



Westcountry Rivers Trust

Slowing the flow in the Back Book (Hawkerland) Catchment

CROC - CLIMATE RESILIENT OTTER CATCHMENT

Invitation to Tender for the Provision of:

NFM work on Back Brook (Hawkerland) – Leaky Dams

August 2026

To be supplied to Westcountry Rivers Trust



Date of document: 6th Aug 2026

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Authorised by: Annabel Martin



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1. Project Officer

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

Iorwerth (yog) Watkins or Milly Bowden

Senior Farm Advisor

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

2. Introduction & Overview

Client: Westcountry Rivers Trust

Principal Designer: Westcountry Rivers Trust

Principal Contractor: TBC

A. Company Background

Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) is an environmental charity (Charity No. 1135007, Company No. 06545646) established in 1994 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

The 237km² River Otter catchment rises in the Blackdown Hills and meets the sea at Budleigh Salterton. 103 residential properties flooded in the catchment in May 2023 due to intense rainfall creating significant runoff from agricultural land and protected sites, further runoff has been noted during Storm Ciaran.

The Section 19 Report following the May 2023 flooding makes specific recommendations around the need to deliver NFM upstream of impacted communities, and to better understand and improve land management practices. The 'Climate Resilient Otter Catchment' CROC project focuses advice and funding on both land management and NFM.

3. Scope of the Service

A) Site Location

Hawkerland area of the upper Back Brook, upstream of Newton Poppleford.

As shown below, the site is located to the West of Newton Poppleford.

Grid reference **SY 05073 88824**

Gate location for access: <http://likening.teaching.person>



You are welcome to visit the site by arrangement. Please let the Project Officer know if you intend to visit the site to prepare your tender response. A member of WRT staff will organise permission and may accompany you to the site.

B) Site Information

The upper section of the Back Brook is a mix of commercial and natural woodland, farmland and Pebblebed Heath.

Previous/Other relevant works:

In this section of the woods, there will also be some culvert repair work. This will also have to be completed before the end of September 2026. These will help control the flow of water down through the upper Back Brook catchment in high rainfall events.

C) Services Required

- A cascade of **up to 90 leaky woody dams** will be placed in the Back Brook flowing through the woodland (as approved by CDE) on the Southern side of the catchment area, plus the main channel and tributaries to the north.
 - Trees will be used as anchor points wherever possible, long branches (twice the width of the channel) should be placed across the stream in an X formation either to an anchor point on the opposite bank or where they can be securely staked into the stream bank or bed. Depending on the thickness of wood, several branches may be used stacked on top of each other so long as they are long enough and securely staked on the downstream side. Staking upstream on the opposite side of the downstream stake and binding together, often is the strongest way to stake when a living anchor isn't present. If it is possible, trees will be hinge cut and lay down the cross branches. This will provide an attached fixed anchor and can be stronger against storm flows, there can also be regrowth. Base flow will be allowed to pass freely.
 - These leaky dams will be installed and restrain water passage in only high rainfall events (5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)).
- i. *Appropriate risk assessments will be required for all elements of the services. Under CDM 2015 this includes a Designers Risk Assessment (DRA).*
 - ii. *Optioneering for the above outcomes is welcomed against your experience. WRT have provided a Concept Plan (Appendix A), based on technical input, however, WRT are not technical design experts, and while operating as Principal Designer under CDM regulations WRT expect the appointed designer to provide comment on feasibility, health and safety, and budget practicality of options based on your technical experience.*
 - iii. *The consultant must ensure that all elements conform to all relevant British and European Standards.*
 - iv. *A draft NEC4 Contract representative of the final version has been supplied. A final version will be provided at appointment, with opportunity to review before acceptance.*

D) Timescale

The tender process is anticipated to follow the timeline presented in the table below:

Date	Action
11rd Aug 2026	Invitation To Tender released.
18th Aug 2026	All queries to be submitted.
25th Aug 2026	Deadline for tender submission
27th Aug 2026	Notification of intent to award
1st Sept 2026	Signed contract awarded
2nd Sep 2026	Start Date for the contract
30th September 2026	Completion of NFM Works

E) Special site considerations

Be aware of roaming deer.

This is an active farm and commercial woodland area, so where possible work to be carried out following liaison with CDE (Woodland) and farmer to minimise interference to their work.

4. ITT Responses

A) Respondent Guidelines

You are required to submit a written proposal, either hard copy or electronically to the **Project Officer** by the deadline.

- i. All proposals should include the following:
 - Details of company experience in **Natural Flood Management delivery**
 - Costings: including breakdown of delivery items to allow for partial project invoices, against specified item costs, if required
 - An estimation of timescale and outline programme
 - Details of staff to be delivering the work including relevant experience (e.g. CV)
 - Completed draft NEC4 Contract supplied
 - Current insurance certificates for Employer Liability, Professional Indemnity and Public Liability.
 - Health & Safety information and RAMS
- ii. The draft NEC4 template provided requires you to fill out: The *Consultant's* insurance details, the *Consultant's* Contract Data, the *Consultant's* Offer, the Price List, and to sign the contract as a formal offer.
- iii. A detailed breakdown in the Price List of the NEC4 Contract allows for partial project invoices, against the specified item costs, 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 quotation, 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 work undertaken.
 - Details of proposed sub-contractors and current insurances (if applicable)
- vi. 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 with the tender submission.

B) Tender Assessments: Evaluation and Process

- i. 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%).
- ii. All operations must strictly comply with all relevant Health and Safety, legal requirements and British & European codes of Best Practice.
- iii. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact WRT.

C) Confidentiality

- i. 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.
- ii. This competitive invitation to tender process has been performed anonymously. Prospective contractor / invitee details will not be shared with other contractors by WRT. Any sensitive information shared with WRT as part of your response shall remain so between WRT and the prospective contractor. All enquiries for further information will be summarised anonymously and answered to all parties.

D) Finance

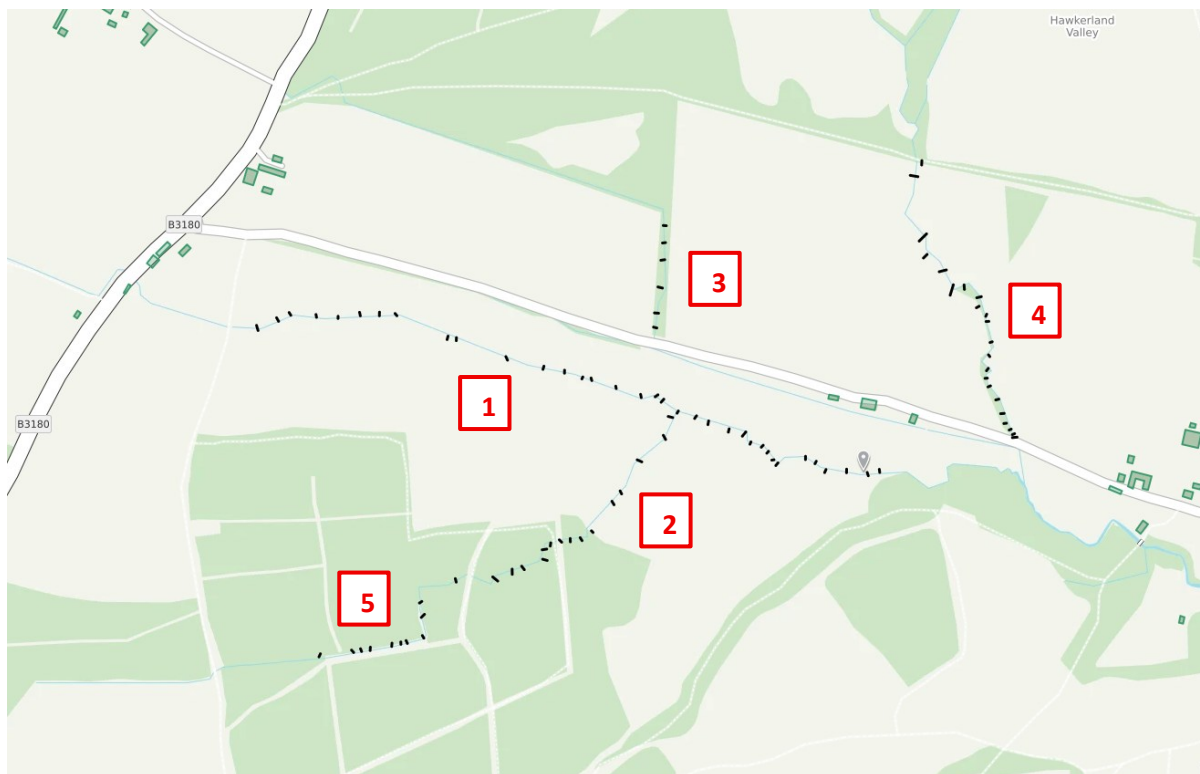
- i. This project is financed under the Climate Resilient Otter Catchment - CROC.
- ii. Funding for this contract is sponsored by the Environment Agency.
- iii. Invoicing terms are detailed in the NEC4 contract.
- iv. When invoicing, the invoice must clearly state the awarded NEC4 contract.

E) ITT Acceptance

- v. To simplify exchange of information regarding this Invitation to Tender (ITT) please nominate one point of contact with relevant telephone number/s and email address.
- vi. Please direct any questions regarding this ITT content or process to the Westcountry Rivers Trust Project Officer. All questions should be submitted to the Project Officer named above.
- vii. 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact WRT and we look forward to receiving your response.

5. For Reference

Appendix A: Concept Plan



- 1 SY 04939 88869 - 35 leaky woody dams
- 2 SY 05064 88747 - 6 leaky woody dams
- 3 SY 05091 88961 - 6 leaky woody dams
- 4 SY 05439 88923 - 22 leaky woody dams
- 5 SY 04933 88569 - 20 leaky woody dams

Leaky dams will slow the movement of water and will increase temporary storage of flood waters within water channels and out on to the floodplain, help delay the passage of flood water downstream, allow sediment to settle out and reduce downstream flood risk.

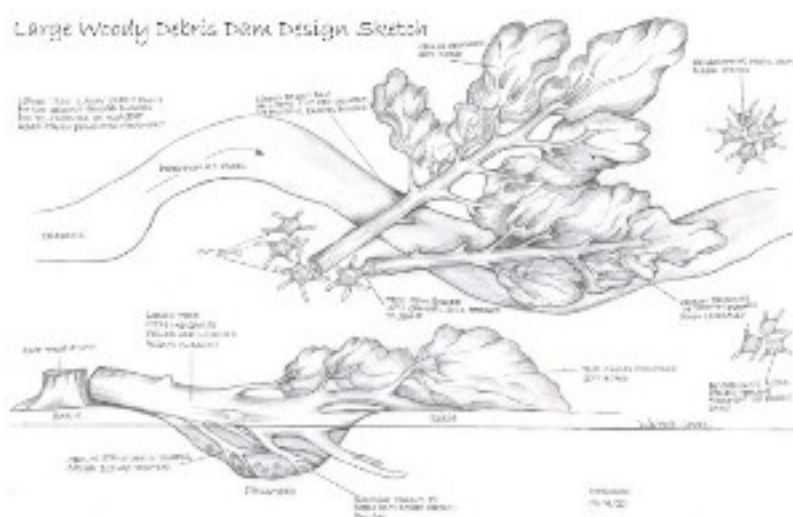
Construction methods

Leaky woody dams

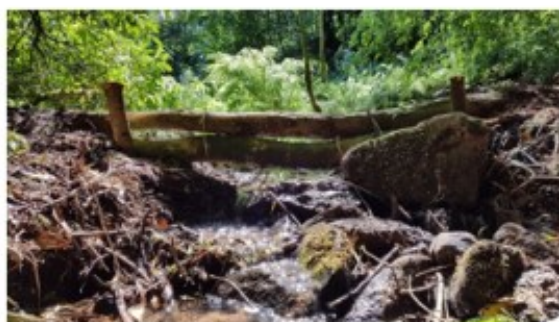
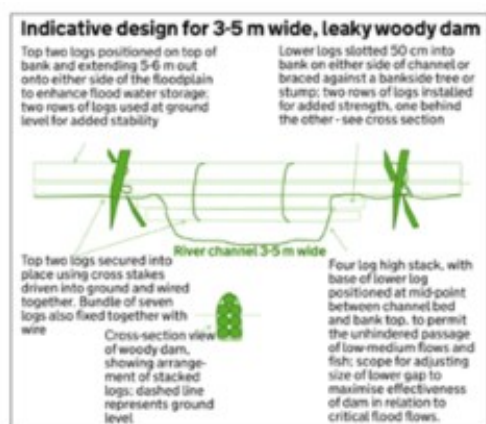
The size, design and construction techniques for leaky dams are site specific. Works will be carried out by a trusted contractor. General design principles for woody log dams are as follows:

- Carefully selected trees along the watercourse will be felled to provide the materials for constructing the leaky dams. This material will likely need to be selected from adjacent Clinton Devon plantation woodlands.
- The leaky dam should be 2 times the width of the channel.
- Construct the dam from logs large enough to span the water channel and out on to the floodplain to provide a stable and long-lasting structure.

- Align dams at right angles to channel banks to reduce bank scour.
- Build dams to allow low flows and fish to always pass unimpeded at all times.
- Site dams on slow flowing reaches of the watercourse.
- Build dams to a height sufficient to encourage water to spread onto the floodplain upstream of the dam or hold water within the channel itself. Note it is not advised to build the dam higher than approximately 0.5 m.
- Chestnut stakes or steel pins can be used to secure the structure to the ground and to create a large mass of logs which is unlikely to move during high flows.
- Build dams in series (minimum 3 dams) at a spacing between dams of about 5-7 times the width of the channel.
- Make sure dams are not installed directly upstream of pinch points such as bridges or culverts that back up flows and are likely to swamp the dam. Dams should be no closer than 20m from culverts in offline ditches and at least 30m away in the river channel.



Examples of leaky woody dam designs:



Appendix B: Site photos



Most downstream point of the works being carried out



Example of deeper sections of ditch drainage through the commercial woodland.