

Request for Quotes: Pond Dipping Platform Construction

1. Project Overview

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is seeking a qualified contractor to design, supply, and install a safe, durable, and accessible **pond dipping platform** at Wood Lane Nature Reserve to support outdoor learning and ecological engagement. Ideally constructed using Marmax recycled plastic materials, the platform will provide improved access for education groups while protecting the natural habitat.

2. Project Objectives

- Create a safe, inclusive platform for pond dipping activities.
- Improve access to the pond while preserving surrounding habitat.
- Ensure the structure is built from environmentally sustainable, recycled materials, specifically Marmax where feasible.
- Deliver a long-lasting, low-maintenance solution suitable for educational use.

3. Site Description

3.1 Location

- **Site address/description: Wood Lane Nature Reserve, Ellesmere, Shropshire.**
Take the Colemere road at Spunhill Crossroads just south of Ellesmere. Continue along the lane for approx ¾ mile until you see the reserve car park entrance on your right. (note this is the second entrance - access through the first gate is only available for prebooked visits)

3.2 Wood Lane Maps



3.3 Existing Pond Area:



- Natural pond with established vegetation and wildlife.
- Small part of a larger pool sectioned off with fish netting.
- Uneven, soft edges.
- Access currently via wide gravel track (vehicle access can be arranged almost right up to the work area) final approach is over firm grass.
- The work site is within a publicly accessible area used regularly by anglers (potentially using pools close to the work site). The site is not secure and no tools or materials should be left out overnight.

4. Scope of Works

4.1 Platform Specification:

- 2m width across pond edge x (at least) 1.5m depth onto land. Water depth is approximately 0.5m
- Does not need to extend far into the pond, can finish at the existing edge, but the edge is uneven so will need to take this into account.
- Expected use at one time is one adult (supervising) and up to three children (dipping) on knees.
- Ideally level with or only slightly raised above the existing ground to allow step-free, ramped access.
- Construction primarily using Marmax recycled plastic components, or similar environmentally friendly materials.
- Anti-slip surfacing.
- Appropriate edging for child safety. The barrier at the front edge should be approximately 200mm and the platform sides should be higher.

4.2 Construction & Installation

- Use of Marmax recycled plastic or similar.
- Foundations appropriate for soft/variable pond margins.
- Minimal habitat disturbance.
- All materials to be delivered and waste removed responsibly.

5. Deliverables

- Design drawings and visuals (including 'as built' diagram on completion).
- Overview of previous experience.
- Programme for works.
- Full cost breakdown, including whether VAT is applicable.
- Availability to commence work.

6. Timescales

- Tender release: Monday 23 March 26
- Tender deadline: 9am on Friday 1 May 26
- Work on site to be complete by end of May 26.

7. Compliance Requirements

Contractors must demonstrate:

- Public liability insurance of at least £5million.

Please note that evidence of insurance and relevant risk assessments will be required at appointment stage along with a signed execution of works contract.

8. Contact Details and How to Submit your Quote

Name: Ellie Larkham

Role: Education and Learning Manager

Email: elliel@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Phone: 07432 455 104

Please send quotes by email by 9am on Friday 1 May 26.

Pre-submission enquiries by phone or email. The site is open to the public and you are welcome to visit in advance of quoting. If you would like to arrange an onsite meeting, please book this in advance by email or phone as staff are not always onsite.

9. Reference Images

Please use the images below as a guide for your quote:

