Add NE Logo

**Standard Contract for Goods and/or Services - Order Form**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Purchase Order Number** | *To Be Confirmed* | |
| 1. **Customer** | Natural England, 4th Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX | |
| 1. **Contractor(s)** | *To Be Confirmed* | |
| 1. **Defra Group Members** | The following Defra Group members will receive the benefit of the Deliverables:  Natural England | |
| 1. **The Agreement** | This Order is part of the Agreement and is subject to the terms and conditions referenced at Appendix 1 and shall come into effect on the Start Date.  Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalised expressions used in this Order have the same meanings as in the terms and conditions.  The following documents are incorporated into the Agreement. If there is any conflict, the following order of precedence applies (in descending order):   1. this Order; 2. the terms and conditions at Appendix 1; and 3. the remaining Appendices (if any) in equal order of precedence. | |
| 1. **Deliverables** | **Applicable Deliverables** | ***[Guidance note: Tick the relevant box which applies, Where the Contractor is providing both goods and services please tick the third box only.]***  **Goods Only:**  **Services Only:**  **Good and Services:** |
| **Goods** | *None.* |
| **Services** | The Chalk Coast NNR: Chalk Soil Evaluation Project (Appendix 2)  To be performed within Seaford to Eastbourne Chalk Coast super NNR.  Date(s) of Delivery: February 2024- March 2025 |
| 1. **Start Date** | 02/02/2024 | |
| 1. **Expiry Date** | 30/03/2025 | |
| 1. **Charges** | The Charges for the Goods and/or Services shall be as set out [in [Appendix 3 – Charges]]. The Charges are fixed for the duration of the Agreement. | |
| 1. **Payment** | Payments will be made to ***[Insert payment method(s) and necessary details]*** | |
| 1. **Contractor’s Liability Cap (Clause 13.2.1)** | [A sum equal to £5,000,000]. | |
| 1. **Customer’s Authorised Representative(s)** | For general liaison your contact will continue to be  Madeleine Wells  [Maddy.wells@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Maddy.wells@naturalengland.org.uk)  or, in their absence,  Laura Newland  [Laura.newland@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Laura.newland@naturalengland.org.uk) | |
| 1. **Contractor’s Authorised Representative** | For general liaison your contact will continue to be  [**Insert *contract manager name and contact details***]  or, in their absence,  [**Insert *secondary name and contact details***]. | |
| 1. **Optional Intellectual Property Rights (“IPR”) Clauses** | The Customer has chosen Option **B** in respect of intellectual property rights provisions for the Agreement as set out in the terms and conditions. | |
| 1. **Progress Meetings and Progress Reports** | The Contractor shall provide the Customer with progress reports every [frequency tbc] . | |
| 1. **Address for notices** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Customer:**  Natural England,  4th Floor, Foss House,  Kings Pool,  1-2 Peasholme Green,  York  YO1 7PX | **Contractor:**  [**insert *name***  ***and address of Contractor - tbc*]**    Attention: **[insert *title***]    Email:  [**insert *email address***] | |  |  | |  | | |
| 1. **Key Personnel of the Contractor** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Key Personnel Role:** | **Key Personnel Name:** | **Contact Details:** | |  |  |  | |  | | | |  |  |  | | |
| 1. **Procedures and Policies** | For the purposes of the Agreement: ***[add/amend/delete as necessary]*** [The Customer’s Staff Vetting Procedures are: [**Insert *details/contained in [*Insert *link to relevant policy****].* *[****Example 1:*** *The Customer requires the Contractor to ensure that any person employed in the Delivery of the Goods and/or Services has undertaken a disclosure and barring service check.]**[****Example 2:*** *Details of what the Customer considers to be a Relevant Conviction for the purposes of clause 6.4 of the terms and conditions].* [The Customer’s security / data security requirements are: [**Insert *details/contained in [*Insert *link to relevant policy***].  [The Customer’s additional sustainability requirements are: [**Insert *details/contained in [*Insert *link to relevant policy***].  [The Customer’s equality and diversity policy/requirements and instructions related to equality Law [and] environmental policy [is/are] [**Insert *details/contained in [*Insert *link to relevant policy***].  [The Customer’s health and safety policy is: [**Insert *details/contained in [*Insert *link to relevant policy***]. | |
| 1. **Special Terms** | Special Term 1 - ***[Insert terms to revise or supplement the terms and conditions, or enter ‘N/A’ and delete the extra rows below for example but not exhaustive:***   * ***longer extension period;*** * ***time being of the essence for delivery]*** | |
| 1. **Additional Insurance** |  | |
| 1. **Further Data Protection Provisions** | The further data protection provisions contained within Annex 4 of the terms and conditions are applicable to this Agreement where indicated below:  **Yes:**  **No:** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signed for and on behalf of the **Customer** | Signed for and on behalf of the **Contractor** |
| Name:  [**Insert** name]  [**Insert** job title] | Name:  [**Insert** name]  [**Insert** job title] |
| Date: | Date: |
| Signature: | Signature: |

**Appendix 1: Terms and Conditions**

The Customer’s Standard Good & Services Terms and Conditions which can be located on the [Natural England Website](https://eur05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Forganisations%2Fnatural-england%2Fabout%2Fprocurement&data=05%7C01%7Cdaniel.lavender%40dlapiper.com%7Ce61b389c5e15470f278e08dbcc060e37%7Ce855e7acc54640d299f7a100522010f9%7C1%7C0%7C638328098969691096%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ymInFtzabvMF3T9or361i03D%2B4kyuzgt8T5CzJeS7Gc%3D&reserved=0) and which are called ‘Standard Goods & Services Terms and Conditions’

**Appendix 2: Specification/Description**

1. **Specification of Requirements**
2. **Background to Natural England**

Natural England is the government’s advisor for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England’s nature and landscapes. Nature Recovery is at the centre of the Government’s [Environmental Improvement Plan](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1168372/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf). With the introduction of the Nature Recovery Network, by 2042 Natural England is working to restore 75% protected sites, create 500,000ha of additional habitat, recover threatened species and deliver environmental, economic, and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation. Natural England has worked with partners to create 12 Nature Recovery Projects across England which will strengthen and fast track the Nature Recovery Network and showcase how to deliver nature recovery at local and ecologically functioning scale.

We are working with a wide range of partners, stakeholders, and customers on a range of projects, from influencing sustainable development, advising farmers and landowners how they can manage their land in a sustainable way for the benefit of the environment, gathering and analysing environmental data, and carrying out vital statutory duties. Across the country, we’re helping nature to support people and our planet. Further information about Natural England can be found at: [Natural England](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england) .

1. **Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project**

**Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase**

Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project (NRP) covers 12,000ha and aims to create wildlife-rich habitats, improve climate security, and offer opportunities for the local community to connect with nature. The project will build on key partnerships with South-East Water, local authorities, environmental organisations and farmers. This landscape scale approach will pull together levels of knowledge for targeted intervention.

Within the NRP we are proposing an extension of the National Nature Reserve to create a 'super partnership NNR', inspired by the importance of the chalk geology and the ecosystem services that it provides. Chalk geology is the underpinning driver as it has critical importance for water supply in the area and subsequently provides wider environmental, economic and social benefits. Often, the ecology is linked to the wider health of raw water quality and quantity. Within the NRP, the aim is to restore and create a range of priority habitats, with the most prominent being chalk grassland.

The new super NNR encompasses a mosaic of fragmented habitats in a range of conditions, most of which have not been ground assessed for likeliness of restoring or creating primary habitat. This project will focus on the 2000 hectares of the super NNR, investigating where there is good quality chalk grassland (and other habitat types e.g, chalk heath, woodland and salt marsh) and understanding the underlying soil health, ecology and potential of these sites. This will be a landscape scale approach to create multifunctional sites where sustainable vegetation is integrated within broader objectives within the wider NRP landscape.

Detailed information about soil conditions and soil type are vital when informing re-creation or restoration of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats such as grassland or heathland. For restoration to be successful this requires a full understanding of the physical and chemical properties of the soil, along with its plant, animal and microbial communities. Soils help to define what ecosystems can be restored and are good markers of previous habitats and land use. Current soil surveys of the land are either not consistent, out-of-date and have not assessed soil carbon capture.

By mapping the soil structure, soil health and changing nature of the soils across habitat types of the super NNR, we can use this information to: identify where to focus investments and efforts of habitat restoration and recreation (which sites are suitable for restoration and the most appropriate target community to aim for) to create a mosaic of high-quality habitats. There is an aim to have these tests easily replicated for future monitoring to be able to provide evidence on the success of improving the health of the soils across the super NNR.

**The overall aims of the project are:**

● To gain a thorough understanding of which soil factors (type, condition, structure etc.) produce high quality habitats within the super NNR.

● To obtain management and/or enhancement recommendations for improving soil conditions to inform: habitat restoration/recreation of habitats, carbon storage potential, species survival in relation to pesticide levels e.g. the Chough within the super NNR.

● To prepare a management plan based on these recommendations that is achievable for the landowner partnership.

**Requirement**

This will be a two-year project (subject to financial confirmation). The area to be assessed is managed by eight partners and covers 2018ha of land with the addition of potentially 1400ha as associated areas, as shown in Figure 1.

The requirements for the Year One of the project are as follows:

1. **Literature review to identify:**

- The history of the site, influencing factors (such as archaeology, water courses or groundwater impacts), its context and linkages within the wider environment, local BAP targets and characteristic habitats in the surrounding area.

- Soil types across the super NNR. Using LandIS for soilscapes ([[1]](#footnote-2)) and other published data to identify: texture, pH, nutrients, depth, moisture, contaminants, porosity, drainage, fertility, land cover, carbon, water protection.

- Determining if soils are original, undisturbed or altered due to management techniques. Historic land-use (agriculture, fertiliser use, management including grazing) within the super NNR to give an indication of existing and historic soil quality within the area.

- Models that map the distribution of habitats within the NRP landscape relying on soil patterns as a key driver.

- Existing soil studies, sampling and measures across the super NNR. Accessing soil samples from landowners in the super NNR from the RPA. Accessing long term soil monitoring data of Lullington Heath NNR ([[2]](#footnote-3)). Reviewing studies including soils of Upper Friston Forest ([[3]](#footnote-4)), The Chalk Aquifer of the South Downs ([[4]](#footnote-5)) and theSouth-East Water Prowater study.

-High quality habitats (chalk grassland, chalk heath and maritime grassland) within the super NNR. Which soil types are present where there are high quality habitats (chalk grassland, chalk heath, maritime grassland) within the super NNR.

- Soil requirements (pH, nutrient levels, structure etc.) of indicator plants to inform re-creation/restoration of chalk grassland, chalk heath and maritime grassland communities.

- How chalk soil health can impact the chalk aquifer.

- Soil limiting factors for re-creation/restoration of chalk grassland, chalk heath and maritime grassland communities.

- Water retention potential of each habitat type within the super NNR.

- Soil carbon capture potential of each habitat type within the super NNR. - Potential risks to soils due to climate change, mitigation measures to prevent these.

**2. Soil sampling**

Conducting soil sampling of habitats (chalk grassland, chalk heath, maritime grassland) in various conditions within the super NNR to identify soil features and the potential determined by these to recreate or restore target habitats. This will include plant indicator surveys. Soil surveys will be carried out on a comparable site which already supports similar vegetation or the desired habitat.

Soil sampling methods should follow those set out in the Soil Sampling Field Protocol and Analysis for Long Term Monitoring ([[5]](#footnote-6)). These will be conducted over all habitats in the super NNR, with target areas decided using information from the desk-based study. This will include analysis of:

- Depth variation. Relationship between soil depth and soil moisture.

- Soil chemical analysis including: pH, extractable phosphorus, extractable potassium, extractable magnesium, total nitrogen, loss-on-ignition, total phosphorus, phosphorous adsorption, organic carbon, carbon: nitrogen ratio.

- Cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils to indicate soil fertility and buffer capacity.

- Soil moisture content.

- Soil texture analysis including: bulk density, water infiltration, soil porosity. Assessment of soil structure and compaction.

- Soil carbon content analysis through direct sampling and dry combustion analysis.

**-** The functional biota of the soil using eDNA. This would give a direct measure of ‘soil health’ before, during and after project. Looking at the detritivore and fungal community composition, investigating effects on functional communities. The desktop study proposed, along with proposed project activities would help focus where this kind of monitoring would be most insightful.

- Soil biology surveys: Measuring the bacteria, fungi, protozoa and diversity of microbial biomass of the soil using a PLFA. Nematode extraction. Soil invertebrate survey through dry Tullgren extraction method.

- Assessing pesticide levels within soil using chromatography.

*During surveys the project area will have difficult access, steep terrain, livestock, cliffs and rock falls. As part of the project the contractor will be expected to provide risk assessments and method statements detailing how the risks will be suitably managed and the work undertaken safely. These must be provided for review, prior to the commencement of any works.*

The requirements for the Year Two of the project (subject to financial confirmation) are as follows:

1. **Management recommendations**

Observations from site conditions (from surveys and literature review) will assess the need to restore either the soil, vegetation, or whole ecosystem within habitats in the NNR. The current site conditions will drive a management plan that considers design, establishment, initial after-care and medium and long-term management that is achievable for the landowner partnership. This will include:

- Creation of Habitat Potential Maps: Mapping soil areas of low and high ecological condition and where soil conditions are ideal to restore/recreate habitats and use this for targeted restoration/ recreation within the super NNR. - Identifying areas susceptible to soil erosion or climate change impacts and how these can be mitigated.

- Recommend land use change for farmers supported by agri-environment schemes.

1. **Sustainability**

Defra Group 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-year 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.

1. **Outputs and Contract Management**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Deliverable | Responsible Party | Date of completion |
| Objective 1. | Final Literature Review, completed following Natural England digital document guidelines.  DRAFT documents to be complete by beginning of March to allow comments and changes to be made ahead of final delivery. | Contractor | March 2024 |
| Objective 2. | Soil Sampling. Results to be fed back to NE before final write up. | Contractor | March 2024 |
| Objective 3. | Preparation and collation of results, consultation with key partners to create management plan. | Contractor, NE, Landowners, Key Partners | March 2025 |

A map of a city

Description automatically generated

Figure 1. Super NNR area outlined in red. Seaford to Eastbourne NRP outlined in green.

**Appendix 3: Charges**

**Appendix 4: Processing Personal Data**

|  |  |
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|  |  |
| **[XXXX]** |
| **Contract:** |
| **Date:** | **[XXXX]** |
| **Description of authorised processing** | **Details** |
| Identity of Controller and Processor for each category of Personal Data |  |
| Subject matter of the processing |  |
| Duration of the processing |  |
| Nature and purposes of the processing |  |
| Type of Personal Data |  |
| Categories of Data Subject |  |
| Plan for return and destruction of the data once the processing is complete UNLESS requirement under law to preserve that type of data |  |
| Locations at which the Contractor and/or its subcontractors process Personal Data under this Agreement |  |
| Protective Measures that the Contractor and, where applicable, its subcontractors have implemented to protect Personal Data processed under this Agreement against a breach of security (insofar as that breach of security relates to data) or a Personal Data Breach |  |

1. [LandIS - Land Information System - Soilscapes soil types viewer](https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5156654487699456> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. THE SOILS OF UPPER FRISTON FOREST, EAST SUSSEX, A INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FOR FOREST ENTERPRISE, SE DISTRICT 2004 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. National Groundwater Survey, The Chalk aquifer of the South Downs, H K Jones and N S Robins, British Geological Survey 1999 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. [Soil Sampling Field Protocol and Analysis for Natural England Long-Term Monitoring Network v3.pdf](file:///C:/Users/m1013269/Downloads/Soil%20Sampling%20Field%20Protocol%20%20and%20Analysis%20for%20Natural%20England%20Long-Term%20Monitoring%20Network%20v3.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)