

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: Peatland & wetland restoration 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 investigate the opportunities for innovative peatland and wetland stabilisation and restoration on selected commons in the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and Dartmoor, to assess the practical implications to farm management and make recommendations about the most cost effective approaches and methods that require further trialling. In particular, the consultants will carry out some research into the frequency of liver fluke, bog asphodel and saut, and other health concerns for livestock associated with wet ground.

The findings of the research will need to be collated and analysed, in collaboration with the project team, and developed into a costed proposal with project specifications, defined outputs, and accounting for existing or alternative funding streams for the work which OCC might be able to match.

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 purpose of the contract is to provide a detailed assessment of approaches to peatland restoration and wetland stabilisation, with an emphasis on the potential impacts to agricultural management, and to make recommendations for how these might be relevant and appropriate on selected commons in the OCC project, so as to manage the successful delivery of multiple outcomes. This should include:

- An assessment of existing research on innovative peatland/wetland restoration techniques currently available, including the use of sheep wool in dams, different means of grip blocking, flow reduction, sphagnum recolonization, and the relative benefits versus cost in different situations;
- Research and assess the impact of peatland restoration on the agricultural management of commons and moorland – including economic and husbandry impacts to include potential increase in the occurrence of bog asphodel, saut and liver fluke snail, changes in the nutritional value of vegetation and impact on stock management, grazing patterns, hefting systems. Where there might be positive benefits these should also be identified and assessed. In the case of bog asphodel, saut and liver fluke snail – the research should particularly aim to identify where these are occurring, how they are affected by restoration work and what could be done to mitigate against the damage caused to grazing animals;
- Research and assess what circumstances and practical conditions are needed for successful and cost effective peatland/wetland restoration, for example where fencing is appropriate/not appropriate, where to graze/not to graze, recovery times, ownership and use etc.

Bring together all the above research, and in discussion with OCC partners/Area Groups, identify and detail:



- Restoration projects that would be of value to and suitable on Our Common Cause pilot commons, and which fit with existing funding;
- The need for further trials which would usefully inform future restoration projects, for example on-farm production of sphagnum moss for restoration, restoration as a slowing the flow technique for NFM, trialling approaches to saut/live fluke eradication etc. – any recommended trials would be carried out in the delivery phase of the OCC Project;
- Options for income generation for farmers from peatland restoration – for example carbon credits/carbon trading, use of sheep wool in dams – are there any good templates/examples of this from elsewhere that could be developed on OCC commons?

The study should provide detailed recommendations to the partnership together with specifications for the implementation of works agreed by the project partners. The consultant will need to assess the availability of alternative funding streams for the works, such as Peatland Partnership funding or Countryside Stewardship, as the proposals will need to show clear additionality to what is already being delivered.

A level of consultation and discussion with partners, Area Groups and wider stakeholders about the potential for peatland restoration work on the selected commons will be expected as part of this contract. It is not expected that work would be proposed on all of the selected 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. £180,000 across the OCC project areas) .

The three pilot commons in each of the three relevant study areas are as follows (Shropshire Hills is not included in this study due to absence of extensive peat):

Lake District

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

Dartmoor

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

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 £12,500 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 three 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 giving outline 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 and including a list of any consents needed for the selected commons - for work that could be taken forward in the delivery phase of the Our Common Cause Project;
- A short plain language report or poster on peatland restoration and farming, written for the commoning/farming community and summarising the key practical aspects to consider for successful and cost effective restoration projects.

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.
- Assessment of current approaches to restoration
<https://www.climatexchange.org.uk/media/3141/peatland-restoration-methods-a-comparative-analysis.pdf>
- Commission of Inquiry on Peatlands Update 2017-18 is due to report soon
<http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/commission-inquiry/update> .

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 (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 partners</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.

