

Greenways for the Olympics And London

Review to September 2008



Greenways for the Olympics And London (GOAL) is Sustrans' vision for a sustainable city. GOAL aims to improve the lives of all who live in or visit London by creating a safe and attractive environment for walking and cycling. This will enable people of all abilities to choose to walk and cycle for more of their everyday journeys, benefiting both their health and the environment.



What is a Greenway?

A Greenway is a route apart from the main trafficked roads, for the exclusive use of pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and others who feel vulnerable on or near busy roads. A Greenway comprises of traffic-free sections such as railway paths, riverside routes, canal towpaths, parks and numerous specially constructed sections all necessary to create a continuous quality route. A Greenway can consist of lightly trafficked roads and traffic-calmed streets and public spaces, but is always eased past traffic via special facilities and, wherever possible, by planting schemes to ensure that the ambience of a traffic-free section is maintained. A Greenway will have numerous links to connect its main route with local places and communities, and it may follow separate strands for walking and cycling.

A legacy for all Londoners



Back in 2005, following the announcement that London had been selected to host the 2012 Olympic Games, it was clear that a once in a lifetime opportunity had fallen to London. Even then, everyone seemed to be talking about legacy, and ensuring that London 2012 was used as an opportunity to regenerate the East End.

London's bid was in part built on the premise that London 2012 would encourage the next generation to take up sport or regular physical activity as part of their everyday lives, and the Active Spectator Programme was a key element of that aspiration.

We at Sustrans embraced these opportunities and the GOAL vision was put forward with the intention of drawing attention to the possibilities and opportunities that the Games would bring. And we still use GOAL as an umbrella term and guiding principles for much of Sustrans' work in London; work which is delivered through a range of programmes and in partnership with many stakeholders, partners and funders.

The first phase of GOAL focuses on developing routes in the communities that surround London's main sites for the 2012 Games, in particular the Olympic Park in East London. However GOAL aims to provide a lasting legacy for all Londoners after the Games are over, and the second phase of GOAL builds on the Olympic routes to provide a London-wide Network that will give Londoners a much improved environment in which to live, work and play.

There is still much to do before walking and cycling can truly become an everyday activity for Londoners. But with GOAL now moving from the planning stage into delivery it is timely to introduce an annual GOAL review, and I'm delighted to say that this first review demonstrates steady progress.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with GOAL so far, in particular Transport for London, who have supported and funded the bulk of the work on GOAL, and to the many of you who supported Sustrans' Connect2 project, helping to bring £3.5m to London over the next 5 years. We look forward to working with many more partners in this ambitious but important project in the coming years.

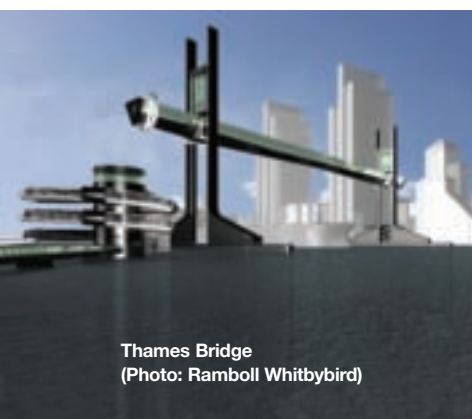
Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Carl Pittam'.

Carl Pittam
London Director, Sustrans

GOAL progress

GOAL element	Objective	Status/progress
Olympic Park	To ensure that a fully accessible and attractive environment for the community and for visitors is created as a legacy of the London Olympic Games and that spectators and workforce can choose to walk or cycle to the Olympic Park for London 2012.	Route corridors scoped out (2005/06) and agreed with the boroughs, TfL, the ODA and other stakeholders. Detailed route audits underway and due for completion by late 2008.
Thames Bridge	To create the first major Thames crossing dedicated to walkers and cyclists, linking south Londoners to Canary Wharf, the wider Thames Gateway and the Olympic Park on foot and by bike as part of the Olympic legacy.	Preliminary study, outline economic appraisal and detailed technical feasibility study completed (2006-2008). Revised appraisal and demand forecast underway and due for completion by autumn 2008.
Weald (also see Connect2, below)	To create a greenway to Weald Country Park, original proposed location for Olympic Mountain Biking, and to improve local connections within the London Borough of Havering.	The venue will no longer be used by London 2012, but Weald Country Park remains an attractive destination for this Greenway through Havering. The borough will recruit an Ingrebourne Valley Greenway Project Officer to drive the project forward. Additional funding has been secured to improve northern sections of the route in 2008/09.
A Greenway for Redbridge	To create a greenway across the London Borough of Redbridge, from Wanstead to the Hainault Forest Country Park. The route will link to the new cycle circuit at Hog Hill.	A detailed habitat survey has been completed for the Fairlop Plain section of route and proposed mitigations identified. A route audit on the Wanstead to Barkingside sections of route will be complete by September 2008.
Wembley	To improve local connections within the London Borough of Brent and develop a network of greenways to encourage and enable more people to walk and cycle to Wembley Stadium.	A route feasibility report completed in September 2007. Detailed route audits currently underway. These will inform Olympic Delivery Authority business planning.
Southwest London Greenways	To create a sub-regional network of greenways for local journeys, building on existing greenways in the region, and to serve the All England Lawn Tennis Club for London 2012 as well as annually for the Wimbledon tennis Championships.	A five borough network has been scoped and consultation across all five boroughs took place in 2006 (Wandsworth, Sutton, Merton, Kingston and Richmond). £441k has been secured from TfL's Cycling on Greenways programme for a second year of design and implementation. Some new routes opened in early 2008 and others planned for implementation by March 2009.
Ravensbourne	To deliver a greenway spur to the Waterlink Way (National Route 21) from Bromley. This will cater for journeys to Greenwich and routes to central London.	A route identification study was carried out in 2006/07. Delivery of the route is to be pursued as part of the Southeast London Greenways programme.
Pan-London network	To create greenways across London to facilitate everyday local journeys by bike and on foot as part of the Olympic legacy.	Four cross-borough area studies are underway, due for completion by March 2009.
National Cycle Network Routes	To create long distance cycle routes that span the UK as part of the National Cycle Network (NCN). The NCN is a network of walking and cycling routes that link people within communities as well as communities to each other and further afield offering access to everyday destinations as well as for leisure and tourism.	Local sections of these routes are being incorporated into the broader GOAL network and will be developed within the relevant sub-regional networks.
Connect2	To revitalise walking and cycling in 79 communities across the UK by creating new routes for everyday local journeys. The creation of crossings and bridges over busy roads, railway lines, canals and rivers, linking into networks of local paths to improve accessibility on foot or by bike.	Six projects in London allocated a total of £3.5m, due for completion by 2013. (Connect2 is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.)
DIY Streets	To work with 11 local communities to develop low-cost capital solutions to making their streets safer and more attractive, aiming to find simple interventions and materials which can be both effective and durable.	Three pilot projects underway in London, due for completion by 2010.



