**Invitation to Quote**

**Working Woodlands – Warren Copse**

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 10 – Warren Copse

**Work:** Woodland thinning of mixed broadleaves for biodiversity objectives over 1.2ha of Parish Council Property with public access.

**Description of Woodland:**

* Warren Copse is 6.5 ha woodland situated on the southern edge of the New Forest near Fawley.
* The woodland is Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) due to the quantity of ancient woodland indicator species and is also designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
* This site is owned and managed under Fawley Parish Council and is utilised as an amenity site mainly for dog walkers.
* A wildplay area has recently been installed which attracts younger members of the public. This is located next to the car park and is indicated as green on the constraints and hazards map.
* There is one main path running around the outskirts of the woodland with several smaller less used paths interconnecting.
* There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) on the Northern boundary of the site. The work outlined is not taking place on the SAM and will not be affected by the felling work.
* Warren Copse has their own group of conservation volunteers primarily coppicing the hazel understory and dead hedging around the site. They meet on the 1st Saturday and Wednesday of the next week after each month.

**Description of the work:**

1. 25% thin of ash, oak, cherry and birch retaining standing deadwood, bat potential habitat and specimen oaks throughout 1.2ha of woodland.
	* Process timber including branch wood to 2.5m lengths to a minimum diameter of 8cm (max 40cm).
	* All brushwood to be cut to 2m lengths to lay flat on the woodland floor.
* Trees have already been marked, however changes can be made during the pre-commencement meeting between the contractor and Project Coordinator.
1. The extraction of timber and firewood grade wood to trackside close to entrance (map).
* The extraction route from woodland follows the public right of way along the eastern footpath towards field in the north. Newly reinstated footpath must not be used. Another path is available for use by tractor etc. To be discussed at site visit and pre commencement meeting
* Stacking area to the very far north of the site to be accessed across the field on dryest part possible. Stacking area as close to gate as possible. To be discussed at site visit and pre commencement meeting.
1. Fell 4 oak trees to be used by local artist to who will create decorative waymarker posts for the site. Required dimensions 15x5ft length at 30DBH (or approx 10 inches of heartwood). To be extracted to the same location as above (map). Branchwood and brushwood to be processed as detailed in section a.

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

* As this woodland is classed as ASNW and listed as a SINC, work will take place in the winter months to avoid unnecessary damage to the ground.
* 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 (EPS) however feller should check if EPS habitat is suspected. If so, the tree is to be retained and Project Co-ordinator informed.
* 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 owned by Fawley Parish Council and is widely used by the public and contains a public right of way in addition to a number of informal paths 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 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.
* 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 HLS funding can pay for further work on additional sites. The landowner is happy for the timber to be given to contractor as long as there is a reduction to the overall cost of work. If, as the contractor, you take on 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 4th January 2019**.

We hope to notify the successful contractor by **Tuesday 8th January 2019** and would require the work to be completed between the **14th January 2019** and the **31st March 2019**.

**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:** Off Holbury Drove, Holbury, Hants

**NGR:** SU 4203 7846

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.