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Award

Peat Evidence Review

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-071396

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05db52 ([view related notices](#))

Published 5 November 2025, 4:35pm

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Scope

Reference

C31071

Description

This project will synthesise the latest European and UK research on peatlands to support future policy development in England. It will explore a wide range of policy-relevant questions, including how peat restoration affects water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and flood risk; the changes in biogeochemical processes following rewetting; and the greenhouse gas emissions associated with restoration activities and forest-to-bog conversion. It will also investigate the resilience of peatland carbon stocks under climate change, the impacts and thresholds of grazing, the criteria for identifying unrestorable sites, and the potential for quantifying and monetising non-carbon benefits such as biodiversity and ecosystem services. Each question will be examined in terms of evidence strength, quality, uncertainty, and scientific consensus, and findings will be organised into thematic chapters led by subject-matter experts.

Aim

To provide an evidence-based policy report which comprises topical chapters, based on the questions posed by Defra (see Annex 1). These reports can be utilised as an evidence base to inform future policy and research by Defra and by others in the peatland community.

Contract 1. Peat Evidence Review

Supplier

- Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Contract value

- £230,000 excluding VAT
- £276,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

5 November 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 5 November 2025 to 16 March 2027

- Possible extension to 17 September 2027
- 1 year, 10 months, 13 days

Description of possible extension:

6 months Extension due to unforeseen circumstances

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73110000 - Research services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Participation

Particular suitability

Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Unforeseen circumstances to extend end date

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

This is a research requirement and therefore exempt from publication, based on Schedule 2, Part 1, Section 22 – Research and Development Services.

Supplier

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWCQ-8213-LNLZ

The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Road, Newark,

Nottinghamshire

NG24 1WT

United Kingdom

Email: info@iucn.org

Website: <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code>

Region: UKF15 - North Nottinghamshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): Yes

Contract 1. Peat Evidence Review

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

Telephone: 03459335577

Email: procurement@defra.gov.uk

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government