



Statement of Requirements

Goods and Services

Wakehurst Designed Landscape Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this commission is to contract a design partner to create a clearly designed and articulated plan for the future of Wakehurst's designed landscapes, set against a 10 year timeline. This will include the following constituent elements:

- A complete site review, testing current condition against spirit of place and significance.
- A set of graphic, accessible site plans, annotated with key features, analysis and proposals.
- A complementary gazetteer (a graphic area by area guide) which sets out key site significances, current condition, style guide and main management actions.
- A set of design principles to inform new landscapes.
- A Living Collections Plan.
- A 10 year development plan indicating the main interventions across the site.

2. BACKGROUND

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's mission is to be the global resource for plant and fungal knowledge and the world's leading botanic garden. RBG Kew was founded in 1759 and operates across two sites: Kew Gardens in London, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a second garden based at Wakehurst in Sussex, which is the home of RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. We use the power of our science and the rich diversity of our gardens and collections to provide knowledge, inspiration and understanding of why plants matter to everyone.

RBG Kew selected Wakehurst to enhance Kew's living plant collection. The focus was plants from temperate regions that did not thrive at Kew and grew without protection. Wakehurst's different climate, soils, topography and air quality made it Kew's chosen site. Since 1965, RBG Kew transformed the private garden and estate at Wakehurst into a contemporary botanic garden. Wakehurst's natural assets coupled with the creation of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) enable this site to deliver a powerful and tangible contribution to UK and global plant conservation.

The designed landscape is laid out phyto-geographically, with Asia and the Southern Hemisphere the dominant themes. This continued the approach of former Wakehurst owner, Sir Gerald Loder, who sponsored plant hunting trips to Chile, Tasmania and the Himalayas in the early 20th Century.

Large tracts of Wakehurst's designed landscape are over-mature and in need of significant renovation. 'Clean sheet' designs for our Asian and Southern Hemisphere gardens will reflect 21st Century understanding of ecological horticulture and plant conservation through stunning, immersive and inspiring landscapes. Other parts of Wakehurst need an evolutionary approach, with a collections management plan rationalising plant choices and informing 'editing' of views. Greater intensity and precision will enrich our most horticultural areas.

Major development in Wakehurst's designed landscape will elevate our botanical and horticultural quality and fulfil scientific and cultural strategic aims. Wakehurst needs to increase visitor numbers to build a more robust business and well interpreted, dynamic new planting will engage new audiences. Kew Science is a fundamental thread underpinning our horticulture and their ecological and botanical insight will inform future plant selection and research.

Delivering renovation and development on this scale requires structured and thoughtfully sequenced long-term planning, with a clear distinction between operational and project activity. This Statement of Requirements sets out the elements of a Designed Landscape Plan required to make Wakehurst's transformation a success.

3. RBG KEW CONTACT DETAILS

Ed Ikin, Head of Landscape and Horticulture

4. SCOPE OF THE REQUIREMENTS

The key deliverable for this project is a **Designed Landscape Plan**, with the following constituent elements (all developed in parallel)

Site Review, Gazetteer and Site Plans

- The site review will be conducted in conjunction with the Wakehurst team, using the 1996 Landscape Plan as a template. It will test the current condition of each area against this plan and spirit of place.
- The generation of site plans will be contracted out to a surveying practice. The Design Partner will shape the outputs of this process, ensuring the final plans have maximum value for analysing and planning site developments. A potential drone-generated overlay from Kew Science's mapping team may add additional quality and variety to the plans.
- The Gazetteer will be a comprehensive, graphic, area by area guide to Wakehurst's designed landscape. It will reference purpose, history, significance, key collections and current condition. It will propose a style guide, landscape developments and collections management actions with timescales.

Design Principles and 10 Year project timeline

- The Design Principles will guide scale, planting style, materials and circulation for key character areas at Wakehurst, extrapolating themes from the gazetteer. It will not contain prescriptive designs, but will inform new developments.
- The 10 year project timeline will extrapolate all significant development proposals from the gazetteer into a clear, graphic sequence with each major intervention packaged as a distinct project. The Design Partner will work with the Wakehurst team on prioritisation.

The Designed Landscape Plan is expected to be completed within six months of the Commission appointment date

5. DELIVERY DATES

A first draft of all documents must be available for August 2016, with the final documents being submitted by September 2016.

6. OUTPUTS

The outputs will need to satisfy the requirements of the RBG Kew Trustees, the Kew Foundation Trustees, Director of Horticulture, Director of Wakehurst and National Trust.

7. EXPERIENCE

The Consultancy must have a background in landscape architecture or large-scale garden design and a proven track record/experience of:

Developing designed landscape masterplans

Working within complex stakeholder environments

The Design Partner must meet the following criteria:

Experience of evaluating and developing historic landscapes

Experience of working with significant plant collections

8. REFERENCES

- Wakehurst Landscape Master Plan (June 2011)
- Wakehurst Place Nurseries (June 2013) – Wilkinson Eyre
- Wakehurst Development Plan (April 2015).
- Wakehurst Place Landscape Plan (September 1996)

9. PAYMENT PROFILE

- First draft – August 2016 (40% due)
- Target Delivery Date – September 2016 (60% due)