Living Wandle Landscape Partnership

Wandle Valley

Final Evaluation

Appendices

March 2018

University of Westminster

heritage lottery fund

LOTTERY FUNDED

Centre for European Protected Area Research

CEPAR

Final Evaluation & Completion Report

Appendices

The three Appendices below are bound with the full version of this report which can be accessed together with the Summary Report on the Living Wandle web pages;
http://wandlevalleypark.co.uk/the-living-wandle-partnership

Appendix 1. Wandle Timeline and Key Stages

This presents the development over time and the **key stages of *LW***.

Appendix 2. List of LW projects

The presents the full list of LW projects grouped by LCAP thematic area with lead organisation and cost.

Appendix 3: Evaluation context and methodology

This starts with a summary of HLF's requirements and guidance in respect of evaluation. It then introduces the purposes of this Final Report and presents the approach and methods adopted in its preparation.

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Cover: (Clockwise from top right): Floating pennywort removal in the Wandle; school children in project Kingfisher; the Chapter House foundations below Merantun Way and demolition of the south wall; the Poulter Park Gateway; a 'Window on the Wandle' education session; the final *LW* celebratory conference and (centre) the Wandle at Windsor Avenue (Autumn 2017).

Appendix 1. Wandle Timeline and Key Stages

The development over time and the **key stages of *LW***.

When	*What*
	Pre Stage 1
1861	Frederick Braithwaite paper to the Institution of Civil Engineers 'On the Rise and Fall of the River Wandle: its Springs, Tributaries and Pollution' - an 'unimportant river in the neighbourhood of London[(1)]
1888-90	Croydon Corporation purchase Frog Mead and Stubbs Mead; opened to the public as Wandle Park More public green spaces are created subsequently in other Boroughs
1897	A series of letters and reports in The Times relating to pollution and sedimentation of spawning grounds and the establishment of a Wandle Fishery Protection Association
1911	Octavia Hill's letter 'River-Bank Walks for Londoners' in The Times[(2)] pleads for help *'to secure a riverside walk along part of the banks of the river Wandle'* and launches the River Wandle Open Spaces Committee
1924	Hobson's Book of the Wandle[(3)] published
1970-2003	The Wandle Group established representing members of local civic amenity and wildlife groups primarily to assess impacts on the river potentially arising from planning applications and to provide coordinated responses.
1973, 1995	Major pollution spills from Beddington Sewage Treatment Works (BSTW)
1981	London Wildlife Trust founded, establishing nature reserves at Wilderness Island (1987) and Spencer Road Wetlands (1989)
1985	River Wandle surveyed by London Wildlife Trust as part of London Wildlife Habitat Survey
1990	Wandle Trail Group established
1993	Wandle Strategy published by Wandle Heritage Ltd.
1995	The Wandle, Beverley Brook, Hogsmill Catchment Management Plan published (NRA)
1996	Wandle Strategy and Action Plan launched with funding from the Single Regeneration Budget River Wandle & Catchment; River Corridor Survey published

	Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society publishes Flora of the Wandle
1997	London Borough Sutton and the Wandle Group publishes The Wandle Guide
1999	Wandle Valley Country Park initiative launched by Groundwork London (GW) to attract Millennium funding (unsuccessful)
2000	Jet Set Club – forerunner of the Wandle Trust – formed to improve river quality
2004	Wandle Piscators formed Annual Wandle Festival launched
2005	London Plan (re)designates the Wandle Valley as a regeneration corridor Draft Sub-Regional Development Framework – South London Partnership (Wandle Boroughs) launches Wandle Valley Green Ribbon Initiative[(4)] Wandle Trust (WT) established – in 2011 becomes the South-East Rivers Trust Wandle Valley Forum (WVF) established as a stakeholder forum
2006	London Strategic Parks Report[(5)] identifies the Wandle Valley as a 'South London Regional Park Opportunity'
2007	1,600 litres of sodium hypochlorite accidentally released into the Wandle from BSTW. Thames Water pledge to support the restoration of the river by funding a partnership programme worth a record £500,000 over the course of 5 years Wandle Landscape & Biodiversity Group (a working group of the Wandle Forum) start work on a Wandle Action Plan to guide river restoration on the Wandle
2007-2008	EU funded project 'SAUL', led by GW together with the GLA, initiate a Steering Group of regional and sub-regional partners with a commitment to creating a Regional Park **Living Wandle Landscape Partnership (*LW*) initiative was conceived with lead partner Wandsworth Council** Wandle Valley Regional Park is defined in Local Plans (Merton, Sutton, Croydon and Wandsworth)
2008	Wandle Valley Regional Park (WVRP) Vision document[(6)] is produced (The RP and its boundary is agreed, the shadow board supporting the RP's further development is comprised of all the future partners of the *LW* Partnership)
2009	Bella Davies appointed as Development Officer (later, Director) of the WT
2010	(Dec) **Stage 1 (development) application for Living Wandle submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** The Four Boroughs co fund the governance work required to set up the Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT)

	The first CEO for the WVRPT Peter Wilkinson is appointed
	STAGE 1 – DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF LIVING WANDLE LPS (*LW*)
2011	(Feb) ***LW* Stage 1 (development) grant £78k awarded to Wandsworth Council by HLF for *LW***
	All London Green Grid (ALGG) launched
	WVRP defined in the London Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
	River Wandle Companion (Bob Steel)[7] published
2012	(Jan) **Living Wandle Steering Group commences**
	(Dec) **Final version of the *LW* Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) produced**
	WVRPT becomes a limited company
	Wandle Landscape & Biodiversity Group, with input from Environment Agency (EA) and WT produce the Invasive Non-Native Species Action Plan for the valley
	Wandle Park in Croydon re-opens after the river was de-culverted and the park enhanced through a HLF funded scheme in partnership with London Mayor's Help a London Park fund and Barrett's Homes.
2013	GW is commissioned by Wandle Valley Park Trust to support an application to HLF for works to improve key Gateway sites into the park across four boroughs as part of *LW*
	WVRPT registered as a charity
	(Feb) **Stage 2 delivery application together with LCAP for *LW* submitted to HLF**
	(Jun) **HLF awards delivery grant of £1,915k for *LW* contributing to total project cost of £2,698,904. Approved purposes of the grant to be completed by November 2018**
	(Sep) ***LW* delivery begins with a launch event organised by the Wandle Valley Festival**
	(Oct) The ALGG is revised and recognises the Wandle Valley as SPG (ALGG Framework 8)[8]
	STAGE 2 – DELIVERY PHASE OF LIVING WANDLE
2014	(Jan) ***LW* core team in post: Rebecca Watts (LP Manager), Louise Crothall (Project Officer) & Tina Corr (Administrator)**
	(Jan) Sue Morgan appointed as CEO (part-time, 2 days per week) of the WVRPT
	(Jan) LWT Estates Officer Andy Willmore appointed to deliver Social Landlords project (later replaced by Jane Clarke)
	The WT start operating publically as the South East Rivers Trust (SERT)
	(May) The Building Exploratory appointed to deliver Industrial Heritage Recording Wandle Treasures project
	(Jun) **Living Wandle Board commences meetings**
	(Jun) River Wandle Catchment Plan[9] published
	(Jun) Volunteer Support Officer Polly Bryant is appointed by WT, later becoming Project

	Manager for all WT/*LW* projects
	(Jul) **Living Wandle Landscape Partnership is legally constituted**
	(Jul) Wandle Festival (Living Wandle Launch Event) charity is dissolved, withdrawing from the partnership
	(Sep) *LW* hosts annual 'River Celebration' at Merton Abbey Mills (Vandalis film premiered)
	(Dec) **CEPAR independent evaluation** commissioned (R Clarke, M Anteric) in three stages; Stage 1 (to Sep 2015) – production of an evaluation framework - begins
2015	(Jan) GW appointed to deliver Industrial Heritage Recording Chapter House Documentary project
	(Mar) Big Green Fund partnership project at Poulter Park completed by WVRPT includes 2 *LW* Gateways
	(Apr) INNS officer Alan Martin appointed to deliver INNS project for the WT
	(May) Education Officer David Gill appointed to deliver Project Kingfisher education programme for the WT
	(Jun) **Wandle Valley photo competition launched (joint initiative between *LW*, WVRPT, WVF)**
	(Sep) River Celebration ('Wandle September') promoted by *LW* team includes 82 events
	Wandle Valley Forum Charter is produced at a 'Wandle Futures' workshop
	(Oct) **Enable Leisure and Culture (ELC) formed as a not-for-profit company to deliver leisure, sports, parks and cultural services for LB Wandsworth assume management responsibility for the *LW* scheme, subcontracted by LB Wandsworth**
	National Trust London and South East Region Strategy includes the Wandle Valley
	WVF Wandle Futures' workshop produces a Wandle Valley Charter
	(Dec) ***LW* web pages launched on the WVRPT website**
2016	(May) **Cepar Stage 2 *LW* Mid-Delivery Evaluation Report submitted**
	(Jul) **8 new projects approved and added to *LW* programme using available underspend**
	(Jul) Ravensbury Park channel enhancement project is aborted (quotes excessive) later replaced by a Wandle-wide eel and fish easement project.
	(Jul) Contractor appointed to deliver Discover the Source project for the WT
	Get Active Wandle partnership project commences by WVRPT
	(Sep) *LW* team expand River Celebration into 'Wandle Fortnight'. Includes a programme of 53 community events supported by a WVF-administered micro-grant scheme
	(Oct) ***LW* Evaluation and Legacy Workshop attended by all *LW* partners**
	(Oct) The Building Exploratory appointed to deliver Industrial Heritage Recording Mapping the Mills project
	(Oct) LWT appoints Wandle Rain Gardens Project officer Jo Ecclestone, later activities being delivered by Rachel Dowse (Community SUDS Project Officer) to deliver the Wandle Rain

	Gardens project
	(Oct) *LW* team members Louise and Tina resign, Louise joins Natural England as Conservation Officer
	(Nov) **WVRPT Strategy 2016-2012[10] published, helping Living Wandle legacy planning**
	(Dec) **Replacement *LW* Project Officer Sarah Perry starts in post (Communications)**
2017	(Jan) WT commence the Wandle Eel Project with support from the EA
	(Feb) **Replacement *LW* Project Officer Kelvin Shewry starts in post (Finance)**
	(May) Untitled Practice & Fiona Fyfe Associates appointed to deliver Wandle Vistas project
	(Jun) Battersea Arts Centre appointed to deliver Living River project
	(Jun) Online INNS Management Toolkit for the Wandle launched by WT
	(Jul) SoundFjord appointed (by ELC) to deliver The River Speaks art project
	(Jun) Marcus Beale Architects take on the management of the Merton Priory Chapter House (MPCH) Project *pro bono* on behalf of Merton Borough Council
	(Aug) HA Marks contractor appointed to construct the MPCH centre
	(Sep) Wandle Fortnight 'River Celebration' led by the WV Forum, includes 70 events and activities by local community groups supported by a £3k micro-grants scheme
	(Sep) ***LW* final celebrations begin with a Thankyou event for volunteers and project officers**
	(Sep) **WVRPT awarded HLF Resilient Heritage Funding of £94k for a 12 month project to build capacity for delivering the vision of the Regional Park with support from *LW* partners**
	(Oct) ***LW* final celebration and conference and premier of the *LW* film Living Wandle**
	Contracts of the *LW* team extended until May 2018
2018	(Mar) **Cepar / *LW* Final Evaluation & Completion Report submitted**
	(Mar) **Final *LW* Board Meeting**
	(May) **All *LW* projects complete**
	(May) *LW* team contracts end

Appendix 2. List of *LW* projects

* = significant modification of project from S2 approval by HLF ** = project added during delivery

Project title	*Brief description*	*Lead body*	*£ka*[i]	*£kb*	*Status*
	A. Natural and built heritage conservation				
A1 - Catchment Plan Delivery / River Rehab	Physical river re-naturalisations and restoration at Morden Hall Park, Hackbridge, Butterhill and Ravensbury back channel including. Includes significant volunteer input and training – chainsaw, surveying and modelling with an EM River flume.[(11)]	Wandle Trust	306.6	299.4	Complete Continues via Thames Water Funding
A2 - Waddon Ponds	Delivering a more 'natural' look in place of the 'gardenesque' design and improving biodiversity through marginal planting of coir rolls, with lectern interpretation boards and other signage.	LB Croydon	59.3	44.9	Complete
***A3 - Ravensbury Channel**	Biodiversity enhancements to the river and wildlife of Ravensbury Park. This project was abandoned after estimates for the work proved to be excessive, after which the unspent sum was allocated to a new project, Wandle Eels & Migratory Fish (below).	LB Merton	76.9	12.8	Abandoned
****A3 - Wandle Eels & Migratory Fish**	Installation of eel passes on weirs and channel obstructions to secure a more appealing gateway for eels and other migratory fish. Including support from the EA and volunteer involvement in eel monitoring and pass installation.	Wandle Trust	50.4	70.4	Due for completion March 2018 Continues via ZSL/NT eel pass monitoring.

[i] £ka = approved costs in S2 budget; £kb = estimated final project cost

Project title	*Brief description*	*Lead body*	*£ka*[i]	*£kb*	*Status*
A4 - Invasive Species Action Plan (INNS)	Controlling invasive non-native species (INNS) — mainly Floating pennywort, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed, with a trained volunteer 'Hit Squad' as part of an Action Plan for the river.[(12)]	Wandle Trust	70.9	78.7	Complete Continues via Thames Water Funding.
****A4 - NT Boat and equipment / River & wetlands toolkit**	Small dinghy and associated equipment including oars and lifejackets purchased to assist NT management of the wetland area in Morden Hall Park and INNS at Watermeads, available also to other *LW* partners.	National Trust	2.3	2.6	Complete Ongoing via INNS.
****A21 - Fish Habitat Improvement Project**	Enhanced channel habitat variability including adding flow deflectors and gravels together with vegetated marginal refuge areas to improve fish spawning grounds in a previously canalised section of the Wandle near Deen City Farm, Merton.	Environment Agency & Wild Trout Trust	10	9.7	Complete
****A22 - Wandle Vistas**	Staff and volunteer research of viewpoints and vistas of the Wandle Valley to produce a technical report informing local and neighbourhood planning, plus a printed/web-based community resource for information and way-finding.	Untitled Practice		41.5	Due for completion March 18
	B. Community engagement and participation				
B5 - Wandle Flowing Through Time	An oral history of the Wandle and its people transcribed into a narrative book as well as oral histories captured on the Wandle Digital Library.[(13)]	Groundwork London	47.5	39.2	Complete
B6 - Social Landlords / Estate Communities	Activities with Registered Social Landlords (RSL) aimed at connecting people in social and sheltered housing with the Wandle and its wildlife.	London Wildlife Trust	65.9	61.2	Complete
B7 - Discover the Source of the Wandle	Exploration of a variety of resources to research the sources of the Wandle resulting in a programme of guided and self-guided walks and an exhibition.	Wandle Trust	27	27	Complete

Project title	*Brief description*	*Lead body*	*£ka*[i]	*£kb*	*Status*
B8 - Reflecting the Wandle / Vandalis	A dramatised film (available on the Wandle Digital Library)[(14)] involving volunteers as actors and producers about the Wandle and its people from prehistory to the present.	Groundwork London	33.5	44.3	Complete
***B9 - River Celebrations**	Community events relating to the river and its catchment, from the Living Wandle Launch Event 2013, through a succession of annual Wandle Festivals/Fortnights, volunteer thank you events and the final LW celebration conference. Also included a programme of micro-grants (in 2016 and 2017) to fund community events as part of Wandle Fortnight.	Wandle Valley Festival, then *LW* Team	14	26.9	Complete Continues via Wandle Valley Forum Business Planning.
***B10 - Wandle Young Piscators**	Youth angling, promoting good fishing and conservation practices. This project was curtailed on the sudden death of the Piscators' Chair in September 2016; however volunteer coaches have been trained and the first ever fishing guide to the Wandle has been published.	Wandle Piscators	11.7	6.5	Complete Continues via ongoing Piscators club activities.
****B24 - Living River Performance Art**	An original, outdoor promenade performance produced by local teenagers, including underrepresented BAMER backgrounds, about the heritage of the Wandle. A film was produced demonstrating the process of the project.	Battersea Arts Centre		13.3	Complete
	C. Access and learning				
***C11 - Wandle Gateways**	Access improvements and signage to key entrances to Wandle Valley greenspaces, including Poulter Park and Watermeads, Waddon Ponds, Trewint Street and Colliers' Wood. Community and volunteer involvement has included planting workshops, community wildlife event and production of a short film.[(15)]	Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust	240.3	255.4	Due for completion March 2018 Continues via WVRPT delivery planning / Resilient Heritage Funds.

Project title	*Brief description*	*Lead body*	*£ka*[i]	*£kb*	*Status*
***C12 - Merton Priory Chapter House**	First phase of development of the MPCH site into a modern educational and events centre, including the stabilisation and preservation of the remains of the Chapter House and installation of services and an attractive site entrance.	LB Merton and Merton Priory Trust	431.3	431.3	Due for completion May 2018 Continues via planned, but unfunded, Phase 2.
***C13 - Morden Hall Park Wetlands**	Enhancements to MHP wetlands and river for wildlife and visitors including a boardwalk and river restoration, with significant volunteer input and training.	National Trust	191	229.8	Complete
**** C13 - Learning in the Wetlands**	Public and school group events at Morden Hall Park Wetlands including nature walks, biodiversity monitoring, photography and art activities, plus a suite of equipment to improve and increase the range of activities on offer.	National Trust		21.7	Complete Continues via NT events and activities programs.
C14 - River Education / Project Kingfisher	Educating children in local schools through classroom based 'Creatures in the Classroom' & outdoor visits 'Window on the Wandle'.	Wandle Trust	89.6	91.4	Complete Continues via Gregg's Community Funding.
C15 - Industrial Heritage Recording	**This project was divided into three modules:**				
***M1 – MPCH Documentary**	Initially intended to be a participatory 'before' and 'after' record of works at Merton Priory Chapter House through film and photography, however delays to the MPCH project meant that the film is limited to a presentation of background to the works proposed.[(15)]	Groundwork London	12.6	17.8	Complete
M 2 – Wandle Treasures	Participative research including physical and digital mapping of historic artefacts and natural and cultural heritage, resulting in the production of a large, detailed hand-drawn map and map tour.	Building Exploratory	14.5	19.7	Complete

