

**Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS)
Framework**

PART 1: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contract Title: National Grid Eastern Green Link 5 – Protected Landscape Support

Contract Manager Name: Redacted under FOIA Section 40 Personal Information

Framework Reference Number:	PRAPS099	Lot Number:	Lot 2
Atamis Number <i>(if applicable, refer to guidance)</i>	N/A	Defra Group Commercial Contact <i>(If applicable, refer to guidance):</i>	N/A

Date: 19/09/2025

Contract Start Date 20/10/2025

Contract Completion Date 31/03/2027

Procurement Route:	Direct Award	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mini-competition	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Proposal return date: 10/10/2025
(For mini competitions, no less than 10 working days from issue date)

Clarification Question Date: 03/10/2025
(For mini competitions, also insert the clarification question deadline date which is five working days from the issue date)

Evaluation Criteria

Suppliers: Failure to meet any minimum score threshold stated will result in the bid being removed from the process with no further evaluation regardless of other technical or price scores.

Technical Weighting 60%

Price Weighting 40%

Quality sub-criteria weightings	Threshold	Technical Weightings:
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1. Approach & Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly set out the proposed approach and methodology for delivering the contract, include justification on suitability. Demonstrate understanding of what Natural England is trying to achieve through the contract. 	70	25%
2. Proposed Staff (including CVs) and Supplier's experience/accreditations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate previous experience of carrying out the work specified. Demonstrate that staff selected for the work have the appropriate skills and experience. Confirm the availability of staff put forward. CVs of key staff can be included as attachments, maximum of 2 A4 pages, font size 11. 	70	30%
3. Project Management, Ability to Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a project timeline including contingency. Demonstrate quality assurance measures. 	70	25%
4. Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include specific risks involved 	50	10%
5. Health & Safety (if no working at height or near water, mark as 'N/A' and re-distribute %)		50	5%
6. Sustainability (if no travel etc. mark as 'N/A' and re-distribute %)		50	5%

Specification
1. Description of work required – overall purpose & scope (including reporting requirements)
<p>Summary</p> <p>Natural England is the statutory consultee on development proposals impacting statutory protected landscapes, and the Government's statutory adviser on protected landscapes. Natural England is engaged by National Grid to provide advice on the assessment of potential impacts to the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (LWNL) relating to their Eastern Green Link 5¹ proposals.</p>

¹ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-5>

Natural England's internal Eastern Green Link 5 project team require a landscape consultant to support them with the provision of expert advice to National Grid on their landscape assessment. The initial work required is attendance at National Grid's Landscape Technical Working Group meetings in the run up to their statutory Section 42 consultation. This will be followed by review of the section 42 statutory consultation materials (expected Spring 2026), including a site visit (during or prior to statutory consultation, as appropriate), in order to provide expert analysis to Natural England's project team on potential impacts to the LWNL.

On close of this statutory consultation, Natural England's project team may require ongoing support with attendance at further Landscape Technical Working Group meetings in the run up to project submission.

Further details of the work required

Each Task to be quoted individually.

Task 1 – Briefing.

Attend a briefing meeting with Natural England's EGL5 project team to:

- i. ensure the scope of the contract and Natural England's advisory role is understood.
- ii. bring the consultants up to speed with Natural England's advice on the project to-date.
- iii. scope out and agree the focus of the technical review required (desk-based and site visit).

Task 2 – Attendance of Landscape Technical Working Group Meetings.

Natural England require technical landscape support attending external Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings with the Applicant and/or direct discussions with the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape Partnership, to keep informed with the project's progression in preparation for statutory consultation, and to advise NE of key emerging project risks & opportunities. Initial ETG meeting expected October/November 2025.

We would like quotes to account for the potential need to attend a maximum of 6 meetings, each 1.5 hours long, with up to 3 hours of prep/follow-up. To be quoted individually for optional invoicing pending the number of meetings undertaken.

Where meetings for Eastern Green Link 3/ 4 and Eastern Green Link 5 (or other National Grid projects) are jointly held we will only invoice for attendance by the people that need to be at each (and not double invoice).

