Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

Design the Advisory Guidance Framing for Green Finance in Protected Site Strategies

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| 1 | Could you please provide guidance on the total budget allocated for this project and specify the preferred format for submitting our responses? | We have estimated the value of this contract at £30,000 - £40,000. Natural England does not generally disclose budget amounts for opportunities.  In terms of the preferred format, we suggest a PDF with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. |
| 2 | Could you please let me know if there is a specific word count limit for the questions? | There is no specific word limit but please only include information which directly addresses the question. Additional information not relevant will not score extra marks and may make your response more difficult to evaluate. |
| 3 | The audience for the guidance looks to be diverse – LAs, land managers/farmers, private sector, local communities. Are there any priority stakeholder groups amongst these? | All of these stakeholder groups are key audiences for future PSS that will work to address pressures and implement solutions at landscape scale. Therefore, we design the guidance to be accessible to a broad spectrum of stakeholders |
| 4 | Can any further details of the PSS Research and Development (R&D) Project be shared at this stage, including key messages and who is involved? | All of the information currently available to external organisations can be found in this link Springing into Action with Protected Site Strategies for Nature’s Recovery – Natural England (blog.gov.uk). The PSS R&D project has carried out a wide range of research on a wide range of issues. The successful bidder will have access to further insights and research findings. |
| 5 | Are NE looking for further analysis of findings and GF opportunities and support in developing the model, or is this project focused entirely on translation of existing findings into an online, visually informative and accessible guidance/toolkit? | This project is focused purely on translating existing findings into an online visually informative toolkit. The successful bidder will work with existing research findings and/or models. |
| 6 | Can NE share any initial thoughts on how they see PSSs potentially helping to enhance green finance in a local area? For example, could this be about providing additional clarity to stakeholder about what approaches are likely to be acceptable? Information is provided on how green finance guidance could support PSS development and ambition, but not how PSS might enhance green finance. | These insights feature in research findings that will be shared with the successful contractor. |
| 7 | Section 1.4 refers to both ‘greening finance’ and ‘financing green’. Can NE clarify if this brief is focused on ‘financing green’ only or also ‘greening finance’? | Further information on these will be shared to the successful contractor. |
| 8 | Will NE take responsibility for the build of the online guidance and associated testing (noting this project feeds into a wider guidance project), with the contractor’s role limited to providing the content and structure for the interlinked pages? | NE is responsible for the wider guidance piece. The contractor’s role is limited to designing an online toolkit that is accessible and visually attractive. |