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Tender

Local Resource Option Screening Study near Margate

Environment Agency

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-050967

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058d02

Published 22 August 2025, 3:30pm

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Scope

Reference

LRO24

Description

The Environment Agency seeks a supplier to deliver a Local Resource Option (LRO) Screening Study for a group of ten farms located near Margate, covering 3,744 ha (with 2,414 ha currently irrigated). These farms specialise in high-value irrigated crops (e.g., potatoes, onions, cereals some livestock farming and stewardship, with water abstraction being critical for production. The farms lie within the River Stour catchment, near environmentally sensitive sites (SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar) and already hold abstraction licences, with voluntary restrictions applied during dry years to prevent regulatory action.

The study aims to identify, screen, rank, and evaluate local water resource options to improve resilience of supply and security for these farms. One pre-selected option is water sharing among participating farms. The methodology and tools for screening and ranking (provided in the appendices) must be applied.

Scope of Work

- Engage with farmers, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, regional water groups and other stakeholders.
- Collect and review baseline data on farming practices, abstraction licences, water availability and projected demand.
- Undertake a water balance assessment, identify potential local water resource options and screen/rank them using the provided methodology and spreadsheet tools.
- Select the top three preferred LROs, including the pre-selected water-sharing option, for detailed evaluation covering yield, cost, security of supply modelling, and environmental and social impacts.
- Identify barriers, risks, and next steps for scheme development.
- Deliver an executive summary, technical report, screening spreadsheet, presentation slides and summary findings for participating farmers.

Key Deliverables

1. Screening and ranking spreadsheet (Environment Agency template).
2. Draft and final technical report covering methodology, baseline conditions, stakeholder engagement outcomes, ranking results, detailed evaluation of top three LROs, barriers, and next steps.
3. Summary slides for farmer engagement.

4. Weekly progress updates and biweekly virtual meetings with the Environment Agency.
5. Final presentation to study participants.

Project Management & Timescale

- Duration: 3.5 months, including stakeholder workshops, screening and ranking, and two report review stages.
- Weekly progress reports (via email) and fortnightly review meetings required.
- Contract budget: £25,000 - £30,000 (excl. VAT).

Evaluation

Tenders will be assessed 60% on technical quality (understanding of project and local area, methodology, project management, Gantt chart, team experience) and 40% on cost. AI use must be declared but is not scored.

Total value (estimated)

- £30,000 excluding VAT
- £36,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 September 2025 to 23 January 2026
- 4 months, 2 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72220000 - Systems and technical consultancy services

Contract locations

- UKH - East of England

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Tender submission deadline

9 September 2025, 5:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

To apply for this opportunity you must submit your quotation meeting the requirements detailed in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) attached.

Your response must be sent to WRAgriculture@environment-agency.gov.uk by 17:00 BST on 09/09/2025.

If you have any clarification questions linked to this opportunity or the procurement process please submit these via email to WRAgriculture@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please note that, unless commercially sensitive, both the question and the response will be circulated to all tenderers.

Tenders may be submitted electronically

No

Award criteria

TBC

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Documents

Associated tender documents

[Appendix A LRO screening study spreadsheet.xlsm](#)

[Appendix B CX-JBAU-XX-XX-RP-HO-0001-S1-P02-LRO methodological framework.pdf](#)

[Appendix C LRO Screening Study Fund - LRO Consultants.pdf](#)

[RFQ LRO Screening study - Margate LRO 24.docx](#)

[RFQ Technical Questions Proforma - LRO24.docx](#)

[Order Form EA Standard Goods & Services Terms and Conditions LRO24.docx](#)

Contracting authority

Environment Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

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London

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United Kingdom

Email: WRAgriculture@environment-agency.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government