

## **Delivering Living Landscapes: Discover, Explore, Take Action**

Report by People and Wildlife Officer, Norfolk Wildlife Trust

**Summary:** Delivering Living Landscapes is a Norfolk Wildlife Trust community project which aims to work with local people, businesses and landowners in the Bure Valley Living Landscape area to connect communities with their natural environment.

Opportunities to 'Discover, Explore and Take Action' will be developed encouraging people to appreciate, champion and conserve local spaces as vital components of a network of connected habitats. In doing so, helping communities understand the role they can play in supporting landscape scale conservation.

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Norfolk Wildlife Trust is committed to inspiring people about the natural world through education and involvement and the Delivering Living Landscape Project is key to the delivery of this commitment. This project runs until September 2015 and is working in the Bure Living and the Gaywood Valley Living Landscape areas to engage communities with landscape scale conservation by providing opportunities to 'Discover, Explore and Take Action' for wildlife on a local level.

### **2 The Vision for the Project**

- 2.1 Communities in the Bure Valley and the Gaywood Valley take pride in the high quality of their local environments, value, understand and own the vision for a 'Living Landscape' and are actively engaged in sustaining and enhancing local habitats for wildlife contributing to an ecological network in Norfolk.
- 2.2 Each phase of the project will include different interlinked activities:
- The **Discover** phase will reach into communities and include Living Landscape Roadshows and community consultations to launch the project, together with 'Discover Living Landscape' workshops. It will also allow us to map opportunities for wildlife in community areas.
  - The **Explore** phase will provide new opportunities for local people to get outside and enjoy and learn about wild spaces to further understanding and knowledge of the diversity of the sites on their doorstep. We will also support communities to develop their own wildlife walk guides.

- **Take Action** activities will provide new opportunities for participation and community led volunteering projects that support habitat restoration, access improvement and species protection. Examples of techniques that may be included include citizen science surveys, parish action plants and practical conservation techniques. A toolkit will be produced to inspire local communities to 'Discover and Explore' their local green spaces and 'Take Action' on behalf of wildlife.

2.3 Reconnecting people with nature is at the heart of Living Landscape delivery and this project will test new ways and a structured, cumulative 'Discover, Explore, Take Action' methodology which aims to inspire communities, rural and urban to begin developing their own plans for taking practical action to benefit wildlife and create a local vision for their Living Landscape.

### 3 Summary of Action Points

- Bure Living Landscape Toolkit – Discover, Explore and Take Action
- **10 x** Living Landscape Road Shows
- Map the Living Landscapes
- **30 x** Living Landscapes 'Discover' activities (wildlife workshops to inspire interest)
  - Increase awareness, understanding and interest in the two Living Landscapes
- **30 x** Living Landscapes 'Explore' activities (guided walks, workshops and talks)
  - Provide opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy local wild spaces
- Heart of the Living Landscape Web Site
- **4 x** Community 'Take Action' Conservation Projects
  - Minimum of two new community site or species based projects in each Living Landscape
    - Habitat restoration
    - Increasing biodiversity
    - Increase local access to green spaces
- Conservation 'Take Action' Skills Training
  - Tailor made sessions for community conservation projects
    - Surveying
    - Developing conservation management plans
    - Species action plans
    - Habitat conservation skills

- Set up and train 'Explore' Monitoring Walking Groups
  - Link with RSWT mapping project
  - Set-up two wildlife walk groups
- **4 x** Community Wildlife Survey Training
  - Members of the local community will have learnt and practiced new surveying skills.
- **4 x** Community 'Take Action' Wildlife Surveys
  - More people understanding what a wildlife record is
  - More people able to identify key species found in their Living Landscape
- **20 x** Community Wildlife Champions
  - Trained and well informed champions for nature in each Living Landscape
- Historic Landscape research training
  - Discover the historic landscape training course
- **4 x** Living Landscape Action Plans
- Outreach to Schools
  - Deliver a free living landscape outreach session to every school in the two living landscape areas

Author: Gemma Walker, Norfolk Wildlife Trust  
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Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: None