

Hatchford Brook Biodiversity Project
(Woodland management and River Restoration)
Sheldon Country Park, Birmingham



Invitation to tender for woodland management work

Purpose of Brief

TRT are asking for a fixed rate tender to produce a brief woodland management plan and deliver the priority recommendations in Sheldon Country Park Birmingham B26 3RP, (NGR SP 16164 84725). Delivery to be over autumn/winter 2021/2022. Tender to be in the region of £5000 inclusive of VAT

Prepared by;
Ruth Needham, Senior Catchment Manager (West) TRT
1st September 2021 Contact ruth@trenrivertrust.org Mobile 0781 7776224

www.trenrivertrust.org

The Trent Rivers Trust (TRT)

TRT is a charity operating across the Trent Catchment on a wide range of projects relating to water. We have a small team of specialist staff. Our work primarily focuses on delivering projects to improve water management incorporating other benefits in both urban and rural settings. We work with a wide range of organisations, business, the voluntary sector and community groups.

Background to this project

TRT is leading on the delivery of a weir removal project on the Hatchford Brook within Sheldon Country Park, Birmingham. The aim of the project is to re-naturalise a section of the river *via*; removal of two concrete weirs. Habitat enhancement of the watercourse and adjacent woodland is part of the deliverable output. The Country Park is owned and managed by Birmingham City Council. It is located 5km north of Solihull and directly west of Birmingham Airport (SP 16164 84725; Figure 1).

Nearest postcode to the woodland is B26 3RR. This project is funded by Solihull Small Grants Fund (ERDF) and the Environment Agency (EA). The project will be delivered by Trent Rivers Trust. The Environment Agency, and Birmingham City Council are partner organisations.

