Following Phase 1 and 2 findings and recommendations, Defra and EA have decided to commission a large-scale primary valuation study to update and replace the existing National Water Environment Benefits Survey values (NWEBS). This third and final phase will undertake an England and Wales scale assessment of how society values the different aspects of water and scale of changes in the water environment.

The objectives of the project are to generate a new set of water benefit values, along with a fit-for-purpose valuation framework and guidance.

The newly established non-market water values must possess the ability to be easily applied across different time periods and policy contexts, accommodate diverse scales, capture both positive (enhancement) and negative (deterioration) changes in the water environment, elicit both use and non-use values, and determine the relative significance of the various attributes defining the water environment.

The valuation framework will ensure the comprehensive inclusion and integration of the entire range of values when estimating the impact of measures on the water environment. This will result in a set of guidelines for benefits assessments and appraisals, incorporating illustrative case studies.

By pursuing these objectives, the contract aims to build a solid foundation for assessing and quantifying the value associated with changes in the water environment. This effort will contribute to the development of more impactful policies, more robust business cases and government analysis more widely.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact luke.ridley@defra.gov.uk by 12pm on 19th Jan 2024.