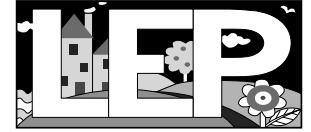
A landscape photograph showing a railway track running through a rural area. The track is on the right side of the image, with gravel ballast. To the left of the track, there are several utility poles with multiple cross-arms and insulators. The ground is covered with dry, yellowish-brown grass. In the background, there are several large, leafy trees and a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Biocertification of planning instruments & strategic ecological planning

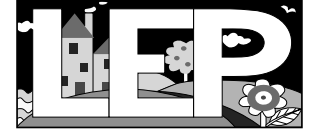
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Overview

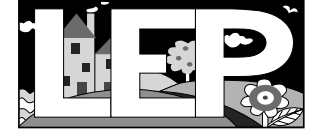
- 1 Land use planning & biodiversity
- 2 Strategic planning vs development control
- 3 What is biocertification?
- 4 Case studies of biocertification
- 5 Present position with biocertification
- 6 Review & alternative approaches



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Land use planning & biodiversity

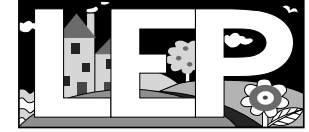
- Ecologists and the planning process
- Types of plans
- Legislative requirements
- Ecological planning settings



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Strategic planning *versus* development control

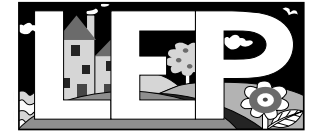
- Planning phases
- Consider biodiversity early in process
- Importance of policies and strategies
- Department of Planning - Standard LEP



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What is biocertification?

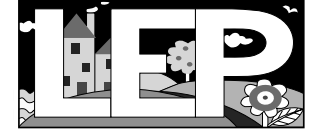
- Where does it apply - LGA or site?
- Process
- Scientific data requirements
- Legal provisions in plans



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Biocertification case studies

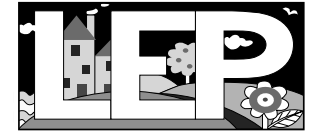
- Legal provisions have existed 4 years
- 1 SEPP biocertified
- No LEPs certified
- Possibly 3 draft LEPs (none exhibited)



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The present position

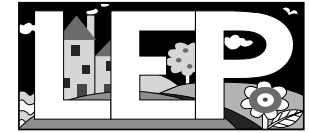
- Review of biocertification by DECC
- Support for concept
- Clear legal process
- No guidelines for scientific data
- No agreed legal provisions for LEPs
- Lack of support from Dept of Planning



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Review of biocertification

- Concept conflicts with Standard LEP
- No clarity on data requirements
- Strategic, landscape scale assessment need
- Replaces existing local provisions
- Interpretation of 'maintain or improve'
- Offsetting principles unclear (*biobanking?*)



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Alternative approaches

- Local government policies
- Regional strategies
- Standard LEP provisions
- Regional biodiversity data



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Conclusion

- Need strategic consideration of biodiversity
- Potential of biocertification not realised
- Uncertainty in relation to approach
- Concept needs rethinking

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