Clarification to Bidders Questions:

Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on Landscape Character

1. **Do NE feel that site visits to any National Character Areas would be beneficial to the study?**
2. Site visits to NCAs are not a requirement of this project, there is already plenty of information in the NCA Profiles to allow a ‘desk study’ approach to this aspect of the contract.
3. **When is the interactive platform for the NCA profiles expected to be accessible?**
4. The platform is still in development and will not be accessible before 31 March 2024 (end of this project).
5. **Does NE have a proposed date and location for the organised site visit, and for the stakeholder workshop?**
6. The site visit will probably be late January/early February 2024.  With the stakeholder workshop to follow later in February 2024.
7. **I have an eligibility question that you may be able to answer: are universities classed as a VCSE?  The call is *not* open to VCSEs and I’m wondering whether to share it with colleagues at the University.**
8. Universities are not classed as VCSEs (Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise organisations) and therefore this call is open to universities.

**Q.  I note (p.5) that no changes will be accepted and Annex 2 requires us to sign up to them.**

**I would welcome your advice on this as we are keen to tender, but may not be able to sign up to the contract as presented.  The key clauses are 6.5, 9.5 and we would welcome sight of the documentation referred to at 15.1 /seek to slightly amend 15.1**

1. As this is a non-technical clarification request, we have decided to respond. Annex 2 relates to the acceptance of Natural England’s terms and conditions. However, it is noted in Annex 2 that the completion of the terms and conditions themselves are not necessary at this stage. Any queries on terms and conditions can be resolved prior to contract award, and we would encourage suppliers to tender if they are interested in this project.