You are invited to submit a quotation for the requirement described in the specification below. Your response should be returned to the following email address by:

Email: People\_and\_Nature@naturalengland.org.uk

Date: 29th June 2023

Time: 12:00pm

Ensure you state ‘Final Submission’ in the subject field to make it clear that it is your response.

Background to Natural England

[Natural England](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england) is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) established by the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents). The NERC Act sets out Natural England's purpose: to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. The Act states that this purpose includes:

* promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity
* conserving and enhancing the landscape
* Securing the provision and improvement of facilities for the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment
* promoting access to the countryside, open spaces and encouraging open air recreation
* contributing in other ways to social and economic wellbeing through management of the natural environment.

The [Building Partnerships for Nature’s Recovery](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/924682/Natural-England-building-partnerships-for-natures-recovery.pdf) strategy sets out Natural England’s objectives for 2020-2025. The strategy lays out five-year aims for nature recovery, including: ‘people connected to the natural environment for their own and society’s wellbeing, enjoyment and prosperity’. To support this aim, Natural England identified specific sub-objectives for this period, including:

1. gathering evidence on the barriers to access that prevent people from enjoying Nature, and on how enabling access for those who would benefit most will improve the quality of people’s lives, meet health targets and reduce costs for the health service
2. using our in-depth People and Nature survey data to understand exactly how people use, and want to use, the natural world to help Government shape better policies to reduce inequality and deprivation.

Background to the People and Nature Surveys for England

The [People and Nature Surveys for England](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/people-and-nature-survey-for-england) are social surveys that gather evidence about how people in England enjoy, access and understand the natural environment, the benefits derived from engagement with nature (including nature’s contribution to wellbeing), and environmental attitudes and actions taken to preserve the natural environment. Delivered since 2020, Natural England delivers two surveys:

* A survey of 25,000 adults each year, collected continually throughout the year;
* A survey of 4,000 children collected in two waves, one during the summer holiday and one during term time.

Each survey is nationally representative of the population of England, and data is published as official statistics.

Collecting data through the People and Nature Surveys contributes to the delivery of Natural England’s statutory duties and informs Defra policy, natural capital accounting and helps underpin the 25 Year Environment Plan Indicator Framework.

Office for Statistics Regulation Assessment Report

In 2022, Natural England asked the Office for Statistics Regulation to carry out a voluntary assessment of the statistics produced by the People and Nature Surveys for England. The exercise assessed the statistics' compliance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics, and the three pillars of the code: trustworthiness, quality and value.

Published in January 2023, [the review](https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/assessment-of-compliance-with-the-code-of-practice-for-statistics-statistics-from-the-people-and-nature-survey-for-england/) identified four requirements that needed to be met if the statistics are to be recognised as [National Statistics](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/). One of these requirements was to provide users with more information about the similarities and differences between the People and Nature Surveys for England and similar projects delivered in the devolved nations.

"Requirement 2: To help users develop a coherent understanding of people and nature across the UK, Natural England should assess the similarities and differences between each country’s surveys and explain these to users."

Following some initial scoping, and conversations with colleagues in devolved administrations, the projects in scope of this requirement have been identified as:

* [Scotland's People and Nature Survey](https://www.nature.scot/doc/scotlands-people-and-nature-survey-participation-outdoor-recreation-1718), delivered by [NatureScot](https://www.nature.scot/);
* the People and Nature Survey for Wales, delivered by [Natural Resources Wales](https://naturalresources.wales/?lang=en);[[1]](#footnote-1)
* the [People in the Outdoors Monitor for Northern Ireland](https://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/pomni/), delivered by [Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland](https://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/).

In a similar way to the People and Nature Surveys for England, these projects provide statistics about peoples engagement with, behaviours in, and attitudes towards the natural environment as well as their outdoor recreational activities. Carrying out an analysis of the comparability of the statistics produced by the surveys will be beneficial to users to identify what, if any, comparisons can be made, and whether any composite statistics, drawing on data from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be produced.

Requirement

Natural England wishes to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to carry out a review of surveys exploring how people engage with the natural environment across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The review should identify whether - and in what ways - the datasets are comparable, and what - if any - cross national comparisons or composite statistics can be made.

The primary purpose of this exercise is to understand comparability of current and ongoing data collection, but approaches that also incorporate past surveys in this space would be welcomed.

The review should focus primarily on key priorities for comparison, reflecting policy priorities across the four nations:

* Engagement with nature (e.g. frequency of visits to nature; activities undertaken; location of nature; and reasons for little to no engagement with nature);
* Nature connection;
* Access to greenspace;
* Benefits of time outdoors in nature (including physical and mental health benefits);
* Perceptions of the quality of green space near to where they live.

The review should identify how each of the surveys measures these things, and whether - and to what extent - they are comparable.

The review should identify other differences between the surveys which could affect comparability and should include (but is not necessarily limited to):

* Mode of survey delivery;
* Sample size and sample composition;
* Frequency of data collection.

The review should identify how the surveys measure each of the priorities listed above, and provide clear recommendations for users on whether - and in what ways - comparison across countries can be made.

To aid the review, details of the four surveys will be provided to the successful supplier by Natural England, and Natural England will work with the supplier to broker input into the work from Nature Scot, Natural Resources Wales, and Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland.

The findings of the review should initially be presented to Natural England and other stakeholders via a virtual 'emerging findings' workshop. Building on feedback from Natural England and colleagues working on the other surveys, the findings of the exercise should be summarised in a report for publication on Gov.uk.

To meet user needs, the report should be concise and clearly written, suitable for conversion to HTML in line with requirements for publishing accessible reports on Gov.uk. In line with the requirements of the Office for Statistics Regulation, this report should summarise the similarities and differences between the surveys and provide users with guidance about what - if any - cross-national comparisons can be made.

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 supplier 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 supplier 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 supplier will need to approach the project with a focus on the entire life cycle of the project.

Outputs and Contract Management

Project timeline and delivery milestones for the project are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Deliverable | Responsible Party | Date of completion |
| Notification of outcome of tender process | PaNS team | 6th July |
| Kick-off meeting between PaNS team and supplier (other agencies TBC) | PaNS team | W/C July 10th  |
| Emerging findings workshop/progress review | Supplier and PaNS team (other agencies TBC) | W/C September 4th |
| Draft report delivered | Supplier | September 22nd |
| Comments on draft report | PaNS team (other agencies TBC) | October 6th  |
| Final report delivered | Supplier | October 20th |
| Contract completed | PaNS team | October 27th |

Quotation Submission

Budget and prices

The maximum budget for this project is £15,000 inc VAT. Quotations in excess of this value will be ineligible. Prices must be submitted in £ sterling, inclusive of VAT. Prices must be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet.

Format of submission

Completed submissions should include the following items:

* evidence that you meet the quality criteria set out in the specification below;
* your proposed workplan for the project – including how you will meet the key milestones outlined in the specification;
* your proposed pricing structure – see specification for items to cover (please send this in a separate Excel spreadsheet).

Evaluation process

Submissions will be reviewed and then evaluated as set out below:

* each criteria will be given a score from 0 to 100;
* the criteria scores will be weighted to create a final submission score;
* all of the final submission scores will be ranked;
* the field date will be confirmed;
* the agency with the highest weighted score for the chosen field date will be awarded the contract - subject to the terms and conditions within the RFQ.

If the start date of the contract should substantially change, then agencies will be asked for their availability in the order of ranked final submission score.

We will award this contract in line with the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) as set out in the following award criteria:

Price – 40%

Quality – 60%

A detailed breakdown of how the quality criteria will be assessed is included in the table below:

Quality Criteria

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question Number | Question | Maximum Available Score | Weighting % of quality score | Maximum length |
| E01 | Understanding of Requirements and Demonstration of Familiarity with the work area. | 100 | 20% | 800 wordsNote that any information provided in excess of this word count will not be considered. |
| Please outline your understanding of Natural England’s requirements from this contract and demonstrate your familiarity with the People and Nature Surveys for England and the other surveys in scope of this exercise. |
|  |
| E02 | Outline the approaches and methodologies you will use to deliver this contract. The response should include details about the methods that will be used as well as the number of days required for each task. Please include a provisional project plan, including details of how the project will meet the key milestones detailed above. Include a brief assessment of high-level risks and dependencies affecting the project, including input required from Natural England, and your proposals for how risks will be managed and mitigated.Provide a brief description of how the work will be quality assured prior to submission to Natural England. | 100 | 50% | 1200 wordsNote that any information provided in excess of this word count will not be considered. |
| E03 | Experience of the project team | 100 | 30% | 800 words (N.B. CVs will be excluded from this word count)Note that any information provided in excess of this word count will not be considered. |
| Please provide details of the project team (including any sub-contractors if appropriate) and the key personnel, with their seniority, who will be involved in delivering the project. You should demonstrate the team’s skills and experience in:* working with official statistics;
* carrying out social research or analysis drawing on social survey datasets (preferably those exploring people and nature);
* harmonisation and/or calibration of multiple datasets (preferably derived from surveys);
* designing and/or delivering studies that involve comparisons made across multiple datasets and multiple countries or regions; and
* delivering contracts for public sector clients.

Please indicate a CV and the number of days each member of the team has allocated on this project. |
| In addition, please provide two (2) examples of your current or previous work within government departments, wider public sector, or equivalent that are similar in subject matter, scope and complexity to this requirement. |
| Total  |  |   | 100% |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Score | Justification |
| For a score of hundred (100):   | Excellent - Response is completely relevant and excellent overall.  The response is comprehensive, unambiguous and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the requirement and provides details of how the requirement will be met in full. |
| For a score of seventy (70):   | Good - Response is relevant and good.  The response demonstrates a good understanding and provides details on how the requirements will be fulfilled.  |
| For a score of fifty (50):   | Acceptable - Response is relevant and acceptable.  The response provides sufficient evidence to fulfil basic requirements. |
| For a score of twenty (20):   | Poor - Response is partially relevant and/or poor.  The response addresses some elements of the requirements but contains insufficient / limited detail or explanation to demonstrate how the requirement will be fulfilled. |
| For a score of zero (0):   | Unacceptable - Nil or inadequate response.  Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement. |

Clarification questions

Please submit any clarification questions to Tom Marshall (tom.marshall@naturalengland.org.uk) by 12pm on Friday 16th June. Please note that Tom will be unable to respond to any clarification questions until 12th June and that any response provided will be supplied to all bidders for this contract.

1. The People and Nature Survey for Wales has been delivered jointly between Natural Resources Wales, Natural England and Kantar Public. The survey is delivered on a biennial basis. The first year of data collection was 2021/2022 and data is being collected in 2023/2024, with current plans to continue collecting data every two years. In its first year, the survey was run as a direct copy of the survey questions asked by the People and Nature Survey for England. The second iteration of the survey has introduced some small amendments to the survey to address additional data collection needs for Natural Resources Wales. This data has not yet been published by Natural Resources Wales. The successful supplier will be provided with further details of the survey, including a copy of the questionnaire. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)