

# 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: Social Cohesion & Culture Study  
**Contact** Joy Howells, Our Common Cause Project Development Manager (PDM)  
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**Date** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### 1. Overview

The Foundation for Common Land and its partners in the Our Common Cause Project wish to appoint a consultant to work with freelance project staff and a range of stakeholders to investigate and evaluate the role of social cohesion and local culture in the functioning of commons on Dartmoor and in the Yorkshire Dales. An assessment will be made of those factors that are likely to impact on the future management of commons, especially those that could prevent longer term management including skill transfer, farmer capacity and succession.

The findings of the research will need to be collated and analysed, in collaboration with the project team, so as to develop clear ideas and costings for delivery projects to address social cohesion issues and challenges at a local level. We have already submitted to HLF broad areas of work for the Delivery Project and these are attached as an Annex.

The study should also provide some baseline indicators and qualitative data around the 'health of social cohesion' in each study area that could form part of an evaluative tool for measuring social cohesion now and at the end of the delivery period.

### 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**

Through this social research project, across two of the case study areas, we would like to:

- better understand the social and cultural value of commoners and the act of commoning,
- consider how commoning has changed over time and understand ongoing motivations to continue ,
- consider the social and cultural effects of such changes,
- understand what social structures are required to support commoning activities e.g. Commoners Associations, Federations and Commons Councils,
- explore the interconnectivity between commoning and local communities,
- better understand commoners interrelationship with landowners, other farmers, local communities, the general public and agencies. How have these changed and continue to change?

The successful consultant will be required to provide a report which covers the three pilot commons in both Dartmoor and the Yorkshire Dales: it will provide an historical perspective as well as describing the current position, but it should also look towards the future. It will highlight differences and similarities across the areas and identify possible future threats and opportunities to the social cohesion of communities and the management of the environment. It will consider how successful models of joint working and the act of commoning can be enhanced both in themselves and to deliver a range of public benefits.



The work should answer the following questions:

### **From a commoner's perspective:**

1. How has commoning changed over the past 20 years, if at all? For example has the number or age profile of commoners changed? Are commons managed in the same way – are different techniques or skills required? Have social groups changed; is there more or less integration with other commoners, the landowner, other farmers, local communities and other agencies?
2. How have generational dynamics changed and what impact has this had on how commons are managed? How do young commoners see the future and how can they be supported to ensure ongoing viability of lifestyle and livelihood (economic and mental wellbeing).
3. What do these changes mean to commoners and the commons, are they good or bad? How might they impact future management choices? What is needed in terms of upskilling/ capacity building and integration between different groups?
4. What iconic historic and environmental features of the upland landscape are the result of commoning, are these still valued and used today? What would be the social and cultural impact on the farming and wider community, and society as a whole, if commoning ceased? What would be the impact on the environment and the landscape?
5. Commoners, over twenty plus years, have been encouraged to deliver a wide range of public benefits (e.g. biodiversity and clean water) alongside grazing livestock. We are told future payments will increasingly focus on this. What has been the impact of these policies?
6. What about the future? How might commoning change in the future and how might we retain commoning in our uplands as a valued part of our cultural heritage?

### **From a wider perspective**

- A. Does society (local communities, general public as users of the commons and agencies) currently place a value on the historic practice of commoning? Is commoning as an activity understood and valued?
- B. Is there an increasing conflict of cultures between long established traditions of commoning passed on through farming families, and institutional loss of memory combined with a society increasingly reliant on social media, here one minute and gone the next?

The three pilot commons in each of the two 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)

#### **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 £12,000 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 8 months between September 2018 and April 2019.

#### 5. **Tasks required**

- Liaison with the two relevant local Area Facilitators and Area Groups to further define/scope the research in each area and necessary stakeholders to contact, working with/through the local Area Group as necessary and integrating with other work on the OCC project as far as possible
- Direct contact with a range of stakeholders within each area – including a range of commoners - active and non active graziers, young commoners, commoning families etc. – to gather answers to the study questions.

#### 6. **Required outputs**

- A short scoping/methodology document outlining how the work will be progressed in each of the two local areas and how the chosen consultant will work to best effect with the Area Facilitators and Area groups - this should be submitted to and agreed with the Project Manager following contract inception,
- A short interim report submitted to the Project Manager at mid-point (end Dec 2018), summarising progress and any initial discussion themes/findings,
- A full report outlining the findings of the work and including clear recommendations - in the form of outline project ideas with indicative costings - for how identified issues and challenges might be addressed in the delivery phase of the Our Common Cause Project,
- The report should also include a section providing baseline indicators for social inclusion for the study commons and qualitative findings for these indicators which could be evaluated again at a later date, for example at the anticipated end of project delivery in 2023,
- An A3 poster presenting the findings in an attractive format, with illustrations / infographics, to an agreed style and format, that could be used as a slide or printed in a report / magazine – any necessary cost of design is to be covered within this contract.

#### 7. **Available Materials**

- General information about the initiative and the Better Outcomes report can be found at: <http://www.foundationforcommonland.org.uk/>
- Trends in Pastoral Commoning: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/46004>



- An electronic copy of the first round HLF application for Our Common Cause 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](mailto:joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk), 07552 267481.

The Consultant will also need to liaise with the local Area Facilitators in Dartmoor and the Yorkshire Dales (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>17th August 2018</i>
<i>Selection of preferred contractor</i>	<i>w/b 20th August 2018</i>
<i>Contract start date</i>	<i>1st September 2018</i>
<i>Submit final report and illustrative summary</i>	<i>31st April 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](mailto:joy@foundationforcommonland.org.uk)) **by 5pm on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018**. Shortlisted consultants will be contacted w/b 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and may be asked to take part in a discussion about the work during the following week 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

## **I I. 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 – social cohesion, rural culture and issues, upland farming, commons and commoning
- 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.

