

TENDER INFORMATION FOR RESTORATION OF THE RIVER LEA, HERTFORDSHIRE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) is coordinating a partnership project to improve approx. 1.7km of the River Lea [waterbody ID GB106038033392](#) – from (u/s) TL 22428 11725 to (d/s) TL 23191 10423 – [overview map](#).

Working with Better Leisure (GLL Group), Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC) and Welwyn Garden City Angling Club, HMWT have progressed the project through outline design, detailed design and flood risk activity permitting. Design work was completed by Five Rivers and a FRAP granted in 2024.

The design was originally split into four reaches. This ITT focuses on two reaches only; Stanborough Park North and Stanborough Park South.

AIMS

- Improve the hydro-morphological condition; MORPH RCA scores improve from moderate to good, helping to increase populations of fish, macrophytes, mammals and invertebrates.
- Improve the river's resilience to low flows and exceptional high flows, by addressing physical habitat impacts and formalising / targeting erosion zones.
- Improve connectivity between the river and wet woodland through the Nature Reserve in Stanborough Park South, by formalising natural erosion breaches that occurred in the last 24 months. Must still accommodate access for angling.
- Improve the amenity value of the river and reduce impacts resulting from recreational access e.g. bank erosion / siltation.

PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

- Project Manager – Sarah Perry, HMWT
- Landowners / tenants – WHBC / Better Leisure / Stanborough Anglers
- Funder – DEFRA Species Survival Fund

SITE DESCRIPTION

Under the Water Framework Directive, the River Lea is classed as having moderate ecological status, failing on Phosphate for the 2022 classifications. All biological elements support good or high status; however, condition of the river varies significantly between the WFD assessment points, with some areas performing better than others, according to third party data (e.g. Riverfly scores). Hence there are significant opportunities to locally improve the River Lea between WFD assessment points with the aim of “preventing deterioration”.

HMWT undertook a MORPH Pro RCA assessment of the river in spring 2024. The results are highlighted in the table (right). 3 out of 5 MORPH scores are moderate with 2 fairly good.

The river acts as an important habitat corridor, linking two HMWT Local Nature Reserves (at the upstream and downstream extents) which were improved to increase their resilience for wildlife, under a separate project in 2024. Restoring the river

Table 3 Final Condition Score

River Type	Subreach	Lower Threshold for Good	Lower Threshold for Fairly Good	Lower Threshold for Moderate	Lower Threshold for Fairly Poor	Final Condition Score
ii	Leaston 1	>2.3	>1.5	>0.4	>-0.9	1.82
iii	Stan North 1	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.83
iii	Stan North 2	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.09
iii	Stan South 1	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.14
iii	Stan South 2	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.21
iii	Stan South 3	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.85
iii	Blayford 1	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.25
iii	Blayford 2	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	0.48
iii	Blayford 3	>2.4	>1.6	>0.5	>-0.9	1.9

will strengthen the connection between these sites, following Lawton's principle of bigger, better, joined up.

SITE ISSUES

Stanborough Park is a mixed-use site consisting of a water sports centre, kids splash park, angling interest and Nature Reserve. There is consequently high recreational access and associated impacts along much of the length of the river (and within 10m of bank top).

The Nature Reserve occupies the bottom quarter of the site creating a natural buffer along the river of wet woodland and reedbed fringe. The river has naturally begun to breach into the wet woodland over the last two winters. This is impeding access for visitors / anglers, however also provides an exciting opportunity to formalise the connection between the river to its riparian woodland, whilst securing access.

In Stanborough Park South approx. 500m of the river was realigned (due west) when the floodplain was dug for gravel in the 70s and the historic course of the river is now occupied by the water sports lake. There is periodic flooding into the lake from the river, which is causing localized erosion issues upstream along the bund.

Hydraulic modelling was completed at request of EA and has unfortunately deemed bed raising along the realigned section to be infeasible due to an unacceptable level change at a building downstream.

The A1M (strategic road network) forms the upstream boundary of the site. The river flows under it for approx. 15m through an open culvert. A Network Rail viaduct forms the downstream boundary of the site. The river flows under it through an open culvert over a rock ramp (formerly weir). These artificial structures are likely limiting species migration through the site, especially water vole which have not been recorded as part of baseline surveys (2022-2024) but are recorded approx. 1km downstream at Hatfield House. Otter have been recorded at both Nature Reserves, however dead otter has been also been noted on the A1M overpass.

PROTECTED SPECIES

- Water vole were confirmed absent across the site, last surveyed in spring 2024. A final pre-works check will be completed by HMWT in spring 2025 and approx. 1-2 weeks before construction. Exclusion zones of 5m must be put in place around any burrows found (though they are not anticipated).
- Otter signs were minimal and localised. Details of locations will be shared with winning contractor. A final pre-works check will be completed by HMWT approx. 1-2 weeks before construction. Exclusion zones of 5m must be put in place around any holts.
- There are no salmonid restrictions, however silt mobilisation should be minimised through provision of suitable equipment and/or working method statement.
- Bats are present throughout the site. A bat PRF survey of trees along the river banks was undertaken by Dipper Ecology in winter 2023. A copy of the survey findings will be provided to the appointed contractor to plan around.
- INNS may be present on site including Himalayan Balsam. Check, clean dry protocols must be followed.

MONITORING

HMWT are coordinating a suite of monitoring activities pre/post project, to track habitat improvements and abundance of the river's indicative flora and fauna, including:

- Riverfly monitoring – sampled monthly, 2 sites.
- Invertebrate analysis (species level assemblages) – 2 sites
- MORPH Pro / River Condition Assessment
- Macrophytes and bankside vegetation
- Fish – 2 EA sampling locations, electrofishing (last surveyed 2022)
- Water vole and otter – annual surveys.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Outline design and detailed design completed – April 2024
- Hydraulic / Flood Risk Modelling complete – April 2024
- Flood Risk Activity Permit awarded – June 2024 (valid until May 2025). HMWT will apply for an extension to the FRAP to enable work to be completed until December 2025.

CDM DOCUMENTS / H&S FILE

The documents listed below have been provided with this brief for additional information to support your proposal. These are all the documents received from the Principle Designer (Five Rivers), plus EA FRAP and Hydraulic Modelling report:

- *FRAP - Final Signed Permit SB3358GM*
- *5R-2773D-103__Stanborough_Hazard-Map_A3_V2*
- *5R-2773D-119_Cross_sections_Stanborough_North*
- *5R-2773D-120_Cross_sections_Stanborough_South*
- *5R-2773D-121_Cross_sections_Stanborough_South_2*
- *5R_2773D_104_Stanborough_North_Area_1_V5*
- *5R_2773D_105_Stanborough_North_Area_2_V5*
- *5R_2773D_107_Stanborough_South_Area_1_V5*
- *5R_2773D_112_Stanborough_South_Area_2_V5*
- *2773D - Buildability Statement_Stanborough_North*
- *2773D - Buildability Statement_Stanborough_South_ReedMarsh*
- *2773D - Environmental Risk Assessment_Stanborough North*
- *2773D - Environmental Risk Assessment_Stanborough South and Marsh*
- *2773D - FRAP Method Statement_River_Lea*
- *2773D_WFD Screening_Stanborough North*
- *2773D_WFD Screening_Stanborough South*
- *Flood Maps - AppC1-7_P01269_RiverLeaWelwyn_PrvsBL*
- *FLOOD MODEL REPORT - P01262_RiverLeaWelwynRestoration_FRA_v0-1_DRAFT_(ForIssue)*

TENDER SPECIFICATION

We are seeking a competitive proposal to deliver the **BUILD PHASE AS PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR** (complying with requirements of CDM Regs 2015). This will include:

- Cost and complete construction of all FRAP permitted design elements within Stanborough Park (North and South), before 31st October 2025.

- Re-evaluate design options for Stanborough Park South – Area 2. These should aim to formalise erosion breaches into the wet woodland that occurred in winter floods 2023/24. Access for anglers must be maintained. If deemed appropriate, develop and submit a design variation, resulting in a reissued EA FRAP to cover any design revisions.
- Manage Welwyn Garden City Angling Club to undertake installation of woody habitat features, 1-2 days of supervision / training by contractor, for up to 10 volunteers.

Tenders will be assessed based on the weighted criteria below.

