

Invitation To Tender

Project Information

Construction Phase

Fish Passage Improvements

Bridgetown Weir, River Exe

Document Date: 3rd June 2021



**Strategic
Exe Weirs**



1. Project Officer

For all enquiries and submissions concerning this Invitation To Tender, please contact:

Phillip Turnbull

Fisheries Technical Officer

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All enquiries for further information will be answered to all parties.

2. Introduction & Overview

Client: Westcountry Rivers Trust

Principle Designer: Westcountry Rivers Trust

Principle Contractor: The successful contractor following this competitive tender process.

A. Company Background

Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) is an environmental charity (Charity No. 1135007, Company No. 06545646) established in 1995 to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the rivers, streams, watercourses and water impoundments in the West Country, and to advance the education of the public in the management of water and associated habitats.

B. Project Background

Migratory fish populations have declined globally by 76%, or 93% if considering Europe alone. Such declines are reflected in Southwest migratory fish populations. Fish are key indicators of ecological function, and thus ensuring connectivity between spawning, juvenile and adult habitat is important to meeting ecological quality targets under The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. Efforts to restore Atlantic salmon populations are guided by The Environment Agency's Salmon Five Point Approach, which highlights the need to mitigate migration barriers.

The Strategic Exe Weirs programme (SEW) is a partnership between WRT and the River Exe and Tributaries Association (RETA), supported by the Environment Agency (EA), and aims to deliver bespoke fish passage solutions to maximise migration flow windows and restore the natural movement of migratory fish native to the River Exe. The projects delivered under Strategic Exe Weirs are part of efforts to secure a sustainable future for migratory fish populations for the ecological integrity of the River Exe and sustainability of associated fisheries.

Bridgetown Weir is a historic structure in Exmoor National Park north of Bridgetown, Somerset, supplying the associated leat and mill building with water for historic power production. A pool-traverse fish pass exists on the right-hand bank, installed in 1954. Under assessment this pass was shown to not meet best practice guidelines. Bridgetown Weir contributes to cumulative migration delays by reducing the time window for successful upstream passage, and by impounding the River Exe thereby reducing flow as the environmental cue for downstream migration. The height of the weir, lack of downstream pool depth and over charged and undersized first pool in the fish pass are believed to be major factors in upstream migration delays. The weir, mill leat and operating mill infrastructure are features of interest for the campsite downstream. The leat is supplied by a licenced abstraction (14/45/02/2354).

C. Scope of the Services Required

This tender is for fish passage improvements for both upstream and downstream migrating fish. Following a detailed options and constraints assessment, including all relevant stakeholders, local authorities, and the Environment Agency, the following has been agreed and taken to construction ready designs (in no particular order):

Creating safe site access

- i. It will be necessary to use a public bridleway/forestry track for access to the weir from the true right hand bank (west). This will require breaking through a section of post and wire fencing and may require installation of a ramp for safe machine and vehicle access.

Larinier fishway, pool excavation, bank reprofiling and weir toe extension

- ii. An existing pool-traverse fish pass is located at the true right hand extent of the weir, at the most upstream point and the logical position for fish passage improvements targeting upstream migrating fish. A new fish pass is to be installed in the same location to improve fish passage efficacy.
- iii. It will be necessary to remove a small number of young trees from the true right hand bank for safe site access. A collapsed section of fencing is to be removed from the work area on the right hand bank.
- iv. A single flight super-active baffle fish pass of the Larinier fishway design (hereby referred to as 'Larinier fishway') was selected as the most appropriate solution for the site. A single unit wide Larinier fishway is to be installed within the existing fish pass channel, secured in place with concrete and fixings as detailed in the supplied document '4. Bridgetown_Detailed Design Drawings'.
- v. Fitting the Larinier fishway into the current fish pass channel will necessitate an angle towards the existing right hand bank. Therefore the right hand bank is to be excavated and reinforced with locally sourced imported stone (to blend with landscape) to accommodate the fish pass angle.
- vi. Additionally, the outlet pool is to be excavated to accommodate the Larinier fishway and effectively dissipate flow energies. Locally sourced imported stone (to blend with landscape) will be used to effectively extend the weir toe to meet the Larinier fishway outlet.
- vii. Combined, the modified pool, right hand bank reprofiling works, and extension of weir toe will allow for installation of the Larinier fishway into the existing fish pass channel and maximising the attractiveness of the outlet for upstream migrating fish.