Task 3 – Site Visit to the LWNL

Where possible, a site visit to the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape with Natural England should be undertaken prior to Statutory Consultation. This will rely upon National Grid sharing key viewpoints and overarching information regarding the scheme and their landscape assessment in advance of statutory consultation. Where this is not possible, the site visit should be undertaken during the statutory consultation period.

The site visit will inform the technical review undertaken in Task 4.

Task 4 – Section 42 Statutory Consultation - PEIR Review.

Conduct a technical review of the protected landscape elements of the PEIR and produce a Technical Note for Natural England's EGL5 project team on the potential impact on or harm to the statutory purposes of the protected landscape. The focus of the review is on potential impacts to the special qualities and setting of the protected landscape from the proposed development. The review should be completed within 4 weeks of receipt of the PEIR, which is currently expected Spring 2026 (timelines will be updated as NE receive details from National Grid).

The review must include:

- A review of the relevant sections of the PEIR. Relevant sections will be agreed with Natural England's project team following receipt of the PEIR.
- Three catch up calls:
- ~10 days in receipt of the PEIR to discuss with headline advice and key areas of concern.
- ~21 days in receipt of the PEIR to discuss a draft Technical Note.
- ~28 days in receipt of the PEIR to hand over the final Technical Note and discuss the key issues and next steps.

The Technical Note itself should be no longer than 10 pages and should be accompanied by a 1-page Executive Summary. Natural England will provide a brief structure for the Technical Note following contract award (this is likely to follow a similar structure to the Technical Notes produced by LUC for Grimsby to Walpole and Eastern Green Links 3/4 projects, with amendments to improve the ease of use by NE when using the note to inform our final response to the S42 consultation). It must include:

- Whether you agree with the judgements made on the potential harm to the statutory purposes of the LWNL in relation to **the project alone and cumulatively**. If your judgement differs, explain why with clear references to relevant national and local policy. Advice to be provided with clear references to specific and relevant special qualities. It is noted that cumulative impacts are of particular concern for this proposal due to the number of similar projects potentially affecting the LWNL in this area, including EGL3&4, Grimsby to Walpole overhead lines, and Ossian Infrastructure Transmission.
- Advice on whether the methodology used to make this judgement is appropriate. Including advice on the suitability of the cumulative assessment methodology.
- Advice on the suitability of proposed embedded mitigation measures. To include how any mitigation measures might be amended and strengthened and further opportunities identified to potentially reduce any identified impacts to an acceptable level.
- With reference to the LWNL Management Plan, an opinion on whether the proposals include measures which seek to further the purposes of the designation (LURA, 2023²), and whether these measures are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.

Task 5 – further engagement with NE, other stakeholders and the Applicant prior to submission.

Following Natural England’s Section 42 consultation response, further support will be required in the time leading up to project submission in the form of attending external Expert Topic Group meetings and/or direct discussions with the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape Partnership, to remain informed on the project proposals.

We would like quotes to account for the potential need to attend a maximum of 6 meetings, each 1.5 hours long, with up to 3 hours of prep/follow-up. To be quoted individually for optional invoicing pending the number of meetings undertaken.

Links to documents

All publicly available documentation is available on the Eastern Green Link 5 project website: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-5>

Publicly available information on the project timeframes can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0210010>

Time frames

- Task 1 - Inception meeting upon project setup, estimated w/c 20th October 2025.
- Task 2 – Commence following Inception Meeting until expected statutory consultation Spring 2026. Meeting dates to be confirmed following contract award & in ongoing discussion with National Grid.
- Task 3 – Site visit likely early Spring 2026, prior to statutory consultation. Date to be agreed following contract award, in discussion with National Grid.
- Task 4 – Commence on receipt of PEIR and be complete within 4 weeks of receipt of PEIR. Expected Spring 2026.
- Task 5 – commence following close of s42 consultation up until project submission (Expected summer 2027). Meeting dates to be confirmed following contract award & in ongoing discussion with National Grid.

2. Required skills / experience from the Supplier and staff. Include any essential qualifications or accreditations required to undertake the work.

