**Invitation to Quote**

**Working Woodlands – Deerholt**

The New Forest National Park Authority and partners are leading a Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund: **Our Past, Our Future** (OPOF). This 5 year partnership project will deliver some 21 projects. We are inviting you to tender for the work specified below on land under the Working Woodlands project which is being administered by one of the partners, namely the New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS).

**Reference:** Working Woodlands – Tender 12 – Deerholt Woodland, Frogham.

**Work:** Woodland thinning of predominantly mixed conifers for biodiversity objectives over 3.1ha of privately owned woodland with a public right of way.

**IMPORTANT: The felling licence is currently undergoing approval with Forest Services. Felling operation must not start until approval is received.**

**Description of Woodland:**

* Deerholt is a 3.1 ha woodland situated on the northwest edge of the New Forest in Frogham.
* The woodland area of Deerholt surrounds several paddocks and the residence.
* The main block of woodland adjoins neighbouring broadleaved woods to the north east where further afield exists a strip of land designated as an SAC and SSSI just off Blissford Hill. Not much further to the south of the land holding extends the open forest important for designated habitats supporting specialist species. HBIC records show the presence of brown long eared (woodland edge/interior habitat species) within 1 km radius of the site but no records in the woodland itself. However we can assume that there is the potential for bat roosts in this woodland.
* The woodland is a mix of conifer and broadleaves with a rhododendron and cherry laurel understory in parts. The ground flora is very sparse due to dense canopy cover, presence of non-native shrub species and of course deer browsing.
* Deerholt is within the community of Frogham and is bordered by 13 other properties/land. As the property is set upon higher ground the taller trees can be seen and contribute to the overall character of the village and local landscape.
* There is a footpath that runs along the eastern boundary (of Cpt. 2). This is a busy access route for the local community linking up different parts of the village. This public footpath also runs through the main block of woodland (Cpt. 1) across to the western side. Public safety will be a consideration when working in the woodland and signage will be required to inform users.
* Sand extraction recorded on 1910 OS map and suggested that the south tail section (Cpt. 2) has had sand extraction which was anecdotally later used as a firing range. Extracting timber must be sensitive to the contours of this feature and remain intact.
* There are two main historic boundary bank features running along the bottom of the slope in compartment 1. Two designated crossing points have been identified for machinery access. These will be marked out as well as the feature itself. Trees can be felled onto the boundary bank and extracted from either side as long as machinery is not running across the bank unless at designated crossing points. The restricted zone is from the top of the feature to the bottom and along the length. A small amount of hand cutting will be required where Rhododendron is growing on the top of the boundary bank.

**Description of the work: (please provide a separate quote for each work area)**

1. **Compartment 1** - Thinning of Scots pine, non-native conifers retaining specimen Douglas firs, standing deadwood, bat potential habitat and other trees with wildlife features. **Please quote on a rate per tonne for the soft wood cutting and extraction to paddock.**
	* Scots pine – up to 90 trees with an average top height of 24m and an average DBH of 44 (approx. 130m3). 67 trees have been marked up (pink spray). The remaining trees have been left to be decided once the Rhododendron has been cleared and can be access to check for EPS and marked.
	* Non-native conifers predominantly spruce species and some larch at the bottom of the slope in compartment 1 – up to 50 trees, approx. 10 – 15m top height with and average DBH of 20 (approx. 60m3). Will be marked prior to work starting.
	* The extraction of the softwood timber from the woodland to the landowners paddock
		1. Currently the extraction route from woodland follows the eastern side of the woodland up the slope. Alternative routes are open for discussion avoiding historic bank.
		2. The stacking area is situated on the property in the paddock on the southern edge of compartment 1 (see map). To be discussed at site visit and pre commencement meeting.
2. **Compartment 2** - Thinning of Scots pine throughout compartment 2 to include 29 – 32 trees at an average of 40 DBH with an average top height of 20 - 25m (approx. 70m3). **Please quote on a rate per tonne for the soft wood cutting and extraction to paddock.**
* Some of these trees may require dismantling – please provide a separate quote for this work.
* The extraction of softwood timber and from the woodland to the landowners paddock
	+ - The stacking area is situated on the property in the paddock on the southern edge of compartment 1 (see map). To be discussed at site visit and pre commencement meeting.

**Cutting spec for softwoods** – maximise lengths in order set out below (from both compartments):

* Prioritise processing saw logs to 4.9m lengths to a minimum diameter of 18cm.
* Saw logs to 3.7 length to a minimum diameter of 18cm.
* Process for chip wood to 2.8m length ideally, 2.5 minimum length to a minimum diameter of 7cm. Burn brash on site.
1. **Compartment 1 – hardwood thinning:**
	* Pollard beech – 6 trees at an average top height of 18m and average DBH of 26 (approx. 2.4m3).
	* Sweet Chestnut – 2 trees at an average top height of 21m and average DBH of 40 (approx. 2.4m3).
	* Birch – 10 trees at an average top height of 18m and average DBH of 20 (approx. 2m3).
	* Sycamore – 10 trees top height ranging from 15-20m and average DBH of approx.20.

**Hardwoods have been marked with pink spray.**

**Cutting spec for hardwoods**

* + Process hardwood logs to 2m lengths to a minimum diameter of 7cm.
	+ All brushwood to be cut to 2m lengths and left on woodland floor.
1. The extraction of soft wood timber from the landowners paddock to local storage area suitable for pick by 8 wheeler rigid timber lorry and trailer (upto 44 tonne). Here we are keen to find a local storage area for the timber. If you have an option please state this in your quoteation documents.

**Consideration of work to be carried out:**

* Work will take place in the winter months to avoid unnecessary damage to the ground and wildlife.
* Ground disturbance, damage to native trees, disturbance of native understorey and ground flora present on site should also be minimised.
* All marked trees have been checked for potential habitat availability to European Protected Species however feller to check if EPS habitat is suspected, the tree to be retained and Project Co-ordinator informed.
* Work must be carried out sensitively around important historic features that are identified. Use designated crossing points over boundary bank.
* Wherever possible standing and fallen dead-wood should be retained as habitat, except if adjacent to a right of way and a danger to the public is identified.
* This site is used by the public, contains a public right of way running through the woodland. There is also residential housing adjacent to the compartments to be thinned. Measures to minimise danger to members of the public should be contained in the method statement for this job. Signage and a banksman will be required for path side felling.
* Any substantial damage or removal of fences, gates etc. during this operation must be replaced to the satisfaction of the landowner on completion of the works.
* Any substantial damage to tracks, fields and other ground disturbance should be re-instated to the satisfaction of the landowner on completion of works.
* Timing of the work will be arranged with the Project Coordinator and landowner with timber extraction only taking place when ground conditions are favourable.

**Please supply the following details in your application to tender:**

* An itemised breakdown of the cost. We would ideally like to see the softwoods priced on a tonnage rate for cutting and extraction to maximise the quality and income generated back into the project.
* Indicate if you are willing to take on the sale of the timber to reduce the cost of the work. Indicate an approximate value and how this will reduce the cost of the work. The reason we are asking contractors to do this is so that HLF funding can go further and pay for work on additional sites. The landowner is happy for the timber to be given to the contractor as long as there is a reduction to the overall cost of work. If, as the contractor, you take of the value of the timber all cutting dimension will be at your discretion.
* Provide a ‘Safe Systems of Work’ package which should include;
	+ - * + Site Specific Risk Assessment - reference to FISA Safety Guides.
				+ Method Statement – including how safety on site is managed, acknowledging that this is a public site with paths running through the compartments to be worked.
				+ Emergency plan/procedures for those that are applicable: - fuel spills/fire/medical emergency/electricity/lone working
				+ Please indicate if your quote includes a ‘Forestry Works Manager’ to supervise the work in accordance with FISA guidelines. If your quote does not include this role the Project Coordinator will be acting as the ‘Forest Works Manager’ on behalf of the landowner and will be working closely with operators to manage health and safety on site. FISA safety checklists will be included in pre commencement meeting with Project Coordinator.

Please keep the above as concise as possible and if you require assistance with your quotation the Land Advice Service are here to support this process. Also referring to the [FISA](https://www.ukfisa.com/) website can help support your quotation document.

All submissions must be made via email to Gemma Stride and must be submitted by **12noon Friday 11th January 2019**.

We hope to notify the successful contractor by **Tuesday 15th January 2019** and would require the work to be completed between the **21st January 2019** and the **31st March 2019**. If you feel these time scales are too tight please indicate if this is the case and winter 2019/2020 is more realistic.

**Site Visits:**

Please contact Gemma Stride for a site visit. Normal working days are Monday – Wednesday however other days are a possibility including weekends.

**Site Address:** Deerholt, Frogham, Fordingbridge, SP6 2HW.

**NGR:** SU 1680 1316

For any other enquiries reference this tender, please contact Gemma Stride, Working Woodlands Project Co-ordinator;

Tel: 01590 646692 / 07912 941642 e-mail: gemma.stride@nflandadvice.org.uk

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



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.