

Our Common Cause: Our Upland Commons

INVITATION TO TENDER

From Foundation for Common Land (on behalf of the National Trust)
For Our Common Cause Project: Bracken Management Study
Contact Joy Howells, Our Common Cause Project Development Manager (PDM)
joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk
Date 10th October 2018

1. Overview

The Foundation for Common Land and its partners in the Our Common Cause Project, wish to appoint a consultant or team of consultants to make an assessment of existing knowledge and research into changes in bracken, gorse and heather cover, give an accurate analysis of the reasons for these changes and consider a range of approaches to bracken management other than aerial spraying. In addition the study should consider current and developing approaches to tick control.

The consultant will be required to provide a detailed report which includes recommendations for appropriate management and control measures in the delivery stage of the Our Common Cause project.

The perceived increase in bracken cover on common land is identified as a major problem by a variety of stakeholders. However, bracken can also be a valuable component of moorland habitat and has benefits for some wildlife. This study should therefore take a balanced view - to give a picture of changes in cover and a focus on appropriate bracken management, suited to place and management objectives, rather than on eradication – the ultimate aim being to successfully deliver multiple outcomes on common land.

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 November 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 four areas of England - 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. See <http://www.foundationforcommonland.org.uk/better-outcomes-on-upland-commons>.

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, its role is as convener of a broad partnership of organisations: The National Trust as the “Accountable Body”, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Dartmoor Commons’ Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Devon Wildlife Trust, Duchy of Cornwall, Federation of Cumbria Commoners, Friends of the Lake District, The Heather Trust, John Muir 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 Partnership, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, South West Water, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

3. Scope of Services Required

The successful consultant will be required to provide a report with fully costed recommendations for implementation. The study will cover three key areas of work:

- 1) Use existing aerial photography and other data, and where necessary drawing in new information to map changes in bracken, gorse and heather cover since the early 1970s on the 12 selected commons. The research should also include an analysis of the reasons for changes in cover. Under or over grazing by livestock is often cited as the main cause of these changes but the OCC partners would like to understand whether there are other reasons for these changes. Research should examine the following areas:
 - a. How have bracken, gorse and heather cover changed on these commons over the last 30-40 years and what can we say about the likely reasons for this?
 - b. How does over or under grazing impact on bracken cover and is this the only reason for changes in cover? To what extent are climatic conditions responsible?
 - c. What is the impact of reintroducing cattle on commons where bracken cover has increased?
 - d. Why does gorse grow well in some areas and not in others?
 - e. Burning as an effective means of heather management/regeneration as opposed to other methods.
- 2) A detailed appraisal of the available alternatives to aerial spraying for the control of bracken. This will give particular consideration to economically and ecologically sustainable models from around the UK, such as cutting bracken for bedding or compost, bracken pellets etc., and will assess the scope for further income generation



from these products, in the context of what is already happening locally. The study should apply the findings of the appraisal to the 12 selected commons and make recommendations for suitable management options, taking into account current management, any limiting factors (e.g. accessibility, rocks, slope etc) and extent and timing of management to achieve objectives.

- 3) A review and summary of the current research into novel tick control and recommendations for a trial project during the delivery stage to assist with the rollout of new control. This should take account of current and likely future availability of vaccines.

The findings of the study will need to be collated and analysed, in collaboration with the project team, and developed into a costed proposal for the recommended projects with detailed specifications, defined outputs, and accounting for any existing or alternative funding streams for the work. The proposals should be developed to a sufficient standard for the Partnership to have confidence in the budget included for this area of work in its second round submission to HLF and to be able to tender for delivery of the programme.

The successful consultant/s will be expected to work closely with the partnership, area teams, and commoners/landowners representatives in order to understand need and issues on the selected commons. It is not expected that work would be proposed on all of the commons – the study should assess need and opportunity and make recommendations based on the commons where need/opportunity are greatest and in view of the potential delivery budget for this work (c. £128,000 across the OCC project areas for theme C4 - Improving and managing access in priority areas through strategic physical improvements, bracken control and tick management.).

