

Environment Agency Greatham North East Flood Alleviation Scheme - Request for Quotation

The Environment Agency (EA) is seeking an organisation to act as Responsible Body for the Conservation Covenant needed to register and monitor the on-site Biodiversity Net Gain to be delivered as part of the Greatham North East (NE) Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS).

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';

joe.reed@environment-agency.gov.uk

sarah.baldrige@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

Greatham Works, Tees Rd, Hartlepool TS25 2DD (NGR: NZ5176826179)



Appendix A -
Greatham NE Red Lin

Background

The EA is looking to deliver the Greatham NE FAS, that provides modern, sustainable flood defences whilst creating intertidal habitat that has been lost through 200 years of industrial land reclamation. The project will reduce flood risk to the Greatham North East flood cell, which was identified as part of the approved Tees Tidal Flood Risk Management Strategy 2010

The Greatham NE FAS focuses on two existing EA maintained Assets:

29171 Tees Tidal 1 embankment (Greatham Creek)

52943 Seal Sands embankment (Greenabella Embankment)

The existing defences have been developed and maintained on a piece-meal basis, using non-standard construction methods since the late 19th Century. Both of which are in a poor condition, with a breach of either asset being catastrophic for the estuary.

A preferred option has been chosen through a detailed options appraisal which includes a realignment of Greenabella Embankment and a repair of Greatham Creek Embankment. The new Greenabella embankment will be constructed using clay from Marsh House Farm, with the intention of restoring the excavated area to a saline lagoon. Upon construction of the new realigned embankment, the existing Greenabella embankment will be breached to allow approximately 15ha of intertidal habitat to re-establish. Two stretches of the Greenabella embankment between the breach points will be retained as nesting habitat.

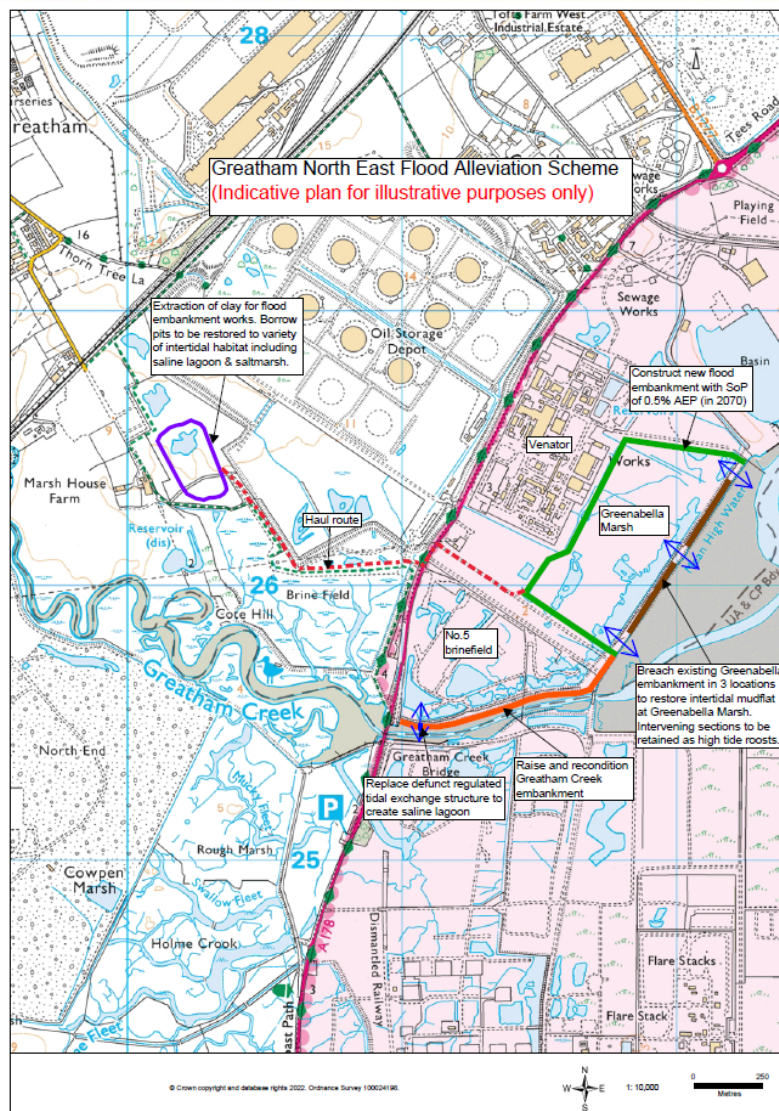
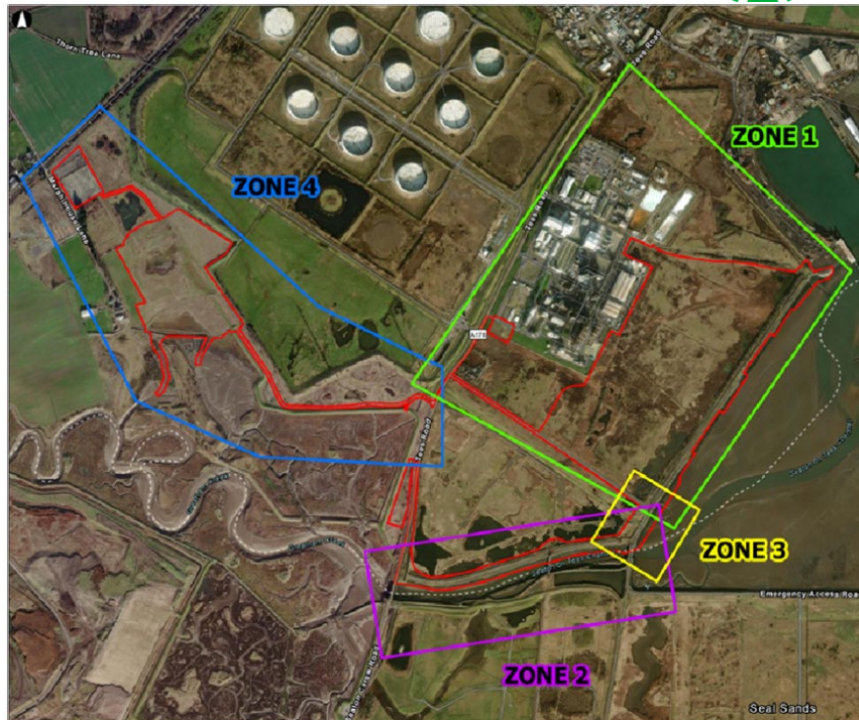
The proposed scheme has been sub-divided into four zones, as follows:

Zone 1 –Greenabella Embankment

Zone 2 – Greatham Creek Embankment

Zone 3 – Southern end of existing Greenabella Embankment

Zone 4 – Marsh House Farm borrow pit



Biodiversity Net Gain

The on-site baseline site contains 535.82 habitat units, no hedgerow units and 11.18 watercourse units (ditches). The post-development proposals contain 549.85 habitat units, no hedgerow units and 4.96 watercourse units.

This represents an expected uplift of 2.62% for on-site habitat units (within the red line boundary), with additional units being secured off-site in order to meet the required 10% gain (note the requirement for securing the off-site units are not to be included in the Conservation Covenant).

On-site watercourse units represent a -55.69% loss, due to the change from terrestrial ditches to intertidal habitat. However, the project has applied Metric Rule 4, as it is a habitat creation scheme of national priority (coastal realignment). This has been agreed with Natural England and the Local Planning Authority.

The biodiversity net gain report and associated biodiversity metric which were submitted with the planning application are appended to this request for quote.

A complexity of the on-site delivery of the BNG requirement is the multiple landowners involved. It's anticipated therefore that the landowners will need to be co-signatories with the Environmental Agency of any Conservation Covenant. These being;

Venator Uk - own most of the land within the realigned Greenabella Embankment (Zone 1). The Environment Agency is aware that Venator's parent company (Venator Materials PLC) is currently in administration, which may mean a change in landowner if the chemical plant is sold.

The Crown Estate - own most of the land on Greatham Creek embankment (Zone 2), however the EA are intending to lease the land for the 30-year period (currently to be confirmed who would therefore need to enter into the Conservation Covenant).

EA - own most of the land at Marsh House Farm borrow pit (Zone 4), however this is leased long term to the RSPB.

It is currently anticipated that on-site management and monitoring will be undertaken by the EA and RSPB. This will be outlined in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan, which is currently in development.

A planning application has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) (Ref: H/2025/0131). The EA have written to HBC to confirm their comfort in utilising a Conservation Covenant to secure the BNG rather than a Section 106 agreement.

Timescales

Full Business Case Approval: November 2025

Planning determination: December 2025

Construction start*: September 2026

Construction completion: April 2028

*Please note, we aim to have the Conservation Covenant in place by May 2026.

Sustainability

The Environment Agency protects and improves the environment and is committed to reducing the unsustainable 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-year 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	May 2026
Agree payment schedule for compliance monitoring	EA	February 2026
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: