**Q: Would NE accept a tender submission for a reduced project scope?**

A: Yes, NE would accept a reduced scope with fewer sublittoral sediments assessed. The main priority is collation of information and data to inform the FCS definition of sandbanks. The project should focus on Annex 1 Sandbanks and sub-types, and MCZ sediment features, to allow for a complete analysis of sandbanks and inform the definition. If necessary, maerl beds could be excluded at this stage – although a sub-type of Annex 1 Sandbanks and MCZ feature, it is a distinct biotope and a separate FCS definition will be produced for this habitat (similar to that which has been produced for seagrass). The MCZ features ocean quahog and seapen and burrowing megafauna communities are of least priority at present and could also be excluded. All objectives of the project scope should still be met.

**Q: Are prices inclusive or exclusive of VAT?**

A: The ‘Value of Contract’ price indication (£20,000 - £49,999) is exclusive of VAT.

**Q: How are historic extents defined?**

A: There is no limit to how far back the data should go. In reality, for most habitats, there’s very little quantitative data (of high confidence) going back any length of time. We would not expect the successful contractor to spend extensive amounts of time researching very old and historic datasets for example, 19th century naval records.