



BRIEF FOR CONSULTANTS

Feasibility study into the viability of woodland eco-burials at Kilfinan Community Forest

Introduction and Background

Kilfinan Community Forest

Kilfinan Community Forest Company (KCFC) is a charitable enterprise formed to work with and for the local community to manage and develop their forest, creating opportunities for a sustainable future for the local economy, recreation and tourism, the environment and education. The principal activity of KCFC is to manage ownership of 127 hectares of Acharossan Forest, in order to deliver a range of benefits to the community of Kilfinan. These benefits include the development of recreational activities, the creation of a valuable educational resource for environmental activities, and the provision of affordable housing opportunities.

**** KCFC recently secured funding from the Scottish Land Fund and approval from the National Forest Land Scheme to buy the remaining upper area of Acharossan forest, which will expand community ownership to 561 ha, once the sale is completed.*

Parish of Kilfinan

Situated on the western side of the Cowal Peninsula, the area covered is the Parish of Kilfinan, designated PA21. The main settlements are traditionally Ardlamont, Millhouse, Kilfinan and Otter Ferry, the villages of Tighnabruaich and Kames being established in the latter part of the 19th century. Retaining a feeling of remoteness, yet within relatively easy reach of large centres of population, this scenic area is a popular visitor destination.

From a high of approximately 3,500 in 1950, in recent years the population of the area has fallen to a current full time population of around 700. The parish is popular with retired people, who now form around 70% of the resident local adult population. Since the 1950s numbers of young families have decreased due to the contracting local jobs market, a decline in local service provision and lack of affordable housing. Over half of the area's private housing is now second homes.

Kilfinan Community Forest Company

Telephone: 01700 811159 email: info@kilfinanforest.com www.kilfinancommunityforest.com

Registered Office: Kilfinan Community Forest, Tighnabruaich, Argyll, PA21 2BD, Scotland.

Company No. SC333208 Charity No. SCO38908



The Brief

The purpose of this work is to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study into the viability of an eco-burials site at Kilfinan Community Forest (KCF), Tighnabruaich, for human and pet burials.

KCFC has looked into the market potential of woodland eco-burials, and having spoken to local funeral directors and the parish Minister, it is apparent that there is a market as local cemeteries are getting full (with councils looking for solutions and even considering reselling graves), with limited options elsewhere. Burials are also very popular in West Cowal, and this alternative approach is gaining traction, with projects being established all over the UK. As people become more environmentally aware, this kind of option becomes increasingly attractive.

This feasibility study would seek to identify suitable eco-burial sites within Kilfinan Community Forest, investigating topological requirements, such as water depth, spectacular view, distance from watercourses and ease of access. The feasibility study would also delve further into the market potential, as well as identify possible risk factors and further key considerations, and financial modelling (particularly start-up costs if the suitable site(s) is identified).

Requirements

In conducting the feasibility study, the consultant would agree to:

- Have an initial meeting with KCFC to discuss key outcomes, timescales, and a suitable structure for the study.
- Schedule appropriate site visits to KCFC to undertake ground surveying work.
- Undertake all necessary market research to inform the study, and ascertain local support for the project.
- Propose/ recommend possible funding scenarios for the eventual project.
- Produce the final report to a pre-agreed format and deadline, including the production of two bound copies and an electronic version of the study.

Methodology

It is expected that this work will include both desk and field-based research, with the consultant working remotely whilst making site visits to KCFC and potentially other projects, for the purpose of market research. Costs travelling to and from agreed destinations will be covered as part of the consultancy budget.

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Timetable

It is anticipated that this work will take around four weeks, starting on or around 1st March 2015 (we can be flexible on the starting date).

Costs

The fee for the feasibility study will be £2,500, with a separate budget of £700 to cover travel and market research costs. Full payment will be received on completion of the study.

**** Please note this work is funded by Big Lottery's Investing In Ideas fund.*

Reporting

The consultant will provide weekly update reports to KCFC's development manager, Nikki Brown (nikki@kilfinancommunityforest.com / 01700 811159), who will provide support and assistance where needed. The consultant is expected to contact Nikki at the start of the study, throughout and on submission of the draft report, for any clarification.

Proposal to Tender

KCFC will require consultants to offer a proposal as to how they intend to approach this work by **26th February 2015**.

The consultant's proposal for this study should include details of:

- Relevant experience and competency possessed by the consultant and any other personnel who will work on the project
- The methodology to be used in the study
- Full costs and expenses
- A study timetable
- References to similar work undertaken

Please submit your proposal to:

Nikki Brown – nikki@kilfinancommunityforest.com / Kilfinan Community Forest, Tighnabruaich, Argyll, PA21 2BD.

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