Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

**Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC: subtidal reef dive survey analysis and report writing**

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| 1 | Can you please provide a pdf copy of the 2020 Survey Report (Sugden, H. (2020). Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation: Subtidal Reef Communities Survey at the Farne Islands 2019. Natural England Commissioned Reports.) If you are unable to provide the full report, please provide an outline structure of the report (i.e. table of contents) | Please request this directly from Lucy May - Lucy.May@naturalengland.org.uk  |
| 2 | Section 3.3 of the RFQ (Invasive Non-Native Species) states that "the contractor must collect georeferenced photographs of INNS observed on site...", but Section 3.1 (Pre-Survey Deskwork) states that NE will provide data spreadsheets. Can you confirm that the data collected during the dive surveys includes taxonomic identification of species encountered, and that the supplier would not be required to undertake image analysis/identification of diver imagery, including identification/notification of INNS? | There appears to be an error in the specification - apologies. The winning contractor is not expected to collect georeferenced images of INNS – all data has already been collected. During the surveys, divers photographed quadrats and recorded data in situ when possible. Samples of some specimens were collected for taxonomic identification where ID was not possible in the field. Photographs and specimens were reviewed during the surveys and additional taxa were added to the data. Analysis of diver imagery is not required as part of this contract, but photos can be provided to the contractor to supplement the report. |
| 3 | Can you provide a brief description of the data spreadsheets (i.e. header row, example data) - we understand if some detail needs to be redacted.  | The datasets contain the following information:Date, site, GPS location (WGS84), time, surveyor name, transect number, quadrat number, depth (of quadrat), confidence, time taken to record quadrat, species (% cover for sessile organisms, counts for mobile organisms).The daily log forms contain additional information on diving conditions, individual divers’ times in/out of the water, air consumption. |
| 4 | Can you please confirm that the species identifications in the data sheets are compliant with current taxonomic names and synonyms (e.g. Marine Species of the British Isles and Adjacent Seas (MSBIAS)/ World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS)) and that all data spreadsheets have been suitably formatted and are standardised between years/ sites for ease of comparison. Can you please confirm if this data is already in MEDIN format? | For the 2022, 2023, 2024 dive surveys, all taxonomic names were cross-checked in WoRMS in 2024. However, historic datasets (2019, 2011, 2002) have not been recently verified in WoRMS. The data for the dive surveys (2022, 2023, 2024) are not currently in MEDIN format, and instead are in Excel proformas. Each survey year has a separate Excel workbook, with a separate tab for each site. All column headings have been standardised across each site and each year. |