

National Wildflower Centre International Open Design Competition

Stage One Brief

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Invitation

The National Wildflower Centre invites submissions for an international open design competition for the design of an innovative, architecturally striking educational, conference and seed production complex at the National Wildflower Centre, off Junction 5 of the M62 in the Liverpool City Region, within the administrative Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley.

Situated in the walled garden of the 14-hectare Court Hey Park, the complex will complement the 150 metre long Civic Trust and RIBA Award winning building developed as part of the Millennium project that established the National Wildflower Centre in 2000.

The design will inspire and encourage people to visit the Centre to learn about the relationships between nature, mathematics and physics. It will significantly enhance the visitor experience of the National Wildflower Centre and provide a centre of excellence, and operational hub for creative conservation, learning and innovation. The new complex will be constructed of sustainably sourced natural materials, and will include conference facilities, education and interpretation space, kitchen, toilets, seed processing, and plant production areas.

The competition process is being managed by the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Competitions Office on behalf of Landlife (a national wildflower charity established in 1975 and developer of the Millennium Commission supported by National Wildflower Centre).

Purpose of the Design Competition

This document forms the brief for an open international design competition to select an architect (or architect-led team) to design The National Wildflower Centre's new complex.

The competition will be in two stages.

Stage One will be anonymous, and will seek preliminary design concepts, ideas and thinking. Up to six schemes will be short-listed to proceed to the Second Stage, when anonymity will be lifted.

Stage Two short-listed teams will each receive a £6,000 honoraria (exclusive of VAT) and will be issued with further information (some generic and some specific to their Stage One submissions) from which they will be invited to elaborate further on their ideas. Further development on such matters as

design philosophy, sustainability considerations, proposed materials and cost estimates will be required. A small team from each short listed practice/team will be invited to present their designs to the Jury Panel at final interview in February 2009.

The successful architect (or architect-led team) will need to demonstrate an empathy and understanding of the client's expectations, as set out in this Brief. The winner will need to work collaboratively with the client, understand their vision and ambition for producing an inspiring structure of exceptionally high quality, one that will be a new landmark in tune with the qualities of the site and an exemplar of sustainability both in construction and use. The successful architect/team will need to demonstrate their ability to deliver such a landmark structure.

It is the intention that the winner of the competition will be appointed to work in close collaboration with the client to work up a detailed design and take the project through to completion (subject to successful planning and funding outcomes).

It is the intention of the National Wildflower Centre to produce a web site documenting all of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 submissions, and all entrants will be asked to provide 3 press images and a 50 word description of the design at each stage which will form the basis of the content for this site.

It is also the intention of the National Wildflower Centre to exhibit all the Stage 2 designs at the Centre itself and at a London venue (to be confirmed) before the Stage 2 interviews.

Once a winning design is selected, the National Wildflower Centre intends to produce a building wrap or projection image of the concept which will be displayed at the Centre.

Project inspiration

This project provides a unique opportunity to create an outstanding complex at a gateway site to the Liverpool City Region and a Science and Maths learning facility to inspire visitors by showcasing the role of nature in the development of advanced scientific thinking such as the Fibonacci Sequence and Golden Section, Brownian Motion, Chaos Theory and complex engineering.

The proposed Centre is intended to be an inspirational statement that reflects the modernity and forward thinking ethos of creative conservation, highlighting links between nature and the development of recent cutting edge scientific theory.

It turns away from the rustic, pastoral image of nature conservation to focus on hard urban, pure science perspectives that the evolutionary dance has delivered. It will be one of the first buildings in the UK to be certified as BREEAM 'Outstanding'.

Our philosophy for the Centre draws its inspiration from the simple observation that a single fixed angle found in nature, *The Golden Section* and

the *Fibonacci Sequence* echoes through cultures, time, art, architecture and music. We are captivated that simple observations of pollen in water can create a pathway to the discovery of the atom.

It is a thought process that encompasses Landlife's view that '*The edge is the meeting place between order and chaos where nature wants to come to,*' and it is reflected in the landscapes of *Charles Jenks* and engineering solutions based on natural organisms. It demonstrates how Euclidian shapes underpin nature.

Vision

The vision for this project is:

To transform the existing polytunnel plant production, processing area and lean-to garages into a Green Tourism Business Scheme Gold Standard conference facility, education and visitor complex, integral to which will be the wildflower production and processing operations. The complex will be an exemplar of sustainable design and build.

The vision provides an exciting and challenging future for science and technology education and family learning on Merseyside. By explaining complex maths and physics theory through simple wildflower structures and natural phenomena, we hope to stimulate curiosity and inspire confidence, challenge educational stereotyping, and cultivate creativity and innovation.

It creates a modern flexible visitor/educational/conference facility in a wildflower landscaped walled garden that will change people's perceptions of the conservation movement.

It will create a more holistic experience by integrating learning, operational and sustainability functions under one roof.

Public Areas

We envisage the public access areas being clustered to enable ease of access to facilities, reduce services provision and reduce external ground works. For operational purposes, the ability of the core building to transform into a flexible conference facility will be a key requirement, especially during the winter months.

It is envisaged that elements of the development outside the walled garden or associated with storage and production could be of a more cost effective nature. This will enable the National Wildflower Centre to focus resources on the design of the public access areas, sustainability and operational effectiveness.

Production/Operational Areas

In terms of the operational effectiveness for the production areas, we are keen to ensure that the development includes an automatic watering system, highly efficient composting systems for seed waste and plant waste linked to the operational areas, a seed store that meets Kew specifications for moisture

and temperature control, efficient and reliable access to the first floor, effective dispatch of plants from the first floor to a collection point.

Energy Generation

The Centre currently generates 13% of its electricity requirements through photovoltaics (static and trackers). The National Wildflower Centre would like to generate all of our energy from sustainable sources, and if possible produce a surplus for sale to the national grid. The 14-hectare Court Hey Park provides the location for boreholes and ground heat sources. The development will act as an exemplar for CABI space as a groundbreaking new energy generating facility within a public park.

Resource Focus

Resources should primarily be focussed on the design of the public access areas, sustainability and operational effectiveness with elements of the development outside the walled garden or associated with storage and production areas being constructed more economically.

Aims and Objectives

It is envisaged that the new complex will be at the cutting edge of building technology in relation to materials, sustainability and energy usage. It will need to be flexible enough to meet future demands of the Centre and significantly improve the flow of visitors through the site. It will also need to complement the existing structures outside the red line plan, and bring together 3 centuries of architectural styles on the site, specifically:

- 19th Century walled garden and barns
- 20th Century Visitors Centre
- 21st Century new complex (the subject of this competition).

The National Wildflower Centre are seeking low-tech high impact approaches that provide an opportunity for visitors to experience and interpret natural phenomena and mathematical concepts through the fabric and design of the building itself. This could include, for example, the use of light and shadow in subtle ways to map heavenly bodies, undertaking of astronomical measurements, illustration of Fibonacci patterns, or demonstrating photographic concepts such as camera obscura. It could also involve the use of light, wind and rain to create scientific movement that will intrigue and delight.

The concept design will exploit alternative energy technologies to maximise energy generation for the site as a whole, and it will conserve and recycle water for plant production purposes.

It will create a modern state of the art irrigated pot-plant production.

It will offer wider health, recreation and educational benefits to be enjoyed by local people and visitors, provide economic benefit and employment opportunities, improve staff working conditions and increase the accessibility of the building.

Sustainable, environmentally responsible design must be seen as a driver for the project. The winning scheme will need to attain an exceptionally high quality rating in terms of sustainability benchmarks.

The design philosophy will consider a range of factors including:

- Positive impact on the natural environment.
- The use of only ethically and sustainably sourced natural materials, using local materials wherever possible.
- Impacts associated with preferred siting and orientation.
- Impacts on wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Energy efficiency and use.
- Potential for energy generation maximising renewable energy sources.
- Net CO₂ emissions.
- Sustainable construction methods
- The specification of materials with reference to publications such as *The Handbook of Sustainable Buildings*, *The Green Guide to Specification* and *The National Building Specification – Greening Report*.
- The re-cyclability of materials
- Water saving measures in construction and use.
- The links between building design and green operational policies.
- To future proof the building where appropriate technologies are not sufficiently developed.

In parallel with the above aims, the complex will:

- Have public spaces capable of being used flexibly for a variety of functions;
- Encourage good visitor 'flow' around building and site;
- Integrate use of technology;
- Maximise accessibility to all;
- Be 'Secure by Design' to avoid vandalism in out of season or closed periods;
- Be low maintenance, with associated low maintenance costs; and
- Be capable of achieving the Gold Standard of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Entrants should note that the National Wildflower Centre will need to continue to operate during construction of the new complex.

Budget

A budget of £5m (exclusive of VAT) is being set for this project and needs to cover all aspects of the development including:

- Design and professional fees
- Construction
- Reinstatement/landscaping where appropriate
- Statutory Fees
- Fit out and ancillary equipment.

It is anticipated that £1m of this budget will need to be ring fenced to capture and maximise the energy generating potential of the site.

Entrants should note that an independent QS advisor and other technical advisors will be appointed to assist the Jury Panel in the appraisal of submissions.

Intention to Build

It is the intention that the winning concept will be developed and built subject to gaining sufficient funding and planning approval. A funding strategy has been developed and it is considered that funding for the right scheme is achievable.

SECTION 2: THE SITE

The National Wildflower Centre is located within Court Hey Park, an attractive Victorian park of 14 hectares, landscaped with wildflowers and used by the local population for dog walking, children's play, cricket, bowls and events. Historical features include the walled garden and stable courtyards, used by the NWC to house the plant production and conference facilities. The Park is supported by an active Friends of Court Hey Park group.

Court Hey Park is a Green Flag park of national and international significance, by virtue of being the:

- Site of the UK's National Wildflower Centre – only the second such Centre in the world
- Location of the padstones used by Stephenson's Rocket – the first passenger railway in the world
- Former home of Robertson Gladstone, brother of the Victorian Prime Minister, William Gladstone.

The red line development zone comprises approximately 1,800m². This area has three distinct zones.

- The lean-to garages comprising 300m² outside the Walled Garden with an access road.
- The old seed processing shed and adjoining areas comprising 850m² running along the south facing internal wall of the walled garden
- The rectangular poly tunnel plant production area comprising 550m² on the West facing internal wall of the walled garden

The site was developed by Landlife as part of a £4m project, part funded by the Millennium Commission, completed in September 2000. The site comprises a 150 metre long RIBA Award winning building, housing offices, shop, café and conservatory, and an older complex of refurbished cow byres. The latter house exhibition and seminar rooms, seed processing, a community office and offices for the Knowsley MBC.

More recently an older barn was refurbished in a £1m programme that created the Merseyside Biobank – the Biological Records Centre for the sub-region.

There are a series of courtyards and an original Walled Garden into which the existing visitor centre extends. The Walled Garden is also the site for the main wildflower display areas, a plant production zone using poly tunnels, two educational open barn structures and an industrial shed housing seed cleaning machinery.

The historic cobbled courtyard comprises two blocks: a northern block housing Council Offices and a southern block housing our operational and seminar rooms. The National Wildflower Centre intends relocating the

operational rooms into the new complex, facilitating the creation of a discrete meeting/seminar facility through fitting out and minor modifications to room layout.

The preferred option is to demolish the existing plant tunnels, machinery shed and associated outbuildings to create a large footprint for a new complex. All the buildings other than the adjacent lean-to garages are within the walled garden boundary.

Site Visits

Informal unescorted site visits can be made at any time during office opening times throughout the competition period. Entrants should note that the National Wildflower Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, but is closed for the Christmas period from 19th December 2008 to 5th January 2009.

Escorted group site visits are being held on the following dates, for which advance booking is required in order for the National Wildflower Centre to manage numbers:

- Monday 24th November at 10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm;
- Wednesday 3rd December 10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm; and,
- Friday 5th December 10am-12noon and 1pm-3pm.

During the escorted group visits, entrants will be shown around the site and will be able to meet National Wildflower Staff. During the escorted group visits, entrants will be able to ask questions informally, but all questions must ultimately be formally tabled to RIBA by 5th December 2008 to ensure consistent information is given to all competitors. All questions and associated answers will be available to download from the competition website after 12th December 2008.

To arrange either an escorted group site visit or an informal site visit please call the main Landlife/National Wildflower Centre office on 0151 737 1819.

SECTION 3: SCHEME REQUIREMENTS

Typical Users of the New Complex

The National Wildflower Centre currently draws around 30,000 visitors per year to the park on average with 9,000 school children participating in educational activity. This year the Green Fair attracted 11,000 people and the annual Knowsley Flower Show held in the park attracts a further 12-15,000 visitors. The National Wildflower Centre want to improve the overall quality of the visitor experience, meet the latent demand for additional visitors and conference delegates and facilitate a wider range of events and activities in the future.

Typical users for the new complex, and their associated needs, include:

- **Family groups** – quite often made up of grandparents and children, solo mothers and children and mixed family groups.
Needs: Easy access for pushchairs. Baby change. Seating for older family members. Hands on activity for children. Natural light to facilitate workshop working. Easily accessible area to wash up hands after messy activity. Information & displays that can be easily moved / changed to keep things fresh and interesting.
- **School groups** – range from pre-school to 6th form.
Needs: Plenty of workshop space to engage in activity & learning, with areas that can be separate for different activities for the same group of children. Natural light and lots of wall space for displays. Area for clean up. Access to lots of toilets. Ideally the space should accommodate a whole class year (i.e. 4 classes, approximately 120 children, at a time) as it is more economical for schools to book a full coach and bring 2-4 classes at a time.
- **Special schools** – autistic / blind / deaf / learning disabilities
Needs: Fully accessible (including approach!), areas where children can be quiet, sensory / tactile aspects. Fire alarms that are visible and audible.
- **Carers & disabled visitors** – range from family groups to elderly adults.
Needs: Fully accessible. Plenty of seating. Access to large disabled toilet (to provide room for adult changing mats).
- **Specialised groups** – coach parties / students / ecologists / WI
Needs: Areas to engage interest that are not just child-centric. Information & displays that can be easily moved / changed to keep things fresh. Access to seating areas.
- **Conference / event organisers** – for seminars, lectures, events etc.

Needs: Area big enough to take 100 people comfortably with tables if needed. Natural light. Stage or podium area. Large wall for screen projections. Room dividers to make space flexible. Access to area for refreshments. At present, NWC get two to three enquiries a month for conference space this size and would anticipate using this space at least once a week. NWC would also need to be able to serve refreshments and possibly a buffet in or near to this space therefore kitchen facilities will need to be reasonably close by.

- **Staff/Volunteers**

Needs: natural light & windows for seed production / packaging area. Filters for seed dust. Area away from machinery with soundproof doors. Cat flap for cat. Kitchen / conference staff need well designed kitchen area with plumbing for dishwashers, gas cooker/ oven & fridges. As much storage as possible. Natural light and windows. Access to delivery point / rubbish storage. Ideally a staff / volunteer locker room and shower room.

- **Contemplation/Prayer Room**

Needs: A small multi faith quiet contemplation area suitable for small family groups. The room needs to be suitably orientated and designed with this in mind.

Specific Project Requirements

The total area available for the new complex is approximately 1,800m². The National Wildflower Centre would not want to encourage buildings greater than two storeys.

The areas allocated to each function below are indicative of need. This is flexible but there is a strong desire to maximise use of the available space within the budget.

Public Areas

- Flexible visitor exhibition, gallery and learning space capable of being adapted to a conference facility with break out rooms, offices, and/or classrooms accommodating 100 delegates, fully fitted;
- Kitchen facility associated with the exhibition, gallery and learning space;
- Conference, classroom and community room toilet facilities (100m²);
- Classrooms (200m²);
- Community room, Rangers Office and Cycle store (up to 100m²), with separate external access;
- Prayer/contemplation room with possible incorporation of a camera obscura;

- Storage area for furniture and other (non operational) materials such as literature and school activity equipment (100m²);
- Structure/building to demonstrate maths and physics principles;
- Fully accessible; and,
- BREEAM Outstanding.

Operational Areas

- Covered dry area for seed sowing and plant production, wash room, easy access to plant trays, compost and storage areas (150m²);
- Seed cleaning machinery area (100m²);
- Seed cold room storage facility (60m²);
- Seed dispatch room (40m²);
- Storage rooms (200m²);
- Pot plant storage area open to the weather (840m²), incorporating raised beds, dutch trolley system, automatic watering and shading to reduce water loss. Lift and easy dispatch system to and from a collection point;
- Dust collection and composting facility (50m²);
- Boiler store and system (100m²); and,
- Delivery and production materials storage (50m²).

General Requirements

- Access;
- Heating system;
- Road surfacing 100m;
- Signage;
- Fit out throughout;
- Water recycling;
- Use of existing PV system;
- Adaptations to existing site, buildings and approaches to ensure connectivity and integration;
- Installation of telecommunications/Broadband IT access throughout;
- Minor upgrade and fit out of cobbled courtyard conference facility;

- Security system; and
- Integration of public art within the overall project.

Parkland

- Heat source;
- Signage;

As part of the Design Competition, the National Wildflower centre would also welcome suggestions for a name for the new facility.

Key Dates

Key dates for the design competition are set out below but it should be noted that this is subject to change:

Activity	Date
Launch Design Competition/OJEU Notice	14 th November 2008
Deadline for Stage One Questions	5 th December 2008
Responses to Stage One Questions	12 th December 2008
Registration deadline	22 nd December 2008
Deadline for Stage 1 Submissions	7 th January 2009
Stage 1 Assessment	14 th January 2009
Announcement of short listed designs	16 th January 2009
Deadline for Stage 2 submissions	13 th February 2009
Stage 2 Interviews	4 th March 2009
Announcement of winner	Week commencing 9 th March 2009
NW Design Review Panel	April/May 2009

SECTION 4: THE CLIENT

The Client and Partners

The client for this competition is Landlife, a national wildlife charity established in 1975 and developer of the Millennium Commission supported National Wildflower Centre. The design competition has been funded by the North West Development Agency.

The site is located within the boundary of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) which is also the Planning Authority for this project. KMBC are branded as the “The Wildflower Borough” and are an important partner of the National Wildflower Centre and Landlife. The Borough leases the land to Landlife on a 99-year lease. The Walled Garden is let on an Agricultural Lease to Landlife Wildflowers.

The project is being managed by a Steering Group, which currently comprises the following agencies and organisations, although the National Wildflower Centre reserves the right to change the make up of the Steering Group as it sees fit:

- National Wildflower Centre (Chair)
- Landlife
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- North West Regional Development Agency – the regional economic development agency for North West England.
- RIBA nominated Architect
- The Mersey Partnership – tourism and economic development agency for Liverpool City Region
- Friends of Court Hey Park
- Grosvenor – To Be Confirmed
- Austin Smith Lord (architectural advisors) – To Be Confirmed

The Jury Panel responsible for the short listing and ultimate selection of the winning design will comprise:

- Sue Carmichael, RIBA Advisor
- Richard Tracey, Senior Regeneration Executive, NWDA
- Tony Jones, National Wildflower Centre
- Lucinda Antal, National Wildflower Centre
- Grant Luscombe, Chief Executive, Landlife
- Cllr Graham Morgan (KMBC) – To Be Confirmed
- Rod Holmes (Grosvenor) – To Be Confirmed
- Gerald Scarfe, Patron of the National Wildflower Centre – To Be Confirmed

In addition to the above Jury Panel members, representatives from RIBA, Friends of Court Hey Park and Places Matter will act as observers during the appraisal and selection processes.

In the event of a Jury member being unable to continue to act through illness or any other cause, the client in consultation with the RIBA will appoint another assessor.

Entrants should note that a small technical panel will be supporting the Jury Panel and assisting with the technical assessment of the submissions. It is envisaged that the Technical Panel will comprise the following disciplines:

- Quantity Surveyor;
- Sustainability in design;
- Accessibility; and
- Mathematician.

