



Published: 19/08/2024

Audience: Natural England

Background to Natural England

Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment. We provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone.

Our remit is to ensure sustainable stewardship of the land and sea so that people and nature can thrive. It is our responsibility to see that England's rich natural environment can adapt and survive intact for future generations to enjoy.

Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve

Parsonage Down NNR is a SSSI and SAC designated chalk grassland which also operates as a working organic beef farm; home to a native herd of Longhorn Cattle. It is Natural England's responsibility to ensure that the chalk grassland remains in favourable condition and that the site is safe for staff, the public and the livestock that graze the site. Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve

Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase

As part of the grazing management on the SSSI, the NNR also requires winter sheep grazing to ensure that all of last years grass growth is removed to prevent thatching and long-term decline in the chalk grassland habitat.

Requirement

Natural England can only sustain sheep grazing over the winter months and therefore wishes to purchase sheep that can be sold on in the spring at a higher value than when they were first bought. Our specific requirement are:

- 500 store lambs
- Lambs must be registered as organic
- The lambs must also be Red Tractor Farm Assured
- The lambs must be a hardy breed, therefore we wish to purchase Welsh Mountain sheep (and crosses) that will thrive over the winter in southern England.

- To ensure that the lambs will thrive, the sheep must have come from a site used for rough grazing or conservation grazing
- Lambs must be from North Wales
- Any supplier wishing to tender must also be able to show their worming protocol also.

Sustainability

Natural England protects and improves the environment and is committed to reducing the sustainability impacts of its activities directly and through its supply chains. We expect the Contractor to share this commitment and adopt a sound, proactive sustainable approach in keeping with the 25 yr environmental plan/our commitments compliant with all applicable legislation. This includes understanding and reducing direct and indirect sustainability impacts and realising opportunities, including but not restricted to; resilience to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and quality, biosecurity, resource efficiency and waste, reducing the risk of pollution, biodiversity, modern slavery and equality, diversity & inclusion, negative community impacts.

As a delivery partner, the successful contractor is expected to pursue sustainability in their operations, thereby ensuring the Contracting Authority is not contracting with a supplier whose operational outputs run contrary to the Contracting Authority's objectives. The successful contractor will need to approach the project with a focus on the entire life cycle of the project

Outputs and Contract Management

Quotation	Quotation to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breed and age range • Information on the farming system and whether the livestock are acclimatised to rough grazing • Location livestock are currently kept • evidence of organic registration and Red Tractor Assurance Scheme • Evidence of worming protocol • price per sheep • haulage costs 		
Contract Management	All RFQ and Contractor Paperwork signed and completed		

Set up as a registered supplier	Chosen supplier to provide payment details		
Pre-Haulage discussion	Phone conversation to agree haulage date		
Haulage	Date sheep arrive at the farm		