Fish chute, leat screen infrastructure and maintenance walkway

- viii. Currently the leat entrance is unscreened and permits passage of protected fish species into the leat and towards potentially damaging infrastructure at the associated mill site.
- ix. A fish chute is to be installed at the location of an existing spillway adjacent to the leat entrance, secured in place with concrete and fixings as detailed in the supplied document '4. Bridgetown_Detailed Design Drawings'.
- x. A new outlet pool is to be excavated and reinforced with local sourced imported stone (to blend with landscape) for safe exit of migrating fish and dissipation of flow energies.

- xii. Infrastructure for seasonal screening is to be installed across the leat entrance, including provision of the screening. A maintenance walkway, with Kee Klamp safety railing, will be installed, and fixed to the riverbed.

Levelling of the weir crest

- xiii. The weir crest is to be levelled to meet average height of the majority weir crest, to reduce competing attraction flows and maximise relative attraction efficacy of the Larinier fishway.
- xiv. Weir crest will be levelled using concrete doweled to the existing structure. It is necessary to retain the distinction between the 'drop weir' section and 'sloping weir' section following the heritage statement. Heritage statement has been provided in the supporting documents.

Completion of construction works

- xv. Every effort will be made to make good all disturbed ground and surroundings as far as practicable. This includes returning riverbed gravels to pre-disturbed form, and re-seeding of riparian land disturbed by machinery/vehicles and subsequently repaired.
- xvi. Upon completion of the above works, a post and barbed wire fence is to be installed on the right hand bank one metre back from the newly reprofiled and reinforced bank edge for the extent of the work area. Trees whips are to be planted inside the new fence line to replace the trees removed for safe site access.
- xvii. Fence broken through to access the site from the public bridleway/forestry track to be repaired/replaced to as before condition.

D. Services Required

- i. The services required are described above and detailed in the attached documents and drawings '4. Bridgetown_Detailed Design Drawings'.
- ii. A part filled NEC3 Engineering and Construction Short Contract is supplied with this ITT package in Microsoft Word Document format. A final version will be agreed and provided as PDF at appointment, with opportunity to review before acceptance.

E. Site Location Plan

- i. Please refer to document '4. Bridgetown_Detailed Design Drawings'.
- ii. It is advised that contractors visit the site prior to providing a proposal. WRT will arrange access and will accompany all contractors to the site.

F. Special Site Considerations

- i. The site and surroundings are located within Exmoor National Park. All actions relating to the services must seek to minimise all environmental impacts as far as practicable.
- ii. The mill leat at the true left hand side of the weir is supplied by an abstraction licence. There must be continual flow of river water into the leat. If dewatering activities to provide safe dry working areas risks blocking the river flow to the leat, mitigation must be considered e.g. over-pumping with an appropriately sized water pump.
- iii. The left hand riparian land (south of the work area) is operated by the owners as a caravan park and campsite. August and September have been highlighted as 'high season' for the associated business. Therefore the following conditions must be adhered to:

- a. The main site access is from the true right hand bank (west), with traversal through the river for machinery where required. Access from the left hand bank (south) is by mediation through Westcountry Rivers Trust and limited to foot access or small 4x4 vehicle if required (e.g. a pickup truck).
 - b. Site machinery and power tools are not to be used outside of the hours 9:00am - 18:00hrs. Noise to be kept to a minimum before 9:00hrs.
 - c. Recreational radios are not permitted whereby they can be heard outside of any machinery cabs. Please respect the desires of the riparian owners and keep disturbance to a minimum where practicable for patrons of the caravan park and campsite.
- iv. All works must be undertaken in strict accordance with all relevant best practice including PPG5 - Pollution Prevention Guidelines: Works and maintenance in or near water. Although this document has been withdrawn it still provides the benchmark guidance for works such as those proposed.
 - v. All in-river works are to be undertaken in contained dry working areas. No fuelling is to take place in or near to the working area. All building materials and chemicals are to be stored in designated areas and bunded where appropriate according to COSHH Risk Assessments. Spill kits are to be available at all times in case of emergency.
 - vi. Should a pollution incident occur at this site, it is to be reported immediately to the Environment Agency on the incident hotline 0800 807060 and the Westcountry Rivers Trust contractor manager 07902 851450.
 - vii. The bank reprofiling works and crest levelling works are likely to be subject to a heritage Watching Brief. It is not expected for works to be delayed. However, an archaeologist will be present to record materials and historic building techniques during initial performance of these works. It is not expected for the archaeologist to be performing Watching Brief duties for more than 1-2 days.

G. Timescale

The tender process will follow the timeline as set out in the table below:

Date	Action
3rd June 2021	Invitation To Tender released
16th June 2021	Clarification deadline (deadline for clarification questions)
28th June 2021; 17:00hrs	Tender return deadline
2nd July 2021	Tender returns assessed
5th July 2021	Tender returns customer queries issued
9th July 2021	Tender returns queries deadline
13th July 2021	Award decision issued
23rd July 2021	Contract concluded with winning supplier
24th July 2021	Contract commencement
30th September 2021	In-river working complete

3. Application Details for Respondents

A. Respondent Guidelines

You are required to submit a written proposal. This should be submitted electronically to the Project Officer:

Project Officer: Mr. Phillip Turnbull phil@wrt.org.uk

- i. All proposals should include the following:
 - Capability statement outlining the skills and experience you intend to utilise to perform the proposed works.
 - Construction Method Statement detailing how you intended to perform the works including methodology for creating dry working areas.
 - A brief proposal with outline programme detailing your preferred methodology for delivery in the allotted timeframe.
 - Priced NEC3 Engineering and Construction Short Contract
- ii. The NEC3 template provided requires you to fill out: Contractor Details on Page 1, The Contractor's Offer on Page 5, and the Price List on Page 7.
- iii. A detailed breakdown of delivery item costs on Page 7 of the NEC3 Engineering and Construction Short Contract would allow for partial project invoices, against the specified item costs stated, if required.
- iv. You are expected to supply all required information, or clearly state the reason for being unable to do so. Any return supplied must make it clear if any part of the Contractor's offer does not comply with the Contract Data or the Works Information provided.
- v. In submitting a tender you are stating you are suitably qualified and experienced in work of this nature. If your tender is successful and the contract awarded, you are required to provide:
 - Risk Assessments for any site visits planned and works undertaken.
 - Risk Assessment associated with ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and ability to carry out works under government guidance.
 - Current insurance certificates for Employer Liability, Professional Indemnity and Public Liability.
 - Details of proposed sub-contractors and current insurances (if applicable)
 - Health & Safety information.
- vi. The successful Contractor will be expected to enter into a NEC3 Engineering and Construction Short Contract upon appointment.
- vii. Any assumptions used in preparing responses should be clearly stated. Any appropriate supporting documents e.g.; programmes, plans, company brochures, organisation charts should be included.
- viii. Site visits are recommended and can be arranged by contacting WRT who will arrange access with the relevant landowners. WRT will accompany you to all site visits.

B. Tender Assessments: Evaluation and Process

A set of evaluation criteria has been prepared by WRT for the evaluation of every submission. Within each stage an initial evaluation will consider whether or not every requirement contained within the ITT has been fulfilled. The evaluation criteria will be based on price (40%) and quality (60%) with quality being assessed on ability to meet the requirements (25%), delivery/timescales (25%) and staffing arrangement (10%).

All operations must strictly comply with all relevant Health and Safety, legal requirements and British & European codes of Best Practice.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact WRT.

