

Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project LIFE15/NAT/UK/000786

Invitation to Tender: Viewing Platform Interpretation

Overview of Shropshire Wildlife Trust (the contracting organisation)

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is a charity founded in 1962 and dedicated to the conservation of Shropshire's wildlife species and habitats. The Trust plays an important role in providing information and education for all ages on how to observe, enjoy and protect wildlife. The Trust owns/manages 40 nature reserves throughout Shropshire. Its headquarters is also a visitor centre in Shrewsbury.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is a registered charity number 212744 and a company registered in England and Wales, number 729746. Registered Address 193 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Project Background

The Marches Mosses BogLIFE project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786) is a five year project running from 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2021. The project aims to restore Britain's third largest lowland raised bog within the Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses and Wem Moss NNRs (National Nature Reserve) near Whitchurch, Shropshire and Wrexham in Wales. The LIFE project is led by Natural England working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The multi-million pound project is supported by an EU LIFE grant and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

More information can be found at www.themeresandmosses.co.uk

The partnership will restore lowland raised peatbog and marginal fen habitat but also improve the intellectual and physical access to the mosses. This will involve new facilities and a range of interpretive materials for visitors to the Mosses. This tender invitation is in addition to that for a viewfinder trail along the existing NNR Green Trail and will be followed by further opportunities such as proposed interpretation in a bird hide and other local car parks and facilities.

Tender location

The site lies within the SAC and Ramsar designation of Whixall Moss NNR, next to the Llangollen Canal near the English/ Welsh border on the Quob, west of the Prees branch junction at Roving Bridge. It is located next to Natural England's existing boardwalk and seating area on the Quob between Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses at approximately at SJ 48317 35419. (See **Appendix 1** location plan)

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



The nearest Car Park is at Morris Bridge (a short walk from the viewing platform) which is 5.3 miles north of Wem and 6.5 miles south west of Whitchurch. The postcode for Morris Bridge car park is SY13 2RX.

The planned location can be reached on foot from Morris Bridge Car Park using the tow path and all ability trail. The 'Green Trail' from Morris Bridge also passes close by
<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/NTQ5NTg>

The NNR leaflet can be found here:

https://whitchurch.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/12221-NE_NNR_Fenns_Whixhall_TAG_ENGLISH.pdf

Photographs of the location are found in **Appendix 2**

Specification

The Tender is to design, supply and fix interpretation to the Mammoth Viewing Platform. (See **Appendix 3** for detailed plans of the viewing platform)

The viewing platform, standing at a height of 5m, with an integrated staircase, will enable visitors to enjoy an unrestricted view across the Moss and will be an integral feature in visitor attractions for the area.

We are currently awaiting planning permission for the platform and expect a decision by the end of June 2020. We are issuing this specification now in the hope we can schedule the selected contactor to install the interpretation soon after the platform is constructed, which is expected to be October / November 2020. Please note the installation of the platform may suffer delays due to planning hold ups, ground conditions and Covid-19 restrictions / delays.

Interpretation themes for project activities have been identified:

Main theme

The Mosses may appear to be a massive wild no-man's land but:

- They are home to some wonderful secretive wildlife,
- They reduce the chance of surrounding land and villages being flooded by holding back kilolitres of water,
- Their layers of peat help fight climate change by storing masses of carbon.

Sub-themes

1. The BogLIFE project is working hard to re-wet the Mosses, after a long period of commercial peat cutting and draining, so that they:

- are better for wildlife,
- Hold back more rainwater – slowing the flow
- Store more carbon as the peat is regenerated.

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



2. You too can help by:

- Sticking to the marked trails so as not to disturb the wildlife,
- Keeping your dog on a lead to protect ground nesting birds,
- Using peat free compost in your garden.

3. People have always seen the Mosses as a wild no-man's land on the Wales/England border where:

- Bodies were deposited during prehistoric times
- World War I soldiers practiced their skills and equipment
- A massive decoy (Starfish site) was constructed during World War II
- Commercial peat cutting and processing occurred until around 1990
- a well-known and busy but unsightly and polluting scrapyard operated.

4. These Mosses are now an internationally important peatland. This wide open space is one of the rarest habitats on earth, and is right on your doorstep. You can get up close and intimate to it by:

- Enjoying safe, level walking opportunities on trails, footpaths, canal towpath and bird hide
- Sitting quietly and listening to the pure silence
- Marvelling in awe at the sheer size of the open space (1000 ha)
- Visiting at different times of the year to see the changing wildlife.

