

Brief for tenders for tree felling adjacent to Dukesfield Arches, Hexhamshire, NE46 1SG.

Suitably qualified and insured parties are invited to tender for the felling of two batches of timber during winter 2013/14 by The Friends of the North Pennines (FotNP), registered charity 1137467.

Reasons for felling

These works are in order to:

- open up the views of the Arches from planned interpretation points,
- reduce future tree growth on the newly consolidated structure from windblown seeds,
- minimise damage from tree roots etc. to the built heritage including the mill leat, chimney, arches and identified archaeological dig sites, and
- create a safe working environment for future site works

The trees to be felled have been selected following the advice of the Woodland Officer for the North Pennines AONB Partnership, to achieve the above four aims. This work will also improve the nature conservation value by retaining understorey trees (holly, rowan, etc.) and creating space for selected young oaks to mature. This will retain the woodland setting of the Arches, whilst easing the management of the listed structure and minimising damage to surrounding archaeology.

Requirements

Two batches of timber, each comprising approximately 4.5m³ of timber are required to be felled. Batch A should be felled before December 31st 2013, and Batch B between 1st Jan and 28th Feb 2014. All trees to be felled will be marked with a tie of red and white barrier tape. No other trees should be felled so that the woodland setting is maintained. All timber felled must be cut to 6ft lengths and both logs and brash must be stacked on site in locations agreed with the FotNP. Please see attached map and pictures. All stumps must be left in a state which will minimise regrowth, and to ensure minimal damage to built structures.

Batch A (before December 31st 2013) comprises of approximately 30 trees most under 30cm diameter, mostly larch, but with some birch and beech. These are in two areas, one immediately to the east of the Arches (A1) and one on the west of the Hall Burn track (A2). NB These areas must not be clear-felled - understorey trees and selected oaks must be left standing.

Batch B (between Jan 1st and Feb 28th 2014) comprises of three large (over 10m high) scots pines, two of which are within a small area between the arches and the public footpath (B2 & B3). The third is next to the footpath, but at a greater distance from the arches (B1). This batch also requires clearing dead lower branches from other large scots pines (B4) to improve visibility of the Arches from the public footpath. The B4 trees should NOT be felled, just have their stems cleared. As there is potential for archaeological investigations in these areas, all tenders should include costs for options for complete removal of stumps (for B1-3) with minimal ground disturbance.

Viewing

The site is open to the public via the footpath at all times. Trees to be felled will be marked with red and white barrier tape, please see map and pictures for details.

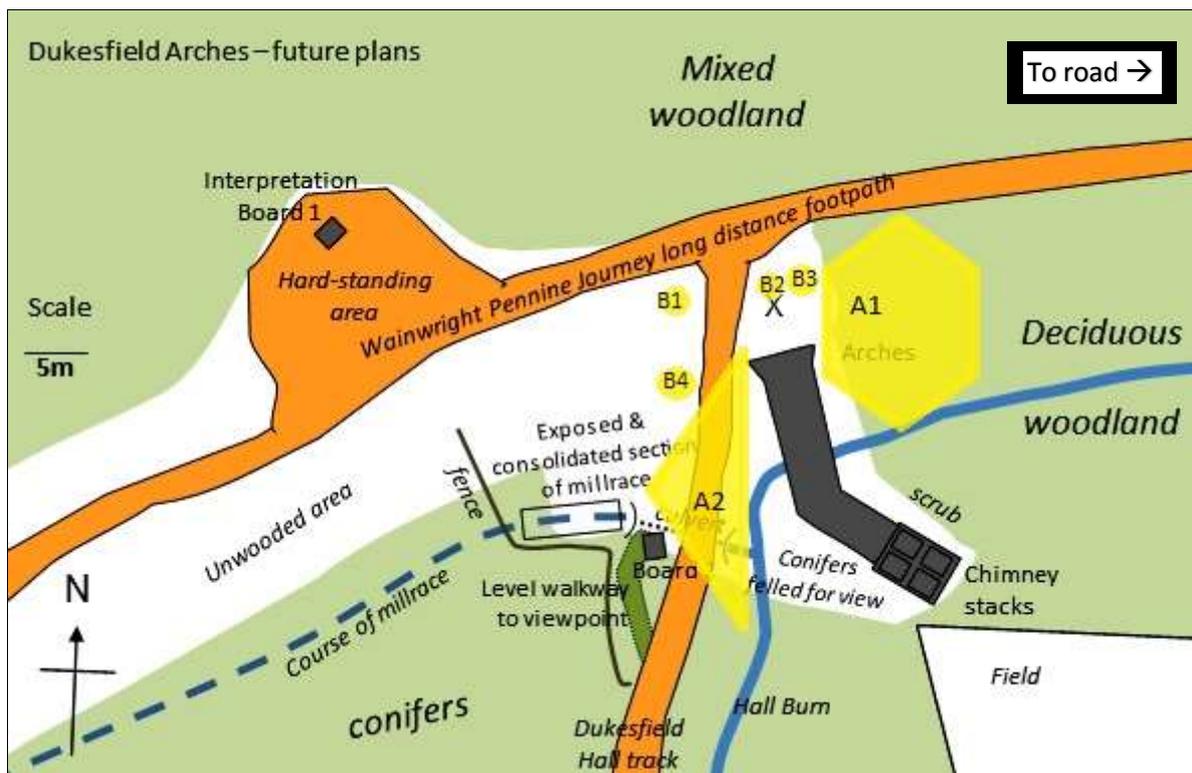
Location

Dukesfield Arches are at grid coordinates: 54.916467,-2.093209. The nearest postcode is NE46 1SG, the arches are to the SW of the road, along the track, to the south of where the Hall Burn and Devil's Water meet. There is vehicular access directly to the site and trackside parking.

Risks

The location is next to a public footpath and an access road to a residential property. The successful contractor will be required to meet necessary insurance and health and safety requirements for their own and the public's safety. This felling will take place in close proximity to a recently consolidated listed structure and associated archaeological structures, the successful contractor will bear the costs of professional heritage standard repairs to the structure should any damage occur through these felling works.

Map - yellow shaded areas indicate felling areas.





View of site from the west. Vans are parked on the trackway & footpaths.
NB Scaffolding and other works will no longer be on site



View of area A2 standing on top of the culvert looking towards the arches

Return of tenders

Tenders should include costs of work, with separate costs for options for removal of stumps of B1, 2 & 3, and expected availability and be returned to Yvonne Conchie, Dukesfield Project Manager at dukesfield@outlook.com by 12 noon on Monday 25th November. Tenders will be awarded on basis of price, availability (including location) and references. We are not bound to award the contract if no suitable tender is received, nor are we bound to accept the lowest tender. Further enquiries can be made via email to the above address. To visit the site, please use the public footpath.

Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project

Inspired by two gothic arches, ruins of the 17th century Dukesfield smelt mill in Hexhamshire, this project links the North Pennines lead mines with early industrial Tyneside. By conserving the arches, transcribing archives and uncovering family histories, volunteers share the stories of the smelters and carriers who fired the furnaces and crossed the moors. The Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project, is led by the Friends of the North Pennines in partnership with Hexhamshire and Slaley Parish Councils and has the active support of the landowner, Allendale Estates. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the generous support of other sponsors. Friends of the North Pennines: Charity No: 1137467

