carry out restoration projects.

Invasive species action plan – also contributes to programmes B and D and their objectives by training members of the public to spot, monitor and report (and treat in some cases) invasive species.

7.1.2 Programme B

Wandle flowing through time/Reflecting the Wandle – also contributes to Programme C objective (access and learning) by providing material to be shared and disseminated via the Living Wandle web resource and digital archive.

Social landlords' project – contributes to Access and Learning (objective C) by guiding communities from harder to reach estates back to the river.

Discovering the source of the Wandle – contributes to programme C objectives (access and learning) by discovering potential new trail(s) to sources of river and also providing archive material for web resource and digital archive.

Piscators Youth – contributes to Programme C objective (access and learning) by giving young people safe access to the river, and also Programme D objective by training and coaching young anglers.

7.1.3 Programme C

Wandle Gateways project – contributes (potentially) to programme D objective (training and skills) as suggests offering some apprenticeship/training as part of build contract and training of "Green Team" or similar community initiative in establishment and long term maintenance.

Merton priory Chapter House – Contributes to programme A as it is conserving and restoring a key built heritage asset. Also contributes to programme D objective by putting an apprenticeship/trainee placement into the build contract

Industrial Heritage Recording project – contributes significantly to Programme B objective (increasing community participation) by engaging a good cross section of the community in participating in planning, guiding and recording the elements of the project, also contributes to D (Training and skills) in its delivered training in audio and visual recording.

7.1.4 Programme D

Climate change awareness project – contributes to Programme B objective (increasing community participation) by involving a broad range of participants in not only learning about climate change but also in planning, organising and recording (audio/visual) tours of key sites. Also contributes to access and learning as all recording is uploaded to digital archive/web resource

River Guardians – contributes to programme B objective by getting a large number of local people to participate in river clean ups whilst teaching them how to spot and take action against pollution.

7.2 Project summary by Programme

7.2.1 Programme A Conservation and Restoration

Project Title	Project Description	Audience	Benefits for People	Expected Outputs	Costs
Catchment Plan projects	Delivers a series of re-naturalisation of river environment projects at various locations along the river involving local people in learning, designing and implementation	Local communities	Improved natural environment with increased bio-diversity for walkers / casual users. Training and skills for anyone interested in river restoration	4 major river restoration projects delivered. 10 volunteers trained in delivering river restoration projects 10 volunteers trained in river surveying and monitoring. 50 people engaged in workshops / consultations	£343,000 Includes £65,000 to employ staff member to train volunteers
Invasive species action plan	Pays for a project officer to co-ordinate work of existing agencies responsible for combating invasive species, officer will also recruit and train "champions" to spot, map, monitor and tackle invasive species	Local communities all along the river	Improved bio-diversity and experience of landscape Empowers local people to tackle a serious threat to the river	Up to 100 people trained to spot, report, monitor and deal with invasive species 20- 40 % reduction in invasive species overall. Complete mapping of Invasives on river	£82,000 Includes £19,000 worth of volunteer time

Scheme Plan and Costs

Waddon Ponds	Restoration and re-naturalisation of 1 pond . Natural planting undertaken to second pond and interpretation introduced to whole park. New furniture and seating	Local park users Overall users of the Wandle Trail	Improved, re-naturalised environment for park users and walkers. Improved access and learning for all potential users	20% increase in visitor numbers 40% increase in small wildfowl breeding 30% decrease in breeding geese 100% increase in kingfishers visiting	£60,000 – almost all of this direct capital works
Ravensbury Channel	Breaking out approx 100m of concreted river channel and replacing with natural, sinuous river habitat	Local Park users Users of wandle trail Anglers scouts			£84,256.00
10 year management and maintenance plan	Costed maintenance plan and specification for establishment of new physical improvements	all	Ensures new projects become properly adopted and maintained and not neglected	Full maintenance and upkeep of new capital items	£40,000 across all programmes (included in individual totals)

7.3 Programme B increasing community participation

Project Title	Project Description	Audience	Benefits for People	Expected Outputs	Costs
Wandle flowing through time	Oral history project for young and old	Phipps Bridge estate residents All Saints and West Hill schools	Learn about the history of the Wandle; also loaded to digital archive for learning.	6 volunteers trained as oral historians 60 participants 8 workshops	£45,000 including volunteers + training £3,000 + materials £6,000
Social Landlords	Trains "ambassadors" for LWLPS and all the projects.	Identified social housing estate all along the Wandle.	Empowering communities in social housing/ lower income groups.	8 landlords in walk 32 events 75 residents participating	£56,606

Scheme Plan and Costs

Discovering the source of the Wandle	Members of the local community discover & map the source/ sources of the river.	Local community	The local community learn about geology, ecology, water use and climate change. Shared with public via website.	20 volunteers engaged 1 leaflet distributed 40 people on walk	£25,000 including £2,000 volunteer time.
Reflecting the Wandle	Theatre project on the banks of the Wandle.	Residents of Phipps Bridge estate.	Residents learn about the Wandle heritage through arts project.	24 workshops 4 volunteers 30 participants 2 performances	£25,000
Piscator Youth	Capacity building for the main fishing club on the River – enables them to start a Junior section	All young people wishing to take up Angling on the river	Increased and improved stewardship of river – increased functionality of the river	1 child welfare officer appointed 2 angling coaches trained and qualified	£7,500
River Celebration	A launch event spread along the river on "National Rivers day" highlighting all the projects and the overall scheme – plus a celebration festival at the end (including an evaluation exercise)	All local community	Introduces every one to the partnership scheme	12 stalls / gazebos promoting the scheme on the river for 2 days 1 celebration event at close of project 1 evaluation /questionnaire exercise to feed into final evaluation	£12,000

7.4 Programme C Access and Learning

Project Title	Project Description	Audience	Benefits for People	Expected Outputs	Costs
Gateways Project	Physical improvements to 7-10 key gateways/ entrances with a focus	All people wishing to access the river by the Wandle Trail – improving	Improved physical access and skills training in construction &	4 major projects (crossings/ entrances) 3 smaller projects	£313,000 total (includes £42,000 design fees and maintenance costs)

Scheme Plan and Costs

	on giving clear identity to trail.	access for people with disabilities.	maintenance.	(announcing entrances) 3 minor projects (signage)	
Merton Priory Chapterhouse	Major access and restoration improvements to ancient priory.	Allows Trust to expand current (varied) audience. Makes a potentially key attraction much more accessible.	A key historic feature and learning resource much more visible and accessible.	Approximately 20 meters of wall replaced with glass footage. 20% visitors. increase 20% increase in members.	£431,000 (includes approx. £55,000 design fees)
Morden Hall Park Boardwalk	Creates 258 meters of raised boardwalk and bridges over wetlands and channels which currently have no access.	All currents and perceived visitors to Morden Hall Park. Also strengthens physical link to Wandle Trail, drawing in more users.	Improved physical access to wetlands (whilst remaining controlled); learning about nature and wetlands from dipping platforms.	258m boardwalk. 20% increase in school dipping sessions. 40% increase in visitors to wetlands. 30% increase in visitors from Phips Bridge estate.	£240,000
River Education Project	Develops educational programme in line with National Curriculum by engaging schools "at the river".	Ultimately, schoolchildren nationwide, but in development phase 6 local schools	Education packs and all learning material shared through a web resource and digital archive.	1 education pack delivered. 8 classroom lessons. 4 classes at the river.	£92,908 (includes wage for part time education officer and freelance teachers)
Industrial Heritage Recording Project	Maps and records all the industrial heritage of the Wandle. Includes guided & recorded walks, recording changes at Merton Priory and a "Treasure Hunt" to locate all artefacts associated with the Wandle and moved to museums etc	Targets the harder to reach communities who may know little about the Wandle's history – but open to all.	Greater understanding of history and heritage of the Wandle, plus training in audio visual recording.	1 short film about Merton Priory. 1 map of all industrial heritage assets of the Wandle. 1 recording of the guided tour uploaded and disseminated.	£50,000

7.5 Programme D Training and Skills

Project Title	Project Description	Audience	Benefits for People	Expected Outputs	Costs
Volunteer and Training Programme	Costed programme of training for volunteers and partners	All known participants; all new audiences.	Upskilling and training local people in skills needed to conserve the river and the partnership.	1325 volunteers co-ordinated across all 4 programmes and given training.	£104,000
Climate Change Awareness Programme	Teaches participants about the effects of climate change, how it affects the river and how to mitigate it.	Open to all Wandle contacts, but targeted recruiting in hard to reach areas.	Learning how the river can be a resource in tackling climate change.		£59,795
River Guardians	Teaches volunteers how to spot, monitor and report pollution.	All known contacts on Wandle database, plus new targeted audiences.	Improved bio-diversity and landscape experience empowers locals.	450 volunteers trained	£43,715 total (includes £22,000 of volunteer time)

7.6 Project costs (please note fully detailed project cost breakdowns and details are contained in the appendices)

Programme	Project Name	current budget cost (incl all design/rev costs and volunteer values)	volunteer contribution secured	10 yr contribution to maintenance	match funding "secured"	match funding shortfall	Amount requested from HLF
Program A - Conservation and Restoration	10 year management and maintenance plan	inc in project costs					
Program A - Conservation and Restoration	Catchment Plan	£344,000	£4,250	£12,500	£190,000		£149,000
Program A - Conservation and Restoration	Invasive species action plan	£79,000	£19,000				£60,000
Program A - Conservation and Restoration	Ravensbury Channel	£84,246		£3,000		£20,000	£60,000
Program A - Conservation and Restoration	Waddon Pounds	£62,140		£2,160	£15,000		£45,000
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	Discovering the source of the wandle	£27,000	£2,000				£25,000
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	Piscators Youth	£12,000	£5,250				£6,750
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	Reflecting the Wandle	£32,600	£7,600				£25,000
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	Social landlords community project	£66,221	£5,500		£2,400		£58,321
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	Wandle flowing through time	£44,987	£15,810				£29,177
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	river celebration event	£12,000					
Program C - Access & Learning	Industrial Heritage Programme	£44,254	£10,000				£34,254
Program C - Access & Learning	Interpretation strategy	£49,250		£4,250			£45,000
Program C - Access & Learning	Merton Priory	£431,000			£231,000		£200,000
Program C - Access & Learning	Morden Hall Park Boardwalk	£240,606	£11,000	£3,000	£50,000	£50,000	£124,606
Program C - Access and learning	River Education Programme	£92,000					£92,000
Program C - Access & Learning	Wandle Gateway Project	£326,502		£10,675	£65,000	£2,827	£250,827
Program D - Training & Skills	climate change awareness	£59,700	£10,000	£5,000			£44,700
Program D - Training & Skills	River Guardians	£43,715	£22,500				£21,215
Program D - Training & Skills	Wandle Volunteers	£104,059					£104,059
Projects Cost		£2,155,280	£112,910	£40,585	£553,400	£72,827	£1,374,909
management cost		£539,602					
TOTAL		£2,694,882			£706,895		£1,914,511
x25%		£673,721					

Scheme Plan and Costs

surplus/ shortfall	£33,174	
HLF maximum amount		£1,915,000

Program A - Conservation and Restoration	£569,386
Program B - Increasing Community Participation	£194,808
Program C - Access & Learning	£1,183,612
Program D - Training & Skills	£207,474
projects sub total	£2,155,280
management	£539,602
	£2,694,882

8. Audiences

A summary of how the projects will be delivered in sequence, with engaged audiences.

8.1 Development and engagement of Audiences

Most of the current audiences and participants that we know will take part in the projects currently come from well-developed networks of supporters and “friends” of the individual partner organizations. We plan to use these existing networks and build upon them, hopefully strengthening them, particularly the existing volunteering groups and connections. As well as consulting their known audiences on the details of their individual projects, the leading partners have also consulted them on other aspects of the overall partnership scheme to try ensuring that our collection of projects has a wider appeal. All of the Partnering organizations have distributed an outline description of the LWLPS as well as questionnaires whilst consulting on their schemes in order to support this, and the results of this exercise have helped to shape and scope the nature and detail of the finalized projects, and many of the ways in which they will work together.

As we have just outlined, we have tried to shape some of the details of the actual projects so that they might address some of the needs of our targeted “gap” audiences (i.e. those who don’t use the river much, or see “barriers” to their using the river).

But how do we now ensure some of these people will actually turn up in the delivery phase?;

In the actual “design” of a lot of the projects, particularly the learning and engagement projects, the delivery partners have quantified the number of participants (and volunteers) that they can involve in their projects (for the economies of scale projected).

Most of these projects, which have clearly identified ways in which members of the public can participate , or volunteer in, have pledged “sign-ups” (in principle) from the individual partners contact lists, databases, and existing networks. These projects have been shaped during the development phase, through consultations and workshops, to ensure that they are addressing the aims and needs of the partnership organizations and also with the feedback we garnered from some of our outreach working with targeted “harder to reach” audiences. Some projects however, particularly those planned for delivery in the later years of the partnership delivery, have less of a confirmed “sign-up” at present.

In the delivery phase, a lot of the co-ordination of participants, audiences and volunteers will be managed by the delivery team, as one of the roles of one member of the team will be specifically focused on audience and participant (including volunteers) management.

This officer will control a Register of Participants. This register lists all of the opportunities for involvement by the public, with a number of "spaces" identified against projects. We have already identified many of the harder to reach groups, who don't currently have a great involvement with the Wandle, and in many cases the mediums/ contacts through which to communicate the projects and recruit new volunteers and participants. One of the officer's main roles will be to liaise with these links and contacts for our target audiences, and to promote and recruit participants for the available activities. We envisage this happening on a cyclical, annual basis, so that new participants are signed up at an optimum time to ensure "buy-in" (i.e. whilst alluding to, and outlining projects which might happen in 2 years' time, the officer will be promoting the activities that will be available "in the next year" more actively).

The officer then liaises with the individual project leads and negotiates "placement" within the projects in order to fill the register and ensure full participation and volunteer placement within the available project activities.

For many of the physical, site specific, projects we will aim to recruit new participants from the potential "twinning" organizations identified in the interpretation strategy (such as church groups, youth clubs, scouting organizations), and the social landlords we are working with identified in close proximity to the projects location. This will help to engender a sense of ownership with, and stewardship of, the river (although we would also encourage participants from a wider area). For projects which are less site specific (i.e. whole river learning projects such as the Heritage recording and Climate Change Awareness), the aim would be to "spread the net wider" and recruit participants from the harder to reach/ identified target groups and areas in the first instance.

The overall aim of this planned, targeted recruitment and confirmation of participants and volunteers will however always be to try and ensure that there are opportunities for everyone who wants to, to participate in the whole range of opportunities, and to find a suitable place on the programme register.

This will mean that we will need to keep some degree of flexibility to be able to expand and contract some of these opportunities subject to final demand.

Most of the projects which get underway early in the delivery programme already have pretty solid commitments from members of the public who want to get involved, and we have tried to ensure that this first wave of participation encompasses a wide range of our target audience base: the Catchment Plan project, for example, draw upon a wide range of pan-Wandle stakeholders - a very diverse collection of people who care about the river, with whom the Wandle Trust have spent time fostering a good relationship. The Groundwork Trust has also set up their first year project in conjunction with a group of very enthusiastic participants from the Phipps Bridge estate.

Whilst there is still some room for new participants, these projects are already fairly well defined in order to be able to be activated and initiated quickly and efficiently. However, many of the opportunities within these projects, such as learning how to plan river re-naturalisation (in the Catchment Plan project), or learning how to make artistic expressive pieces of work based upon the heritage of the river (Reflecting the Wandle) become available again in projects occurring in years 2-5 (such as the second phase of Catchment Plan projects, and the Heritage Recording projects).

By structuring and sequencing the participation opportunities this way, it means that we can run a first year of projects efficiently and effectively, which showcase all of the possibilities for people getting involved, whilst still offering the same, or similar, activities down the line.

The delivery team officer will also promote and market these opportunities through the project launch event on the River Celebration day, through the partnership website/ page, and through promotional material distributed through the partner organizations. We also have a total of 96 different groups identified in the project area (taken from the WVRP Volunteering study) who have shown a strong interest in becoming involved in the partnership and we will be actively promoting and recruiting from this list

A small booklet/ pamphlet has been drafted which summarises the opportunities for participation, with contact details for people who would like to get involved and this will be included in all of these promotional exercises.

Table 6 - Opportunities for community involvement

Project	Opportunities for community involvement	numbers
Catchment plan	volunteer / training opportunities in environmental restoration works Take part in workshops to learn about re-naturalising small rivers, design and build small improvement projects	10 Volunteers trained in river restoration
Reflecting the Wandle	Take part in a theatre project on the banks of the Wandle Learn all sort of theatre skills (scriptwriting, production, recording, acting, etc.)	4 volunteers to train as assistant directors and set designers 45 participants engaged in performance and set design
The Wandle Through Time	Take part in a writing & recording project capturing people's memories of the river	6 volunteers trained as oral historians 60 participants engaged in workshops
River Guardians	Learn about the threats to a fragile river system, how to spot signs of pollution and what you can do about it	450 volunteers trained in pollution spotting and reporting
Invasive species action plan	Train to be a river champion Learn how to monitor & report invasive species in the river	120 volunteers trained in spotting and reporting invasive species
Wandle Volunteers and training programme	A range of training opportunities for people who participate and volunteer in the projects Capacity building training for partner organisations Training for future maintainers of the Wandle	Gives additional required training to these volunteers and also up skilling partners
Industrial Heritage recording project	Get involved in an exciting project to reveal the rich history of the Wandle Take part in archaeological dig Design, plan & run an organised tour/ guided walk Learn recording & filming skills Learn map-making and archiving skills	6 volunteers trained in audio visual recording. 6 volunteers trained in digital mapping 40 participants engaged in workshops and walks

Audiences

Climate change awareness project	<p>Learn about how climate change affects us and the river</p> <p>See examples of how we can change and manage things to combat climate change</p>	<p>12 volunteers trained in climate change mitigation, design and build projects, mapping guiding and audio-visual recording</p> <p>40 participants engaged in workshops and guided tours</p>
Interpretation	<p>Public art project</p> <p>Communicates all opportunities</p>	<p>Undetermined as yet</p> <p>Scope for up to 40 participants in arts projects and extra numbers of participants coming through twinning programme.</p>
Social landlords project	<p>Recruits participants, volunteers and trainees into the partnership – become a Wandle Ambassador for your estate and introduce people to all of the river projects</p>	<p>6 volunteers become “ambassadors” – recruiting new participants from hard to reach groups for all projects</p> <p>75 participants engaged in river walks</p>
Wandle Piscators	<p>Assists fishing club of the wandle to start juniors section</p>	<p>More capacity for junior anglers</p> <p>Creates potential to engage more participants /members – numbers to be determined.</p>
River celebration	<p>Volunteers can man a stall and be promoters / recruiters for the LWLPS</p>	<p>12 volunteers engaged to run stalls in launch event</p>
Merton Priory	<p>Find out all about the Priory and record the changes as part of the heritage recording project</p> <p>Possible volunteer / training opportunities in historic restoration during construction phase (could build into contract)</p>	<p>t.b.c.</p>
Ravensbury Channel	<p>Possible volunteer / training opportunities in environmental restoration during stage 2 works (build into contract)</p> <p>Find out about the changes to the channel on the climate change awareness tour</p>	<p>6 volunteer opportunities to get involved in establishing and managing re-naturalised river</p>
Gateways project	<p>Potential for “arts” projects to add value to projects and adoption by user groups</p> <p>Possible volunteer /training opportunities during any construction works</p>	<p>Yet to be determined</p>

Audiences

Morden hall park boardwalk	Potential for volunteer /training opportunities during any construction works	Yet to be determined – estimate 20 – 30 volunteers
River education programme	Volunteers from local communities work with school children to deliver “Wandle in the classroom” modules	15 volunteers 2000 children engaged in river in the classroom
Discovering the source of the Wandle	Volunteer to investigate archive , trace the source(es) of the river, map them and organise guided tours to discover the source	20 volunteers 40 participants engaged in river walks

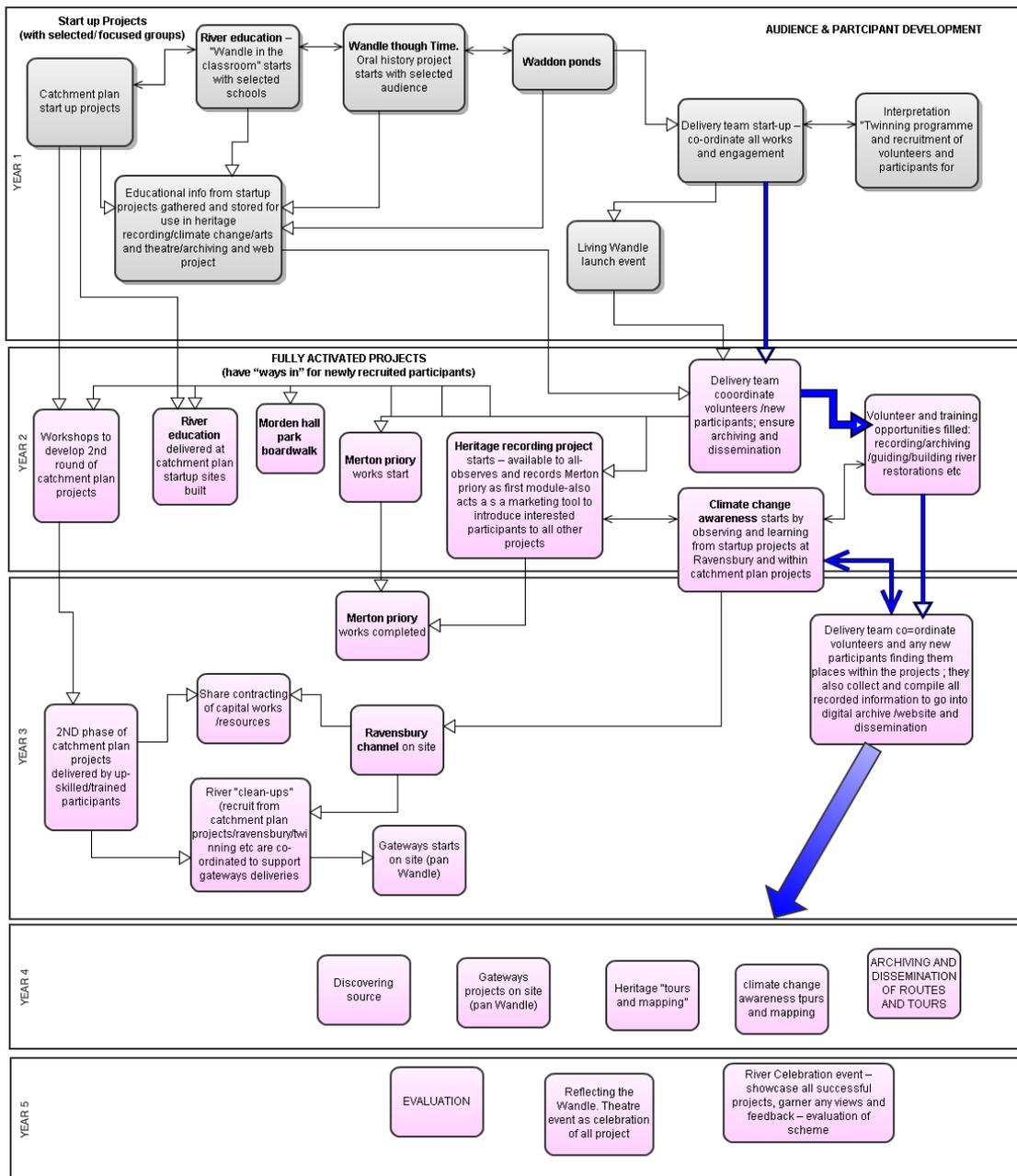
Table 7 – Sharing – a few pointers to ways in which we deliver shared economies and make the partnership more than a sum of the projects

- Sharing contracts for delivery; for example, works at Ravensbury Park are currently programmed to take place around the same time as some of the catchment plan projects are being delivered. It should be possible to “share” a joint works contract for these and save money on contract prelims and start-up costs. We will seek to identify and implement similar arrangements where possible.
- Delivering “cross – borough” contracts; the gateways projects (as an example) will almost certainly be delivering physical works across all 4 boroughs. It may be possible to use the delivery services from one of the boroughs to secure a works contract for all 4 – this is something which we are currently investigating
- Sharing production information for detailed design / tendering packages; there are proposals to be designed in detail for some projects which share common elements. Rather than contracting two sets of designers to produce almost identical details for projects within the same partnership we will identify (where possible) which elements of production information (detail drawings , tender packages, and specifications) can be shared to save on costs. There may also be similar proposals for paving and surfacing works as well as many other common elements within some projects. We will seek to identify these commonalities (once we are further into detail design stages) and share some of this information where possible.
- Sharing of all learning and recording; one of the Project Delivery team will be managing a centralised web resource and digital archive. All learning from the project (in the form of project information sheets) will be loaded and stored here for sharing both within the partnership and further dissemination and learning for anyone interested outside of the

- scheme. All of the recordings from the heritage recording and climate change awareness projects will also be disseminated in this way
- Physical “stitches”; some of the outcomes from the interpretation project, and also the climate change project might be the type of physical additions which could be spread along the river helping to join it up and provide physical “way marking”. These are not as yet determined, and are options on potential menus – the actual outcomes as yet to be determined by the participants during the design stages – but it is highly likely that an arts project will be enacted that would create works at different points along the river (these could also be practical artworks –such as dens or birds’ nests (interpretation strategy).It is fairly likely that new planting interventions will be added (certainly as part of the gateways project and possibly also as a later stage outcome of the climate change project)-if so we would seek to ensure that these provide a visual aid to “joining” or “stitching together” the trail. The WVRPT is also currently leading on the development of a design guide which is intended to be adopted in the near future.
 - Co-ordination of volunteers, audiences and participants and any training given ; this will be overseen by the central delivery team



Sequence of delivery / organic programme – showing how some resources are shared and projects “link” to each other



9. Sustainability

9.1 Overview

The LWLPS will make a very significant contribution to revitalising the river Wandle and reactivating the interest and engagement of communities all along the river valley. However, even though this represents a significant investment into the area, we have always recognised that this is not going to solve all of the problems or resolve all of the issues and challenges that the river faces. The projects are by no means simply “demonstration” projects, many of them are quite large, but on the other hand, the partnership area is large, mostly urban, with lots of different characteristics and sub-spaces: it is not a uniform area of moorland or grassland and therefore it could be very easy for the investment to appear lost within the landscape. This is one of the reasons why we have developed a fairly varied palette of projects. We want these projects to be benchmarks in order to set a bit of a template for expectations for a range of both physical, intellectual and community strengthening projects in the Wandle Valley. All of these projects should influence and inspire other improvement initiatives for the future.

The original London Green Grid Framework (Area 8) for the Wandle lists a whole range of possible improvement projects for the river Wandle, with a total value running into tens (and potentially hundreds) of millions of pounds. Some of these other initiatives are already underway, running in tandem to the LWLPS (such as the Colliers Wood regeneration project) and others, such as the Beddington Farmlands regeneration are starting to become a reality as the relevant authorities and agencies adopt the appropriate strategic thinking into their policies and action plans.

The dots along the Wandle Valley are definitely starting to join together, and it is therefore imperative that the projects delivered through the LWLPS lay down some examples of good practise, with a clear legacy of learning, for any projects and initiatives which might follow in the future.

We also need to ensure that any benefits brought about by the 4 year partnership scheme are sustained and do not just come to a dead halt at the end of the project; The physical projects need to become established and embedded, and all of the relationships forged and the learning and networking that has been helped by the scheme need to have some ways in which it can continue, when there is no longer a partnership delivery team, nor any core funding remaining.

9.2 Sustaining the Partnership itself

The partnership that has come together to form the LWLP has coalesced from a group of different organisations which have been working together in one form or another for some years now, all with a very committed approach to co-ordinating their resources and thinking on improving the Wandle. It is fairly safe to say that all of these partners have a strong desire to commit to a partnership approach to working in the future and, even when the LWLPS comes to an end, we are hoping that we have put some strong measures in place to try and assist and enable this partnership.

In the first instance, having the resource of a centralised project delivery team, whose key function is to formalise and forge a lot of the links between the partners, and the communities (particularly by co-ordinating the community participation in the projects) will help to strengthen and simplify a lot of the working relationships between the different partners and stakeholder groups. The way in which the audience is developed and managed and “plugged in” to the various partnership organisations, and the way in which information about volunteers and participants, and opportunities to get involved in caring for the wandle is simplified and clarified through a central database system, should mean that a much stronger and clearer framework for volunteering and participating is put into place. All of the (co-ordinated) databases and information management systems generated by the partnership scheme will, in the closing down stages of the project be transferred (with adequate data protection protocols) to the Wandle Valley Regional Park website. The WVRP are envisaged as being the most appropriate body to hold any legacy and learning of the LWLPS, but an abridged Guide/report; “Continuing to benefit from the Partnership achievements” will be produced and issued to all the partners. This will contain a summary of all the links forged between communities and partner agencies, a directory showing how to access all of the recorded learning and information management (to be archived on the WVRP website) and a database directory. It is anticipated that these relationships, cemented by the 4 years of fairly intensive partnership delivery will be able to be continued without the resource of a delivery team centrally co-ordinating everything – their role (or one of their roles) is precisely to simplify, clarify, and embed these connections over the 4 years.

Some other outcomes of the completed partnership project, which should help to sustain the partnership long term include:

- Improving the capacity and skills of partners Part of the Living Wandle training plan addresses the needs of the partnering organisations. It identifies skills gaps and specifies costed training for many of the partners, particularly in event promotion, volunteer co-ordination, and fundraising. These skills training exercises, plus the experience a lot of the partners will gain in delivering good projects (in partnership) should improve their capacity to deliver effectively and efficiently in the future. Many of the partners will also receive training in running and curating some of their new assets (i.e. Merton Priory).
- The training plan also puts a big focus on delivering a lot of training in the skills required to establish, embed, and maintain the heritage assets long term. This will be delivered to all of the identified “maintainers” (after a more thorough gap analysis to identify detailed requirements).
- The training plan also trains partners from organisations in fundraising techniques, trends and application of successful funding bids.
- Leaving a whole learning and information pack in place digitally (about the partnership / projects themselves, learning from all the LWLPS, specifically topical information, maps, guidance etc.).all of the recorded projects and new trail maps will be transferred to the Wandle Valley regional Parks web resource where everything from the LWLPS web resource and digital archive will still be available for the public to download / access
- Training the Trainers: one of the fundamental principles of the training programme is to instil a system of “cascading” training throughout the projects: this, in effect, means training people to then become trainers themselves. Many of the functions we have already identified as being critical to protecting, conserving, and enhancing the river, for example, are not the sort of tasks and roles which require intensive training (some are though). They are role and tasks which require a degree of instruction and learning, and a lot of common sense – skills such as learning how to detect sign of pollution as part of the River Guardians programme for example, instil a sense of empowerment and pride and sense that people CAN make a difference; but at the same time, we feel that these are skills which once learnt, can easily be passed onto others. We have therefore tried to ensure that quite a lot of these transferable skills have been built into the training programme, with an objective of turning people trained in these, into potential trainers themselves.

9.3 Sustaining the benefits of the individual projects

- We will ensure that other people can learn about the scheme and individual projects afterwards by ensuring the project evaluation recording is loaded onto the LWLPS website and archive which will, at the end of the scheme, be transferred to a page on the Wandle Valley Regional Park website.

There are also some fairly tangible achievements / outcomes which the partnership should achieve, providing the projects all fulfil their aims and objectives, which should then contribute towards sustaining some of these long term benefits, Namely:

- Improved physical access and legibility : encouraging more people to be aware of and use the Wandle Trail (this is also enhanced by the new “trails” which have been developed to allow visitors to explore the industrial heritage sites, the examples of climate change mitigation, and to find the source of the Wandle, being available to be downloaded from the web resource/digital archive)
- Improved local visitor attractions meaning there are more “things to see and do” on the Wandle. The fact that we have selected projects with a good, even spread along the Wandle means that people will be more inclined to walk between attractions along the trail – this means that there is a tangible future for the Wandle trail (and the whole entity of things to see and do along the way) as an attraction in itself. Increased visitor and user numbers (with people spending money along the way – often with our partner organisations) makes the whole Wandle experience a much more sustainable proposition (as well as serving the global sustainability aim of encouraging more walking between the Wandle’s attractions rather than using cars or public transport)
- The Teaching and learning materials generated from the River Education programme are being developed specifically so that they can be adopted as approved curriculum learning for key stage 3 teaching
- A clear network for “how people can get involved in the river” (literally a network sheet kept on the web)
- Improving all the communications and co-ordination of resources across the partnership and wider networks (or at least contribute towards –one of the outcomes from the final evaluation should also be an improved “communications register” of some sort)
- Ensuring all asset investments have been robustly designed and built and have quantified, costed maintenance plans in place with adopted

measures to implement maintenance. (detailed for year 1 / estimated for rest at round 2)

- Showing small community groups where/how they can access local landmarks (such as MHP and Merton priory) and how they could put on events there in the future, introducing them to the people organisations that would let them do this in future.
- Building networks and forums for community working. Up skill and train key community members in fundraising / project delivery etc
- 10 year costed and funded management and maintenance plan with identified /quantified establishment tasks

9.4 Some examples of sustainability delivered through individual projects;

9.4.1 Catchment Plan

Re-naturalising the river channels makes the natural asset much more sustainable in the long term: it is easier and cheaper to maintain (less silt to remove), and by involving the community, we provide a better stewardship of the river. The capacity building and up skilling at the Wandle Trust from this project will also improve the ability to deliver similar projects in the future (this also applies to the Ravensbury Channel project).

9.4.2 Invasive Species Action Plan

As well as setting a target to reduce the volume of invasive species along the river, the Invasives officer will be clarifying, simplifying and consolidating the networks (of landowners, agencies and volunteers) responsible for dealing with invasive species. This should lead to a much more streamlined and better co-ordinated system for future management.

9.4.3 Social Landlords

Although the Social Landlords project is only a short (in time terms) project, it will focus on empowering a (relatively marginalised) stakeholder group and providing the participants with links and connections to a lot of the partner organisations in order to engage in future projects and initiatives.

9.4.4 Wandle Flowing through Time/ Reflecting the Wandle

Again, although these are fairly short term projects, they will deliver skills and knowledge that should enable the participants to organise their own similar productions in the future. It will also put the participants in touch with the land owners and managers in order to enable/ facilitate any

future “outdoor theatre” productions. All this information will also be available on the web resource/ archive for anyone else wishing to deliver similar projects.

9.4.5 *Piscators Youth*

The up skilling of the Angling Club, and the training of an angling coach, will significantly improve the club’s ability to engage young anglers and train them in all aspects of river craft in the future. (This “Train to Sustain” principle also applies to a lot of the other partner organisations.)

9.4.6 *Gateways Projects*

The immediate “physical” impact of the gateways projects themselves are sustained by ;

- (a) ensuring that the new gateways are constructed from robust materials that are also appropriate for the sites location and immediate context (good design) and
- (b) by ensuring the tasks and costs for the establishment period are encapsulated in a 10 years maintenance and management plan. In the long term, and in a more “global” context, the gateways will be setting out examples of good design, appropriate to their suburbs surroundings. We envisage that setting out these examples of good design will set a “high bar” for future designs along the river. There is a very tangible link between good design and sustainability: well designed items are respected and cherished, less subjected to changing “trends”, and therefore less likely to be removed and replaced at a later date.

9.4.7 *Merton Priory Chapterhouse*

The project we will deliver at Merton Priory will make a significant improvement: a “hidden gem” inside a road flyover will be made much more accessible, visible, and comfortable. Members of the Trust will also be trained and up skilled in order to curate and guide. This will improve the Trust’s ability and capacity to make the space a lot more active, and generate some income from events, hire, and sales of their publications in order to sustain the long term future of this site.

9.4.8 *Morden Hall Park Boardwalk*

Creating a safe access across the wetlands (which also keeps people off the wetlands themselves and therefore protects them) shall increase visitor

numbers to Morden Hall Part, therefore generating more income through the café and gift shop, which helps to safeguard the park's future.

9.4.9 River Education Project

The Key Stage 2 education pack delivered as a main output will be developed with teachers to be adopted and disseminated as an approved teaching tool.

9.4.10 Industrial Heritage Recording Project

The film produced as an output from this will be available for downloading after the project is completed (via the WVRP website and YouTube). The mapping of the "heritage trail" will also be downloadable (format yet to be confirmed) from the web archive in the long term future.

9.4.11 Volunteer and Training Programme

This is one of the harder programme to provide any surety of "sustainability" for, as we are engaging and training a lot of volunteers across the whole of the Partnership, through projects which, ostensibly, have a defined "end date". However, the Partnership working over the life of the project *should* consolidate and clarify some of the networks for volunteering (with a global database of volunteers, volunteering organisations, and volunteering opportunities being offered by many of the partners being produced as an output of the delivery team) and the up skilling and capacity building partners organisations such as the Wandle Trust will receive through the project *should* improve their ability to recruit, organise, and train volunteers in the future.

9.4.12 Climate Change Awareness Programme

All learning and recording from this project will be uploaded to the web archive (via link from the WVRP).

9.4.13 River Guardians

The project will train 450 volunteers to spot, monitor and report pollution incidents: this is a "skill for life" which they can also pass on to other people.

9.4.14 Interpretation Strategy

The connecting setup between the different community gaps, and various locations on the river, are not restricted by time, nor cash, they should be able to be sustained long term. The web resource and digital archive

developed during the partnership will be transferred to the Wandle Valley Regional Park website at the close of the partnership project.

9.5 Exit Strategy

How do we approach and carry out our exit strategy? (See also adoption and review)

- Project officer post lasts 6 months past completion of projects with a role of putting a communications and information database/resource in place via the WVRP website (and also Groundwork and LB Wandsworth management information systems), effecting any “handovers” and ensuring that the final evaluation report is completed and disseminated (WVRP website, Landscape Institute, associated specialist press (archaeology publications, heritage and regeneration press etc).
- Learning projects come to an end early year 5 –all partners, participants, volunteers then involved in overall evaluation exercise
- Comprehensive closing down of accounts exercise in year 5, where is any retention money for contracts still due? How paid etc., lot of final accounts, drawdown's, financial report writing etc.
- Handovers – all sites “handed back” to relevant managers /landowners (where appropriate) ensure no final defects to be rectified and ensure management / maintenance agreements in place etc.
- Project team finalise data bases/ web resource
- Discuss needs of partners in sustaining their organisations after the project – 1 day workshop -what has helped ?what can still be done through the partnership in the last 18 months of the project to help them. Provide a brief report on the successes and the problems encountered (wrap into the final evaluation report)
- Ensure all contractual arrangements in place and running properly for 10 year maintenance / establishment plan
- Produce a “summary of the partnership”/database/information resource for the web resource /dissemination, listing all the organisations linked to the river, what they do, how they helped in the partnership, what they still do, what you can do with them etc.
- Capacity building i.e. partner staff will actually learn to be trainers and enablers, get project delivery skills etc)
- Volunteers trained in training plan to be able to take good vocational skills away. Will also extend and help refine the data –base / long term management of volunteers

- Creating / developing the partnerships between all the different players will refine and improve the governance systems long term

10. Evaluation

10.1 Introduction

Monitoring the success (or otherwise) of the projects as they are being progressed, and then undertaking an evaluation exercise at the end of the project is important for a number of reasons;

- (a) It helps us to manage the projects efficiently as the partnership progresses; it helps us particularly to manage any risks “in project” and means that if anything is perceived as going awry in any way remedial measures can be taken quickly.
- (b) It helps to ensure that any contractual accountability is fulfilled (particularly in this case relating to roles and responsibilities under the Partnership Agreement)
- (c) It enables us to determine how successful the partnership has actually been at the end of the whole scheme, and to record and pass on any learning to others in order to help other people to deliver better work, and to ensure that everyone within this partnership learns valuable lessons for the future.
- (d) All of these measures together help us to deliver the things we have pledged to deliver, and therefore deliver a value-for-money project.

10.2 Monitoring undertaken during the life of the projects

All of the projects which are to be delivered as part of the LWLPS have already been developed with measurable criteria set out – a set of outputs which we hope that if achieved will deliver successful project outcomes. In order for the projects to attain these outputs, they will need to be carefully managed during the delivery stages. It will be the duty and responsibility of the programme management team to monitor the progress of projects against the milestones and timetables set out by the project partners for each of their projects. The progress of these projects against these measurables will be report on at each of the Steering Group meetings by both the project partners and the project delivery team. If the project team feel strongly that there are issues arising and projects are failing in anyway this will be escalated to the project board in order to review the situation and take remedial action where necessary. The project manager will therefore need to be satisfied that each individual project has been delivered as per the original specification before authorising payments.

The project partners leading their own individual projects will also be responsible for compiling brief project report during the duration of their projects – these will be as per the format of the HLF quarterly reporting template (the project management /delivery team are ultimately responsible for submitting these as overall progress reports, but the onus is on the individual project leads to compile their own respective interim progress reports.

The project management team will also hold and compile a table / tables of performance indicators for all of the projects, which will be agreed with the delivering partners and monitored throughout the life of the projects/partnership scheme. These indicators will include measurables such as

- Delivery times compared with original timetable
- Figures from satisfaction surveys and feedback forms from participants
- Numbers of activities run and numbers of attendees
- Volunteering .Measured by multiplying the number of volunteers with the average number of hours for each volunteer each year and the number of years that the project took from start to finish (total volunteer hours = number of volunteers x average number of hours for each volunteer every year x number of years of the project).
- Training Recorded (under the most appropriate skills heading, e.g. construction, conservation and managing heritage sites.

As well as more qualitative (less measurable) information such as questionnaires and feedback forms from volunteers, trainees and participants.

Changes and improvements between projects finishing and the end of the partnership scheme

This is critical in measuring the impact of many of the projects – many projects will finish in years 2 or 3 – a good length of time before the end of the overall partnership scheme. The projects all have a robust set of baseline monitoring data – such as visitor numbers and satisfaction surveys undertaken before the commencement of their projects which are then measured again after they have completed their projects. Partners have signed up to the principle of undertaking this post completion review, but it will be important for the Partnership delivery team to ensure that these exercises take place

10.3 Final evaluation exercise and lessons learnt

Final evaluation

At the close of each of the individual projects each partner will produce a story style report (approx 6 -10 pages) which should broadly illustrate the lessons learnt, what failed, what met targets (referring to the figures of baseline monitoring data /outputs and outcomes etc). We will then commission an independent evaluation report using an external consultant (tendered competitively) to review these written evaluations, and the baseline monitoring figures and the "improved" figures, as well as undertaking interviews with participants, volunteers and trainees , in order to produce an un-biased evaluation report on the successes, and any shortcomings, from the overall partnership programme.

This evaluation report compiles quantitative and qualitative evidence to tell the story of the partnership, and which makes a comparison with the aspirations first laid out in stage 2 application (the summative evaluation). Data collected from final evaluation questionnaires goes into here also

End of project report will:

- Show the difference the project is making to heritage, and what that means for those who enjoy and benefit from it
- Show the difference the Projects have made to the Partnership and how the Partnership can develop the capacity to continue collaborative working and improve on delivery.
- Result in better future projects

This fully comprehensive report (the story of the LWLPS) is then shared with other organisations, and disseminated widely by

- Posting onto the Web resource and digital archive for the Wandle (which is transferred to the Wandle Valley Regional Park website at the end of the LWLPS)
- Shared with other partnerships
- Disseminated through Landscape Institute, Green spaces forum, LPGS website etc

Independent Evaluation

We have set aside a sum within the scheme running cost budget to commission an independent external evaluation exercise. The consultants appointed would set up a monitoring framework with partners at the start of the programme (using outputs and measurable criteria already set out, as well as some more subjective and qualitative ways of eliciting useful responses), undertake periodic reviews at key stages during the partnership, and produce an end of scheme report to feed into the overarching evaluation process, namely a combined report to show performance against indicators and objectives, the story from the partners, and feedback from all participants. The (draft) output agreed to commission this are;

- Include templates for forms such as volunteer timesheets, feedback forms and other project monitoring forms
- Include methodology for collecting statistical information in a meaningful way at both staffed and un-staffed locations, at events, community activities and in response to capital work (e.g. access improvements)
- Include a process for children to give feedback as easily as adults
- Give equal emphasis to the recording of information on the practical conservation elements of the LWLPS as to public engagement elements
- Enable Project Staff to easily compile quarterly update reports to funders
- Include an option for giving online feedback about the project via the LWLPS web resource
- Take account of partner monitoring schemes already in place, particularly with regard to scientific data
- Ensure that lengthy form-filling at the end of an event is minimised as this can impact negatively on a person's enjoyment of that event
- Include recommendations for end of project event(s)/activities/publications to disseminate results, celebrate the project and leave a sustainable legacy
- Have regard to the guidance on Monitoring and Evaluation provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

10.4 Evaluating wider changes within the project area, during and beyond the Partnership Scheme

There is one more tool which we propose to use in order to evaluate the impacts that the Partnership Scheme might have upon the project area, and this is a survey system, which is currently trialled by Natural England, DEFRA, and the Forest Commission and is known as MENE (the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment).

MENE collects a range of information about people visits to the natural environment. This includes the type of destination, the duration of the visit, mode of transport, distance travelled, activities undertaken once there, motivation for the visit etc. It also collects survey data on people who do not visit the natural environment, and what their reasons for this might be. The survey also collects information about other ways in which people engage with the natural environment, for example watching nightlife and volunteering to help protect the natural environment. The aim of this particular system is to help develop an understanding of how people interact with the natural environment across Britain, and then use the collected data to support projects and initiatives which seek to improve the relationship between people and the landscape.

Natural England, together with Groundwork and the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, have already started developing a MENE research model for the Wandle Valley, with an entry level research group of 105 signed up to take part.

The study area which is currently being used to trial this extends to approximately 20 minutes walk from the Wandle Valley regional park. We feel that this study, and the way in which it analyses activity levels, could be very useful in helping to assess to what extent more people start visiting the river during the life of the LWLPS and beyond, and also to what extent this might be due to any of the activities or outcomes of the LWLPS.

