

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 F: **Freshwater Pearl Mussel Consultancy & Survey**

1. Scope of work – Help the FNLRT plug the ‘gap in the map’ and better understand whether a Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM) population exists in the River Findhorn catchment. Develop a plan to regenerate or restore the species to the ecosystem.
2. Outputs –
 - a. Design and conduct a catchment wide survey for FWPM, prioritising the upper catchment
 - b. Provide training to FNLRT/FDSFB staff such that they can assist with the survey
 - c. Provide georeferenced data on any FWPM found
 - d. Mapping of data, including potential ‘sanctuary habitat’, using ESRI ArcGIS
 - e. Full report and recommendations based on the survey findings
3. Timeframes – Work to be invoiced before 31 March 2023, and completed by 31 May 2023 (with a degree of flexibility for the survey incase of unfavourable weather, but preference to stay within May 2023 timeline)
4. Location – Priority area: Upper Findhorn Catchment; from Coignafearn to Drynachan (Map 1) but tenders should design survey for the whole Findhorn catchment.

This scope of work contributes towards a wider project – the [Findhorn Watershed Initiative](#) (FWI) – 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