

CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY INVITATION TO QUOTE

SNOWHILL MARSH ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – SCRUB CLEARANCE WORKS

Opening date: Friday 14 August 2026

Closing Date: Friday 4 September August 2026 - 5pm

Submission to: kate.bull@conservancy.co.uk

1. Introduction and Purpose of the Specification

1.1 Chichester Harbour Conservancy (“The Conservancy”) is inviting quotes to undertake scrub clearance works at Snowhill Marsh, Chichester Harbour, as part of a habitat enhancement project (see *Annex A*) funded by Southern Water Ltd through the regulatory framework of the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) (see *Figures 1 and 2*). The clearance works are required to be undertaken in advance of the enhancement project which is due to commence in Spring 2027.

1.2 The ultimate aims of this specification are to:

- Identify a suitable contractor; and
- Enter into an agreement between that party and the Conservancy to undertake the works with an anticipated start date of early October 2026.

2. Background to the Project

2.1 Chichester Harbour is both the largest natural estuary in South East England and the largest recreational boating harbour in Europe, in terms of the number of moorings present. There are multiple environmental designations including a National Landscape for its natural beauty, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, for the flora and fauna, a Special Protection Area, for the birdlife, a Special Area of Conservation, for the habitats, and a Ramsar Site, for the wetlands.

2.2 Snowhill Marsh, on land owned by the West Wittering Estate PLC, is a complex of saline lagoon, saltmarsh, reed-fringed ditches, grassland, and scrub of approximately 10.5ha. A freshwater stream flows along the northern edge of the site and since 2012, water levels in the marsh are controlled by a regulated tidal exchange on the NW corner of the site. Salinity and water levels therefore vary across the site and throughout the year, and are dependent on weather patterns and tidal heights. The site lies on the extreme south-east corner of Chichester Harbour, immediately to the north of West Wittering beach and car park.

2.3 Snowhill Marsh has the potential to be a productive breeding shorebird and seabird site, and an improved high tide roost. The installation of fox exclusion fencing should enable an increase in both the range of breeding bird species and their productivity (e.g. Avocets, Ringed plover, Oystercatcher, tern species, and Black-headed Gulls).

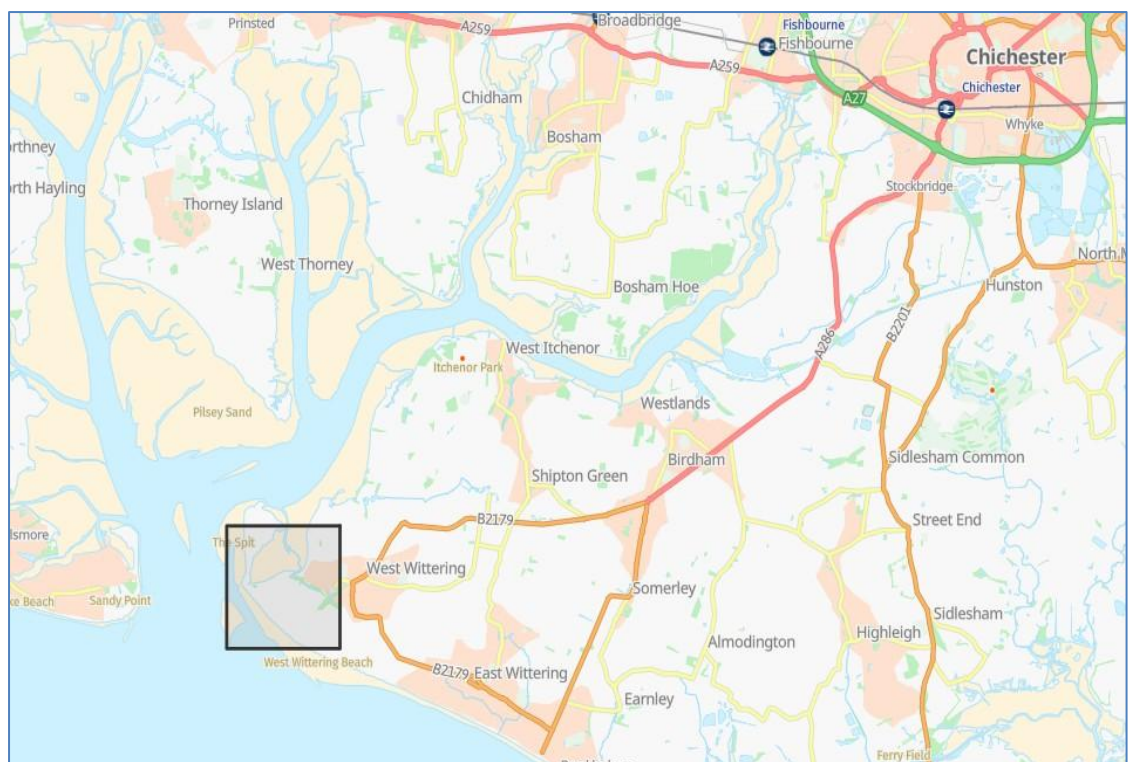


Figure 1 Location of project area within Chichester Harbour



Figure 2 Boundary of project area

2.4 Contractor work required for this phase of the project is:

- Restricting access to the site from the general public;
- Undertaking scrub-clearance works, avoiding the bird nesting season; and
- Ensuring cleared scrub is collected and disposed of in agreement with West Wittering Estate PLC.

2.5 Contractors are welcome to visit the site prior to submission of a quote and they should contact the project lead, Peter Hughes, Ecologist peter.hughes@conservancy.co.uk to arrange this in advance.

2.6 The specification has been updated and is correct as of 10 August 2026.

3. Scope of Works

3.1 The information shown in *Table 1* below is what contractors are required to provide costs against, along with a method statement for delivery. The detailed design plan is provided in *Annex A*.

Table 1 Scope of habitat creation works

Work Component	Specifics
Planning & works preparation	Access to the site will be determined by the successful contractor in agreement with the landowner (West Wittering Estate PLC) and CHC. It is assumed that the contractor will access via field access off Pound Road at NGR: SZ 77476 98164 on existing farm and car park access tracks. Any temporary signage, public access restrictions, traffic management measures or emergency access routes should be agreed with the landowner prior to works commencing.
Scrub clearance	Scrub clearance works will need to be undertaken in early October in order to avoid the wintering bird season. Approximately 0.25ha of blackthorn and bramble scrub should be removed from the central sections of the lagoon. See <i>Figure 3</i> for scrub clearance locations.
Removal and disposal of cleared items and completion of works	Cleared scrub should be chipped/shredded and taken off site for disposal as green waste. No fires are permitted on site.

	Repair and reinstatement of any access routes, tracks, roadways, gateways, verges or other areas used during the works may be required.
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Figure 3 Proposed scrub removal areas

4. Site Access and Working Arrangements

- 4.1 Access to the site to be determined by the contractor in agreement with the landowner and CHC. It is assumed that the contractor will access via field access off Pound Road at NGR: SZ 77476 98164 on existing farm and car park access tracks.
- 4.2 Because the works are taking place near to a residential area, preferred working hours are Monday-Friday between 06:30 and 20:00 unless otherwise agreed in advance.
- 4.3 Given the ecologically sensitive nature of the site, copies of the successful contractor's pollution prevention plans, fuel management procedures, spill response arrangements, waste management plans and biosecurity controls (such as tyre washing) will need to be provided to the landowner prior to mobilisation.
- 4.4 Copies of the successful contractor's insurance certificates and confirmation that appropriate indemnities are in place with respect to any damage arising from the works will need to be provided to the landowner.
- 4.5 The contractor will be required to repair and reinstate any access routes, tracks, roadways, gateways, verges or other areas used during the works where necessary.



Figure 4 Site access routes

5. Role of the Contractor

5.1 The contractor is required to provide the following information in the **Quote Submission Document**:

- Supplier details in Section A;
- A Method Statement in Section B, demonstrating how you will deliver the requirements of the project as listed in *Table 1* above including a schedule of works and the plant and machinery you will use. Please use the quote submission document or provide a separate document;
- A breakdown of costings (Section C), excluding VAT.
- Evidence of experience of similar work completed in the last 10 years including (if possible), projects undertaken in a site designated for nature conservation/landscape importance (Section D);
- Section E - Checklist of other documents including:
 - Standard risk assessments;
 - Health & Safety, Environmental & Sustainability and Quality Assurance policies;
 - Certificate of insurance (minimum of £5m Public Liability Insurance and £1m Professional Indemnity Insurance).
- Section F – signed declaration.

5.2 Your completed quote submission document should be saved as a PDF and submitted with the supplementary documents to the Operations Manager, Kate Bull
kate.bull@conservancy.co.uk **by 5pm on Friday 4 September 2026.**

6. The Role of the Conservancy

- 6.1 Until the deadline for responding has passed, contractors may contact the project lead for further information if required.
- 6.2 Upon the passing of the deadline, the Conservancy will assess the responses and award the contract based on the cheapest quote that demonstrates suitable experience. Due to the lower value of this work, a formal scoring exercise will not be undertaken.

7. Contract Award

- 7.1 CHC will aim to award the contract w/c 7 September 2026, with the works commencing as soon as possible in October 2026.

