

Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons (Development Phase)

**An Opportunity to Tender for the Role of
Area Facilitator
(Shropshire)**

To be submitted to joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk

By 12 noon on 22nd January 2018

Area Facilitator Role Description.

I. Overview

The Foundation for Common Land and its partners in the Our Common Cause project wish to appoint an individual, or individuals, or an organisation on a contract basis to take forward the development of elements of the second round of a Heritage Lottery Fund Heritage Grant project across specific areas of common land in the Shropshire Hills.

This is one of four regional roles in England. The individual appointed will need to work closely with the other Local Facilitators, the Project Development Manager and a range of stakeholders represented on the national Our Common Cause Partnership and Area Groups.

The successful applicant will have good communication skills and have some understanding of commoning and commons. The main purpose of the role is to facilitate improved relationships and better understanding between the various parties with an interest in common land in order to reduce conflict and move towards better outcomes for all. In addition each Area Facilitator will be expected to take a project wide lead role in one specialised area from the following:

- environmental heritage,
- land management/practical skills,
- training and skills development,
- interpretation and communications,
- audience development & community / youth engagement.

2. Background

In September 2017, the Foundation for Common Land and a broad partnership of organisations successfully secured a first round Heritage Grant from Heritage Lottery Fund to enable it to develop a detailed second round application for submission in December 2019.

The Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons project will enhance the cultural and ecological heritage of Upland Commons and provide the public with the opportunity to learn about, appreciate and support the continuation of pastoral commoning. The work will take place on identified commons in Dartmoor, the Lake District, Shropshire Hills and Yorkshire Dales.

It will build on the findings of “Better Outcomes on Upland Commons” which conducted five case studies in areas with strong pastoral commoning traditions. It worked to unpack the objectives and motivations of commoners, common land owners, conservation bodies, water companies and other interested parties and this has led to better understanding and learning, key building blocks in the development

of trust.

The pilot project identified 10 attributes of successful management and concluded that *'respectful and long enduring relationships between individuals and groups are at the heart of delivering better outcomes'*. The purpose of this follow on project is to implement these findings to ensure improved outcomes for all.

The project will address the following issues identified by the "Better Outcomes" work:

- Lack of skills among commoners, conservation bodies and owners, including the loss of institutional memory when succession of individuals occurs,
- Lack of understanding of each other's interests and outcomes, and lack of motivation to deliver public goods,
- Conflict resolution where long standing disputes act as a barrier to better outcomes,
- The narrow focus on a limited number of outcomes, with cultural landscape and the cultural heritage provided by commoners and owners, too often undervalued,
- Lack of awareness of the role commoning plays in delivering numerous public goods and a general lack of understanding about commons and how they function.

Although the project is being led by the Foundation for Common Land, the project will go forward under a broad partnership of organisations: The National Trust as the "Accountable Body", Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Dartmoor Commons' Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Defra, Devon Wildlife Trust, Duchy of Cornwall, Friends of the Lake District, The Heather Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, The Moorland Association, National Farmers' Union, National Sheep Association, Natural England, Open Spaces Society, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Shropshire Hills AONB, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, South West Water, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

An Area Task Group for each of the four areas will be composed of relevant members from the list above.

3. Main Responsibilities

- Using the Dartmoor Vision model (see weblink in section 6) work with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a vision for the selected commons, probably 3, in in your area. Each vision will address all the principle public benefits provided by the common. (This process will require collation and analysis of baseline data and evidence for the commons)

- Develop the vision into an active management plan for at least one common and develop a costed programme of capital works for the 3 commons to be included in the delivery stage.
- Carry out a skills audit for the selected commons in the area, considering the skills required to maintain or improve delivery of public benefits.
- Develop and trial an activity programme for the commons to reconnect people with the heritage and culture of commons and commoning. Use the findings of the trial to develop and costs an activity programme for the delivery stage.
- Take the national lead for the project in one of the following areas; environmental heritage, land management/practical skills development, training and skills development, interpretation and communications, or, audience development/community engagement.
- Contribute a regional perspective to the scheme wide contracts: to develop and test ideas for arts based engagement activities on the commons; identify key audiences for the selected commons and development of the interpretation plan for the project..
- Prepare project briefs and where required assist the Project Manager with the appointment of professionals and consultants.
- Manage the Area Task Group: liaise with the Area Group Convenor, arrange meetings, prepare agendas and records of meetings.

