

TENDER INFORMATION FOR RESTORATION OF THE RIVER LEA, HERTFORDSHIRE

OVERVIEW

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) is coordinating a project to improve approx. 2km of the River Lea from upstream (u/s) TL29266 09706 to downstream (d/s) TL 30636 10618 ([overview map](#)), as well as enhance approx. 16 ha of floodplain through creation of new wetland features, backwaters and ditch blocking / management to re-wet the floodplain.

The project site is owned by two private landowners and the fishing rights to the river are leased to a long-standing angling society; all of whom have been involved from the beginning in design development.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Detailed design was completed in 2024/25 completed by RJ Bull. A Flood Risk Activity Permit was submitted in March 2025 and the signed FRAP is anticipated to be received in early/mid-August 2025. It is currently undergoing Duly Made checks with national PSO and the local EA (HNL) team are fully aware of the project having engaged at Outline Design and already in receipt of final detailed design docs. We are therefore pressing for a quick turnaround of the FRAP.

The project is fully funded by DEFRA's Species Survival Fund. Following on from the capital work, areas of newly created wetland habitat will be managed through a High Tier Agreement ensuring long term retention and light-management of these areas.

TIMING FOR CAPITAL WORK

Due to the potential for wet ground conditions into autumn, we are aiming for all capital work in the floodplain **to be completed no later than 30th September**, especially in the upstream and middle reaches. Work in the downstream reaches and in channel can be completed beyond this date in sequence, up to 31st October.

We expect the appointed contractor to mobilize on short notice, as soon as the FRAP is received, and this should be accounted for in your tender and programme submission.

SITE ISSUES AND PROJECT AIMS

MORPH Pro Baselining of the site was completed in 2024 by HMWT; upstream reach scored moderate, middle reach scored fairly poor, downstream reach scored fairly good.

There are several barriers causing local impoundment and fish passage issues including a low weir at TL30633 10627 (downstream reach), EA gauging station at TL 29994 09967, and Ford at approx. TL 29769 09658 which will be eased as part of the project.

Fish habitat availability and condition are a priority focus for the project, as well as promoting increased coverage of wetland habitat and wetting of the floodplain to support invertebrates, birds and aquatic plant communities.

The main objectives are:

- Improve the hydro-morphological condition of the river to support increased populations of fish, macrophytes, mammals and invertebrates, by addressing in-channel habitat constraints e.g. bed gradient, bank gradient, in-channel habitat features, weirs and fords.
- Secure an improvement in MORPH RCA score from fairly poor to fairly good for all 3 reaches in the project site.

- Increase wetland habitat coverage across the floodplain

PROTECTED SPECIES

Water voles; are present in the project reach. Surveys undertaken by HMWT in April 2023, 2024 and 2025 confirm a population in each reach on every visit. A final pre-works check will be completed 1-2 weeks prior to mobilising and active burrows will be logged with NGRs. A working mitigation plan will be in place such that where active burrows are confirmed, a 5m exclusion zone will be applied by the awarded contractor. Features due for installation will therefore need to flex around confirmed locations of burrows.

Salmonids; the project site is not classed as an important salmonid spawning area and therefore EA FRAP restrictions do not apply. However, to avoid any possible harm to trout downstream, we would encourage construction to be completed by 31st October and silt mitigation measures to be used during construction as appropriate.

Great Crested Newts; not present within majority of site but recorded within 100m of the most upstream wetland feature. An ECOW will be employed directly by HMWT to oversee delivery of this feature. The rest of the site has been surveyed in 2025 for GNC/other notable reptiles and none have been recorded.

A bat Potential Roost Feature visual check will need to be completed by the appointed contractor on any trees that are identified for coppicing or felling as part of the project. The avoidance principle will apply to any trees found to have PRFs and suitable alternatives will need to be found on site.

CDM DOCUMENTS AND H/S FILE

The documents listed below have been provided in a supporting pack. Please refer to these for additional details and specifications on which to base your quote:

DESIGN DOCS

- Upstream Reach Plan, Mid Reach Plan, Downstream Reach Plan, Downstream Reach Meadow Plan, Long Section, Technical Details, Planting Specifications

H/S DOCS

- Utility Search Results, Site Plan, Water Framework Directive Assessment, Flood Zone Extents, Environmental Risk Assessment, Designers Risk Assessment, Risk Assessed FRAP Method Statement, Buildability Statement

TENDER SPECIFICATION

We are seeking competitive proposals to complete the **BUILD PHASE AS PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR** (complying with CDM Regs 2015). All work to be completed between August (date tbc) and 31st October 2025.

NB** PLEASE BREAK YOUR QUOTE DOWN INTO 3 COST SECTIONS:

1. Costs associated with all in-channel features, weir easements, channel re-alignment, new ditch crossing into upstream meadow etc.
2. Costs associated with all online and offline floodplain wetland creation (incl. backwaters) – please see the 4 JPGs in “supporting docs” numbering wetlands 1 to 11 and price each on a new cost line.

3. Costs associated with downstream ditch management/blocking and planting up all wetlands/backwaters/channel across site

Tenders will be assessed based on the weighted criteria listed below:

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

PLEASE PROVIDE A PROPOSAL THAT INCLUDES:

- I. **Bill of Quantities** showing items, quantities and units – to include (as applicable):
 - Itemised costs to deliver all elements of design drawings / method statement broken down into 3 cost sections, as described above – *please refer to drawings / technical details and MS*
 - Mobilisation, demobilisation, travel & subsistence, project / site management (incl. RAMS / H&S), welfare & compound etc.
 - Relevant costs to ensure compliant delivery under FRAP and CDM Regulations 2015 (e.g. silt mitigation, updated hazard search etc.)
 - Relevant costs to reinstate site to pre-construction conditions (e.g. fence lines, tracking routes, compound locations)
 - Any added value or optional elements
 - Any cost for pre-construction site visit with Project Manager and Landowners
 - VAT for applicable items
 - Risk contingency budget. This should cover stand down rates at full mobilisation (e.g. for programme delays due to extreme weather)
 - Table of stand down rates of Operators / Plant / Compound at full hire
- II. **Construction programme** (proposed to meet our delivery preferences)
- III. **Additional evidence** to meet Assessment Criteria 2 (quality)

NB** Please note HMWT may award the contract in part or in full to the winning contractor. We may reasonably decide to allocate the different cost sections 1, 2, and 3 (or portions of cost section 1) to different contractors, depending on applications received. This will be discussed with the winning contractor before appointment to confirm.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPOINTED CONTRACTOR

If appointed, you should be aware that:

- The form of Contract due to sign as a Deed will be a JCT Minor Works contract with associated Schedule of Amendments prepared by our solicitor Boyes Turner.
- You must provide an updated Construction Phase Plan (CPP) that is legally compliant (under CDM Regs 2015), no later than 2 weeks prior to the construction start date.

- You must have in place valid Public Liability Insurance, Employers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the value of no less than £5,000,000 and that is applicable on/near water.
- You will be required to provide a “Contractors All Risk Policy” to insure the works for the term of the Contract Deed. This is to be co-signed by HMWT as Client.
- Complete a pre-construction meeting with the PM / Landowners to ensure all aspects of project delivery are accounted for and agreed 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 PM / Landowner, at the pre-construction meeting.
- Complete a final project sign-off meeting on site with the PM / Landowner, before Operators and Plant are removed off site.
- Comply with Check, Clean, Dry protocols to prevent the spread of INNS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For Site Access / Tracking Routes please refer to the Site Hazard Plan in the H&S Docs Supporting Pack. Map links to site entry points are shown below:
 - Access 1 to upstream and middle reach – [map](#)
 - Access 2 to downstream reach - [map](#)
- Spoil deposition areas for upstream and middle reach tbc. Assume it will be kept locally on site outside of flood zones 2 and 3.
- HMWT will work closely with the appointed contractor during delivery to ensure all parties (PM, landowner, contractor) are satisfied with delivery and able to overcome any issues in a timely and pragmatic way. This will involve regular visits by the Project Manager to the site to liaise with the appointed contractor during construction.
- HMWT will employ an Ecological Clerk of Works to assist the appointed contractor with appropriate mitigation of protected species before/during construction.
- INNS are present on site including Himalayan Balsam.
- There are no official Public Rights of Way within the project site however permissive access is granted to the angling club and other tenants of the estate.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The closing date for proposals is 3pm on Sunday 3rd August

For further information, or to arrange a quotation visit, or to submit your proposal contact:

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