**Specification for the Landscapes, Species and Anthropogenic Change project**

**Background to Natural England**

Natural England are the government’s adviser for the natural environment in England. We help to protect and restore our natural world. Natural England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs).

Our vision is ‘Thriving Nature for people and planet.’ We aim to achieve this through our mission ‘Building partnerships for Nature’s recovery.’ Our priorities for 2020 to 2025 support our mission and the ambitions of the [government’s 25 Year Environment Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan). We aim for:

* a well-managed Nature Recovery Network across land, water, and sea, which creates and protects resilient ecosystems rich in wildlife and natural beauty, enjoyed by people and widely benefiting society
* people connected to the natural environment for their own and society’s wellbeing, enjoyment, and prosperity
* Nature-based solutions contributing fully to tackling the climate change challenge and wider environmental hazards and threats
* improvements in the natural capital that drives sustainable economic growth, healthy food systems and prospering communities
* evidence and expertise being used by a broad range of partnerships, organisations, and communities to achieve Nature recovery and enable effective regulation and accreditation
* being a values-led organisation that delivers excellent service standards to all partners, organisations and communities engaged in achieving Nature’s recovery

for more information about our procurement policies please see [Procurement at Natural England - Natural England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about/procurement)

# Background to the specific Natural England work area relevant to this purchase

# The Landscape and Heritage and geodiversity team in Strategy and Government Advice lead on setting standards, delivery of NE’s statutory role as Govt’s landscape adviser to provide advice across government and responsible authorities to maximise the role and contribution of landscapes and National Trails. We also have a role in improving the delivery of outcomes from the protected landscapes. We disseminate landscape, historic environment, cultural heritage and geodiversity evidence and advice and are reviewing our priorities for evidence including the National Character Area (NCA)statements. We have provided standards for the implementation of various work areas including the Tree Action Plan, Nature Recovery Network, and species reintroduction programmes.

# As part of the NCA (National Character Area) review and improvement of guidance for land management schemes including FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) (farming in protected landscapes scheme, we require up to date evidence on the formation processes and timescales for the habitats within our landscapes which govern what species occur within them and how humans continue to influence them. This information is to inform the update of the NCA statements. This project must be delivered by the end of March 2023

# Project requirements

# Natural England recognises that little if any of England is truly natural and that what habitat is present in a place is governed by a mixture of geological, climatic, and human influences sometimes over many millennia. It is vital that this is understood when planning future interventions to help us to meet Government targets for nature recovery. By having a synthesis of the information in one place this will enable advisers to find information more efficiently.

# This project is to pilot the gathering of integrated natural and cultural capital information about a small subset of [Priority Habitats](https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/#list-of-uk-bap-priority-habitats) (as defined in Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act section 41)

# The priority habitat types are all mapped on [MAGIC](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/) or available as GIS layers from the [government data portal](https://data.gov.uk/).

For each of the following four Priority habitats we require a literature review to identify the most up to date evidence on, the who, what why, when, and how of England’s habitats. We are seeking a beautifully illustrated narrative on how these habitats came to be. Please provide references and suggested reading.

[Wood Pasture and Parkland](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-65-WoodPastureParkland-2011.pdf)

Blanket Bog

[Lowland Heath](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/1be8bec3-0437-4758-adc8-ac866d4e0769/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-28-LowlandHeathland.pdf)

[Lowland Meadow](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/f0553254-1d47-474a-98e5-37fa163a28b5/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-29-Lowland-Meadows.pdf)

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| --- | --- |
| **Questions to be answered** |  |
| **When and where** did this habitat begin to be formed? | Please provide a timeline (using the dates for epochs as used by [Historic England](http://heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Periods-List-HE-FISH-WP.pdf)) showing the main phases of formation and influences, prioritising the Anthropogenic factors which have affected this habitat type. This should be illustrated to show what the habitat would have looked like at key points in time.  Are there regional differences to this habitat in different parts of England?  Is it restricted to a particular area? |
| **Why and how** was the habitat formed? | What was this habitat used for?  Has the development been influenced by fashion or politics?  Has the management been influenced by policy and management philosophy past or present?  Was this habitat intrinsically linked to a particular industry, activity, or land use style?  What have been the technology and management methods involved in the habitat developments.  What are the other anthropogenic and natural factors affecting the development of the habitat?  Are there charismatic flagship species associated with the habitat which may be used for storytelling and engagement, and which illustrate the issues involved? |
| **What** are the topographical, geological and soil conditions required for the formation of this habitat? What are the water requirements? | Has the hydrology and geology been heavily modified or even engineered by people or has there been minimal human intervention  Do these factors influence any regional differences? |
| **Who** was responsible for the creation/development of this habitat? | Did the social system affect this, was it exclusive or more communal? |
| What is the optimum management for this habitat? | Give a concise explanation of what is needed to preserve the heritage values of this habitat in an ideal situation. |

**Scope of the project**

you should use publicly available data to allow for a review of the information to be carried out in the future, and to allow for consistency of approach should the project be extended to cover other habitats.

