

Invitation to Tender

UK Future Treescapes Public Dialogue

Background to the Future Treescapes Public Dialogue

Conversations about how best to achieve the UK Government's new tree planting and treescape expansion targets and where and at what scale this woodland expansion and tree planting should take place has largely been confined to those scientists, policymakers, industry and charities with an established stake in the topic. With woodland expansion and tree health now high up the policy agenda, Defra, the Welsh Government, Scottish Government and DAERA all recognise the need to engage more directly with publics and stakeholders to ensure an open and arguably more democratic approach to the way the nation's trees, woods and forests are managed, protected and expanded in the years to come.

The Future Treescapes public dialogue will be designed to give a voice to individuals, communities and groups at a time when important decisions are being made about the scale, management and siting of new treescapes in the UK. Drawing on insights, data and new thinking now being generated by projects funded as part of the Future of UK Treescapes research programme, the Dialogue will involve publics in an extended, science and arts and humanities-driven 'national conversation' about the environmental and societal consequences of woodland expansion and the future management of trees and forest resources.

Overview of the dialogue

The overall aim of the dialogue is to achieve a wide ranging and fully inclusive public conversation, which draws on outputs from the Treescapes programme and engages with a wide cross section of the public, which particularly focuses on under-represented communities, to explore the challenges, benefits and opportunities of future treescap expansion in the UK. The main aim of the investigation will be to facilitate and promote a truly UK-wide conversation about treescapes that can feed new ideas and insights into public policy; but also more widely to establish new and imaginative ways of engaging the public in relation to the creation and management of future treescapes in the UK.

Purpose and objectives of the public dialogue

- 1 To bring a diverse and broad cross-section of the public into an inclusive dialogue with Future of UK Treescapes researchers and with policymakers and stakeholders about some of the main challenges in relation to treescap expansion and the actions that will be needed to resolve those challenges;
- 2 To use these dialogues to explore the public understanding (including potential support and any concerns) of the wide range of potential new tree planting needed; (and the investments and safeguards required to deliver this);
- 3 To explore the public understanding of the role of different organizations in delivering treescap expansion; generating views and preferences about the contributions that could (and should) be made by communities, the public and private sectors, and voluntary organizations;
- 4 To produce a report that will be shared widely (with the public involved in the dialogue, via social and digital media, and via media engagement). This will report the main output of the dialogue but will also reflect on the methods used and the scope for their wider application in future public dialogue exercises on other topics of public concern.

Requirements

We expect the dialogue to cover all four UK nations and to reach and engage with a wide range of publics, including groupings that have traditionally not engaged with the challenges of what our future treescapes should look like and be managed. While engaged publics do not need to be representative of the UK population, we would anticipate a good cross section of individuals and community groupings being involved.

The approach taken and methods used will be set out by potential contractors in their respective tenders. We anticipate a variety of creative and innovative methods, tailored for purpose, to be proposed and applied at different scales. Deliberative workshops or other activities such as citizens juries are welcomed as are other mixed methods.

It is a specific requirement that tenders will set out how the contractor intends to draw the research outputs from the Future of UK Treescapes programme into the dialogue. For instance, researchers could be called as 'witnesses' to a citizen jury approach or engaged in other ways designed to bring researchers and research outputs into conversations and discussions with publics. We anticipate that tenders will set out how the contractor plans to engage with the funded research projects at an early stage of the work to identify synergies and complementarities between the project-specific mappings and engagements that have already been achieved and the Dialogue itself.

All tenders should include a detailed communication/dissemination plan, setting out how the results of the dialogue will be distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, policymakers and publics.

Deliverables:

The successful contractor will be expected to deliver the following:

1 A *Plan of Work*, to be submitted to the Ambassador team within one month of commencement of the work, The Plan of Work will set out in more detail than was possible in the tender document the proposed approach and the detailed design and phasing of the work. A draft of the Plan will have been previously shared with the Ambassador team and amended as necessary following their input;

2 An *Interim Report*, to be submitted to the Ambassador team within six months of commencement of the dialogue. This will report initial outputs from the early stages of the dialogue and propose any further minor adjustments to design and phasing following the initial phase of work;

3 A *Final Report*, to be submitted to the Ambassador team within one month of completion of the contract. The Final Report will describe the approach taken, outputs achieved and will identify key messages and recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders emerging from the work. The Final Report will also reflect critically on the methodological and procedural aspects of undertaking the Dialogue, identifying what worked well and what less well and making legacy recommendations for how best to engage with publics around public policy issues such as treescape expansion in future, The contractor will further be expected to co-develop a strategy for further dissemination of the findings of the dialogue across the public realm and with stakeholders and policymakers;

4 *Data sets and summaries*, together with any further material outputs from the dialogue, to be submitted to the Ambassador team within one month of completion of the contract.

5 A policy summary and associated infographic which explores some of the public policy implications of the work.

6 To organise and run a *Policy Workshop*, designed to present the findings and receive feedback from policy audiences in the devolved administrations.

Anticipated Benefits for the Future Treescapes Programme

The dialogue will benefit the Treescapes programme, both directly and contextually. A significant number of the funded projects entail some degree of public and stakeholder engagement and these components are typically closely integrated into the core research. The Public Dialogue will extend the ambition of this work, both geographically (since it will have a UK-wide focus) and in terms of the breadth, depth and inclusivity of the public interactions it will make possible. We anticipate that tenders will set out how the contractor plans to engage with the funded research projects at an early stage of the work to identify synergies and complementarities between the project-specific mappings and engagements that have already been achieved and the Dialogue itself. It will be a condition of funding that any data generated through the Dialogue will be made available to project teams for further contextualisation and integration into their own work.

Beyond this, the Dialogue will play an important role in contextualising and amplifying outputs from the research. It will bring to public attention the research in progress (or completed) and its implications. It will also create new audiences for the research and demonstrate how to continue to engage with publics in future. Through the dialogue itself and via subsequent dissemination

and sharing of the findings of the dialogue, we expect this work to deepen understanding of the broad societal context for some of the critical public policy decisions that will be taken in the near to medium term about where, how and when to expand woodland and tree cover, and the likely future competing demands on land use. Together with outputs from the research programme itself, policymakers will be able to draw on evidence from the public dialogue to assess, justify, mitigate and expand on different policy choices. The Dialogue will contribute to revealing a range of public opinions about what is now required in terms of both governance and management of future forests. Crucially, it will also create a space in which policymakers, stakeholders and researchers can interact with different types of publics to interrogate and ground truth the assumptions and evidence-based judgements that will guide their decision making.

Implementation and Outputs

The Future of UK Treescapes Ambassador team will have oversight of the final design and implementation of the Dialogue, chairing the Advisory Board consisting of the contractor team, policymakers, the Ambassadors and UKRI representatives. This will review and comment on the draft Plan of Work and confirm the agreed methodological components. The Ambassador team will maintain close contact with the contractor throughout the implementation phase of the work. The contractor will be expected to submit a draft Interim Report and a draft Final Report to the Ambassadors for feedback.

We envisage that the Public Dialogue will launch in February 2024 and conclude in January 2025, coinciding with the closing phases of the programme.

The following delivery plan is proposed:

- 1 Issue of Call for tenders: 14 November 2023
- 2 Deadline for submission of tenders: 5pm, 19 January 2024
- 3 Appointment of successful contractor: 8 February 2024
- 4 Project Commencement: 19 February 2024
- 5 Induction Meeting: Week beginning 19 February 2024
- 6 Completion of project set up and appointment of an Advisory Board, comprising the Ambassadors and a representative cross section of policymakers and stakeholders: mid-March 2024
- 7 Production of the Plan of Work, setting out a more detailed set of objectives, deliverables and outputs: End March 2024
- 8 Implementation Phase of the Public Dialogue: April 2024-January 2025
- 9 Production of the Interim Report: By September 2024
- 10 Policy workshop: January 2025
- 11 Production and dissemination of Final Report: By End of February 2025

Intellectual property

Any reports or summaries produced in the deliverables above will be licensed under creative commons.

Budget

The maximum budget for the public dialogue is £150,000 (inclusive of VAT). We will aim to find three or more quotes from a range of different suppliers as part of the bidding process. Payments will be released according to agreed milestones, providing these have been met.

We invite potential suppliers to propose milestones according to the timelines above within their bid. These shall be agreed with winning bidder and clearly documented in any contract entered as a result of this invitation to tender.

How to apply

Your quote should be in English and consist of no more than three A4 pages detailing your approach to this project and your experience to deliver it successfully. This should be structured as follows:

Methodology and Approach:

- An outline of your understanding and interpretation of the public dialogue and its potential public policy benefits and applications; how you might approach each of the deliverables, including your proposed approach to recruitment and methods of engagement, drawing on examples from previous projects you have delivered, where appropriate;

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Value for money

- Please provide your quote here, including a breakdown of your proposed milestones and fees, and a basic pricing structure including the number of days, or estimated percentage of time each team member is likely to spend on the project. Please also indicate which team member will lead on specific aspects of the work;

Ability to deliver on time, with quality and on budget

- Your approach to project management, quality assurance and risk management.
- Plans and arrangements describing how you would work with both NERC and the Treescapes Ambassador team.

Your entire proposal including all supporting documentation should be emailed as a single document, to treescapes@glos.ac.uk no later than 5pm on 19 January 2024.

Future of UK Treescapes

The Future of UK Treescapes is an interdisciplinary research programme designed to improve environmental, socioeconomic and cultural understandings of the functions and services provided by UK treescapes. Outputs from the programme will help inform future decisions about treescap expansion, management and resilience for the benefit of the environment and society.

The programme is supported on behalf of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), and the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Funding for the Treescapes Fellowship Scheme is provided by NERC and Defra.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is the UK's largest public funder of research and innovation and is composed of seven disciplinary research councils, Innovate UK and Research England. Annually, we investing more than £8 billion to advance our understanding of people and the world around us and deliver benefits for society, the economy and the environment. Working in

partnership, we aim to shape a more connected and agile research and innovation system in the UK that is an integral part of society, giving everyone the opportunity to participate and to benefit. Find out more: in our new 5-year strategy, Transforming Tomorrow Together.