4. Key Relationships

The contract will be managed by the Project Development Manager. The Facilitator will have a close working relationship with the Chair of the Area Group, members of the group and with commoners and landowners on the selected commons. They will be expected to develop strong relationships with local communities and other key audiences identified during development.

5. Details of Contract

The contract will be for a 20 month period commencing in February 2018 for 10 days per month at £200 per day. This rate is inclusive of VAT. Payment will be made against monthly invoices. The National Trust as the Accountable Body will issue the contract on behalf of the Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons Partnership.

In addition a sum of up to 10% of the contract value will be available for travel costs to be paid on actual costs incurred following our expenses policy.

The post will require evening and weekend working and from time to time travel nationally to meet with colleagues.

In all work the contractor will use the project branding as agreed by the Project Board and will acknowledge funders especially HLF.

6. Available Materials

- General information about the initiative and the Better Outcomes report can be found at: <http://www.foundationforcommonland.org/>
- The Dartmoor Vision process is available at: <http://www.uklandscapeaward.org/Entryfiles/1281686240A-Vision-for-Dartmoor-2010.pdf> and <http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/farming/moorland-vision>
- The first round application and the project organogram is attached as an annex to this contract

7. Contract Management

This contract will be managed by the Project Development Manager. All correspondence and queries relating to the delivery of the contracted work should be directed to them and contact details will be provided on appointment

8. Timetable

MILESTONE	DATE
<i>Submit applications</i>	<i>22nd January 2018 (noon)</i>
<i>Shortlisting</i>	<i>25th January 2018</i>
<i>Interviews</i>	<i>First week of February 2018</i>

9. Tender Submission

Please submit the following information to joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk by 12 noon on 22nd January 2018. Shortlisted individuals will be contacted on xxx and may be asked to attend an interview with the Project Development Manager and representatives of the Area Group as per the timetable above. Please confirm with the tender submission that you will be available that week.

Your tender should include:

- An outline of how you would deliver the work within the timescales for submission of a Stage 2 application in December 2019,
- Details and relevant experience of the individual(s) who will be delivering the work with reference to the main responsibilities listed in section 3 above and the selection criteria listed in section 10 below,
- Examples of similar work completed for other projects including any HLF projects,

- An outline of your experience and knowledge in at least one of the five specialist topic areas – do state a preference but allocation will depend on the team selected.
- An outline of your knowledge of, track record in and links to the geographical area you are tendering for and in the sector of uplands and commons
- State which geographical area you are applying to work in

10. Assessment Criteria for awarding the Contract of ‘Area Facilitator’

- Appropriate qualifications and track record in the land management/environmental/heritage sector
- Experience of/track record in successful partnership working and community engagement activities.
- Experience/track record of engaging landowners and farmers, and a range of other stakeholders.
- Evidence of an understanding and knowledge of the uplands, farming and commons
- Experience of/track record in delivering training/learning activities to different audiences.
- Track record in writing consultancy briefs and of managing contractors
- Experience of formal survey methodologies, collation of baseline data and track record of writing management or conservation plans for natural and cultural heritage
- Evidence of generic skills such as computer literacy, good verbal and written communication, presentation skills, and the ability to be well organised, able to prioritise work and meet deadlines

11. Queries

The Project Development Manager (Joy Howells) starts work on 15th January 2018 so if you have any queries before that date please contact Julia Aglionby on 07702 100111 or julia@foundationforcommonland.org.uk After 15th January please contact Joy Howells via joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk