**River Blythe Restoration Options Feasibility Tender Opportunity**

1. **Introduction**

Tame Valley Wetlands are working closely with the Environment Agency and local landowners on the restoration of the River Blythe SSSI. Tame Valley Wetlands have secured 5-6 years of funding for river and floodplain restoration under the Agency’s Water and Environment Improvement fund (WEIF) which includes a 1.2km section of the river and 20Ha of floodplain which is owned by the Packington Estate.

As with many river SSSIs, physical modification of the water course and the riparian zone, excessive nutrient and pollutant inputs and unsustainable land use have impacted the quality of the River Blythe. The SSSI is currently in “unfavourable no change” condition.

In addition to the unfavourable condition of the SSSI, the WFD reasons for not achieving good (RNAGs) are associated with excess nutrients in the system, namely phosphate.

We are looking to procure a consultant with experience in river restoration projects to carry out an initial river restoration feasibility study. This will inform the possible measures to address the regulatory issues affecting River Blythe as well as providing positive ecological, water quality, biodiversity, natural flood management and social outcomes via soft engineering works and management. This is a two phase project consisting of a feasibility study followed by detailed designs of selected options. The consultant is to focus on the higher risk and higher capital input parts of the restoration scheme. Consideration of low risk parts of the scheme such as woody debris, placement of riffles, planting, fencing etc. will be done in house by Tame Valley Wetlands.

The measures outlined below would be delivered in stages over 5-6 year project lifetime based on their risk and complexity.

Potential stakeholders include Packington Estate, tenant Farmer, Natural England, Environment Agency (EA), Severn Trent Water, HS2, and Tame Valley Wetlands in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

**The allocated budget for the feasibility study is £45,000. There is no additional budget for overspend.**

1. **Spatial information**

Location NGRs: SP 21424 80161 to SP 21511 81315

Area: 20Ha

Reach Length: 1.2km

1. **Supporting documents**

Project map, draft proposal and River Blythe Restoration Plan report (completed by JBA in 2018) will be supplied to interested parties upon request.

1. **Feasibility tasks**

To undertake a feasibility study and development of options put forward by Tame Valley Wetlands.

To provide any additional options the consultant feels appropriate and to discuss with TVW and the Environment Agency.

To produce initial concept drawings with topographic levels of agreed options to support a future phase of detailed design work (outside the scope of this commission project).

1. **Outline of tasks**
2. Topographic survey of river and surrounding floodplain, detail of the topographic survey to be sufficient for concept CAD drawings with levels.
3. Trial pits or shallow piezometers with pressure transducers to gauge what happens to the water table through summer months and better inform the desired depth of the wetland scrapes. Some scrapes have been put in place already by the landowner but they dry out too quickly. It is therefore suspected that any future scrapes will need to be deeper or at least have deeper sections. It is desirable to have areas that are constantly wet as well as ephemeral areas.
4. Optioneering of several smaller scrapes vs one large scrape which doubles up as flood storage.
5. Modelling and/or river level gauging to determine river levels at the project location to inform the feasibility of reconnecting of the paleo channel.
6. Optioneering whether the paleo channel should become the main river channel again (current over widened section to be filled in), vs paleo channel to be an ephemeral channel only flowing at high flows (i.e >Q10) vs paleo channel to be an “off-line” linear scrape/backwater refuge.
7. If full Paleo channel reconnection not possible, feasibility of profiling the existing river banks to a 1 in 5 gradient with sections of wet bench to increase riparian area and reduce erosion.
8. Feasibility of knocking back Severn Trent concrete CSO outflow (see Map) and creating a reedbed SuDS to treat effluent.
9. Optioneering of best locations for spoil deposition as most of the project area is in floodplain.
10. Feasibility of creating backwater reed beds to treat runoff coming in from drainage ditches.
11. Estimate total amounts of spoil that will need to be moved for each option. Locate potential spoil drop off areas. Consultant to liaise with Tame Valley Wetlands, Landowner, HS2 and EA to select suitable locations.
12. Attend consultation meeting/s with Stakeholders to select options to take forward.
13. Use original River Blythe Restoration Plan and Tame Valley Wetlands proposal as basis for the tasks outlined above.
14. **Procurement Process**

The contract is being tendered via Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

All contractors seeking to tender may contact the Project Officer to seek clarification on any points within this Brief prior to submitting their tender. One site visit per contractor may be arranged upon request, although this is subject to COVID protocols and risk, as well as government advice at the time. Contractors must not directly discuss this project with any other member of staff from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The successful contractor will be selected on the basis of their written response to the brief. Submissions will be assessed on the basis set out in the following sections.

Below is an indicative timetable for the appointment of the contractor and the completion of the works (please note that this may be subject to change):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Milestone** | **Date** |
| Brief issued | 08 July 2021 |
| Deadline for submission of quotes / tenders | 30 July 2021 |
| Appointment of contractor | October 2021 |
| Submission of documents including signed contracts | October 2021 |
| Commencement of contract | October 2021 |
| Completion of feasibility study | May 2021 |

1. **Submission requirements**

Contractors wishing to quote for this work are asked to provide the following as two separate documents:

* **Document A (quality assessment)**. The format of this document is left to the discretion of the contractor but it should be no longer than 20 A4 pages and should include the following:
  + A description of the suggested approach to the works, highlighting key issues, proposed methodology and risks.
  + The roles and responsibilities of the contractor and the contractor team.
  + Health and Safety Policies – to cover all aspects of the study. **These can be an APPENDIX and not go towards the page count.**
  + The contractor’s head or regional office location.
  + Logistics – what equipment will be used, how many site visits will be required, will all the work be completed by the consultant or will the consultant require sub-contractors?
  + Mitigation measures to (i) reduce the risk of delays, and (ii) reduce damage to the environment. **These can be an APPENDIX and not go towards the page count.**
  + A specific mitigation measure and risk assessment focusing on COVID-19. **These can be an APPENDIX and not go towards the page count.**
  + A breakdown of the programme of works – its key stages and an indicative timetable for completing the work (including the length of time the work is expected to take) and the earliest point at which this work could begin.
  + A statement on the relevance and skills of their organisation to the delivery of this work. To include evidence of previous experience of similar projects and CVs (if appropriate) of the key members of the contractor team.
* **Document B (price assessment)**. The contractor must include a breakdown of all fees and costs, indicating the following in their response to the brief (and whether costs are including or excluding VAT):
  + Transportation and site visit costs
  + Staff costs per staff member involved
  + Project management costs
  + Meeting costs
  + Sundry costs
  + Total cost (£ excluding VAT).
  + Total cost (£ including VAT) – final fixed fee to carry out all of the works outlined in this brief.

The submitted documents should be clearly identified as being either Document A or Document B. Document A should not contain any reference to fees or costs as the two elements Document A (quality) and Document B (price) will be assessed independently of each other. See Section 7 for the weightings of these two documents.

**The tender documents should be submitted by noon on 30th July 2021 (via email).** No late submissions will be accepted.

**Please submit your documents to:**

Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme

Mobile: 07587550077

Email: andrew.apanasionok@wkwt.org.uk

**8. Assessment**

This contract will be awarded based on the price and the quality criteria indicated below.

**The contractor’s quality and price submissions will be scored and those scores weighted in the ratio 30:70 (quality: price).** The contractor with the highest aggregate score will be considered for the work.

The price assessment (B) will be marked out of 100 points. The lowest price quote will be awarded 100 marks. The other submissions will have one mark deducted for each percentage point by which the cost is above that of the lowest (e.g. a contractor tendering at a total of 20% above the lowest price will receive 80 marks).

The quality assessment (A) will be marked out of 100 points allocated against weighted criteria as described below. The assessment will judge submissions based wholly on the contents of the information provided using a common evaluation method. The highest quality score calculated will be awarded 100 marks. Other quality scores will have one mark deducted for each percentage point by which the total is below that of the highest (e.g. a total of 20% below the best quality score will receive 80 marks). The assessors will keep in mind three key questions when reviewing submissions:

Confidence: Does the proposed contractor give reassurance that they are likely to achieve the needs and objectives of the Brief?

Value: Do the proposals provide best value?

Risk: Has the submission identified all the risks presented by the proposal?

The Assessment Criteria (quality):

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Item | Marks (out of 5)  (a) | Weighting  (b) | Total  (a x b) |
| 1. | Proposed methodology for undertaking the work identified within the brief. |  | 5 |  |
| 2. | Understanding of the key issues identified within the brief, including Health & Safety. |  | 5 |  |
| 3. | Evidence of previous experience of similar projects (individual or contractor team). |  | 3 |  |
| 4. | The makeup of the proposed team to undertake the work. |  | 2 |  |
| 5. | The indicated breakdown of the key stages, areas of work and the indicative timetable. |  | 5 |  |

Below is an indication of how submissions will be scored (quality):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Proposed methodology for undertaking the work identified within the brief  Is there a clear and structured approach to the work required? | 5. Have demonstrated a comprehensive approach to the work that goes beyond all the key work identified in the brief.  4. Have demonstrated a comprehensive approach to the work that includes all the key work identified in the brief.  3. Have demonstrated a good approach to the work that includes all the key work identified in the brief.  2. Have demonstrated a good approach that includes some of the key work identified in the brief.  1. Have demonstrated an adequate approach to some or all of the key work identified in the brief.  0. Have not provided a satisfactory methodology. |
| 2. | Understanding of the key issues identified within the brief, including Health & Safety  Is there a clear understanding of the key issues set out in the brief? | 5. Have demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the issues that goes beyond all those identified in the brief.  4. Have demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the issues that includes all those identified in the brief.  3. Have demonstrated a good understanding of the issues that includes all those identified in the brief.  2. Have demonstrated an understanding of the issues that includes all those identified in the brief.  1. Have demonstrated an adequate understanding of some or all of those identified in the brief.  0. Have not provided a satisfactory methodology. |
| 3. | Evidence of previous experience of similar projects (individual or contractor team) | 5. Are able to provide three directly relevant and comparable examples of previous pieces of work.  4. Are able to provide two directly relevant and comparable examples of previous pieces of work.  3. Are able to provide one directly relevant and comparable examples of previous pieces of work.  0. Are not able to provide any relevant and comparable examples of previous projects. |
| 4. | The makeup of the proposed team to undertake the work | 5. The proposed team have skills and expertise that exceed those identified in the brief.  4. The proposed team have skills and expertise that meet all those identified within the brief.  3. The proposed team have skills and expertise that meet some of those identified within the brief.  0. The proposed team do not have any of the skills and expertise identified within the brief. |
| 5. | The indicated breakdown of the key stages, areas of work and the indicative timetable | 5. Have demonstrated a comprehensive approach to the work that goes beyond that identified in the brief.  4. Have demonstrated a comprehensive approach to the work that includes everything identified in the brief.  3. Have demonstrated a good approach to the work that includes everything identified in the brief.  2. Have demonstrated a good approach that includes everything identified in the brief.  1. Have demonstrated an adequate approach to some or all identified in the brief.  0. Have not provided a satisfactory approach. |
| Any applicant scoring less than “acceptable – 3 marks” in two or more categories or any scores of “not acceptable” will be disqualified. Contractors will also be disqualified from the tendering process if the works cannot be delivered by the end of 2021. | | |

Your sincerely,



**Andrew Apanasionok**

**Water and Habitats Specialist Officer**

Tame Valley Wetlands

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