



Project Proposal: River Marden Project – Prepared for Calne Without Parish Council

Version 1.0

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1. Introduction

Following a meeting convened on Monday 10th February 2020 with Calne Without Parish Council and Ian Mock of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART), BART have been invited to submit a funding proposal to the parish council for a contribution towards the delivery of a River Marden catchment project.

1.1 Who are Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART)

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) is a charity which delivers education, land and river management advice and practical river restoration work throughout the Bristol Avon catchment.

We aim to re-connect communities to their local rivers and help them to better appreciate and improve them for the benefit of people and wildlife. BART aims to conserve and enhance the status of our waterbodies for current and future generations.

BART is a member of the Rivers Trust movement – there are c70 similar organisations across the country. BART are a Steering group member of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership. <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/catchment-partnerships/bristol-avon-catchment-partnership>

Please do visit our website to find out more information about the work that we do: <https://bristolavonriverstrust.org/>

1.2 Background to the River Marden Improvement Project

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) has been working on the Marden for a number of years with the intention of making river improvements for the benefit of wildlife and people. This remit includes raising awareness of the importance of the river through education and also developing an awareness of potential future challenges and opportunities which may affect the river and its streams.

This is part of BART's remit across the wider Bristol Avon Catchment – the Marden being just one of many tributaries of the Bristol Avon. Though, the River Marden is the only chalk stream to feed into the River Avon, therefore its' health is of major importance.

BART has a long-term interest in looking after the river by raising funds to deliver improvements and educational events. In addition to physical river improvements, BART aims to re-connect local communities with blue and green spaces, helping to improve well-being along the way and developing a lasting legacy whereby local people take a sense of ownership for their local river.

1.3 Past Projects

- Castlefields Park – instream habitat improvement.
- Riverfly & invertebrate surveys (BART held a well-attended Riverfly conference at the Town Hall in Calne).
- Removal of boulder weirs and habitat restoration on lower Marden.

- Optioneering and pre-feasibility studies at Moses Mill and Stanley for the Environment Agency.

BART has developed a number of useful local relations with CARP, angling clubs, local farmers and estate managers.

1.4 Calne Without Parish Council Next Steps

BART is looking to build on work carried out to date and new opportunities identified through local contacts. BART has recently signed a 3 year MoU with Calne TC to develop plans for the River Marden with the intention of developing a plan that will benefit local communities as well as wildlife.

BART welcomes the opportunity to integrate Calne Without Parish Council plans or aspirations for the River Marden into our catchment-wide plans. These could include better water quality, improved amenity, better green space etc.

BART are in search of funds to kick-start the River Marden improvement project and would welcome an opportunity to work in partnership with Calne Without Parish Council. BART aim to secure additional funding from a number of stakeholders to deliver partnership working that will improve the health of the River Marden.

The following table provides a summary of a project scope that BART has developed as a result of previous survey investigations within the Calne Without Parish Council boundary. BART would be very grateful should Calne Without Parish Council consider providing funds to deliver this project. It will provide BART with the resource to develop relationships and plans within the area and contribute towards improving the health of the River Marden.

2. Project Breakdown

The subsequent table summarises BART's proposed deliverables.

Project deliverable	Description	Cost
Project Management	Oversight of project including planning visits and development of project including some stakeholder engagement.	£1,200
Advisory visits to farms located in the Marden headwaters	BART to deliver advisory visits to farms located in the Marden headwaters and plans to reduce pollution and improve water quality for wildlife	£6,000
Community engagement	BART to communicate the project to the local community to increase awareness and support for improvements along the River Marden	£1,800
Seek additional funding	BART to seek additional funds to increase the contributions made by Calne Without Parish Council to deliver plans identified.	£800
Travel	Travel cost for BART for duration of project	£200
Total Cost		£10,000

If Calne Without Parish Council are unable to fund the entire sum above, then a contribution towards the project would be very helpful.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our application. Please do get in touch if you require any clarification or additional information with regard to the application. Please feel free to contact simon@bristolavonriverstrust.org