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Tender

Wildfire and peatland: Studies to support delivery of the Third National Adaptation Programme

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-054048

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059473

Published 4 September 2025, 4:16pm

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Scope

Description

The Technical Report of the Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) identified a substantial increase in wildfire risk as a direct result of climate change which may have severe implications in peatland areas or for other organic soils which are major carbon stores (Risk N5 – risk to natural carbon stores). Wildfires on peat soils can lead to large amounts of carbon being released into the atmosphere, contributing further to climate change.

In Annex 1 to the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), published in July 2023, we set out the actions we would be taking to achieve our risk reduction goal of creating and maintaining healthy, functioning peatland, which will increase the resilience of these carbon stores for future climate conditions and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This included a commitment to a wildfire risk R&D programme beginning from 2023 (as part of Action 6).

We are putting in place research to fulfil this commitment and as part of this we need to commission several reviews and scoping studies.

These are smaller pieces of work individually, which we are bringing together into one larger project. The project is made up of 6 sub-projects (A to F) which will be reported on independently (giving a total project output of 6 reports). Sub-projects A and C are the largest sub-projects. Due to the diverse nature of the work areas, we expect that different teams will be required for each sub-project (and should involve different organisations as appropriate). We welcome consortia bids which draw together a range of expertise from different research institutes and organisations across environmental, economic and social disciplines.

The overall project must be coordinated by a scientist with expertise in wildfire who will contribute to each sub-project and ensure delivery. However, expertise in peat science will also be required and it would be beneficial to ensure that at least one peat scientist had a mirror role in ensuring consistency across the sub-projects (see also later section on the project team).

The six sub-projects are:

A Effectiveness of peatland land management systems and practices in creating wildfire resilience to meet adaptation needs

B The impact of peat restoration on building wildfire resilience into the landscape (deeper dive)

C The cost of wildfire on peat in England and Wales (economic assessment)

D Scoping a peat wildfire risk map for England (scoping study)

E Scoping a portal for land managers to report fires on peat they have dealt with (scoping study)

F Recovery of peat habitats post-wildfire

Total value (estimated)

- £300,000 excluding VAT
- £360,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2027
- 2 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Please see Bidder Pack Part Two

Technical ability conditions of participation

Please see Bidder Pack Part Two

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

18 September 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

30 September 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

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

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

17 October 2025

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical	E01 Organisation's capacity and resource – 10% E02 Project management and organisation's quality assurance – 10% E03 Proposed approach to research and methodology – 45% E04 Capability and Expertise of Proposed Project Team – 20% E05 Sustainability and Social Value – 15% F01 Diversity and Equality – Pass/fail	Quality	70.00%
Commercial	Total Cost of Contract	Price	30.00%

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Contract break clauses

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Justification for not publishing a preliminary market engagement notice

A preliminary market engagement notice was not published due to the specification of the requirement being already established and clear. Therefore, there was no additional input from suppliers in the market to help with developing the requirement and approach to the procurement. This project also meets the Procurement Act 2023 – Schedule 2, Part 1, Section 22 – Research and Development Services (Research and Development Exemption).

Documents

Associated tender documents

[C30151 - Bidder pack - procurement specific requirements above threshold PA23.docx](#)

Procurement Specific Requirements

Contracting authority

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@defra.gov.uk

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government