

Beighton Mill Weir Fish Passage Project: Feasibility Brief



Client: Don Catchment Rivers Trust

Project: Beighton Mill Weir Fish Passage Project

Commission: Feasibility-only study, optioneering, assessment and preferred-option recommendation

Location: Beighton Mill Weir, River Rother, SK 44549 84157

Procurement basis: Tender brief / request for quotation for professional consultancy services

1. Purpose

This brief invites suitably qualified consultants to submit a proposal for a feasibility-only commission for the Beighton Mill Weir Fish Passage Project. The commission is to identify, assess and recommend a preferred fish passage intervention. Outline design, detailed design, statutory submissions and construction tender documentation are excluded.

2. Project Background

The River Rother is subject to a wider programme of river restoration and fish passage improvement. Beighton Mill Weir forms part of this catchment-scale approach to improving longitudinal connectivity for migratory and resident fish species.

The project seeks a technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and deliverable solution that improves fish passage while appropriately managing flood risk, geomorphology, heritage, ecology, infrastructure and landowner constraints.

3. Design Objectives

- Identify the preferred fish passage intervention at Beighton Mill Weir.
- Prioritise complete weir removal where technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and deliverable.
- Where complete removal is not appropriate, identify and justify the best alternative.
- Assess key risks relating to flood risk, geomorphology, heritage, ecology, infrastructure, access, land ownership and whole-life maintenance.
- Provide sufficient feasibility-stage information to support funding, stakeholder engagement and procurement of any subsequent design stage.

4. Scope of Consultant Services

The consultant shall undertake a multidisciplinary feasibility study to establish the evidence base, assess feasible interventions and recommend a preferred option. The study should compare options on technical, environmental, cost, consenting and deliverability grounds.



4.1 Project Review and Inception

- Review available information, surveys and previous studies.
- Hold an inception meeting with DCRT.
- Undertake one site visit to confirm site conditions, constraints and survey requirements.

4.2 Baseline Assessments

Undertake proportionate feasibility-stage assessments needed to compare options, identify key risks and inform the scope and cost of any later design and permitting stage.

- Topographic survey of the weir, adjacent structures and relevant channel sections.
- Site location plan and supporting feasibility drawings suitable for future application development.
- Geomorphological assessment of the potentially impacted reach if removal was to be brought forward.
- Hydraulic and flood risk review sufficient to compare options and identify whether detailed modelling is likely to be needed later.
- Structural assessment of the weir and surrounding structures.
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, including protected and notable species, habitats, further survey needs and likely mitigation constraints.
- Water Framework Directive screening or scoping assessment, including geomorphology, ecology, sediment and cumulative risk considerations.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain scoping or baseline assessment, proportionate to feasibility stage.**
- Suitably detailed Heritage Statement proportionate to the options being considered, highlighting any archaeological issues.
- Sediment risk review sufficient to identify likely management requirements for each option.
- Review of likely fish pass or weir removal approval route and implications for programme and next-stage design.
- Ecological constraints review, including otter, nesting bird and invasive species considerations where relevant to option choice and deliverability.
- Full utilities search.

Tenderers shall identify any additional surveys they consider necessary, with justification and costs clearly stated.

4.3 Options Appraisal

Develop and compare feasible fish passage options, including:

- complete weir removal;

- partial weir removal;
- nature-like rock ramp;
- nature-like bypass channel; and
- technical fish pass.

Options shall be assessed against fish passage effectiveness, flood risk, geomorphology, sediment risk, structural risk, heritage, ecology, constructability, access, land ownership, maintenance, cost, programme and consenting requirements.

The Trust's preferred outcome is complete weir removal where this can be demonstrated to be technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and deliverable.

Known constraints include the nearby railway and bridge within the upstream influence of the weir, the road bridge immediately downstream, Pigeon Brook, the remnant tail goit supplying the downstream reserve, heritage associated with the former Beighton Mill and long-term maintenance liabilities.

The appraisal shall identify the main permitting risks for each option, including likely Flood Risk Activity Permit requirements, WFD screening needs, ecological constraints, sediment management and any fish rescue or pump screening requirements.

The consultant shall identify seasonal constraints likely to affect survey timing, construction windows, programme and future consenting.

4.4 Preferred Option

The preferred option shall be developed to concept level only, sufficient to:

- demonstrate feasibility;
- identify key assumptions, risks and consenting requirements;
- provide an outline construction cost estimate; and
- define the scope and information requirements for any subsequent design stage.

5. Excluded from this Commission

The following activities should **not** be included within this commission and will be procured following selection of the preferred option:

- Outline or detailed design.
- Ground investigation, water level monitoring or specialist surveys unless agreed as additional services.
- Submission of planning, permitting, licence or National Fish Pass Panel applications.
- Detailed technical assessments beyond the level required for feasibility and future application scoping.
- Construction drawings, specifications or tender documentation.

6. Required Outputs

The consultant shall provide:

- Feasibility report, including constraints, baseline findings, options appraisal and preferred-option recommendation.
- Survey and assessment outputs needed to support the appraisal, including topographic survey, geomorphology, structural assessment, ecology, heritage, utilities, hydraulic/flood risk review, WFD screening or scoping and BNG scoping where required.
- Site location plan, options drawings, supporting feasibility drawings and multi-criteria assessment matrix.
- Preferred-option concept plan, outline construction cost estimate and risk register.
- Planning and permitting constraints note, identifying likely future approvals, surveys, assessments, risks, assumptions and information gaps.
- Recommendations for any subsequent design stage, including scope, assumptions, risks and information gaps.

7. Tender Submission Requirements

Return item	Requirement
Tender submission letter	Confirm acceptance of the brief, validity period, lead organisation, key contact and any qualifications or exclusions.
Method statement	Describe the proposed approach to feasibility, surveys, optioneering, risk management and preferred-option recommendation.
Programme	Provide a task-by-task programme showing inception, site visits, surveys, option development, review points, reporting and final issue dates.
Team structure and CVs	Identify the project director, project manager, specialists and subconsultants, including relevant experience and responsibilities.
Relevant experience	Provide examples of comparable fish passage, weir removal, river restoration, flood risk, permitting and multidisciplinary feasibility commissions.
Fee proposal	Provide a fixed fee breakdown by task, discipline and deliverable, identifying expenses, subconsultant costs, optional items, exclusions and day rates for additional services.
Assumptions and risks	Set out key assumptions, dependencies, information requirements, client inputs, programme risks, proposed mitigation measures and justification for any additional surveys or visits.

BNG project appraisal	Set out the proposed approach to investigating whether the project could be delivered as a Biodiversity Net Gain project, including the method for establishing, registering and preparing biodiversity units for sale, likely costs and risks, market and funding considerations, and the potential value and income implications for landowners.
Insurances and compliance	Confirm professional indemnity, public liability and employer's liability insurance levels, health and safety arrangements, quality assurance procedures and relevant professional competencies.

8. Pricing Requirements

The tender price shall be a fixed lump sum for the feasibility-only commission, with a breakdown by task, discipline and deliverable. Tenderers shall clearly identify assumptions, optional services, exclusions, survey allowances, third-party costs, disbursements and day rates for additional services. VAT shall be stated separately.

Funding and appointment position

Funding for this project is **fully secured** and DCRT will be in a position to award and enter into contract immediately.

9. Tender Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Technical understanding and approach
- Relevant experience and team capability
- Deliverability within programme
- Value for money

Tender evaluation will be weighted 60% for value for money and 40% for technical approach.

10. Tender Programme and Communications

Milestone	Date / requirement
Tender issue	30.07.26
Clarification deadline	Noon on 13.08.26
Tender return deadline	9am on 31.08.26
Appointment target	Within two weeks of return deadline

11. Queries and Submission

Please submit proposals electronically and direct any queries to:

Matt Duffy

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