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Tender

## **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Monitoring Framework**

NATURAL ENGLAND (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-026572

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03fb17

Published 8 September 2023, 9:47am

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

NATURAL ENGLAND (Defra Network eTendering Portal)

17 Nobel House

London

SW1P 3JR

#### **Contact**

Andrew Barkhouse

#### **Email**

[andrew.barkhouse@defra.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.barkhouse@defra.gov.uk)

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Buyer's address

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

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://atamis-9529.my.site.com/s/Welcome>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://atamis-9529.my.site.com/s/Welcome>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

Electronic communication requires the use of tools and devices that are not generally available. Unrestricted and full direct access to these tools and devices is possible, free of charge, at

<https://atamis-9529.my.site.com/s/Welcome>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

**I.5) Main activity**

Environment

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Monitoring Framework

Reference number

C20945

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Monitoring Framework

Natural England SSSI Monitoring Aims

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's work on protected sites as it enables us to understand the impacts of management and other pressures on the notified features. We have moved to a Whole Feature Assessment (WFA) approach, aligning with all other UK Statutory Nature Conservation bodies, to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. We will still be able to report at the unit scale to support conversations with land managers.

Interim targets of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) published in January include the delivery of an up-to-date condition assessment for every SSSI (feature) by the beginning of 2028.

SSSI Monitoring Programme

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's overall monitoring programme. It provides evidence that helps us deliver our statutory functions for SSSIs and other designated sites. We use this evidence to advise land managers, partners and stakeholders, and help them sustain SSSIs in favourable condition, or restore those in unfavourable condition. We are reforming these processes to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. The SSSI Monitoring and

Evaluation Programme tackles the decline in SSSI monitoring frequency in recent years and our SSSI evidence base. It aims to provide robust evidence to support site management, local nature recovery projects, and national policy delivery and reporting.

### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £4,900,000

### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 1 - North

Lot No

Lot 1

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Natural England SSSI Monitoring Aims

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's work on protected sites as it enables us to understand the impacts of management and other pressures on the notified features. We have moved to a Whole Feature Assessment (WFA) approach, aligning with all other UK Statutory Nature Conservation bodies, to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. We will still be able to report at the unit scale to support conversations with land managers.

Interim targets of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) published in January include

the delivery of an up-to-date condition assessment for every SSSI (feature) by the beginning of 2028.

## SSSI Monitoring Programme

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's overall monitoring programme. It provides evidence that helps us deliver our statutory functions for SSSIs and other designated sites. We use this evidence to advise land managers, partners and stakeholders, and help them sustain SSSIs in favourable condition, or restore those in unfavourable condition. We are reforming these processes to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. The SSSI Monitoring and Evaluation Programme tackles the decline in SSSI monitoring frequency in recent years and our SSSI evidence base. It aims to provide robust evidence to support site management, local nature recovery projects, and national policy delivery and reporting.

### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £4,900,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 April 2024

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

No

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

4+2

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 2 - East

Lot No

Lot 2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Natural England SSSI Monitoring Aims

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's work on protected sites as it enables us to understand the impacts of management and other pressures on the notified features. We have moved to a Whole Feature Assessment (WFA) approach, aligning with all other UK Statutory Nature Conservation bodies, to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. We will still be able to report at the unit scale to support conversations with land managers.

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SSSI Monitoring Programme

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#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £4,900,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 April 2024

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

4+2

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 3 - South

Lot No

Lot 3

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Natural England SSSI Monitoring Aims

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's work on protected sites as it enables us to understand the impacts of management and other pressures on the notified features. We have moved to a Whole Feature Assessment (WFA) approach, aligning with all other UK Statutory Nature Conservation bodies, to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. We will still be able to report at the unit scale to support conversations with land managers.

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#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

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#### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £4,900,000

#### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 May 2024

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

4+2

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Lot 4 - West

Lot No

Lot 4

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction

### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Natural England SSSI Monitoring Aims

Monitoring and evaluation of SSSIs is an important aspect of Natural England's work on protected sites as it enables us to understand the impacts of management and other pressures on the notified features. We have moved to a Whole Feature Assessment (WFA) approach, aligning with all other UK Statutory Nature Conservation bodies, to obtain feature-scale data and understand the bigger picture. We will still be able to report at the unit scale to support conversations with land managers.

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### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

### **II.2.6) Estimated value**

Value excluding VAT: £4,900,000

### **II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system**

Start date

1 April 2024

End date

31 March 2028

This contract is subject to renewal

No

### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: Yes

Description of options

4+2

### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Open procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 40

#### **IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### **IV.2) Administrative information**

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

23 October 2023

Local time

1:30pm

#### **IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted**

English

#### **IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender**

Duration in months: 4 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

#### **IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders**

Date

23 October 2023

Local time

2:00pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Public Procurement Review Body

N/A

N/A

N/A

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>

#### **VI.4.2) Body responsible for mediation procedures**

Public Procurement Review Body

N/A

N/A

N/A

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>

**VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained**

Public Procurement Review Body

N/A

N/A

N/A

Email

[publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publicprocurementreview@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-procurement-review-service-scope-and-remit>