This emerging study, over the lifetime of the Partnership Scheme, should be able to show us any changes to peoples activities in visiting the river, what their attitudes to the river (and any changes occurring to it) might be, if they are partaking in any of the Living Wandle projects and initiatives, and whether they feel that these are making a positive change to their experience of visiting the river (or not).

This current MENE study is happening independently of the LWLPS, but the information gathered from it is going to be very useful in enabling us to assess the impact of our work on a wider section of the general public.

We can also invite and encourage our own participants to sign up to this process in order to capture their own views on what is changing over the project period. Participants can sign up to take part in weekly, monthly or quarterly waves of surveys.

The MENE system is also compatible with GIS system management, and has also been developed in conjunction with GIGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London) so there is a lot of potential for cross referencing and exchanging information, and also analysing any findings in the context of what is happening in other parts of London, particularly in relation to any "changing" landscapes – whether there are ostensibly "positive" changes, such as other landscape improvements initiatives, or changes which are, on the face of it, "negative", such as loss of open spaces to built development.

11. Adoption and review

11.1 Management Board

The Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Landscape Conservation Action Plan was formally approved by the Interim Management Board of the Landscape Partnership on Thursday 14th February 2013.

This group will form the executive Management Board for the scheme (subject to personnel changes) and will continue to meet no less than quarterly throughout the duration of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. This group is responsible for monitoring the progress of the Scheme and the delivery of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan aims and objectives. They are in effect the Management Group for the Landscape Partnership Scheme overall as well as the work of the Staff team it employs, who will be accountable to them.

The Project Steering Group, which sits below the Project Board in the Partnerships Governance structure, and will meet every 2nd month during the deliver phase to review and monitor project process, have reviewed and approved the draft LCAP in their meeting of 18th November 2012

The draft LCAP has also been approved by the Wandle Valley regional Park Trust (in their meeting of September 19th 2012)

11.2 Review

The Staff team will be responsible for update reports, including exception reports to provide clear evidence of progress and where risks or issues are occurring along with mitigation strategies.

The Action Plan will be updated and reviewed annually, with progress on a project by project basis recorded cumulatively. The progress will also be reported meetings of the Wandle Forum, the WVRPT to evidence progress and provide opportunity for local community involvement, scrutiny and comment.

The Plan will be published in full on the WVRP/LWLPS website, once formally agreed, with paper and electronic copies retained by the staff team.

Wandsworth Council as the accountable body will retain all relevant documentation and be responsible as the document managers for all aspects related to the Scheme.

All partners involved with the Management Board will be in receipt of copies of the Landscape Conservation Action Plan

12. List of supplementary supportive documents (Separate to this document)

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme

List of Supportive Documents

1. Signed version of application form

Section 1 – Organisation documents

- P4 Confirmation of authority and prioritisation

Section 2 – Partnership documents

- P5 Letters of support from new partners (Merton Priory Trust/WVRPS)

- P6 Signed Partnership Agreements

Section 3 – Management documents

- P7.1 LWLPS Governance structure
- P7.2 Wandsworth Council Parks Dept structure
- P8.1 Delivery Team structure
- P8.2 Wandsworth Environmental Services structure
- P8.3 Programme manager – job description and person specification
- P8.4 Programme Officer – job description and person specification
- P8.5 Programme administrator – job description and person specification
- P8.6 Programme staff costs

P9 Specifications of services

- P9.1 Procurement statement and strategy

P9.2 Year one contract documents

- P9.2.1 Waddon Ponds plan register
- P9.2.2 Waddon Ponds site plan
- P9.2.3 Waddon Pond 2 master plan

- P9.2.4 Waddon ponds planting plan 1
- P9.2.5 Waddon ponds planting sections 2
- P9.2.6 Waddon ponds planting sections
- P9.2.7 Waddon ponds specification
- P9.2.8 Waddon Ponds planting sections
- P9.2.9 Waddon ponds bank treatment details
- P9.2.10 Waddon ponds section key
- P9.2.11 Waddon bank sections
- P9.2.12 Waddon ponds preliminaries

- P9.2.13 Catchment plan workplan details
- P9.2.14 Catchment plan timeline
- P9.2.15 Catchment plan explanation of costs
- P9.2.16 River flume spec and costs
- P9.2.17 Catchment plan support officer details
- P9.2.18 Catchment plan recruitment details

- P9.2.19 Wandle flowing through time budget and detail action plan

- P9.2.20 Reflecting the Wandle budget costs and workplan

P9.3 Year 2-5 project contract documents

- P9.3.1 Gateways project stage c design report and costings
- P9.3.2 Gateways detailed cost breakouts
- P9.3.3 Gateways stages c-l design brief
- P9.3.4 Merton Priory overall scheme plan
- P9.3.5 Merton Priory programme
- P9.3.6 Merton Priory cost plan

- P9.3.7 Merton Priory site areas
- P9.3.8 Merton Priory proposed sections
- P9.3.9 Merton priory phasing summaries
- P9.3.10 Morden Hall Park boardwalk – stage d plan, report and costings
- P9.3.11 Invasive species work programme
- P9.3.12 Invasive species action plan work programme
- P9.3.13 Ravensbury park channel proposals and costings
- P9.3.14 River Education costs and tasks
- P9.3.15 Social landlords costs and tasks

P10.1 LWLPS – overall scheme timetable / programme

P11 Approvals

- P11.1 Merton Priory – planning comfort
- P11.2 Merton Priory – English Heritage support
- P11.3 Ravensbury channel – Environment Agency support
- P11.4 Morden Hall Park – Environment Agency support
- P11.5 Morden Hall Park – Planning department support/comfort
- P11.6 Catchment Plan – EA correspondence

P13.1 Conservation management statements for capital works

P13.2 10 year maintenance plan specification and cost table

P14 Confirmation of match funding

- P14.1 Morden Hall Park – National Trust funding
- P14.2 Environment Agency contribution to Catchment Plan projects
- P14.3 Confirmation of s106 funding for Merton Priory
- P14.4 Statement of strategy for raising outstanding funding shortfall

- P15.1 Spending and income forecasts year 1
- P15.2 Spending and income forecasts year 2-4

- P16 Cash flow table

- P17 Living Wandle Landscape Conservation Action Plan and appendices
(project detailed descriptions)**

- P18 Surveys and reports**
- P18.1 LWLPS Interpretation Plan
- P18.2 LWLPS Volunteer and Training Plan

- P19 Strategies and Frameworks**
- P19.1 Wandle Valley Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2012)
- P19.2 Merton Priory management plan

- P20 Committee meeting minutes

- P21 Map defining the LWLPS area
- P22 Photos and visual aids
- P23 Full cost recovery calculations (confidential)