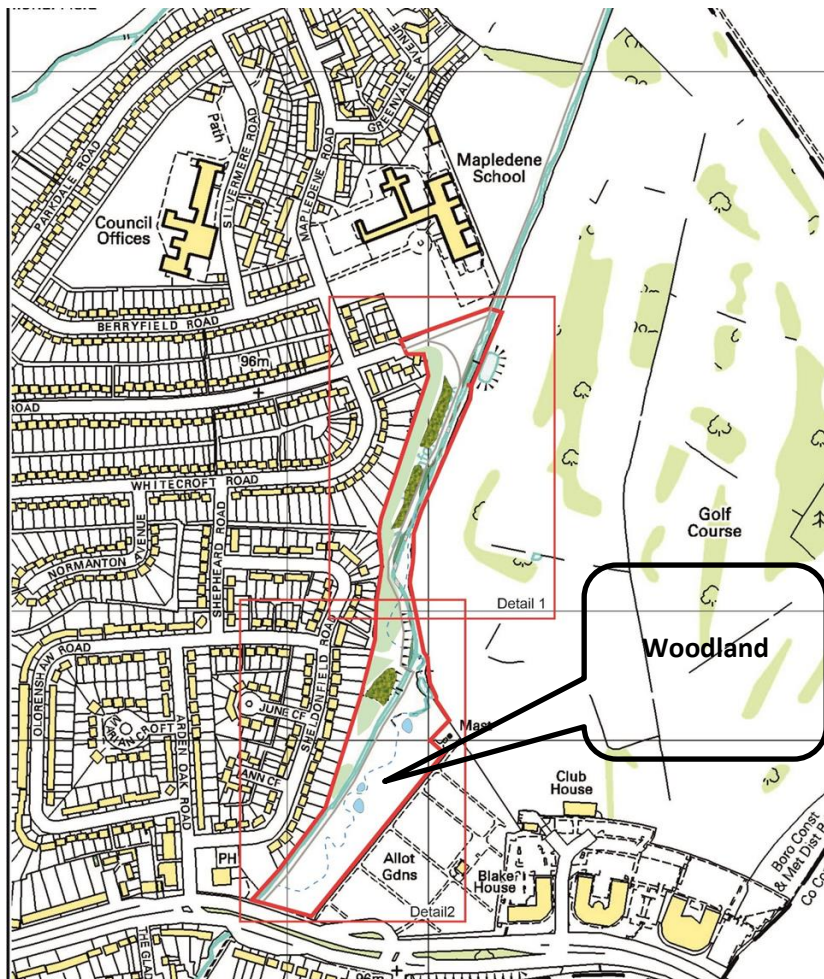


Figure 1. Site location Hatchford Brook



Figure 2 Area of woodland management

Woodland in Sheldon Country Park

TRT is leading on the delivery of the works to the brook course including weir removal and wetland creation. TRT requires the use of a specialised contractor to advise and undertake the works required in the woodland.

The existing woodland lies to the east of the brook at the southern end of the Country Park, see Figure 2. The area of the woodland is approximately 1300m² (1.3ha). There is potential vehicular access to it from the A45 dual carriageway. Access is also via Cranes Park Road (Postcode B26 3SS). The woodland is comprised of two distinct areas. The north section consists of mixed deciduous woodland with alder, willow, ash and sycamore being dominate. The southern section is more coniferous planting.

The original course of the Hatchford Brook is still visible in the north section and provides areas of wet boggy ground. This is largely overgrown with willow, scrub and bramble. Many sections of the woodland have had very little management in recent years. A local community group have undertaken minor trimming to keep the access routes clear. There is presently no management plan in place for the Country Park.

Objectives for the woodland management as part of this tender.

- To increase the Biodiversity value of the woodland.
- To open up areas of scrub and willow in the northern section. (This will allow better access for a small excavator to enlarge the wetland areas).
- Identify and undertake woodland management works to allow more light to the woodland floor, to increase its value for invertebrates, birds and botanical interest.

There is no felling licence in place as the volume of timber felled is not expected to be greater than 5cm³. Timing and nature of priority works will need to be managed to avoid the need for a felling licence.

The site is open to the public so this will need to be considered during the works.
A TRT staff member will be available for a site visit if required.

The tender is in two parts;

- Production of a succinct woodland management plan. The aim is to bring the woodland into better management. The plan should identify works to open up wetland areas to enhance it for invertebrates and birds. The plan should identify priority works that are achievable in the short term as well as longer term recommendations. The management plan will be used in delivery of the TRT works as well as by the County Park rangers and the local community group to help inform their future maintenance works.
- Delivery of priority works recommended in the management plan to open up wetland areas, thin and enhance the existing structure of the woodland. Consideration of best value management to maximise the biodiversity opportunities will be required, as the woodland is large and only a small proportion of management will be possible within this tender. It is expected that materials will remain on site, but could be removed. Due to the proximity to Birmingham airport no burning of brash will be allowed.

Timescales

Tender advertised: 02/09/2021

Tenders received by: 17/09/2021 (5pm)

Contract awarded by: 21/09/2021

Works to commence: from w/c 27/09/2021

Information required from the tender submission

1. Full fixed price costings including expenses and VAT.
2. Confirmation of ability to carry out work this Autumn/Winter
3. Examples of method statement and risk assessment from previous similar commissions.
4. References for similar work done elsewhere.
5. Confirmation of public liability insurance and cover.

The tender will be awarded based on:

- Proven track record in similar work – 30%
- Quality of submission– 20%
- Price - 50%

If you require any further information or wish to arrange a site visit please contact:

Nicholas Wilding, Project Officer (nick@trentriverstrust.org or Mobile 07553964326 or

Ruth Needham, Catchment Manager (ruth@trentriverstrust.org or mobile 0781 7776224).

Tenders to be submitted to nick@trentriverstrust.org

The Trent Rivers Trust is a registered charity which seeks to conserve, protect and enhance the rivers and streams of the Trent catchment www.trentriverstrust.org Registered Charity 1089239. Company Limited by Guarantee: 4225307. Registered Office: The Old Coach House, Rock Terrace, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6HN