

www.gov.uk/naturalengland

Request for Quotation

**Nature Net Zero**

## 

## Request for Quotation (RFQ)

**Nature Net Zero**

You are invited to submit a quotation for the requirement described in the specification, Section 2. We welcome your participation.

Please confirm, by email, receipt of these documents and whether you intend to submit a quote or not. Your response should be returned to the following email address by:

Date: 27th Sept 2023

Time: at 18:00 BST to

Email: [ian.crosher@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:ian.crosher@naturalengland.org.uk)

Ensure you state the name of the Quotation and ‘Final Submission’ in the subject field to make it clear that it is your response. The format is shown below:

The purpose of this request is to determine level of interest this tender obtains and have a list of interested suppliers.

**Contact Details and Timeline**

**Ian Crosher** will be your contact for any questions linked to the content of the quote pack or the process. Ian Crosher is the Project Sponsor/Lead and will be your point of contact. He can be reached at: [ian.crosher@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:ian.crosher@naturalengland.org.uk).

Please submit any questions by email to **Ian Crosher** 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 | 02-10-2023 at mid-day |
| Deadline for clarifications questions | 16-10-2023 at 18:00 BST |
| Deadline for receipt of Quotation | 23-10-2023 at 18:00 BST |
| Intended date of Contract Award | 30-10-2023 – 1 weeks later |
| Intended Contract Start Date | 01-11-2023 |
| Intended Delivery Date / Contract Duration | 22-03-2024 |

## 

## Section 1: General Information

### Glossary

Unless the context otherwise, 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. |
| “The Authority” | Natural England |
| “NE” | Natural England |

### Conditions applying to the RFQ

1. You should examine your response to the RFQ and related documents ensuring it is complete prior to submitting your completed quotation.
2. 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.
3. 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 RFQ 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 [Natural England] 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.

#### Self-Declaration and Mandatory Requirements

The RFQ includes a self-declaration response (Annex 1) which covers basic information about the supplier, as well as any grounds for exclusion. If you do not comply with them, your quotation will not be evaluated.

Any mandatory requirements will be set out in Section 2, Specification of Requirements and, if you do not comply with them, your quotation will not be evaluated.

#### Clarifications

Any request for clarification regarding the RFQ and supporting documentation must be submitted via email no later than the deadline for clarifications set out in the Timetable. The Authority shall be under no obligation to respond to queries raised after the clarification deadline.

The Authority will respond to all reasonable clarifications as soon as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. The Authority will publish all clarifications and its responses to all suppliers via email unless deemed commercially sensitive.

If a supplier believes that a request for clarification is commercially sensitive, it should clearly state this when submitting the clarification request. However, if the Authority considers either that:

● the clarification and response are not commercially sensitive; and

● all suppliers may benefit from its disclosure,

then the Authority will notify the supplier (via email), and the supplier will have an opportunity to withdraw the request for clarification by sending a further message requesting the withdrawal of the clarification request. If not withdrawn by the supplier within 2 working days of the Authority’s notification, the Authority may publish the clarification request and its response to all suppliers and the Authority shall not be liable to the supplier for any consequences of such publication.

The Authority reserves the right to seek clarification of any aspect of a quotation and/or provide additional information during the evaluation phase to carry out a fair evaluation. Where the Authority seeks clarification on any aspect of the quotation, the supplier must respond within the timeframe requested by the Authority.

#### 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 via email.

Suppliers may modify their quotation prior to the deadline for Responses. No Responses may be modified after the deadline for Responses.

Suppliers may withdraw their quotations at any time by submitting a notice via the email to the named contact.The Authority [Natural England] reserves the right to discuss, confidentially, any aspect of your quotation with you prior to any award of Contract to clarify matters.

#### Conditions of Contract

The Authority’s standard Natural England [Standard Supplier Terms and Conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about/procurement#standard-supplier-terms-and-conditions) [see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about/procurement> ] provided as part of the RFQ will be included in any contract awarded as a result of this quotation process. The Authority will not accept any changes to these terms and conditions proposed by a supplier.

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: [Natural England](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/)

Suppliers should note that the quotation provided by the successful bidder will form part of the Contract.

#### Prices

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

#### 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.

Further to the Government’s transparency agenda, all UK Government organisations must advertise on Contract Finder in accordance with the following publication thresholds:

* Central Contracting Authority’s: £12,000
* Sub Central Contracting Authority’s and NHS Trusts: £30,000

For the purpose of this RFQ the Authority is classified as a 'Central Contracting Authority' with a publication threshold of '£12,000' (for a Central Contracting Authority) inclusive of VAT.

If this opportunity is advertised via Contracts Finder, we are obliged to publish details of the awarded contract including who has won the contract, the contract value, and indicate whether the winning supplier is a small and medium-sized enterprise (“SMEs”) or voluntary organisation or charity. A copy of the contract must also be published with confidential information redacted.

By submitting a Response, 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 supplier 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 Natural 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.

#### Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

The Client is striving to create a diverse and inclusive working environment where every individual has equality of opportunity to progress and to apply their unique insights to making the UK a great place for living. The Service Provider is expected to respect this commitment in all dealings with Natural England staff and service users.

Suppliers are expected to;

* support Defra group to achieve its Public Sector Equality Duty as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and to support delivery of [Defra group’s Equality & Diversity Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-group-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2020-to-2024#:~:text=This%20strategy%20outlines%20Defra%20's,create%20more%20inclusive%20cultures).
* meet the standards set out in the [Government’s Supplier Code of Conduct](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplier-code-of-conduct)
* work with Defra group to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion impacts are addressed (positive and negative) in the goods, services and works we procure, barriers are removed and opportunities realised.

#### Sustainable Procurement

Addressing global sustainability impacts and realising additional community benefits within commercial activity is core to Defra group’s approach, working with its supply chain is key to achieving sustainable outcomes. In addition to supporting Defra group to meet its outcomes we look to understand and reduce negative sustainability impacts associated with our commercial activity and realise benefits.

The Client encourages its suppliers to share these values, work to address negative impacts and realise opportunities, measure performance and success.

Suppliers are expected to have an understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals, the interconnections between them and the relevance to the Goods, Services and works procured on the Client’s behalf

#### Conflicts of Interest

The concept of a conflict of interest includes but is not limited to any situation where an Involved Person or Relevant Body has directly or indirectly, a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise their impartiality and independence in the context of the procurement procedure and/or affect the integrity of the contract award.

We expect suppliers to mitigate appropriately against any real or perceived conflict of interest through their work with government. A supplier with a position of influence gained through a contract should not use that position to unfairly disadvantage any other supplier or reduce the potential for future competition

Where the supplier is aware of any circumstances giving rise to a conflict of interest or has any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise you should inform the Authority of this as soon as possible (whether before or after they have submitted a quotation). Tenderers should remain alert to the possibility of conflicts of interest arising at all stages of the procurement and should update the Authority if any new circumstances or information arises, or there are any changes to information already provided to the Authority. Failure to do so, and/or to properly manage any conflicts of interest may result in a quotation being rejected.

Provided that it has been carried out in an open, fair and transparent manner, routine pre-market engagement carried out by the Authority should not represent a conflict of interest for the supplier.

## Section 2: The Invitation

#### Background to Natural England

Natural England (NE) is the government’s statutory adviser for the natural environment. We play a vital role in delivering the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, supporting the Government’s ambitions for agriculture, fisheries and the natural environment as we leave the European Union and responding to the Government’s commitment to net zero by 2050. The twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change mean Natural England’s work is more important now than ever.

Our vision is of thriving nature for people and planet. Our ambition is not just to improve nature, but to see it thriving everywhere, because a healthy natural environment is fundamental to everyone’s health, wealth and happiness. In June 2023 Natural England launched its most recent [Action Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-action-plan-2022-to-2023/natural-england-action-plan-2022-to-2023--2) which contains more information on our priorities for the year ahead.

## Natural England is advising Defra on a range of issues relating to the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Bill. This data set will be used within the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) & Local Nature Recovery strategies through integration into the Habitat Network Maps and as a standalone product. It will also be used in the targeting of NbS[[1]](#footnote-2) (Nature Based Solutions) through the delivery of several elements of the Environment Land Management Schemes.

Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase

The Climate Change Team in the Chief Scientist Directorate work across Natural England developing the evidence base on both Adapting the Natural Environment and using it to help store Carbon. We develop tools and spatial data to support embedding Climate Change in Natural England and Nature Recovery project across the sector.

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2022/07/14/new-grant-scheme-opens-nature-based-solutions-for-climate-change-at-the-landscape-scale/>

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/23/nature-based-solutions-for-climate-change-at-the-landscape-scale-a-new-12-5m-pilot-programme/>

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2020/06/22/climate-change-biodiversity-and-nature-based-solutions/>

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2021/04/20/natural-england-publishes-major-new-report-on-carbon-storage-and-sequestration-by-habitat/>

### Project Scope

Set Out the potential of England’s ecosystems to deliver the greatest increase in biodiversity while retaining carbon storage and increasing carbon sequestration rates. Assess the impacts of climate change on the mitigation value and adaptation potential in high carbon habitats. Outline what locations would return the best investment to achieve long term functional recovery of these ecosystems and consequently the most effective in delivering these outcomes?

#### Project Background

Climate change and biodiversity loss are closely linked problems and need to be tackled in an integrated way. Achieving net zero emissions through removing fossil fuel use is challenging as it will require new policies, new technologies and action across all sectors. The natural environment plays an important part as healthy ecosystems, particularly forests, take up and store significant amounts of carbon in soils and trees. The large loss of habitat has resulted in a direct loss of carbon stored within them, restoring these for nature recovery will put back some of the degradation lost in the last century with the added climate benefit. Although this does not reduce the need to reduce and eliminate emissions in other sectors.

At present the land based-sectors (‘Agriculture’ and ‘Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry’) are responsible for approximately 11% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Whilst a relatively small proportion of the total emissions at present, they are not declining at the same rate as the largest emitting sectors such as energy and transport and are becoming an increasingly large proportion. At the same time, they contain the main current mechanisms for removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere in tree growth and the establishment of natural habitats on agricultural land. Managing land to eliminate emissions and provide GHG removal is essential to deliver net zero with about a quarter of global GHG coming from food.

The impacts of climate change on the natural environment affect the economy and people’s lives and are exacerbated by the degraded state of much of our natural environment. For example, degraded habitats at the coast and in catchments increase the flood risks from rising sea levels and heavier rainfall events, restoring these habitats reduces risk to people and the knock on increases in carbon emissions. Similarly incorporating natural areas within and on the edge of urban areas provides natural cooling and shade that lesson the risks of heatwaves & reduce the need for energy intensive solutions. The Dasgupta review[[2]](#footnote-3) and the UK Natural Capital Accounts[[3]](#footnote-4) demonstrate the economic value of the benefits that nature provides and show the wider economic potential that Nature-based Solutions offer in delivering Net Zero.

It is important to take a joined-up approach to climate, nature and the economy. Nature recovery is an important government policy that has recently been strengthened through the Environment Act & the updated 25 year plan; it can provide a wide range of economic and other benefits for people including a critical contribution to achieving net zero.

This project is looking through this nature recovery lens and targets and asking what is possible in carbon terms for this already agreed work to deliver towards net zero outcomes and what potential adjustments can be made to deliver greater carbon benefits through changing our deliver approach.

#### Project Timescale

This project will run until March 2024

### Specification Of Requirement

#### 2.1 – Overall Project Aim

We aim to identify the most effective and most efficient locations to deliver enhanced biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation through restoration and creation of functioning ecosystems. We will assess the climate change vulnerability of these areas and how this could be reduced to protect the carbon in the long term.

Set of Questions for project to Answer

* What habitats & ecosystems have the greatest carbon storage presently?
* What are the best places to focus High Nature, High Carbon Options to deliver both for carbon storage and sequestration?
* How will Climate Change impact on Carbon Storage in the future?
* The Types of landscapes that give best results for increased carbon storage, sequestration & other net zero requirements?
* What is the geographical location of these landscapes and can we create a prioritised list?
* What are the climate change vulnerabilities of these habitats and places and how can adaptation reduce those vulnerabilities?
* What trade-offs and synergies exist with other outcomes?
* Simplified models of the best biodiversity Rich Options?
  + Create some scenarios & carbon outcomes of these options.

#### 2.2 - Project Tasks

1. **An assessment of the range of carbon storage and sequestration, of the existing habitats at a national level?**

This section sets out our present best understanding on the building blocks to make the best decisions for nature and climate. They are initial tasks that help us understand the problem, set a framework for informing decisions on how to deliver nature recovery in the best way, in order to achieve the best carbon outcomes through nature-based delivery.

1. Decide on the ranges of Carbon by habitat figures by using the figures within the Carbon Storage by Habitat[[4]](#footnote-5) (2021) report & create updated tables for this project that will form the basis of further work packages.
   1. Carbon storage [above & below ground]
   2. Carbon sequestration
   3. Confidence in the carbon figures
2. Using the excel spreadsheet provide by NE along with national data sets such as the PHI, Carbon storage and Sequestration data, Peat data layer etc. calculate the existing carbon for nature in England.
   1. How much Carbon is stored in our existing habitats? [PHI habitat area x carbon ranges in habitat types].
   2. How much Carbon is stored in our protected area (N2K, SSSI, NNR) network & what type of sites are these?
   3. How much Carbon is stored in our National Parks & AONB’s and what types of Landscapes are these?
   4. How much Carbon in the NCA’s and the types of Landscapes are these?
3. Can we apportion the PHI habitat mapping to deliver better carbon figures for these habitats?
   1. Can we use soils data to build understanding by splitting out the soil types the PHI sits over by the key carbon elements.
   2. Some PHI habitats have peatland areas as a component of the layer, analyse how much peat types sit under each PHI layer;
      1. Deep Peat breakdown by area & % of all habitats?
      2. Shallow peats breakdown by area & % of all habitats?
      3. Breakdown of each habitat area & % on peat soils? i.e.
         1. How much upland heathland is on shallow and deep peats?
         2. How much CFGM/ Floodplain wetland Mosaic is on peat?
         3. Purple moor grass on peat?
         4. Reedbeds and Lowland Fens on Peat?
         5. Lowland Heath
         6. Etc.
   3. Highlight what the data limitations have been.
   4. Produce an updated step A2 carbon in habitats estimate with this data.
4. Using the information on carbon ranges in habitats, ranking all the habitats for carbon using a number of approaches including graphical representation.
   1. Through the carbon figures obtained can we group habitats by carbon.
      1. On a per hectare basis (carbon density of habitat).
      2. By habitat extent and carbon density.
   2. Decide on the top 10 (ish depending on break in carbon figures above) i.e. the big hitters and larger habitats to take forward for further investigation.
5. **An assessment of the impacts of climate change on high carbon habitats to determine the risks to their mitigation value and potential adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability at 1.5, 2 & 4 degrees.**
6. Which high carbon habitats are vulnerable to Climate Change & why?
7. Which high Carbon habitats are NOT so vulnerable to CC & why?
8. How does this vulnerability differ at 1.5, 2 & 4 degrees C temperature rise?
9. Would this affect food production at 1.5, 2 & 4 degrees C in these areas?
10. How could we reduce the vulnerability of these ecosystem areas?
11. What habitats expansion would provide the best CC adaptation benefits & why?
12. What landscape types would provide the best CC adaptation benefits & why?
13. What approach to restoration in these locations delivers the best CC adaptation outcomes?
14. **An evaluation of the potential of new habitats & ecosystems restoration to deliver the greatest increase in biodiversity while retaining carbon storage and increasing sequestration rates. Using the FCS[[5]](#footnote-6) (Favourable Conservation Status) figures for key carbon habitats and using the outputs above.**
15. What is the maximum habitat expansion we could deliver ecologically and practically for each habitat? [look at FCS figures, habitat network maps and habitat specialists’ input to fill gaps].
    1. Habitats are constrained by ecological parameters using the input data such as the habitat potential data what is the maximum ecologically possible expansion.
    2. What is the maximum potential restoration of the main habitats using the habitat potential layer (created by CEH & NE) & FCS figures.
16. What is the practical delivery and range of possibilities. Set a realistic delivery timeline for expansion by referring to information on difficulty in creating or restoring a habitat (see Biodiversity Metric[[6]](#footnote-7)). Consider what other practical limitation and constraints exist on how much habitat expansion can be achieved.
17. What is the Potential Restoration for the Top 10 ish habitat types for Carbon?
    1. Using the FCS figures as the basis of how much is recommended to expand.
    2. Using other data and knowledge within NE
18. *How much carbon could be delivered through the 500,000 Ha habitat expansion project?*
    1. *Some simple scenarios to highlight variation in carbon outcomes & gain discussion using the 500,000 ha framework.*
       1. *Maximum peat (& trees)*
       2. *Maximum trees – not on peat*
       3. *Maximum coastal*
       4. *Maximise grassland & heathland*
       5. *Maximise floodplains & lowland wetlands*
    2. *How much carbon would this additional resource deliver?*
19. What is the rank of habitats for habitat expansion and carbon outcomes?
20. **An analysis of (based on the above evidence) what types of landscapes areas are needed to achieve the functional restoration of these ecosystems and be most effective in delivering Carbon & Biodiversity outcomes in the long term?**
21. Is there certain landscapes or features we should focus on to create delivery scenarios in (Business as usual maximum area + High, medium, Low ambition) and also set out the high level adaptation/ wider public benefits of these area;
    1. Coastal wetlands (Mosaics of Reedbeds & Fens & Saltmarsh)
    2. Lowland Peatlands
       1. Raised Bogs
       2. Lowland Fens
    3. Upland Peatlands
    4. Floodplains (Divided by Coastal & Riverine)
    5. Tree expansion for Ancient woodland
    6. Tree expansion for nature in other areas
    7. Trees outside woodland
    8. Lowland heathlands
    9. Upland heathlands
    10. Hedgerows
    11. Saltmarsh and Mudflats
    12. Estuaries
    13. Grassland expansion (split if appropriate- upland / lowland etc. )
22. **Outline the trade-offs between different land uses and where good integrated delivery can achieve better outcomes.**

