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LIFE17NAT/UK/000020 – Celtic Rainforests LIFE

Rhododendron ponticum control- Allt Friog / Bryn Merllyn, Coed y Brenin, Ganllwyd

Snowdonia National Park Authority wish to control *Rhododendron ponticum* present on an area of land known as Allt Friog / Bryn Merllyn, Coed y Brenin, Ganllwyd (see-enclosed maps). You are invited to submit separate quotes for the work of eradicating *Rhododendron ponticum* in each of the parcels as detailed below. Each parcel requires three phases of work that should be included in the quote:

Phase 1 – To eradicate the *Rhododendron* using an appropriate method. Any stacking of *Rhododendron* must be tidy and at least 3 m either side of trails – **work to be completed by 31st October 2022.**

Phase 2 – Stem treatment, foliar spray and hand weeding of any re-growth or missed plants – **work to be completed by 31st March 2024.**

Phase 3 – Stem treatment, foliar spray and hand weeding of any re-growth or missed plants – **work to be completed no later than 31st May 2025.**

All operations will follow the guidelines “*Recommended Methods and Practice for Controlling Rhododendron SNPA*” (Annex 1)

Access and Location

Follow the A470 south through Ganllwyd before turning left at Ty’n y Groes in the direction of Llanfachreth. After crossing a bridge, there is a convenient carpark for parcels A, B and C. From the car park, you will need to walk circa 800m along the forestry track to reach the parcels.

The other parcels can be accessed by following the road to Hermon, and turning left along the forestry track to the site circled in red on the enclosed map; vehicles can be parked along these, provided that lorries, forestry machinery or the public are not restricted.

Site information

Allt Friog / Bryn Merllyn is a wooded hill managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). *Rhododendron* is found across the whole site, with some scattered areas and other more dense areas, especially on Allt Friog. Due to the size of the site and the density of *Rhododendron*, the site has been split into two individual parcels (A - B). Parts of parcels A and B include some steep or rocky sections where you may wish to use rope access. I would be happy to meet you on the site to discuss the work. Additionally, the boundaries for each parcel, as well as suitable parking locations and vehicle access roads are displayed on the enclosed maps.



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There are a number of walking and mountain bike trails in the area (see enclosed constraints map), therefore **high visibility clothing must be worn at all times, signage must be displayed to warn the public. Banksmen must be used when working alongside mountain bike trails (see enclosed map).** Work on the site during peak visitor times (weekends and school holidays) should be avoided where possible.

I have enclosed maps of the site for reference, please remember the area size (in hectares) for each parcel is based on a two dimensional measurement, there will be a difference in actual size depending on the slope and gradient of the parcel.

Size of each Parcel and Rhododendron cover (approx)

Parcel A – area 15.8 ha.

Parcel B – area 8.8 ha.

Please remember the area size (in hectares) for each parcel is based on a two dimensional measurement, there will be a difference in actual size depending on the slope and gradient of the parcel.

Biosecurity

You should carry out biosecurity measures on the site. You should disinfect any equipment used on site including personal protection gear and footwear. This cost should be included in your price.

Quotes

Please give your separate quotes for each Parcel in the table on page 12. Quotes should be returned to the address below **before 12:00 (mid-day) 22nd July 2022**. Can you note in the table if the quote includes VAT. All quotes should include the cost of any necessary welfare facilities in the quote. In addition, you will need to fill in a Welfare Assessment Form as part of the tender (see Annex II).

Payment

Payments will be made on submission of an invoice after each successful treatment phase and a submission of a Pesticide Record Sheet if applicable. Each phase of work will need to have a success rate of 95% kill rate. Failure to reach 95% success rate may result in payments withheld.

Successful awardees will need to provide documentation on the following:

- Risk assessment, including bio-security measures.



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- Methods statement.
- NPTC chainsaw certificate, chemical spraying certificates, and if applicable, relevant certificates in the use of ropes.
- First Aid + Forestry certificate.
- Public liability Insurance of up to £5 million.
- Employers liability Insurance.

Ensure all the above are provided when returning the tender, unless it is already on record at SNPA. If the information is already on record, please state so. If you consent for the above information to be shared with NRW, please tick the box in the GDPR statement on page 12.

Tenders will be scored independently by a panel consisting of three members of staff associated with the LIFE Celtic Rainforests project using the scoring matrix and quality criteria as shown in Figures 1 and 2 (below).

All tenders should be sent in an envelope labelled 'Confidential' and addressed as follows:

Tender – *Rhododendron ponticum* Management Allt Friog / Bryn Merllyn
Director of Corporate Services
Snowdonia National Park Authority
National Park Offices
Penrhyndeudraeth
Gwynedd
LL48 6LF

Should you wish to discuss any aspects of the work further, please do not hesitate to contact Gethin Davies on 01766 772 255 or 07920 360602, or by e-mailing gethin.davies@eryri.llyw.cymru.

Yours sincerely,

Gethin Davies
Snowdonia National Park Authority

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Proposed fee	75%
Ability to demonstrate previous experience of <i>Rhododendron</i> management in the uplands of/or similar to North West Wales	10%
Quality of paperwork (risk assessment including biosecurity measures, method statement, relevant certificates, public liability insurance and employers liability insurance).	10%



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Reference(s) - minimum of one expected	5%
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Figure 1. Scoring matrix for LIFE Rhododendron management contract



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Scoring - Quality Criteria (Min Threshold = 3)			
Capability	Evidence Provided	Score	Remark
Bidder is likely to be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	Evidence is consistent, comprehensive, compelling, directly relevant to the project in all respects and highly credible (by being substantiated by independent sources where possible.)	5	Absolute confidence
	Evidence is sufficient (in qualitative terms), convincing, and credible.	4	Confidence
Small risk that bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	Evidence has minor gaps, or to a small extent is unconvincing, lacks credibility or irrelevant to the project.	3	Minor concerns
Moderate risk that the bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority	Evidence has moderate gaps, is unconvincing.	2	Moderate concerns
Significant risk that the bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	Evidence has major gaps, is unconvincing in many respects, lacks credibility, or largely irrelevant to the project.	1	Major concerns
Bidder will not be able to meet the needs of the Authority.	No evidence or misleading evidence.	0	Not acceptable

Scoring - Tender Price	
Tender Price	Score
Lowest Tender (L)	100
Nth Lowest Tender (Ln)	$L/L_n \times 100$

Figure 2. Scoring Quality Criteria for LIFE Rhododendron management contract



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	Phase 1 (	Phase 2	Phase 3	TOTAL (note if the price includes VAT or not)
Parcel A				
Parcel B				

Name:

Sign:

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Your data will be kept secure and we will only contact you in relation to the Celtic Rainforests Wales LIFE project. We need to share your details with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for the purposes of this project. You can opt-out at any time. For more information on how we collect, store and handle your personal data, please look at our Privacy Statement available on our website

www.eryri.llyw.cymru.

☐ I am happy to be contacted by Celtic Rainforests Wales

☐ I am happy for my details to be passed on to NRW



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Annex 1.

Recommended Methods and Practice for Controlling Rhododendron Snowdonia National Park Authority (2008) (v 7.5)

The eradication of rhododendron from a site can rarely be achieved by a single operation. It generally requires a combination of methods, with operations spread over several years. The approach chosen will depend on the types of bushes present, their density and other factors including the conservation interest of the site, land use and safety.

It is essential that work is carried out in a thorough and methodical way. This is the key to success.

The main methods currently in use are listed in the table below, followed by further details of recommended practice.

