



If I could design London I would create the Cycle Line circumnavigating the city centre. A new network of green spaces which allow people to walk and cycle freely, away from traffic, achieved by transforming the great swathes of railway lands currently safeguarded against an uncertain future into public open space. This necklace of linear green spaces would augment the Capital's rich patchwork of public parks and gardens and, if linked by green routes along the inter-connecting streets, could transform the way in which people move through the city by bike and on foot, allowing them to enjoy parts of London that have been hidden from view for more than a century.

I propose a special planning process which, for a period of three years, would provide the railways with an opportunity for relatively unconstrained redevelopment. As a first step this would make the most of those sites suitable for redevelopment, many of which have remained dormant for years. It would also clarify the sites which, for economic or ecological reasons, cannot be developed and which could be transferred to public ownership as a second step, replacing the fences that keep people out with new pathways and bridges drawing people in. The development contributions from the first step could fund the transformation of new linear parks, pathways and green streets in the second.

