

Somer Valley Rediscovered – Brief for Scrub Clearance
Midsomer Norton

1. Purpose and Background

1.1 Purpose of this Brief

We are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified organisation / individual to carry out mowing work as part of our grassland restoration project over 2 sites in the Somer Valley area of Bath & North East Somerset. This brief provides the background, specification, timetable and process to tender for this work.

1.2 Background

Somer Valley Rediscovered (SVR) is a strategic green infrastructure project, developed in response to growing evidence that having access to green spaces and being connected to nature can help improve people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The project aims to provide better access to green spaces, improve biodiversity and habitat restoration and develop volunteer networks to manage sites, along with a programme of events to intrigue and inspire people to value, enjoy and rediscover local walks, the natural environment and heritage of the beautiful Somer Valley.

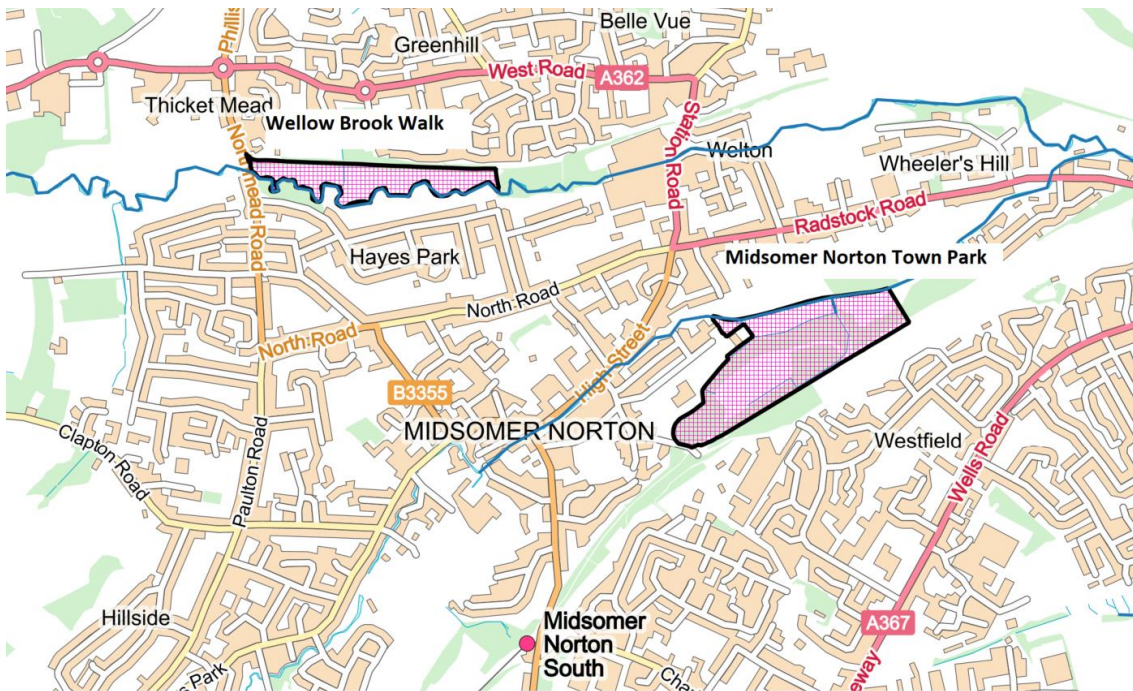
The project area incorporates Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Peasedown St John, Radstock and Westfield, along with the surrounding smaller villages and countryside, which has been profoundly influenced by the former coal mining industry.

SVR has been successful in attracting Green Recovery Funding from West of England Combined Authority for a programme of nature recovery projects. It is working with Radstock Town Council, Midsomer Norton Town Council and Westfield Parish Council on 5 key greenspaces across the Somer Valley.

This brief sets out mowing work which forms part of our grassland restoration project for the 2 sites within Midsomer Norton.

1.3 The Sites

Site	Ownership	Overall site(ha)	Approx. area of grass to be mown (ha)	Grid Ref
Midsomer Norton Town Park	Midsomer Norton Town Council	8	0.6	ST670544
Wellow Brook Walk	Midsomer Norton Town Council	3	1.6	ST660547



1.3.1

Midsomer Norton Town Park

Introduction

The town park is made up of land adjacent to the River Somer, which would originally have been agricultural land, and a coal spoil heap (batch), which supports species rich grassland and a woodland area. Since 2018 the site has been developed as a 'town park' with new paths and entrances.

Designations

Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)

Access

Vehicular access to the field adjacent to the river via the entrance next to the Somer Centre.
Pedestrian access across the whole site.

Wildlife Interest

The site consists of the River Somer, semi-improved grassland, species rich grassland, broadleaved and mixed woodland, scrub and wet and dry ditches.