Method		Suitability	Season
A	Hand weeding	Ideal for small plants (60cm or less) and seedlings especially where there are few competing root growths	Any time of year. Late Winter /early Spring is the optimal time especially where dense undergrowth or bracken may conceal small plants
B	Herbicide Spray	As all foliage must be treated, bushes should not exceed 150cm height and 200cm diameter and should have all round access.	March –October is optimal. Spraying outside this season is only effective if the plants are actively growing. Appropriate weather conditions for spraying are less likely to occur in the winter
C1	Manual Cutting (cut material burnt or chipped)	Bushes over 130cm height and/or 150cm diameter <i>As methods C1 and C2, are followed one season later by Method B, an allowance must be made for growth in this period thus 130cm rather than 150 cm height is specified</i>	Any time of year
C2	Manual Cutting (cut material stacked)	Bushes over 130cm This method is preferable to C1, where the level infestation is light or where it impractical or too damaging to burn or chip cut material	Any time of year



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D	Stump treatment	All established bushes.	More effective October-March
E	Stem Treatment	A highly effective method especially for large few-stemmed bushes with stems of 3cm or more diameter. Can be followed by method C1, C2 where necessary	Any time of year March- October is optimal
F	Mechanised Flailing	Large-scale dense infestations	Any time of year (Avoid March -June where nesting birds are present)

Method Details:

1. Hand Weeding (Method A)

1.1 Uprooted plants should either be collected and disposed of safely, or have all the soil knocked off their roots and left in a stable position off the ground to dry out. Uprooted plants will re-root unless these precautions are taken

1.2 A methodical approach to searching for plants is essential. e.g. using spaced markers or strings or rows of workers at 10m intervals

2 Herbicide Spray (Method B)

2.1 This method is not suitable for bushes that are in excess of 150cm height or 200cm diameter, or that do not have all round access.

2.2 To be effective, foliar spray needs to be applied to every leaf. Special care is required, especially with regrowth that smaller weaker shoots and those growing from the base of the stump, both of which tend to be hidden by stronger growths are also sprayed.

2.3 Unless otherwise agreed, application of herbicide will be by one of two methods: knapsack sprayers or CDA applicator:

Knapsack spraying

2.4.1 Herbicide should be applied to every leaf to the point of foliar wetness (i.e. the point just before run-off).

2.4.2 The active ingredient will be glyphosate (unless otherwise agreed). Most formulations for professional use (e.g. Round-Up Biactive) contain 360g/l of glyphosate or 450g/l of glyphosate. 360g/litre formulations should be made up to a 2% solution (1 part concentrate to 50 parts water: *equivalent to 300ml per 15L tank*). 450g/litre formulations should be made up to 1.6% (1 part concentrate to 62 parts water, *equivalent to 180ml per 15L tank*)

2.4.3 In addition, 2% Mixture B should be added to increase the speed of absorption

2.4.4. The knapsack spray nozzle should be of hollow cone type to give accurate application



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2.4.5 Thorough mixing of glyphosate and water is essential. It takes at least 2 minutes of thorough agitation to mix the “oily” concentrate with the water.

2.4.6. Near to water courses the spray solution must not contain Mixture B. Instead the solution concentration should be increased to 2.5% (360g/L glyphosate). Use of a top quality glyphosate-based product containing superior adjuvant is advised.

2.4.7 A strong blue or red dye should be added to the herbicide solution

2.4.8 The herbicide solution should be mixed for the day of use only. Any residues should be disposed of safely.

2.5 CDA applicators

2.5.1 Care should be taken to calibrate the dosage to ensure that herbicide is applied at the correct rate. (normally 10l/ha)

2.5.2 The active ingredient should be glyphosate (unless otherwise agreed)

2.5.3 CDA application is not generally suitable for use near watercourses.

2.6 Spraying should only take place in dry weather conditions and when rain is not forecast (minimum 6hrs for knapsack application with Mixture B is used, 12 hours without), 2 hours for CDA.

2.7 Spraying should not be undertaken when wind speeds are such as to cause spray drift.

2.9 Spraying in hot sunny conditions should be avoided as the droplets can evaporate before penetrating the leaf

2.10 Spraying in cold conditions (<7 degrees C) is also best avoided

2.11 No species other than *Rhododendron ponticum* will be sprayed. (Native vegetation such as bilberry and heather can take many years to recover from spray damage, and young trees are easily killed)

2.12 Where regrowth from cut stems is being treated, the optimum height for spraying is about 50cm.

3 Manual cutting (Methods C1 and C2)

3.1 All growth should be cut flush with and as near as ground level as possible. In no case should any stump exceed 10cm (but see 4.5)

3.2 Where possible any layered stems should be detached.

3.3 Unless otherwise specified/agreed no species other than rhododendron will be cut

3.4 Cutting during the main bird nesting season (March-June) should be avoided for preference. If work in this period is unavoidable, a full survey of the area to be worked should be carried out each day. Any nests discovered must not be disturbed until nestlings have fledged even this means postponing work over significant area

3.5 Burning

3.5.1 Burning should only take place under safe weather conditions –if in doubt consult Fire Brigade.

3.5.2 The local Fire Brigade should be informed of days when burning is intended in order to avoid unnecessary callouts.

3.5.3 The edge of any bonfire must be at least 10m from any tree stem or mossy rock outcrops.

3.5.4 No more than 10 cubic metres of cut material should be burnt within any 24-hour period.



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3.6.5 Artificial means of starting fires such as old tyres and engine oil will not be used.

3.5.6 Before leaving the site, fires will be banked or dowsed

3.6 Stacking

3.6.1 No stacks should be built within 5m of public footpaths, tracks, roads or watercourses or where they could interfere with maintenance of man-made structures (walls, fences etc), or where material could subsequently slip down onto roads, watercourses, paths etc. .

3.6.2 Cut material should be stacked neatly and safely. It is likely that large branches will have to be reduced in size (to less than 2m length) before stacking. If this method is used where the density of bushes is high, there can be considerable work involved in cutting up and stacking.

3.6.3 Stacked material must not cover or impede future access to cut stumps.

4. Stump Treatment (Method D)

4.1 The herbicide to be used is glyphosate unless otherwise agreed.

4.2 The herbicide solution should contain 72gm/L of active ingredient. For 360gm/L formulations of glyphosate this equates 1 part herbicide to 4 parts water (200ml + 800ml). For 450gm/L formulations this equates to 1 part herbicide to 6 parts (150ml+ 850ml) water. The herbicide solution and should also contain a strong dye that stains the treated stump.

4.3 The herbicide should be applied to the cut ends of all stumps within 1 hour of cutting.

4.4 Treatment should not place in wet weather or when rain is forecast in the following 6 hours.

4.5 If weather or other conditions do not allow immediate stump treatment, the stump should be recut prior to treatment when conditions are suitable.

4.6 The effectiveness of this treatment is improved by making a well (with drill or saw tip) for the herbicide and by increasing the area of exposed cambium (layer next to the bark).

4.7 Stumps should be cut as low as possible

5 Stem treatments (Method E)

5.1 A battery drill (plus several spare batteries) is probably the best tool for the work. Drill downward sloping at the base of every stem. For larger stems, more than one hole is required: Holes should be drilled around the circumference at 10cm (4") intervals. A 12mm bit is practical for large stems but for small stems an 8mm is more suitable. The holes should be sufficiently deep to take 2ml of herbicide solution (30mm for a 10mm bit, 20mm depth for 12mm bit, 10mm depth for 16mm diameter bit).

5.2 Each hole should be filled using a suitable applicator (such as a spot gun or veterinary injector) taking care not cause spillage. The herbicide to be used is as described in 4.2 above.

5.3 A hatchet or billhook can also be used to create a flap of bark of contain the herbicide solution. The "well" needs to be big enough to contain the herbicide.

5.4 The herbicide solution should be mixed for the day of use only. Any residues should be disposed of safely.

5.5 All layered stems should be detached from parent plant and treated as in 1.1.

5.6 A methodical approach is essential. All treated plants should be marked with spray paint or by snapping foliage to allow identification of treated plants.



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Safe working

- A. For all operations involving herbicide and use of power tools, work should only be carried out by operators with appropriate qualifications and personal protective clothing
- B. Permission for use of herbicides must be obtained from the Environment Agency before the use of herbicides near water courses.
- C. Care must taken to avoid contamination of water supplies by herbicide.



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