Project title	*Brief description*	*Lead body*	*£ka*[i]	*£kb*	*Status*
M 3 – Mapping the Mills	Investigation and research into the mills of the Wandle with staff, volunteers and the Wandle Industrial Museum, resulting in the mapping of results into digital and hardcopy maps to be used in self-guided walks. Volunteers have also run a programme of public events/walks.	Building Exploratory	30.5	22.8	Due for completion March 2018
***C16 - Interpretation Strategy**	**A strategy for interpretation and communications, elaborated through the life of the Scheme as a series of the following 3 sub-projects:**	*LW* team and all Partners			
***Web pages and Digital Archive**	The online presence of the LWLP, hosted within the WVRPT website. An archive accessed via an interactive map.[(16)]	*LW* Team and WVRPT		41.1	Complete Continues via WVRPT website.
***Wandle Watchers / Twinning**	Integration of volunteer wildlife recording via several organisations including the MHP Nature Group, local Brownie and Scout packs, GiGL and the Piscators. Plus 3 cross-Borough surveys of Canada geese resulting in reports and mapping work. Newsletter and events leaflet production and distribution for community information about the Wandle.	*LW* Team		7	Complete Continues via WVRPT communications and ongoing GiGL biodiversity recording.
***Wandle Art project / Confluence: The River Speaks**	Engagement of LW participant groups and other local residents in collecting field recorded sound and visual documentation of the river landscape. Commissioned on behalf of Greenland Group, developers of the Ram Quarter, the intended outcome is a permanent audio and projected AV installation in a new heritage centre on the site of the former Young's Brewery.	Enable Leisure and Culture / Pump House Gallery		8.8	Complete Continues with access to the art commissioned for the Heritage Centre.
****C25 - Mitcham Community Orchard & Gardens**	Installation of interpretation panel and sampling equipment to support visits from local schools and the educational objectives within the wider community activities.	Mitcham Community Orchard Group	1.1	1.7	Complete Continues via ongoing MCOG activities.

Project title	*Brief description*	*Lead body*	*£ka*[i]	*£kb*	*Status*
****C26 - Ravensbury Pond Platform**	Installation of a pond viewing platform at Ravensbury Park Lake.	LB Merton and FoRP		5.8	Complete
	D. Training and skills				
***D17 - Wandle Rain Gardens (Climate Change Awareness)**	Engaging local communities in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) along the Wandle. Five SuDS measures were installed across three sites, with local communities heavily involved in planning and installation. The project delivered public engagement events, including a series of hands-on workshops, a public exhibition and a guided walk, in addition to a 'Living with Rainwater' guide and a public awareness film.[(17)]	London Wildlife Trust	62.2	53.7	Due for completion March 2018
D18 - River Guardians	19 'Wandle Clean-Ups' (10 LWLP funded) focussed on reducing pollution and litter as well as training volunteers in responding to category 3 pollution incidents.[(18)]	Wandle Trust	43.2	33.5	Complete Continues via Tesco Bags of Help Funding.
***D19 - Wandle Volunteers / Training Plan**	An umbrella programme for volunteers and staff across the *LW* scheme including access to funding for training not identified within the individual projects, creating learning packs and educational films, and buying project related equipment.	*LW* Team with all Partners	104	88.5	Due for completion March 2018

Appendix 3: Evaluation context and methodology

This Appendix starts with a summary of HLF's requirements and guidance in respect of evaluation. It then introduces the purposes of this Final Report and presents the approach and methods adopted in its preparation and in our earlier evaluation work with *LW*.

HLF evaluation guidance

HLF requires that every Landscape Partnership should conduct a final evaluation towards the end of its scheme and submit a satisfactory report (embodying the results of the final evaluation and 'telling the story of the scheme, its achievements and lessons learned'[(19)] before it can 'sign off' the scheme and release the final 10% of grant money.[(20)] The Final Report must be an objective evaluation of what has been achieved. Common practice is for independent consultants to be engaged in the process, to a greater or lesser degree.

In line with HLF guidance however evaluation within *LW* has been an ongoing process since the launch of *LW*'s delivery phase, involving all *LW* partners aimed as much at improving future delivery as capturing what had already been achieved. This Final Report is similarly much more than a retrospective summative exercise to enable HLF to sign off its grant. It is effectively the CV of the scheme, a testament to the hard work and effort that has gone into delivery, a celebration of what has been achieved, and is intended as an input into *LW's* legacy activities, and to assist other (especially urban) multi-project schemes working at a 'landscape' level, particularly in urban areas, in the preparation and delivery of their own schemes.

LW was conceived and developed under HLF's third (2008-13) Strategic Plan, during which HLF developed its approach to (and placed increasing emphasis on) effective monitoring and evaluation. Some of these changes include:

- An increasing emphasis on benefits (to heritage and for people) alongside monitoring of project implementation and expenditure.
- Looking beyond outputs (as measures of activity) to outcomes (longer term benefits to heritage and for people) in particular those which endure beyond the end of HLF funding (legacy).
- Working with partnership and project partners, seeing evaluation as a participative process which enhances delivery rather than primarily an external assessment of achievement.
- Utilising a wide variety of evidence including qualitative as well as quantitative indicators.

This changing approach is embodied in HLF's current (20013-18) generic guidance published in October 2012.[(21)] HLF have also published guidance specifically tailored to LPs[(20)] following our own national evaluation of HLF's LP programme in 2011.[(22)] The emphasis on outcomes is also contained in informal advice that HLF provides in regard to legacy planning[(23)] as well as in its concern that working at a landscape level should deliver benefits which are more than the sum of the outcomes of individual projects.

In parallel with the above and with the launch of HLF's new strategic framework (SF4 2013-18) in 2013a generic set of funding outcomes was elaborated, replacing the four aims specific to the LP programme, as follows:

- Benefits to heritage (identification/ recording. condition and management, interpretation);
- Benefits for individuals (access and learning, skills and training, volunteering, attitudes/ behaviour and enjoyment);
- Benefits for communities (improved environment, participation and engagement, organisational resilience, and the local economy)

Our evaluation (including our assessment in the main report of project outcomes in each of the programme areas and of *LW's* outcomes and legacy) takes these more recent changes into account whilst recognising as a reference point HLF's evaluation advice as it existed at the time of submission of *LW*'s Stage 2 application in 2010.

The Final Evaluation of *LW*

Our contract as Independent Evaluator (IE) comprised three stages with a total nominal (i.e. costed) allocation of 46 days spread through each of the three years (c 15½ days p.a.) from the start of delivery to *LW*'s completion. Each stage includes working with the *LW* team and project partners to deliver principal outputs as follows:

Stage 1 (Dec 2014 – Oct 2015, 15 days) Development and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework.[(24)] The Framework (produced as a working document to be 'owned' by the Partnership and revised as necessary) was agreed by the SG in March 2015.

Stage 2 (Nov2015 - Oct 2016, 16 days) A Mid-Term Evaluation and Report (May 2016)[(25)] followed by input into the Partnership's legacy planning.

Stage 3 (Aug 2017 - Jan 2018, 16 days) End of scheme evaluation and production of a Final Evaluation Report (this document).

This report represents the conclusion of an ongoing evaluative process commenced in early 2015 for which key interim outputs have included:

- **Extended case studies** of two completed projects contained in the Stage 1 Interim Report presented to the *LW* Steering Group and Board in November 2015.
- A **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**[(24)] produced in March 2015 in collaboration with the *LW* team and partners
- **Annual Reports** to the *LW* SG and Board
- A **Mid-Term Evaluation Report**[(25)] presented to the *LW* AG in June 2016.

This Final Evaluation Report celebrates what *LW* has achieved, considers the lessons that have been learnt, and review the prospects for the future.

Methods

Quantitative data in this report is based primarily on information supplied by the LP team. Our own work has focused primarily on outcomes and legacy. Methods have included the following elements all of which have been conducted in liaison with the LP team, project leads and Partnership members who have provided invaluable information, advice and assistance.

Desk research

This has included examination of a wide range of documents relating to *LW* and its Partnership. A key focus has been the *LW* LCAP and supporting documents, monitoring data collected by the LP team, minutes of SG meetings and other sources including material relating to the *LW* area more generally.

Key Informant Interviews

A programme of interviews conducted both face-to-face and by telephone has included participants and volunteers as well as individuals who might reasonably be considered to have expert or 'inside' knowledge of *LW* and its projects

- *LW* team members, project leads and partner representatives (PL)
- 'Experts' including those involved in local cultural and natural heritage works
- Representatives of funding and partner bodies including the HLF Monitor and Regional Grants Officer.
- Volunteers (V)
- Project participants (PA)
- Others including survey respondents and individuals who had little contact with *LW*.

Site visits and liaison

Throughout the three years of evaluation, ongoing liaison with the LP team, partners, project leads and SG members who have provided information and assistance has been accompanied by a programme of site visits to all *LW* project locations. This has provided valuable supplementary information to the above and enabled us to 'ground truth' information secured from other sources.

Workshops and focus groups

An output from Stage 1 of the evaluation was an Evaluation Framework agreed by the SG in May 2015 which formed the basis of a workshop exercise at the November SG.

A further Evaluation and Legacy Workshop held at BedZed on 6 October 2016 focused on the progress of *LW* at scheme level, feeding in to the MTR. In addition attendance at a number of other meetings including Wandle Valley Forum (WVF, 2015, 2017) and Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT) AGM (2017) provided the opportunity for further informal discussions.

Case studies

Two extended project case studies – of Wandle Flowing Through Time (WFTT) and Reflecting the Wandle (RtW/ Vandalis) – were contained in the Stage 1 Interim Report presented to the *LW* Steering Group and Board in November 2015. Summaries of other case studies are presented in this report.

Participant surveys

An online survey[i] was conducted over three months September – November 2017. The questionnaire was designed in thematic sections, each commencing with one or more closed questions designed to elicit perceptions of or attitudes to *LW*'s aims and the achievements of its projects, but which importantly then provided the opportunity for (what were sometimes extended) open, narrative responses on the perceived strengths and weaknesses of *LW* in regard to each topic.

Requests to complete the questionnaire were issued via email to everyone on the *LW* contacts list and request to all partners and project leads to forward the invitation to their own contacts lists. Links to the survey were included in *LW* Newsletters and other communications as well as in the WVF newsletter and promulgated at events attended by the *LW* team; paper copies were also distributed from the *LW* office.

As of 10 December 2017 a total of 121 valid responses had been received. Experience from of other LPs suggests that this is a relatively good return from those who have had contact with the *LW* scheme. Irrespective of the number of responses received, it is important to note that that a survey of this sort cannot present a representative (and much less a statistically significant) sample of participants in *LW* let alone of the community of the *LW* area. In addition to its relatively low size, it is inevitably biased to individuals associated with *LW* projects and partner bodies. Summary data is unlikely to be representative of all those who have been involved with the *LW* scheme, much less of the wider Wandle communities at whom many activities were directed and must therefore be treated with caution.

No questions were mandatory and 'skipped' questions mean that aggregate responses to individual questions are generally less than the number of respondents overall. Nevertheless the narrative responses received (including those of individuals who had limited engagement with the scheme, as well as the presence of some critical or hostile comments) suggests that these are likely to be reasonably representative of a wider spread of opinion.

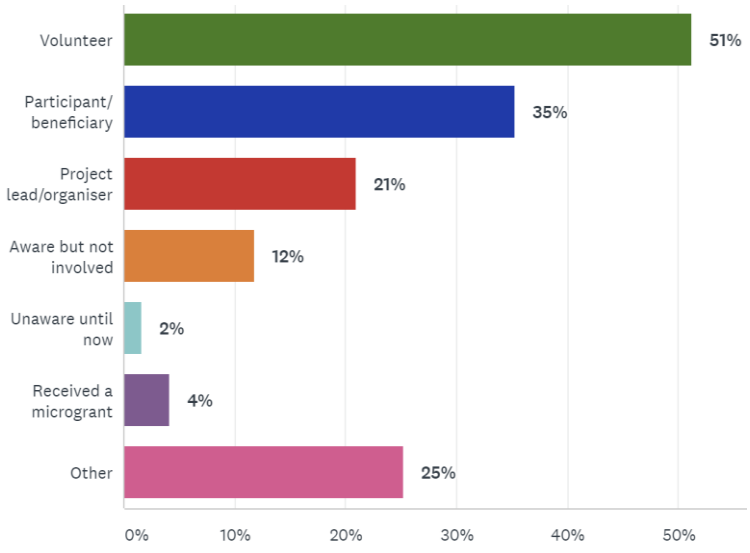

Figure 1 Engagement of questionnaire respondents with *LW*

Over half of respondents identified themselves as volunteers on *LW* projects and over one-third as participants or beneficiaries in *LW* events or activities (**Figure 1**). A fifth of respondents were project leads or organisers and 12% were aware of but had had little direct engagement with the *LW* scheme or its projects.

Significantly, over a quarter of all respondents identified other ways in which they have been involved with the river or its catchment independently of the *LW* scheme. These included recreational users *('have*

[i] The questionnaire can be inspected at https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LivingWandle. This followed two earlier surveys. The first was launched in June 2015 and focused on the c 20 individuals listed in Groundwork's own end-of-project evaluations of two completed projects, WFTT and RtW (Vandalis); the survey resulted in total of only twelve responses.
A second survey was conducted between February and April 2016 as part of the MTR, focused on the outcomes of all the then ongoing and completed projects, resulting in 73 valid responses.

paddled a kayak from the Mills to the Thames on several occasions'), community activists and employees of local organisations involved in managing the river or other facilities in the area.

Respondents were asked to identify those *LW* projects with which they had been involved. As with the data in (Figure 1) these are non-exclusive categories and a relatively high proportion of respondents had been involved with more than one project. The greatest response (around 25% in each case) came from those involved with projects led by Wandle Trust — invasive species control and/or physical river improvements and restoration (Figure 2). Eleven respondents selected the 'other' option to elaborate multiple minor engagements or ancillary activities.

Figure 2 Involvement of questionnaire respondents with the range of *LW* projects

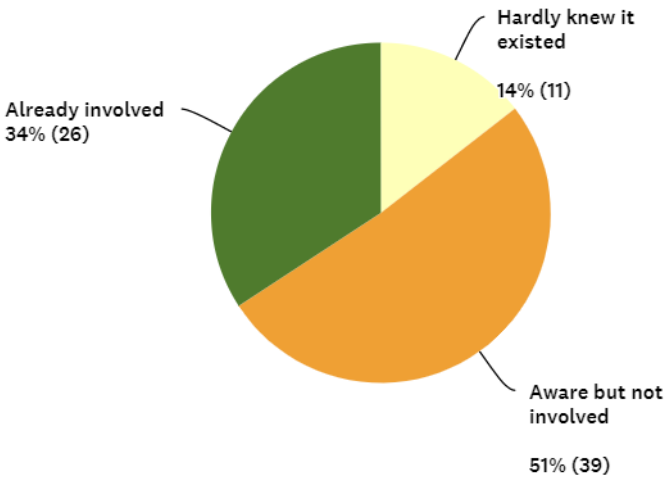

Figure 3 Before the Living Wandle scheme started in 2013, how much did you know about the River Wandle and how involved were you with it?

Respondents were also asked to state to what degree they had been involved with the River Wandle before the start of the *LW* LP scheme.

Over 60% of respondents were either unaware of the river's existence or if they were aware, had not been involved to any degree with it prior to their engagement with the scheme (Figure 3).

Over half of all respondents were age between 31 and 64, and a third (mainly volunteers) aged 65 or above; only 9 respondents (17%) were aged 18-30 and there were none under 17

Equal numbers of women and men responded to the survey.

Three respondents reported having a disability that limited participation in *LW* activities or projects.

None of those who offered further personal information declared as being a member of an ethnic minority. Several chose also to volunteer information on their employment status.

Just under three-quarters of respondents (and the majority of interviewees) lived or worked within the *LW* catchment **(Figure 4**) and almost 20% lived outside. 7 respondents were unsure.

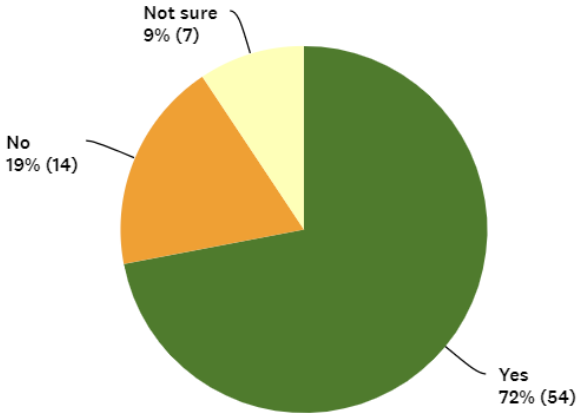

Figure 4 Do you live or work within or adjacent to the Living Wandle area?

Error! Reference source not found. (main report, page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**) shows the distribution of those respondents to the Final and Mid-term Surveys who provided their postcodes, together with those of Wandle Watchers retained on the *LW* records. Some half of individuals provided only the first part of their postcode and the map does not discriminate between locations of single individuals and those of several, however it can be seen that a significant number of respondents come from outside the immediate *LW* scheme area, that there are significantly greater numbers of Wandle Watchers than respondents to the survey, and that the overlap between the two surveys (i.e. the numbers of those who responded to both, as suggested by their postcode) is relatively small.

The questionnaire concluded with an invitation to respondents to indicate if they were prepared for us to follow up with a short telephone interview. Remarkably, almost half of those who responded to this question were willing to do so and provided their names and contact details for us to do this.

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