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Request for Quotation:

Understanding and assessing potential impacts of recreational access on Lower Derwent Valley, Yorkshire

You are invited to submit a quotation for the requirement described in the specification below.

Please confirm, by email, receipt of these documents and whether you intend to submit a quote.

Your response should be returned to the following email address by:

Email: Hannah.Gooch@naturalengland.org.uk

Date: 31 October 2022

Time: 09:00

Ensure you state the reference number and 'Final Submission' in the subject field to make it clear that it is your response.

Contact Details and Timeline

Hannah Gooch will be your contact for any questions linked to the content of the quote pack or the process. Please submit any questions by email and note that, unless commercially sensitive, both the question and the response will be circulated to all tenderers.

Action	Date
Date of issue of RFQ	31-10-2022 at 09:00 GMT
Deadline for clarifications questions	10-11-2022 at 13:00 GMT
Deadline for receipt of Quotation	14-11-2022 at 09:00 GMT
Intended date of Contract Award	21-11-2022
Intended Contract Start Date	28-11-2022
Intended Delivery Date / Contract Duration	31-03-2023

Glossary

Unless the context otherwise requires the following words and expressions used within this Request for Quotation shall have the following meanings (to be interpreted in the singular or plural as the context requires):

“Authority”	Means the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs acting as part of Natural England
“RFQ”	Means this Request for Quotation and all related documents published by the Authority and made available to suppliers
“Contract”	Means the contract to be entered into by the Authority and the successful supplier.

Conditions applying to the RFQ

You should examine your response to the RFQ and related documents ensuring it is complete prior to submitting your completed quotation.

Your quotation must contain sufficient information to enable the Authority to evaluate it fairly and effectively. You should ensure that you have prepared your quotation fully and accurately and that prices quoted are arithmetically correct for the units stated.

The supplier by submitting a quotation is deemed to accept the terms and conditions in the RFQ. Failure to comply with the instructions set out in the RTQ may result in the supplier's exclusion from this procurement.

Acceptance of Quotations

By issuing this RFQ the Authority does not bind itself to accept any quotation and reserves the right not to award a contract to any supplier who submits a quotation.

Costs

The Authority will not reimburse you for any costs and expenses which you incur preparing and submitting your quotation, even if the Authority amends or terminates the procurement process.

Mandatory Requirements

The RFQ includes mandatory requirements and, if you do not comply with them, your quotation will not be evaluated. All mandatory requirements are set out in Bravo.

Clarifications

The Authority reserves the right to discuss, confidentially, any aspect of your quotation with you prior to any award of Contract to clarify matters.

Amendments

The Authority may amend the RFQ at any time prior to the deadline for receipt. If it amends the RFQ the Authority will notify you in writing and may extend the deadline for receipt in order to give you a reasonable time in which to take the amendment into account.

Conditions of Contract

The terms and conditions attached Condensed Terms and Conditions (see Annex 2) will be included in any contract awarded as a result of this RFQ process. The Authority will not accept any material changes to these terms and conditions proposed by a supplier.

Specification:

Understanding and assessing potential impacts of recreational access on Lower Derwent Valley, Yorkshire.

1. Background

1.1 Natural England

The Authority is Natural England. The Authority's priorities are to secure a healthy natural environment; a sustainable, low-carbon economy; a thriving farming sector and a sustainable, healthy and secure food supply. Further information about the Authority can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

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.

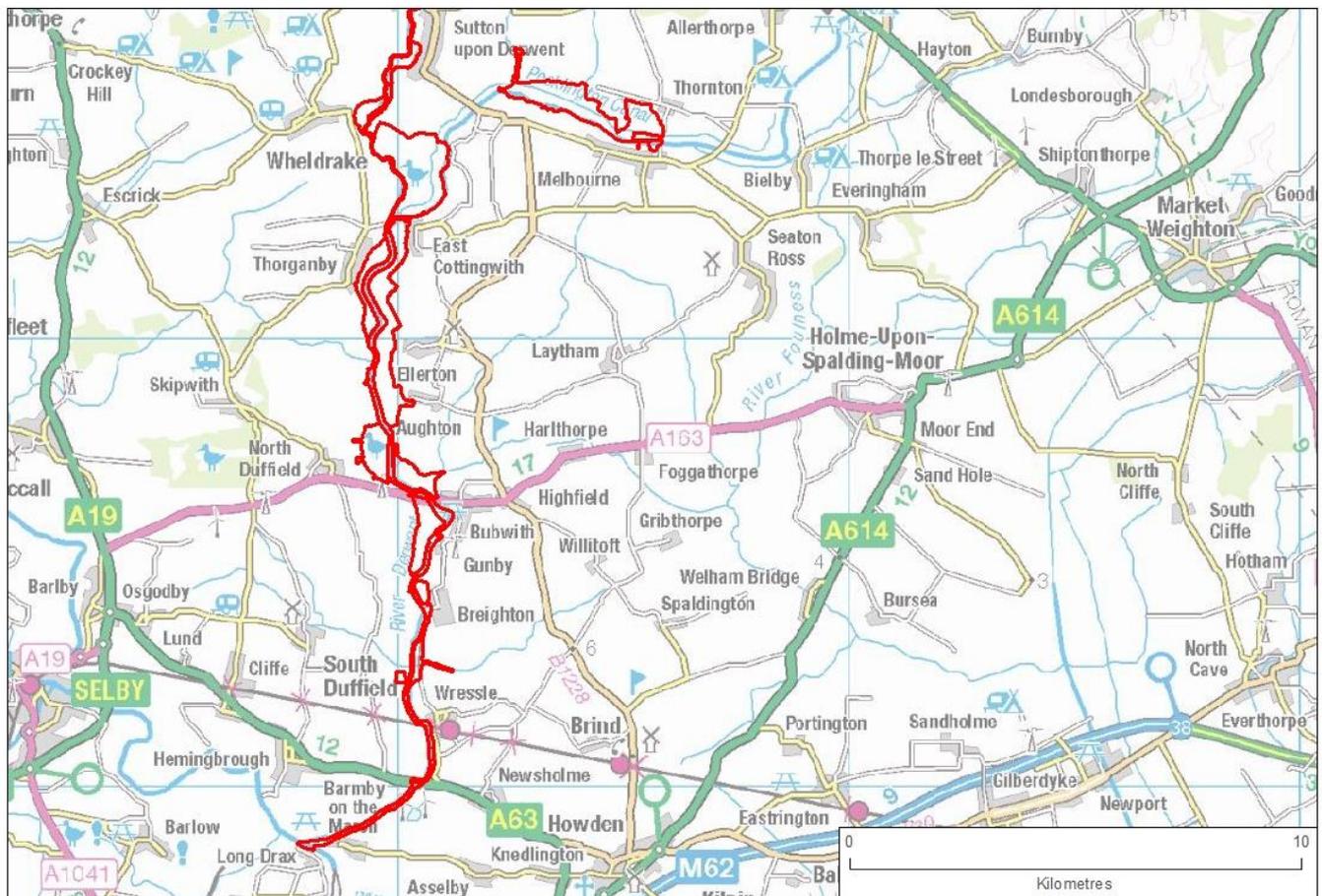
1.2 Recreation at Lower Derwent Valley

Lower Derwent Valley (figure 1) is internationally designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) as a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#), [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#) and [Ramsar](#) for its series of high-quality flood plain hay meadows, lowland grasslands, and riverine habitat, which provide important habitat for otters, an assemblage of wetland invertebrate species and are an important breeding habitat for a wide range of wetland bird species and are of significance for their population of non-breeding wintering wildfowl.

These designations are in recognition of the international importance of the area for these habitats and species, and affords legal protection against the deterioration of habitats and disturbance (and deterioration) of the species for which they have been designated. The international designations are legally underpinned by a number of separate, nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under section 28(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. These are namely;

- [Brighton Meadows SSSI](#)
- [Derwent Ings SSSI](#)
- [Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI](#)
- [Newton Mask SSSI](#)
- [River Derwent SSSI](#)

Lying close, and partly within the City of York, the wildlife spectacles are an attraction throughout the year around the Valley at key visitor locations including at North Duffield, Wheldrake and Thorganby. Areas of the designated sites are also a National Nature Reserve (NNR), and visitor numbers are generally well managed within these areas.



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Figure 1. Overview boundary map of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Ramsar.

Natural England’s vision is of thriving nature for people and planet and one of our priorities is for people to feel connected to the natural environment for their own and society’s wellbeing, enjoyment and prosperity. We seek to promote outdoor spaces as places where opportunities are afforded for health and wellbeing, for connecting with others and for appreciating our cultural and natural heritage and wildlife. We also want to encourage people to spend time in nature in such a way that it does not diminish the enjoyment of others, nor negatively impact those providing access to the public on the land they manage, nor to wildlife, habitats and landscapes. That is, we seek to encourage ‘responsible recreation’ in the countryside, whether that is in rural, urban or coastal spaces.

While recreational access is generally well managed by Natural England’s National Nature Reserve (NNR) staff, informal access points/ routes are utilised by visitors, primarily from local villages, across the Lower Derwent Valley. Mobile species, such as birds, can be sensitive to disturbance, and the resulting effects can include; birds temporarily flushing from nests due to noise or visual disturbance, birds abandoning nests due to noise or visual disturbance, birds abandoning foraging habitat without taking in sufficient nutrition, or direct damage to the nests or

eggs of ground-nesting birds. Unmanaged visitor access on areas of the site that do not have marked paths may also lead to a reduction in the extent of notified habitat through vegetation trampling. This has the potential to not only lead to a loss in the extent of important notified habitats, but it may also further reduce the distribution of notified birds due to a loss of habitat which supports their lifecycle, i.e. through loss of foraging or breeding habitat.

In recent years Natural England has become increasingly concerned regarding the potential impacts of recreational disturbance on the designated features of the Lower Derwent Valley across a number of villages and areas adjacent to the designated sites. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these pressures could be having an adverse impact on the distribution of wintering and passage waterfowl, with birds retreating to less disturbed “nature reserve” areas and a reduction in breeding wader success.

1.3 Existing evidence

The study will expand upon existing data concerning visitor access, motivation and behaviour within the areas of study.

- Visitor surveys at the Lower Derwent SPA/SAC and Skipwith Common SAC (dated 14 December 2018). An unpublished report by Footprint Ecology for City of York Council and Selby District Council. The survey report can be viewed [here](#), Appendix C, City of York Council Local Plan HRA.

2. Requirement

Natural England has a number of statutory roles including as a Statutory Nature Conservation Body under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'), where it has a duty to provide substantive advice to ensure that any direct, indirect and/or cumulative impacts of development proposals on European sites are addressed and ensuring that relevant legislation and guidance is followed.

This work is being led by the Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire area team in Natural England. As an evidence-based organisation, we need to ensure that we have the best available information to inform our advice to decision making bodies on land use changes that may impact the Lower Derwent Valley, such as planning applications. As stated above there are incidental and ad-hoc records, which raise concerns around recreational disturbance reaching a critical threshold around the Lower Derwent Valley, however, a more methodical assessment is required to provide a more robust evidence base. This evidence can then be used to inform our advice on future housing/ recreational development around the Lower Derwent Valley.

Visitor Surveys

Although the 2018 visitor survey suggested that recreational pressure was not a major concern around Lower Derwent Valley, this survey only looked at visitor behaviour at the main “gateway” sites, which tend to be well managed for visitor appreciation through the provision of footpaths, boardwalks, hides and other infrastructure. It did not look at more regular and informal access from villages adjacent to the site via public rights of way or perceived access routes, which Natural England believes may be a more significant issue. Natural England therefore considers that further visitor surveys are required to assess recreational disturbance impacts on the Lower Derwent Valley, away from the gateway sites, and in particular on more informal access routes.

A map of known (approximately 21) informal access points can be provided on request; this can be used as a starting point as it may not be comprehensive.

Natural England has provided generic example questions of the type that we expect to see as part of the questionnaire (See Annex 1). These can be used as a template and modified to suit the site in question. The final list of questions that form the questionnaire should be agreed with Natural England prior to use. The questions should also take into account/ be able to provide some comparison with the 2018 visitor surveys to build on the evidence base. Questionnaires should be kept as short and simple as possible, but designed to capture all necessary information relevant to the site. Tablets can be used to streamline the interview process and support good data management.

Survey locations should include a range of different access types and geographical locations. Every location point known to be used for recreational purposes should be surveyed. They should be chosen where visitors can be easily intercepted for interview. Surveys should take place on both weekdays and weekends, and at varying times of day, to capture a variety of visit purposes and visitor behaviours. For example, peak dog walking periods, as well as mornings, afternoons and evenings. Surveys should not be undertaken during weather conditions that would deter visitors, as this is likely to lead to an underestimate in the potential for disturbance.

In addition to questionnaires, alternative methods to capture visitor counts at each survey location / access point may be required, for example, if visitors cannot be easily intercepted. This data can usually be collected at the same time as conducting interviews of a sample of the visitors. The in-person count surveys could also be combined with other methods, such as camera traps or footfall meters, for when a surveyor is not present on site. Natural England expects that the most appropriate survey methodology is scoped out by the contractor.

As there are a number of non-breeding bird qualifying features of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA, a winter visitor survey will be required, as that will be the most sensitive time period for those species. The time period for undertaking the visitor survey should consider the use of the site and when visitors are likely to have the greatest impact; this will depend on the SPA and SAC qualifying features. Ideally surveys should be undertaken to cover peak periods. Details of the seasonality of the SPA features can be found in the [Lower Derwent Valley SPA Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice](#).

The surveys will be used to determine the baseline levels of recreational disturbance on the designated sites and provide analysis on why and how people use the site. The survey should enable the following questions to be answered:

- 1) How far are visitors travelling to the site and how do they arrive?
- 2) How often do they visit, for how long and what specific factors influence their choice of site?
- 3) What activities do visitors to the site undertake and how long have they been visiting the site?
- 4) Are specific activities at a certain time of year or year-round?
- 5) Which routes do the visitors take on the sites?
- 6) What level of understanding do visitors have about nature conservation value of the sites?
- 7) What further actions (if any) could be taken to increase visitor awareness and influence behaviours?

Any further recommendations should be made based on the findings of the surveys.

This work must be delivered in line with Natural England's objectives relating to sustainability and protection of the natural environment.

3. Tasks

1. Undertake visitor surveys across Lower Derwent Valley. The scope of the survey to be agreed with Natural England.
2. Produce a report which summarises the work completed in task 1. The scope of this report must be agreed with Natural England and must include details of the methodology taken. This report must go through a peer review process within Natural England prior to publication to our online evidence catalogue. The contractor will be required to use a Natural England template to ensure that the publication is accessible. The successful contractor should anticipate submitting a proof-read draft for review by Natural England (allowing 2 weeks for this), and to make any required changes prior to submission of the final version, and the contractors should budget contingency time for this.
3. Alongside the report completed for task 2, provide recommendations based on the evidence to be provided in the final report.
4. Communicate findings via a 1-hour webinar or similar (which includes time for Q&A).

4. Outputs

1. Draft visitor survey report including recommendations to be produced for review by Natural England.
2. Final visitor survey report including recommendations and survey data.
3. The successful contractor will be expected to present their findings to the Natural England project steering group and other interested parties.

5. Timing

It is anticipated that this contract will be awarded for a period of 19 weeks to end no later than 31/03/2023. Prices will remain fixed for the duration of the contract award period. We may at our sole discretion extend this contract to include related or further work. Any extension shall be agreed in advance of any work commencing and may be subject to further competition.

Prices

Prices must be submitted in £ sterling, inclusive of VAT.

Quotation Submission

The quotation submission will be assessed against price (40%) and quality (60%).

Quality will be assessed by evaluating the expertise, and recent experience of key staff relating to visitor surveys and analysis of results; Please reference any examples of papers or work relevant to this proposed project that you have been directly involved in.

An outline description of the method you propose to deliver the project, including your proposed timeline will be used to assess the remaining quality criteria. This will be done by assessing whether it will meet the objectives of the project.

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%

The following quality criteria are weighted in accordance with the importance and relevance attached to each one:

Detailed criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Price	40
Quality Measures (subdivided as below):	60
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant staff experience 	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology 	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing 	10

Scoring responses

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.

Contract Management

This contract shall be managed on behalf of the Authority by:

Project officer: Hannah Gooch

Support officers: Lisa Sheldon, Lauren Forecast, Simon Christian, Craig Ralston.

The contract will be managed through project review meetings (MS teams preferred) and email/phone updates as necessary.

The contractor is responsible for assessing the risks associated with the project as planned and for putting in place mitigation measures to respond to them. The contractor is responsible for reviewing the risk register at least every month, updating it as required and notifying the Natural England project manager of any changes.

We will raise a purchase order to cover the cost of the services and will issue this to the awarded supplier following contract award.

Natural England should be invoiced once the final report and recommendations have been supplied to and signed off by Natural England at the end of the project.

Disclosure

All Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies are subject to control and reporting within Government. In particular, they report to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury for all expenditure. Further the Cabinet Office has a cross-Government role delivering overall Government policy on public procurement, including ensuring value for money and related aspects of good procurement practice.

For these purposes, the Authority may disclose within Government any details contained in your quotation. The information will not be disclosed outside Government during the procurement.

In addition, the Authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, which provide a public right of access to information held by public bodies. In accordance with these two statutes, the Authority may be required to disclose information contained in your quotation to any person who submits a request for information pursuant to those statutes.

By submitting a quotation you consent to these terms as part of the procurement.

Disclaimers

Whilst the information in this RFQ and any supporting information referred to herein or provided to you by the Authority have been prepared in good faith the Authority does not warrant that this information is comprehensive or that it has been independently verified.

The Authority does not:

- make any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the RFQ;
- accept any liability for the information contained in the RFQ or for the fairness, accuracy or completeness of that information; or
- accept any liability for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation or any other liability which cannot lawfully be excluded) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

Any supplier considering entering into contractual relationships with the Authority following receipt of the RFQ should make its own investigations and independent assessment of the Authority and its requirements for the goods and/or services and should seek its own professional financial and legal advice.

Protection of Personal Data

In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 the contractor must agree to the following:

- You must only process any personal data in strict accordance with instructions from the Authority.
- You must ensure that all the personal data that we disclose to you or you collect on our behalf under this agreement are kept confidential.
- You must take reasonable steps to ensure the reliability of employees who have access to personal data.
- Only employees who may be required to assist in meeting the obligations under this agreement may have access to the personal data.
- Any disclosure of personal data must be made in confidence and extend only so far as that which is specifically necessary for the purposes of this agreement.

- You must ensure that there are appropriate security measures in place to safeguard against any unauthorised access or unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction or damage or disclosure of the personal data.
- On termination of this agreement, for whatever reason, the personal data must be returned to us promptly and safely, together with all copies in your possession or control.

General Data Protection Regulations 2018

For the purposes of the Regulations the Authority is the data processor.

The personal information that we have asked you provide on individuals (data subjects) that will be working for you on this contract will be used in compiling the tender list and in assessing your offer. If you are unsuccessful the information will be **held and destroyed within two years** of the award of contracts. If you are awarded a contract it will be retained for the duration of the contract and destroyed within **seven years** of the contract's expiry.

We may monitor the performance of the individuals during the execution of the contract, and the results of our monitoring, together with the information that you have provided, will be used in determining what work is allocated under the contract, and in any renewal of the contract or in the award of future contracts of a similar nature. The information will not be disclosed to anyone outside the Authority without the consent of the data subject, unless the Authority is required by law to make such disclosures.

Annex 1: Example survey questions

Survey date: _____ Survey time: _____

Survey location / access point: _____ Ref: _____

Group size: No. people under 18 / 18-40 / 41-65 / 65+: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

No. dogs on lead / off lead: _____ / _____

No. pushchair / wheelchair / mobility scooter: _____ / _____ / _____

Q1. Have you come from home or are you visiting or on holiday in the area? *Tick one.* What is your hometown and postcode? If on holiday, where are you staying? *See note 1.*

- From home
- On holiday
- Other (please specify) _____

- Home / holiday town _____
- Postcode _____

Q2. What is the main activity and other activities you usually undertake at the site? If it is your first visit or you are on holiday, what activities are you undertaking today? *See note 2.*

- | | Main | Other |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Dog walking always on lead | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Dog walking sometimes or always off lead | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Jogging / running | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Cycling | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Horse riding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Bird / nature watching | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Playing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Outing with children / family | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Meeting with friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Water sports (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | | |
| • Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | | |

Q3. How long have you spent / will you spend at the site today? *Tick one.*

- Less than 1 hour
- 1 – 2 hours
- 2 – 3 hours
- More than 3 hours

Q4. Over the past year, how often have you visited this location? *Tick one.*

- Daily
- Most days (180+ visits)
- 1 to 3 times a week (40-180 visits)
- 2 to 3 times per month (15-40 visits)
- Once a month (6-15 visits)
- Less than once a month (2-5 visits)

- First visit
- On holiday / day visit in area

Q5. Do you normally visit at a certain time of day? *Multiple answers ok. See note 3.*

- Before 9am
- Between 9am and 12pm
- Between 12pm and 3pm
- Between 3pm and 6pm
- After 6pm
- It varies
- Don't know / first visit

Q6. Is there a time of year you tend to visit more often? *Multiple answers ok.*

- No, all year round
- Spring (Mar-May)
- Summer (Jun-Aug)
- Autumn (Sept-Nov)
- Winter (Dec-Feb)
- Don't know / first visit

Q7. What made you visit here today rather than another place? *See note 4.*

- | | Main | Other |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Don't know / others in party chose | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Close to home | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • No need to use car | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Good / easy parking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Free parking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Particular facilities (please detail) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| □ _____ | | |
| • Refreshments/café/pub | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Good area to take the dog for a walk | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Good area to take the dog off the lead | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Space and facilities for natural play | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Peaceful | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • No traffic noise | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Not too many people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • It feels safe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • It feels welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Familiar | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Good choice of routes / places to walk | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Good views | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Wildlife interest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Sense of wilderness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Site history | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Suitability of area in given weather conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| □ _____ | | |

Q8. How do you normally travel to the site? If it is your first visit or you are on holiday, how did you travel to the site today? *Tick one.*

- On foot

- Bicycle
- Public transport
- Car / van
- Other (please specify) _____

Q9. If you arrived by car, which car park did you use? *See note 5.*

Q10. Where did you enter the site? *See note 6.*

Q11. Can you show me on a map the route you have taken around the site today? *See note 7.*

Q12. What influenced your choice of route today? *Multiple answers ok.*

- Weather
- Daylight
- Time
- Other people
- Group members (children, less able)
- Muddy paths
- Followed marked trail
- Activity undertaken
- Other (please specify) _____

Q13. Are you aware the site is particularly important for wildlife?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Q14. If you answered yes to the above question, can you name the type of designation(s)?

Q15. Do you know what important habitats and species occur here?

Q16. Are there any aspects of how the site is managed that you would like to see changed?

Q17. In terms of this site, if the following changes were made, would you spend more or less time here?

- | | More | Less | Unsure |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Site is busier with more people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Creation of marked trails and routes with interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Better path surfacing / routing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Increased or introduction of parking charges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Provision of formal car parking | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Dogs required to be on leads | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Presence of warden | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Part of site closed in areas sensitive for wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q18. What would make you want to visit a new park or greenspace if this was created in the area instead of here? *Multiple answers ok.*

- Nothing
- Good paths / path network
- Cycling routes
- Dog friendly
- Dogs off lead area
- Play equipment
- Sculptures
- Attractive landscaping
- Attractive scenery
- Wildlife
- Access to water
- Large open space
- Good parking facilities
- Free parking
- Refreshments
- Toilets
- Close to home
- Other (please specify) _____

Q19. Which other site(s) would you have visited today if you couldn't have visited here? *See note 8.*

Q20. Can you tell us about any other sites you visit regularly? *See note 8.*

Supporting notes:

- Note 1. Assure participants that town and postcode data is being collected so that the results can be properly understood. The information will not be used for anything else or shared with anybody.
- Note 2. Tick one main activity and as many other activities that are stated. Do not prompt with potential answers. For sites where water sports are a key issue / site use, it may be helpful to list some in your version of the questionnaire, e.g. windsurfing, kite surfing, boating, canoeing / kayaking, fishing.
- Note 3. For coastal sites, you may also want to ask if they plan their visit in relation to the tide.
- Note 4. Tick one main reason and as many other reasons that are stated. Do not prompt with potential answers.
- Note 5. Provide a list of possible car parks, plus any commonly used roads / laybys nearby. It can be helpful to mark them on a map.
- Note 6. Provide a list of possible entry points. It can be helpful to mark them on a map.
- Note 7. Show the visitor a map with visible features, landmarks and footpaths clearly marked. Annotate the map with the route taken (or to be taken if they know) and arrows showing the direction of travel. Differentiate between actual route taken and planned route taken, e.g. using solid or dashed lines. In some cases, you may also want to ask if today's route is reflective of their usual route when visiting the site; and whether the visit involved walking off the paths.
- Note 8. You can relate Q19 and Q20 to a specific activity that is a particular issue at the site, e.g. water sports or dog walking. Capture as much information as possible about other sites, including site name and location. In some cases, you may also want to ask how they travel to the other site(s) and how frequently they go there. You may not need both Q19 and Q20; one or the other may suffice.

THIS CONTRACT is dated

BETWEEN

- (1) **NATURAL ENGLAND** of 4th Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX (the “**Authority**”); and
- (2) [*insert full name of supplier*] of [[*insert full address*] or if registered company insert the following [*registered in England and Wales under number [insert company number]*] whose registered office is [*insert address*]] (the “**Supplier**”)

(each a “**Party**” and together the “**Parties**”).

BACKGROUND

- a) The Authority requires the services set out in Schedule 1.
- b) The Authority has awarded this contract for the services to the Supplier and the Supplier agrees to provide the services in accordance with the terms of the contract.

AGREED TERMS

1 Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1 In the Contract, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings given to them below:

‘**Approval**’: the prior written consent of the Authority.

‘**Authority Website**’: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england

‘**Contract Term**’: the period from the Commencement Date to the Expiry Date.

‘**Contracting Authority**’: an organisation defined as a contracting authority in Regulation 3 of the Public Contract Regulations 2006.

‘**Default**’: a breach by the Supplier or Staff of its obligations under the Contract or any other default, negligence or negligent statement in connection with the Contract.

‘**Dispute Resolution Procedure**’: the dispute resolution procedure set out in Clause 20.

‘**Force Majeure**’: any cause affecting the performance by a Party of its obligations under the Contract arising from acts, events, omissions or non-events beyond its reasonable control, including acts of God, riots, war, acts of terrorism, fire, flood, storm or earthquake and any disaster, but excluding any industrial dispute relating to the Supplier, its Staff or any other failure in the Supplier’s supply chain.

‘**Fraud**’: any offence under laws creating offences in respect of fraudulent acts or at common law in respect of fraudulent acts in relation to the Contract or defrauding or attempting to defraud or conspiring to defraud the Authority or any other Contracting Authority.

‘**Good Industry Practice**’: standards, practices, methods and procedures conforming to the law and the degree of skill and care, diligence, prudence and foresight which would reasonably and

ordinarily be expected from a skilled and experienced person or body engaged in a similar type of undertaking under similar circumstances.

'Goods': all products, documents, and materials developed by the Supplier or its agents, Sub-contractors, consultants, suppliers and Staff in relation to the Services in any form, including computer programs, data, reports and specifications (including drafts).

'Intellectual Property Rights': any and all intellectual property rights of any nature anywhere in the world whether registered, registerable or otherwise, including patents, utility models, trademarks, registered designs and domain names, applications for any of the foregoing, trade or business names, goodwill, copyright and rights in the nature of copyright, design rights, rights in databases, moral rights, know-how and any other intellectual property rights which subsist in computer software, computer programs, websites, documents, information, techniques, business methods, drawings, logos, instruction manuals, lists and procedures and particulars of customers, marketing methods and procedures and advertising literature, including the "look and feel" of any websites.

'IP Materials': all Intellectual Property Rights which are:

- (a) furnished to or made available to the Supplier by or on behalf of the Authority; or
- (b) created by the Supplier or Staff in the course of providing the Services or exclusively for the purpose of providing the Services.

'Price': the price for the Services set out in Schedule 2.

'Replacement Supplier': any third party supplier of services appointed by the Authority to replace the Supplier.

'Staff': all employees, staff, other workers, agents and consultants of the Supplier and of any Sub-contractors who are engaged in providing the Services from time to time.

'Sub-contract': any contract between the Supplier and a third party pursuant to which the Supplier agrees to source the provision of any of the Services from that third party.

'Sub-contractor': third parties which enter into a Sub-contract with the Supplier.

'Valid Invoice': an invoice containing the information set out in Clause 3.3.

'VAT': Value Added Tax.

'Working Day': Monday to Friday excluding any public holidays in England and Wales.

1.2 The interpretation and construction of the Contract is subject to the following provisions:

- (a) words importing the singular meaning include where the context so admits the plural meaning and vice versa;
- (b) words importing the masculine include the feminine and the neuter;
- (c) reference to any statutory provision, enactment, order, regulation or other similar instrument are construed as a reference to the statutory provision enactment, order regulation or instrument (including any instrument of the European Union) as amended, replaced,

consolidated or re-enacted from time to time, and include any orders, regulations, codes of practice, instruments or other subordinate legislation made under it;

(d) reference to any person includes natural persons and partnerships, firms and other incorporated bodies and all other legal persons of whatever kind and however constituted and their successors and permitted assigns or transferees;

(e) the headings are inserted for ease of reference only and do not affect the interpretation or construction of the Contract;

(f) references to the Services include references to the Goods;

(g) references to Clauses and Schedules are to clauses and schedules of the Contract; and

(h) the Schedules form part of the Contract and have affect as if set out in full in the body of the Contract and any reference to the Contract includes the Schedules.

2 Contract and Contract Term

2.1 The Supplier shall provide the Authority with the services set out in Schedule 1 (the “**Services**”) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract.

2.2 The Contract is effective on [*insert date*] (the “**Commencement Date**”) and ends on [*insert date*] (the “**Expiry Date**”) unless terminated early or extended in accordance with the Contract.

3 Price and Payment

3.1 In consideration of the Supplier providing the Services in accordance with the Contract, the Authority shall pay the Price to the Supplier.

3.2 The Authority shall:

(a) provide the Supplier with a purchase order number (“**PO Number**”); and

(b) pay all undisputed sums due to the Supplier within 30 days of receipt of a Valid Invoice.

1.1 3.3 A Valid Invoice shall:

1.2

1.3 contain the correct PO Number;

1.4

1.5 express the sum invoiced in sterling; and

1.6 include VAT at the prevailing rate as a separate sum or a statement that the Supplier is not registered for VAT.

1.7

(a) 3.4 The Supplier shall submit invoices [[each month] OR [insert other interval]] to the Authority at the following addresses: ssd.apne@defra.gov.uk or

1.8

1.9 SSCL Finance, Room 211, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX.

1.10

1.11 3.5 The Supplier acknowledges that:

1.12

1.13 if the Supplier does not include VAT on an invoice or does not include VAT at the correct rate, the Authority will not be liable to pay the Supplier any additional VAT;

1.14

1.15 invoices which do not include the information set out in Clause 3.3 will be rejected.

1.16

1.17 3.6 Any late payment by the Authority of an undisputed Valid Invoice will be subject to interest at the rate of 3% above the base rate from time to time of Barclays Bank plc.

1.18

1.19 3.7 The Supplier shall not suspend provision of the Services if any payment is overdue.

1.20

1.21 3.8 The Supplier indemnifies the Authority on a continuing basis against any liability, including any interest, penalties or costs incurred, which is levied, demanded or assessed on the Authority at any time in respect of the Supplier's failure to account for or to pay any VAT relating to payments made to the Supplier under the Contract.

4 Extension of the Contract

- 4.1 The Authority may, by written notice to the Supplier, extend the Contract for a further period up to [*insert number of months or period*].

5 Warranties and Representations

5.1 The Supplier warrants and represents for the Contract Term that:

- (a) it has full capacity and authority and all necessary consents and regulatory approvals to enter into the Contract and to provide the Services;
- (b) the Contract is executed by a duly authorised representative of the Supplier;
- (c) in entering the Contract it has not committed any Fraud;
- (d) as at the Commencement Date, all information contained in its tender or other offer made by the Supplier to the Authority remains true, accurate and not misleading, save as may have been specifically disclosed in writing to the Authority prior to execution of the Contract and that it will advise the Authority of any fact, matter or circumstance of which it may become aware which would render such information false or misleading;
- (e) no claim is being asserted and no litigation, arbitration or administrative proceeding is presently in progress or, to the best of its knowledge and belief, pending or threatened against it or any of its assets which will or might have a material adverse effect on its ability to perform its obligations under the Contract;
- (f) it is not subject to any contractual obligation, compliance with which is likely to have a material adverse effect on its ability to provide the Services;
- (g) no proceedings or other steps have been taken and not discharged (or, to the best of its knowledge, are threatened) for the winding up of the Supplier or for its dissolution or for the appointment of a receiver, administrative receiver, liquidator, manager, administrator or similar in relation to any of the Supplier's assets or revenue;
- (h) it owns, or has obtained or is able to obtain valid licences for, all Intellectual Property Rights that are necessary to provide the Services; and
- (i) Staff shall be engaged on terms which do not entitle them to any Intellectual Property Right in any IP Materials;
- (j) it will comply with its obligations under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

5.2 The Supplier warrants and represents that in the 3 years prior to the date of the Contract:

- (a) it has conducted all financial accounting and reporting activities in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and has complied with relevant securities;
- (b) it has not done or omitted to do anything which could have a material adverse effect on its assets, financial condition or position as a going concern or its ability to provide the Services; and

- (c) it has complied with all relevant tax laws and regulations and no tax return submitted to a relevant tax authority has been found to be incorrect under any anti-abuse rules.

6 Service Standards

- 6.1 The Supplier shall provide the Services or procure that they are provided with reasonable skill and care, in accordance with Good Industry Practice prevailing from time to time and with Staff who are appropriately trained and qualified.
- 6.2 If the Services do not meet the Specification, the Supplier shall at its own expense re-schedule and carry out the Services in accordance with the Specification within such reasonable time as may be specified by the Authority.
- 6.3 The Authority may by written notice to the Supplier reject any of the Goods which fail to conform to the approved sample or fail to meet the Specification. Such notice shall be given within a reasonable time after delivery to the Authority of the Goods. If the Authority rejects any of the Goods it may (without prejudice to its other rights and remedies) either:
 - (a) have the Goods promptly either repaired by the Supplier or replaced by the Supplier with Goods which conform in all respects with the approved sample or with the Specification and due delivery shall not be deemed to have taken place until the repair or replacement has occurred; or
 - (b) treat the Contract as discharged by the Supplier's breach and obtain a refund (if the Goods have already been paid for) from the Supplier in respect of the Goods concerned together with payment of any additional expenditure reasonably incurred by the Authority in obtaining replacements.
- 6.4 The Authority will be deemed to have accepted the Goods if it expressly states the same in writing or fails to reject the Goods in accordance with Clause 6.3.
- 6.5 If the Authority issues a receipt note for delivery of the Goods it shall not constitute any acknowledgement of the condition, quantity or nature of those Goods or the Authority's acceptance of them.
- 6.6 The Supplier hereby guarantees the Goods against faulty materials or workmanship for such period as may be specified in the Specification or, if no period is so specified, for 3 years from the date of acceptance. If the Authority shall within such guarantee period or within 30 Working Days thereafter give notice in writing to the Supplier of any defect in any of the Goods as may have arisen during such guarantee period under proper and normal use, the Supplier shall (without prejudice to any other rights and remedies which the Authority may have) promptly remedy such defects (whether by repair or replacement as the Authority shall choose) free of charge.
- 6.7 Any Goods rejected or returned by the Authority pursuant to this Clause 6 shall be returned to the Supplier at the Supplier's risk and expense.

7 Termination

- 7.1 The Authority may terminate the Contract at any time by giving 30 days written notice to the Supplier.

7.2 The Authority may terminate the Contract in whole or in part by notice to the Supplier with immediate effect and without compensation to the Supplier if:

- (a) being an individual, the Supplier is the subject of a bankruptcy order; has made a composition or arrangement with his creditors; dies or is adjudged incapable of managing his affairs within the meaning of Part VII of the Mental Health Act 1983;
- (b) being a company, the Supplier goes into compulsory winding up, or passes a resolution for voluntary winding up, or suffers an administrator, administrative receiver or receiver and manager to be appointed or to take possession over the whole or any part of its assets, is dissolved; or has entered into a voluntary arrangement with its creditors under the Insolvency Act 1986, or has proposed or entered into any scheme of arrangement or composition with its creditors under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985; or has been dissolved;
- (c) being a partnership, limited liability partnership or unregistered company, the Supplier or an individual member of it goes into compulsory winding up; is dissolved; suffers an administrator or receiver or manager to be appointed over the whole or any part of its assets; or has entered into a composition or voluntary arrangement with its creditors;
- (d) the Supplier is in any case affected by any similar occurrence to any of the above in any jurisdiction;
- (e) subject to Clause 7.3, the Supplier commits a Default;
- (f) there is a change of control of the Supplier; or
- (g) the Supplier or Staff commits Fraud in relation to the Contract or any other contract with the Crown (including the Authority).

7.3 If the Supplier commits a Default which is capable of being remedied, the Authority may terminate the Contract pursuant to Clause 7.2(e) only if the Supplier has failed to remedy the Default within 20 Working Days of being notified of the Default by the Authority.

8 Consequences of Expiry or Termination

8.1 If the Authority terminates the Contract under Clause 7.2:

- (a) and then makes other arrangements for the supply of the Services, the Authority may recover from the Supplier the cost reasonably incurred of making those other arrangements and any additional expenditure incurred by the Authority throughout the remainder of the Contract Term; and
- (b) no further payments shall be payable by the Authority to the Supplier (for the Services supplied by the Supplier prior to termination and in accordance with the Contract but where the payment has yet to be made by the Authority), until the Authority has established the final cost of making the other arrangements envisaged under Clause 8.1(a).

- 8.2 On expiry or termination of the Contract the Supplier shall:
- (a) co-operate fully with the Authority to ensure an orderly migration of the Services to the Authority or, at the Authority's request, a Replacement Supplier; and
 - (b) procure that all data and other material belonging to the Authority (and all media of any nature containing information and data belonging to the Authority or relating to the Services) shall be delivered promptly to the Authority.
- 8.3 Save as otherwise expressly provided in the Contract:
- (a) termination or expiry of the Contract shall be without prejudice to any rights, remedies or obligations accrued under the Contract prior to termination or expiration and nothing in the Contract shall prejudice the right of either Party to recover any amount outstanding at such termination or expiry; and
 - (b) termination of the Contract shall not affect the continuing rights, remedies or obligations of the Authority or the Supplier under Clauses 3, 8 to 13, 17, 26 and 28.

9 Liability, Indemnity and Insurance

- 9.1 Notwithstanding any other provision in the Contract, neither Party excludes or limits liability to the other Party for:
- (a) death or personal injury caused by its negligence;
 - (b) Fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation; or
 - (c) any breach of any obligations implied by section 12 of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 or Parts I and II of the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982.
- 9.2 The Supplier shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Authority against all claims, proceedings, demands, actions, damages, costs, breach of statutory duty, expenses and any other liabilities which arise in tort (including negligence) default or breach of the Contract to the extent that any such loss or claim is due to the breach of contract, negligence, wilful default or Fraud of itself or of Staff or Sub-contractors save to the extent that the same is directly caused by the negligence, breach of the Contract or applicable law by the Authority.
- 9.3 The Supplier shall not exclude liability for additional operational, administrative costs and/or expenses or wasted expenditure resulting from the direct Default of the Supplier.
- 9.4 Subject to Clause 9.1:
- (a) neither Party is liable to the other for any:
 - (i) loss of profits, business, revenue or goodwill;
 - (ii) loss of savings (whether anticipated or otherwise); and/or
 - (iii) indirect or consequential loss or damage

(b) each Party's total aggregate liability in respect of all claims, losses damages, whether arising from tort (including negligence), breach of contract or otherwise under or in connection with the Contract, shall not exceed £1,000,000 (one million pounds) or 10x the value of the Contract whichever is the lower amount.

9.5 The Supplier shall, with effect from the Commencement Date and for such period as necessary to enable the Supplier to comply with its obligations under the Contract, take out and maintain with a reputable insurance company a policy or policies of insurance providing an adequate level of cover in respect of all risks which may be incurred by the Supplier, arising out of the Supplier's performance of its obligations under the Contract, including employer's liability, death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property or any other loss, including financial loss arising from any advice given or omitted to be given by the Supplier. Such insurance shall be maintained for the Contract Term and for a minimum of 6 years following the end of the Contract.

9.6 The Supplier shall give the Authority, on request, copies of all insurance policies referred to in this Clause or a broker's verification of insurance to demonstrate that the appropriate cover is in place, together with receipts or other evidence of payment of the latest premiums due under those policies.

9.7 If the Supplier fails to comply with Clauses 9.5 and 9.6 the Authority may make alternative arrangements to protect its interests and may recover the costs of such arrangements from the Supplier.

9.8 The provisions of any insurance or the amount of cover shall not relieve the Supplier of any liabilities under the Contract.

9.9 The Supplier shall not take any action or fail to take any reasonable action, or (to the extent that it is reasonably within its power) permit anything to occur in relation to the Supplier, which would entitle any insurer to refuse to pay any claim under any insurance policy in which the Supplier is an insured, a co-insured or additional insured person.

10 Confidentiality and Data Protection

10.1 Subject to Clause 10.2, unless agreed otherwise in writing, the Supplier shall, and shall procure that Staff shall, keep confidential all matters relating to the Contract.

10.2 Clause 10.1 shall not apply to any disclosure of information:

(a) required by any applicable law;

(b) that is reasonably required by persons engaged by the Supplier in performing the Supplier's obligations under the Contract;

(c) where the Supplier can demonstrate that such information is already generally available and in the public domain other than as a result of a breach of Clause 10.1; or

(d) which is already lawfully in the Supplier's possession prior to its disclosure by the Authority.

- 10.3 The Supplier shall, and shall procure that Staff shall, comply with any notification requirements under the Data Protection Act 1998 (“**DPA**”) and shall observe its obligations under the DPA which arise in connection with the Contract.
- 10.4 Notwithstanding the general obligations in Clause 10.3, where the Supplier is processing Personal Data as a Data Processor (as those terms are defined in the DPA) for the Authority, the Supplier shall ensure that it has in place appropriate technical and contractual measures to ensure the security of the Personal Data (and to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of the Personal Data), as required under the Seventh Data Protection Principle in Schedule 1 of the DPA.
- 10.5 The Supplier shall:
- a) promptly notify the Authority of any breach of the security measures required to be put in place pursuant to Clause 10.4;
 - b) not knowingly or negligently do or omit to do anything which places the Authority in breach of its obligations under the DPA; and
 - c) provide the Authority with such information as it may reasonably require to satisfy itself that the Supplier is complying with its obligations under the DPA.

11 Freedom of Information

- 11.1 The Supplier acknowledges that the Authority is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the “**Information Acts**”) and may be required to disclose certain information to third parties including information relating to this Contract pursuant to the Information Acts.
- 11.2 If the Authority receives a request for information relating to the Contract pursuant to either of the Information Acts, the Authority may disclose such information as necessary in order to comply with its duties under the Information Acts.

12 Intellectual Property Rights

- 12.1 The IP Materials shall vest in the Authority and the Supplier shall not, and shall procure that Staff shall not, use or disclose any IP Materials without Approval save to the extent necessary for the Supplier to provide the Services.
- 12.2 The Supplier shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Authority and the Crown against all actions, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs and expenses and other liabilities which the Authority or the Crown may suffer or incur arising from any infringement or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property Rights by the availability of the Services except to the extent that they have been caused by or contributed to by the Authority’s acts or omissions.

13 Prevention of Corruption and Fraud

- 13.1 The Supplier shall act within the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010.
- 13.2 The Supplier shall take all reasonable steps, in accordance with Good Industry Practice, to prevent Fraud by Staff and the Supplier (including its shareholders, members and directors) in connection with the receipt of money from the Authority.

13.3 The Supplier shall notify the Authority immediately if it has reason to suspect that Fraud has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur.

14 Discrimination

14.1 The Supplier shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination in employment.

14.2 The Supplier shall notify the Authority immediately in writing as soon as it becomes aware of any legal proceedings threatened or issued against it by Staff on the grounds of discrimination arising in connection with the Services.

15 Environmental and Ethical Policies

15.1 The Supplier shall provide the Services in accordance with the Authority's policies on the environment, sustainable and ethical procurement and timber and wood derived products, details of which are available on the Authority Website.

16 Health and Safety

16.1 Each Party will promptly notify the other Party of any health and safety hazards which may arise in connection with the Services.

16.2 While on the Authority's premises, the Supplier shall comply with the Authority's health and safety policies.

16.3 The Supplier shall notify the Authority immediately if any incident occurs in providing the Services on the Authority's premises which causes or may cause personal injury.

16.4 The Supplier shall comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1976, and with any other acts, orders, regulations and codes of practice relating to health and safety, which may apply to Staff and other persons working on the Authority's premises when providing the Services.

16.5 The Supplier's health and safety policy statement (as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974) shall be made available to the Authority on request.

17 Monitoring and Audit

17.1 The Authority may monitor the provision of the Services and the Supplier shall co-operate, and shall procure that Staff and any Sub-contractors co-operate, with the Authority in carrying out the monitoring at no additional charge to the Authority.

17.2 The Supplier shall keep and maintain until 6 years after the end of the Contract Term full and accurate records of the Contract including the Services supplied under it and all payments made by the Authority. The Supplier shall allow the Authority, the National Audit Office and the Comptroller and Auditor General reasonable access to those records and on such terms as they may request.

17.3 The Supplier agrees to provide, free of charge, whenever requested, copies of audit reports obtained by the Supplier in relation to the Services.

18 Transfer and Sub-Contracting

18.1 The Supplier shall not transfer, charge, assign, sub-contract or in any other way dispose of the Contract or any part of it without Approval.

- 18.2 If the Supplier enters into any Sub-contract in connection with the Contract it shall:
- (a) remain responsible to the Authority for the performance of its obligations under the Contract;
 - (b) be responsible for the acts and/or omissions of its Sub-contractors as though they are its own;
 - (c) impose obligations on its Sub-contractors in the same terms as those imposed on it pursuant to the Contract and shall procure that the Sub-Supplier complies with such terms;
 - (d) pay its Sub-contractors' undisputed invoices within 30 days of receipt.
- 18.3 The Authority may assign, novate or otherwise dispose of its rights and obligations under the Contract or any part thereof to:
- (a) any Contracting Authority or any other body established by the Crown or under statute in order substantially to perform any of the functions that had previously been performed by the Authority; or
 - (b) any private sector body which performs substantially any of the functions of the Authority.
- 18.4 Any change in the legal status of the Authority such that it ceases to be a Contracting Authority shall not affect the validity of the Contract. In such circumstances the Contract shall bind and inure to the benefit of any successor body to the Authority.

19 Variation

- 19.1 Subject to the provisions of this Clause 19, the Authority may change the Specification provided that such change is not a material change to the Specification (a "**Variation**").
- 19.2 The Authority may request a Variation by notifying the Supplier with sufficient information to assess the extent of the Variation and consider whether any change to the Price is required in order to implement it. Variations agreed by the Parties shall be made in writing.
- 19.3 If the Supplier is unable to accept the Variation or where the Parties are unable to agree a change to the Price, the Authority may:
- (a) allow the Supplier to fulfil its obligations under the Contract without the Variation; or
 - (b) refer the request to be dealt with under the Dispute Resolution Procedure.

20 Dispute Resolution

- 20.1 The Parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve any dispute between them arising out of the Contract within 10 Working Days of either Party notifying the other of the dispute and such efforts

shall include the escalation of the dispute to the Supplier's representative and the Authority's commercial director or equivalent.

- 20.2 Nothing in this dispute resolution procedure shall prevent the Parties from seeking from any court of competent jurisdiction an interim order restraining the other Party from doing any act or compelling the other Party to do any act.
- 20.3 If the dispute cannot be resolved by the Parties pursuant to Clause 20.1 the Parties shall refer it to mediation pursuant to the procedure set out in Clauses 20.5 to 20.10.
- 20.4 The obligations of the Parties under the Contract shall not cease, or be suspended or delayed by the reference of a dispute to mediation and the Supplier and Staff shall comply fully with the requirements of the Contract at all times.
- 20.5 A neutral adviser or mediator (the "**Mediator**") shall be chosen by agreement between the Parties or, if they are unable to agree a Mediator within 10 Working Days after a request by one Party or if the chosen Mediator is unable to act, either Party shall within 10 Working Days from the date of the proposal to appoint a Mediator or within 10 Working Days of notice to either Party that he is unable or unwilling to act, apply to the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution to appoint a Mediator.
- 20.6 The Parties shall, within 10 Working Days of the appointment of the Mediator, meet the Mediator to agree a programme for the disclosure of information and the structure to be adopted for negotiations. The Parties may at any stage seek assistance from the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution to provide guidance on a suitable procedure.
- 20.7 Unless otherwise agreed, all negotiations connected with the dispute and any settlement agreement relating to it shall be conducted in confidence and without prejudice to the rights of the Parties in any future proceedings.
- 20.8 If the Parties reach agreement on the resolution of the dispute, the agreement shall be recorded in writing and shall be binding on the Parties once it is signed by their duly authorised representatives.
- 20.9 Failing agreement, either of the Parties may invite the Mediator to provide a non-binding but informative written opinion. Such opinion shall be provided on a without prejudice basis and shall not be used in evidence in any proceedings relating to the Contract without the prior written consent of both Parties.
- 20.10 If the Parties fail to reach agreement within 60 Working Days of the Mediator being appointed, or such longer period as may be agreed by the Parties, then the dispute may be referred to the Courts.
- 20.11 Subject to Clause 20.2, the Parties shall not institute court proceedings until the procedures set out in Clauses 20.1 and 20.5 to 20.10 have been completed.

21 Supplier's Status

- 21.1 Nothing in the Contract shall be construed as constituting a partnership between the Parties or as constituting either Party as the agent for the other for any purposes except as specified by the terms of the Contract.
- 21.2 The Supplier shall not (and shall ensure that Staff shall not) say or do anything that might lead any person to believe that the Supplier is acting as the agent, partner or employee of the Authority.

22 Notices

- 22.1 Notices shall be in writing and in English and shall be deemed given if signed by or on behalf of a duly authorised officer of the Party giving the notice and if left at, or sent by first class mail to the address of the receiving Party as specified in the Contract (or as amended from time to time by notice in writing to the other Party).

23 Entire Agreement

- 23.1 The Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the subject matter of the Contract. The Contract supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, arrangements and undertakings.

24 Third Party Rights

- 24.1 No term of the Contract is intended to confer a benefit on, or be enforceable by, any person who is not a Party other than the Crown.

25 Waiver

- 25.1 The failure of either Party to insist upon strict performance of any provision of the Contract, or the failure of either Party to exercise, or any delay in exercising, any right or remedy shall not constitute a waiver of that right or remedy and shall not cause a diminution of the obligations established by the Contract.
- 25.2 No waiver shall be effective unless it is expressly stated to be a waiver and communicated to the other Party in writing.
- 25.3 A waiver of any right or remedy arising from a breach of the Contract shall not constitute a waiver of any right or remedy arising from any other or subsequent breach of the Contract.

26 Publicity

- 26.1 The Supplier shall not without Approval:
- (a) make any press announcements or publicise the Contract or its contents in any way; or
 - (b) use the Authority's name or logo in any promotion or marketing or announcement.
- 26.2 The Authority may publish the Contract on the Authority Website or another website at its discretion.

27 Force Majeure

- 27.1 Except to the extent that the Supplier has not complied with any business continuity plan agreed with the Authority, neither Party shall be liable for any failure to perform its obligations under the Contract if, and to the extent, that the failure is caused by act of God, war, riots, acts of terrorism, fire, flood, storm or earthquake and any disaster but excluding any industrial dispute relating to the Supplier, Staff or Sub-contractors.
- 27.2 If there is an event of Force Majeure, the affected Party shall use all reasonable endeavours to mitigate the effect of the event of Force Majeure on the performance of its obligations.

28 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

- 28.1 The Contract shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
- 28.2 The submission to such jurisdiction shall not limit the right of the Authority to take proceedings against the Supplier in any other court of competent jurisdiction and the taking of proceedings in any other court of competent jurisdiction shall not preclude the taking of proceedings in any other jurisdiction whether concurrently or not.

SCHEDULE 1

SPECIFICATION OF SERVICES

[insert description of the Services to be supplied, including where appropriate the Key Personnel, the Premises and the Quality Standards]

Use of Confidential Information by the Authority

The Authority may disclose the Confidential Information of the Supplier:

- (a) on a confidential basis to any central Government body for any proper purpose of the Authority or of the relevant central Government body;
- (b) to Parliament and Parliamentary Committees or if required by any Parliamentary reporting requirement;
- (c) to the extent that the Authority (acting reasonably) deems disclosure necessary or appropriate in the course of carrying out its public functions;
- (d) on a confidential basis to a professional adviser, consultant, supplier or other person engaged by the Authority for any purpose relating to or connected with this Agreement;
- (e) on a confidential basis for the purpose of the exercise of its rights under this Agreement; or
- (f) on a confidential basis to a proposed successor body in connection with any assignment, novation or disposal of any of its rights, obligations or liabilities under this Agreement

[insert precedence clause followed by any special terms that may apply as appropriate]

SCHEDULE 2

PRICES

[insert pricing information inc and exc VAT (including the payment programme, payment mechanisms and the Price) due to the Supplier for the Services]

(a) The Contract has been entered into on the date stated at the beginning of it.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
AUTHORITY

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
SUPPLIER

SIGNATURE.....

SIGNATURE.....

NAME

NAME.....

Position

Position.....