



Standard Contract for Goods and/or Services - Order Form

1. Purchase Order Number	To be confirmed	
2. Customer	Natural England Foss House Kings Pool 1-2 Peasholme Green York YO1 7PX	
3. Contractor(s)	UCL Consultants Ltd, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 4TJ Company registration number: 03332258	
4. Defra Group Members	The following Defra Group members will receive the benefit of the Deliverables: Natural England	
5. The Agreement	<p>This Order is part of the Agreement and is subject to the terms and conditions referenced at Appendix 1 and shall come into effect on the Start Date.</p> <p>Unless the context otherwise requires, capitalised expressions used in this Order have the same meanings as in the terms and conditions.</p> <p>The following documents are incorporated into the Agreement. If there is any conflict, the following order of precedence applies (in descending order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) this Order; b) the terms and conditions at Appendix 1; and c) the remaining Appendices (if any) in equal order of precedence. 	
6. Deliverables	Applicable Deliverables	Goods Only: <input type="checkbox"/> Services Only: <input type="checkbox"/> Good and Services: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Goods	Description: in Appendix 2 - Specification
	Services	Description: in Appendix 2 - Specification
7. Start Date	02 August 2024	
8. Expiry Date	31 March 2025	
9. Charges	The Charges for the Goods and/or Services shall be as set out in Appendix 3.	

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11. Contractor's Liability Cap (Clause 13.2.1)	A sum equal to £5,000,000
12. Customer's Authorised Representative(s)	For general liaison your contact will continue to be <div>Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information</div>
13. Contractor's Authorised Representative	For general liaison your contact will continue to be <div>Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information</div>
14. Optional Intellectual Property ("IPR") Rights Clauses	The Customer has chosen Option B in respect of intellectual property rights provisions for the Agreement as set out in the terms and conditions.
15. Progress Meetings and Reports	To be agreed -- See RFQ for outline in Annex 2
16. Address for notices	Customer: Contractor: <div>Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information</div>

17. Key Personnel of the Contractor	Key Personnel Key Personnel Contact Details: Name: Role:
	Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information
18. Procedures and Policies	n/a
19. Special Terms	After publication of project outcomes with NE, the Contractor shall be permitted to use the Deliverables for research and teaching purposes in accordance with its normal academic requirements.
20. Additional Insurance	n/a
21. Further Data Protection Provisions	The further data protection provisions contained within Annex 4 of the terms and conditions are applicable to this Agreement where indicated below: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Signed for and on behalf of the Customer	Signed for and on behalf of the Contractor
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Appendix 1: Terms and Conditions

The Customer's Standard Good & Services Terms and Conditions which can be located on the [Natural England Website](#) and which are called 'Standard Goods & Services Terms and Conditions'

Appendix 2: Specification/Description

Specification of Requirements

Background to Natural England

Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment. We provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone.

Natural England was formally established on 1st October 2006 following the successful passage of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 through Parliament. We are an independent statutory Non-Departmental Public Body. 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.

Background to the specific work area relevant to this purchase - Pressures on Protected Sites

Natural England also manage a number of geographical areas collectively referred to as Protected Sites. Types of Protected Sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. They contain some of our most important habitats, species and geology, and many also contain some form of public access.

Protected Sites suffer from pressures on their biodiversity. Many pressures are caused by human behaviour. They range from on-site pressures such as dogs not on their leads disturbing wildlife, to pressures caused off-site such as water polluted from farm run-off reaching the site via streams or rivers that flow around or through them.

Natural England's on the ground presence on Protected Sites, area teams, have a dual remit to protect and restore nature on sites, and the aim of encouraging ongoing public engagement with nature. As part of the broad remit of protecting nature, they aim to decrease, prevent and/or mitigate the pressures affecting their sites. Area teams are responsible for specific geographical areas and so are well placed to observe and record pressures, and to trial placebased interventions that might decrease or prevent the harms caused by pressures.

Overall aim of the project

The aim of the project is to test a problem-solving method from the discipline of Environmental Criminology, depicted by the acronym SARA (scanning, analysis, response and assessment), or methods very similar to SARA. This will be achieved by working with one area team as a case study, to assess what the SARA process might add to current operations on Protected Sites in preventing and/or decreasing site pressures.

It is envisaged that the process of leading one team through key stages of SARA for a defined few pressures will reveal specific gaps in current processes, knowledge, and skills which can then inform recommendations for how area teams can be better supported going forwards. The Thames Solent area team has already engaged with the project lead and will be the case study for the project. Thames Solent manage an 8,300 Ha Special Protected Area (SPA) consisting of

13 separate SSIs. The specific pressures to be focused on (pressures of focus) will be decided with the NE team.

Proposed method- SARA

This project forms part of a suite of work to better understand, measure, and ultimately decrease protected site pressures. The project will assess the usefulness and relevance of the problem-solving SARA method or a closely related problem-solving concept. In what follows, the acronym SARA is used to refer to a problem-solving methodology but the precise model used may be a close relation to SARA or an adaptation it

Theoretically, SARA could be applied to commonly encountered types of pressure such as recreational harms like littering, wildlife disturbance by people letting their dogs off leads when signage requests that they do not do so. It could also be applied to less frequent pressure such as wildfires, or to pressures which originate off-site such as water pollution from farm run-off. The successful applicants to this opportunity will be able to decide with Thames Solent which of their pressures are best suited for focused attention, after the scanning stage, but the ideal is that at least one pressure caused on-site and one caused off-site be assessed so that the limitations of SARA are explored.

Key stages to the project

Scanning: a scan of the pressures affecting Thames Solent carried out by methods proposed by the applicants, in line with problem-solving principles. It is envisaged that there will be imperfect data (for example about the frequency of harmful events, or limitations to the geographic or temporal resolution of baseline data on biodiversity). Therefore, the successful applicants will most likely workshop with Thames Solent to decide which pressures to focus on for the remainder of the project, and would ideally help to inform how to make such decisions in the face of uncertainty.

Analysis: more detailed analysis of the extent and nature of at least two types of pressure agreed with Thames Solent, using the data available from Thames Solent and any other available sources. Ideally this stage will help to reveal how data recording might be improved to better enable future analysis of pressure intensity and/or harms caused by those pressures.

Response: while the timelines of the project probably do not realistically allow for the design and implementation of any novel responses to the pressures of focus, the project should aim to assess and recommend which types of responses are most likely to be effective. The body of knowledge used should include the body of literature from the field of crime prevention/ Crime Science. A literature review of the evidence base from conservation on 'what works' to reduce pressures from human recreation is underway, and the results will be available during this project. This project will ideally also help make recommendations regarding implementation and how to maximise the likelihood of successful implementation, where relevant evidence can help inform those recommendations.

Assessment: the timelines of the project do not realistically allow for the rigorous assessment of any novel interventions, but should aim to produce a plan for how to assess what is effective, and to work with Thames Solent to develop concepts such as Theory of change for the priority pressures and associated responses, taking in to account the data available (e.g. ranger hours spent on dog walker patrols).

While these stages have been suggested, applications with variations of these will be considered so long as there is justification for the variation and clearly identified benefits.

Any successful applications will clearly show how their proposed approach to the project would:

- a) Identify ways of improving the current and future measurement of pressures on the SPA.
- b) Assist with the strategic prioritisation of pressures in the absence of perfect data.
- c) Help identify promising or proven evidence-based ways to reduce one or two pressures of focus affecting the Thames Solent SPA .¹
- d) Improve measurement of response effectiveness by providing plans of what data would be needed to measure and evaluate activities and impact, for each of the pressures of focus.
- e) At each stage, work closely with Thames Solent to share knowledge and to assess what they found useful and what was not, in order to inform where SARA and related concepts might fill current gaps and where it is not needed.
- f) Where possible, compare what SARA or a similar problem-solving method achieved that 'behaviour change' models might not.

Practical considerations

The total budget for this project is a maximum of £50,000 (excluding VAT)

The Thames Solent team are engaged with the idea of testing SARA and learning from being led through its stages, and fundamentally the successful contractor will work with Thames Solent throughout the project to in effect mentor them through the problem-solving process. Face to face workshops should form some part of the successful application. It is the responsibility of the successful applicant to factor in their travel costs within the overall budget available for this project.

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Timing and deadlines for the work

The work needs to commence by mid-August 2024 and be completed by the end of March 2025.

