

Title of action plan being assessed	LI 10.1 Biodiversity Living Landscapes
Number of Action plan being assessed (e.g COL 3)	SE 6
LAA indicator	LI 10.1
Name and role of officer completing this assessment	John Hall, Target Lead
Contact Telephone Number	01621 862960
Date Assessment Completed	30/9/2008
Which Partners are involved?	Essex County Council, All Local District and Borough Authorities, Environment Agency, Natural England, Essex Wildlife Trust and other NGOs, Private Landowners.

**1. What are the aims and objectives of this action plan, in addition to achieving LAA indicator target? i.e. What do you want to achieve?**

The main aim is to get good Vision statements completed for 41 of the 65 Living Landscape Areas in Essex. This will achieve:

- large areas of good quality countryside throughout Essex – good for wildlife, good for historical features, good for local communities, good for local economics.
- great quality of life for local people who have pride in their local area, great opportunity for relaxation and recreation thus improving mental and physical health, great interest from visitors thus improving economic prospects for local business and for securing grants and sponsors.
- greater benefits for conservation of habitats and species bringing environmental improvements and a sustainable low carbon contribution to the economy.

**2. What are the processes used to deliver the action plan?**

1. Bring together representatives from many Local Authority and other partner organisations.
2. Identify the best 3 Living Landscape Areas in each district or borough which will best achieve the aims and objectives.
3. Pull together data and information on a wide range of aspects of each Living Landscape Area.
4. Write a Draft Management Vision using a Vision Template for each of the 3 Living Landscape Areas.
5. Put each Draft Management Vision to public consultation.
6. Promote the Final Management Vision for each Living Landscape Area to local communities, schools, local Strategic Plans, etc.

**3.a. Think about each of the equality groups in turn. Could your action plan have an adverse or positive effect on people in the group? Put a tick against any group that could be positively affected, and a cross against any group that could be negatively affected. Some groups may have a tick and a cross.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Race and Culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disability
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion and Belief
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rurality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economic deprivation

**3.b. Set out the issues that you think are relevant under each equality strand, and what changes you will make to the action plan as a result.**

**Race and Culture**

In our experience of operating a wide range of countryside facilities, it is clear that ethnic minorities make less use of such facilities. This appears to be due to unfamiliarity with such situations and because use of such facilities is not within the culture of such minorities.

We will aim to run events which interest such people, e.g. Kite Flying for Asian, Chinese and Essex people. We will specifically aim to consult all sectors in the consultations for Living Landscape Areas by approaching representatives of minorities.

**Age**

Older people may not be fit enough to take advantage of such Living Landscape Areas or may not have transport to get to them. The young may also have difficulty if parents are not interested.

We will change the Management Vision Template so that it takes public transport into account, ensures access points consider both elderly and young families, and that information is appropriate for these audiences.

**Sexual Orientation**

No issues identified to date

**Disability**

Physically disabled could have access and mobility problems. Visually and hearing disabled could have problems appreciating such areas. Mentally disabled could benefit greatly from Living Landscape Areas providing they can visit.

We will change the Management Vision Template so that it takes public transport into account, ensures access points and the first sections of paths etc are accessible to physically disabled, have Braille plates and audible downloads from website; encourage visits from Mental Health Trusts.

**Gender**

No issues identified

**Religion and Belief**

No issues identified

**Rural Isolation**

Living Landscape Areas will benefit rural areas because they will raise the interest and pride in large areas of open countryside.

We will emphasise this in the Template for the Management Visions so that they make the most of rural business/economic opportunities.

**Economic Disadvantage**

Those people on low incomes are unlikely to have car transport or access to important information.

We will change the Template for Management Visions to encourage access via public transport, and bicycle. We will ensure information is available via the web and local promotion.

**4. What data or other evidence could you use to help you to support or dispute your initial conclusions? How will you collect this evidence and/or how you will check your presumptions by consulting with particular equality and diversity groups?**

**Complete the tables below. Identify the evidence you need and the questions that you need answer to. If you feel that particular organisations or community/ voluntary groups will be able to help you please list these too.**

### DATA PLAN

What evidence do you want?	Where are you going to look or who are you going to ask?	How will you use the evidence?
Where are the public bus and train stations in relation to each Living Landscape Area?	ECC Highways and Transport Bus and Train Companies	Firstly, to select Living Landscape Areas which are more accessible to such transport.
Why do black and ethnic minorities not make use of countryside locations?	Essex Equality and Diversity Project.	To change our Management Visions so they encourage BEMs.
Do people with mental/learning disabilities benefit from access to countryside?	N E Essex Mental Health Trust/ Essex University.	To organise visits by such people to understand their needs better and engage them in design.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

What do you want to know?	Who are you going to ask?	What question will you ask?	What will you do with the answer?	Name of planned source (if known)
Whether people with or without car will use public transport to access countryside.	Focus Group of local people who visit and who do not visit countryside.	What would persuade you to use public transport to get to a nice area of countryside?	Change which Living Landscape Areas are selected. Change the design of the selected Areas.	
Why do BEMs not relax in the countryside?	Representatives of Black and Ethnic Minorities.	What will encourage you to enjoy a Living Landscape Area?	Change the Template for Management Vision of Living Landscape.	
How important is green space to those recovering from mental illness?	Mental Health Trust supervisors.	What benefit is accessing the countryside to people with mental disability?	Change the Template for Management Vision to encourage use by this group.	

**5. The Essex Partnership needs a copy of this Section of your EIA in order to co-ordinate any public engagement activities. You will be given feed back by the Essex partnership on the best way to manage the public engagement activity you have identified on the form. Please send this completed section of your EIA to the e-mail address below.**

Please submit this form to the Essex Partnership team: [info@essexpartnership.org](mailto:info@essexpartnership.org)