

Invitation to Tender – Catch My Drift Project

Design for New, or Adaptation of Existing, Wildlife Watching hides at East Chevington Nature Reserve



1) Introduction

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is inviting tenders for the design of wildlife watching structures within our East Chevington Nature Reserve, in Druridge Bay, Northumberland.

The Catch My Drift project has secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to undertake the necessary surveys, consultations and investigations to develop detailed plans and proposals to improve East Chevington Nature Reserve for biodiversity and people. The information gathered from the development phase of the project will be used to support a second round application to HLF to secure the funding needed to deliver all of the identified works.

It is important that all aspects of the bid are developed in close consultation with the local community so that the outcomes are fully supported.

2) Project background

The Catch My Drift Project will deliver biodiversity and access improvements at our East Chevington Nature Reserve in Druridge Bay. Our wider vision is to make Druridge Bay the best year round wildlife-watching destination in the North East. The project will contribute to the creation of a landscape that comprises a mosaic of connected and healthy habitats, rich in biodiversity and able to adapt to future natural and manmade changes; and one that is well used by and delivering benefits to local people and visitors.

Our East Chevington Nature Reserve is 185 hectares in size. Its natural heritage is, like many other sites across the Bay, the result of past industrial land use. The site was the location of the East Chevington Drift Mine from 1882 -1962 and then the East Chevington Opencast Coal Site from 1982-1994. The nature reserve was established from the restoration works to the opencast and was passed to NWT in 2003.

There are currently 4 hides and 1 temporary classroom on the site and these are highlighted on the accompanying map. These are unwelcoming, metal, noisy boxes. They are metal because historically, wooden hides have been burnt which is why the criteria contains the need for structures to withstand major acts of vandalism. There may be other locations within the reserve where brand new hides will be appropriate.

3) Description of work required

Phase 1 - Development



Garden House, St Nicholas Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3XT

Chief Executive Mike Pratt Patrons Bill Oddie, Chris Packham, Conrad Dickinson, James Joicey
Registered Charity No. 221819 Registered Company No. 717813 Registered in England & Wales VAT No. 556 103265



An Architect is required to work with the Catch My Drift project team to design wildlife watching structures for the reserve. Following on from the success of the new Wildlife Discovery Centre at our Hauxley Nature Reserve, we want to build innovative wildlife watching facilities at our East Chevington Nature Reserve. Our aim is to create hides that will:

- Increase visitors to the Reserve
- Provide excellent locations for people to view wildlife without causing disturbance to it
- Be accessible for all
- Withstand major acts of vandalism
- Demonstrate best practice in eco-build approaches

The ecological credentials are important to us and, where possible, building materials must be locally sourced.

HLF require that any capital work that is to be included in a second round application should have plans and briefs and these should be up to and including RIBA work stage 3. The final report should provide detailed drawings and costs for construction.

Phase 2 – Delivery (subject to securing funding)

The delivery budget will be a maximum of £30,000 for building works plus £6,000 professional fees. These figures are exclusive of VAT. NWT will be able to provide some tools and machinery. We will be following the model used for the construction of Hauxley and volunteers will carry out much of the labour with some support from NWT staff. We expect the second stage of the contract to supply construction management. Further discussions will be necessary to establish the extent/value of these contributions.

Following discussions with the local authority wildlife watching hides are ordinarily temporary structures that do not require planning permission. We may consider structures that are considered by the local authority to be permanent and require planning permission but this would only be for one principal hide. Permission needs to be in place by the end of phase 1.

4) Consultation & Research

We would expect the following organisations to be consulted when carrying out the study:

- Local bird clubs
- Northumberland County Council – Planning Department
- Consultants who are carrying out the site hydrological study contract
- Consultants who are carrying out the site masterplan contract



- Project team - explore and agree expectations for the hides (standard of finish, areas of compromise); agreeing division of works for build phase; regular updates; attend a meeting with HLF Grants Officer if required

A fundamental part of the Catch My Drift project is community consultation so that we create a nature reserve that people feel a sense of ownership of and are proud to share with visitors to the area. A project assistant will be employed by NWT for the duration of the development phase. Their principal role will be to carry out public engagement on all aspects of the project, through both informal on site liaison and structured events and activities. They will coordinate the gathering of information from site users. Contractors will be required to attend formal engagement events to understand the local community's perceptions of the current hides and aspirations for future development to help guide this contract.

5) Tender format and content

Tender submissions must include the following:

Methodology and timescale	proposed method and programme of work
Key sources	key sources and contacts to be used in undertaking the work
Presentation	how findings and recommendations will be presented and proposed format of outputs
Proposed team	details and relevant experience of the team who will be involved in delivering the contract including the number of days and daily rates of staff.
Budget	a breakdown of costs to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total cost for professional services excluding VAT - Total number of days required to undertake the work and each section of the work - total number of days input and relevant day/hourly rate for each team member - estimated costs allowed for travel and, separately, accommodation and other subsistence, if relevant - total cost for all work and expenses, excluding VAT
Milestones	based on the overall timescale for the contract (as identified in section 6) a timetable of key milestones in delivery of the contract.
Relevant Experience	links to/details of past work within this sector and within the scope of this work

The Contractor must:

- Have a proven record of innovative architectural design
- Have a demonstrable experience of working in rural areas and engaging rural communities
- Be able to draw together a delivery team for this project to ensure all the skills required are available
- Provide a minimum of £1 million public liability insurance cover for their activities

The contractor should comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act and subsequent additions and amendments. All fieldwork must be carried out under an agreed Health and Safety Policy. A risk assessment should be carried out prior to the commencement of work and the project should have a nominated Safety Officer.

6) Budget and Timetable

A budget of £7,000 (not including VAT) has been allocated to phase 1 of this study and tenders will be evaluated based on technical expertise and value for money.

The tender will be open until 12:00 on 28th March 2019. Consultancies will be notified of the decision of the panel by 11th April. An initial meeting with the successful architect will be called by the end of April. Final designs, necessary permissions and other deliverables will be submitted to the nominated officer in the required formats by 19th November 2019.

The nominated officer for the project is Elaine More, Druridge Bay Development Manager. All enquiries about this brief should be sent to Elaine at elaine.more@northwt.org.uk or 0191 2846884.



Garden House, St Nicholas Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3XT

Chief Executive Mike Pratt Patrons Bill Oddie, Chris Packham, Conrad Dickinson, James Joicey
Registered Charity No. 221819 Registered Company No. 717813 Registered in England & Wales VAT No. 556 103265

