2012 London Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Essex

The London Olympic Mountain Bike Venue is located on the 550 acres of Hadleigh Hills overlooking the Thames Estuary in South Essex. The landscape and setting of the venue is very sensitive in landscape, heritage and ecological terms. CBA was appointed to coordinate the complex planning application for the Olympic Event which needed to outline the venue and course design, and demonstrate how temporary infrastructure and large crowds could be accommodated without impact on the site and setting. Working with an interdisciplinary team CBA also provided EIA services and masterplanning and design advice. The course and the event facilities were designed to avoid impact yet maximise views. The Event was successfully achieved and some of the infrastructure has been retained as the basis for the 'legacy scheme', a permanent Mountain Biking Centre developed as a destination in association with Hadleigh Castle and Country Park. A second planning application coordinated by CBA was granted permission in 2012, and the Centre is scheduled to open in 2014.