Background to Natural England

Natural England is here to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the well-being and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings.

National Nature Reserves are central to the work of Natural England; they safeguard the finest examples of habitat and wildlife and where possible make them available for public enjoyment.

Moccas NNR: Tree survey 2024

Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase

The Moccas Park National Nature Reserve has a history dating back to its use as a Norman deer park and a landscape influenced by many of the leading landscape designers of the eighteenth century. The park contains one of the finest and most important collections of ancient trees in England and is home to an extraordinary number of rare invertebrates associated with the dead and decaying wood found in these ancient trees.

The specified work is intended to provide a comprehensive audit of the trees in the deer park and to enable the tracking of tree loss and decline and occurrence of veteran tree habitats.

The works are to be completed and invoiced by Friday 28th March 2025.

Requirement

* To carry out a survey of approximately 2500 trees in Moccas Park (the survey does not include those trees planted since 1970).
* The survey of approximately 500 veteran trees (crudely defined as those with a dbh ˃ 160cm) should be carried out using the ‘Specialist Survey Method’ and should include photographs of each tree.
* The survey of the remaining trees should include a dbh measurement and brief notes including an overall health/condition score. Recommendations for the format of this element of the survey should be included with the quote for the works.
* Mapping and data analysis must be provided in shape file format.

Information collected for the veteran trees will include the following:

* Feature number (tree tag number)
* Species (common names)
* Trunk girth at 1.3m. Estimated measurements will be clearly identified.
* Estimated Age (in accordance with FC guidance/White Method)
* Growth Conditions (Ideal; Good site, open grown and Sheltered; Average)
* Site/Parkland; Poor Ground; Moccas Hill Wood Boundary or Open Woodland; Inside Woodland.
* Tree form (in accordance with the SSM)
* Physiological condition (Scored as 1‒8 as detailed above)
* Tree condition notes
* Wildlife value
* Shade (in accordance with the SSM)
* Management recommendations
* Priority for works
* A photograph of the tree (not essential within the woodland areas but desirable where possible)

Please note that only the following information will be collected for the non-veteran trees:

* Species (common names)
* Trunk girth at 1.3m. Estimated measurements will be clearly identified.
* Estimated Age (in accordance with FC guidance/White Method)
* Growth Conditions: Ideal; Good site, open grown and Sheltered; Average; Site/Parkland; Poor Ground; Woodland boundary or Open Woodland; Inside Woodland).
* Physiological condition (Scored as 1‒8 as detailed above)

The contractor will supply and deliver all labour, materials and equipment to complete the work.

Appropriate protective clothing must be worn at all times.

A high standard of First Aid and emergency provisions must be available for inspection and in place at the start of operations.

Copies of the following documents must be supplied before work commences:

* A detailed Method Statement
* A full Risk Assessment
* Copies of Public and Employer Liability Insurance Certificates

It is mandatory that the contractor visit the site with the project officer before quoting in order to fully appreciate:

* The nature and extent of the work to be undertaken
* Access provisions
* Site working conditions and sensitivity
* Safety risks and requirements

Any supplier that does not attend a site visit with the project officer will automatically not make it passed the contract evaluation stage.

This is a Fixed Price Contract, once the works are agreed in writing no variations will take place without written instructions from Natural England’s Project Officer.

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

December 2024 - On site meeting to confirm survey methodology specifics

January/February/March 2025 - Survey window

March 2025 - Report due in electronic format with shape file mapping documents

Friday 28th March 2025 - Contract to be completed and fully invoiced.