

**Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS)
Framework**

PART 1: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contract Title:
Evidence Framework

Contract Manager Name: **Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information**

Framework Reference Number:	PRAPS106	Lot Number:	Lot 4
Atamis Number <i>(if applicable, refer to guidance)</i>	n/a	Defra Group Commercial Contact <i>(If applicable, refer to guidance):</i>	N/A

Date: 24/10/2025

Contract Start Date 17/11/2025

Contract Completion Date 27/02/2026

Procurement Route:

Direct Award	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mini-competition	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Proposal return date: 07/11/2025

Clarification Question Date: 31/10/2025

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:
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1. Approach & Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly set out the proposed approach and methodology for delivering the contract, include justification on suitability. Demonstrate understanding of what Natural England is trying to achieve through the contract. 	70	35%
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. Sustainability (if no travel etc. mark as 'N/A' and re-distribute %)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline of approach to sustainability 	N/A	N/A

Specification
1. Description of work required – overall purpose & scope (including reporting requirements)
<p>Background</p> <p>Over recent years, multiple novel interventions have been submitted to Local Planning Authorities to support planning applications affected by Nutrient Neutrality and Natural England has been consulted for advice. This has been provided on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Following introduction of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, Natural England are developing the Nature Restoration Fund. Through this, it will need to enable implementation of effective conservation measures to generate ecological benefits through Environmental Delivery Plans. 'Conservation measures' are interventions used to offset the negative impacts of new development and contribute to nature recovery of a protected site or species.</p>

To enable transparent assessment of the efficacy of proposed interventions, Natural England require an evidence framework to assess conservation measures for the initial and future Environmental Delivery Plans against.

Scope of works

The initial phase of work on the framework will focus on reducing nutrients from impacting water quality, typically involving either nature-based solutions (NbS) or engineered interventions, such as riparian buffer strips and upgrading onsite-wastewater treatment systems.

Natural England requires the framework to define appropriate thresholds for the minimum level of scientific evidence needed to prove an intervention will be effective at intercepting and/or removing nutrient loads before they enter a watercourse.

This is to enable transparent assessment of the efficacy of proposed interventions. Thereby enabling an intervention to be relied upon in an Environmental Delivery Plan or Habitats Regulations assessment (HRA) to address the impact from new development.

NE aims to utilise innovation and expertise in water quality and Nature-based Solutions to grow the breadth of measures that can reduce nutrient inputs at watercourse to support site restoration, whilst maintaining confidence in measures used to manage nutrient inputs to watercourses.

Requirements

1) Propose a comprehensive structure for the Evidence Framework

The framework should aim to consider the full breadth of measures that could deliver nutrient reductions and categorise these interventions into different groups based on how its nutrient reduction mechanisms is best tested. This categorisation process is to help stakeholders identify the minimum level of evidence required to show an intervention is effective across the full breadth of measures used to reduce nutrient inputs.

Note, different evidence collection and analysis methods can be used to test the effectiveness of one measure so the framework must be flexible enough to accommodate a variety of different methodological approaches.

The structure must account for the different types of nutrient reduction interventions which broadly fall into the following groups but are not limited to these groups:

- Avoidant measures – securing the cessation of nutrient inputs (land use change, farm yard closure)
- Interception and removal measures - targeted deployment of Nature-based Solutions to intercept and treat or remove nutrient loads before reaching the watercourse
- Engineered solutions – measures include wastewater treatment systems
- Nutrient recycling – strategic substitution of nutrient surplus or re-use of nutrients within the same catchment
- Replacement measures - exchanging more polluting nutrient input to less polluting inputs

- Reactive media – media systematically deployed to remove contaminants directly from the watercourse

Advice is welcome from the contractor to improve the above categorisation of nutrient reduction measures or to include additional novel measures on the horizon.

2) Provide guidelines for the minimum level of evidence for each group of interventions

The contractor is to select acceptable and widely-used methods of evidence collection and analysis to show the effectiveness of a measure using existing industry approaches, their expertise in water quality monitoring and modelling and scientific papers. For each method identified, the contractor must assign a minimum level of evidence for that type of method through the creation of guidelines. The contractor must align the evidence requirement for different types of method for evidence collection and analysis to the existing level of evidence required for current nutrient mitigation measures relied upon in Habitats Regulations assessments to provide a consistent approach. Natural England can advise accordingly.

Each type of evidence collection and analysis must account for the following factors that may influence the accuracy of the dataset used to assess the effectiveness of a measure:

- Environmental factors that undermine the accuracy and reliability of a data collection used to assess a measure's effectiveness, e.g., natural fluctuations in influent loads
- Methodological factors that decrease confidence in the results (e.g., short length of monitoring)
- The type of contaminant measured or modelled and how this reflects nutrient reductions at the watercourse, in terms of kg TN and TP/year
- Assumptions used to identify realistic and legally compliant legal baselines for analysis of nutrient reductions
- Information to assume the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of nutrient reductions

3) Draft the framework and submit final version following comments from NE

The contractor is to draft the framework to be reviewed by Natural England.

The framework must be user centred, mainly this will be Natural England staff and various stakeholders proposing novel measures to address nutrient related water quality issues, by providing clear, specific and reasonable requirements.

The contractor is to submit a draft structure for the framework to NE for approve. Once NE accept the structure, the contractor is to submit one draft framework to NE for comment and then submit the final framework suitably resolving all comments as the final submission. See proposed programme of works in section 3 of the Call off Form for more information.

The framework must be written in a template provided by Natural England and must follow NE's publication guidance in terms of accessibility and formatting.

4) Outputs

Output 1: Present a comprehensive structure for the framework including categorising of different types of measures.

Output 2: Create clear guidelines for the minimum level of evidence required for each group of measures that will underpin the framework

Output 3: Submit the framework with recommendations for next steps

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

The contractor’s team must have expertise in, environmental standards and markets, water quality monitoring and modelling, alongside awareness of Nutrient Neutrality advice issued by Natural England.
Key staff members involved in this project should be at Senior or Specialist grade, with Director input.

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	Contract commencement meeting	27 November 2025	50%
2	Requirement 2	TBC	
3	Requirement 3 – submit structure for approval	TBC	
4	Requirement 3 – submit draft for comment	TBC	
5	Requirement 4 – submit final output	Prior to 27 February 2026	50%
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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.

The main risk associated with this project is not delivering the Framework to the timescales specified above. This may delay delivery of the initial tranche off Environmental Delivery Plans.

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.

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

type i.e. travel, accommodation etc.)		
Overall Costs (excluding VAT)		£24,525
Overall Costs (including VAT)		£29,430
By signing this form Thomson environmental consultants 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:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information	
Date:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information	

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:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information
Agreed by Supplier:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information
Approved by Contract Manager:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

	Date: 17/11/2025
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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)