5. The Mosses are part of a wider web of sites: the Meres and Mosses – if you enjoy this one you may enjoy others. (See www.themeresandmosses.co.uk for more information)

The platform is seen as key to enabling visitors to appreciate the awe and wonder of the Mosses, the pattern of the landscape left from centuries of peat cutting and the restoration works being undertaken. We anticipate interpretation will be incorporated into the structure that demonstrates the carbon-storing value of peat bogs, how important it is to maintain a healthy, functioning habitat and how long it takes for peat to form. We consider these to be key messages in the current climate crisis. We hope to see proposals for innovative, tactile installations that are accessible to all (in terms of age and ability) and that add to the spirit of a 'destination'.

We are conscious that the staircase reduces accessibility for some. To mitigate for this we have included a periscope which can be accessed at the bottom of the platform.

We are keen for tactile elements to be included so they are inclusive of all visitors and stimulate curiosity through the medium of touch.

The viewing platform has a number of features which could lend themselves to imaginative interpretation. These include, handrails, boardwalks, decking, staircase and balustrades. There may also be opportunity to site free-standing interpretation should this be identified by the successful contractor.

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



We envisage that interpretation could start near to the canal towpath, drawing visitors in and up to the top of the 5m platform.

The viewing platform will be constructed using a combination of recycled plastic and sustainably sourced treated softwood with main support legs constructed from sustainably sourced hardwood. Materials used for interpretation should be durable, inert and sustainable with minimal maintenance implications. The end result should visually complement the viewing platform and the special habitat of the NNR and should not distract from it.

Access to the platform for materials and equipment by the successful contractor will be made via the NNR by agreement with NE project staff.

Costs and Timescales

| Activity | Date / time |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Issue of Contract Notice / availability of ITT documents | 27 th May 2020 |
| Deadline for submission of ITT responses by potential suppliers (Tender Response Deadline) | 9am, 29 th June 2020 |
| Contract offered to winning contractor | 20 th July 2020 |

We have a budget of £10,000 (inclusive of VAT).

Ideally we would be looking for this contract to be fulfilled in autumn 2020.

Tender Response

Shropshire Wildlife Trust exists to protect wildlife for the future; sustainability is at the heart of the Trust's activities. However, we recognise that through our operations we can have an adverse impact on the environment. We will therefore seek to minimise any negative environmental impacts and to achieve continuous improvement in our environmental performance.

We seek tenders that are in keeping with our Environmental Policy. For further information please see our Environmental Policy and our Environmental Sustainability Policy (**Appendix 4 and 5**)

Please supply a response including:

- A covering letter explaining your past experience and suitability for the contract
- Examples of previous work and references
- An overview of your methodology and approach
- Detail of the materials you will use, how you will meet the brief, what practises will support SWT's environmental considerations
- What your availability is for completing the work

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



- Project schedule with milestones
- Total cost (inc. VAT if relevant) with itemised quotation
- On all documents please quote: Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)

Your tender response must remain open for acceptance by SWT for a period of 90 days from the Tender Response Deadline. A tender response not valid for this period may be rejected. The successful supplier will be required to complete an approved contractor's questionnaire before the contract can be let.

Quotes should be returned by email to JanM@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk by 9am on 22nd June 2020.

Criteria

Quotes will be scored against the following criteria to achieve best value:

- Ability to deliver the works (proven track record, relevant past experience and availability) – 50%
- Cost – 45%
- Empathy of the Trust's environmental sustainability policy and environmental procurement policy – 5%

Contact & Further Information

For an informal discussion please contact Michael Clifton on 01691 780733 or by email mickclifton@btinternet.com

Coronavirus Lockdown

Due to Coronavirus restrictions all project staff are currently working from home so we are unable to arrange a site visit to discuss any concepts.

