



Invitation to Tender: To produce a 'Local Landscape Character Assessment' for the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme area

Introduction

The Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme invites proposals to project manage, undertake and produce a **local landscape character assessment** for the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands area, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Further details on each element of the required report are included within this invitation to tender. The closing date for return proposals is **Friday 20th July 2018 at 10 am.**

Background of the project

The Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme is a partnership made up of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations and individuals with the aim of preparing and submitting a second stage application to Heritage Lottery Fund for the delivery of a five-year Landscape Partnership scheme in the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands area (map attached).

To secure resources for a five-year delivery phase, the partnership must successfully submit a stage two application. A key component of the second stage application is a detailed Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) within the Landscape Partnership Scheme boundary. This LCA allows the project manager and project partners to ensure that proposed delivery phase activities make a positive contribution to and address threats or challenges in the landscape. At the end of the five-year delivery phase the success of project activities can be assessed against the baseline data presented in the LCA.

Through the award of development funding for the project, Heritage Lottery agrees that the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands is a distinct landscape with unique heritage features worthy of identification, conservation, promotion and transmission to future generations. There are three primary themes on which the project will focus. These are (1) Natural Heritage (2) Defence Heritage (3) Outdoor Recreation.

In terms of Natural Heritage, it is often said that the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands contains patches of almost all habitat type in the UK and Ireland. Because of its distinct geology, climate, peripheral coastal location and history of human interaction, the landscape of the area varies from beaches, through coastal farmed and industrial lowlands, arctic-alpine grasslands, commercial conifer plantations to open upland bogs. The variety of geology, geomorphology and biodiversity provides an opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation activities on the land, in the sea and in the air within a relatively small area.

In addition to its natural heritage features and outdoor recreation potential the area has played a key role in the defence heritage of Europe and the North Atlantic and Arctic regions in the pre 20th Century, WWI, WII, Cold War and 21st Century periods. Activities related to a series of campaigns, training and technology developments have left a rich palimpsest in the landscape of this area. In many instances, significant evidence remains, in the landscape, of important and in some instances unique infrastructure, the purpose and importance of which has faded from the conscience of the local community as it takes on a new purpose, falls into a state of disrepair or is obscured by new developments.

The LCA must take account of the capacity of the landscape to accommodate enhanced access to and promotion of the area's natural heritage, defence heritage and outdoor recreation potential.

Project Proposal

With funding, support and advice from Heritage Lottery Fund, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership requires the successful applicant(s) to undertake the following work(s):

- Conduct a desk study which collects, reviews and analyses available data and documentation about the landscape of the area.
- Conduct a field survey to test, refine and add to the outputs of the desk study, particularly capturing aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities of the landscape.
- Classify, map and describe the landscape's character areas, types and characteristics including geological, biodiversity, other physical and socio-cultural influences.
- Present a report which outlines in detail the location, context, characteristics, natural and anthropogenic influences, key sites, perceptual qualities, threats, forces for change and opportunities for landscape projects in each proposed landscape character area.
- Engage and consult the local community to establish local views on the significance of the proposed landscape character areas and 'sense of place'.

The purpose of this exercise is to provide an **impartial assessment of the landscape character and condition** within the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands LPS area. It is essential that the applicant provides an opportunity for stakeholder and community engagement and consultation at both the desk and field study stages. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Planning Team and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Landscape Architect have agreed to provide expert advice and guidance to the successful applicant.

Proposed Methodology

The proposed methodology should be used for guidance only. Applicants are encouraged to suggest alternative approaches or methods where these are known to improve the quality of the assessment exercise.

The Landscape Character Assessment should at a minimum:

- Re-assess the boundaries of the 1999 Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment Series (NICLA) and Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) as

they apply within and adjacent to the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme Boundary.

- Where appropriate identify new or modified Landscape Character Area boundaries relevant to the contemporary landscape characteristics and condition of the study area. Boundaries should be appropriate for use at a scale of 1:50,000.
- Complete a comprehensive review and update of data contained within the NICLA and NIRCLA
- Provide a contemporary description of the character of each of the LCAs identified, ensuring that the description takes cognisance of relevant material from the review and update of data contained within the NICLA and NIRCLA.
- Indicate the key characteristics of each LCA which should be considered when undertaking activities within the project area.
- Outline a series of actions for each LCA which could make a positive contribution to improving the condition of the landscape.
- Provide an assessment of the value local communities place on the landscape and its features

The assessment must include a written report, illustrative material, photographs and maps which should be presented in paper and GIS formats.

Copyright, Data Protection and Confidentiality

All materials provided to the successful applicant will remain the property of the contributing organisations. Copyright for the final report will become the property of the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Key Dates

Date	Phase	Action/Note
05/07/2018	Invitation to tender circulated	
20/07/2018	Deadline for submission of proposals	Applicants must submit proposals by 10 am on Friday 20 th July 2018
24/07/2018	Scoring of submissions	Submissions will be scored, and the successful applicant will be notified
27/07/2018	Project Initiation Meeting	The successful applicant will meet with the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Staff to agree a work programme
30/07/2018 to 03/08/2018	Meeting with Natural Heritage Advisory Group, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and NIEA	The successful applicant will meet with stakeholder to inform the research and fieldwork stages of the project
06/08/2018 to 24/08/2018	Research, Fieldwork and Community Consultation	The successful applicant will carry out research, fieldwork and community consultation required to deliver a first draft of project materials
27/08/2018	1 Draft Consultation	The successful applicant will provide Natural Heritage Advisory Group with a 1st draft for comment by 31/08/2018

03/09/2018	Additional research, fieldwork and presentation of final draft.	The successful applicant will carry out any additional research and fieldwork required to deliver a final draft of the project materials by 07/09/2018
12/09/2018	Project Completion	

What is required in the submission

Please note your submission must contain evidence of the 6 criteria outlined below. Failure to include this will invalidate your submission:

A clear methodology outlining how you propose to take the project forward. Key dates, project milestones and CCGHTs involvement should be included.
Evidence of the skills of the proposer. Including a brief portfolio of relevant work which can be presented as links.
Evidence of community consultation and involvement in previous relevant projects.
A breakdown of project personnel , the activities they will be responsible for and contact details for the project lead.
A clear breakdown of project costs, including all expenses and including VAT
Contact details for two referees who have knowledge of your work.

Scoring Criteria

Submissions will be scored on the following criteria

CRITERIA	WEIGHT
Proposed methodology	30%
Evidence of skills required to design, produce and supply the required project output	20%
Clear breakdown of costs including daily rates, number of days, VAT and other proposed expenses (please note mileage will only be paid up to a maximum of 45p/mile)	30%
Evidence of experience of community involvement and process in landscape evaluation	20%

Your submission should be no longer than ten A4 pages using font size 12. Evidence of previous work is not included in this maximum page allowance.

Budget

The maximum budget for this project is **£5,000**. Budget proposals must include all fees, travel, direct and indirect costs, expenses and VAT.

The full amount will not be paid until the LPS Board has signed off on the project output. If required, an advance payment of 20% can be authorised upon receipt of a written request.

The Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership does not bind itself to accept the lowest priced or indeed any proposals submitted. Instead the contract will be awarded to the most advantageous submission based on an assessment of the criteria outlined above.

Proposers will not be compensated for costs associated with the production of the tender document.

Amendments

Should this request to tender need to be amended all recipients of the documents will be notified simultaneously. If deemed appropriate the deadline for receipt of tenders will be extended.

Contact Information

If you have any queries, please contact Andrew Bratton (Andrew@ccght.org)

Submission

The closing date for return of proposals is **10 am on Friday 20th July 2018**.

Email

Please title your email **Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Character Assessment** and send it to andrew@ccght.org. Please send all documents as attachments. These will not be opened until the deadline has passed.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring emails have been received before the deadline.

Post

Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Character Assessment

Magilligan Field Centre

375 Sea Coast Rd

Limavady

BT49 0LF