**Clarifications for Bidders Questions:**

Wintering bird surveys of terrestrial habitats around the Humber Estuary, Yorkshire

**Q: The RFQ says either 1 or 2 visits per month, what does this mean? Is it at our discretion to choose 1 or 2 visits per month or does it mean 1 visit during bird passage months (e.g. October and March) and 2 visits during the winter months (November to February)?**

A: Apologies that this is not clear. Please refer to the scoring response section of the RFQ (pg. 26). We are asking for four separate quotes based on four different scenarios. We will confirm which scenario we wish to commission during contract award.

**Q: We have looked at some of the positions of the survey squares and they cover urban environments (e.g. one covers Anlaby in Hull) can we move them to more suitable locations?**

A: We are open to suggestions to move the survey locations. This is set out in the survey area section on page 12. These squares, and others, may need to be repositioned further upon closer inspection, e.g. if the original square does not contain appropriate habitat, to avoid access issues, or to provide a more representative sample (e.g. of habitat types or distances to the estuary). The neighbouring square immediately to the north of the original square should be checked for suitability first, followed by the next neighbouring square to the northeast, moving clockwise around the original square until a suitable survey site is located.

**Q: What ratio would you like of day and night surveys? Would you like half of the surveys done in the daytime and half of them done at night-time?**

A: Each of the four scenarios assumes equal survey effort for both diurnal and nocturnal surveys. For example, scenario one requests a quote for 25 survey locations to be visited once during day and once during the night, every month between October and March.

**Q: We do a lot of work around the Humber Estuary and we know it is a flat landscape, as such the 2km viewshed from a vantage point are likely to be significantly impaired by hedges etc. Therefore, would it be acceptable to change the method to a transect as we feel this provide better survey coverage and allow for time efficiencies?**

A: Natural England would like to retain the use of vantage point surveys, this aligns with our guidance methodology for assessing potential functionally linked land around the terrestrial hinterland of the Humber estuary for development proposals and it avoids bird disturbance during the surveys. In addition, we consider that it would be difficult to undertake transect surveys at night from a logistical and health and safety perspective. We would like to keep the survey effort comparable between day and night. It may be that that multiple vantage point locations are required for a single survey square, and we acknowledge that in some instances vantage points may not cover the 2km2 survey square in its entirety. In these instances, it should be clearly referenced as a limitation.

**Q: From our experience of working on the Humber, peak bird usage of the neighbouring fields is post high tide when the mudflats are covered. As such is it acceptable to descope low tide surveys?**

A: We are open to suggestions on the timings of the surveys. We have suggested to use a variety of tide times as particularly for golden plover and lapwing, these species feed a lot on terrestrial habitat, and this may not necessarily be because there is no intertidal habitat available. However, we appreciate that by just surveying at high tide, this is more likely to suggest a link between birds moving between the estuary and the hinterlands. Please do put forward your suggested methodologies and any reasons for deviating from the suggested methodologies and we will be more than happy to consider these proposals.

**Q: Please can you supply the central grid references of the survey grid squares?**

A: Please see attached file for central grid references of the survey grid squares.