

MorrIDGE Hill Country Project – Legal Support Workstream Brief



Landscape Recovery

WORKSTREAM BRIEF

SECTION 1: OBJECTIVES AND INFORMATION

Workstream title: MorrIDGE Hill Country Legal Support

Workstream timescale: April 2025 – April 2026
(current end of development phase April 2026)

Workstream Leader: TBC

Date brief agreed: TBC

Workstream Objectives:

MorrIDGE Hill Country is one of 34 Round 2 Landscape Recovery projects in a 2-year development phase funded by Defra. During this period MHC will be developing plans for restorative actions across almost 3000 hectares (tbc) of land under ownership of PDNP, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, MOD, and a small number of private landholdings. In total, 22 land managers are currently involved in the project alongside the 3 key landowners.

We require legal and governance advice to work through likely options available during the Development Phase of the MorrIDGE Hill Country Project in order to progress into Implementation Phase with a working model to manage a 20+ year agreement with Defra as the main funding body. This will also include agreements with private funders and land owners to be completed throughout the Implementation Phase of the project. The project will be developing interventions with land managers which will form their contribution to the wider land management plan.

We require support to work with land managers on developing Heads of Terms agreements which would lead into further work in the implementation phase. In order to progress to implementation our Project will need a sound governance plan which will require legal specialist review and input. Through the negotiation period (likely to commence in March/April 2026) it will be established whether the project will progress to implementation based on an appraisal of the likely outcomes for all parties.

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Workstream scope and benefits:

What is included?

This workstream will involve close collaboration with the Authority's Project Director and Project Manager, and attendance at catch-up meetings and occasional invitations to the Project Board meetings (held 6 weekly).

Early development phase

- i) Scoping of options to structure the Single Legal Entity (SLE) for the implementation phase of Landscape Recovery – including the model of adopting a Special Purpose Vehicle
- ii) Liaising with other National Parks carrying out similar scoping at this time to increase efficiency and share experience
- iii) Fact-finding, liaising with Round 1 projects about the models that they are developing (some of this information to be provided by MHC Project Manager)
- iv) Developing an options matrix covering possible models for implementation and emerging positives and negatives of each option
- v) Advising the MHC Project Manager on the development of project management & governance for implementation phase

Late development phase, and transition to implementation (dependent upon a viable model being accepted)

- vi) Work alongside Land Use Consultants (LUC, external contractors), and the MHC team to negotiate and create Heads of Terms agreements for up to 22 land managers
- vii) Conduct due diligence in relation to project stakeholders (including in particular land owners) involved in the project
- viii) Conduct due diligence in relation to any potential funders and buyers during the development phase, and proceeding to negotiation period for implementation
- ix) Support the process of scoping out legal resource required for implementation phase of Landscape Recovery
- x) Support the planning and structuring of the SLE in the event that implementation is confirmed
- xi) Support PDNPA Member's consideration of options for the appropriate delivery vehicle as required
- xii) Assuming PDNPA becomes the SLE, developing/reviewing legal & contractual terms between:
 - a. The Single Legal Entity and project participants
 - b. The Single Legal Entity and private funders to the project
 - c. The Single Legal Entity and Defra (implementation agreement generated at Defra with bespoke elements to the project)

Generally, the successful bidder will be expected to actively communicate with the PDNPA and the Project Board and provide monthly/2 weekly updates.

What are the estimated benefits of the Workstream?

- Landscape Recovery Projects across England will cover 250,000 ha of land if all result in full implementation, this is a huge opportunity to contribute to that improvement of habitats and nature across a wide area
- Potential to create a sustainable resilient farm business model for other farms in the PD and more widely

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- This development phase will lay down the foundations for potential future rounds of Landscape Recovery projects led by the National Park Authority and other partners and further contributing to our objectives for Nature Recovery and the NPMP
- An opportunity to collaborate with other National Park Authorities to share learnings and potential models which can increase the impact and speed of delivery across the family of National Parks

Workstream deliverables:

During the Development Phase (prior to confirmation of implementation) (up to April 2026)

- i) Options matrix for implementation model, based on current understanding, and Round 1 projects (some of which are entering implementation)
- ii) Heads of Terms agreements with up to 23 land managers (with varied stakes within the project, some very small (2ha) to very large (1000ha))
- iii) Advice on permits and consents and where required
- iv) Clarity on the future approach and sharing of outputs, outcomes and funding between land owners and tenants
- v) Due diligence letter to provide assurance to Defra to allow project to progress to Implementation Phase
- vi) A brief outline of legal workstream for implementation period (cost estimates for Y1-5)

Budget: Maximum: £42,000 excluding VAT

TENDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY E MAIL TO tenders@peakdistrict.gov.uk

BY 17.00PM ON 9TH APRIL 2025

(please see Section 2 for further information)

Tender evaluation (please see Section 2 for further information)

The successful tenderer will be selected based on an evaluation using the criteria set out below.

1. Price (20% of the total score value);
2. Quality criteria (80% of the total score value):
 - Proven experience and capability to undertake the work.
 - Proposed methods to ensure that the work is carried out as efficiently as possible in response to the short project timescale.

Criteria	Weighting	Evaluation Criteria
Price	20%	20 x (Lowest Tender Price)/(Tenderer X's Price)
Experience and Capability to undertake the works	65%	13 x score (see methodology at Section 2)
Proposed methods and approach to delivery	15%	3 x score (see methodology at Section 2)

Supporting information

Please provide brief supporting documentation/text:

- Supporting information to demonstrate successful experience of similar work, including examples of previous work.

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- Explain in detail the measures that you will take, and the opportunities your firm will introduce during the development work to ensure it is delivered efficiently to reflect the short timescale.
- The proposed approach to this project and your response to the requirements set out in this Invitation to Tender (including deliverables)
- The amount of consultancy time proposed to be dedicated to this brief and how this will be distributed across the project timeline
- An overview of the risks associated with contract delivery
- CVs of lead project team members

The tender should allow for a start-up meeting.

Costings must be inclusive of all costs and expenses and include provision of all elements considered necessary by the consultant to deliver the Services.