- Assessment criteria 1 (cost) will be weighted at 60% - overall total price, value for money, breakdown of required elements within Bill of Quantities, added value or additional costed elements.
- Assessment criteria 2 (quality) will be weighted at 40% - understanding of project brief / aims, comparable relevant experience, relevant staff competencies, delivery and quality track record.

PLEASE PROVIDE A PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Bill of Quantities** showing items, quantities and units – to include (as applicable):
 - Itemised costings to deliver all elements of design drawings / method statement for Stanborough North and Stanborough South.
 - Rate for tree works to facilitate delivery of designs. See “additional information”.
 - Mobilisation, demobilisation, travel & subsistence, project / site management (incl. RAMS / H&S), welfare & compound etc.
 - Any relevant costs to ensure compliant delivery under FRAP and CDM Regulations 2015 (e.g. silt mitigation, updated utility search etc)
 - Any relevant costs to ensure reinstatement of the site to pre-construction conditions (e.g. tracking routes)
 - Any recommendations for design variation that could be costed within this quote, based on your experience of delivering similar projects.
 - Risk contingency budget. This should include an indicative stand down day rate at full mobilisation (e.g. for programme delays due to extreme weather).
 - Any optional added value elements (e.g. riparian planting).
 - VAT for applicable items.
2. Cost and ability to include the angling club in undertaking 1 or 2 days of woody habitat feature installation under supervision / training by the Contractor.
3. Cost for preparation of updated design and construction documents (as required) to comply with CDM Regulations 2015.
4. Cost for site visits / liaison with client to approve design variation (as required).

5. Cost for submission of FRAP variation (if required) and any liaison with PSO team - *NB* it is assumed any EA variation fee will be paid direct by HMWT.*
6. Proposed access routes in/out/around project site.
7. Any additional evidence you would like to submit to meet Assessment 2 (quality) criteria.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPOINTED CONTRACTOR

These will be further specified and set out in our Contract to the appointed contractor. If appointed, you should be aware that you will need to:

- Provide a Construction Phase Plan (CPP) that is legally compliant (under CDM Regs 2015), no later than 2 weeks prior to the construction start date.
- Have in place valid Public Liability Insurance, Employers Liability Insurance, to the value of no less than £5,000,000 and that is applicable on/near water.
- Have in place valid Professional Indemnity Insurance, to the value of no less than £1,000,000 to cover any design changes that may be made by you, complying with CDM Regs as Principle Designer.
- On appointment, the Principle Contractor will be required to co-sign (with HMWT, WHBC) a Contractors "All Risk Policy" to guarantee the works undertaken for the term of the Contract Deed.
- Complete a pre-construction meeting with the HMWT Project Manager to ensure all aspects of project delivery are fully accounted for and understood by all parties.
- Reinstate / make good any access or project work areas (e.g. compound location, tracking routes, fence lines) on completion of the project and before leaving the site. These should be reinstated to the same condition they were found in, as agreed with the Project Manager at the pre-construction meeting.
- Complete a final project sign-off meeting on site with the Project Manager, before the Operators/Plant are removed off site.
- Comply with Check, Clean, Dry protocols to prevent the spread of INNS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Access via A6129 Stanborough Road – North ([map](#)) and South ([option 1 map](#)) ([option 2 map](#))
- HMWT reserve the right to complete any specified tree work using a different contractor, dependent on total cost. If a separate tree contractor is used, HMWT will discuss plans with the appointed river contractor, to ensure specifications are appropriate for intended use within the river works. All brash and timber will be made available for river works. Any timber unused will remain the property of the landowner.
- HMWT will work closely with the appointed contractor during delivery to ensure all parties (landowner, tenants and contractor) are satisfied with how the project is progressing and able to discuss / overcome any issues in a timely and pragmatic way. This will involve regular visits by the Project Manager to the project site to liaise with the appointed contractor during construction.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The tender period will run from 3rd February to 14th March 2025 (6 weeks).

Clarifications can be requested until 28th February. Any information given as part of these will be shared with others tendering by 03rd March.

Please submit your completed tender to Sarah Perry by 6PM ON FRIDAY 14TH MARCH.

MAIN CONTACT

Sarah Perry - River Catchment Coordinator (Herts & Middx WT)

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