**Clarifications to Bidders Questions - Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment Living England Field Surveys (BGZ03)**

1. It is stated that ‘the contractor should work alongside the Natural England Living England team to confirm areas to target the survey areas’. Is it expected that the contractor will define the sample methodology or that the contractor is expected to use one defined by the Natural England Living England team?

The Living England team will provide information on which habitats require additional points in the specified biogeographic zones. Ideally these points will have a spatial spread across the zone but this is not always possible due to the habitats and locations. Furthermore, the sampling locations will be partly restricted to areas with access permissions. The sampling methodology should therefore follow the information provided in the guidance and specification and be developed by the contractor with input from the Living England team.

2. How much information will Natural England provide on confidence of habitat classifications? Will this affect the sample distribution across the habitat categories?

Following the release of the Living England Phase IV dataset, the Living England team have been reviewing the classification and confidence for the different habitats in each zones. As part of this we now have required numbers of points required for each habitat in each zone which will be used to help inform the sample distribution and will be shared with the contractors.

3. Would you be able to provide a copy or link to the terms and conditions please as there are mentioned in the documents but I can’t find any link or separate attachment with the T&Cs please.

The terms and conditions are available here - Procurement at Natural England - Natural England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and covered by the standard terms and conditions.

4. One of the documents provided states, ‘The LE, NCEA & NEFU field coordination team have also been able to get blanket permissions to collect LE data from selected major landowners’. Can Natural England provide an idea as to where these land holdings are so that we can determine the distance between the sites and our offices?

We have secured blanket permissions from the majority of Wildlife Trusts across both of these biozones, National Trust and RSPB sites. We can provide more detailed information if the contract is granted.

5. If the surveyors arrived at a site and the habitat was not the habitat they were aiming to survey (e.g. misidentified sand dunes) would they need to arrange access to visit a further site to complete the required number of sand dunes points?

The priority would be to make sure that the habitat is identified correctly but if the change resulted in not being able to complete the expected number of data points then more would need to be identified and permission sought.

6. It is mentioned in the document that arranging access with private landowners maybe required. Is there any information that you can provide as to how many private landowners were contacted by the consultants during previous iterations?

We can supply a spreadsheet of all of the Major Landowners previously contacted on behalf of Living England.