

Location: Colemere Road, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 0HY

Background

Serving popular local wildlife viewing (wading birds and waterfowl) Wood Lane Nature Reserve attracts visitors to the bird hides and viewing areas throughout the year. A car park has space for approximately 20 cars. The nature reserve is one of 40 across Shropshire open to the public in support of our [3 strategic goals for nature](#). More information about the reserve can be found here [Wood Lane | Shropshire Wildlife Trust](#).

Purpose

We are looking for a contractor to carry out biodiversity works and ensure the area is kept safe and tidy for birdwatchers, anglers and school parties.

Contract Specification

We require a contractor who can:

- Maintain excellent working relationships with key stakeholders such as Tudor Griffiths Group who operate the quarry, Ellesmere Angling Society who manage the fishing pools and Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) who's responsible for managing the nature reserve.
- Be the point of contact for all stakeholders.
- Respond to issues on site such as wildlife disturbance.
- Liaise with a small group of regular birdwatchers to ensure the facilities are fit for purpose, bird feeders are kept topped up, note sightings and implement any relevant improvements as requested.
- Purchase and deliver consumables to site.
- Lead guided group visits to share information about the creation and development of the reserve and the wildlife found there.
- Manage the annual programme of practical conservation work parties (approx. 6 a year) and liaise with SWT and contractors to ensure the correct works happen in a timely manner.
- Participate in practical conservation tasks.
- Provide expert advice on reserve management for wildlife and also be the point of contact for SWT.
- Be the on the ground point of contact for SWT to provide photos as requested to document improvements, clean and maintain bird hides, respond to visitors with problems accessing hides etc.
- Record breeding success on the reserve and monitor what species are using the site at different times of the year.
- Provide quarterly reports to the Tudor Griffiths Environmental Fund Steering Group.

- Liaise with organisations conducting ongoing scientific research for specific bird species such as Curlew and Sand martin.

We are looking to appoint a contractor initially for a year and will review annually.

Points to consider if selected:

- The successful contractor will need to demonstrate knowledge and experience of wetland management for wildlife.
- The successful contractor will be on call 7 days a week in hours of daylight for visitors to obtain the codes for the bird hides.
- It's expected the successful contractor will be regularly present on site, with this in mind a local contractor is preferred.
- All expenses will need to be included in the quote.
- As an environmental charity, we are only accepting tenders from businesses that can demonstrate their sustainable practices.
- Due to its remote surroundings, mobile signal can be limited.
- The successful contractor must be available to start in September 2024.

Timings

Date	Activity
5/8/24	Tender issued.
21/8/24	Deadline date for responses.
22/8/24	Selection date (Businesses need to be available on this date for selection questions to be posed by phone).
23/8/24	Notify selected contractor.
23/8/24	MoU drafted and sent to contractor.
30/8/24	MoU returned.
1/9/24	Estimated contract start date.

Application:

Please apply by 21st August 2024 using this online form: <https://forms.gle/neSUwPVXzroWaDYt7>

Contact

For any questions, please contact Craig Baker at corporates@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk.

