Tender

Capturing transitional changes in GHG fluxes following peat restoration

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - view information about notice types
Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057307
Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059b45 (view related notices)
Published 17 September 2025, 12:58pm

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The previous version is still available.

Updating contract end date to 31/03/2028 and adding more information to the description of services

Scope

Description

There is approximately 1,420,000 hectares of peat in England, with deep peat accounting for approximately 680,000 hectares. However, the majority of our deep peat is degraded, damaged and dried out, with only 13% of deep peat remaining in a near natural state. As a result, peatlands in England emit approximately 8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, about 2% of England's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

There is an urgent need to re-wet peatlands to abate these GHG emissions to meet our net zero targets. In Carbon Budget 7, the Climate Change Committee recommends that by 2040, peatland restoration should represent over 50% of the emissions savings in land use, and 17% of the savings in the agriculture and land use sector. Peatland restoration targets have been set in the 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), with an aim to restore 280,000 hectares by 2050.

When peat is restored or re-wet, it moves from a degraded condition category to a restored or re-wet condition category in the UK National GHG Inventory using an IPCC Tier 2 methodology. This move is treated as a step-change without considering any transition between the two steady states. However, it has been hypothesised that this methodology is failing to consider a significant transitional removal of CO2 when a heavily degraded peat is restored. Thus, the CO2 sequestration potential of peat restoration may have been significantly underestimated. To date, the abatement potential of peat restoration has focused only on avoided emissions, however, the potential transitional removal of CO2 could make peat restoration a significant net greenhouse gas removal (GGR), which would be a game changer for attracting carbon finance.

The report by Evans et al (2022) on 'Aligning the Peatland Code with the UK Peatland Inventory', proposes a model for capturing transitional changes in GHG fluxes post-restoration for CO2. However, this model needs to be refined and validated before it can be used to support investment in peat restoration or to understand the transitional removal of CO2 and its contribution to emissions savings.

Therefore, research is required to refine and validate the model approach and to establish the criteria and method for how transitional CO2 uptake could be applied within the National GHG inventory and the Peatland Code.

Total value (estimated)

- £0 excluding VAT
- £0 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 13 November 2025 to 31 March 2028
- 2 years, 4 months, 18 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services

Contract locations

- UKI - London

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

6 October 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

13 October 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)

11 November 2025

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical	Quality	Quality	70.00%
Commercial	Price	Price	30.00%

Other information

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 has not been published. The internal customer has decided to progress the strategy via this route (open tender process) as opposed to RDE Framework. The RDE Framework and other Defra Framework routes were considered however the customer wishes to enable broader supplier engagement because the suppliers with the most relevant specialist skills and experience within the Frameworks are likely already at capacity working on Defra funded peatland research

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Documents

Associated tender documents

C30264- Bidder pack - procurement specific requirements above threshold PA23.pdf

Bidding Documents

Contracting authority

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNBD-3289-CDGX

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United Kingdom

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government