



## **20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Tom Bolton - Transcript**

Hello my name is Tom Bolton I'm calling from Streatham, south London.

At the moment I am working on a walking project that comes out of lockdown over the pandemic of 2020. It is called "Plague Walks". It is a series of walks from my house as far as I can go and back again during the time when no one was allowed to take public transport. And those walks, 12 of them, go in every direction from where I live at a certain radius and it is about examining the places around you much more closely around you much more than I had done before. And I think a lot of people have been spending more time in their locality finding things that didn't know were there and doing more walking in general, and more local walking. So that's my current project.

### **My Vision of the world of walking in 2040!**

My vision for walking in 2040, well, I suppose it is partly that walking becomes something that is seen as much more important, in fact, central to people's well-being. If you live outside of cities, in Britain, you will find it very difficult to walk, for any great distance, you certainly couldn't walk into your local town, from say a village. There is not going to be a footpath. There is very little scope for walking on country roads, there are a lot of places that you wouldn't imagine are dominated by, by vehicles, really, really are. And it's quite a hostile environment as a default for walkers. The road network of Britain is not designed for people who are not driving cars. And that surely has to change, but whether it will it will is another matter. But I think we need a better understanding of walking forms a part of the way that people can navigate every day life. It doesn't have to be a special project. You don't have to go out or go on a walk. But walking is a means to get to places to be, and that walking can something that should be more than encouraged should be understood as a default, default option for those who can walk, for those who want to walk or for those who don't consider walking at the moment. I think living in rural Britain, and in smaller towns, you are at an enormous disadvantage. I speak from experience. Your routes on foot, your basic freedoms to get to places and experience the area that you live in is fundamentally restricted. So that's my vision. Thank you very much.