

Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework				
PART 1: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL				
Contract Title: Guidance on how to identify the Affected Roads Network for HRA purposes				
Contract Manager Name:	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information			
Framework Reference Number:	PRAPS075	Lot Number:	Lot 3	
Atamis Number (if applicable, refer to guidance)	N/A	Defra Group Commercial Contact (If applicable, refer to guidance):	N/A	
Date: 09/12/2024				
Contract Start Date		06/01/2025		
Contract Completion Date		28/02/2025		
Procurement Route:	Direct Award	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mini-competition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposal return date: (For mini competitions, no less than 10 working days from issue date)	16/12/2024			
Clarification Question Date: (For mini competitions, also insert the clarification question deadline date which is five working days from the issue date)	12/12/2024			

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:

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. 	50	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. 	50	30%
3. Project Management, Ability to Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a project timeline including contingency. Demonstrate quality assurance measures. 	50	25%
4. Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include specific risks involved 	50	10%

Specification Summary (please see accompanying full specification for further details)
1. Description of work required – overall purpose & scope (including reporting requirements)
Background.

NE has a general duty under the Habitats Regulations to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive when exercising its functions – this includes giving advice and taking appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and species on European Sites.

As part of Natural England's AQ Action Plan and AQ reform work, there is a shift to focussing advice on higher risk and opportunity work to allow time to address AQ issues more strategically. Air quality remains a complex area of work and there is a clear need to ensure a consistent approach across the organisation to minimise environmental, reputational and legal risks. There is also a requirement to provide additionally clarity to some areas and to provide additional guidance and support to frontline staff across the organisation.

Motorways

Air Quality impacts from Local Plan (or other) growth has added complexity where the relevant affected road network within the plan area within 200m of a designated site includes or links to motorways. As motorways are major routes focussing traffic from distant areas of the Country, there is a risk that Local Plan “in combination” AQ assessments are including traffic from significant swathes of the Country and this may be falling within the scope of “legislative overkill” (as quoted by Justice Jay in the Wealden Judgement). This needs to be balanced against the need for Local Plans to have a realistic “in combination” assessment, i.e. with other local adjoining Local Plans where there is shared use of the relevant road network and where designated sites fall within 200m of these. There is a need for Natural England’s advice to LPAs (NEA001) to be updated and for guidance to be provided on this aspect.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)

Natural England currently agrees the same screening level for AADT (in combination) as Highways England. i.e. that the following AADT levels would provide a proxy average for a likely 1% increase of critical level/loads

1,000 Cars
OR
200 HDVs

The JNCC Decision Making Threshold (DMT) report <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/6cce4f2e-e481-4ec2-b369-2b4026c88447> (section 5.7 and Tables 5.2 and 5.3 of the report, and Tables 12 and 13 of the technical report) suggests that the rough approximation of 1% of the CL/Cle could be as low as 35 AADT for very sensitive woodland habitats adjoining the road, and <1000AADT for all N-sensitive habitat types at 25m from the road, and further in some cases.

Whilst the DMT is not to be used in Local Plans and has a very specific purpose, this has raised doubt about the validity of using the 1,000 AADT cars thresholds as a screening threshold to rule out the need for more detailed modelling.

There is a need for thresholds to be based on evidence and to be able to withstand scrutiny so Natural England would like this confirmation that 1,000 AADT of cars is still an appropriate threshold.

Scope of Works

This contract will involve the following:

- Identify an approach for LPAs and developers to consider traffic increases on motorways. This must take account of relevant in combination growth as required under the Habitats Regulations but is a proportionate approach and would withstand scrutiny.
- Set out the criteria of how to define the Affected Road Network which should be included in an in-combination Assessment when this includes a motorway.
- Set out criteria for when it would be appropriate to include a motorway and when it isn't
- Identify the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) level which provides a proxy average for a likely 1% increase of critical level/loads which is robust and would withstand scrutiny (e.g. The OEP has scrutinised the use of thresholds for air pollution where these are not based

on evidence).

- Review of whether the evidence used in the DMT on the fleet composition assumed which gives rise to 1000 AADT is reliable and robust.
- Produce a guidance document for internal and external use which sets out and summarises:
 - The above approaches
 - Explain how the approaches are compliant with the Habitats Regulations

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

Education: Degree level or higher in appropriate subject.

Role: Senior grade or above.

- Expert knowledge and experience of air quality casework / consultancy.
- Expert knowledge and experience of air quality assessment.
- Expert knowledge and experience of transport modelling of local plans
- Expert knowledge and experience of air pollution impacts on the natural environment.
- Expert knowledge and experience of the planning system, especially strategic planning (local plans).
- Expert Knowledge and experience of applying the Habitats Regulations to complex planning proposals which have involved the mitigation of air pollution impacts on Habitats Sites (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar Sites).
- Expert knowledge and experience of providing technical advice to decision makers on air pollution impacts (specifically ammonia, Nitrous oxides and nitrogen deposition) from all sources of pollution including transport, agricultural and industrial.
- Experience and expertise in the impact of nitrogen related pollutants on designated sites/ habitats.
- Professional membership of relevant professional planning or environmental organisation.

Natural England requires the initial findings to be submitted in a draft Report by 31st January 2025, with a full final report with recommendations and accompanying slide deck summarizing the findings of the review by 28th February 2025. Presentation given to NE staff by the end March 2025

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	Inception meeting	w/c 6 th January 2025	
2	Draft Report setting out proposed approach and methodology	31 st January 2025	
3	Final Report	28 th Feb 2025	
4	Slide deck	28 th Feb 2025	
5	Presentation (online) to NE staff	By 28 th March 2025	
6			
7			

8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

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.

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)

n/a

Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework

PART 2: PROPOSAL & QUOTE

To be completed by the Supplier

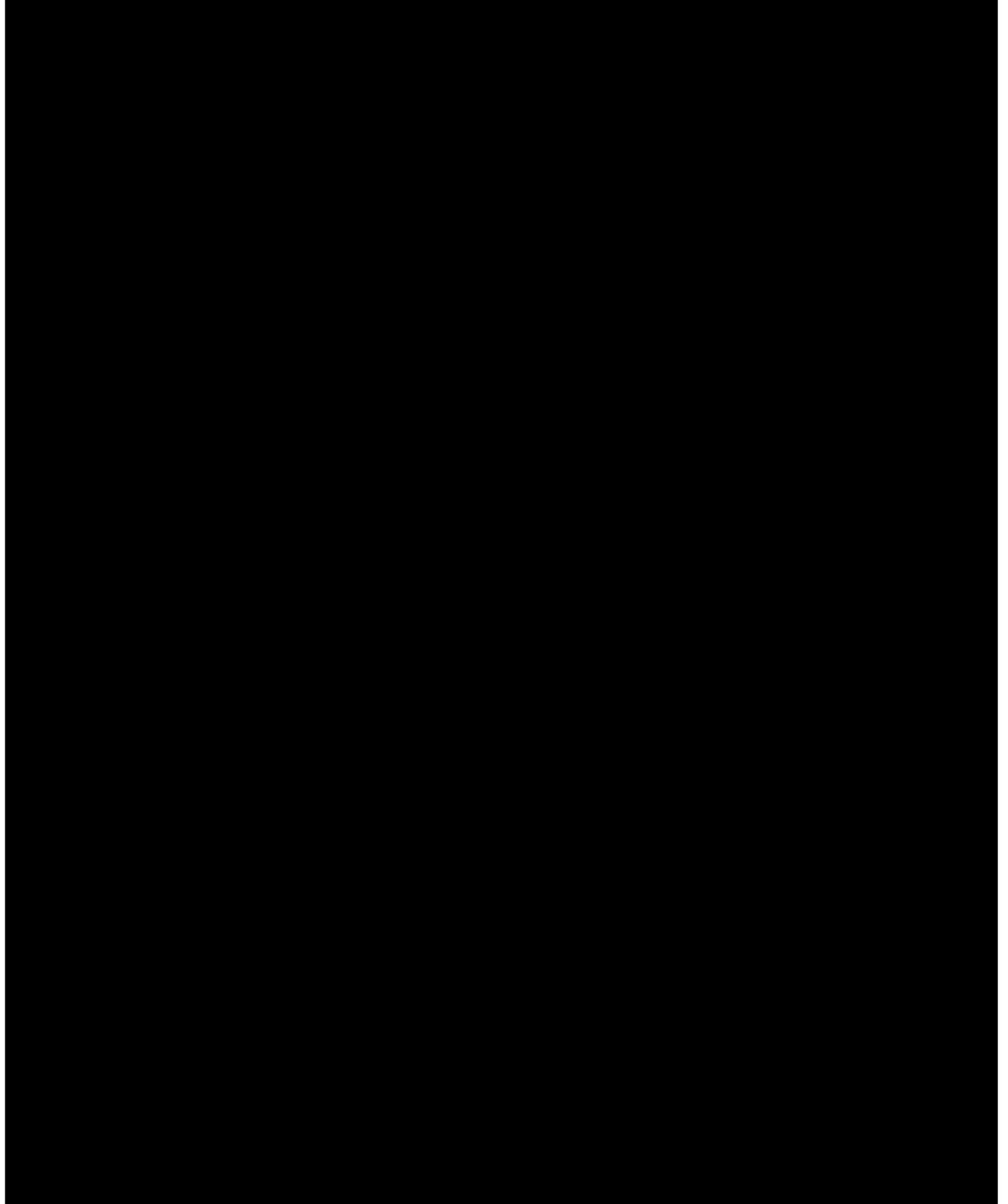
Note: Your proposal must not exceed 6 sides of A4 plus the Costs Proposal in Section 4 (unless indicated above). Attachments must not be included unless requested except for a programme diagram and full cost schedule if you consider these would support your proposal.

Do not make or append Caveats and Assumptions in your proposal – any points of uncertainty must be raised as a clarification point prior to submitting the proposal. Where assumptions are to be made, these will be stated by the Authority's Project Manager.

7. Cost Proposal

Please use day rates, including any applicable discounts, as agreed under the framework contract. A full cost schedule may be attached to support the costs summarised below.

Redacted under FOIA Section 43 Commercial Information



Expenses (please detail type i.e. travel, accommodation etc.)		
Overall Costs (excluding VAT)		£14,200
Overall Costs (including VAT)		£17,040
By signing this form <i>AECOM</i> 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:	Na	<div>Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information</div>
	Da	
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</p> <p>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>
--------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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)