1. Are the circa 20 SSSIs identified across all areas of England? Can we know where they are? No they cannot be in the public domain until finalised and the contract has been awarded.
2. Are the estimated 200-250 associated owner/occupiers the total across all circa 20 SSSIs? Yes
3. Are the circa 20 SSSI survey areas approximately the same size with similar numbers of interests? No this will vary.
4. Do NE wish to utilise their own master spreadsheet document or is there an opportunity for the tenderer to look to use a different system powered by arcGIS which has the ability to produce plans, automatic RAG reports, monitor owner/occupier data and can ultimately export the data into an excel document. There is a possibility to use a different system as long as GDPR legislation is abided by and NE can still obtain he information required e.g. records of communication and changes in ownership.
5. Can the due dates for milestones be clarified as some appear to be 2023 when it would be assumed they are 2024 The dates within the delivery milestone and timeline section should say ‘End of February 2024’ ‘End of March 2024’ as part of the contract details and timeline at the start of the document.
6. If land interests request plans showing their land and access routes, will NE provide plans or is the tenderer expected to produce plans? We do not expect this to be the case. If land interests are unsure of the area of question, the entire SSSI can be sent so they can confirm if they own land within or not. We will not be showing access routes but land interests may provide useful information on where to access/park which should be recorded.
7. Will title information be provided as part of the primary dataset? No
8. Is it expected that the successful tenderer would undertake any land referencing? If so, will the associated costs be covered by NE? No
9. What form should/can valid permission be obtained? Verbal, written (email), signed access form or licence? Written via email is preferred but verbal permission is also valid
10. Is there a threshold amount/percentage of positive access agreements for each SSSI for it to be confirmed as having enough access for useful surveys?

No. However,  if there is part of a Unit that does not have access it may be that this one area can be avoided and surveys can commence. This is dependent on the size of the area and the habitat e.g. if the survey is for woodland and part of the grassland couldn’t be accessed the survey could still commence.

1. What is the purpose of the “Data license agreement” and should it be sent to all land interests?

Yes, it is to ensure that any data sent by landowners can be used by NE.

1. Could you provide examples of the other “pertinent information” which might be included within the “Access Contacts for Surveyors” spreadsheet? Health and safety information that landowners may have shared e.g. steep slopes or fields with bulls.
2. Are certain SSSIs treated as First/Second/Third priority sites or are certain land plots within each SSSI classified as First/Second/Third priority? Priority SSSIs are ones where surveys need to take place in April 2024 due to seasonal constraints e.g. breeding birds.
3. Does the value of the contract include VAT?

The contract value does not include VAT, please state if this is applicable though.

1. The question was ‘The specification states that there are an estimated 200-250 associated owner/occupiers from whom access permission should be gained. Do you foresee that each of those parties will be required to grant a licence for access?

Due to the nature of the access requirements, individual licenses will not be required from each landowner. Email/telephone confirmation is all that’s needed for us to access the land.