The three pilot commons in each of the four relevant study areas are as follows.

Dartmoor

- Harford & Ugborough (privately owned),
- Holne Moor (two private landowners, as well as Dartmoor NPA and South West Water),
- Bridestowe & Sourton (Duchy of Cornwall)

Lake District

- Bampton (United Utilities)
- Kinniside (National Trust)
- Derwent (National Trust)

Shropshire Hills

- Long Mynd (National Trust)
- Stiperstones (Natural England)
- Clee Liberty (Clee St Margaret Parish Council)

Yorkshire Dales

- Brantfell (privately owned)
- Ingleborough (two private landowners)
- Grassington (no legal owner, vested in the Local Authority)



4. Budget and Schedule

- This work is funded through an Our Heritage Development Grant, and the main contributor is the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- The budget for this contract is a maximum of £10,000 exc. VAT to include travel expenses, materials, and other expenses associated with the project.
- Payment will be made in staged payments to be agreed at induction but likely to be 20% on appointment, two interim payments of 30% at a time to be agreed, and a final 20% on contract completion.
- The contract is expected to last for approximately 7 months between November 2018 and May 2019.

6. Required outputs

- A short scoping/methodology document outlining how the work will be progressed in each of the four local areas and how the chosen consultant will work to best effect with local team and partners - this should be submitted to and agreed with the Project Manager following contract inception;
- A short interim report outlining initial findings, submitted to the Project Manager (by March 2019), suitable for presentation and discussion at a Steering Group and/or Area Group.
- A full report outlining the findings of the work and including clear recommendations - in the form of project proposals with detailed costings - for work that could be taken forward in the delivery phase of the Our Common Cause Project, anticipated 2020-23.

7. Available Materials

- An electronic copy of the first round HLF application for Our Common Cause, including broad areas of work and budget identified for the Delivery Project, is available on request from the Project Manager.

8. Contract Management

This contract will be managed by the Our Common Cause Project Development Manager, who is employed by the National Trust and seconded to the Foundation for Common Land. The contract will be with the National Trust and will need to comply with the Trust's General Terms & Conditions (copy attached). All correspondence and queries relating to the delivery of the contracted work should be directed to Joy Howells, Project Development Manager, joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk, 07552 267481.

The Consultant will also need to liaise with the local Area Facilitators in each area (freelance consultants who have been appointed to lead development work in each area) and members of the local Area Group.



9. Timetable

MILESTONE	DATE
<i>Submit tenders in response to this brief</i>	<i>Weds 31st October 2018</i>
<i>Selection of preferred contractor (with possible interview)</i>	<i>w/b 5th November 2018</i>
<i>Contract start date and inception meeting</i>	<i>12th November 2018</i>
<i>Present outline findings to Steering Group</i>	<i>March 2019</i>
<i>Work up specifications and costs and present final report</i>	<i>31st May 2019</i>

10. Tender Submission

Please submit a short proposal (no more than 10 sides A4 including background information) outlining how you would approach this work to **Joy Howells** (joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk) **by 5pm on Weds 31st October 2018**. Shortlisted consultants will be contacted w/b 5th November 2018 and may be asked to take part in a discussion about the work in person or by telephone, to be confirmed.

Your tender should include:

- An outline of how you would deliver the work within the timescales available,
- Details and relevant experience of the individual(s) who will be delivering the work,
- Examples of similar work completed for other projects including any HLF projects,
- An outline budget and timetable broken down into the different components of the work:
 - The fee structure for the individual/s involved including estimated time allocation
 - Costs of materials and venues
 - Estimated costs for travel and any accommodation or other subsistence
 - Total cost for all work and expenses, excluding VAT
 - VAT status

11. Selection Criteria

The submitted proposals will be scored against the following criteria:

- Approach to the work including methodology and timescale
- Qualifications and skills of named individual/s who will be delivering the work
- Understanding and track record in relevant topic areas
- Day rates, allocation of costs and overall value for money.

The Project Development Manager reserves the right to reject the proposal if they are not satisfied with the content and/or not to appoint the cheapest or any tender for any reason.

