

Invitation to Quote

Facilitation of the Northern New Forest Fringe Landowner Network

Introduction

The New Forest National Park Authority is seeking a consultant to facilitate some areas of work with farmers and landowners in the already established Northern New Forest Fringe Landowner Network. The project is funded by a £539,200 grant from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund which aims to kickstart environmental renewal and create and retain a range of jobs. With match funding, it represents a £800,000 investment in the New Forest.

Background

Green and Blue Horizons from City to Forest is a partnership project led by the New Forest National Park Authority (NPA) and delivered by the NPA and four of its partner organisations based in the New Forest: Countryside Education Trust, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and the New Forest Commoners Defence Association. Green and Blue Horizons began in September 2021 and is due to complete in March 2023.

Green and Blue Horizons is funded by a £539,200 grant from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies to help charities and environmental organisations start work on projects across England that restore nature and tackle climate change. The fund is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Forestry Commission. Green and Blue Horizons partners are collectively bringing another £255,000 in match funds from a range of sources.

Green and Blue Horizons contributes to the fund's three themes:

- Nature conservation and restoration – improvements to the physical state of the natural environment, including making it richer in plants and wildlife.
- Nature based solutions – improvements to the physical state of the natural environment that help people and nature adapt to the effects of climate change and natural disasters.
- Connecting people with nature – a wider range of people benefit from the natural environment, including feeling more connected to the place where they live.

Green and Blue Horizons also contributes to the fund's two economic benefits:

- Job creation and retention – direct employment created or sustained to deliver the project and jobs created indirectly through the supply chain.
- eNGO capacity and resilience – financial resilience of organisations as well as changes in assets, skills and capabilities, strategies, and plans.

Aims and objectives

Green and Blue Horizons is aimed at kickstarting action to confront the twin climate and nature emergencies with programmes to restore habitats, begin our path towards net zero with nature, and help new and diverse audiences connect with the New Forest. Our focus is on the areas around the edge of the National Park boundary. Most of these are farmed landscapes and smallholdings that sit in between the highly protected core Open Forest landscape and the towns, cities, and coastline surrounding the National Park.

Green and Blue Horizons will:

- Create wildlife-rich corridors, thriving wetlands, to buffer and extend SSSI network, link habitats to Bournemouth and Southampton (nature restoration).
- Reduce land-based emissions by restoring habitats, working with farmers, landowners, land managers to develop climate resilience (nature-based solutions).
- Develop volunteering and outreach focussing on those with most to gain, who will become more connected with nature and gain new pathways to employment (connecting with nature).
- Create or retain 17 jobs and involve around 50 local contractors (jobs and skills).

About the NPA

We are responsible for conserving and enhancing the New Forest National Park and promoting understanding and enjoyment of the things that make it special. As well as our planning, nature conservation and public engagement responsibilities, our services include education, recreation, and archaeology.

<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/conservation/green-and-blue-horizons-from-city-to-forest-scheme/green-and-blue-horizons-from-city-to-forest-scheme/>

The brief

The New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS), partly funded by the NPA, are delivering several projects as part of this scheme, including supporting farmers and landowners to collaborate with others with land around them so as to deliver for nature on a landscape scale. NFLAS are seeking a consultant who can work with farmers and landowners in the Northern New Forest Fringe Farmer and Landowner Network area (from now on referred to as the 'Northern Network') and the Ditchend Brook Group. This will involve:

Northern Network

1. Liaising with existing members of the Northern Network
2. Be proactive about liaising with other relevant farmers/landowners and potentially welcoming new members
3. Become familiar with previous liaison, events, data collation and prioritisation that has already been carried out with in the Network area.
4. Offering and carrying out habitat and species surveys of their farms and holdings
5. Writing reports and producing maps of those holdings to provide a 'natural capital audit' which can be used by the farmer/landowner to understand current features and what potential enhancements would be possible through future grants and schemes.
6. Encouraging and facilitating a 'cluster' to evolve for members in the Blackwater catchment
7. Scoping and trialling a carbon audit and report for one farm in the area which will also make recommendations for change
8. Delivering at least two events/field visits/meetings for the Network members
9. Liaising with the members of the Network steering group (RSPB, Natural England and the New Forest Land Advice Service)
10. Liaising with volunteers to organise species surveys where possible and appropriate. These surveys may be carried out in 2023, beyond the timescale of this contract due to the seasonality of species surveys
11. A final written report for the NPA and partner organisations. The report will also be shared with the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the terms and conditions of funding.

Ditchend Brook Group

1. A handover from the NFLAS advisor currently working with this group
2. Liaising with existing members
3. Potentially welcome new members
4. Finish organising and facilitating event already arranged for September
5. Determining and facilitating one or more outcomes which the group members would like to work on up until end March 2023

Your proposal should include your method and approach to:

1. Liaising with farmers and landowners
2. Carrying out 'natural capital audits' on holdings
3. Format for presenting outcomes of these audits to the farmers/landowners
4. Finding and liaising with volunteers to carry out species surveys

Within your proposal, please give a detailed breakdown of how you intend to allocate the budget across these areas.

Outputs/deliverables

The following outputs will be required:

- Presenting an initial summary of findings to the NPA and partner organisations.
- A final written report in word presented to the NPA and partner organisations.

The contract

We are seeking a supplier:

- With experience of a wide range of local and national knowledge in evaluating externally funded projects
- With an understanding of the New Forest National Park or similar protected landscape
- With an understanding of the key issues in the New Forest and surrounding urban and rural areas.

Bids will be assessed using a price (30%), quality (70%) matrix.

Budget – up to £12,000 including travel, expenses and other costs

Prospective suppliers should:

- Provide no more than four sides of A4 explaining their suitability, experience, and approach to the brief.
- Include their proposed number of hours/days to achieve this work and the hourly/daily rate applicable.
- Be prepared, if successful, to evidence Professional Indemnity Insurance of at least £50,000.

Timeline

Stage	Date
Proposal deadline	August 17th
Contract award	August 19th
Inception meeting with key NPA and partner representatives	Aug/Sept – exact date TBC
First draft report	Early February 2023
Final report	March 2023

All submissions must be emailed to tender@newforestnpa.gov.uk and must be submitted by **12noon on 17th August 2022**.

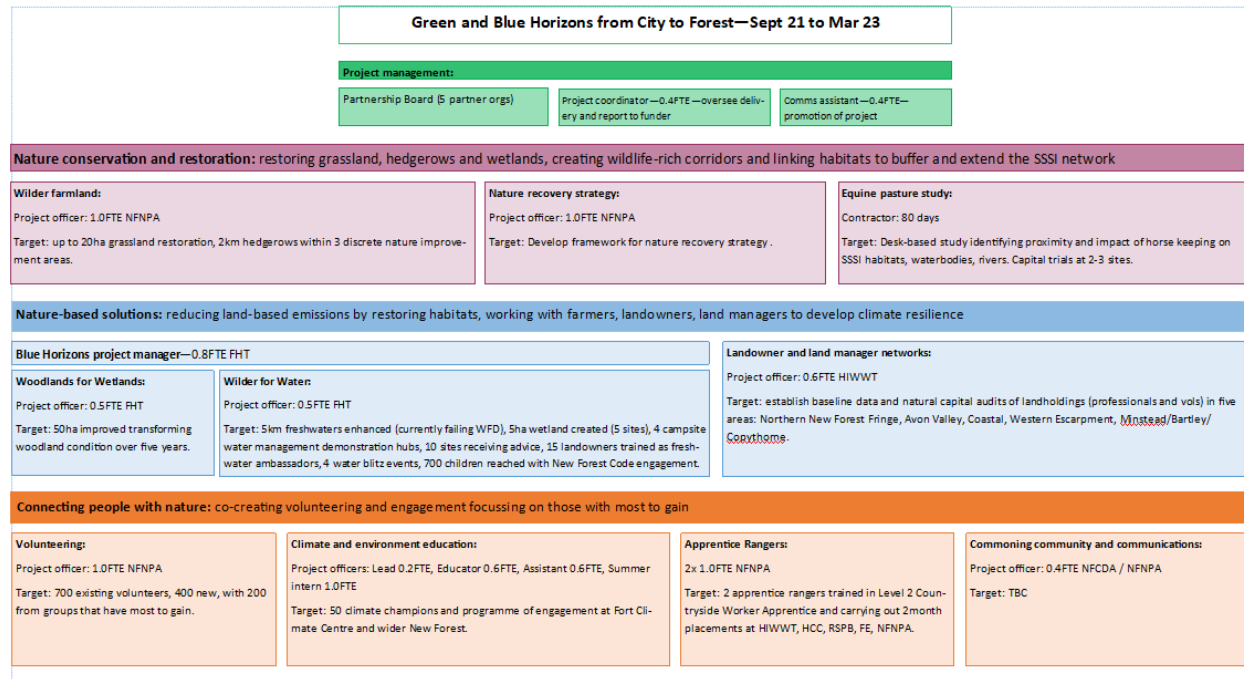
Any queries must be made via the same email address.

Julie Melin-Stubbs

For queries relating to the procurement process, please contact:

Nigel Stone
nigel.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk
01590 646655 / 07775 847473

Annex 1 project framework



Annex 2 – summary of quantitative data collected by NPA and partners (GRCF data log)

Activity and output reporting	What we will provide
Location data Project activities	GIS data is preferred if available for large sites –a shape file showing the extent and boundary of large sites. Otherwise, OS grid reference, Lat/Long or post code, including for locations of engagement activity.
1. Area of land benefitting from GRCF activity	Hectares of land / habitat that has benefitted, including: Direct benefit – area of land where project activity is taking place Area of wider benefit (for example habitat connectivity or catchment-wide benefits) For habitats or features not measurable in hectares, use km (e.g., rivers or hedgerows)
2. Type of land benefitting from GRCF activity	For the area of land that has benefitted: Whether the land / habitat is protected or designated (e.g., SSSI). Type of habitat at each site. [Note – we plan to use the UK BAP Priority Habitats list but will accept other responses for different types of sites] Condition of land / habitat – Baseline condition Condition at project completion (where possible) [Note –where possible, such as for SSSIs, this will be the common standards here: Natural England Standard: SSSI Monitoring and Reporting -NESTND035]
3. Type and condition of species targeted	What species the project will target Baseline information on species at site Observed improvements at site at project completion (where possible)
4. Tree planting (excluding replacement or replanting)	Number of trees planted at each site in the reporting period (e.g., the last quarter) Species of trees planted [Note – we will ask for numbers of trees in addition to hectares of tree planting as in point 1.]
1. Visitor infrastructure improved or installed	Kilometres of footpath installed / improved in the reporting period (e.g., last quarter) New signage Other infrastructure improved/installed
2. People engaging with project activities	Number of people attending events or taking part in activities. Types of activity (e.g., citizen science, workshop, guided walk) Whether you are targeting specific underrepresented audiences (e.g., yes / no + tell us more) We do not need to collect demographic data about all visitors / participants. We would like to know about activities where you are engaging specific groups/communities based on their protected characteristics (including, for example, age, ethnicity, or disability) or social and economic background.
3. Volunteering	Number of new volunteers recruited Number of volunteer days / hours

	Whether you are recruiting from underrepresented groups (e.g., yes / no + tell us more)
1. Employment This will include: Direct jobs – people employed by the grantee / a partner organisation. Indirect jobs – for example someone employed by a contractor.	Jobs created by GRCF (number, full time equivalent (FTE), contract length and role titles) Jobs retained for GRCF (number, FTE, contract length and role titles) Number of jobs supported through Full Cost Recovery (number and FTE) Number of Kickstart placements/ jobs Equalities data on new roles recruited (where collected) Estimate of jobs/apprenticeships created or retained by contractors
2. Skills	Number of paid apprentices / trainees for: lead applicant, partners and contractors Project over £250,00 Age of apprentices / trainees Title and level of apprenticeship, and/or titles of any certified course completed Equalities data on trainees (where collected) Number of other employees who have been trained through the project Number of volunteers who have been trained through the project