**External Tender Brief**

**Feasibility, Options appraisal, and detailed design work for floodplain reconnection/ wetland creation**

**-Whitley Village Coventry (SP 34685 77352)**

The Sherbourne Valley Project would like to invite expressions of interest from organisations in delivering the following:

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| **Type of work** | **Stage 1.** Feasibility study and optioning for a floodplain reconnection and wetland enhancement project on the River Sherbourne, Coventry.  **Stage 2.** Outline costs for Detailed design and full cost breakdown for preferred option |
| **Location** | River Sherbourne, Coventry (near Whitley Village).  Approx Centrepoint - SP 34685 77352 |
| **Deadline for completion of work Stage 1**  **Stage 2** | 1st December 2023  1st Feb 2024 |
| **Maximum fee**  **Stage 1**  **Stage 2** | £15 000  £15 000 |

You are invited to submit a method statement and cost breakdown through a formal tendering process in order to deliver this project as part of the Sherbourne Valley Project.

The following brief has been devised to inform interested parties about the purpose of the works, the location, the timings, and other requirements.

**Background**

The Sherbourne Valley Project, a Warwickshire Wildlife Trust partnership project working with Coventry City Council, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent, Historic Coventry Trust and other partners, and with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, are seeking to appoint a contractor to carry out a full feasibility study and options appraisal for a floodplain reconnection and wetland enhancement project on the River Sherbourne, Coventry. Should the initial report indicate that a capital project is suitable to be carried forward, Detailed Designs and a full cost breakdown is to be produced. The study will focus on the Main River Sherbourne as it runs through an area of urban greenspace near to Whitley Village (an inner suburb of Coventry).

The river is being impacted by historic modifications (an archaeological desk-based analysis has been produced for the site that provides full detail of the history of the site – available on request) including the straightening and over deepening of the channel which has left the river disconnected from its floodplain, lacking in structural diversity, and lacking in wildlife habitat.

A full initial feasibility study for the site is required. The study is to look at the potential of the site for restoration and will investigate the potential for full floodplain reconnection, wetland creation and other means of restoration and enhancement of the site.

The Sherbourne Valley Project is a partnership project and regular communication with the landowner (Coventry City Council) and other key partners (The Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water) will be vital. A site visit to assess the potential of the site was undertaken with the River Restoration Centre in early 2023, combined tenders with the restoration centre will be welcomed.

There are ongoing enhancements in the areas surrounding the project area led by Historic Coventry Trust and Coventry City Council, some consultation regarding this may be necessary when refining options.

This project forms part of the wider Sherbourne Valley Project, the vision for which can be found in the appendices and we expect anyone tendering to have read this document and to understand how these works compliment the wider project.

**The Brief**

The Successful contractor is expected to;

Stage 1:

• Develop a suite of options including options to achieve re-connection of the river to its floodplain and any associated habitat enhancement works/ river restoration works to support improved river health and biodiversity that are suitable on the site.

- Work with the Sherbourne Valley Project team and partners to identify preferred options for the site

• Complete flow and flood modelling for the preferred options

- Prepare a full report detailing and presenting the various options and their respective benefits.

Stage 2 (indicative costs, subject to change following stage 1)

Following a review of options with the Sherbourne Valley Project Partnership;

• Complete detailed design specification for the preferred options.

* Apply for Flood Risk Activity Permit

• Complete a full cost break down for construction of the preferred option.

The final report will be presented to WWT and key stakeholders. The report will be prepared in plain English, with a clear explanation of the decisions reached. The report should be prepared in a format that is usable by project staff and partners.

**The appointed contractor will be required to do the following:**

Contract Management Procedures

* Follow WWT’s contract terms and conditions (see appendices). A summary of the headlines from which are outlined below.

Health and safety

* Meet all Health and Safety requirements as outlined in the Contract i.e., supply the appropriate Risk Assessments, Policies, method statements and evidence of valid Public Liability Insurance of at least £2,000,000
* Carry all relevant insurances for tasks undertaken during contract.

Environmental

* Be aware of the obligations to protected species present on site (such as bats and otters) as stated in The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C) Regulations 1994 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 [amended] and ensure the favourable conservation status of such species are not affected by the works.
* Plan works with an appropriate awareness of services and utilities in the area

**What the contractor will not be required to do (the responsible organisation is written in brackets):**

* Seek landowner consent (Landowner has already given permission for the works- see appendices)

**Expectations**

We expect all appointed contractors to attend an inception meeting either at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre or online. We expect regular updates on the progress of the works.

We expect all appointed contractors to meet with the relevant stakeholders (in this case Environment Agency, Coventry City Council, Historic Coventry Trust and Local residents group) as appropriate.

We expect all contractors to have relevant and adequate insurance for all works undertaken, to indemnify them both during the contract and afterwards should their works have any undue adverse impact.

**Schedule**

WWT will pay the appointed contractor 20% of the contract cost at the start to cover up front fees, the remaining 80% will be paid on completion, receipt and sign off of the report.

**Timescales**

We require tenders to be returned by 11th September.

The successful contractor will be appointed w/c 18th September.

The contract for the work for stage 1 will commence on 25th September.

We require the assessment to be completed by 1st December.

**Supporting Documents**

The documents listed below are available via email upon request from the Sherbourne Valley Project River Restoration Officer (see details below). These documents should be used in conjunction with this brief to inform the tender submitted:

* Sherbourne Valley Project Area Action Plan (2022)
* Coventry City Council Local Plan (2017)
* Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (2023)

**Contact**

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