



Invitation to Tender

Landscape Connections:

Location: Kingswood, The Lee

Works: Hedge and tree planting



Issued: 11 August 2020

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs - Introduction

Chalk, Cherries and Chairs is a 5-year National Lottery Heritage Funded Landscape Partnership Scheme being delivered in the Central Chilterns. Working in partnership with a wide range of National, Regional and local partners Chalk, Cherries and Chairs aims:

- To restore, enhance and record wildlife habitats, landscape features and cultural heritage of the Central Chilterns.
- To create new opportunities for people to investigate and celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of the Central Chilterns, inspiring a wider range of people to become stewards for their local heritage.
- To strengthen the capacity of local communities to take action for their local landscapes and natural heritage.

Landscape Connections - Background

Landscape Connections aims to create, restore, manage and connect habitats across the Central Chilterns project area and will improve existing sites, create more and bigger sites and improve connectivity between sites.

Focus will be placed on priority habitats consistent with the Central Chilterns Landscape (Grassland, Woodland, Hedgerows and chalk aquifer fed Headwaters). The project will focus on large scale private estate and/or farmland projects, Local Wildlife Sites and Nature Reserves.

The project will support landowners to both deliver high quality habitat on their land and to work more closely with neighbours to agree collaborative approaches to land management.

Landowners will be offered an 'end to end' package including direct capital investment, practical advice, work parties to support habitat management, specific training and habitat/species monitoring. Specific woodland and hedgerow management advice will be offered and targeted advice to manage the negative impacts in woodland of deer and the edible dormouse (Glis Glis) and a growing intensity of grazing horses on grassland.

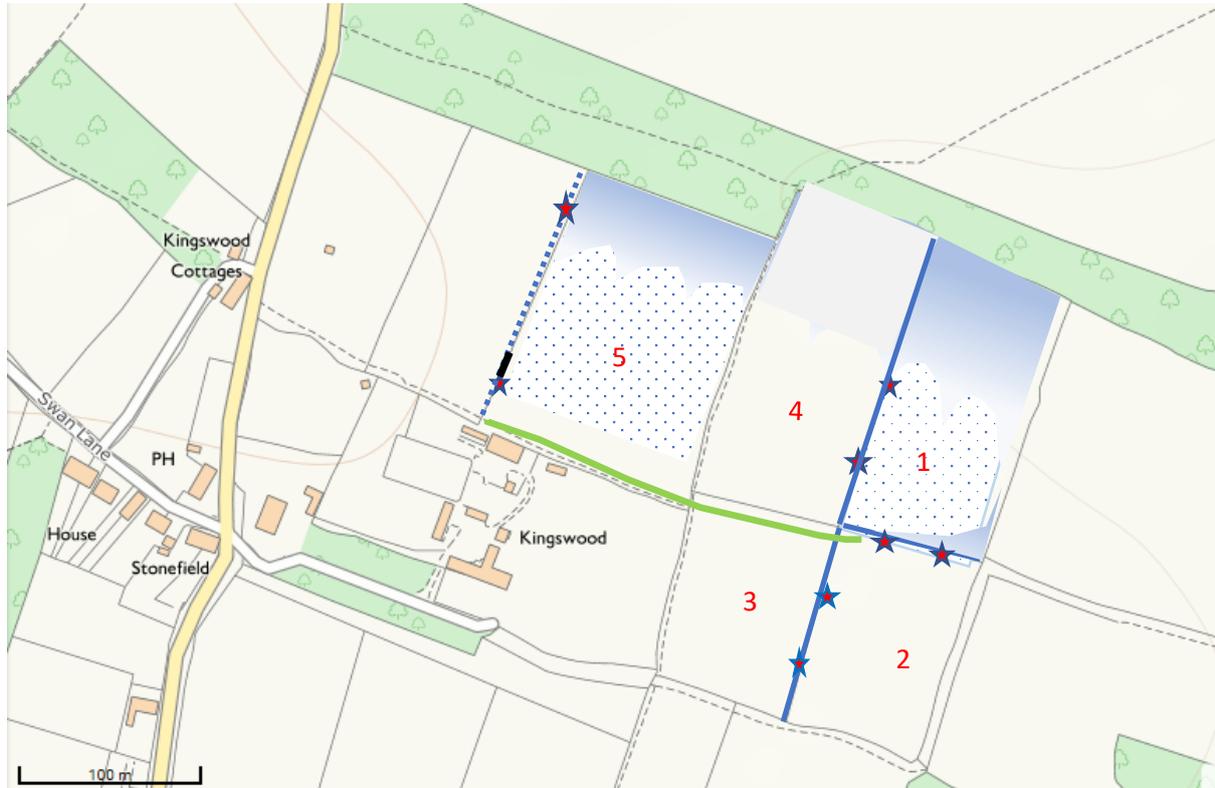
Specifically, the project will significantly increase the number of hectares of connected habitat in active and positive management. Its legacy of the project will be to increase the number of hectares of habitat in improved condition and also increased species presence, range and abundance.

Kingswood

The fields near Kingswood Lodge have been used for hay-making and grazing horses for decades. The owners now wish to embark on an ambitious tree-planting scheme and extend the woodland habitat that is adjacent to the land to create a mosaic of trees, scrub and open ground to promote biodiversity. An additional benefit of the project will be capturing and storing carbon. The site will be monitored by ecologists for birds, plants (including fungi) and butterflies as the new habitat develops, and by using time-lapse photography. The hope is that species such as whitethroats, purple emperors, short-tailed voles, knapweed and ladies' bedstraw will recolonise the area.

Kingswood Hedge Planting and Fencing Plan

A site plan is provided below.



-  Standard trees
-  New hedges
-  Gapping up
-  Dispersed scrub planting
-  Tree planting with a scalloped edge and at a reduced density near the edge
-  Gate
-  Underground water pipe

(Field 4 will also be planted up, but using local volunteers instead of a contractor.)

Schedule of works

Hedge-planting

The sites should be prepared prior to planting to minimise competition from other vegetation and provide good soil conditions. The area prepared should be 1.5m wide and preparation should include applying herbicide in August or September.

The hedge planting and gapping up should be at a density of 6 per metre planted in a staggered double row 40cm apart. Every 30m a sapling should be planted that will be allowed to grow into standard tree. Hedging whips and saplings with stakes and guards will be provided by the Chalk, Cherries & Chairs project, via the Woodland Trust. A mulch should be applied after planting. All failures should be replaced in the following planting season.

Gate

The gate should be 9' galvanised steel with posts and fixings.

Objectives and restrictions

- The proposed method for planting and digging in the fence posts will be agreed before work.
- Care must be taken to avoid damage to ground conditions and the water supply pipe.
- All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for the work undertaken and will wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Appropriate signs will be installed by the contractor to warn of work in progress.
- Hedging work cannot begin until 1 November 2020. All work must be completed by 31 January 2021.

Proposal

Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of the following details:

- An understanding of the project brief.
- A detailed breakdown of costs for delivering the project (including materials and daily rates/costing model and any other specific costs) according to the schedule of works.
- How the work will be carried out (a range of options are encouraged to be included).
- Machinery that will be used to carry out the work.
- How ground conditions will be protected.
- An estimation of when the work will take place and how long it will take to complete.
- Arrangements for the length and nature of warranties on works.
- Details of your insurance.
- Organisational and individual skills, knowledge and experience.

Please provide full contact details of the lead contact.

Submission

For a site visit or questions please contact: **Harriet Bennett**, Land Management Officer (Chilterns Conservation Board).

hbennett@chilternsaonb.org

07946 629708

Tenders should be submitted by 17:00 on 14 September 2020 to Harriet Bennett (details above).

References from previous clients may be requested during the assessment process.