Clarification Questions

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|  | Question | Answer |
| 1 | Please can you confirm if there is a total project budget/contract value that needs to be adhered to when pricing the fee that tenders should not exceed? | The total project budget is £49,999.00 |
| 2 | Is there a word count or page limit for the response submission to the technical questions? | There has been no mandatory word count or page limit specified for the technical questions. As a guide, we would suggest a maximum of 4 pages of A4 font size Arial 11 may be appropriate for each technical question. |
| 3 | In relation to responses to the technical questions, it is stated in 6.2.1 that “Separate submissions for each technical question should be provided…” can our separate submissions for each technical question be included within a single document, or do they need to be submitted as separate documents to meet this requirement? | Yes, the separate answers to the technical questions can be included within a single document. |
| 4 | What is the expected budget for this commission? | The total project budget is £49,999.00 |
| 5 | Can we have confirmation of the total length of the study river? | The total length of the study river is ~70km. To note that there is flexibility to discount areas that have lower potential for restoration in the short term and focus on higher potential areas. |
| 6 | What quantitative outputs are Natural England are looking for from this commission? | The summary of deliverables section of the RFQ summarises the required project outputs. We are open to suggestions of more detailed quantitative outputs required to meet the project’s aims, and these can be finalised in the start-up meeting and confirmation of methodology with the successful contractor.  This will include but is not limited to, the visualisations/maps of restoration options (which may have quantitative and qualitative elements) |
| 7 | Specifically related to the restored river width:profile. We feel that this level of detailed would be more appropriate for a later stage of design. Can Natural England confirm what level of detail is needed for this particular output. | We are open to suggestions of how this output could be delivered within the project budget. This could for example be delivered at a broader level of detail, with indicative cross sections at several intervals along the river’s length. We do not expect a width:depth profile associated with every proposed restoration option. |
| 8 | As an SME sub-contracting others it would be helpful to invoice regularly during the project, preferably monthly | It would be possible to split the total payment into payments per delivery milestone over the project duration. The delivery milestones can be discussed and confirmed upon contract award. |
| 9 | Do you anticipate the presentation of key project findings and recommendations to the Natural England project group being an in-person or virtual event? | The presentation will be given virtually. |
| 10 | With regards to section 2.3, it is stated that Natural England will obtain landowner/manager permission for site access; however, further down in this section it is implied that permission may need to be secured by the Contractor. Could it be confirmed whether Natural England expect the Contractor to arrange access and secure permissions for site visits, or if this will be arranged by Natural England. | We confirm that landowner/manager permission for site access will be secured by Natural England. |
| 11 | Section 6.2. asks for separate submissions for each technical question, can you please confirm you require a separate document per question (3 documents in total), and whether Annex 1 needs to be included within each? | The separate answers to each technical question can be included within a single document- a separate document is not required for each question. Only one Annex 1 needs to be submitted with the contractor’s response. |
| 12 | Is there a maximum word count for each question? | There has been no mandatory word count or page limit specified for the technical questions. As a guide, we would suggest a maximum of 4 pages of A4 font size Arial 11 may be appropriate for each technical question. |