



Monitoring and Evaluation of our National Heritage Lottery Fund Sowing Seeds for Nature

Background

Shallowford Farm is a working hill farm deep in the Dartmoor National Park. We provide holistic on farm experiences as a day visit or residential.

We work with young people from all and every background and various ages to catalyse positive change by expanding horizons, being on the farm and getting close to nature.

We encourage individual responsibility within a team and for each person, to stretch young people to be more self-reflecting, responsible for their community and our environment and to know that life is full of opportunities and choices.

<https://www.shallowfordfarm.co.uk>

The Trust has been successful in a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to develop its work and at the same time increase the organisations resilience. We are looking for somebody to deliver an independent monitoring and evaluation contract to assess the impact of the work.

The project

The grant awarded is for £227,166, with a vision to:

Make the Shallowford Trust a resilient organisation with a strong public profile, a positive future, strong partnerships and supported by a team of regular volunteers who help us deliver our work. Our farm is alive with nature and people. More young people and volunteers from all backgrounds are able come to the farm as barriers

are identified and removed. They feel welcome and refreshed from their time with us and enjoy a longer term connection to the farm; our visitors enjoy, learn and help to look after nature not just on our farm but through the wet valley system in which it sits and across the wider Central Dartmoor area.

The evaluation will look at nature benefits, learning and understanding of farm-based conservation work, benefits of volunteering and group visits to ESF and the Dartmoor landscape.

Evaluation of this programme will help inform our future work with schools, youth groups and in particular young people from areas of deprivation. We have a long data set of information on our work with Providence House. We have seen how a long-term relationship with a youth organisation brings added benefits as generations of families have visited ESF. We believe this generational approach strengthens the communities we work with, enhances intergenerational and peer bonds. In this project, we want to understand those benefits better, identify the key elements that make this model so successful and understand the barriers for potential partner organisations in Plymouth and Bristol to replicate this model.

Overall Aim

To develop a monitoring and evaluation framework at the beginning of the project that enables ongoing assessment with a review mid-term and an end of project report

Objectives

To develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the project against the NLHF investment principles and the Project's agreed purposes, outcomes and outputs.

To assess both statistical and social impact of the project, which will include:

- pulling together data on the impact of practical conservation work on the habitat and population of marsh fritillary.
- the roles that volunteers can have and the types of roles that are most popular - including practical work and working with young people.
- to assess the success of attracting volunteers to the project and the impact volunteering has on health and wellbeing.
- To identify the barriers for volunteers and young people to access the farm
- To assess the impact of a visit to the farm on young people – both in learning and health and well-being.

To undertake mid-term review and advise on areas of particular interest or concern

To write an end of Project report which outlines achievements against the projects agreed purposes, outcomes and outputs and provides recommendations for the future . Video?

Outputs

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Mid-term Review

Final Report

Timeline

6 October 2025 Closing date for quotations
10 October 2025 Award contract
7 November 2025 Complete monitoring framework
31 July 2026 First year review
31 July 2027 Final report completed

Quotation

Written quotation by email to: fiona@shallowfordfarm.co.uk.

Please include the following:

- Your experience delivering contracts of a similar nature.
- Your proposed activities to deliver the outcomes
- Your proposed method and timeline
- Any other comments or suggestions
- Overall price and broken down as follows: your day rate, and no of days, how many travel expenses and VAT

Criteria for appointing the contractor

- Price
- Experience
- Organisational Fit