



ROCHESTER BRIDGE TRUST

BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

Expressions of interest are being sought for a bridge inspection consultant to undertake a range of inspections, as well as working with BridgeStation bridge management software.

The Rochester Bridge Trust is a medieval charity founded in 1399 to provide a crossing of the River Medway in Rochester in perpetuity. It is the only surviving independent medieval bridge trust which still provides major bridges. More information can be found on the website at www.rbt.org.uk.

The Trust maintains its bridge assets to the highest standards and therefore it is essential that asset condition and performance is reviewed and monitored on a regular basis. The Trust is also seeking to apply the Bridge Condition Indices (BCI) to monitor condition trends over time.

The Trust's assets consist of three major structures, five secondary structures and six river walls. Additionally, there are other structures, including small bridges and culverts, on the Trust's estates, including six in Yorkshire, eight in Cambridgeshire and two in Kent.

The Trust is seeking a consultant to undertake the following:

- 1) Populate assets in BridgeStation and establish an element hierarchy for each;
- 2) undertake Principal (PI) and General (GI) Inspections in accordance with the DMRB CS450 and input inspection data to BridgeStation;
- 3) undertake Special and Safety Inspections in accordance with the DMRB CS450 when required to do so and input inspection data to BridgeStation; and
- 4) use BridgeStation to generate critical and average bridge condition indices.

It should be noted that some structures have areas of restricted access including confined spaces. Consultants are encouraged to consider innovative techniques for inspecting these areas to ensure the structures remain operable and open to traffic at all times.

The Trust will commission the inspections for a period of up to six years, subject to satisfactory performance in the previous year. The proposed inspection cycle is indicated in the table below:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Major Structures	PI			GI		
Secondary Structures		PI			GI	
River Walls			PI			GI
Estate Structures	PI (bridges)	PI (other structures)		GI (bridges)	GI (other structures)	

Selection of Bridge Inspection Consultant

Expressions of Interest are invited from competent bridge inspection consultants and should be no more than six sides of A4. Potential tenderers should include experience of bridge inspections, particularly on major bridge structures similar to those managed by the Trust. This should include experience of BridgeStation or similar bridge management software. Consultants should provide examples of how inspections were planned and organised in terms of any traffic management, specialist access equipment and obtaining approvals.

All inspection personnel, including any specialist access personnel carrying out inspections, shall ideally hold a Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme (BICS) qualification. As a minimum, the inspection team should be led by a BICS-certified individual and other inspection personnel should be registered with LANTRA, actively seeking BICS certification and be able to demonstrate the required level of equivalent competence. This will need to be demonstrated by submission of evidence and an interview.

Expressions of Interest should be sent to enquiries@rbt.org.uk with "Bridge Inspections" in the subject line by 5pm on Tuesday 6 February 2024.

In line with the Trust's commitment to Net Zero Carbon for all its operations, when travelling to Rochester or the Trust's estates, consultants are expected to use public transport whenever possible and use local hotels to minimise travel during inspections. Where public transport cannot be used, the use of electric or bio-fuel vehicles is encouraged. Other meetings not requiring physical attendance may take place online.

The Trust selects its consultants based primarily on quality and the ability to meet the client's requirements, including commitment to low carbon solutions.