Build a bigger picture of where land use trade-offs and synergies can provide wider positive public benefits. How do these landscapes have positive and negative outcomes on such things as flood mitigation, climate cooling, mitigation of sea level rise, recreational green space, soil health and habitat quality etc.

Set out what impacts it may have on food production? Highlight areas with little reduction and where significant land use change is likely to impact food production? Briefly highlight any economic or social aspects of these changes. Consider the climate vulnerability at 1.5, 2 & 4 degrees of areas that are significantly affected by food reduction. Would these be reduced by implementing ecosystem restoration?

Set out any good synergies of the ecosystem delivery to provide an integrated delivery model to address the multiple benefits through the land use change. Is there potential for some areas to integrate other major climate land use change such as energy crops, and renewable energy without having a detrimental impact?

1. **Clear recommendations around a Nature Net Zero pathway which sets out the carbon reductions and uplift in nature. Highlight the gaps in the work areas and in our carbon in habitats knowledge to make clear proposals on next steps on filling carbon data gaps & future work programme in 24/25.**
2. A clear prioritised list of Landscapes & geographical places to focus delivery on and how much carbon is estimated to be stored in the long term.
3. Set out the trajectory of carbon uptake into Nature as habitat expansion through NbS is delivered between now and 2035 & a more approximate estimate from 2035 to 2050.
4. Highlight the Biodiversity gains from this and any negative aspects. Make proposals about next steps and data gaps.

Provide a summary of the implications of this work for the delivery of the CBD targets[[7]](#footnote-8) (2022) and the 30x30 target in England. Where might these focus to support the delivery of High Carbon, High Nature.

## How might it determine our approach to SSSI, Protected site strategies & reform of our designations process? Reporting proposals

* Full Report
* Summary Report or Reports
* Summary Dissemination Outputs to include;
  + Summary of CC Landscapes to focus on for Net Zero – what places would deliver the most for an integrated response to the Crisis.
    - Floodplains, Raised Bogs, Coastal areas, Wetlands etc.
  + Carbon Balance between full carbon and full nature. To highlight that at some point we get too much of anything it impacts other things.
  + Sweet Spot – potential to optimise benefits for carbon and nature.
  + Targeting priority list of locations to deliver High Carbon, High Nature.
  + Project Options that can be scalable to resources and funding

### 3- Outputs and Contract Management

*Creating a table to clearly set out important timescales and deadlines for key deliverables can also be beneficial.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Deliverable | Responsible Party | Date of completion |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

*A basic Ghant Chart for the tasks with timescales set out.*

#### Prices

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

Please supply details of price divided according to the specific tasks listed;

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Activity/task*** | | ***Daily rate exc VAT*** | ***Number of days*** | ***Total exc VAT*** |
| ***A*** | An assessment of the carbon storage and sequestration, of the existing habitats at a national level? |  |  |  |
| ***B*** | An assessment of the impacts of climate change on high carbon habitats to determine the risks to their mitigation value and potential adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability at 1.5, 2 & 4 degrees. |  |  |  |
| ***C*** | An evaluation of the potential of new habitats & ecosystems restoration to deliver the greatest increase in biodiversity while retaining carbon storage and increasing sequestration rates. Using the FCS[[8]](#footnote-9) (Favourable Conservation Status) figures for key carbon habitats and using the outputs above. |  |  |  |
| ***D*** | An analysis of (based on the above evidence) what types of landscapes areas are needed to achieve the functional restoration of these ecosystems and be most effective in delivering Carbon & Biodiversity outcomes in the long term? |  |  |  |
| ***E*** | Outline the trade-offs between different land uses and where good integrated delivery can achieve better outcomes. |  |  |  |
| ***F*** | Clear recommendations around a Nature Net Zero pathway which sets out the carbon reductions and uplift in nature. Highlight the gaps in the work areas and in our carbon in habitats knowledge to make clear proposals on next steps on filling carbon data gaps & future work programme in 24/25. |  |  |  |
|  | **Total excluding vat** |  |  |  |
|  | **Total including vat.** |  |  |  |

the project will be managed through regular project meetings as follows;

* An inception meeting to confirm understanding of the project, agree details for delivering outputs and the intervening tasks and work programme
* Regular progress meetings to be agreed & through weekly teams calls and/ or email updates between the supplier and the NE project Officer.
* Regular longer teams calls between the supplier and the NE Technical steering group, at points when outputs can be shown and feedback discussion had at least at Task completion.
* Final Presentation and wrap-up

The Publication of all products will have to meet NE Style guidance and formats and be delivered in a draft format to review by the Technical Steering Group before final sign off.

[ see [**https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5790636781600768**](https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5790636781600768) ]

A webinar at the end of the project to present the findings and disseminate the findings of the project.

* W/C 19th February 2024 – Draft report due in digital format via e-mail
* W/C 11th March 2024 – Final report due, digital format via e-mail
* W/C 11th March 2024 - Wash up meeting
* Contract to be completed by 22nd March 2024

**Payment**

The Authority will raise purchase orders to cover the cost of the services and will issue to the awarded supplier following contract award.

The Authority’s preference is for all invoices to be sent electronically, quoting a valid Purchase Order numberon completion of a number of agreed tasks / milestones / output(s) including the draft final report.

##### **Invoice Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Invoice on completion of Tasks A to C | 40% | Approximately end Dec 23 |
| Invoice on completion of Tasks D to F | 40% | Approximately Feb 24 |
| Final Invoice on completion of whole project including reports | 20% | March 24 |

It is anticipated that this contract will be awarded for a period of **4 months** to end no later than **22/03/2024**. 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 writing in advance of any work commencing and may be subject to further competition.

**Contract Management**

This contract shall be managed on behalf of The Authority by Ian Crosher, 07775 823113, [ian.crosher@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:ian.crosher@naturalengland.org.uk)

Provide a simple works programme that breakdowns against the 6 tasks (A to F). With indication of key delivery points, that correspond to any outline milestone payments.

The contract will be managed through a small Project Management Group consisting of NE staff and the project staff from the successful consultancy.

It is anticipated that draft outputs from the tasks will be provided for NE to comment on and that a draft report will be provided for NE to comment on at least 3 weeks before the end of the contract.

### 4- Quotation Submission and Evaluation Methodology

Your quotation must include sufficient information to allow the submission to be assessed.

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

Evaluation weightings are 60% technical and 40% commercial, the winning tenderer will be the highest scoring combined score.

The criteria for assessing quality will be based on the following;

* Key personnel directly involved with this contract.
* Proposed methodology and overall approach.
* Experience of carrying out similar contracts.
* Management of sustainability Riske or Social value opportunity.
* Quality Assurance Measures.
* Management of Health & Safety.

**Evaluation criteria**

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

**Technical Criteria (60%)**

Technical evaluations will be based on responses to specific questions covering key criteria which are outlined below. Scores for questions will be based on the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description | **Score** | **Justification** |
| Very good | 100 | Response is completely relevant and excellent overall with all the relevant supporting information set out in the RFQ.  The response is comprehensive, unambiguous and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the requirement with no weaknesses and therefore the tender response gives the Authority complete confidence that all the requirements will be met to a high standard. |
| Good | 70 | Addresses all the Authority’s requirements with all the relevant supporting information set out in the RFQ. The response contains minor weaknesses and therefore the tender response gives the Authority confidence that all the requirements will be met to a good standard. |
| Moderate | 50 | Addresses most of the requirements with most of the relevant supporting information set out in the RFQ. The response contains moderate weaknesses and therefore the tender response gives the Authority confidence that most of the requirements will be met to a suitable standard. |
| Weak | 20 | Response is only partially relevant or poor. Only addressing some of the requirements with insufficient / limited detail or explanation to demonstrate how the requirement will be fulfilled or a methodology containing significant weaknesses and therefore raises concerns for the Authority that the requirements may not all be met. |
| Unacceptable | 0 | No response or inadequate response or provides a response that gives the Authority no confidence that the requirement will be met. Fails to demonstrate an ability to meet the requirement. |

Technical evaluation is assessed using the evaluation topics and sub-criteria stated in the Evaluation Criteria section above.

Separate submissions for each technical question should be provided and will be evaluated in isolation. Tenderers should provide answers that meet the criteria of each technical question.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality Criteria** | Weighting | **To include:** |
| **Staff/Key Personnel** | 12.5 | Please submit pen portraits/thumbnails separately.  Clearly outline direct experience to this type of work for each proposed team member. |
| **Methodology** | 30 | Please submit Outline method of how you propose to deliver the services.  Outline Methodology for delivery of each Task A-F  See further requirements below. |
| **Experience** | 12.5 | Please provide details of relevant experience in this type of work.  Specifically, detail when and where you have successfully completed similar specifications. |
| **Management of sustainability and social value** | 5 | Project/ Contract Management and risk reduction.  Please consider how you will implement sustainability principles in your methodology, outputs and working practice. |
| **Health & Safety** | Pass/ Fail | Please include details on how you will manage all H&S risks. |

**Methodology**

Provide details of the methodology and approaches proposed to deliver the requirements of this project.

Responses should not exceed four sides of A4, and use Arial font, size 11.

Your response should:

1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature of the requirements.
2. Be a clear, practical, achievable, and cost-effective methodology to deliver these requirements.
3. Have information in sufficient detail to allow a full appraisal of the suitability of the approach to deliver for the project.
4. Outline briefly communication approach to end products that answer the key project questions (*see 2.1 above*).

**Commercial (40%)**

The Contract is to be awarded as a fixed price which will be paid according to the completion of the deliverables stated in the Specification of Requirements.

Suppliers are required to submit a total cost to provide the deliverables stated in the Specification of Requirements. In addition to this the Commercial Response template must be completed to provide a breakdown of the whole life costs against each deliverable (Tasks A-F)used in the delivery of this requirement.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality Criteria** | Weighting | **To include:** |
| **Whole life cost of the proposed Contract** | 40 | * What is the overall Contract Price? * How much will each task cost? * Breakdown of Prices using the table supplied above. |

Calculation Method

The method for calculating the weighted scores is as follows:

Technical

Score = Bidder’s Total Technical Score x 60%(Maximum available marks)

Commercial

Score = Supplier’s Quotation Price x 40% (Maximum available marks)

The total score (weighted) (TWS) is then calculated by adding the total weighted commercial score (WC) to the total weighted technical score (WT): WC + WT = TWS.

**Information to be returned.**

Please note, the following information requested must be provided. Incomplete tender submissions may be discounted.

Please complete and return the following information:

completed Commercial Response template

separate response submission for each technical question (in accordance with the response instructions)

completed Mandatory Requirements (Annex 1)

completed Acceptance of Terms and Conditions (Annex 2)

**Award**

Once the evaluation of the Response(s) is complete all suppliers will be notified of the outcome via email.

**Annex 1 Mandatory Requirements**

**Part 1 Potential Supplier Information**

Please answer the following self-declaration questions in full and include this Annex in your quotation response.

**Part 1.1 Potential Supplier Information:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 1.1(a) | Full name of the potential supplier submitting the information |  |
| 1.1(b) | Registered office address (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(c) | Company registration number (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(d) | Charity registration number (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(e) | Head office DUNS number (if applicable) |  |
| 1.1(f) | Registered VAT number |  |
| 1.1(g) | Are you a Small, Medium or Micro Enterprise (SME)? | (Yes / No) |

Note: See EU definition of SME <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en>

**Part 1.2 Contact details and declaration**

By submitting a quotation to this RFQ I declare that to the best of my knowledge the answers submitted and information contained in this document are correct and accurate.

I declare that, upon request and without delay you will provide the certificates or documentary evidence referred to in this document.

I understand that the information will be used in the selection process to assess my organisation’s suitability to be invited to participate further in this procurement.

I understand that the authority may reject this submission in its entirety if there is a failure to answer all the relevant questions fully, or if false/misleading information or content is provided in any section.

I am aware of the consequences of serious misrepresentation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 1.2(a) | Contact name |  |
| 1.2(b) | Name of organisation |  |
| 1.2(c) | Role in organisation |  |
| 1.2(d) | Phone number |  |
| 1.2(e) | E-mail address |  |
| 1.2(f) | Postal address |  |
| 1.2(g) | Signature (electronic is acceptable) |  |
| 1.2(h) | Date |  |

**Part 2 Exclusion Grounds**

**Part 2.1 Grounds for mandatory exclusion**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 2.1(a) | Please indicate if, within the past five years you, your organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation been convicted anywhere in the world of any of the offences within the summary below. | |
|  | Participation in a criminal organisation. | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Corruption. | ((Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Fraud. | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Money laundering or terrorist financing | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
|  | Child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.1 (b) |
| 2.1(b) | If you have answered yes to question 2.1(a), please provide further details.  Date of conviction, specify which of the grounds listed the conviction was for, and the reasons for conviction.  Identity of who has been convicted  If the relevant documentation is available electronically please provide the web address, issuing authority, precise reference of the documents. |  |
| 2.1 (c) | If you have answered Yes to any of the points above have measures been taken to demonstrate the reliability of the organisation despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion? (i.e. Self-Cleaning) | (Yes / No) |
| 2.1(d) | Has it been established, for your organisation by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the United Kingdom or the legal provisions of the country in which the organisation is established (if outside the UK), that the organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions? | (Yes / No) |
| 2.1(e) | If you have answered yes to question 2.3(a), please provide further details. Please also confirm you have paid or have entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the outstanding sum including where applicable any accrued interest and/or fines. |  |

**Part 2.2 Grounds for discretionary exclusion**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question no. | Question | Response |
| 2.2(a) | The detailed grounds for discretionary exclusion of an organisation are set out on this [webpage](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/551130/List_of_Mandatory_and_Discretionary_Exclusions.pdf), which should be referred to before completing these questions.  Please indicate if, within the past three years, anywhere in the world any of the following situations have applied to you, your organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation | |
| 2.2(b) | Breach of environmental obligations? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2(c) | Breach of social obligations? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2(d) | Breach of labour law obligations? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2(e) | Shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity, or a prior concession contract, which led to early termination of that prior contract, damages or other comparable sanctions? | (Yes / No)  If yes please provide details at 2.2 (f) |
| 2.2 (f) | If you have answered Yes to any of the above, explain what measures been taken to demonstrate the reliability of the organisation despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion? (Self Cleaning) |  |

**Annex 2 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions**

I/We accept in full the terms and conditions appended to this Request for Quote document.

Company \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. <https://www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Dasgupta, P. (2021), The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review. (London: HM Treasury) The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review (publishing.service.gov.uk) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/uknaturalcapitalaccounts/2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5419124441481216> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. [Natural England’s Defining Favourable Conservation Status (DFCS) project](https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5837795395633152) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. [Natural England’s Defining Favourable Conservation Status (DFCS) project](https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5837795395633152) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)