

INVITATION TO TENDER

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Findhorn, Nairn, and Lossie Rivers Trust (FNLRT) invites your submission of a tender to provide services in accordance with the scope of work detailed below.

TENDER D: **Riparian Woodland Consultancy**

1. Scope of work – The original inception of the Findhorn Watershed Initiative (FWI) was inspired by the Scotland River Temperature Monitoring Network (SRTMN) data which identifies the Upper River Findhorn catchment as a priority area for the creation of riparian shading, in order to mitigate rising river temperatures due to climate breakdown.

The first phase of the Findhorn Watershed Initiative has a strong focus on enabling the establishment of a network of native riparian and catchment woodlands (or ‘riverwoods’) along the Upper River Findhorn and its tributaries to provide river shade and nutrients. In order to best understand and prioritise our efforts, the FNLRT requires further information about what woodland currently exists, its current status, and potential for restoration and regeneration. This information may be gathered by ground survey, visual interpretation of aerial imagery, satellite image analysis, soil, aspect, and other types of analysis – the FNLRT is open to proposals from the bidder as to the most efficient and informative approach.

This contract would form the first phase of engagement in what FNLRT hopes would be a long term relationship of woodland consultancy; from woodland plan design and development through to implementation on the ground.

2. Outputs –
 - a. Mapping of priority riparian woodland restoration areas in the Upper Findhorn catchment area, in coordination with GIS contractor
 - b. Analysis of existing estate woodland management plans and synthesizing into coordinated catchment-scale approach

- c. Survey of existing remnant woodland, identification, understanding of current status, data gathering, and mapping of any potential seed source
 - d. Provide a better understand as to natural woodland regeneration potential, in coordination with Herbivore Management Consultant
 - e. Advice on appropriate species for planting
 - f. Identify opportunities for continuous canopy cover and creation of nature corridors
 - g. Develop initial phase of woodland regeneration plans with a view to applying for FGS
3. Timeframes – Work to be invoiced before 31 March 2023, and completed by 31 May 2023
 4. Location – Upper Findhorn Catchment; from Coignafearn to Drynachan (see outline map attached). Including main stem of river as well as all major tributaries.

This scope of work contributes towards a wider project – the [Findhorn Watershed Initiative](#) – a landscape-scale vision for ecological restoration in the River Findhorn catchment. Advice gathered and surveys undertaken will inform the prioritisation of intervention areas going forward, and equip the FNL Rivers Trust with the information to implement a highly strategic, efficient and effective delivery phase of the project.

Your tender response should be submitted by email to Elle Adams at elle@fnlrt.org.uk by **17.00 Friday 17 March 2023**. We ask you to please provide both an outline of how you would go about delivering the tender outputs, as well as costings. Please note that submission of bids does not create any obligation on the Findhorn, Nairn, and Lossie Rivers Trust to award the contract or to award it to the lowest bidder.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the brief before submitting please email Elle Adams at elle@fnlrt.org.uk and Robert Laughton at director@fnlrt.org.uk.

FNLRT welcomes submissions of a combined bid from any Bidder who wishes to deliver services for multiple open tenders as one contract of work.

If any provider wishes to propose modifications to the tender scope of work (which may provide a better way to achieve the Trusts's specification or add more value) these may, at FNLRT's discretion, be considered as an Alternative Offer. The Bidder must make any Alternative Offer in a separate letter to accompany the Tender explaining the reasoning behind the proposed alternative approach. The Trust is under no obligation to accept Alternative Offers.

The service provision shall be effective immediately on signing the contract. All work should be completed by 31 May 2023.

This work is financed thanks to funding from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund and the Scottish Government's Just Transition Fund.

We look forward to receiving your bid and thank you for your interest in supporting our work.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Laughton
Director, Findhorn, Nairn, and Lossie Rivers Trust



Map 1: Upper Findhorn catchment