



## Invitation to Tender – Catch My Drift Project

Design and construction of two replacement sluice structures and Associated works at East Chevington Nature Reserve



### 1) Introduction

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is inviting tenders for the design and construction of 2 replacement sluice structures within our East Chevington Nature Reserve, in Druridge Bay, Northumberland.

The Catch My Drift project has secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to improve East Chevington Nature Reserve for biodiversity and people. As part of this we will be improving the existing sluice structures to make it easier to manage water levels for reedbed development and maintenance.

### 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 2 sluices on the site and these are highlighted on the accompanying map. They consist of concrete structures with wooden sluice boards (photo provided). JBA Consulting carried out an ecological and hydrological study for the entire site in order to produce a masterplan for management and development. A link to a copy of the report has been provided in section 3 and it includes an assessment of the existing situation (pg22-44) and recommendations for changes (pg51-52).



### 3) Description of work required

A contractor is required to work with the Catch My Drift project team to deliver improvements to water level management on site by:

- a) replacing the existing wooden slats in the sluices with more user-friendly gates,
- b) reinstating drainage ditches to allow the sluices to function correctly,
- c) undertaking topographical surveys to ensure that a) and b) are effective; determining where reprofiling and pond/ditch creation is appropriate,
- d) Carrying out re-profiling work and creating ponds/ditches. **As the level of ground works required cannot be determined until parts a-c have been undertaken please provide a daily rate and any fixed costs for undertaking such works.**

These measures will enable NWT staff to effectively manage water levels to encourage further development of the important reedbed habitat on site. This will also help to ensure that the reedbed does not develop into successional scrub/woodland habitat that would result in the loss of key species such as marsh harrier, bearded tit, otter and harvest mouse.

The selected contractor will be required to project manage and deliver all works.

A pre-application enquiry was submitted to Northumberland County Council regarding upgrading the sluices and they have determined that planning permission is not required to change the wooden slats to more user-friendly gates. The county council have also determine that we will not need land drainage consent for these work.

The Project Development Report and planning responses can be downloaded from:

[www.nwt.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Tender%20%20-%20sluices.zip](http://www.nwt.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Tender%20%20-%20sluices.zip)

### 4) Consultation & Research

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

- Environment Agency
- Northumberland County Council

East Chevington is an important site for a variety of wildlife including a great number of birds. Works must be completed outside the bird breeding season and overwintering period to ensure that there is limited disturbance. A full species list can be supplied if required.

## 5) Tender format and content

Tender submissions must include the following:

Methodology and timescale	Proposed method and programme of work including measures to reduce disturbance to wildlife on site and commitment to responsible practices.
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"> <li>- Total number of days required to undertake the work and each section of the work</li> <li>- total number of days input and relevant day/hourly rate for each team member</li> <li>- estimated costs allowed for travel and, separately, accommodation and other subsistence, if relevant</li> <li>- total cost for all work and expenses, excluding VAT</li> </ul>
Milestones	Based on the overall timescale listed below 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 demonstrable experience of carrying out sluice works
- 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

Your total budget for carrying out these works should be provided with VAT costs listed separately. Tenders will be evaluated based on understanding of the brief, technical expertise and value for money. The cheapest tender will not necessarily be awarded the contract.

The tender will be open until **7<sup>th</sup> August 2020**. An announcement of the successful contractor will be made by **14<sup>th</sup> August 2020**. An initial meeting with the successful contractor will be called by **24<sup>th</sup> August 2020**. Due to the nature conservation importance of the site and the species that it supports **there is only a small window in which works can be undertaken from September to October**. We would expect the majority of works to be undertaken in 2020, but re-profiling and pond/ditch creation can be carried out in 2021 and 2022 if necessary.

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful contractor at the initial meeting.

The nominated officer for the project is Sophie Webster, Catch My Drift Project Officer. All enquiries about this brief should be sent to Sophie at [sophie.webster@northwt.org.uk](mailto:sophie.webster@northwt.org.uk) or 0191 2846884 (Gosforth)/01665 568324 (Hauxley).