SECTION 5: COMPETITION CONDITIONS

Eligibility

The competition is open internationally to registered architects and architect-led teams and a Notice has been placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). No member or employee of the client, Jury Panel, Steering Group or anybody else directly associated with them or the competition shall be eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

How to enter

You may only submit an entry to the National Wildflower Competition if you are officially registered through the RIBA Competitions Office. Competitors should complete the 'OS Data Use by Third Parties' form and return it along with their non-refundable registration fee (£35.00 inclusive of VAT) to:

National Wildflower Competition
RIBA Competitions Office
6 Melbourne Street
Leeds
LS2 7PS
riba.competitions@inst.riba.org
tel: 0113 2341335

Cheques should be made payable to 'RIBA', or please contact the Competitions Office for credit card or other types of payment. On receipt of this form and registration fee, each competitor will be issued with a declaration form and supporting information.

The deadline for registration is **Monday 22nd December 2008**. Please note that the RIBA Competitions Office is closed for the Christmas break from 5.00pm on Tuesday 23rd December 2008 and re-open on Monday 5th January 2009.

Questions

Questions relating to the competition brief and conditions must be addressed in writing to the RIBA Competitions Office to arrive on or before **5th December 2008**. The questions can be submitted to RIBA by e-mail via riba.competitions@inst.riba.org or by post to be received by RIBA by close of business on 5th December 2008. A Memorandum in response to questions will be uploaded to the dedicated competition website no later than 12th December 2008.

Stage One Submission Requirements

Competitors should submit their **anonymous** design on a single, lightweight, A1 board by **7th January 2009**. The board should be in **landscape** format, and be accompanied by:

- A colour A3 reduction of the design board;
- Two copies of a design statement (single A4 sheet, 12pt typeface);
- A digital copy (PDF format) of the entire A1 board and design statement on an accompanying CD-ROM;
- 3 press images in jpeg format at 300 DPI (high resolution) and 72 DPI (low resolution) and a 50 word description of the design for use on the design competition web site; and,
- Completed Declaration Form in a sealed envelope marked 'Official Envelope'.

The submission should include sufficient information to outline the design approach and thinking – specifically a short design statement and outline proposals to deliver a scheme that meets the aspirations of this brief within the stated budget and programme. Drawings should be at an appropriate scale to allow the assessors to understand the massing and arrangement of the design and functionality. Diagrams may also be included where they help explain the approach.

The A1 board should include:

- Drawing showing the complex in context and its relationship to the proposed & future external facilities, access and parking;
- Plans & sections at an appropriate scale, showing the internal arrangement of the proposals and its relation to the immediate external context;
- Drawing(s) showing the external appearance of the structure in relation to the context;
- Drawings /diagrams describing proposed construction methods & materials;
- Clear communication of the approach to energy efficiency, sustainability and renewable energy; and,
- Drawings should include brief explanatory notes to assist the Jury Panel in readily understanding the distinctive qualities of the proposals.

Architectural models will not be accepted, although images of models used to develop the design proposal may be included on the A1 board.

Stage Two

The design entries (up to six) judged to be the most successful response to the Brief will be invited to proceed to the Second Stage of the competition. The deadline for Stage Two submissions is **13th February 2009**. Each short-listed practice will receive an honorarium of £6,000 (excluding VAT) to further explore their Stage One concept, with a more thorough examination of the financial and practical viability of the proposal.

Members of the public and interested parties will be invited to comment on the design proposals, which will be subject to 2 public exhibitions – one at the National Wildflower site in Liverpool and one in London. Comments will be collated and a summary provided to the Jury Panel to help inform their decision when they meet to interview the teams in March 2009.

As well as enabling the Jury Panel to assess the viability of the design proposals, the interviews will provide an opportunity for the teams to present their schemes, answer queries arising from their Stage One submissions and demonstrate their team's ability to deliver a scheme of this nature. The final result will be announced in March 2008.

The following will be required from entrants at Stage Two:

- As there will be two concurrent public exhibitions, **2 copies of the Stage 2 submissions will be required (landscape A1 Boards as before)**;
- PDF versions of the A1 Boards produced on CD ROM;
- 3 images for use in the electronic and printed media. These should be the three images which competitors feel best express their scheme. High (300 DPI) and low (72 DPI) resolution versions of each image should be submitted in jpeg format. The images should be accompanied by a 50 word design statement (also saved to the CD rom accompanying the design submission)
- CVs of team members and practice brochures; and,
- Cost Report
- Sustainability Report
- Access Report

Further details of the Stage Two requirements and timescales will be supplied to selected teams following short-listing. Entrants should note that they will be expected to honour a confidentiality agreement to prevent information on the winning design being leaked to the press before the official announcement is made.

Criteria for Selection at Stage One

The Panel will make their selection at Stage One on the basis of the following criteria:

- Preliminary response to the site and client brief;
- Demonstration of clear thinking and understanding of the fundamental issues involved;
- An innovative and architecturally striking design;
- An outstanding example of sustainable design; and,
- Cost considerations.

The criteria at the Stage Two will focus on:

- Quality of the design, response to feedback and issues outlined in the briefing material;
- Evidence of ability to meet the client's budget and programme;
- Technical sophistication of the scheme; and
- Demonstration of teams' ability to deliver a scheme of this nature.

The client will reserve the right, if deemed appropriate, to supplement the expertise of the winning team to ensure deliverability of the project.

Submission Method

Stage One submissions should be contained in a single package and are to be sent, carriage paid to:

National Wildflower Centre Competition
RIBA Competitions Office
6, Melbourne Street
Leeds
LS2 7PS

Overseas Competitors should note that for Customs purposes no commercial value should be assigned to the design submission. Failure to do so may result in your submission being delayed and/or returned to you unopened, as the RIBA will not be liable for any charges otherwise incurred.

Your submission should arrive no later than **14.00hrs on Wednesday 7th January 2009**. Late submissions will not be accepted and it will not be possible to submit entries via e-mail. Competitors should note that First Class post does not necessarily guarantee next-day delivery and should plan their submission schedule accordingly.

Competitors requiring proof of delivery should enclose in their package a stamped, sealed envelope addressed to a third party. This will be posted upon receipt of the submission.

Competitors are advised to retain copies of all design material submitted. Whilst the client and the RIBA Competitions Office will exercise all reasonable care, they will not be liable for loss or damage to drawings that may occur either in transit, during exhibition, storage or packing.

Anonymity

The Stage One design proposals should be submitted without name, motto or distinguishing mark of any kind. The submission should be accompanied by the duly completed Declaration Form and placed in a **sealed envelope clearly marked “Official Envelope”**. The RIBA will place a number on each drawing and on the Official Envelope. The envelopes will only be opened after the Stage Two shortlist has been finalised.

A successful competitor must be able to satisfy the assessors that he/she is the bona fide author of the design he/she has submitted.

Disqualification

A design shall be excluded from the competition:

- If received after the latest time stated under Submission Method;
- If, in the opinion of the assessors, it does not substantially meet the requirements of the brief;
- If a competitor shall disclose his or her identity, or improperly attempt to influence the decision;

- If any of the mandatory requirements of the competition conditions and brief are disregarded.

Copyright

The ownership of Copyright in the work of all competitors will be in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 - that is Copyright rests with the author.

Announcement of Award

At the conclusion of the competition the RIBA will publish the winning names after communicating it individually to each of the competitors. All the designs may, by agreement, be retained for a further period by the promoter for the purposes of exhibition and publicity. The client or the RIBA may publish illustrations of any design, either separately or together with other designs with or without explanatory text.

Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to the general conditions of this competition should be addressed to the RIBA Competitions Office, and not the competition Promoter, at the following address:

RIBA Competitions Office

6 Melbourne Street

Leeds LS2 7PS

Tel : ++44 (0) 113 2341335

Fax : ++44 (0) 113 2460744

e-mail : riba.competitions@inst.riba.org

web: www.ribacompetitions.com

Links

www.nwc.org.uk

www.landlife.org.uk

www.nwda.co.uk

www.knowsley.gov.uk

www.merseyside.org.uk

Additional Documents and Information

On payment of the registration fee and completion of the 'OS Data Use for Third Parties' form, registered competitors will be issued with:-

- Red line site plan (dxf format)
- National Wildflower Video
- Site plan with indexed photographs