

Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework				
PART 1: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL				
Contract Title: Nitrogen reduction feasibility study – air quality				
Contract Manager Name:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information			
Framework Reference Number:	PRAPS104	Lot Number:	Lot 3	
Atamis Number	N/A	Defra Group Commercial Contact	N/A	
Date: 01/10/2025				
Contract Start Date		20/10/2025		
Contract Completion Date		06/02/2026		
Procurement Route:	Direct Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mini-competition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposal return date:	15/10/2025			
Clarification Question Date:	08/10/2025			

Evaluation Criteria			
Suppliers: Failure to meet any minimum score threshold stated will result in the bid being removed from the process with no further evaluation regardless of other technical or price scores.			
Technical Weighting			60%
Price Weighting			40%
Quality sub-criteria weightings		Threshold	Technical Weightings:
1. Approach & Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly set out the proposed approach and methodology for delivering the contract, 	70	35%

	include justification on suitability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate understanding of what Natural England is trying to achieve through the contract. 		
2. Proposed Staff (including CVs) and Supplier's experience/accreditations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate previous experience of carrying out the work specified. • Demonstrate that staff selected for the work have the appropriate skills and experience. • Confirm the availability of staff put forward. • CVs of key staff can be included as attachments, maximum of 2 A4 pages, font size 11. 	70	30%
3. Project Management, Ability to Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a project timeline including contingency. • Demonstrate quality assurance measures. 	70	25%
4. Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include specific risks involved 	70	10%
5. Health & Safety (if no working at height or near water, mark as 'N/A' and re-distribute %)			N/A
6. Sustainability (if no travel etc. mark as 'N/A' and re-distribute %)			N/A

Specification
1. Description of work required – overall purpose & scope (including reporting requirements)
<p>Context</p> <p>Natural England plays a key role in the planning system by advising on the environmental impacts of proposed developments. Project contributions to environmental nitrogen levels can lead to delays or restrictions on new developments due to the need to comply with environmental legislation, including the Habitats Regulations (2017), especially if these new developments impact the same environmental feature. Therefore, identifying strategic mechanisms to reduce nitrogen emissions is essential to support growth in line with the Governments agenda while ensuring compliance with environmental legislation.</p>

Teesside has significant industrial activity, which contributes to elevated background nitrogen emissions. However, there are many sources of nitrogen emissions, some local and some not. In some cases, even very small contributions from a proposed industrial operation must be reduced and then mitigated for, which can be challenging for an individual developer/operator.

The areas of elevated nitrogen of specific interest are the sand dunes in the Teesmouth and Cleveland SSSI on the north and south of the estuary. Changes to the community as a result of nitrogen deposition include encroachment of grasses and denser vegetation, outcompeting and overshadowing more nitrogen sensitive forb and lichen species, and as a result a reduction in the habitat diversity.

As part of this contract, it is not necessary to investigate current atmospheric nitrogen levels, as Natural England is already working with partners to collect relevant data. In the meantime, we aim to explore potential solutions to reduce nitrogen emissions within the Teesside area.

Objectives

The objectives of this feasibility report are to:

- Review existing literature and evidence on nitrogen emission reduction strategies (for non-agricultural sources)
- Identify and evaluate mechanisms that could be implemented to improve the air quality of the sand dune habitat in the Teesmouth and Cleveland cost SSSI. To do this, Natural England understands that a whole Teesside cluster approach will need to be taken. Mechanisms to consider (but not exhaustive) are:
 - Nitrogen trading
 - Novel engineering/retrofitting at a project scale
 - Financial incentives
- Investigate the best regulatory method, including how permits would play into this field.

Scope of works

A feasibility report describing the mechanisms that could be implemented to reduce nitrogen emissions from non-agricultural sources that have the potential to interact with the sand dune feature within the Teesmouth and Cleveland cost SSSI.

- Conduct a literature review of academic, government and industry sources to scope out a longlist of potential mechanisms
- Investigate case studies from other UK regions or other industrial clusters and international contexts and report on where nitrogen emissions have been successfully reduced
- Suggest potential mechanisms for reducing nitrogen emissions in Teesside, taking into account the geographical context of the industry and N sensitive sand dunes at Teesside. Some consideration should be given to the level of cost and practicality, and which organisation would be best placed to implement. These reduction strategies need to target existing and future industrial plants on Teesside.

- Include an assessment of nitrogen trading schemes as a potential mechanism, including how such schemes have been implemented elsewhere and their applicability to Teesside
- Investigate if there are examples of incentives elsewhere that have successfully encouraged more efficient use of nitrogen in commercial processes which are already in place, which may also encourage new and novel tech to minimise or reuse nitrogen.

Out of scope

The following do not need to be investigated:

- Reducing emissions within agriculture
- Reducing emissions via reducing traffic speed
- Reducing emissions for impacts on human health

Deliverables

- Interim findings presentation
- Draft report
- Final feasibility report including

Following the interim findings, Natural England may ask the successful contractor to focus on specific mechanisms.

The report must follow Natural England's publishing guidelines (to be provided upon contract award).

As part of the report, a summary of the quality of the results must be provided, as well as data gaps and limitations.

2. Required skills / experience from the Supplier and staff. Include any essential qualifications or accreditations required to undertake the work.

Education: Degree level or higher in appropriate subject.

Role: Senior grade or above

Expert knowledge and experience of air quality

Expert knowledge and experience of the planning system

Expert knowledge and experience of air pollution impacts on the natural environment

Professional membership of relevant professional organisation

3. Proposed program of work and payment table (Detailing specific tasks, key milestones, deliverables & completion date where appropriate)

Please provide details of the project timeline and how you will deliver the work to the required standard, including management and quality control.

Task no.	Task and deliverable	Completion date	Payment Schedule (%)
1	Inception Meeting	w/c 20 th October	25%
2	Presentation of initial findings	w/c 17 th Nov	25%
3	Draft report	12 th December	25%
4	Final report	6 th February	25%

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4. Risk

Note: This section is to be used to detail any risks relevant to the project i.e. Programme deliverable dates, data, consultees etc.

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5. Health and Safety Requirements

Note: Only include if the work involves site visits. Do not request RAMS or similar risk assessments are returned with submissions. These should only be requested at contract award.

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6. Sustainability Considerations (Only use if the work requires travel)

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Expenses (please detail type i.e. travel, accommodation etc.)		n/a
Overall Costs (excluding VAT)		£29,757.20
Overall Costs (including VAT)		£35,708.64
By signing this form <i>(Insert Supplier's Name)</i> agree to provide the services stated above for the cost set out in your Cost Proposal and in accordance with the Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework – Call-Off Contract.		
Supplier Project Manager:		Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information
Signature:		
Date:		

Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework	
PART 3: AGREEMENT	
To be completed by Framework Manager and Authority Contract Manager	
Approved by Framework Manager:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information
Contract Award Date:	
Agreed by Supplier:	
Approved by Contract Manager:	

Terms and Conditions	All call off contracts under the PRAPS Framework are subject to the terms and conditions agreed at framework award.
You must have a purchase order number from Natural England before you start any work in connection with this proposal.	

Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework

PART 4

Change Control Schedule

Notes

To be completed by Contracting Authority Project Manager

Any extensions, price changes or amendments to existing orders need to be discussed with the Framework Manager before being agreed with the Contractor. Please remember to amend your Purchase Order in SOP if necessary.

The table below should be used to record and authorise the agreed changes throughout the project. A Change Control Notice (CCN) should be completed for substantial changes to the project and a summary provided in the table below.

Send a copy of the revised Project Form and CCN (if used) to the Contractor once the change has been agreed and approved. A copy should also be sent to your Commercial Lead if a Atamis reference has been provided.

10. Change Control

All amendments to project scope, timetable or costs must be submitted to and approved by the Contracting Authority PM prior to implementing the change.

Change Details	CCN Ref. (if applicable)	Revised completion date (if applicable)	Revised Project Cost (if applicable)	Approved by (Framework Manager / Date)