

**EXTERNAL BIDS**

**Summary:** To provide an update on current External Bids that the Board is involved in.

**Recommendation:** That the Board notes the various updates.

**Report by:** James Webb – Partnerships and Fundraising Lead

**EXTERNAL BIDS SUPPORTING NATURE**

**Severn Trent Water** has recently launched its 'Great Big Nature Boost' programme, with the aim of improving biodiversity across 50,000 hectares within their region. We have successfully applied to be a Strategic Partner through the **Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands** (GCG) project. The three year partnership agreement will run from 01 April 2021–31 March 2024 and is worth approx. £40,000 per year (£120,000 total contract value). It will allow the team to restore 20 hectares of wildflower grassland each year. GCG is currently supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation; this new partnership demonstrates a big step forward towards sustainability beyond their funding, which ends in February 2022.

**Lead:** Anna Field, GCG Project Asst.

**Contribution to core costs:** 15% of contract value

- Update: The content of the partnership agreement has been agreed and it is expected to be signed by the end of February.

**National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative:** to enhance landscapes impacted on by National Grid's pylon lines. CNL does not develop the detailed proposals or deliver the projects but only we can submit applications, so if we don't do this there will be no spend in the Cotswolds. Payments will be made annually to CNL in advance so there will be no negative impact on cash flow.

**Lead:** Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

**Contribution to core costs:** None

- Update: Three projects now approved by Ofgem, which should be able to start in the spring, subject to a consultation period in March/April.
  1. Cheltenham's Escarpment Grasslands; Landscape and habitat restoration at Leckhampton Hill and Ravensgate Common. Project value £246,900, bid ask £183,000
  2. West of Winchcombe Landscape Enhancements; dry stone walling across Nottingham Hill. Project value £255,780, bid ask £173,580
  3. Hampnett to Chedworth Boundary Restorations (dry stone walling) Project value £287,444, bid ask £199,999.

Restoration of the Bridgeman Landscape at Lodge Park.

- Update: Workshop on the new LEI window and funding round is being attended in February with a deadline for expressions of interests in late April. Expression of interest already prepared and along with a project proposal was approved by the Executive Committee in May 2020. Discussion started with National Trust about building in our costs if permissible in the new round.

**Big Chalk:** a bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) & Defra towards Big Chalk, a project that aims to connect calcareous habitat across landscapes from the south coast to the top of the Cotswolds and Chilterns.

**Lead:** Simon Smith, Nature Recovery Lead

**Contribution to core costs:** unknown at this early stage

- Update: Partnership development is going well with all ten calcareous landscapes achieving a broad consensus on a vision, and terms of reference are in production. Content is being developed for the Colchester Declaration Steering Group who are working on a national prospectus and “story map” with a view to securing resources for all the NAAONB pilot projects of which Big Chalk is one. An initial proposal for £30,000 has been submitted across four Natural England areas for support in further developing the partnership and programme.

**EXTERNAL BIDS SUPPORTING PEOPLE**

**BATHSCAPE Landscape Partnership:** CNL is one of the delivery partners for the project, funded by NLHF, which will create recreational routes for a variety of audiences within the setting of Bath. Contract value just under £90,000. CNL will recruit a p/t Trails and Access Officer who will deliver the project, support by the Access and Volunteer Lead. Significant volunteer involvement expected.

**Lead:** Mark Connelly, Land Management Lead

**Contribution to core costs:** £25,000 to fund a Trails and Access Officer (1.5 days per week over 2.5 years) and £4,000 towards line management support (during 2021/22)

- Update: recruitment is underway for the new role
- Update: the main circular route will be completed by September 2021, in time for the Bath Walking Festival

**Thames Water:** an outline proposal has been submitted for a project that will provide nature based **education, training and skills for young people**. The project will utilise the existing rural skills resource and grow our engagement with young people.

**Lead:** James Webb, Partnerships and Fundraising Lead

**Contribution to core costs:** Two days per week of Rural Skills Officer time, plus £2,500 per year to cover central support costs. Grant request of £50,000 per annum over three years from Q2 2021.

- Update: revised the application and budget, submitted to Thames Water in January. In February we were invited to Full Application stage.

**Indirect**

**National Trails:** a bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish a new national body to support the local delivery of National Trails. The new national organisation may hold funds and employ a small team. Staffing implications for CNL should be limited to liaison on issues, which CTAP would be doing anyway.

**Lead:** Ed Macalister-Smith, Board Member

- Update: Part of the application has been awarded and recruitment for a post to develop the Trails family is underway.