

ITT Clarifications

Tender Reference: CFAQ-WH-042-27022023

Issued 23/03/2023

Q1	<p>Can you please confirm that the project deliverables are for the whole area supplied?</p> <p>On page 6 it states ‘ a fixed budget only is available, and we therefore request that if necessary tenderers start their considerations on target species at the eastern area boundary between Cornwall and Wales before progressing west as budgets allow’ It is not possible to cover the entire area with LIDAR/Imagery for the budget or within the time scale. Therefore, to produce deliverables for the entire area some sort of sampling will need to be incorporated.</p> <p>As you are scored on your methodology it is not clear whether to blanket coverage a small area, smaller sampling of a slightly larger area or large sampling of the whole area. Obviously blanket coverage will give the best results but would be exceedingly expensive</p>
A1	<p>We have previously completed Digital Aerial Surveys for the whole project area shown in the ITT document at Figure 1. Whilst this exercise helped to identify species presence and densities the technique is deficient in acquiring actionable bird flight height data to support later consenting considerations for floating offshore wind. Consequently this tender has been issued in order to take advantage of airborne LiDAR technology to specifically address bird flight height in the area that can support the development of a bird flight height index for the Celtic Sea.</p> <p>As you have highlighted, we are aware that the available budget is not likely sufficient to run an airborne LIDAR campaign across the whole area. The East West reference is provided as we are aware that actual floating wind development areas will start closer to the eastern boundary before progressing west over time and consequently our preference for targeting areas within the available budget would follow a similar geographic progression to improve understanding of these areas.</p> <p>A key scoring metric for us in relation to the methodology is the number of species that could be covered as opposed to the amount of area covered. How this could be best achieved within the budget and timeframes available is left open to tenderers to propose.</p>
Q2	<p>In order to give you the best methodology is it possible to receive a copy of the Digital Aerial Surveys Report.</p> <p>This will allow us to put forward a methodology in those areas where there are concentrations of known species</p>
A2	<p>Unfortunately our Digital Aerial Survey reports (seasonal surveys August 2022-June 2023) cannot currently be made available as part of this live tender as they are in draft form and commercially sensitive.</p> <p>In considering species presence, densities and potential flight height behaviour for birds in the Celtic Sea, Celtic Sea Power has currently utilised the information sources below. These may be of benefit for tenderers to consider in designing their proposed methodology to deliver the airborne LiDAR and Flight height index development activity. Tenderers are not however required to specifically consider or be restricted to these sources in their methodology design.</p>



- Waggitt JJ, Evans PGH, Andrade J, et al. Distribution maps of cetacean and seabird populations in the North-East Atlantic. *J Appl Ecol.* 2019;00:1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.1352>
- JNCC – multiple data sets on seabirds at sea including boat-based observations and data on protected areas; <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-protected-area-datasets-for-download/>
- UK Government. (2023). SeaMaST Seabird Foraging Range 2019 [Data set]. Retrieved from <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/96fce7bb-6561-4084-97cb-6ba92d982903/seabird-mapping-sensitivity-tool-seamast>
- DEFRA commissioned JNCC work – Risk assessment of Seabird bycatch in UK waters. Anderson et al 2022. Seabird bycatch mitigation.: evidence base for possible UK application and research. JNCC Report No.717, JNCC, Peterborough. ISSN 0963-8091.
- Dierschke, V., Furness, R.W. and Garthe, S., 2016. Seabirds and offshore wind farms in European waters: Avoidance and attraction. *Biological Conservation*, 202, pp.59-68.
- Johnston, A., Cook, A.S., Wright, L.J., Humphreys, E.M. and Burton, N.H., 2014. Modelling flight heights of marine birds to more accurately assess collision risk with offshore wind turbines. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 51(1), pp.31-41.
- Petersen, I.K., Christensen, T.K., Kahlert, J., Desholm, M. and Fox, A.D., 2006. Final results of bird studies at the offshore wind farms at Nysted and Horns Rev. *Denmark. commissioned by DONG energy and Vattenfall A/S NERI/ministry of environment NERI Report*, (161).

