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# FENWICK SOLAR FARM

**Fenwick Solar Farm**  
**EN010152**

## **Environmental Statement**

**Volume III Appendix 1-4: Statement of Competence**

**Document Reference: EN010152/APP/6.3**

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
Regulations 2009

October 2024  
Revision Number: 00

## Revision History

<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
00	October 2024	DCO application

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# 1. Statement of Competence

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 1) (the EIA Regulations) require that an applicant for a Development Consent Order (DCO) must ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (Environmental Statement) is prepared by 'competent experts'. In addition, the EIA Regulations (Ref. 1) require that 'the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts'. As such, this Statement of Competence has been prepared by AECOM, as lead EIA Coordinator for Fenwick Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme'), to outline the capability of the company and the competency of the individuals responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA.

## 1.2 AECOM

1.2.1 AECOM is a leading provider of environmental services to a wide range of clients and development sectors in the UK. AECOM has a large and highly experienced team of EIA practitioners (approximately 160 staff), who have managed hundreds of EIAs and prepared Environmental Statements and other technical reports to accompany applications under various consenting regimes. AECOM also provides specialist EIA review services and training to a range of organisations, including government agencies. The EIA team is supported by more than 400 technical environmental specialists, covering a wide range of technical disciplines.

## 1.3 IEMA EIA Quality Mark

1.3.1 AECOM is a registrant to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) EIA Quality Mark (Ref. 2) and undertakes all EIA work in line with the associated commitments. The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme through which EIA activity is independently reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it delivers excellence in: EIA management, EIA team capabilities, EIA regulatory compliance, EIA context and influence, EIA content, EIA presentation, and improving EIA practice. Many of AECOM's EIA Coordinators hold Practitioner or Full (Chartered) membership status with IEMA or are members of other appropriate professional institutions.



## 1.4 Competent Experts

1.4.1 Summaries of the qualifications and experience of the EIA Project Director, responsible for the checking and review of the Environmental Statement, and the EIA Project Manager, responsible for the coordination of the EIA, are presented in Table 1.

1.4.2 Summaries of the qualifications and experience of the leads for each technical discipline are presented in Table 2.

## **Table 1: EIA Project Director and Project Manager**

### **EIA Project Director**

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Technical Director, Chartered Environmentalist and PhD with over 24 years' experience in the direction, management, and delivery of major infrastructure environmental approvals. Working across environmental, planning, design, land and consultation workstreams, he has managed, advised and delivered major projects under the Town and Country Planning Act DCO processes within the solar, transportation, power generation, power transmission, water and oil and gas sectors. Projects include the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, the Fosse Green Energy DCO, the Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) DCO, the Avon Power Station DCO, and the Southampton to London Pipeline DCO.

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### **EIA Project Manager**

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Associate Director within the Environmental and Planning Team, with over 18 years of experience in delivering and managing environmental and social assessments of large complex multidisciplinary projects. Working across environmental, planning, design, land and consultation workstreams, he has advised and delivered major projects under local planning and also DCO processes within the solar, transportation, power generation, power transmission and oil and gas sectors. Recent project experience includes managing the EIA for a 200 megawatt floating offshore wind project with associated onshore infrastructure in South Wales, the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO examination, and environmental feasibility studies across confidential solar farm Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) in northern England.

**Table 2: Technical Leads**

<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
Climate Change	BA, MIEMA, CEnv	22	The Climate Change lead specialises in greenhouse gas and climate change resilience assessments, as well as strategy development and reporting for major clients, projects, and products across the UK and abroad. They have also led climate impact and mitigation strategy assessments for inclusion in EIA and ESIA on a range of high-profile climate impact assessments, including masterplanning, urban regeneration, transport, and other large-scale infrastructure projects. The Climate Change lead is fully conversant with UK legislation and policy regarding climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning towards net zero emissions targets, and climate change resilience assessment. They are experienced and confident working with clients, legal teams, and technical specialists to provide climate change advice, and engaging multiple stakeholders and third parties to reach agreeable outcomes.
Built Heritage	BSc, PhD	18	The Built Heritage lead is a Technical Director in AECOM's Heritage team. They have 18 years of experience in the heritage sector, including researching for their PhD in Buildings Archaeology. The Built Heritage lead is fully conversant with UK legislation and policy regarding heritage and the assessment of the significance and setting of heritage assets. They have been the built heritage lead on NSIPs including Keadby 3 Low Carbon Generating Station DCO and Gate Burton Energy Park Solar Farm DCO.

<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
Archaeology	BA	11	<p>The Archaeology lead is a Principal Consultant in AECOM's Heritage team. They have over 11 years' experience in professional archaeology, including undertaking archaeological fieldwork, archaeological fieldwork management, and heritage consultancy on a range of projects including large-scale infrastructure for renewable energy developments and HS2. They have been the archaeology technical lead on a number of NSIPs including the London Luton Airport Expansion DCO, the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) DCO and the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO.</p>
Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology	BSc (Hons), MSc. MCIEEM	20	<p>The Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology lead has 20 years experience in the ecological sector, undertaking ecological impact assessments for large scale infrastructure projects throughout the UK and globally. This including numerous energy DCOs and they have recently led the terrestrial ecology assessments for the consented the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO, and the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO.</p>
Aquatic Ecology	BSc (Hons), PhD, CEnv, MIFM	14	<p>The Aquatic Ecology lead is an Associate Director in AECOM's Water Environment team. She is a competent aquatic ecologist with 14 years' experience and a wide skill set gained in both the private and public sectors, during which she has been technical lead on a number of NSIPs including HS2, the Thames Tideway Tunnel, the</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	BSc (Hons), PhD, CEnv, MCIEEM	21	<p>East Midlands Gateway Freight Interchange and Highway DCO, and the Doncaster Iport project.</p> <p>The BNG lead has over 20 years experience in the ecological sector, comprised of consultancy experience in ecology, biodiversity, and environmental management. They have worked on small to large scale projects across the UK and Ireland in multiple sectors and has a strong background in BNG, stakeholder management, consultation, project assurance, ecological project management, and liaison with statutory bodies. They work closely with other teams in AECOM to ensure engagement at critical points in project lifecycles at both the project and the client level. Recent solar projects include the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO, the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, and the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO.</p>
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	BSc (hons), MSc, PhD, CEnv, MCIEEM	22	<p>The HRA lead is an ecologist with 22 years experience as a practicing ecologist, with 21 years spent in consultancy. They have led the HRA work on numerous high-profile projects including the Thames Tideway Tunnel, Seabank Power Station expansion, Army Training Estate expansion at Salisbury Plain Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Special Protection Area (SPA), undergrounding of powerlines across the New Forest SAC/SPA, the Net Zero Teesside DCO, the London Luton Airport Expansion DCO, and dozens of projects on behalf of both applicants and local authorities.</p>



<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
Water Environment	BSc (hons), MSc, ND CEnv, MIEMA	28	The Water Environment lead is a Chartered Environmentalist and Water Scientist with 28 years' experience within the water consultancy sector. They have led on DCO Schemes ranging from large transport projects, solar energy schemes, and mixed use commercial developments. Recent energy sector experience was working on the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO and the Tillbridge Solar DCO.
Flood Risk	BSc (hons), MSc, C.WEM	12	The Flood Risk lead is a Chartered Water and Environmental Manager with 12 years' relevant experience. This experience includes leading of Flood Risk Assessments for a wide variety of projects, including two solar farms, one of which is classified as a NSIP.
	BSc (hons), MSc, PhD	10	The Flood Risk Modelling lead possesses 10 years' experience within flood and water management consulting, in addition to 4 years postgraduate experience in related research. Professional experience includes leading of a wide variety of flood modelling for schemes across the UK, including for two NSIPs.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	BSc (Hons) MA CMLI	11	The Landscape and Visual lead is a Chartered Landscape Architect with over 10 years' experience in Landscape Architecture with considerable experience of undertaking landscape and visual impact assessments for DCO solar projects. Recent project experience includes Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Gate Burton

<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
			Energy Park DCO, Fosse Green Energy DCO, and the One Earth Solar Farm DCO.
Arboriculture	Dip Arb (L6), PTI, MArborA	6	The Arboriculture lead is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association with six years' experience in arboricultural consultancy. The arboriculture lead has extensive experience in solar farm projects, with recent experience including the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO and the Tillbridge Solar DCO.
Noise and Vibration	BEng (Hons) IEng MIOA CEnv MIEEnvSc	21	The Noise and Vibration technical lead is a member of the Institute of Acoustics with over 15 years' experience, including considerable experience of DCOs. Recent project experience includes the Sunnica Energy Farm DCO, the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, and the Fosse Green Energy DCO.
Socio-Economics	MA (Oxon), MRTPI	20	The Socio-economics lead has 20 years' experience of assessing the socio-economic impacts of infrastructure and mixed use projects. Recent experience includes the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, the Viking CCS Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO, and the A40 Access to Witney project.
Minerals	BSc (Hons) MSc PhD CGeol FGS	25	The Minerals lead is an Associate Environmental Scientist with over 25 years' experience. Recent project experience includes the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Net Zero Teesside DCO, H2Teesside DCO, and the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet DCO.

<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
Soils and Agricultural Land	PhD, BSc (Hons), MICFor	33	<p>The Soils and Agricultural lead is head of Agriculture, Forestry and Soils for AECOM in the UK. Specialises in integrated environmental land management and has peer-reviewed publications in soil biology and nutrient cycling. Experience of undertaking EIA, for large-scale infrastructure, including energy, road, and rail. Recent experience of EIA/DCO includes projects for HS2, National Grid, and Scottish and Southern Energy Network.</p> <p>The soil survey was carried out by Land Research Associates.</p>
Transport and Access	BSc (Hons), CMILT	16	<p>The Transport and Access lead has significant experience within the planning and development sector and led traffic and transport work for numerous Environmental Statements, as well as led Transport Assessments, Travel Plans, associated masterplanning work, and Construction Traffic Management Plans (CTMP) to the satisfaction of clients and public bodies. Recent NSIP project experience includes the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, the Viking CCS Carbon Dioxide Pipeline DCO, the Viking Link Interconnector project, and the Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage project.</p>
Air Quality	BSc (Hons) PhD MIAQM MIEnvSci	33	<p>The Air Quality lead has completed air quality impact assessments for conventional, renewable, and nuclear energy projects across the UK. Recent NSIP project experience includes the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, Sunnica Energy Farm DCO, the Sizewell C</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			(Nuclear Generating Station) DCO, and the H2Teesside DCO.
Glint and Glare	BEng MSc	4	The Glint and Glare lead has completed glint and glare assessments for over 2 GW of solar developments across the UK and Ireland. Recent NSIP experience includes the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, the Fosse Green Energy DCO, and the Tillbridge Solar DCO.
Ground Conditions	BSc (Hons), DIS, CSci	27	The Ground Conditions lead is a Chartered Scientist and an Associate Director in AECOM's Soil, Groundwater and Remediation team. Recent NSIP experience includes the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, the Fosse Green Energy DCO, and the Tillbridge Solar DCO.
Materials and Waste	BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWM CRWM CEnv	16	The Materials and Waste lead is a Principal Resources and Waste Management Specialist with 16 years' experience. The lead has prepared and overseen inputs into a number of NSIPs including the Gate Burton Energy Park DCO, the Longfield Solar Farm DCO, the Tillbridge Solar DCO, the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO, and Fosse Green Energy DCO.
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)	BA (Hons), MBA	8	The BESS lead is a specialist with significant experience in BESS safety and mitigation strategies, battery system validation and abuse testing, BESS explosion test planning, battery system risk assessment and training, operations and battery systems safety audits,

<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
			suppression system and explosion protection test planning, and BESS incident ERP drafting/planning. They have worked on a number of Solar NSIPS, including the East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO and the Tillbridge Solar DCO.

## 2. References

- Ref. 1 His Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) (2017). The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/contents>. [Accessed 8 August 2024].
- Ref. 2 Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2024). The EIA Quality Mark. Available at: <https://www.iema.net/corporate-programmes/eia-quality-mark>. [Accessed 8 August 2024].

An aerial photograph of a vast solar farm at sunset. The rows of solar panels stretch across the landscape, creating a strong sense of perspective. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue, with the sun low on the horizon, casting long shadows and a warm glow over the entire scene.

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