



London Cycle Map Campaign

cyclelifestyle.co.uk

Imagine if you could cycle from anywhere to anywhere in London simply by following a trail of coloured signs and road markings.

Imagine if all these coloured cycle routes were shown clearly on a single London Cycle Map, just like the London Underground map.

This is the goal of the London Cycle Map Campaign.

There are thousands of kilometres of cycle routes in London, like a huge tangle of spaghetti spread across the city. Hundreds of millions of pounds have been spent adding cycle lanes and other useful infrastructure improvements to these routes, many of which were developed as part of the London Cycle Network (LCN) project that began nearly 30 years ago. Its founding aim was to enable people of all ages and abilities to cycle throughout the capital on a comprehensive, joined-up network of quieter, safer streets.

And you can, in theory. In practice, it's a different story. Before you've even set off it can be hard to decide which route to take, because there is no simple map showing how the LCN links the capital together as a whole. Unless you're planning a short local ride, you'll need to unfold up to 14 different cycle maps covering London's different areas. Then, once you're on your way, you'll need to remember all the street names and directions – sometimes hundreds – for your journey because the signs on the LCN aren't regular or informative enough to allow you to follow them as you go along. All this can be a bit too off-putting for many would-be cyclists.

Simon Parker has come up with a brilliant proposal for making the LCN more accessible: the London Cycle Map. He has identified an incredible pattern in the capital's tangle of cycle routes. Like a magic eye, his map shows that within the complexity there's structure: a series of long, straight routes transecting London in all directions like waves, providing a direct connection between any two areas. Using Parker's map, you could cycle from virtually anywhere to anywhere in the capital, by remembering no more than a few coloured routes then simply following road signs and markings.

Well, you could if the signs and markings were put in place. The cost of doing so would be considerably less than that of the Cycle Superhighways and Cycle Hire schemes – it could be covered entirely by sponsorship – and the rewards would be immense. Potential, not just regular cyclists would soon know they could confidently navigate beyond their local comfort zone. All Londoners, including the poorest, could get around the capital for free. Visitors could experience London close up, cycling on its beautiful, bustling and cosmopolitan streets.

The novelist Victor Hugo once said: 'an invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come'. The time has come for a London Cycle Map. Like all great ideas it needs support.

Sign the petition at www.petition.co.uk/london-cycle-map-campaign

Find out more at www.cyclelifestyle.co.uk

