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. Further information about the Authority can be found at [Natural England](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/).

Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase

Natural England’s NNR team work to maintain the Natural England managed land to be in the best possible conditions ecologically as well as being places for connecting people with nature

The works will be at Hexton Hills, Hitchin, Hitchin, Beds, see supporting documentations for maps and locations. Hexton Hills was purchased in spring 2023 with the aim of nature recovery across the north Chilterns landscape, specifically connecting Barton Hills NNR to Pegston nature reserve. This project will involve restoring the ecological value of the land which will involve livestock grazing.

Requirement

The project is to install 3660m of perimeter fencing on the roadside edges of the site. With the aim to make the site more secure and livestock proof these edges for future grazing plans. The work will consist of;

* Cutting back and clearing of hedges where the fence line is going and disposing of cuttings back into the tree or hedge line.
* Installation of new fence line with the following criteria
	+ Clipex 2m beefy intermediate posts to be used
	+ Clipex end straining posts
	+ High tensile XHT8-80-15 stock netting of 1.1m with two strands of high tensile barbed wire
	+ Intermediate posts spaced 4m apart
	+ Straining posts to be installed at every change of direction
* New fence line to follow the map shown in supporting documents as close as possible too woodland and hedge line
* When fencing next to gates straining posts to be installed close enough for the site to be secure.
* Locations of turns in fence line to be determined by contractors and approved by Natural England staff
* Ensure 30 year guarantee for Clipex posts and fencing is covered in contract

Site visit

Before submission of a quotation, the contractor is required to visit the site and satisfy themselves as to the full extent and character of the works and conditions affecting the contract. Site visits will be held on 5th and 6th November 2024 meeting on site at 10am To be organised with project manager prior to visit. It is essential that contractors visit the site prior to submitting the quotation in order to fully ascertain:

1. the extent of the work involved.
2. check the proposed design and specification details.
3. check access to work sites.

The areas shown on the attached plans are only as accurate as the scale of drawing allows. The measurements provided in this document although collected carefully are indicative and contractors should take their own site measurements.

It is emphasised that claims arising out of non-compliance with this clause will not be accepted.

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.

The successful contractor is likely to be able to provide a description of their environmental or sustainable policies and any environmental accreditation schemes such as ISO 14001 or EMAS which they have been awarded or are working towards.

All wate is to be removed from site and sustainably disposed of leaving the site in a tidy condition.

Outputs and Contract Management

The contractor will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project.

The lead contact for Natural England will be Holly Bilcock

Natural England reserve the right to temporarily stop works if weather conditions are resulting in damage to site.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Deliverable | Responsible Party | Date of completion |
| H&S works | Site induction | Natural England | 6th Jan 2025 |
| H&S works  | Comply with CDM regulation paperwork | Contractor and NE | Ongoing |
| Task  | Works to begin | Contractor  | 6th Jan 2025 |
| Task | On site reviews | Contractor and NE | Weekly ends after works begin  |
| Task | Works completed | Contractor | 28th Feb 2025 |
| Task  | Invoices submitted | Contractor | 14th March 2025 |