**Clarification Questions and Answers**

**Q**: Is there a reason why the fee range is the same as last year, when there are three times more data points?

**A**: The app and field data collection method has been streamlined combining Living England and Change Detection. As a result of this streamlining, point collection for Living England is now quicker and Change Detection will be collected only where is appropriate, thus making the surveys more efficient. The scope of this project is in line with similar work that has been delivered in previous years and the number of points were based on previous contracts and awards taking this into account.

**Q**: How many large landowners have you been able to agree access with?

**A**: We have agreements with a few major landowners but the majority of points in these areas have already been collected so the focus will be to gain permissions in different areas and avoid high concentrations of points in these areas. This is to ensure that point distribution is spread evenly across each Biogeographic Zones.

**Q:** Can we please clarify that this is because from experience many sites will be unchanged from their current description and hence not require the form to be completed (i.e. there will be very little time spent at some/the majority of locations)?

**A**: All the information you need is in the specification.

**Q**: The contract starts in September and concludes in March – this could be considered a sub-optimal NVC survey period. Is this correct?

**A**: I can confirm that the September to March data collection period is correct. This is because the LE habitats are much broader than NVC categories so are therefore easier to identify out of the ideal survey season. Additional information about why this is the case can be found in our LE Specification for Ground Data Collection (Section 3), which is available as an attachment under the ‘More Information’ section on contracts finder.

**Q**: I write to request for the Defra ArcGIS Online (AGOL) user account and membership of the “Living England, NEFU and SSSI Monitoring” Group.

**A**: We are only able to grant access to the Defra ArcGIS Online (AGOL) user account and membership of the “Living England, NEFU and SSSI Monitoring” Group to contractors that have already bid and been successful in their application for this contract. The information held on our AGOL group is subject to signing a contract and data agreement with Natural England and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

**Q:** With the release of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment Living England Field Surveys BGZ13 yesterday which is a single zone requiring 700 data points for a fee of 35-50k (Range in initial email) are we to assume that the fee per BGZ is 35-50k which would make the fee for this project between 70-100k given the 1400 data points required? The scopes in both BGZ13 and this document are identical.

**A:** We have provided a price range for the contracts with the expectation being that the successful applicant would apply for a single BGZ contract (e.g. BGZ13) at the lower end of the price range (closer to £35K) and at the higher end of the range (closer to £50K) for the double BGZ contracts (e.g. BGZ07\_09). Therefore, the maximum payment for each of the contracts is £50K. This range has been based on previous costs incurred for similar work.

**Q:** Land Access Permissions – where the Rural Payments Agency data does not contain sufficient contact details to enable land access to be arranged, or where sites are selected that are not enrolled in a Rural Payments scheme, do Natural England have any further data sources that could help identify landowner contact details? Alternatively, are Natural England, as a public body, able to acquire landowner information at a reduced rate? Or is it anticipated that we will likely need to purchase/acquire additional land registry information at the usual public rate? Can we caveat this additional cost within our pricing as part of the tender submission?

**A:** As stated in the RFQ document the successful applicant for this contract will receive the RPA data to assist in access permission requests but will ultimately be responsible for obtaining any other access permissions required.

**Q:** We note there is no page or word limit specified for the technical responses, can you confirm this is correct?

**A:** That is correct.

**Q:** Are you able to provide an agreed method that has been used on other regions so we can ensure consistency and does a datapoint refer to a single polygon habitat type?

**A:** Please refer to the Living England Specification for Ground Data Collection available as an attached file on the contracts finder page. This document contains our standardised field collection methodology (used across all regions) and a detailed description of what we require for data point collection.