A Principal Consultant or above supported by a Senior consultant. To be a chartered member of the Landscape Institute.
 Experience in communicating with a range of stakeholders is required.
 Experience of working on projects in relation to the LWNL is preferable.

3. Proposed program of work and payment table (Detailing specific tasks, key milestones, deliverables & completion date where appropriate)

Please provide details of the project timeline and how you will deliver the work to the required standard, including management and quality control.

Task no.	Task and deliverable	Completion date	Payment Schedule (%)
1	Inception Meeting	w/c 20/10/2025	100% of Task 1 Cost
2	Technical Working Group Attendance	Autumn 2025 – Spring 2026	To be invoiced individually

3	Site Visit	Spring 2026	100% of Task 3 Cost
4	PEIR Review	Spring 2026	100% of Task 4 Cost
5	Technical Working Group Attendance	Spring 2026 – Summer 2027	To be invoiced individually
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4. Risk

Note: *This section is to be used to detail any risks relevant to the project i.e. Programme deliverable dates, data, consultees etc.*

Statutory deadlines within the NSIP programme are not flexible and must be adhered to. Time frames are therefore non-negotiable for Task 4 (PEIR Review) to allow NE to collate, review and QA a formal response before the relevant deadline.

The timing of the s42 consultation is understood to be Spring 2026, but no detailed timeline is available at this stage.

The length of the PEIR is yet unknown.

The number and frequency of Technical Working Group meetings, both pre and post statutory consultation, is yet unknown.

5. Health and Safety Requirements

Note: *Only include if the work involves site visits. Do not request RAMS or similar risk assessments are returned with submissions. These should only be requested at contract award.*

These will need to be reviewed and addressed for any site visits with an accompanying risk assessment.

6. Sustainability Considerations (Only use if the work requires travel)

Where travel is planned for site visits and in-person meetings, sustainable transport options such as car sharing should be considered in the first instance.

Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework

PART 2: PROPOSAL & QUOTE

To be completed by the Supplier

Note: *Your proposal must not exceed 6 sides of A4 plus the Costs Proposal in Section 4 (unless indicated above). Attachments must not be included unless requested except for a programme diagram and full cost schedule if you consider these would support your proposal.*

Do not make or append Caveats and Assumptions in your proposal – any points of uncertainty must be raised as a clarification point prior to submitting the proposal. Where assumptions are to be made, these will be stated by the Authority's Project Manager.

1. Approach & Methodology

Redacted under FOIA Section 43 Commercial Information

Overall Costs (excluding VAT)	20,900
Overall Costs (including VAT)	25,080

By signing this form *LUC* agree to provide the services stated above for the cost set out in your Cost Proposal and in accordance with the Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS) Framework – Call-Off Contract.

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Supplier Project Manager:
Signature:
Date:

**Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS)
Framework**
PART 3: AGREEMENT

To be completed by Framework Manager and Authority Contract Manager

Approved by Framework Manager:
Contract Award Date:

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Agreed by Supplier:

Approved by Contract Manager:

Terms and Conditions

All call off contracts under the PRAPS Framework are subject to the terms and conditions agreed at framework award.

You must have a purchase order number from Natural England before you start any work in connection with this proposal.

**Planning Related Advice Professional Services (PRAPS)
Framework**

PART 4

Change Control Schedule

Notes	<p>To be completed by Contracting Authority Project Manager</p> <p>Any extensions, price changes or amendments to existing orders need to be discussed with the Framework Manager before being agreed with the Contractor. Please remember to amend your Purchase Order in SOP if necessary.</p> <p>The table below should be used to record and authorise the agreed changes throughout the project. A Change Control Notice (CCN) should be completed for substantial changes to the project and a summary provided in the table below.</p> <p>Send a copy of the revised Project Form and CCN (if used) to the Contractor once the change has been agreed and approved. A copy should also be sent to your Commercial Lead if a Atamis reference has been provided.</p>
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<p>10. Change Control All amendments to project scope, timetable or costs must be submitted to and approved by the Contracting Authority PM prior to implementing the change.</p>				
Change Details	CCN Ref. (if applicable)	Revised completion date (if applicable)	Revised Project Cost (if applicable)	Approved by (Framework Manager / Date)