**Invitation to Quote**

**Artist/artists required for New Forest Show engagement activity**

**(NFNPA – 0047)**

**Summary**

We are seeking an artist or group of artists who will help create and run an engagement activity that will be part of the New Forest National Park Authority’s stand at the New Forest Show, taking place from Tuesday the 30 July to Thursday 1 August 2019.

Our stand attracts over 3000 people over three days. This year the theme is ‘Inspired by New Forest nature’ and is part of a wider ‘Year of Green Action’ in support of the 70th Anniversary of National Parks in the UK – both of these initiatives are part of a nationwide drive to get more people involved in helping to improve the natural world. Our stand is staffed by National Park staff and volunteers, and they will be able to assist in the running of the activity, taking on most of the public engagement.

**The activity**

We want to create a number of large sculptures representing some of the insect life of the National Park, especially species that have a ‘story to tell’ in that they link with the special habitats and traditions of the area. Our working idea is that these sculptures are made entirely of natural materials, and will be added to, or indeed constructed at the show as part of the engagement activity. The sculptures will act as a giant habitat for insects and other small invertebrates, often known as a ‘bug hotel’. The eventual design and material will be agreed with the artist(s), but could include willow, hazel, reed or other pliable timber / grasses. We would like the sculpture to be 100% biodegradable, so it can naturally return to the landscape where it will be finally installed (to be decided).

Our initial thoughts are that the insects could be drawn from the following- dragonfly/damselfly (the Forest has very rich wetland habitats), stag beetle (an ancient woodland species), butterfly (e.g. silver studded blue, a heathland specialist), bumblebee (important pollinators, including in gardens), dung beetle (link with commoning, since they bury the animal’s poo!), wood ants (characteristic of woodland). We are not looking for scientifically accurate sculptures, but hints that they represent real insect species will help us explain their importance within the the Forest.

Although between 700-1500 people per day visit our stand, we are not expecting all to engage with the activity, but it is reasonable to expect 300-500 people per day may want to engage or help construct the sculptures. The audience includes lots of families and children so this is a key audience for the activity to engage. One idea is that there are small bug habitats to be made to put into the larger sculptures over the three days. Another option is that people make their own small bug habitats to take back to their gardens. A combination of the above is also possible.

**Deliverables**

**An effective hands on-engagement activity at the New Forest Show that allows multiple people to easily engage with the insect life of the National Park and also help construct something that will then be a natural habitat for insects.**

**Budget**

The budget will need to cover both the sculpture creation and any of your own staff required for the three days. For the purposes of costing the activity assume one person will need to be overseeing the sculptures each day, but the majority of the engagement will be run by NPA staff and volunteers.

The budget for this work is £3-5k. The structure of the sculpture will need to be covered by this cost (e.g. if it is made from willow / reed etc) but the bug habitat elements (hay, bamboo, cones, drilled logs etc) will be sourced in consultation with the artist and any cost in materials or time is not to be covered in the budget. Free tickets for the Show will be given to the artist(s).

**Timescale**

Deadline for expressions of interest - Noon Wed 24 April   
Artist(s) appointed - End April  
Inception meeting - Early May  
Design sketches - Late May  
Material sourcing and collection – May / June  
Final design – Early June  
Delivery to show Ground – Friday 26 July  
New Forest Show – Tuesday 30 July to Thursday 1 August

**Application and assessment**

* Expressions of interest are invited which cover the experience of the artist and an outline of their approach to the brief. Please give three examples of relevant work which supports your application.
* Expressions will be evaluated on the quality and relevance of previous experience and the approach to the brief.

A copy of our Standard Conditions of Contract for Services can be found below:



All submissions can be made via our e-Procurement portal [In-tend](https://in-tendhost.co.uk/newforestnpa/aspx/Home) and must be submitted by **12noon Wednesday 24 April 2019**.

Any queries must be made via the In-tend portal and any subsequent clarifications will be notified likewise (you will receive email notification from the In-tend system should this be the case).

The Authority reserves the right to withdraw this contract opportunity without notice and will not be liable for any costs incurred by suppliers during any stage of the process.

**Sculpture mood board**

  

 

  