The area of grassland to be mown is within the town park and is known as 'Wild Meadow' It is a mixture of grasses, hogweed, willowherb with some nettle and young bramble. It has not been cut for several years. The area is approx. 0.6ha

1.3.2

Wellow Brook Walk

Introduction

Wellow Brook is an area of grassland between the Wellow Brook and Norton Radstock Greenway. Originally agricultural land, the grassland has been unmanaged for many years.

Designations

Wellow Brook is designated an SNCI. However, the rest of the site is undesignated.

Access

There is vehicular access from Northmead Rd. There is a footpath through the length of the site.

Wildlife Interest

The site includes areas of botanically rich grassland on the areas that slope up to the Greenway, and other areas of more modified (improved) grassland. There are also wetter habitats close to the brook. The river corridor is dominated by mature trees and scrub. There are also mature trees along the line of the Greenway.

The grassland area is approx. 1.6 ha and is mostly made up of grasses and flowering plants however there are small sections ruderals including creeping thistle and willowherb.

2. Specification

Both sites to have grass mown once a year at the end of the summer (August / September)

Both sites have a plan showing the areas of grassland to be mown.

Ideally the arisings need to be removed from site, however if it is not possible then sacrifice sites will be selected (agreed by SVR, Midsomer Norton Town Council and the contractor). Please included a fee for removal of arisings if this is an option.

In line with the sites being managed for wildlife, no burning of arisings will be permitted.

3. Timetable

Task	Timescale
Tender process	July 2024
Contract awarded	August 2024
Contract commencement	August / September
Project completion	August / September 2025*

* Due to current funding arrangements. However, an extension post 2025 is possible.

4. Project Management and Monitoring

The project will be managed by Somer Valley Rediscovered, and the site owners (Midsomer Norton Town Council).

After the contract has been awarded, a work programme with dates and deadlines will be agreed. Payments will be made on completion of staged works.

5. Skills

We are looking for a consultant that:

- Shows that they fully understand our requirements in letting this contract, and are prepared to work with us in a flexible way over the contract period to best meet our needs
- Has a proven track record in habitat management of greenspaces. They will be able to demonstrate that the personnel who will be involved have appropriate skills and relevant background knowledge.
- Has an understanding of the health and safety measures required to work on sites that have public access, along with the relevant insurance.
- An ability to communicate with the public about the work that is taking place, should this be necessary.

6. Method statement

To submit a tender for this work, please provide a method statement which explains:

- How you will deliver the activities outlined in this brief. Please include:
 - How many people on site at each visit
 - What types of clearance methods you will use (machinery / handwork / types of machinery)
 - How you will minimise damage to fauna / flora
- A summary of experience in delivering similar activities
- The range of professional skills which people involved in the project will have
- A timetable for the project, including milestones and dates
- A table showing a breakdown of chargeable days/hours for project stages – as below.

7. Pricing

As a guide to total costs, please complete the pricing schedule attached at appendix 1. Refer to the accompanying schedule of areas to be mown and site plans for the scope of work involved and allow for all labour materials, equipment and management costs. N.B. the final scope of work and extent of areas included may be adjusted post tender, to suit available budget for these works.

In addition, please provide the following information:

- The daily rate for your project staff
- Any expenses incurred.

Tenders will be assessed on the following split:

Price: 40%

Quality: 60%

8. Insurance

Insurance details. (Minimum limit of indemnity for employers and public liability insurance is £10,000,000).

9. Tendering Process

Procurement is being undertaken by Midsomer Norton Town Council. Successful tenders will be selected on the basis of:-

- Relevant skills and experience
- Understanding of the brief
- Quality of method statement and approach
- Price

The tender documentation should be sent to The Town Clerk, Midsomer Norton Town Council, **Unit 14 South Road Midsomer Norton BA3 2 EZ in a sealed envelope marked **CONFIDENTIAL – GRASS MOWING TENDER** or by email marked **CONFIDENTIAL – GRASS MOWING TENDER** to townclerk@msn-tc.gov.uk no later than 10 am on Thursday 15th August.**

Any documentation arriving after this time will not be accepted.

Tenders will be opened and recorded on 19th August 2024

It is intended that the successful applicant will be informed by the 4th September 2024

For any queries regarding the habitat work or to arrange a site visit please contact Somer Valley Rediscovered – somervalleyrediscovered@bathnes.gov.uk Tel 07971 849398 / 07974 045173

For any queries regarding the tender process please contact Midsomer Norton Town Clerk, 01761 418701 townclerk@msn-tc.gov.uk

PRICING SCHEDULE

Company Name		
Pricing schedule		
<i>Task</i>	<i>Person days</i>	<i>Price</i>
MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN PARK – Wild Meadow – approx. 0.6ha		
Mowing		
Removal of arisings		
Misc		
Subtotal		
WELLOW BROOK WALK – approx. 1.8ha		
Mowing		
Removal of arisings		
Misc		
Subtotal		
		grand total £
Schedule of rates – labour and expenses		
Item / task	Team member	Day rate

Signed (Name)

On Behalf of (Company Name)

Dated: