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Tender

Rapid Evidence Review of Peatland Water Quality implications for the Water Environment Regulations (WFD).

Environment Agency

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-056004

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-059901

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Scope

Description

This project aims to identify what best indicates water quality health in peatland dominated catchments, and how that relates to monitoring through the Water Framework Directive. Peatland dominated catchments can be considered as 'Operational Catchment' boundaries within surface water Cycle 2 WFD data for England, which contain greater than 50% peatland. Peatland areas in use for lowland agricultural purposes should not be considered within this evidence review. There may be evidence from different scales of peatland landscapes and so

Identifying the influence of peatland degradation on water quality and the WFD is a vital part of regulating water quality within upland peatland dominated catchments, as well as finding a solution. Monitoring of the WFD in England is undertaken at quarterly intervals via spot sampling and includes a specific set of criteria. The restrictions of sampling may not reflect the true status of peatland dominated water bodies within a catchment due to the flashy and sporadic nature of flow and distance from source the samples are taken.

Additionally, water quality is a key driver of peatland restoration and understanding how best to approach ongoing monitoring efforts of water quality will help inform progress against targets.

This project also aims to clarify the links between upland peatland degradation and WFD specific criteria to build a picture of what can be described as a suspected, probable or confirmed Reason for Not Achieving Good (RNAG) Status. The better represented these issues can be within WFD monitoring, the more likely peatland restoration will be included within River Basin Management Plans, and therefore prioritised for action within a river basin.

The outputs should seek to describe what is known about the links between peatland degradation, water quality and the WFD, whether the WFD is a suitable method of measuring peatland catchment health, and if not, what would be more appropriate. Where evidence does not include reference to WFD but is relevant to water quality parameters linked to the WFD, this should be included within the evidence review with caveats. The outputs should identify trends and themes within the subject area, for example land management activities, water quality components, pressures etc. It is likely that a mixture of human derived and natural processes influence the subject matter for this review and that the interaction between these will be complex. We would welcome contractors to consider different scenarios of hydrological state and how drought and inundation may impact water quality within a peatland catchment

The project will run from October 2025 through to March 2026, with reporting due by March 31st 2026.

Total value (estimated)

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

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 3 November 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 4 months, 28 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73210000 - Research consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Tender submission deadline

6 October 2025, 12:00pm

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 NationalPeatland@environment-agency.gov.uk by 12pm on 6th October 2025.

If you have any clarification questions linked to this opportunity or the procurement process please submit these via email to NationalPeatland@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

[RFQ Rapid Evidence Review of Peatland Water Quality implications for the Water Environment Regulations \(WFD\).docx](#)

[Order Form.docx](#)

Contracting authority

Environment Agency

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNWW-1475-NYLN

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London

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United Kingdom

Email: NationalPeatland@environment-agency.gov.uk

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government