



Montrose Ravine

EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION



Invitation to Tender: Replacement of Boardwalk and Steps

Overview

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Montrose School is a 2-form entry primary school which has a unique feature on its site: a ravine, 200m x 50m (located within the red boundary in the photo below), which has been colonised by nature. Around 15 years ago, a boardwalk and steps were installed, but they have since rotted and the site is no longer accessible.

Montrose Ravine: Education and Conservation is a project which aims to: create physical access to the ravine for children and local community groups; create digital access to the space; and enhance the biodiversity of the site. This project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. Montrose Ravine: Education and Conservation is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We are seeking tender submissions for the removal of the existing boardwalk and steps, which includes a small outdoor classroom area with benches, and their replacement with a recycled plastic alternative. The space will then be used by children and local community groups for outdoor education and extra-curricular experiences.

Outputs/Deliverables

Summary

1. The removal of the existing boardwalk and steps and removal of materials from site.
2. The replacement of the steps with a recycled plastic alternative, ensuring that they are sufficiently spaced so that they are accessible by children.
3. The replacement of the boardwalk, which includes a small outdoor classroom area and a small area surrounding a pond, with a recycled plastic alternative. This should include new foundations, ideally with ground screws to minimise disturbance and provide longevity to the boardwalk.
4. To complete the works during the summer holidays (2025) to minimise disruption to the wider school. The summer holidays begin on Monday 14th July and end Wednesday 20th August.
5. The overall budget for the works is £50,000

Specification

1. Removal of the existing boardwalk and steps (including around pond) and removal of all material from site. Please specify in your tender your disposal process, including recycling where possible. Conservation and working in an environmentally friendly manner is a core aspect of this project and so information must be provided about how the materials will be disposed of.



2. To supply and install 50 steps of 1m width to facilitate safe access by children and adults to the ravine. Steps should be made of recycled plastic and back filled with aggregate between each step.



3. To supply and install a 24.0m x 1.0m recycled plastic boardwalk consisting of:

- Recycled plastic joists, rails, bearers and edging rails and plastic deck boards with a grooved surface.

- Appropriate foundations for the boardwalk, such as ground screws. Evidence to be provided on history of installing the chosen foundation as well as evidence of load testing and suitability for the site. Please describe briefly how you would manage the health and safety implications of working close to water while installing these foundations.

- A small outdoor classroom area at the end of the boardwalk (within the 24m), to be 3m x 3.5m and have a small seating area (see photo below for current area).



-A recycled plastic decking area around the pond which forms the start of the boardwalk, 3mx4.3m, which surrounds a pond that has diameter of 2.3m (already in place – decking needs to be built around existing pond). The quote should also include removal of existing wooden decking that has rotted and any substructure works required for the decking underneath.



- Materials should be manufactured from recycled plastic and be recyclable at end of life.
- Boardwalk to carry pedestrians - evidence of load testing to be provided in the quote.
- Information on composition of boardwalk material to be provided in the quote.
- Evidence to be provided on history of supplying these materials.
- Drawings to be provided to facilitate construction of boardwalk.

Please note that access to the site is via a pedestrian entrance and a series of steps leading down to the boardwalk. It is not possible to take any machinery/materials which cannot be carried by hand into the ravine. Vehicles can be parked within 20m of the ravine's entrance. Please ensure you factor this into your bids.

Contract Management

We expect the work to be completed during the summer holidays 2025, between Monday 14th July and end Wednesday 20th August. The budget for the project is £50,000

The project manager, Will Warley, will lead on the management of the contract.

Payment terms: 40% following a formal pre-start meeting, 60% on successful completion of works.

Award Criteria

Proposals for carrying out the works should include all of the requirements set out in the earlier sections of the tender, as well as:

- Details of the lifespan of materials and any guarantees on the completed works.
- The environmental specifications of the materials (i.e. their source e.g. recycled plastic and their capacity to be recycled).
- An outline of person(s) responsible for the project within your organisation, together with any experience of similar projects. The project manager within your organisation should be identified.
- A timescale, in the form of a Gantt chart, for carrying out the project.
- An overall cost of the work.
- A brief description of how you will manage the difficulties around accessing the site (i.e. only being able to carry goods/tools/materials in and out by hand) and the safety measures you would put in place when working near a body of water.
- The safety certifications you have achieved as a company (e.g. ISOs) and the health and safety certifications your workforce have achieved.

Quotes should:

- Exclude VAT
- Break down the costs of the project in the following categories:
 - o Removal of existing structures (boardwalk, including pond area, and steps) and materials from site.
 - o Material and installation cost of new boardwalk, including small outdoor classroom area with seating, and decking around pond area.
 - o Material and installation cost of new steps.

Please note that, as this is a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we will be following their Good Practice Guidance for both the award management and to ensure the project is delivered in a sustainable way. The guidance can be found below:

[Receiving your grant: £10,000 to £250,000 | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

[Environmental sustainability good practice guidance | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

Award Criteria and Weightings

All criteria will be judged on a 5 point scale, multiplied by their weighting, to deliver an overall score for the tender.

Criteria	Further Information	Weighting
The degree of experience to complete the work demonstrated by the bidder	-Has the bidder got experience of managing similar projects (particularly where access for machinery can be challenging?).	10%
Environmental credentials of materials across their lifespan, from creation to disposal.	-Are the materials produced from recycled materials wherever possible? -Are they recyclable at the end of their lifespan? -What is their expected lifespan when maintained?	10%
Suitability of team to manage the contract and deliver the work to the budget and timetable required	-Is there sufficient expertise within the team to manage the complexities of the project, such as access difficulties and working in an ecologically sensitive manner? -Is the timetable realistic and sufficiently staffed to ensure it can be achieved in the time allocated?	30%
Cost	-How far within the budget does the proposed tender fall?	20%
Quality/Technical Merit	-How far is the proposal fit for purpose (i.e. creating physical access to the site and new, safe learning areas for children). -What guarantees are available on the installation and materials? -What evidence is available of the load-bearing capacity of the boardwalk for pedestrians? -Is there space between the decking of the boardwalk and the railings to prevent debris building up on the decking and to facilitate easy cleaning?	25%
Design, Functional Characteristics and Aesthetics	-Do the proposed plans for the replacement of the boardwalk allow for children to see out onto the ravine safely? -Does the design integrate well within the ravine?	5%

Procurement Timetable

Tenders should be submitted, via email, no later than 15/04/2025 at 17:00 (GMT) to the project manager. Site visits can be organised, either with the project manager or another member of school staff (with a follow up telephone conversation with the project manager). Please email the project manager by 07/04/2025 to organise this.

Tenders will be scored and the successful bidder informed, via email, within 10 working days of the submission deadline.