Wilder Connections
LEGACY DEVELOPMENT

PROCUREMENT BRIEF

Doddington Hall Conservation Charity is inviting quotes from experienced consultants to help shape a sustainable legacy for Wilder Connections, building on the achievements of the ambitious nature recovery and community engagement work at Wilder Doddington.

CLIENT:	**Doddington Hall Conservation Charity (DHCC)** Doddington Hall & Gardens Main Street, Doddington, Lincoln LN6 4RU
CONTACT:	Claire Birch – clairebirch@doddingtonhall.com 01522 683537 / 07900 555368
POTENTIAL BUDGET:	Approximately £35,000 (exclusive of VAT)
RETURN OF QUOTE:	David Wright – david@doddingtonhall.com
DEADLINE:	5 December 2026

Purpose of this Document

Quotes are currently invited from suppliers for a specialist consultant to support the Legacy Development of Wilder Connections, a community and nature project mostly funded through a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The deadline for quotes is close of business on 5 December 2026. Any questions relating to the proposed services or the quote process should be directed to the Doddington Hall Conservation Charity's Project Manager by email, david@doddingtonhall.com, by 27 November 2026.

The potential budget for this work is approximately £35,000, exclusive of VAT, and we would expect those quoting to work within this budget and provide a breakdown of their costs.

Overview

Doddington is a 770-hectare (1,900-acre) privately owned historic estate in Lincolnshire, centred around an Elizabethan Hall. Farming on the estate had become increasingly challenging, particularly on marginal land, and in 2021 Doddington ended arable farming and launched Wilder Doddington, an ambitious 400-year vision for nature recovery. Wilder Doddington is now the largest rewilding site in the East Midlands.

The funded Wilder Connections project forms an important part of this work, seeking to enhance ecological outcomes while unlocking the social and economic benefits of nature recovery.

DODDINGTON HALL CONSERVATION CHARITY

Made possible with Heritage Fund

The Wilder Connections project aims to establish Doddington as:

- A biodiversity-rich hub, with all 770 hectares in Nature Recovery
- A pioneer in people-powered Nature Recovery
- A place where Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging are embedded
- A community-focused organisation, supporting diverse local communities to reconnect with nature and develop wellbeing, skills and employability
- An exemplar facility, including the Wild House, outdoor classrooms and trails
- A place that people value as somewhere to work, visit and live
- A sector leader that inspires others through sustainable working models
- A trailblazer for private investment in natural heritage and placemaking
- A hub within a wider nature network and nature-friendly farming landscape across the Upper Witham Catchment

Wilder Connections includes capital investment, an extensive programme of community, education, volunteering and learning activity, partnership development, communications, monitoring and evaluation, and work to develop the project's long-term legacy.

The project has created, and is continuing to develop, significant assets and opportunities, including the Wild House, new facilities and trails, staff expertise, volunteer networks, community relationships, partnerships, ecological approaches and a growing programme of activity.

Having established its outdoor learning and education offer to mainstream schools, SEN groups and Alternative Provision, the project now needs to upscale its existing visitor experiences alongside additional income-generating activities. Such activities will contribute towards the direct costs of activity delivery and staffing, making effective use of assets and facilities. Additionally, the charity is seeking to develop partnerships and identify opportunities to increase efficiency and build organisational capacity.

The original project plans identified a range of potential approaches, including increased activity levels, external use of the Wild House, corporate engagement, learning and educational activity, community partnerships, nature-based experiences and corporate opportunities (some linked to associated broader estate activities), fundraising and partnership investment.

The project is now at a point where these opportunities need to be refined, prioritised, tested and developed into a practical, ethical and economically sustainable model for delivery beyond the funded period (ending March 2028).

The Brief

Doddington is seeking an experienced consultant to provide Legacy Development Support for Wilder Connections. The consultant will work directly with the Wilder Connections Project Manager, Wilder Doddington's Director and a newly created post of Legacy Development Officer.

The purpose of the commission is to work with the Doddington Hall Conservation Charity to:

- Review and understand the project's assets, activities, audiences, partnerships and resources
- Review existing audiences and identify new audiences for existing and proposed activities
- Consider how different activities and income streams would contribute to the project's financial, social and environmental objectives
- Assess the potential for these activities to be economically sustainable and developable
- Identify practical opportunities for testing and development during the remaining project period
- Support Doddington to test selected opportunities and learn from the results
- Support the development of a practical legacy model and implementation plan for the period beyond the Heritage Fund project
- Produce a five-year Business Plan for the charity addressing both revenue and capital income and expenditure

The successful consultant will need to balance economic viability with Doddington's charitable, environmental and community objectives and should, where possible, help sustain wider access, community activity and nature recovery.

Scope of work

The work is expected to cover the following areas:

A. Review and Baselining

Review relevant project documentation, existing legacy planning, monitoring and evaluation findings, financial information and current delivery arrangements to understand the project's achievements, assets, activities, partnerships and future sustainability challenges.

Engage with relevant Doddington staff and partners to understand the current position, emerging opportunities and priorities for the future.

B. External research and benchmarking

Research relevant organisations and approaches to identify revenue-generating activities and other funding mechanisms, including partnerships, sponsorship and direct funding mechanisms. Identify relevant learning and potential approaches for Doddington to consider.

C. Opportunity development and appraisal

Work with Doddington to identify and assess opportunities, taking account of existing and new activities, assets, partnerships, income streams, marketing and approaches to delivery.

The appraisal should take account of financial viability, practical deliverability, resource requirements, risks and longer-term sustainability.

D. Development and testing

Support Doddington to select and develop priority opportunities for further investigation and, where appropriate, practical testing during the remaining project period.

The consultant will work with Doddington to agree the appropriate scope of this activity, taking account of available time, resources and opportunities to generate useful evidence to inform future decisions.

E. Legacy and implementation planning

Develop a practical legacy and sustainability plan setting out how Doddington can maintain and develop the project's assets, activities, relationships and outcomes beyond the funded period.

The plan should identify priorities, responsibilities, resource requirements, financial considerations, risks and key actions for implementation, including immediate priorities and longer-term development.

F. Five-Year Business Plan

Working with the Wilder Connections project team, produce a five-year business plan that reflects the existing business operation and the impact of the Legacy Plan and conclusions reached. The Business Plan should address both financial and physical resources required for the operation, management, marketing and delivery of the Plan. The Plan should include analysis and reasoning behind the Plan, along with five years' financial forecasts and an assessment of risk over the Plan period.

Expected outputs

The commission is expected to result in the following outputs:

- **Sustainability assessment** – An evidence-based assessment of the project's current position, key assets and opportunities, and the challenges and requirements for sustaining its outcomes beyond the funded period.
- **Options and recommendations** – A considered set of options for future development and delivery, with clear recommendations on priorities and their financial, organisational and practical implications.
- **Legacy and implementation plan** – A practical plan setting out priorities, responsibilities, resources, timescales and next steps to support implementation.
- **Business Plan**

The consultant should propose an appropriate approach to delivering these outputs, including any interim deliverables or supporting analysis needed. The final outputs should be practical, proportionate and suitable for informing Doddington's decisions about the project's future.

Working arrangements

The successful consultant will work closely with the Doddington project team and relevant colleagues across the wider estate.

Doddington will provide access to relevant project documentation, data and staff and will facilitate introductions to relevant partners and stakeholders.

The consultant is expected to:

- Lead the strategic development of the work
- Work closely with Doddington's Legacy Development Officer
- Bring appropriate external knowledge and experience
- Facilitate workshops and discussions as required
- Provide constructive challenge to existing assumptions

- Work collaboratively with Doddington staff
- Ensure that recommendations are practical and deliverable
- Identify where specialist expertise is required
- Support learning and adaptation throughout the process

Doddington will retain responsibility for organisational decisions, procurement, contracts, operational delivery and implementation unless otherwise agreed.

Where specialist external expertise or delivery support is required, the consultant may be asked to advise on the specification and selection of that support.

Special considerations

All outputs arising from this contract will be the intellectual property of the Charity and may be used by any Project Partners, organisations or funders associated with the Wilder Connections project.

How to quote

You are invited to submit a quote proposal for the services requested and outlined above.

Quotes should include the following:

- A short summary statement of your understanding of the services required
- Work within the budget to advise on a scope of services consistent with those outlined in this document
- An outline timetable for completing the required work, including milestone dates
- A short CV (no more than two pages) for the individual leading the commission, including relevant experience on projects of this nature
- Provide two relevant examples from the last three years of your organisation undertaking similar projects (no more than one page per example)
- Fee proposal. Please make sure this is broken down so that it is clear what the requested services cost. All fees should be inclusive of normal disbursements and expenses but exclusive of VAT.

Key dates

- Request for quotations issued: 16 November 2026
- Deadline for queries: 27 November 2026
- Deadline for quotations: Close of business on 5 December 2026
- Notification of outcome: By 12 December 2026

For queries about the project or to submit a quotation, please email David Wright, Wilder Connections Project Manager: david@doddingtonhall.com

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