Thames Bridge
(Photo: Ramboll Whitbybird)



Connect2 (Photo: Southwark Council)



DIY Streets (Photo: Ted Dewan)

Partners and funders

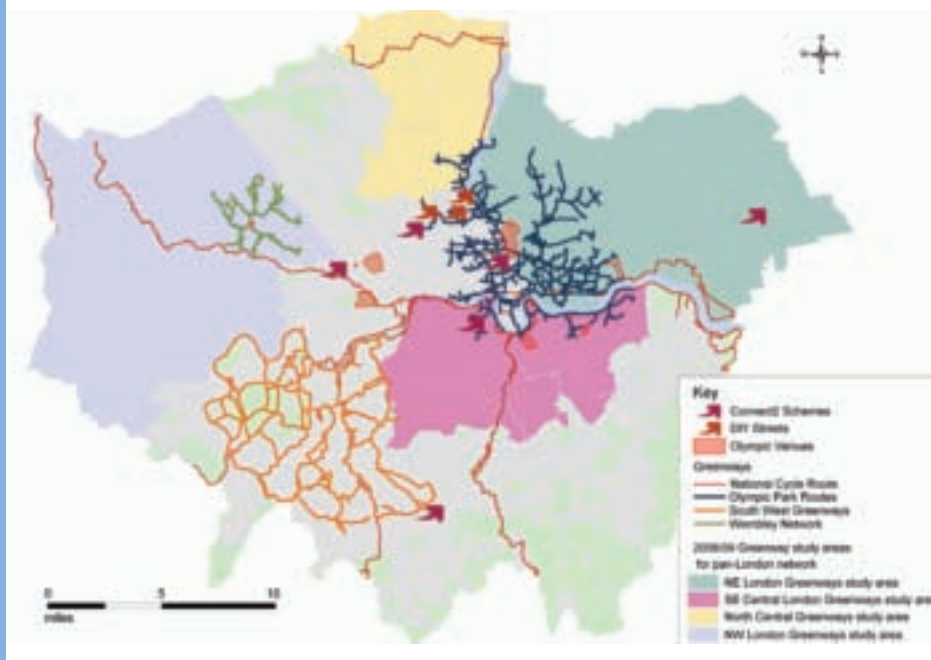
Sustrans' role is one of coordination, bringing together different organisations working to create the environment that will enable all those who want to walk and cycle, including children, women and older people, to do so. The following have either directly funded elements of the GOAL project or have been supportive in other ways:

Big Lottery Fund
British Waterways
Canary Wharf Group
City of Westminster
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Greater London Authority
Living Streets
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Bexley
London Borough of Brent
London Borough of Bromley
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Croydon
London Borough of Ealing
London Borough of Enfield
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Hackney
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
London Borough of Haringey
London Borough of Harrow
London Borough of Havering
London Borough of Hillingdon
London Borough of Hounslow
London Borough of Islington
London Borough of Lambeth
London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Merton
London Borough of Newham
London Borough of Redbridge
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
London Borough of Southwark
London Borough of Sutton
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
London Borough of Waltham Forest
London Borough of Wandsworth
London Cycling Campaign
London Development Agency
Olympic Delivery Authority
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
RSPB
South Hillingdon Community Trust
Thames Gateway London Partnership
The Ramblers Association
The Royal Parks
Transport for London



Scale

The GOAL network is estimated to be in the region of 900-1000km. A clearer picture will be available after the completion of the 2008/09 route scoping work, due by March 2009.



Sustrans is the UK's leading sustainable transport charity.

Our vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. We work on practical, innovative solutions to the transport challenges facing us all. Sustrans is the charity behind the award winning National Cycle Network, Safe Routes to Schools, Bike It, TravelSmart, Active Travel, Connect2 and Liveable Neighbourhoods, all projects that are changing our world one mile at a time.

To find out more visit or call: www.sustrans.org.uk 0845 113 00 65

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