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Dear Mr Hodgson,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Richard Payne, and my current role is the nature conservation manager for the City of London natural environment department Hampstead Heath. I have been working in open space management continuously for over forty years. Most of that time working for the City of London Corporation at Hampstead heath and at other open space sites across and adjacent to the capital.

I would like to express my personal support for The Westbourne walking trail project. I feel that this is a wonderful initiative and a great tool to promote engagement with the public about the lost rivers of London and it will also promote a wider awareness about the capital's geology, history, hydrology, and ecology . Aspects that are so often overlooked and unobserved as we bustle about our business on this urban mantle which conceals the true foundations upon which our wonderful metropolis became established and continues to thrive today.

Having a self-guided trail, following the lost river Westbourne will provide a focused route for members of the public to engage with and explore. I feel that the provision of a guided route will be an excellent catalyst to encourage people to get out and about walking and taking exercise. I believe that the Capital ring and London loop guided trails have proven to be very successful projects in this respect.

Whilst I have been working on the Heath, near the source of the Westbourne I have verbally inquired with Heath users and volunteers for their views about the Westbourne River interpretation proposal. It has been greeted with immense enthusiasm from all those that I have engaged with. I foresee it being a great success. Therefore, I will be more than delighted to express my full support for this project.

Best wishes

Richard Payne  
Nature conservation manager  
Hampstead Heath | Natural Environment Department

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[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath)

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