

Cobbs Clough Road Weir Removal

Invitation to Tender

April 2022



**Address**: Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside, 74-80 Hallgate, Wigan, WN1 1HP

**Email**: samuel.gibson@groundwork.org.uk

**Website**: [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk)

**Commissioning Body:**

Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside

Charity Registration No. 514727

Registered Office: 74-80 Hallgate, Wigan, WN1 1HP

**Commissioning Officer**: Samuel Gibson, Project Officer

Opportunity and Context

**Site Overview**

The River Tawd has its origin up in Crawford village, Skelmersdale, Lancashire. It flows through Pimbo, straddling a number of industrial estates. After navigating the industrial estates, the river is culverted up until its emergence close to the Concourse shopping centre. The river runs through Tawd Valley Park and continues through Lathom, Newburgh and Hoscar, where it meets the River Douglas approximately 30 metres upstream of Wanes Blade Bridge.

The focus of this project is the Cobbs Clough Road Weir, situated in Tawd Valley Park. The weir’s specific location is in the North of the valley (What3Words: Freely.flaked.blocks, Coordinates: 53.567231,-2.789638), just before the river leaves Tawd Valley Park through a culvert that is roughly 20 metres downstream of the weir. This weir has been identified as a one of, if not, the largest obstacle to fish passage on the River Tawd.

*Weir Properties*

The weir itself looks to have been installed as a gauging station, as per Environment Agency and Friends of Tawd investigation. With regards to functionality, the weir does not seem to be in use at present. Weir measurements have been taken from the top middle and bottom of the weir and are as follows.

* Length: Total Length - 717cm (282in) approximate value. Top to middle - 305cm (120in) approximate value and middle to bottom - 412cm (163in) approximate value.
* Width: Top - 545cm (214in) approximate value, middle - 545cm (214in) approximate value and bottom - 700cm (275in) approximate value.
* Composition: Brick and concrete (potentially steel reinforcement structures).

**Project Focus**

Groundwork are seeking to appoint an appropriately experienced organisation to undertake a feasibility study into removing the weir noted above. The preferred scenario would be a full weir removal and a regrading of this stretch of the Tawd.

Alternatively, a fish pass could be an option, if full removal is not feasible. There is an elongated depression running parallel to the stretch of the Tawd that approaches the weir. This area collects water and for the most part is a small pond or pool with intermittent dry spells. This depression could be the remnants of an old millpond or could have had some interaction with the weir at some point. This area could provide the foundations for a fish pass that bypasses the weir and offers fish an alternate route upstream. The proposed fish pass must be passible by coarse fish species as well as game fish species.

*Potential issues*

The first obstacle in carrying out this project would be determining definite land ownership and securing permission to carry out the project. Up to now, the Environmental Agency have traced ownership to either Lancashire County Council or West Lancashire Borough Council, but definite ownership is yet to be determined.

With the weir being in such close proximity to a culvert, which passes under a road, the regrading of the river after weir removal might have a negative impact on the foundations/footings of the culvert.

There is a public footpath that runs between the suspected millpond (proposed for fish pass) and the River Tawd, which means that if the fish pass was selected, an alternative route for the path might have to be considered. If the path cannot be moved, the installation of bridges or other options allowing the public to pass over the new fish pass channel should be considered. With any kind of in-channel modification, there is always the risk of flooding up or downstream of the new structure (or lack of in this case).

**Project Deliverables**

**1. Site ownership assessment:**

1a. Provide a clear and definitive ownership of the weir structure and its composition

1b Provide a definitive list of consents and licences that would be required by the project lead to progress the project and an indication of timescales for application.

**2. Weir removal feasibility study**

2a. Produce a detailed overview of the removal of this weir in a format that could be used to tender this work externally

2b. Provide a structural report on how the footings of the culvert would potentially be affected by the project.

2c. Produce a detailed budget breakdown for delivering these interventions

2d. Provide a list of contractors that could be approached to undertake this work

2e. Detail potential flood risk and mitigation associated with the project

**3. Alterative solutions**

3a. Detail alternative solutions to achieving fish passage if the aforementioned project are not feasible.

**Contract Details**

Timescales

All work including the submission of the project report must be made to Groundwork no later than 31st July 2022.

Copyright and Intellectual Outputs

Copyright in the final report will be vested in Groundwork CLM and a declaration to this effect will be required on award of contract. A confidentiality agreement will also be required on award of contract, which will specify that:

* Authors will be deemed to have asserted Moral Right pursuant to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
* Authors may use, on final sign-off of the report, Groundwork CLM as a reference for further work.
* Authors will be expected to obtain and provide copies of licenses, copyright releases or other permissions needed for any images used within the report.

Data Protection

The successful organisation will be required to adhere to agreed Data Protection and Data Security requirements on the handling, storage and processing of sensitive data.

Budget

A maximum budget of **£5,000 (to include VAT)** is available to successful tenderers. Please give a breakdown of how you intend to allocate the budget across the lifetime of the programme within your response.

**Responding to the Tender**

Format of Response

Please provide a response to this tender specification in no more than 3,000 words in Word or PDF format. Tenders must be submitted electronically.

Please ensure you include:

* Details of your organisation.
* Your understanding of the brief
* Details of your staff team who will be working directly on this project.
* A detailed methodology clearly linked to the Project Deliverables.
* Evidence of recent and relevant experience conducting similar work.
* A detailed budget - see Appendix A.
* Details of 2 recent referees who are willing to be contacted regarding work you have completed on their behalf.

If you wish, you may also attach examples of relevant CVs, reports or case studies to support your tender, which do not count towards the overall word count.

Queries

Any queries regarding this tender should be directed to Samuel Gibson at samuel.gibson@groundwork.org.uk

Procurement Process

1. Please send tender submissions to samuel.gibson@groundwork.org.uk by 4pm Monday 23rd May 2022
2. Groundwork will assess tenders and respond to all tenderers by Friday 27th May 2022.
3. Delivery to commence by Wednesday 1st June 2022
4. Final reports to be submitted by Sunday 31st July 2022.

Appendix A: Schedule of Costs

This may be recreated within the body of the tender document if wished.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost Centre** | **Day Rate (if applicable)** | **Number of Days** | **Total Cost** |
| Staffing  |  |  |  |
| Travel and Subsistence Costs |  |  |  |
| Other Costs (Specify) |  |  |  |
| VAT  |  |  |  |
| **Totals** |  |  |  |

Appendix B: Tender Submission Coversheet

This may be recreated within the body of the tender document if wished.

|  |
| --- |
| **TENDER DETAILS** |
| Project Name  |  |
| **YOUR ORGANISATION DETAILS** |
| Organisation Name |  |
| Registered Address |  |
| Contact staff member |  | Job title |  |
| Email address |  | Tel. no. |  |
| Registered Company / Charity number |  |
| **SIGNATURE** |
| I/We hereby submit a bona fide tender for this work, and agree to abide by and be bound by the conditions of the brief and instructions to tenderers, and understand that this my/our tender, its contents and the brief/instructions shall form part of any contract awarded. I/we agree to prerogate the laws of England as applying to the processes of tender, award, management and discharge of contract. |
| **Name & Position**: |
| **Signature**: | **Date**: |