Background

The Wyre Forest NNR is a mosaic of woodland, grassland meadows, old orchards and areas of scrub. The site supports an important invertebrate population that includes England’s largest colony of pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies. Breeding birds in the area include redstart, pied flycatcher, wood warbler, buzzard and raven, while dipper, grey wagtail and kingfisher are found on the larger streams. There is also a healthy population of reptiles and amphibians with Adders and great crested newts present.

Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase

The purchase of a forestry mulcher will allow is to manage scrub vegetation along ride edges. This vegetation is a mixture of self-set birch and oak some of which can be 20cm in diameter.

Ideally the mulcher will be able to also disturb the soil surface to allow early successional plants to seed into.

Tractor to be used on is a Valtra N135 with a max HP of 145.

Requirement

We are looking to purchase a PTO driven forestry mulcher with the following specifications.

* 2m mulching width
* Must be able to cut scrub up to 300mm
* Dual side belt transmission
* Centrifugal clutch
* Hydraulic operated guard frame
* Hydraulic operated hood.
* Cat 2 linkage
* 1000 rpm gearbox with freewheel
* Front and rear protection with chains
* Fixed hammer with Mono TIP V-Lock
* Max weight of 1600kg
* Reinforced skids, adjustable in height
* Hydraulic top link
* PTO alignment system, (allowing PTO shaft alignment whilst operating toplink)
* PTO shaft
* Fitting of alignment system

**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

Outputs and Contract Management

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Deliverable | Responsible Party | Date of completion |
| Delivery of equipment | 25/03/2025 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |