



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

Heaths to Sea – Landscape recovery of the lower Otter Valley Tender brief for carbon and soil analysis baselining

Project Background

The *Heaths to Sea Landscape Recovery* initiative holds nature recovery ambitions of national significance. Located in East Devon's lower River Otter catchment and funded by one of the government's environmental land management schemes, this project represents one of the most exciting nature enhancement opportunities in the UK with the focus including river/floodplain restoration and woodland creation.

The scheme spans 4,144 hectares of the East Devon countryside and will power nature recovery across the agricultural hinterlands linking three parts of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR). Our vision is for this diverse landscape to be nature rich and ecologically healthy whilst also supporting food production, net zero, timber and access needs. This role provides an amazing opportunity to help shape plans to enhance the landscape and wildlife of one of Britain's most beautiful locations and make a lasting contribution benefiting nature and society.

The Project Development Phase (PDP) will involve outlining how the target catchment area currently supports wildlife, access, food and timber production and how it is used and valued by local communities and how benefits can be increased for nature, climate, and local people in the project area. A key focus of the work is river and floodplain restoration of the River Otter south of Newton Poppleford and including the Back, Colaton and Budleigh brooks. Our intent is that by the end of the two-year development phase, the project will deliver a restoration plan and fundable proposition for implementation that enhances the area for wildlife and for people.

A map of the project area and one of anticipated land use change can be found in Appendix 1 and 2 of this document.

The contract work described in this brief is to:

- 1) Provide an estimate of above ground carbon across potential areas of significant habitat change using remote sensing and ground truthing for habitat types;*
- 2) Undertake soil sampling for soil organic matter (SOM), soil organic carbon (SOC), soil nutrients and basic mineral analysis across areas identified as likely landscape/habitat change and control areas within the wider project area;*
- 3) Undertake Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS) content across a subset of the areas where soil sampling takes place.*

Contract Scope

Phase 1: To include an initial meeting with the Heaths to Sea Project team and rapid desk-based assessment of the project area to refine methodology and identify key areas to focus sampling activities for above ground carbon and soil carbon. Provision of a justified methodology where sampling can be reduced to aggregate fields of similar habitat type and geography/geology (if relevant) whilst still providing robust and defensible data.

Phase 2: Sampling and analysis

1. Above ground carbon.

We anticipate significant major habitat change as part of the Landscape Recovery project across:

- 1) An area of approximately 175 ha of river and floodplain identified as potential restoration associated with approximately nine km of the main River Otter (between East Budleigh and Newton Poppleford) and a further 10 km of its tributaries (Back Brook, Colaton Brook, Budleigh Brook and Kersbrook) (see Appendix 2).
- 2) An area of up to 185 hectares of Otterton Hill (western scarp) provisionally identified as a site for woodland creation and/or nature recovery (wilding - see Appendix 2).

We would like to achieve accurate above ground carbon estimates for habitats outside of woodlands across these two areas (appendix 2), using recognised best practice methodology. Habitats include grazing pasture and unimproved grassland, and trees and hedgerows outside of woodlands. Methods may involve remote sensing / aerial mapping to assess coverage by habitat type and combining these areas with literature values of carbon with reference to variations according to soil type, but should also include ground truthing and measurements to improve accuracy.

Please provide detailed methodologies and costings.

2. Below ground carbon and soil testing

We anticipate soil sampling across approximately 100 fields in total across the project area, to include areas identified as likely landscape change as well as control areas and to provide a baseline for specific habitat types (locations and subsets of fields for sampling to be refined at the initial meeting and desk-based assessment). Additional sampling on some habitat types may be required, but please base pricing on the above sample quantities to allow comparison of tenders.

Please provide detailed methodologies and costings for the following sampling and testing for:

- Soil organic matter (SOM), soil nutrients and basic mineral (phosphate, potash and Ph) analysis
- Soil organic carbon (SOC) (with a 3 horizons profile analysis at 0-15cm, 15-30cm and 30-50cm)
- Bulk Density
- Visuals evaluation of soil structure (VESS) and soil type (on a subset of samples)

Please provide details of recommended methodology (no. samples per field etc.) based on best practice and with a view to ensuring as far as possible that data is compatible with a future soil carbon code with the potential to sell soil carbon sequestration units in the future.

Base costs on soil sampling for 100 fields and VESS analysis on a subset of this. Please be clear on the cost per sample or field to enable comparison of costs across quotes.

Phase 3: Data and reporting

Collation and provision of all data sets to Clinton Devon Estates. Summary reporting of the main findings and key values for carbon.

Estimated carbon sequestration across area identified as likely landscape/habitat change (Appendix 2).

Please also cost for a half day meeting and input to developing a draft plan for an ongoing monitoring sampling methodology for areas where change is identified as most likely, based on 5-10 yearly intervals.

Please provide a quote which breaks down costs fully and separates the above ground carbon (AGC) work from the below ground carbon (BGC) and soil sampling and analysis.

Please note that if contractors are able to deliver AGC measurements and not BGC and soil testing (or vice versa) we would still be interested to receive a tender for delivery of one or other of these elements and reserve the right to appoint multiple contracts to achieve the delivery of all aspects of the work if that proves best value for money.

Tender Process

Please address your quotes to the Project Manager, Heaths to Sea, Clinton Devon Estates. All tender applications should be sent by email to kirstie.ellis@clintondevon.com by Sunday 8 September 2024.

Please quote for the work as defined by the contract scope above and taking account of the details in the project description. Within the tender please:

- 1) Provide a detailed methodology for your proposed sampling and assessment process,
- 2) Provide a full breakdown of delivery costs against the items within the brief, ensuring that each Phase of the work and activity is priced independently, ideally with costs per sample where relevant.
- 3) Describe your background or experience of undertaking similar work.
- 4) Indicate a rough timeline for your work (with regard to the phasing timeline outlined below).

Timeline

Sampling and analysis to be undertaken in the period September-December with a final report to be submitted by 10 January 2025.

Tenders will be judged on quality of submission, experience of contractors and value for money. We will not necessarily choose the cheapest quote, but must be able to justify choosing a more expensive contractor and demonstrate that the quoted cost is reasonable.

Deadline for tenders: 8th September. The successful contractor should be able to start work from 23 September 2024.

Tenders will be reviewed, with a view to announcing the successful tender on 20 September 2024.

For any questions about the project, please contact kirstie.ellis@clintondevon.com.

Please note: As the body providing funding for this project, the Environment Agency will expect to review procurement processes, and as such a copy of the quotes / tenders received will be made available to their grant team prior to award.

Payment schedule and terms

Term payments to be negotiated with the successful contractor before the start of the contract, and to be paid on submission of invoices. Normal terms are 30 days after invoicing.

Terms and Conditions

The basis of the contractual agreement between Clinton Devon Estates (The Estate) and the successful contractor is outlined in our standard terms and conditions below. In applying for this work you are explicitly agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions for the duration of the contract. If you require any alterations to these terms and conditions, please state your issues within your tender documents.

1. The contractor shall provide the services with that degree of diligence, prudence and foresight which would reasonably and ordinarily be expected from a skilled and experienced person engaged in a type of undertaking similar to that of the contractor; and in such a manner as to minimise disruption to the business of the Estate. The contractor shall comply with all Regulations in its provision of the Services.
2. The contractor shall undertake the services to meet all standard and appropriate codes of practice, health and safety advice as issued by the Health and Safety Executive
3. The contractor shall undertake and be responsible for all necessary risk assessments to complete the contract and shall confirm with the Estate's authorising officer that this has been undertaken.
4. The contractor and the Estate will comply at all times with their respective obligations under Data Protection Legislation (Data Protection Legislation means (i) the UK GDPR as amended from time to time; (ii) the DPA 2018 as amended from time to time; (iii) Regulations made under the DPA 2018; and (iv) all applicable Law relating to the Processing of Personal Data).
5. The contractor shall be responsible for the supply of all equipment necessary to undertake the contract.
6. The contractors shall have in place current public liability insurance to the value of not less than £5m, and professional indemnity insurance with a minimum liability of £2million per claim, and shall make available a copy of the renewal certificate(s) for such policies to Mr. Graham Vanstone, Insurance Manager,

Clinton Devon Estates, Rolle Estate Office, Bicton Arena, East Budleigh, EX9 7BL.

7. The contractor shall keep in strict confidence all technical or commercial know-how, specifications, inventions, processes or initiatives which are of a confidential nature and have been disclosed to the contractor by the Estate or its agents and any other confidential information concerning the Estate's business or its products which the contractor may obtain. The contractor shall not use such confidential information for any purpose other than fulfilling its obligations under this agreement and shall restrict disclosure of such confidential material to such of its employees, agents or sub-contractors as need to know the same for the purpose of discharging the contractor's obligations to the Estate and shall ensure that such employees, agents or sub-contractors are subject to these same obligations of confidentiality.
8. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all Intellectual Property Rights in and to the outputs of the services are hereby assigned with full title guarantee (including by way of a present assignment of future copyright and/or unregistered design right) by the contractor and shall vest in the Estate. The contractor shall (at the request of the Estate, but at the contractor's cost and expense) do all such acts and things (including executing all documents) required to vest such Intellectual Property Rights in the Estate.
9. The contractor warrants that the materials, all deliverables and outputs of and the use of the services by the Estate shall not infringe any Intellectual Property Rights of any third party. The contractor shall keep the Estate indemnified against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, injury, costs, claims and expenses (including reasonable legal expenses) awarded against or incurred or paid by the Estate arising out of or in connection with any breach by the Contractor of this condition.
10. The contractor shall carry out the provision of the services in accordance with the Estate grant Authority's environmental requirements, which are:
 - a. To conserve energy, water, wood, paper and other resources, reduce waste and phase out the use of ozone depleting substances and minimise the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds and other substances damaging to health and the environment.
 - b. Where relevant, to pay due regard to the use of recycled products, so long as they are not detrimental to the provision of the Project or the environment, to include the use of all packaging, which should be capable of recovery for re-use or recycling.
 - c. Where relevant, take all possible precautions to ensure that any equipment and materials used in the provision of the Project do not contain chlorofluorocarbons, halons or any other damaging substances, unless

unavoidable, in which case the Estate shall be notified in advance of their use.

d. Endeavour to reduce fuel emissions wherever possible.

11. The Payment Schedule will be agreed with the contractor, and the Estate reserves the right to hold a retention to be paid on completion of the contract, the extent of which and the release date shall be specified on awarding the contract.
12. The work shall be undertaken in accordance with the contract scope outlined in tender documents and in the Contractors tender document.

Our organisation

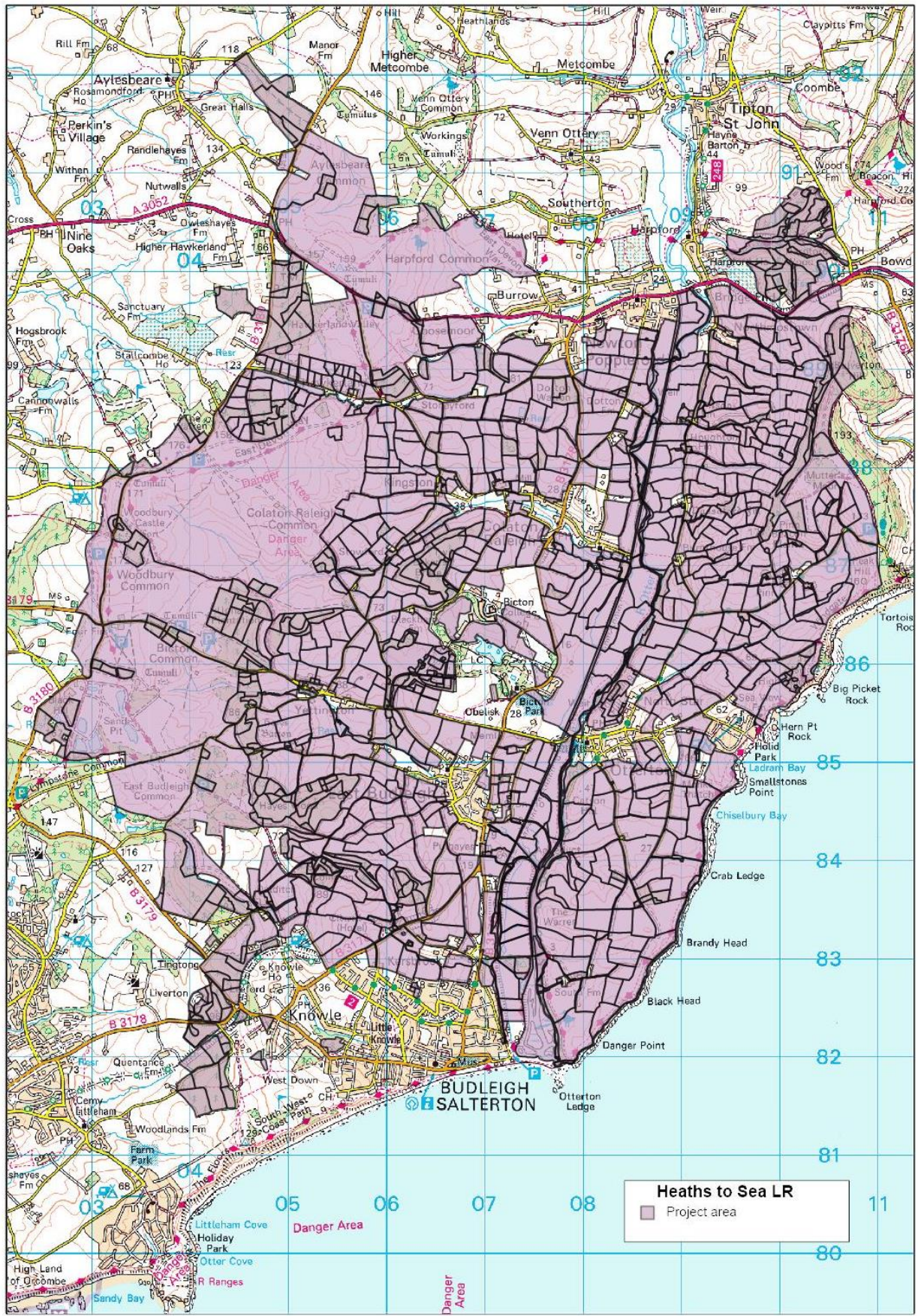
Clinton Devon Estates is a family business involved in farming, property letting, sustainable forestry, conservation management and several other land-based enterprises including the South West's premier equestrian venue, Bicton Arena. (<https://clintondevon.com/>).

For over 700 years we have been stewards of the East Devon countryside and are active across all areas of land management. This includes the management of the core area of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve (<https://www.pebblebedheathsnnr.co.uk/>) which also includes the Otter Estuary. These internationally important conservation sites are managed by the Estate's own conservation charity (www.pebblebedheaths.org.uk/about-us/) and we work in close strategic partnerships with the Devon Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, the National Trust, East Devon District Council and Devon County Council. Working in collaboration with the Environment Agency, in 2023 the Estate completed the lower Otter restoration project (<https://www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk/>) an ambitious nature recovery and coastal climate adaptation scheme (see also <https://www.pacco-interreg.com/>).

The Estate has been the recipient of many awards and accolades including achieving the Queen's Award for Enterprise three times and we have been honoured several times in the Sunday Times Best Small Companies To Work For. We are proud of our conservation credentials and can demonstrate an excellent track record for delivering nature improvement at scale.

Clinton Devon Estates is committed to creating an inclusive work environment with a diverse workforce. All appropriately qualified candidates will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or age.

Appendix 1: Project area



Appendix 2: Areas of potential change

