

# Accessibility & the NCN



**Isabelle Clement, Director**



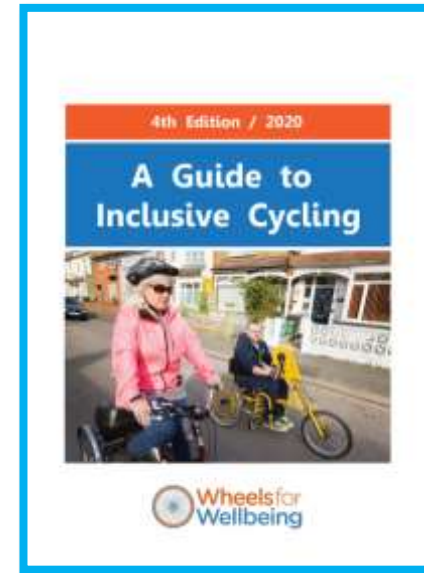
# A bit about me

- Late-50s, French-born, South Londoner
- Mobility issues from c.the start
- **Privileged to have a choice of mobility aids**
- 90% of mobility impaired Disabled people don't have a suitable mobility aid to complete a 1km journey (Disabled Ramblers, 2022)



# About Wheels for Wellbeing (WfW)

- **Disabled People's Organisation:** est. 2007
- **Providing access to cycling for Disabled people**
- **Campaigns & Policy:** Training & consultancy, resources, publications, campaigns
- **Mobility Justice:** Targeting resources towards those who have least access to transport and mobility.



# The NCN has huge potential...

- Traffic-free routes for learning, leisure, exercise, socialising, nature connection and more;
- Road-adjacent and quietways routes for all-year, all-hours active travel journeys – caring, commuting, shopping, health...

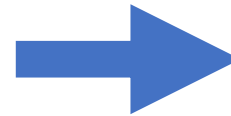


**... to provide walking/wheeling  
and cycling options for everyone**



# Each access improvement made may be small...

2023 - No access.



2024 – No problem!



**...but they can all make a big difference to Disabled people**

# But thousands more barriers exclude Disabled people

- Dangerous traffic
- Access barriers
- Route-side & on-route hazards
- Harassment & assault risk
- Uneven surfaces
- Tight turns
- Steep gradients & crossfalls
- Flood & bad weather closures
- Debris & vegetation obstructions



# We call for :

Removal of all  
access barriers

Physical safety –  
from drivers &  
other hazards

Social safety – from  
harassment & assaults, for  
everyone, at all times

Clear wayfinding & priority

Sufficient maintenance



Resilient route planning  
– for all-year usability

Inflexible, smooth, sealed  
surfaces

Step-free routes

Safe gradients & crossfalls

Sufficient space – widths &  
turning circles

**...Sufficient funding and good standards**



# Our contribution

We're excited to continue working with Sustrans (including on the national Paths for Everyone steering group), local authorities and national bodies to develop a comprehensive network of routes that make walking/wheeling and cycling safe and accessible for everyone.

We provide progressive, pan-impairment leadership on active travel accessibility:

- Free resources: <https://wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/our-campaigns/resources/>
- Consultancy, policy development and campaigns: [kay@wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk](mailto:kay@wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk)
- Join our Disabled Cycling Activists Network (DCAN): [DCAN@wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk](mailto:DCAN@wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk)



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# Thank you for listening



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WheelsForWellbeing

My Cycle My Mobility Aid

