

# Mr Steve Tabbitt comments

Page: [Draft New London Plan](#)

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**Response from The Thames Path National Trail Manager**  
**Responses to**  
**Policy G4 Local Green and Open Space**  
**Policy S116 Waterways – Use and Enjoyment**  
**Policy T3 Transport Capacity, Connectivity and Safeguarding**

We fully support the recognition and statements the Thames Path has within the Draft London Plan, but would ask that the Thames Path be given its proper title of National Trail. The Thames Path National Trail, including the sections through London is one of only 16 National Trails of Britain. It was created under the National Parks Act 1949, was submitted for approval to the Secretary of State for the Environment in January 1989 before finally opening 1996. The London stretch of the Thames Path starts at Hampton Court and follows the river to the Flood Barrier at Greenwich. For the most part, it runs on both sides of the river but has more river frontage along the South bank.

The Thames Path National Trail can and should provide access for all Londoners (and tourists opportunities) for walking and where possible cycling along a 40-mile route which links a network of green, open spaces as well as, historic buildings and London's World Heritage Sites. There also exists numerous opportunities for circular routes linking and encouraging the public onto and along the Thames Path National Trail. The Thames Path has strong public transport links along its full length through London. The river and its' National Trail is London's' largest open space.

Orval <http://leep.exeter.ac.uk/orval/> Estimates the Welfare Value of the Thames Path National Trail passing through London to be £40,466,939 with an estimated number of domestic day visits of 9,795,287

London's National Trail can and should provide many opportunities to help and support the Majors Office in delivering its interconnecting green transport, walking health and wellbeing agenda as well as providing significant contributions to London's economy by supporting numerous riverside trail businesses, such as London's historic riverside pubs. Safe guarding public access along the National Trail is crucial, and where development allows, to designate (a Public Right of Way) for Public Access along the Capital's river, where currently the trail is forced inland. The most common complaints or queries along the Thames Path through London is locked gates and signage issues. With support, these issues can be addressed.

There are many opportunities to improve access for all, through London and to ensure the route meets National Trail quality standards. This includes support and buy in for the installation of National Trail designated signage, the Acorn. A fully signed National Trail helps, inform and encourage Londoners to walk and explore their National Trail without fear of trespass or intimidation along the Capital's river. The easier and more accessible the Thames Path National Trail is through London, the more likely it is to encourage first time users, and groups who would not necessarily think about walking as part of their commute, part of their health and wellbeing agenda or just recreation walking.

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