



**SOUTH LONDON WASTE PLAN**  
**A statement by Wandle Valley Forum (Con 10) to the Examination**  
**July 2021**

1. Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for 140 community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle.
2. We have contributed to the development of the South London Waste Plan and welcomed adjustments which have been made in respect of our earlier representations. The Plan includes sites with a significant impact on the Wandle Valley Regional Park and the river. We welcome and support the further modifications which recognise this.
3. This statement addresses the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions relevant to our representations.

Issue vii, Q2e – Sites M15 & M16 and Wandle Valley Conservation Area

4. We welcome Main Modifications 10 and 12 recognising the need for development to be "*conserving, and where possible enhancing the setting of the Wandle Valley Conservation Area*". For full consistency with national planning policy (NPPF, paragraph 200) we support the addition of "*or better revealing its significance*".

Issue vii, Q2h – Promoting access and environmental improvements to the Wandle

5. We do not believe the Plan is consistent with national planning policy (NPPF, paragraph 91, 92, 170 and 171) in respect of the significance of the Wandle and its role as a green corridor and access route, including the Wandle Trail. National policy supports an approach which plans positively to improve the environment and promote access.
6. We seek further modifications that explicitly require any development of sites M6, M10, M12, M14, M15 and M16 to respect and improve the character of the Wandle, its ability to operate as a naturally functioning river and the provision of open space and public access along the river bank. This includes providing a sympathetic boundary to the Wandle Trail for sites M10, M12 and M14.
7. Additionally, sites M6, M15 and M16 can play an important role in securing greater access along the Wandle. There is growing realisation of the potential for a new public route running along the east side of the Wandle south from Bennett's Hole Local Nature Reserve. This would provide a new boundary for Willow Lane Trading Estate offering better access and an improved environment for local businesses and their employees as well as residents. The space for this new route exists along a large part of the river and it can be secured by being addressed as part of any future plans for the development of these two sites. We ask that the South London Waste Plan supports any future development of sites M6, M15 and

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M16 to include safeguarding provisions for a new public route along the east bank of the Wandle and, where appropriate, to secure its delivery.

Issue vii, Q2m – Buffer zone

8. We strongly support provision for an 8m buffer zone in relation to sites near to the Wandle. This is an essential protection against negative impacts arising from the land uses and operations associated with the sites given the sensitivity of the Wandle as a globally rare urban chalk stream associated with an important Green Corridor. It will help in the delivery of the Wandle's Catchment Management Plan consistent with national planning policy. It is also consistent with the 400m buffer zone for the Wandle Valley Regional Park included in Merton's Local Plan as a more strategic protection.

Issue vii, Q2n – Amenity

9. We welcome Main Modifications 7, 8, 9 and 11 introducing a criterion for development on relevant sites to be "*Protecting the amenity of those using the Wandle Valley Regional Park*". This recognises the potential impacts of the development and use of these sites on this strategic environmental and recreational resource. Not recognising the importance of the Wandle Valley Regional Park would not be a sound approach. The same criterion should also be required in relation to site M12 (NJB Recycling, 77 Weir Road, Merton SW19 8UG) which is also located close to the Wandle.