

Contract Name - Natural England Goss_Scrub_24_25

Date - 07th October 2024

RE: Clarification of variations of the contract.

Thank you for attending site visits to the working areas.

The below information has been provided to confirm the reduction of gross area within Priority 2 and to clarify commercial sensitive answers from the onset of questions asked during such site visits, as shown below under the heading of 'Other matters'.

Priority 1

For clarification, please ignore the examples provided within the RFQ, namely that Natural England (NE), will mark trees to be retained and/or removed, but then to be stacked and/or material to be extracted to a bonfire location.

To simplify this and during the site visits Ian Moye from NE, provided sufficient examples of semi to mature trees to be retained and equally species of trees to be retained e.g., willows/oaks/birch/hawthorns for both Priority areas 1 and 2. Please proceed with your commercial response using this simplification of the methodology of works.

East of the boardwalk there is a block of substantial mature willow woodland as shown within (Map 1) the woodland block is to be retained. The clearance works can continue around the perimeter of the woodland block, there are no viable reasons to enter the woodland block to remove younger scrub.

Priority 2

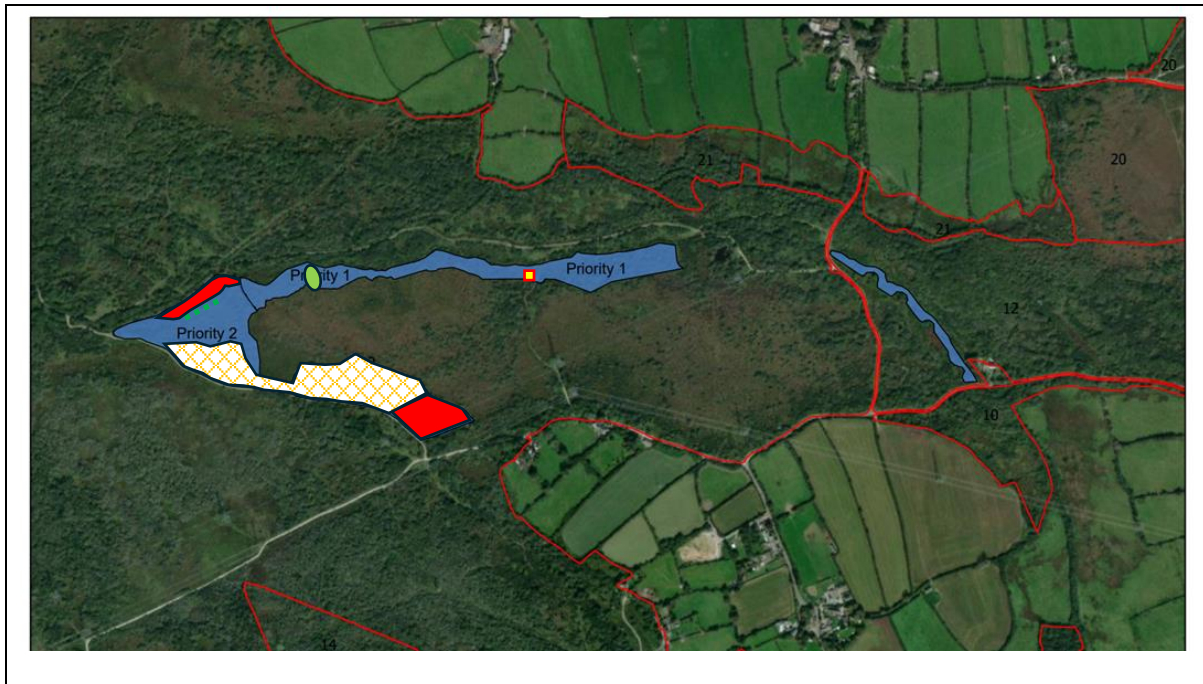
(Map 1) below outlines, indicative areas to be removed from the contract. The original clearance area was Approx. 6.1ha (Gross). The approx. gross area of priority 2 is now 5.4ha.







You will also note within the (Map 1) has provided changes in the methodology within Priority 2. Namely, divining areas where the methodology approach as shown within the RFQ changes from mechanical scrub/tree clearance (if using this methodology) to manual scrub clearance works. Please note that within the manual clearance area the work required is to remove understorey light scrub, all semi to mature trees will be retained, regardless of species.

These areas will be marked out on the ground to aid the methodology changes for the successful bidder.

NE has decided that a rack/line of willow trees to be retained as shown within (Map 1). All other scrub to be removed, but gain retain other more mature trees within this area, as shown and discussed on site.

Map 1 showing and clarifying changes to the initial RFQ



Key:	
	Priority areas 1 - 3
	Areas removed from original RFQ amounts to approx. 0.7ha requiring no works.
	Changes of methodology – understorey of light scrub to be removed using brushcutters and chainsaws. Scattered small woody cuttings can either lopped and topped and left in-situ or create wildlife piles. Where there is more woody material – material to be burnt in-situ.
	Rack/line of willows to be retained approx. area 0.02ha
	Mature woodland, namely mature willow block to be retained. Remove all other scrub around perimeter of the woodland block. Entering the woodland block to remove light scrub is not required.
	Recently recorded dormouse presence within Priority area 1. Indicative area – unknown area size. Material such as small trees/scrub to be removed. Woody arisings to be stacked in an orderly fashion along the edge of historical clearance. Material not to be extracted to burn site/s.

Other matters

Net Vs Gross calculations

Please note and as shown during the site visits the commercial response is asking for a gross per/ha costs and should not be a net per/ha costing exercise. Priority areas 1 and 2 has many open areas within their boundaries. NE deemed that the pragmatic approach would be of the commercial response being calculated as a gross area. However, any isolated patches of scrub to be removed within these open areas and within the boundaries of the priority areas 1 and 2.

The net area is considerably lower than the gross area, due to the open areas within the scrub priority areas 1 and 2 albeit some of the open areas still need element of works, e.g. tracking across to remove scattered scrub. Net area is hard to quantify but estimated to be approx. 40%

of the total approx. gross area of priority 1 and 2. Priority 3 gross area is estimated to be that equal to the gross area, again may have some open areas.

Health & Safety

NE will reduce stumps running the entire length of the working area within Priority 2 south of the river Fal from historical clearance works.

Burning brash and woody materials

Bonfire sites can be in areas as discussed and shown during the site visits, how many burn sites are up to the successful bidder. NE have a D7 burning exemption to burn up to 10 ton over a 24 period. It is very unlikely that the amount of burning would surpass such ton of waste to be burnt in a 24hr period. The D7 will be provided to the successful bidder.

Ecological

Changes can occur at any point prior and during the works. NE has an approved pragmatic and knowledgeable ecologist with many years of experience working on Goss with multiple contractors. I am unable to quantify total ecological constraints. However, as described within the RFQ, in the event of presence of a protected species an exclusion zone will be set up. The contractors are then expected to move away from this exclusion zone. NE will not ask to go back to the exclusion zone/s once the ecological constraint has been mitigated. Therefore, in the even of a protected species being recorded, there will be no long term down time. NE may ask for all cut woody material to remain in areas and not to be extracted to a burn site/s. One area has already been identified due to the recent recorded presence of dormice and as shown indicatively in (Map 1).

In-situ dormouse tubes/nest boxes

NE are hoping to remove the majority of dormice tubes/nest boxes. In the event of some being missed NE are expecting that the contractor to remove either tubes or boxes and store in a safe manner. More emphasis will be on nest boxes to be retained.

Stump treatment

NE will expect contractors to treat all stumps over 2 inches in diameter when the correct weather conditions allow. NE do not expect the contractor to go back over areas cleared to recut stumps to allow stump treatment when weather conditions have not been correct. NE has supplied examples of herbicide to use, some are rain fast within the hour. The cost of this through bidders' commercial response is again gross area and not net. NE will ground proof areas showing viable signs of stumps treated as a gross area to confirm how many gross/per/ha has been treated and will only pay for this total gross area of treatment.