Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:

**Baseline Aquatic Invertebrate Assemblage Survey of Strensall Common**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Just a brief query on the tender notice-it states that electronic tenders will not be accepted-but can I still send completed bid by email? | Yes, emails will be accepted. |
| 2 | Can you clarify whether PSYM methodology is an essential requirement for survey or is just desirable? As far as I am aware is not requirement for CSM for SSSI. | PSYM methodology is NOT an essential requirement for survey, just desirable. |
| 3 | Can you give an approximate number of waterbodies to survey at each of the four locations? | Strensall Common is a very large site with numerous drains and water bodies. As stated in the specification as a minimum Kidney Pond, Pillwort scrape, Crossley’s Pond and the drainage system within the firing ranges should be assessed. Other significant water bodies included the pools behind the rifle butts (SE643045924), pond at Galtres car park (SE6501160936) and various other small ponds as shown on OS maps. At Worlds End Plantation there are 5 significant ponds, at Worlds End Grasslands, open water is more limited with just the ponds shown on OS maps and associated drainage ditches. Sandburn Wood has little open water but does have small open mire type vegetation. |
| 4 | Do you require survey work that aims to record as many species as possible (this is what I'm under the impression is what you require) or do you want a standardised survey method as one would provide if you were Common Standard Monitoring the sites. | The survey should describe the occurrence of key invertebrate species and assemblages in relation to aquatic features and habitats, and to Identify any ‘Specific Assemblage Types’ of invertebrates, following definitions in Pantheon. This is in order for Natural England to be in a position to assess the determine whether Strensall Common and adjacent sites fulfil the requirements for SSSI designation for invertebrate features, according to notification guidelines. |
| 5 | Will all quoting be expected to work with a colleague ( I ask as lone working next to water is not allowed by the company I work for) so if people are going to quote as lone workers it will probably make my quote untenable with regards to price. | This will be down to individuals submitting quotations. All submissions are required to include relevant risk assessments and the specification states that if lone working is to be carried out during any survey work, a specific section on lone working needs to be included in the risk assessment”. |
| 6 | General response: | See answer to your queries in your original e-mail below. I would also draw your attention to the paragraph within the specification that states:  “The contractor should judge this, based on achieving representative samples from the range of wetland habitats available, e.g. permanent ponds, temporary pools, and ditches/drains on each of the main sites (Strensall Common, World’s End Former Plantation, World’s End Grasslands and Sandburn Wood).  The contractor should aim for a minimum of 3 locations per habitat, per site (to provide replication). Sampling locations on Strensall Common should include as a minimum Kidney Pond, Pillwort scrape, Crossley’s Pond and the drainage system within the firing ranges; but recognise that such a large site is likely to support other water bodies with unique characteristics, which justify inclusion. Sample locations should capture variation relevant to aquatic assemblages, e.g., water quality and depth, underlying substrate, vegetation type and cover, degree of shading etc. |