Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

Allonby Bay HPMA Carbon Stock Project: analysis of carbon cores

**Q) The contract finder website states there would be 15 cores, yet the document states 15 samples, please could you confirm the numbers of samples? We assume if there are 15 cores then these would need to be subsampled at the standard depths for NE work (0–2 cm, 4–6 cm, 10–12 cm, 20–22 cm, 30–32 cm and every further 10 cm until 90–92 cm) so there would be >15 samples to process.**

A) Based on the last experience in Allonby we were able to core to a maximum of 65cm. We will be following standard sampling depths (4–6 cm, 10–12 cm, 20–22 cm, 30–32, 40-42, 50-52, 60-62). So we anticipate we will have 8 subsamples for each of the 15 cores giving a total of 120 samples.

**Q) Please could you confirm what corer would be used for the sampling? We would be interested to know what volume of sediment would be available for analysis (this is based on the contract finder website stating that the cores will be collected by NE staff). That would influence how we would date the cores.**

A) Russian Peat Corer – Van Walt and currently in the process of purchasing Eijkelkamp Peat Sample set.

**Q) Can we confirm whether the full core would be provided (e.g. unopened tubes of sediment) or whether the cores would arrive subsampled?**

A) The samples will arrive already subsampled.

**Q) Will NE accept suggestion of an alternative sub sampling strategy?**

A) Yes, provided it still meets the aims of the RFQ and is comparable to other Natural England and CEFAS Blue Carbon projects which use the seaside code. Note the aim of this project and therefore what the tender will be assessed again is for analysing the cores collected not detailing the coring sampling methodology.