Key milestones	Dates due by
Kick off meeting	By mid August 2024

¹ A literature review of the evidence base from conservation on 'what works' to reduce pressures from human recreation is underway, and the results will be available during this project.
NE Version 1.0

Draft report on 'scanning' stage and agreement on pressures of focus	By 30 September 2024
All workshops completed (e.g. scanning workshop, analysis workshop, response design workshop)	By 15 February 2025
Draft report for comment by NE	15 March 2025
Final report	24 March 2025
Final presentation to NE	By 31 March 2025

Deliverables

The overarching requirement of the project is to lead Thames Solent through the process of problem-solving using SARA or a development thereof, as depicted above. The primary deliverable is a final report for NE internal use, consisting of the topics covered below which it is envisaged will be covered by the logical process of working through a problem-solving process with Thames Solent.

Deliverable 1: Report for NE internal use, partly informed by face-to-face workshops

The priority deliverable is a report for NE internal use, writing up the findings from each stage of the SARA (or SARA-like) process, that includes the topics detailed below. The project team is open to discussion on whether a report format is the most suitable for each of these deliverables and alternatives would be considered.

Face to face workshops should form some part of the sub-deliverables to achieve the overall aim of the project. The precise nature, topics to be covered and timing of these can be agreed with the wider project team (Thames Solent and NE social science lead), so are not stipulated here.

Topics to include in the final report: Note that the final report may not follow this same format and may for example have sections on key useful literature and evidence, useful tools and methods, and then the specific case study of working with Thames Solent.

- a) Scanning: A systematic analysis of the pressures faced across the SPA with options for prioritising these in the absence of perfect data.
- b) Analysis: A detailed analysis of at least two different pressures on the SSIs chosen. One pressure will be caused off site (e.g. water pollution by farm run off) and one caused onsite (e.g. recreational disturbance).
- c) Response and assessment:
 - i. A rapid evidence-review or summary of key evidence from the crime prevention/crime science literature about the mechanisms and approaches which work to decrease relevant harms in a place-based context. Relevant harms refers to harms with parallels to the pressures of focus. This may also include

- explanations of other tools, theories or frameworks which would probably be useful in future work with area teams.
- ii. A menu of evidence-based choices about how to respond to and decrease the pressures of focus - choices of response will either be evidence-based where a rapid evidence review reveals promising methods, or theory driven in the absence of evidence-based responses.
 - iii. A plan for how to assess what is effective for the pressures of focus, taking in to account the data available (e.g. ranger hours spent on dog walker patrols) and a realist approach needed in evaluation in the field (i.e. which works with the best available evidence given non-perfect experimental designs).
- d) A gap analysis resulting in recommendations for changes to practices including data recording and training, so that lessons learnt from the project can be shared and implemented where useful.

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Deliverable 3: final presentation of key findings to NE on the final report

This presentation typically forms the final main interaction between NE and contractors, and allows the results of the project to be disseminated to a wider audience than the immediate NE team. It is usually online and towards the end of the financial year to coincide with the final report submission.

Sustainability

Natural England protects and improves the environment and is committed to reducing the sustainability impacts of its activities directly and through its supply chains. We expect the Contractor to share this commitment and adopt a sound, proactive sustainable approach in keeping with the 25 yr environmental plan/our commitments compliant with all applicable legislation. This includes understanding and reducing direct and indirect sustainability impacts and realising opportunities, including but not restricted to; resilience to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and quality, biosecurity, resource efficiency and waste, reducing the risk of pollution, biodiversity, modern slavery and equality, diversity & inclusion, negative community impacts.

As a delivery partner, the successful contractor is expected to pursue sustainability in their operations, thereby ensuring the Contracting Authority is not contracting with a supplier whose operational outputs run contrary to the Contracting Authority's objectives.

Outputs and Contract Management

The project will be managed by a contract manager with oversight from a steering group. We envisage fortnightly updates through email and/or teams calls with the project manager

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and two to three online meetings with the steering committee to support the research and enable use of the research for internal and external influencing.

Key milestones	Dates due by
Kick off meeting	By mid August 2024
Draft report on ‘scanning’ stage and agreement on pressures of focus	By 30 September 2024
All workshops completed (e.g. scanning workshop, analysis workshop, response design workshop)	By 15 February 2025
Draft report for comment by NE	15 March 2025
Final report	24 March 2025
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Appendix 3: Charges

Table 1: Commercial Response (to be completed by Supplier)

Descriptions of Tasks and / or Products	Cost per product / or Cost per Hour / Day (i.e. rate)	No of products / Hours / Days	Total Cost per Task
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Appendix 4: Processing Personal Data

Not applicable.

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