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Contract

Kidlington Waste Removal

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-009313

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-060042 ([view related notices](#))

Published 3 February 2026, 10:17am

Scope

Reference

C32552

Description

This contract has been directly awarded under the extreme urgency provisions, as set out in the Transparency Notice published on 6 January 2026 and in the Direct Award Justification of this notice, to mitigate a significant fire risk at the Kidlington waste site identified by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. A fire at this location would have serious consequences for public safety, including air quality impacts from smoke, disruption to critical infrastructure such as the A34 major highway, and risks to the local environment.

The contract covers the full end?to?end clearance of approximately 21,000 tonnes of illegally deposited mixed waste at the site. This includes establishing, maintaining, and removing site facilities and access arrangements; testing, removing and disposing of all waste material at appropriately permitted facilities (including all required waste?transfer documentation); managing site leachate; managing odour; and providing site security

throughout the works.

The contract will commence on 19 January 2026. The contract's initial duration will align with the completion date set out in the first Accepted Programme of the ECC, which is 12th June 2026. The works will then be subject to a 12-month defects period. The authority may extend the contract to reflect any changes to the completion date under the Accepted Programme.

The target cost for the works is £6,084,563.52. Under the NEC Option C contract model, any changes to this target cost will be managed through the compensation?event process clearly set out in the ECC. Adjustments to the contract value or contract duration will only occur where compensation events are assessed and agreed in accordance with the contract conditions.

Contract 2. Kidlington Waste Removal

Supplier

- [Acumen Waste Services Limited](#)

Contract value

- £6,084,563.52 excluding VAT
- £7,301,476.22 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

19 January 2026

Contract dates

- 20 January 2026 to 12 June 2027
- Possible extension to 12 June 2028
- 2 years, 4 months, 24 days

Description of possible extension:

The contract term follows the first Accepted Programme, which sets completion on 12 June 2026. With the 12-month defects period, the contract end date is June 2027. If the programme is extended, the contract may be extended under NEC

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 90500000 - Refuse and waste related services

Contract locations

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Key performance indicators

Name	Description	Reporting frequency
KPI 1 — Health & Safety Performance	RIDDOR reportable incidents and significant safety breaches. Target: Zero incidents; corrective actions within 48 hours. Reporting: Immediate notification; monthly and annual summaries. NEC Approach: serious breaches may trigger clause 91.2.	3 months
KPI 2 — Waste Disposal Compliance	Percentage of waste sent to approved, licensed landfill or recycling facilities (as agreed). Target: 100% compliant disposal; corrective actions within 48 hours. Reporting: Monthly reporting with transfer notes; annual compliance summary. NEC Approach: treated as a Defect and corrected at Contractor's cost.	3 months
KPI 3 — Traffic & Access Management Compliance	Measure: Compliance with the approved Traffic Management Plan (routing, timing, safety, community controls). Target: ? 98% compliance; corrective actions within 48 hours. Reporting: Monthly reporting via gate logs/GPS/spot checks; Quarterly summary. NEC Approach: repeated breaches treated as defects.	3 months

Signed contract documents

[Kidlington Waste Removal_Full Contract_Final_Redacted.pdf](#)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Extreme and unavoidable urgency

Approximately 21,000 tonnes of mixed waste have been illegally deposited at the site. Independent advice from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) confirms a rapidly increasing fire risk, driven by the volume and composition of the waste, the limited ability to safely access and control a fire if one were to start, and the lack of viable options to contain or manage firewater.

A fire at this location would have a severe impact; including:

- Lead to the closure of the A34, a major transport corridor between the South coast and the Midlands
- Disrupt emergency services, local utilities and essential services
- Cause pollution to the River Cherwell, which would impact on public water abstraction downstream on the River Thames and surrounding environment
- Produce significant smoke affecting nearby communities

These serious risks require immediate intervention to protect public safety, the environment and critical infrastructure because of the increasing risk of spontaneous combustion of the waste and the inability for the OFRS to access the site and tackle any fire. Work needs to start immediately not only to remove the fire risk but also to avoid the

upcoming bird nesting season which could impact on site clearance works.

The use of the extreme and unavoidable urgency provision is justified because:

- The situation could not reasonably have been foreseen, arising from an unexpected significant increase in the likelihood of spontaneous combustion at the site identified by OFRS in December.
- The urgency is not attributable to the contracting authority. EA does not clear illegal waste sites, such as this site at Kidlington, except in exceptional circumstances. The decision to clear this site was based on the exceptional circumstances created by the rapidly escalating fire and environmental risks .
- The time limits for any competitive procurement procedure cannot be met without creating unacceptable risk to people, the environment, and critical infrastructure.

Supplier

Acumen Waste Services Limited

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPLQ-9621-JRQL

Acumen House, Headlands Lane

Knottingley

WF11 0LA

United Kingdom

Email: info@acumenwaste.co.uk

Region: UKE45 - Wakefield

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 2. Kidlington Waste Removal

Contracting authority

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Defra group Commercial

Telephone: 03459335577

Email: procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Summary of their role in this procurement: Procurement Lead

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Defra group Commercial

Telephone: 03459335577

Email: procurement@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://defra-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Contact organisation

Contact [ENVIRONMENT AGENCY](#) for any enquiries.