

Environment Agency Marsh House Farm Habitat Bank - Request for Quotation

The Environment Agency (EA) are seeking an organisation to act as Responsible Body for the conservation covenant to register and monitor the habitat bank we will be creating on our land at Marsh House Farm.

You are invited to state your interest for the project detailed below. Please confirm by email, receipt of this document and whether you intend to submit a quote.

Your response should be returned to the following email address by:

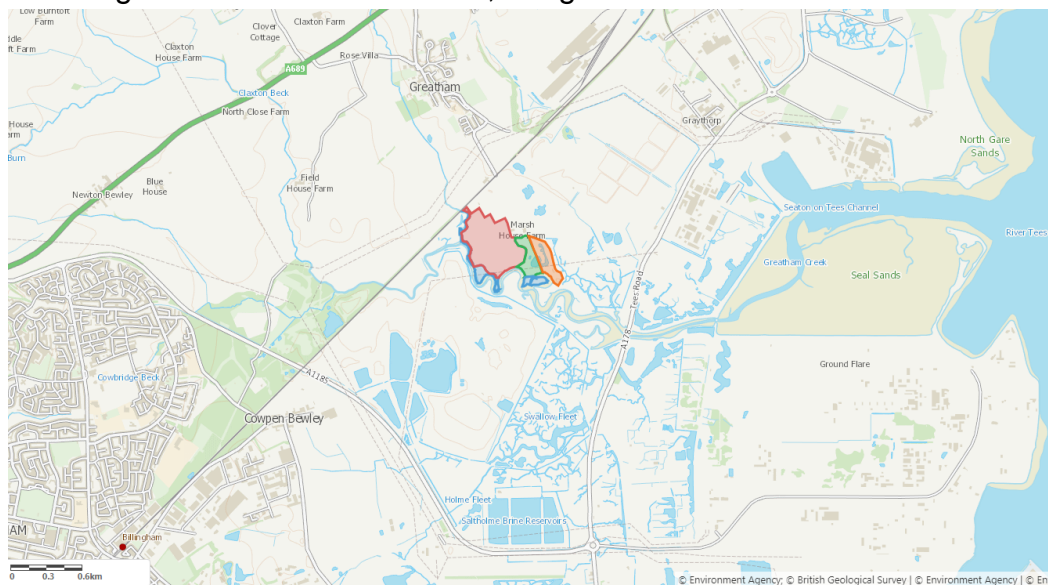
Email: kate.lowes@environment-agency.gov.uk

