

Pennine Lancashire Linear Park

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES



PENNINE LANCASHIRE LINEAR PARK - LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1st February 2022

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The canal in Burnley

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1. Introduction

Super Slow Way seeks to commission a landscape-focused multi-disciplinary design team to develop series of thematic landscape strategies and area studies that explore and demonstrate how to unlock the potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal corridor in East Lancashire.

The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park is an exciting, pioneering, and deliverable vision and programme of change conceived for a 23-mile (37-kilometre) section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal corridor. A project that seeks to marry physical improvements to landscape, infrastructure, and buildings and to expansive programmes of environmental, cultural, leisure, educational and economic activity.

A 2021 feasibility study and economic impact assessment, “Lancashire Linear Park: Unlocking the Potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: The Case for Change” sets out the vision for the Linear Park. The study has helped to recently secure funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund to allow the project to be developed to the next stage. Three strands of activity will be developed in parallel: ‘Green Book’ business cases for four sites along the canal corridor, landscape strategies for the canal (this commission) and a series of prototyping projects.

Completed in 1816, this waterway, the original ‘super highway’ of the Industrial Revolution, that once transformed Pennine Lancashire can today breathe new life and deliver transformational change to the area. It provides the backbone for a new Linear Park which aims to reveal and repurpose this great 19th century infrastructure, harnessing the same pioneering local energy to create new employment, educational, cultural, recreational, environmental, transport and tourism potential.

The vision for the Linear Park is much greater than the sum of its parts - a blueprint for a post-Covid recovery in Pennine Lancashire; for a carbon neutral future, for a resilient economy and for an enhanced quality of life for communities in a rich post-industrial and bio-diverse landscape redefined as a linear heritage, recreational and cultural resource. Three interconnected thematic strategies will be a first step towards realising this vision, each concentrating on a specific aspect of the overall landscape design concept:

1 Greening Strategy

Greening otherwise grey landscapes, bringing beauty to local doorsteps, making land more productive with a healthy, resilient and regenerative ecosystems, transforming disused green and brown spaces to encourage bio-diversity, enriching existing blue and green infrastructure and supporting climate resilience in local communities.

2 Lighting Strategy

Making the area feel safer, more welcoming and attractive, scoping out responsive, interactive lighting along the canal corridor and its connecting routes, devising imaginative, eco-friendly solutions sympathetic to both the corridor’s wildlife and human use.

3 Wayfinding and Movement Strategy

Working with communities to test existing access routes and discover new ones, connecting town centres and neighbourhoods to the vital green and blue spaces of the canal, feeding into other initiatives, creating a framework for the development of signage and access improvements.

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The commission also includes a closer study of five areas along the canal corridor. The aim is to identify potential landscape improvement opportunities in these areas of particular interest.

We are seeking proposals from landscape-focussed collaborative teams. Co-production must be at the heart of the process, enabling the community to inform the research and develop solutions.

2. Background

2.1 Super Slow Way

Hosted by the Canal & River Trust, Super Slow Way is a cultural development programme in Pennine Lancashire that uses the Leeds & Liverpool Canal as a vehicle for bringing people together on a waterway that everyone shares. Their work is shaped by and delivered with local residents from Blackburn to Pendle, working alongside artists, designers, manufacturers and growers, in fact anyone whose energy and imagination can help build more resilient and sustainable communities. www.superslowway.org.uk

2.2 Feasibility Study

Commissioned by the Super Slow Way, Arts Council England, Canal & River Trust, Creative Lancashire and Lancashire County Council, the 2021 feasibility study and economic impact assessment, "Lancashire Linear Park: Unlocking the Potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: The Case for Change" presented the vision, opportunities, and ideas for the canal corridor. It also provided an economic assessment of the Linear Park so that the next steps towards implementation could be taken. The study was led by Publica Associates together with economic consultant, Buro Happold.

3. Project Scope

The commission will run from March 2022 to the end of June 2022, resulting in three connected strategies plus five area studies to set out a design approach and strategy with a coherence across the whole area. A high-level cost estimate is also required, projecting the level of investment over the short, medium, and longer terms.

The purpose of the commission is to develop, to the next level of detail from the feasibility study, the potential scope and required level of investment to realise the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park. The study should therefore develop the evidence-base to support this future funding.

The level of detail for the landscape strategies and area studies is *approximately* equivalent to RIBA Stage 1, Landscape Institute Stage S1B.

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3.1 PART 1 - The Landscape Strategies

Three interconnected thematic strategies will be a first step towards realising this vision, each concentrating on a specific aspect of the overall landscape design concept:

1 Greening Strategy

Greening otherwise grey landscapes, bringing beauty to local doorsteps, making land more productive with a healthy, resilient and regenerative ecosystems, transforming disused green and brown spaces to encourage bio-diversity, enriching existing blue and green infrastructure and supporting climate resilience in local communities.

The greening strategy should consider opportunities for improvement and change in locations contiguous with the canal - sites where transformation will have a direct benefit and impact on the canal corridor. The strategy should identify the current condition of the landscape, describe an approach to how the landscape could be transformed and describe how this could be achieved. The intention is that for the four study areas, specific sites and opportunities can be identified. For the remainder of the canal sections, the approach will be more strategic and aspirational. As much GIS land ownership information as possible will be made available at the start of the commission.

Considerations:

- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Increasing bio-diversity
- Addressing the 'backs' of industrial buildings that face the canal
- Identifying opportunities for nature reserves, pocket parks, canal-side public spaces and terraces and raingardens, productive gardens

2 Lighting Strategy

Making the area feel safer, more welcoming and attractive, scoping out responsive, interactive lighting along the canal corridor and its connecting routes, devising imaginative, eco-friendly solutions sympathetic to both the corridor's wildlife and human use.

The strategy for lighting should include consideration of lighting of footpaths, pedestrian areas, cycle paths, the canal itself, bridges/walls/locks and building exteriors. The strategy should address infrastructure and practical issues such as lighting control, power supply, maintenance and management.

Considerations:

- Benefits of darkness for biodiversity and the canal's nocturnal landscape
- Opportunities for solar lighting/low energy lighting
- How to help connect to local communities

3 Wayfinding and Movement Strategy

Working with communities to test existing access routes and discover new ones, connecting town centres and neighbourhoods to the vital green and blue spaces of the canal, feeding into other initiatives, creating a framework for the development of signage and access improvements.

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The wayfinding and movement strategy should be coordinated with the wider East Lancashire Movement and Transport strategy currently being developed by Jacobs.

Considerations:

- Opportunities for increased activity and accessible movement along the canal corridor for pedestrians and cyclists
- Opportunities to improve pedestrian and cycle links to deliver area-wide transport networks (to town centres, public networks, and key road networks)
- Opportunities to create new and improved existing access points to the canal
- Opportunities to create an area-wide signage strategy

3.2 PART 2 – The Area Studies

The Linear Park is within a section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal that spans four district authorities—Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle—and passes through several towns built around the textile industry, including Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley and Nelson. Five sites are to be studied along the canal corridor:

- Blackburn with Darwen (From a Flax Field BB1 1DN to Imperial Mill BB1 3EU)
- Hyndburn (From Aspen Colliery to Peel Bank BB5 4EG)
- Hyndburn (From Enfield Wharf BB5 5JH to Victoria Street BB5 5HU)
- Burnley (From Sandygate Square BB11 to Daneshouse Youth and Community Centre BB10 1AF)
- Pendle (From Brierfield Mill BB9 5EG to the allotments near Reedyford Road BB9 8ST)

In each area, and working with local communities, opportunities for landscape/lighting/movement should be identified. The aim is to compile a range of potential projects, varying in scale, complexity and cost.

3.3 Process and Activities

The commission will run for 16 weeks. Three stages of activity are anticipated, and these may overlap.

Stage 1 – Survey, analysis and initial consultation

- Compilation and review of existing documentation, strategies and policies.
- Developing familiarity with the canal corridor through site visits.
- Study of the five sites. The level of detail to be commensurate with the stage of the project – i.e. high-level, with more detail where appropriate. Studies to include:
 - Historical overview
 - Current condition (landform, movement network, land use, landmarks, green and blue infrastructure, community amenities, architectural character, spatial character, movement patterns, safety)
 - Demographics and visitor profile
 - Each area's strengths and weaknesses
- Research conversations and consultation with local communities and other user groups, as well as key stakeholders.

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Stage 2 – Strategies and Design concepts

- Landscape strategies: the overarching approach to the three landscape strategies should be developed and articulated/illustrated through maps, diagrams, sketches and precedent examples.
- Initial design concepts should be developed for test sites, taking into account use of space, movement corridors, access elements, views, proximity to transport hubs.
- A range of sites from the five study areas should be tested, varying in scale and function. The aim is to demonstrate the manifestation of the three strands of landscape strategy.
- A minimum of two sites should be developed for each of the five study areas.
- A matrix of all potential projects for the study areas to be included identifying the project type, scale, complexity, magnitude of cost, stakeholders involved, and level of priority.
- Engagement is fundamental to this stage – so that local communities can be involved in ‘co-production’ and influencing the emerging design concepts.

Stage 3 – Presentations

- Presentation of findings and communication of ideas to community and stakeholders. The feedback from these presentations to be documented.
- The proposals should be developed through maps, diagrams and illustrations. The type of illustrations to be agreed with the client as the project develops.
- The commission includes the creation of a short film (of approximately 2-3 minutes) to be used for promotion and communication. The technical costs will be separate to the commission but the team is expected to ‘design’ and participate in the film. It is expected that the film will involve local communities, using documentation from co-production processes or in other ways to be explored during the commission.

3.4 Community Involvement

It is envisaged that there are three stages of engagement with local communities – at the beginning of the commission to help to understand the area and illicit ideas, during the commission to co-produce the strategies and concepts and finally the presentation of the landscape strategies. Super Slow Way is seeking teams that will embrace and find imaginative ways in which to maximise the potential of co-creation with communities within the time and budgetary parameters of the project. The Super Slow Way team have an existing network of community partners to assist with this process and has appointed local arts and engagement organisation, In-Situ, to undertake community engagement facilitation. <https://www.in-situ.org.uk/>

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3.5 Parallel Projects

Super Slow Way has commissioned two other activities in parallel with this project.

1. Prototyping projects

A series of prototyping projects will allow a variety of sites to be tested with the community in temporary installations and interventions – whether growing food for pop-up cafes, designing wayfinding routes from home to the canal or experimenting with temporary interactive light installations to make their journeys feel safer.

2. Green Book Business Case Appraisals

A Green Book Business Case Appraisal is being carried out by Buro Happold for the following sites/buildings along the canal corridor:

- Imperial Mill, Blackburn - BB1 3EU
- Hargreaves Warehouse, Church Nr Accrington - BB5 4PD
- Trafalgar Mill, Burnley - BB11 1TQ
- Brierfield Gasometer, Brierfield Nr Nelson - BB9 5NH

It is expected that the appointed team will liaise with Super Slow Way and Buro Happold to develop a coordinated approach to the landscape strategies. As part of the engagement process, the appointed team will also liaise with the local authorities to seek to understand and coordinate the aims of other relevant local policies and strategies and how they impact the canal corridor. Local Cultural Strategies are guided by Lancashire's overall strategy "Remade: A Cultural Investment Strategy for Lancashire" commissioned by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

3.6 Deliverables

- Summary of engagement processes and feedback
- Strategy maps and diagrams for landscape, lighting, wayfinding
- Matrix of potential projects for each study area
- Minimum two concept designs for each study area
- Outline of level of investment over the short, medium and long-term for each of the landscape strategies, and an assessment of benefits.
- The proposals should be compiled into a succinct, inspiring, public-facing illustrated summary report, together with Stage reports from each consultant.
- Design and participation in a short publicity film.

3.7 Reference Documents

Included as an appendices

- i. The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park: Unlocking the Potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: The Case for Change by Publica (2021)
- ii. The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park – Supporting Material: Maps by Publica (2021)
- iii. Leeds and Liverpool Canal Corridor Study East Lancashire by The Canal & River Trust (2003)
- iv. Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Cultural Investment Strategy (2020)
- v. Burnley Green Infrastructure Strategy and Study
- vi. Burnley Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan
- vii. Nelson Masterplan (2021)

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- viii. Pendle Green Infrastructure Strategy:
- ix. Pennine Lancashire Linear Park Landscape Strategies – Maps Publica

Links to other background documents can be found on page 53 of the Feasibility Study.

4. Selection process

The client for the commission is Super Slow Way. The process is also being managed by Super Slow Way.

This is a selection process to find a landscape-focused multi-disciplinary team with the requisite skills and experience to deliver the against the ambitions and scope outlined in this brief. UK and international teams are invited to respond.

There are two stages to the selection process:

- Stage 1: Submission of a written and illustrated proposal
- Stage 2: Shortlisting of the five teams with the highest scores. These teams will be invited for interview to talk through the submissions. Interviews will take place digitally on 7th and 8th March, 2022.

9.1 Team skills and Structure

The client is seeking a team with a single lead consultant who will sub-contract the other members of the team. A lead consultant may lead only one team. Minimum level of Professional Indemnity Insurance required is £2 million for the lead consultant. Sub-consultants can submit with more than one team. The project requires a team with the following skills:

- Landscape design
- Ability to understand of the area
- Ecology/bio-diversity
- Lighting
- Mobility/movement
- Strategic costing
- Public engagement

The client is seeking a team with the following characteristics:

- Appropriate in size and skill to the scope of the project
- Ability to work to the fast-paced project timeline
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Strong and imaginative approaches to public engagement and co-design
- Passionate about the potential of landscape to change lives and transform communities
- Creative as designers
- Ability to communicate with and inspire communities and the range of stakeholders
- Keen to collaborate with Super Slow Way and with the other initiatives running in parallel to this commission

4.2 Selection Criteria

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The fee for the commission is £150,000. The submissions will be evaluated through assessment of the responses of each tenderer in Stage 1, and through the quality of the interview in Stage 2.

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Responses will be weighted against the selection criteria as follows:

Criteria	Maximum weighted score	Maximum score
Response to Q1 – Team The team needs to demonstrate that it has the requisite skills for the commission.	Pass/fail	
Response to Q2 – Team experience <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experience of similar schemes- Quality of design responses and evidence of creativity- Evidence of technical experience- Approach to sustainability	30%	10
Response to Q3 – Approach and methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidence of technical and professional capability- Evidence of organisational and management skills- Evidence of ability to service the project- Approach to engagement	30%	10
Response to Q4 – Team bios <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Extent of capability and experience of key team members	20%	10
Response to Q5 – Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Range and quantum of resource	20%	10

Scoring guide

The following scoring guide will be used to evaluate the proposals against the selection criteria.

Score	Reason
0	Deficient The response does not provide sufficient information for evaluation
1-3	Poor The response fails to meet the requirements
4-5	Satisfactory The proposal meets the requirements to a basic standard
6-8	Good The proposal meets the requirements in almost all respects
9-10	Excellent The response is excellent and meets the requirements in full

4.3 Submission requirements

A. Questionnaire

Please provide an illustrated PDF document that responds to the questions below. Please use minimum 11pt fonts for legibility. Cover/chapter dividers can be additional to the page count listed below.

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Questionnaire
<p>1. Team composition (max. 6 sides A4)</p> <p>1.1 Please describe your team and the role and skills of consultant in the project, identifying the lead consultant.</p> <p>1.2 Please include brief (max. 1 page) descriptions of each firm including year established, size of company, location and overview of experience relevant to the project.</p> <p>1.3 Please include an organogram that identifies the overall lead and day-to-day leads for each firm.</p> <p>1.4 Please include contact details for correspondence.</p> <p>1.5 Please include links to the teams' websites where available.</p>
<p>2 Experience (max. 12 sides A4)</p> <p>2.1 Provide case studies across a maximum number of 12 sides of A4 for the whole team. The lead consultant should include a minimum of three case studies. Please include project name, client, dates and where known, contract value and project construction value. Please outline how these projects demonstrate each firm's approach to environmental, social and economic sustainability.</p>
<p>3 Approach and methodology (max. 10 sides A4)</p> <p>3.1 Please set out a programme for the project including the approximate amount of resource per stage per key team member. Please allow for an inception meeting on site, and then for fortnightly 2-hour project team meetings (which can be held digitally). Please set out how often you would visit the site for engagement and for the final presentation.</p> <p>3.2 Please demonstrate your capacity to deliver the project within the timeframe, your technical expertise and your understanding of the project aims, objectives and outputs.</p> <p>3.3 Please set out your methodology for local area research including examples from other similar projects.</p> <p>3.4 Please set out your methodology for how you would engage with local communities indicating how much time you would spend in the Linear Park area. Please include examples of similar engagement processes.</p> <p>3.5 Please provide examples of the type of presentation material that you anticipate would be appropriate to this project.</p> <p>3.6 Please describe how you would approach the costing for the project given the early stage of design development.</p> <p>3.7 Please outline any project risks</p>
<p>4 Team bios (max. 8 sides A4)</p> <p>4.1 Please provide brief bios for each of the key team members including summaries of professional experience and involvement in similar projects.</p>
<p>5 Resources and expenses</p> <p>5.1 Please include day rates for additional services.</p> <p>5.2 Please include allowances for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expenses related to travel based on the number of trips anticipated• Printing costs for day-to-day work• Communication costs <p>5.3 Reimbursements will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs associated with engagement processes (including printing of presentation materials)• Costs to purchase OS or other maps• Film production costs

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6 Statements (max. 1 side A4)

Please confirm that you have read this document and include any comments.

4.4 Submission Process and Timetable

Timetable	Date
RFP published	1 st February 2022
Deadline for questions	9 th February 2022
Issue of response to questions	14 th February 2022
Deadline for receipt of proposals by email	23rd February 2022, 5.00 pm
Shortlist confirmed and invitations to interviews issued	2 nd March 2022
Interviews	7 th and 8 th March, 2022
Decision	11 th March 2022
Commission start date	21 st March 2022
Commission end date (16 weeks)	30 th June 2022

4.5 Enquiries

Please submit questions by email only. Responses to questions will be anonymised and circulated to all participants.

linearpark@superslowway.org.uk

4.7 Draft contract

Draft Contract will be shared with shortlisted Applicants

4.8 Submission

Please submit:

- A. Response to Questionnaire – single PDF document.
- B. Completed 'General Information' form – PDF or Word file

Please send all files as WeTransfer files to linearpark@superslowway.org.uk

The file names should consist of the lead practice name, e.g. Practice Name_Part A.pdf', 'Practice Name_Part B.xlsx', Practice Name_Part C.pdf'. Please note that the total upload should not exceed 20MB.

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B. General information form Information to be provided by the Lead Consultant organisation	
Name of organisation leading the proposal:	
Address or addresses if more than one location	
If multiple locations, which office will service this project:	
Contact details for queries in connection with this RFP (name, email, telephone)	
Website address	
Date of registration or incorporation	
Company structure (Public or private limited company, Partnership, other)	
Names and locations of the sub-consultants	