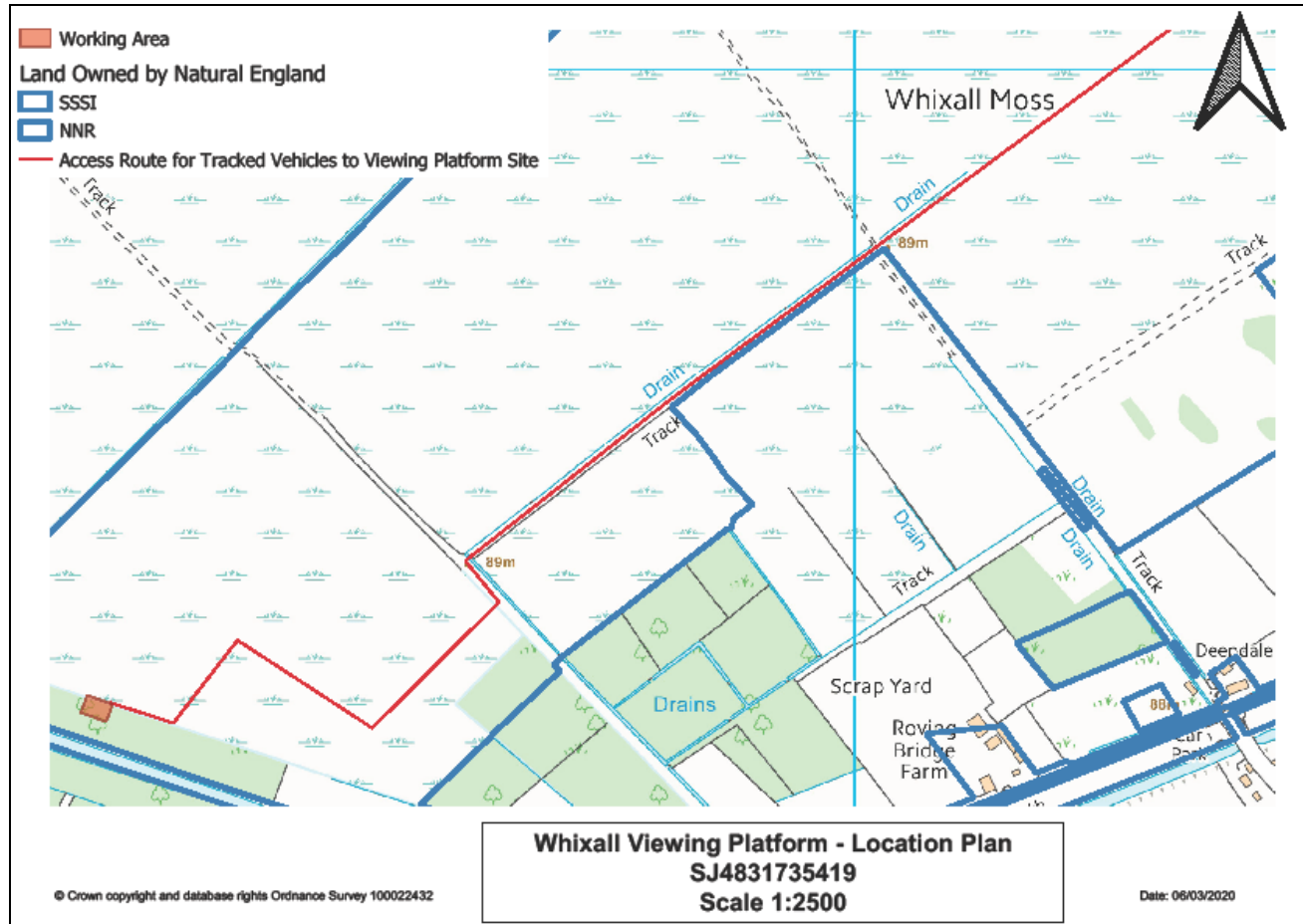
We acknowledge that during the Coronavirus outbreak, contractors may find it difficult to obtain materials or may be experiencing staff shortages. We wish to reassure contractors that we will take this in to account during the tender process and in the successful delivery of the above tender and timescales outlined. If contractors are experiencing difficulties, please contact Michael Clifton on 01691 780733 or email mickclifton@btinternet.com

**On all documents please quote:
Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)**

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



Appendix 1 – Location Plan



Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



Appendix 2 Photographs of location



On towpath looking down the canal just before the turning to the seating area



On towpath looking down the boardwalk towards the moss.



From the seating area looking out over the moss.



From the seating area looking out over the moss.



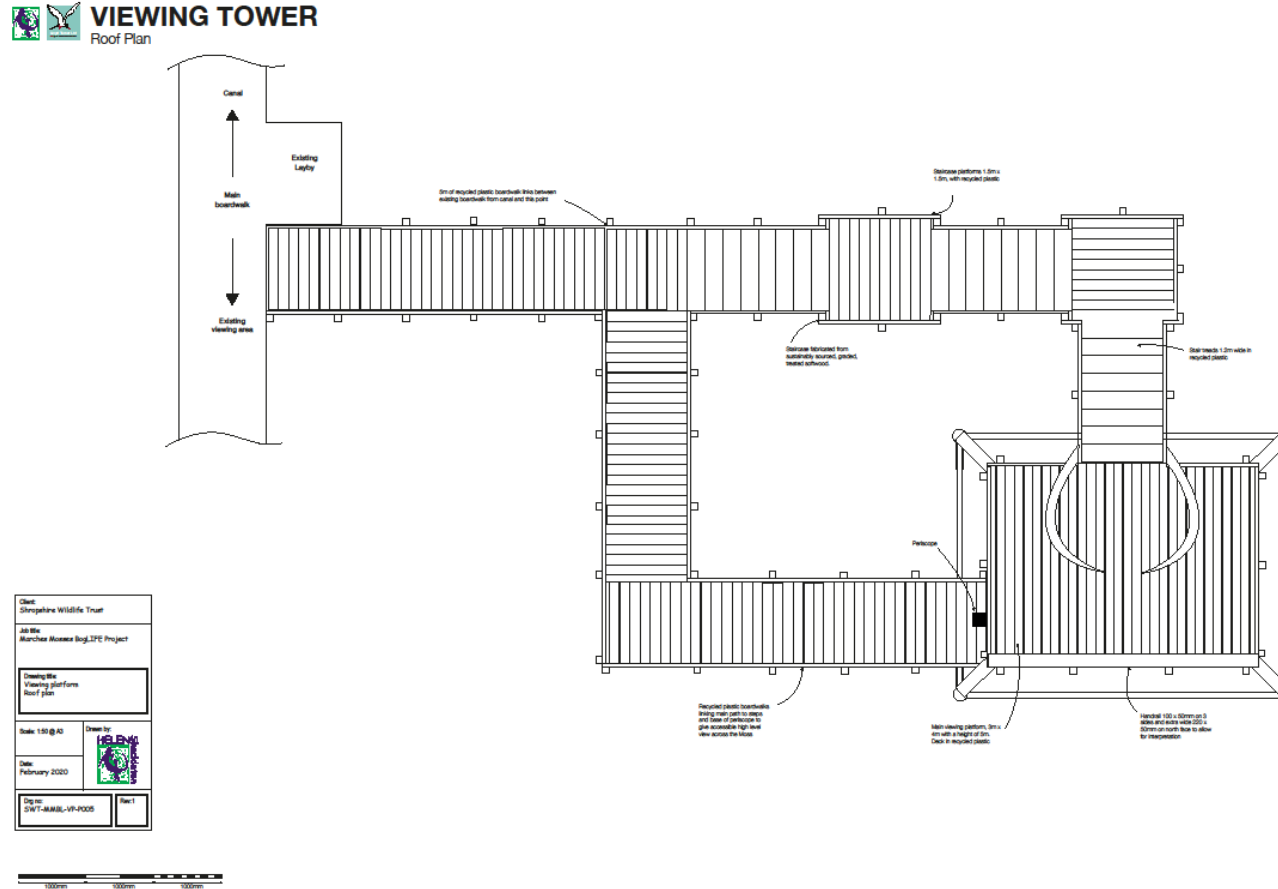
From the seating area looking back towards the canal (showing the area on the right where the viewing platform will be).

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



Shropshire
Wildlife Trust

Appendix 3 Viewing Platform Elevations (Floor Plan, Ground Floor, North, South, East & West)

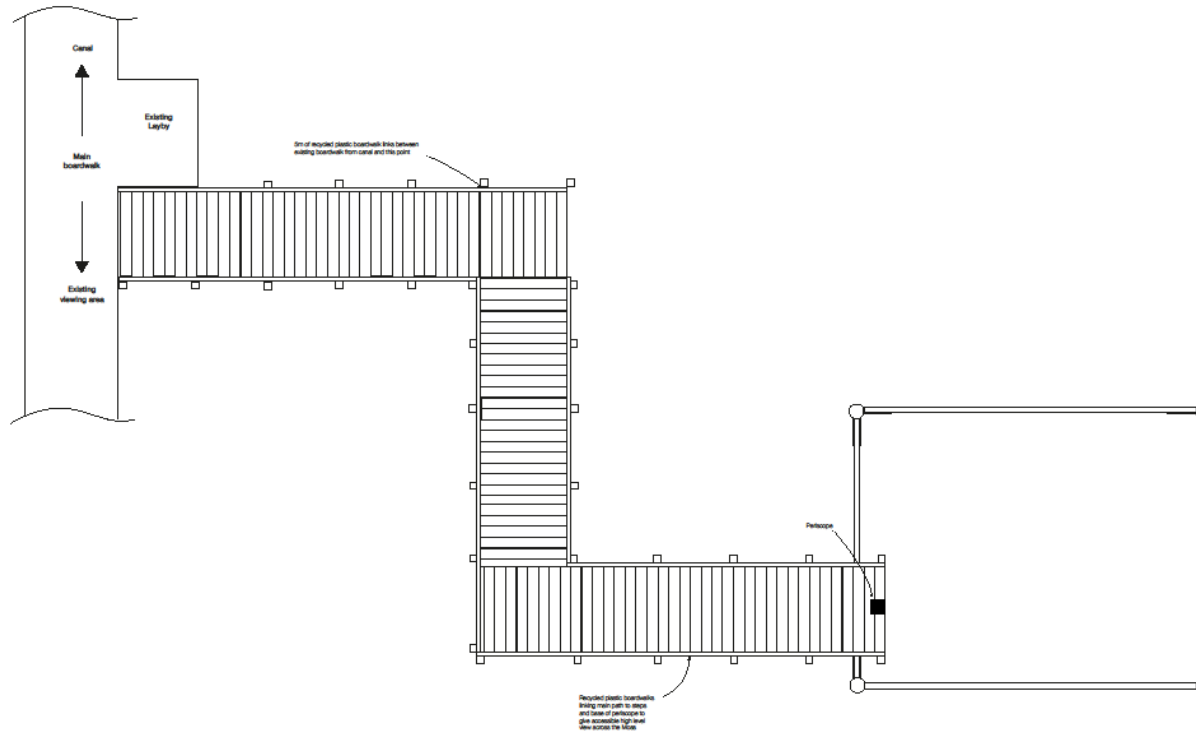


Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)





VIEWING TOWER Ground Plan



| | |
|--|------------------|
| Client: Shropshire Wildlife Trust | |
| Job No: Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project | |
| Drawing No: Viewing platform Ground Plan | |
| Scale: 1:50 @ A3 | Drawn by: |
| Date: February 2020 | Sheet: 1 of 1 |
| Fig No: SWT-AMBL-VF-005 | |



Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



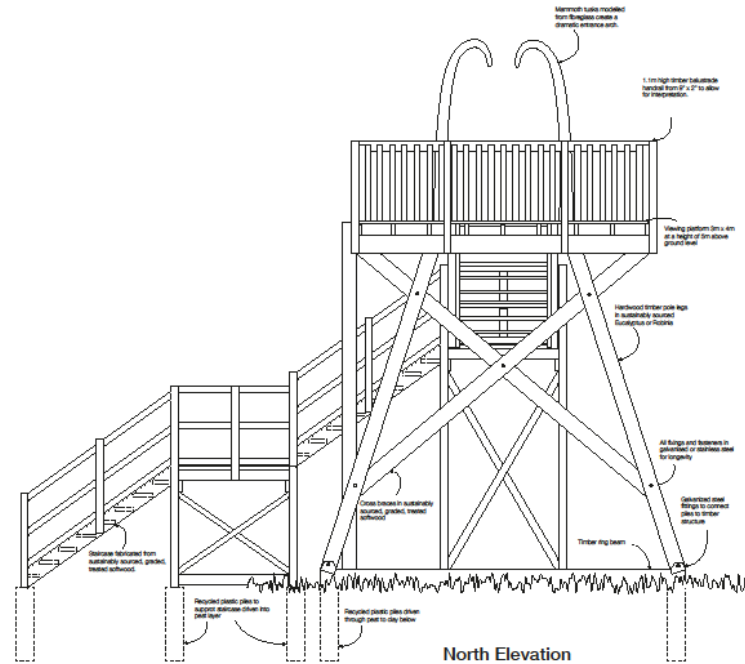


VIEWING TOWER North elevation

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Client Shropshire Wildlife Trust | |
| Job title Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project | |
| Drawing title Viewing platform North elevation | |
| Scale: 1:50 @ A3 | Drawn by |
| Date February 2020 | |
| Obj no: DWT-AMMSE-VP- P001 | Rev 2 |

NOTES

1. Vertical - 1.1m high in substructure plate
2. Viewing platform 5m x 4m decked with recycled
3. Deck - recycled logs in substructure - treated
4. All logs and timbers in ground or against
5. All timbers treated with recycled plastic preservative and staining
6. Structure founded on recycled plastic piles driven
7. All piles are 100mm diameter
8. All dimensions in mm
9. Check for any other drawings and all
10. Check for any other drawings and all
11. Check for any other drawings and all
12. Check for any other drawings and all



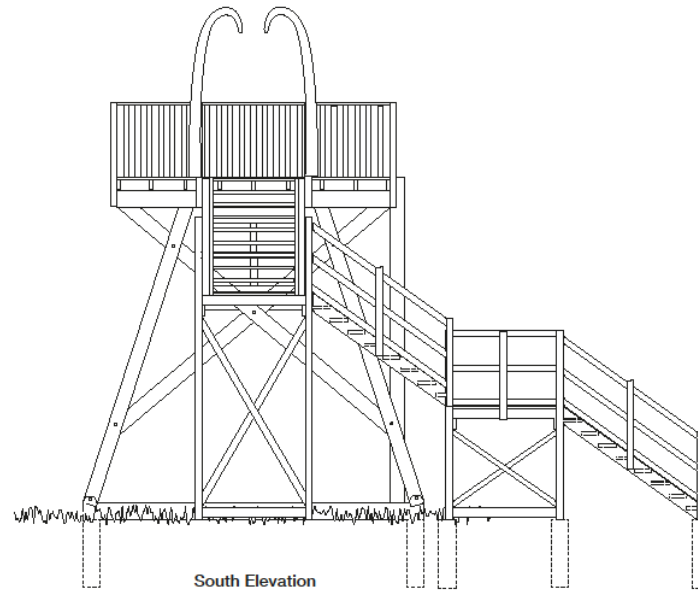
Restoring Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



VIEWING TOWER South elevation

| | |
|--|--|
| Client Shropshire Wildlife Trust | |
| Job No Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project | |
| Drawing No Viewing platform South elevation | |
| Scale 1:50 @ A3 | Drawn by S.W.T. |
| Date February 2020 | Drawn by  |
| Design SWT-AMBL-VN-0022 | Rev 1 |

- NOTES**
1. Overall 4.1m high in total with side
 2. Viewing platform 2m x 4m decked with recycled
 3. Deck supported by 4x4 posts mounted
 4. Constructed on 2x2x2x2 hardwood
 5. All fixtures and fittings to galvanneal or stainless
 6. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm with 1.0mm x 1.0mm platforms
 7. All treated, untreated with recycled plastic mesh
 8. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 9. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 10. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 11. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 12. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 13. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 14. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 15. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 16. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 17. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 18. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 19. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm
 20. 100mm x 100mm x 10mm



Restoring Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



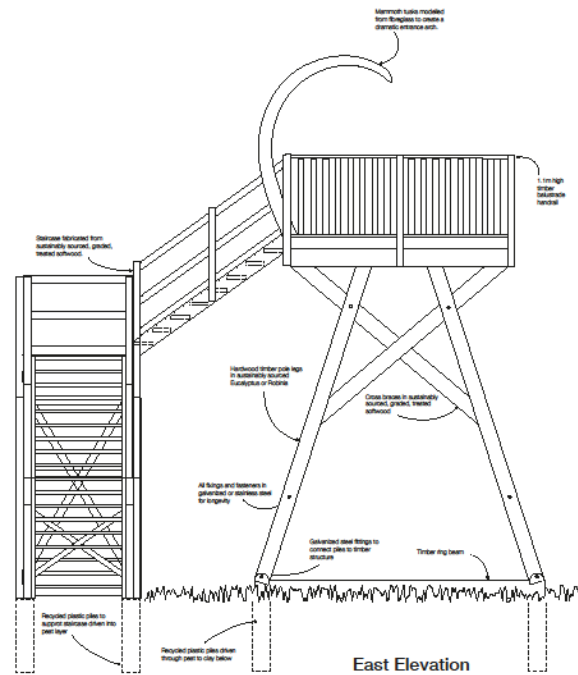


VIEWING TOWER East elevation

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Client Shropshire Wildlife Trust | |
| Job title Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project | |
| Drawing title Viewing platform East elevation | |
| Scale: 1:50 @ A3 | Drawn by: LIFE 15/15 |
| Date: February 2020 | |
| Dwg no: SWT-MARBL-VP-003 | Rev: Rev 2 |

NOTES-

1. Handrail - 1.1m high in subsurface sleep
2. Viewing platform 500 x 600 decked with recycled plastic decking
3. Main support legs in galvanized or stainless steel or hardwood
4. All fittings and fasteners in galvanized or stainless steel or hardwood
5. Decking - 25mm wide with 15mm x 15mm square gaps
6. Decking fasteners in recycled plastic plate down the gaps and only barbed
7. All structure underneath viewing area to be made of recycled plastic plate down the gaps and only barbed
8. Decking to be fixed in conjunction with other tender documents
9. Drawing to be fixed in conjunction with other tender documents
10. To not scale



Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)

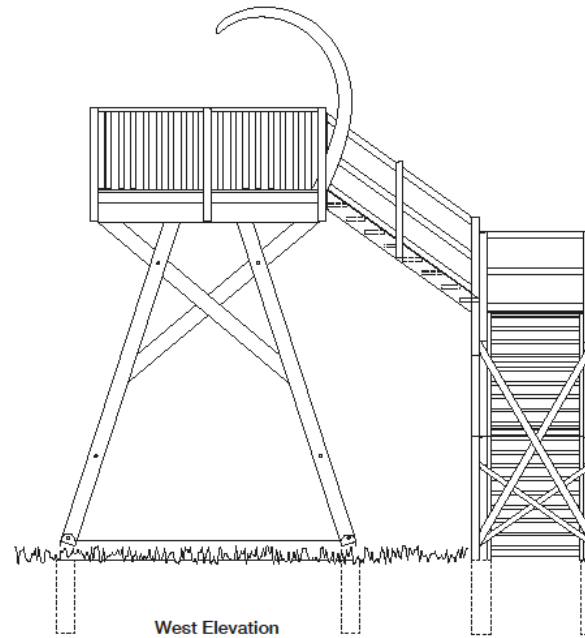




VIEWING TOWER West elevation

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Client: Shropshire Wildlife Trust | |
| Job title: Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project | |
| Drawing title: Viewing platform West elevation | |
| Scale: 1:50 @ A3 | Drawn by: K. J. JONES |
| Date: February 2020 | |
| Dwg no: SWT-RANGE-VF-PO04 | Rev: 2 |

- NOTES:
1. Handrail - 1.1m high in balustrade style
 2. Viewing platform 3m x 4m decked with recycled timber decking
 3. All timber to be naturally seasoned
 4. All structural to be BS1024 hardwood
 5. All joints and fixings to be galvanized or stainless steel for longevity
 6. Structure to be 2.5m wide with 1.5m x 1.5m platforms
 7. All structural, finished with recycled plastic health and safety paint
 8. Structure founded on recycled plastic piles driven into steel and site ground
 9. All timbers from sustainable sources and all materials must be project and tested
 10. All dimensions in mm
 11. Drawings to be read in conjunction with other tender documents
 12. Do not scale



Restoring Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



Appendix 4 – Shropshire Wildlife Trust Environmental Policy

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is committed to the adoption of environmentally responsible policies and practices, linking directly from our Mission Statement objective of protecting wildlife and natural places throughout Shropshire. The Trust is committed to ensuring that any of its activities which have negative environmental impacts are minimised, whilst activities with positive impacts are maximised. At the same time all its policies, processes, procedures and activities will comply fully with all environmental legislation. Specifically, we will:

- Maximise biodiversity benefits within all our activities, promoting the use of native and/or local provenance seed and plants where possible.
- Promote reduction in the consumption of all materials whilst encouraging re-use and recycling wherever possible, particularly with respect to paper.
- Minimise our use of vehicle fuel, by sharing cars and using public transport where possible. We will ensure our fleet is serviced to ensure maximum fuel efficiency.
- Manage energy use in all areas of the business.
- Continually strive to prevent pollution, and minimise waste at all times.
- Purchase equipment/stationery and other materials that are either recycled, use recycled materials or can be recycled by an appropriate method.
- Place more of our business with suppliers who minimise the impact of their activities on the environment, particularly those who operate take-back schemes for office equipment and stationery.
- Promote environmental awareness and responsibilities to all Shropshire Wildlife Trust employees, including volunteers and students.
- Strive to continually improve our environmental performance.

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



Appendix 5 – Shropshire Wildlife Trust Environmental Sustainability Policy

Shropshire Wildlife Trust exists to protect wildlife for the future; sustainability is at the heart of the Trust's activities. However, we recognise that through our operations we have an adverse impact on the environment. We will therefore seek to minimise any negative environmental impacts and to achieve continuous improvement in our environmental performance.

As biodiversity is the core business of the Trust, this is not covered here. This policy covers the wider environmental impacts which the Trust needs to consider.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The Trust will keep abreast of and comply with all environmental legislation.

- *Staff will keep up to date with environmental legislation, integrate changes into policies and procedures and communicate these to staff/volunteers/contractors*
- *We will undertake environmental impact assessments for major projects*

2. EDUCATION & INFORMATION

The Trust will raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff, volunteers and members and encourage the use of best environmental practice by:

- *Communicating the sustainability policy to all existing staff and to all new starters as part of the induction process*
- *Raising awareness of sustainability amongst our members*
- *Acting as an advocate for sustainability when talking to partners*

3. PURCHASING & FINANCE

Sustainability will be an important consideration for the Trust when making decisions regarding the purchase of goods and services. We will:

- *Purchase from/invest in companies that have strong environmental policies and performance and a good record of corporate responsibility*
- *Purchase products which have environmental/sustainability accreditation e.g. FSC timber*
- *Purchase goods which are recycled/recyclable where possible*

4. WASTE

The Trust will identify its waste streams and seek to minimise their environmental impact. We will:

- *Operate according to the 4 Rs – reduce, reuse, repair, recycle*
- *Ensure vehicles, machinery, tools and equipment are regularly maintained to extend lifespan*

5. TRANSPORT

The Trust will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport being used directly or indirectly as a result of Trust operations. We will:

- *Purchase goods and services locally*
- *Promote the use of public transport/bicycle by visitors to our reserves*
- *Investigate fuel efficient/low emission options when sourcing new Trust vehicles*
- *Encourage staff to use public transport to attend training courses, conferences etc*
- *Seek to avoid travel where staff can practically use teleconferencing*

Restoring Marches Mosses Bog LIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



6. ENERGY USE

The Trust will seek to reduce energy use resulting from its operations and to support the use of renewable energy where this does not conflict with the objective of protecting wildlife. We will:

- *Use low energy lighting in Trust offices*
- *Reduce electricity use through e.g. ensuring lights are turned off when offices are not in use, turning off computers, printers etc when not in use*
- *Seek to use an energy supplier with a renewable energy price plan*
- *Ensure that Trust buildings use energy efficiency/renewable energy technology where possible*

7. POLLUTION

The Trust will seek to minimise all forms of pollution resulting from its activities. We will:

- *Buy non-polluting products wherever possible e.g. cleaning products, lubricants*
- *Record and monitor use of pesticides and review policy regularly*
- *Control burning/bonfires on reserves*

8. WATER

The Trust will seek to minimise the use of water in its operations. We will:

- *Ensure any new buildings incorporate e.g. grey water recycling, low flush toilets*
- *Use water-efficient dishwashers and water heaters*

9. BUILDINGS

The Trust will maintain its buildings to a high environmental standard. We will:

- *Ensure they provide a comfortable working environment*
- *Respect and conserve their heritage features*
- *Integrate wildlife opportunities into the management of buildings and their grounds*

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Trust will monitor its environmental performance and undertake regular reviews of the sustainability policy.

- *Monitor the use of electricity and other fuels*
- *Monitor paper use through purchasing system*

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)

