

Expression of Interest to LWLPS – Please complete and return to LivingWandle@wandsworth.gov.uk by 13th April 2016.

Expression of Interest Form to the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme (LW LPS)

Please let us know your project ideas. We are looking to fund projects that will deliver benefits within the LW scheme area before December 2017. It is likely that the total pot available will be £60,000. From this, a variety of smaller projects will be funded.

Your project idea should feed into at least one of the five main aims of the LW scheme:

Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme Aims	
	To revitalise the River Wandle as an identifiable high quality asset to the communities of South London through engagement with the Natural and Built Heritage of the river
	To provide a multi functional living landscape which is accessible to all and an open space resource that contributes to health and well-being
	To strengthen the partnership of people who look after the river
	To reintroduce the local diverse community to the river and to find ways in which this re-established relationship can enrich the lives of local people
	To help make the river valley a clear, safer and much more sustainable environment

The following criteria will be considered during the selection process:

	Desirable Project Criteria
Organisation (20%)	Organisation delivering the project has proven track record/ experience
	Organisation delivering the project has relevant project skills
	Organisation delivering the project has local knowledge
Project (80%)	Project delivers strong outcomes and enduring benefits (Living Wandle Legacy Outcomes TBC)
	Project delivers benefits to communities who are not already engaged with the LW programme
	Project requires partnership working to be successful
	Project is unlikely to be delivered by other means/funding sources/partners
	Project is good value
	Project will bring in match funding

Timeframes:

Timeframe	Action
Deadline: 13th April 2016	Contact with the Living Wandle team and submission of Expression of Interest forms
2 nd March 2016	Total funding pot available is decided
11 th May 2016	Projects considered by Living Wandle steering group and shortlist produced
June 2016	Legacy outcomes of the LW LPS are decided
July 2016	The project shortlist produced by the Steering Group is considered by the LW board with reference to the agreed LW legacy outcomes. Projects to receive funding are selected.

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Your Project

Please try to keep the project description brief (ideally up to 2 pages). At this stage we require outline project information only. We will contact you if we need more information.

Please contact Rebecca Watts (LW LPS manager) if you would like to discuss and develop your project idea: rwatts@wandsworth.gov.uk, 07500 073073.

Contact Person and Details:	Alister Hayes, Regional Development Manager – South London ahayes@wildlondon.org.uk
Name of Project:	Water Voles on the Wandle
Aim of Project:	To survey, map and produce a management plan for the possible re-introduction of water voles across 2km of the Wandle; To engage local residents and landowners in water voles on the Wandle through a programme of walks, talks and events
Delivery Organisation(s):	London Wildlife Trust
Timeframe of Project:	Aug 2016 – July 2017

Please provide a brief description of the project (including why you want to do this project, who you think the main beneficiaries will be, location where the project will be based, any partners you are looking to involve etc.)

Project summary

Water Voles on the Wandle, as part of the Living Wandle project, will guide and improve land management, engage, enthuse and educate the local community in their local patch of river, the wildlife it supports, and the possibility of water voles returning to the Wandle concentrated along a 2km stretch of the river between Watermeads, Poulter Park and Spencer Road Wetlands. The project will have two key strands:

1. Surveying, mapping, feasibility study and management plans to prepare this stretch of the river for future re-introduction of water voles – this will include offering specialist advice and support to land managers on best practice in managing their section of the Wandle for wildlife value
2. Awareness raising and education around water voles on the Wandle – a series of walks, talks, open days and events reaching at least 100 people to engage and enthuse the local community and landowners

Why do we want to deliver this project?

The last anecdotal record of water vole on the river Wandle is from 1962 and it is accepted that they became extinct in the catchment soon after. There are plans to reintroduce them when the conditions will be favourable to sustain a viable population; London Wildlife Trust currently leads the London Water Vole Species Action Plan (SAP) whose main aim is to 'conserve London's water vole population and increase their range and numbers for the benefit of current and future generations'. The water vole is Britain's fastest declining native mammal and there is now only one water vole for every twenty that were alive just 100 years ago (a loss of 95%). The water vole is a principal species for nature conservation concern and is a priority Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species for the UK BAP, the London BAP, LB Sutton's Rivers and Wetlands Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and LB Merton's Rivers and Streams HAP. This project will work towards targets outlined in the UK and London Water Vole SAP and the London Rivers and Streams HAP.

LWT with partners undertook an assessment of the River Wandle for the reintroduction of water vole in 2009-11. Using this information, a walk from Morden Hall Park to Spencer Road was undertaken with LWT and the Environment Agency in 2016. The consensus is that management of the sites needs to be improved before any reintroduction can begin.

An updated feasibility process needs to be undertaken – we want to use this work as an opportunity to engage new communities in the river and to inspire local people to be part of an exciting potential long-term project to change and improve their local environment. Water voles, immortalised by the character of ‘Ratty’ in Kenneth Grahame’s *Wind in the Willows*, capture people’s imaginations and will be the hook to engage at least 100 people from nearby communities in their local patch of river and its potential as a future home to re-introduced water vole populations. By engaging people in this elusive small mammal, we will also be able to inform and enthuse them about the river Wandle as a whole, its history and the important habitat it provides for many other species. The project will also train and engage at least 20 people as volunteers, leading to an even greater depth of knowledge about the river and encouraging new recruits to existing local volunteer groups, meaning this stretch of river can be more sustainably cared for into the future.

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of this project will be people living locally to the three sites and along the target stretch of river, who will be able to volunteer on the project carrying out surveying and feeding into the feasibility study, and who will attend our events programme of guided walks and talks to learn about the river Wandle, their local patch of river, its heritage, the wildlife it is home to and the potential of re-introducing water voles in the future.

Project location

The project will take place along a 2km stretch of the river Wandle between Watermeads, Poulter Park and Spencer Road Wetlands (LB Sutton).

Partnership working

We will work with landowners LB Sutton, LB Merton, National Trust, the Sutton and East Surrey Water Company, KNK Stadium and the Environment Agency to complete this project, working collaboratively to recommend and advise on best practice in river management for the benefit of natural heritage. We have already had positive discussions with the Environment Agency about the need for this work. We will also engage with Registered Social Landlords to promote our events and open days to local people who are residents of social housing.

Main Outputs

- At least 15 events will be delivered as part of the events programme – including guided walks, community talks and other events to enthuse and engage people in water voles, their local patch of the river Wandle and how river habitat can be improved for the re-introduction of water voles
- At least 100 local people will be engaged in the events programme above
- Surveys and mapping of the 2km stretch of river will be produced to identify good habitats for Water Vole and the barriers such as concrete river banks, weirs, poor vegetation on banks etc.
- A management plan for this stretch of the Wandle, setting out ways in which the river can be managed for the benefit of future water vole re-introduction, will be produced and shared with landowners
- At least 20 volunteers from the local community will be engaged in carrying out surveying, mapping and inputting into the feasibility study outlined above

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Expected Outcomes

- People from the local community will be more interested and engaged in the Wandle and the habitat it provides for wildlife
- People from the local community will have increased awareness and knowledge of water voles and how they could potentially be re-introduced to the Wandle
- Local landowners will increased awareness of how they can better manage their patch of the river for the benefit of all wildlife
- Survey information and mapping carried out during the project will be available online and easier to access for members of the local community
- People from the local community will be more likely to visit their local nature reserve on the Wandle in the future

Main Costs	Amount	Notes
Project Officer time to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversee surveying and mapping • produce feasibility study and management plans • advise on management for benefit of wildlife including water voles • prepare and deliver programme of events including open days • recruit and train volunteers 	14,931	Project Officer salary £26,269 @ 2.5 days per week for one year, including on costs (NI and pension)
Training	250	
Staff travel	300	
Volunteer expenses	480	Volunteers to assist in surveying and monitoring river habitat for input into mapping and feasibility study; volunteers may also help out at events
Events	500	Materials, handouts etc. needed to deliver events programme
Tools and equipment	500	Tools and equipment for monitoring and surveying river
Office costs including mobile phone	360	
Publication	1,000	Publication of project findings and feasibility study of water vole re-introduction on the Wandle
Full cost recovery – overheads	3,374	Based on LWT's Full Cost Recovery calculation
VAT		
Contingency		

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Total Cash Value:	21,695	
Income/Budget	Amount	Notes
Match Funding anticipated (cash)	2,986	Grant from Carillion towards 0.5 Project Officer time - secured
Living Wandle contribution (HLF cash)	18,709	86%
Total Income:	21,695	

Any Volunteer Value to be achieved?	Amount	Notes
Volunteer Value (please see p9 of the HLF guidance)	2,000	40 x volunteer days (unskilled) @ £50 per day

Thank you for your interest in the HLF Living Wandle Landscape Partnership Scheme.

More information about the programme can be found at:

www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk/the-living-wandle-partnership

Please send your completed Expression of Interest Form to:

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