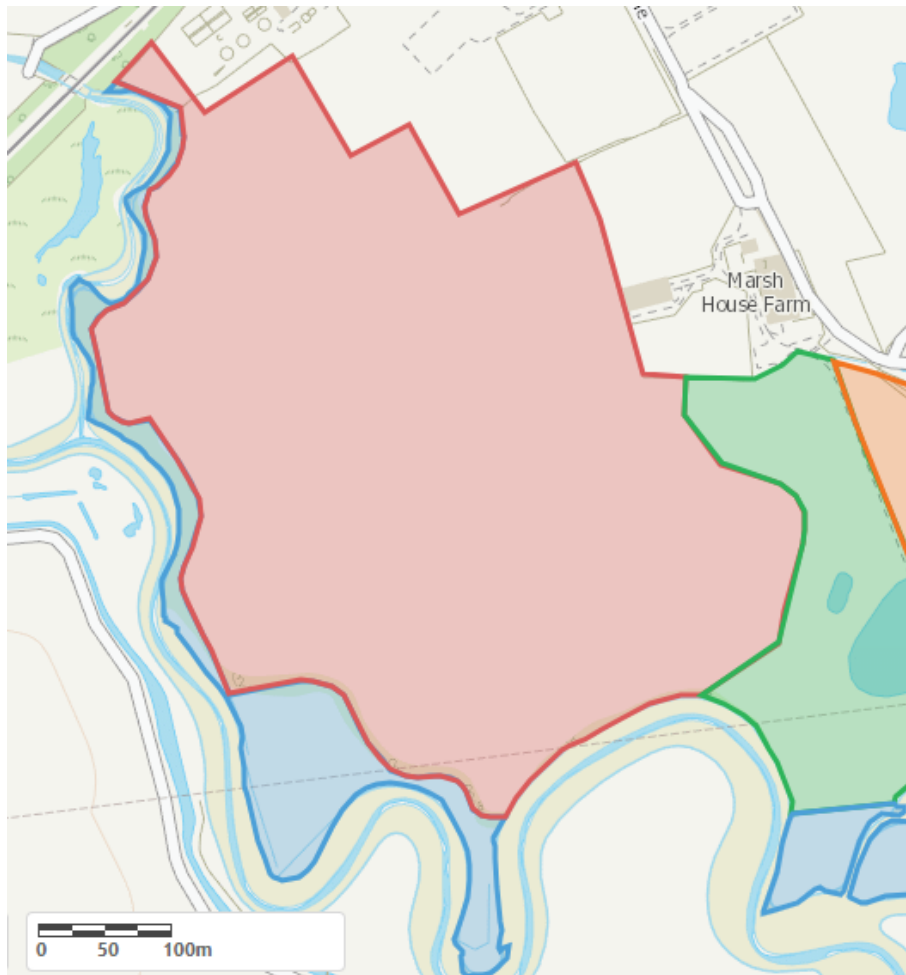
Date: 16/05/2025

Ensure you include the name of the quotation and 'Final Submission' in the subject field to make it clear that it is your response. In your quote please provide the upfront cost required to set up the conservation covenant as 'phase 1' and the cost of 30 year monitoring as 'phase 2'.

Location

Marsh House Farm, British National Grid – X – 449795.75375, Y – 526246.02714,
Lat/Long – Latitude – 54.62891°N, Longitude – 1.23018°W





Project site – 18Ha of arable farmland, highlighted by the red area on the above images.

Background

The EA are looking to deliver environment enhancement at Marsh House Farm (MHF) that results in the creation of habitat bank of Biodiversity Units (BUs). The resulting BUs will contribute to satisfying Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for the Environment Agency's FCERM programme.

The EA own a 18ha field at MHF, which has previously been farmed under a 1-year rolling tenancy agreement to produce cereal crop. The lease to the local farmer was not renewed in 2023 and the field is therefore back under the direct control of the EA.

Using internal BNG specialists and ecologists the EA will create a plan to maximise BNG units of habitat types appropriate for the neighbouring environmental designations; this is likely to be mainly other neutral grassland and some species rich native hedgerow. As landowner, the EA will fully fence the field boundary and provide a hedge to the northern boundary protected by an additional fence. The field will then be leased on a short-term basis to a local landowner for grazing to help improve soil condition. Once the field has been grazed and flattened, it can be prepared for seeding and seeded. The field would then be leased out for the land to be managed and maintained for 30+ years to ensure generation of the BUs.

The EA will continue to monitor the habitat on site and possibly look to increase BUs in future through further habitat uplift.

We believe under our current plan around 120 BUs could be created at Marsh House Farm.

Timescales

Site preparation will be completed by June 2025

Short-term grazing June to September 2025

Grassland seeding September 2025

Hedgerow planting November 2025

Please note, we aim to have BUs registered by Summer 2025.

Sustainability

The Environment Agency protects and improves the environment and is committed to reducing the sustainability impacts of its activities directly and through its supply chains. We expect the Contractor (Responsible Body) to share this commitment and adopt a sound, proactive sustainable approach in keeping with the 25 yr environmental plan/our commitments compliant with all applicable legislation. This includes understanding and reducing direct and indirect sustainability impacts and realising opportunities, including but not restricted to; resilience to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and quality, biosecurity, resource efficiency and waste, reducing the risk of pollution, biodiversity, modern slavery and equality, diversity & inclusion, negative community impacts.

As a delivery partner, the successful contractor is expected to pursue sustainability in their operations, thereby ensuring the Contracting Authority is not contracting with a supplier whose operational outputs run contrary to the Contracting Authority's objectives. The successful contractor will need to approach the project with a focus on the entire life cycle of the project.

Outputs and Contract Management

Deliverable	Responsible Party	Date of completion
Conservation Covenant drafting and agreement	Responsible Body	July 2025
Register Units	EA	July 2025
Agree payment schedule for compliance monitoring	EA	September 2025
Habitat unit compliance monitoring	Responsible Body	On-going 30 years from 'activation' date

Start-up meeting between project team and Responsible Body to be arranged once a Responsible Body has been chosen.

Communications thereafter tbc as required.

To be completed by Responsible Body: I confirm that <insert Responsible Body name> [do / do not]* wish to be considered for the above project.	
Signed:	Date:
Designation:	