**Outputs and contract management**

This project must be completed by 28/2/2023 and invoiced by mid March 2023

The information should be provided as both a PDF of the product for each of the habitat types, along with separate documents of just the text, images saved as jpegs, captions, and alt text for images. No specific design will be required as this product is intended for use as a basis for adviser guidance and as background data for the revised NCA statements. The project should be illustrated, and images must be licenced for use by Natural England for a variety of projects. You should consider the value of presenting the information split into anthropogenic and natural processes.

**Supporting documents**

**Consultants submitting a tender for this project will be asked to provide Natural England with:**

* details of research methodologies to be used
* a copy of their environmental and sustainability policy
* VAT number
* CVs of the staff and subcontractors contributing to the project
* examples of your past work
* Risk assessments

Contractors should include details of:

* The personnel who will be directly involved with this contract, including brief CVs.
* Proposed methodology.
* Timetable.
* Past experience of carrying out similar work.
* Risk assessment and contingencies for ensuring successful completion of the contract.
* Quality assurance measures.

Bids must show a fixed price based on daily rates for project team members. They should follow the below format in providing a breakdown of the overall fixed price against the outputs required.

Prices must be submitted in £ sterling, exclusive of VAT.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Output*** | ***Staff grade*** | ***Daily rate*** | ***Input (days)*** | ***Total (excl VAT)*** |
| *Task 1 Literature review for the four habitats* [[W](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-65-WoodPastureParkland-2011.pdf)](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-65-WoodPastureParkland-2011.pdf) |  |  |  |  |
| *Task 2 written documents* |  |  |  |  |
| *Task 3 illustrations* |  |  |  |  |
| ***Total*** |  |  |  |  |
| ***Grand total*** |  |  |  |  |

**Sustainability**

As a delivery partner, the successful contractor is expected to pursue sustainability in their operations, thereby ensuring Natural England is not contracting with a supplier whose operational outputs run contrary to Natural England’s objectives. The successful contractor will need to approach the project with a focus on the entire life cycle of the project. The successful contractor is likely to be able to provide a copy of their environmental policy and any environmental accreditation schemes such as ISO 14001 or EMAS which they have been awarded or are working towards.

1. Operational Sustainability - Explain to Natural England what your organisation is doing to incorporate sustainability within its operations. This may include any details you are able to provide in relation to steps you may be taking to reduce your carbon footprint.
2. Environmental Management - Detail what you will do to assess the environmental impact of completing this project and provide mitigations. Examples may include operational measures to reduce emissions and noise impacts, efficient energy use, efficient use of raw materials and minimisation of waste where possible.
3. Transport – Please explain how your organisation goes about minimising the environmental impact of transport in delivery, particularly emphasising any aspects that could be relevant to the delivery of this contract. This could include the transport distances of materials, promoting green travel plans to site for employees, car sharing, use of minibuses, use of cleaner fuels for transport etc.
4. Raw Materials - How will you manage the potential environmental impacts of any raw materials you intend to utilise. Examples may include:
   * Ensuring all products purchased have comprehensive labelling detailing information for safe storage, use and disposal.
5. Packaging/waste - What steps will you take to reduce waste throughout the projects life and how and where will site waste be disposed of?
6. References - Provide references from previous works where sustainability was integrated throughout delivery
7. Local communities – Encourage suppliers to provide information concerning the community impacts associated with the delivery of the contract, so we can assess the socio-economic impact.
8. Please provide details of any carbon reporting currently being undertaken

**Evaluation Criteria**

We will award the contract in line with the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT), as set out in the following award criteria:

Price – 40%

Quality – 60%

The following quality criteria are weighted in accordance with the importance and relevance

attached to each one.

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| Criteria | **Weighting** |
| *Task 1 Literature review for the four habitats* [[W](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-65-WoodPastureParkland-2011.pdf)](https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2829ce47-1ca5-41e7-bc1a-871c1cc0b3ae/UKBAP-BAPHabitats-65-WoodPastureParkland-2011.pdf) | ***20%*** |
| *Task 2 written documents* | ***20%*** |
| *Task 3 illustrations* | ***20%*** |

The quality criteria will be scored as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Justification** |
| For a score of hundred (100): | Excellent - Response is completely relevant and excellent overall. The response is comprehensive, unambiguous and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the requirement and provides details of how the requirement will be met in full. |
| For a score of seventy (70): | Good - Response is relevant and good. The response demonstrates a good understanding and provides details on how the requirements will be fulfilled. |
| For a score of fifty (50): | Acceptable - Response is relevant and acceptable. The response provides sufficient evidence to fulfil basic requirements. |
| For a score of twenty (20): | Poor - Response is partially relevant and/or poor. The response addresses some elements of the requirements but contains insufficient / limited detail or explanation to demonstrate how the requirement will be fulfilled. |
| For a score of zero (0): | Unacceptable - Nil or inadequate response. Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement. |

**key contacts**

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All queries will be recorded and the response to the question provided to all tenderers regardless of which supplier requested the information.