C. Confidentiality

By submitting a response, you are committing to an understanding of the requirements and have sufficiently addressed all aspects of the tender. All information you have provided, such as prices, has been checked to be correct and as intended.

All information supplied by WRT in this tender to date, and any further information supplied during the tender process is confidential and must not be shared with any other organisations unless WRT agree permission in writing. The confidentiality extends to all recipients of this information.

D. Finance

- i. This project is financed under the Strategic Exe Weirs programme.
- ii. Invoicing terms are detailed in the NEC3 contract.
- iii. When invoicing, the invoice must clearly state the awarded NEC3 contract.

E. ITT Acceptance

- i. To simplify exchange of information regarding this Invitation to Tender (ITT) please nominate one person (point of contact) with relevant telephone number/s and email address.
- ii. Please direct any questions regarding this ITT content or process to the Westcountry Rivers Trust Project Officer. All questions should be submitted to the email address phil@wrt.org.uk
- iii. Please make sure any questions are submitted in good time for answers to be collated and distributed. A deadline may be in place for any queries to facilitate the fair tendering process for all respondents, but should be no later than 1 week prior to submission deadline.
- iv. Where there is a valid reason, WRT reserve the right not to accept your submission or any other quotations received. WRT are not liable for any cost you may incur in the preparation of your quotation.
- v. Please note, consents are not yet in place for the works although applications for Planning and Environmental Permit have been submitted to the relevant authorities following detailed pre-application advice processes. As such, at this stage, we cannot guarantee that the works will go ahead in the specified timeframe.

4. Location Maps and Photographs for Reference

A. Location Maps

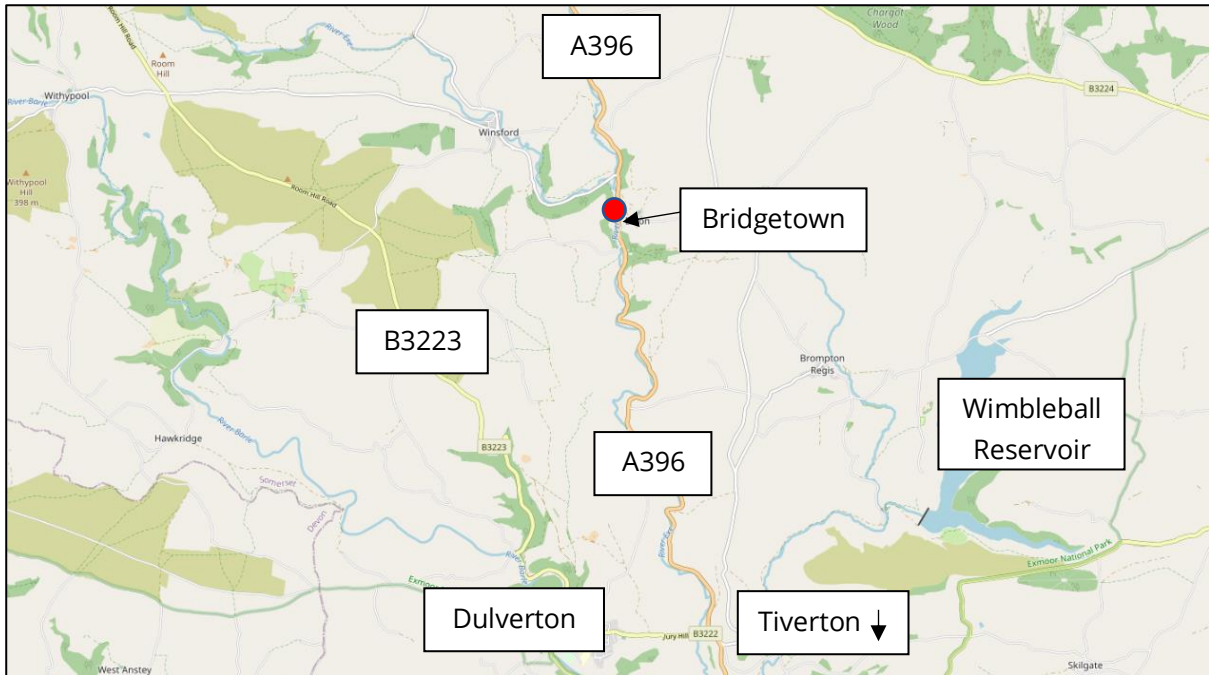


Figure 1: Location of Bridgetown Weir, OSGB NGR: SS 92322 33771, indicated by red dot.

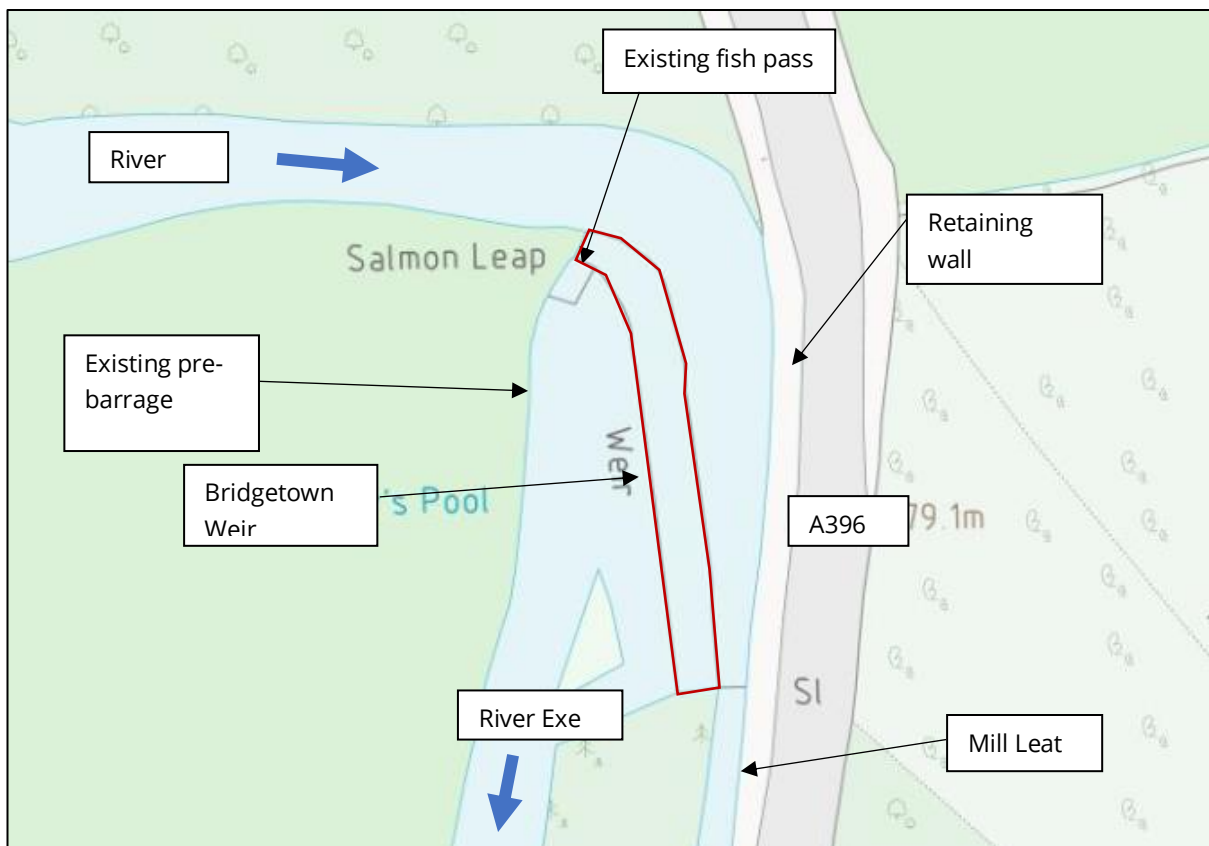


Figure 2: Location of Bridgetown Weir, in relation to local features.