



Lime Down

Solar Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 3, Appendix 1-1: Statement of Competence

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Appendix 1-1: 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 (ES)) is prepared by 'competent experts' (Regulation 14(4)(a)). 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"* (Regulation 14(4)(b)).
- 1.1.2 As such, this Statement of Competence has been prepared by AECOM, as the lead planning and environment consultancy for the Lime Down Solar Park (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme'), to outline the relevant expertise and qualifications of those involved in preparing the ES. This includes the AECOM EIA Project Director and EIA Project Manager, as well as experts from a range of other consultancies involved in the preparation of technical chapters.

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 United Kingdom. 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 Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals Quality Mark

- 1.3.1 AECOM is the lead environment and planning consultancy for Lime Down Solar Park and is responsible for the direction and management of the EIA for the Scheme, along with the production of the associated ES. AECOM is an Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) Registered Impact Assessor and holds the ISEP EIA Quality Mark as recognition of the quality of our EIA product and continuous training of our environmental consultants.



- 1.3.2 AECOM's EIA Coordinators working on Lime Down Solar Park hold Practitioner or Full (Chartered) membership status with ISEP 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 ES, 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
<p>Technical Director, Chartered Environmentalist and PhD with over 25 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 and 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.</p>
EIA Project Manager
<p>The Project Manager has 8 years' experience as an Environmental Consultant. Assisted in coordinating the EIA process and the production of environmental reports for a number of developments in a broad range of sectors, including transport, energy, linear, and residential projects. Possesses a strong understanding of environmental legislation and policy with experience in a variety of regulatory regimes including the Scottish, Welsh, and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) requirements in England.</p>

Table 2: Technical Leads

EIA Technical Discipline	Organisation	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Climate Change	Bureau Veritas	BA, MIES, MIAQM	12	The climate change lead has worked to provide expert advice on a range of issues, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate change resilience and air quality. They have completed assessments for a number of NSIP across the UK and is able to provide valuable insight into how a project may affect and be affected by the rapidly changing global and local climate. They have also completed detailed technical studies of emissions from construction sites, road vehicles, and industrial emissions sources.
Landscape and Visual	Lanpro	BSc (Hons), MA, CMLI	18	The landscape and visual lead is a chartered landscape architect with a focus on landscape planning and specialising in producing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA) across a wide range of projects at various scales. This includes experience of the DCO process for large scale ground mounted solar projects. Other relevant experience includes large scale energy and renewable projects, large scale commercial buildings, housing and residential sites, rural estates and farms, as well as sport, recreation and tourism projects.
Ecology and Biodiversity	Clarkson and Woods	BSc MSc CIEEM	13	The ecology and biodiversity lead is highly experienced in providing ecological advice and undertaking ecological impact assessments for inclusion on a wide range of EIA projects across the UK. Their breadth of experience includes leading on previous large-scale ground-mounted solar NSIP through the DCO process, along with numerous smaller scale renewable energy, residential, commercial, and infrastructure projects. They are adept at preparing associated supporting documentation including Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessments, and possess a full knowledge of UK legislation and policy pertaining to ecology, wildlife and biodiversity.

EIA Technical Discipline	Organisation	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Arboriculture	Lanpro	HND Arb, MArborA	21	The arboriculture lead is highly experienced in providing tree related planning and design advice, including undertaking arboricultural impact assessments (AIA), and defining and applying suitable and proportionate mitigation strategies for inclusion on a range of EIA projects across the UK. Their experience includes overseeing and delivering consented large-scale ground-mounted solar projects via both the Town and County Planning Act (TCPA) and DCO processes. They possess a full working knowledge of current UK legislation and policy pertaining to arboriculture, planning woodland. and forestry.
Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Arthian	BSc (Hons) MCIWEM	15	The hydrology, flood risk and drainage lead possesses extensive expertise in flood risk and drainage management and is overseeing the hydrology, flood risk and drainage aspects on other Solar DCO, including the Green Hill Solar Farm, Cottam Solar Project, and West Burton Solar Project. They have delivered complex flood risk and drainage solutions for a wide range of high-profile public and private sector clients and led numerous projects encompassing Flood Risk Assessments (FRA), Flood Consequences Assessments (FCA), Drainage Strategies, Surface Water Management Plans, Flood Management Plans, culvert studies, and due diligence. Additionally, they have substantial experience in the hydrological and hydraulic modelling aspects of EIA, including the use of specialised software.
Cultural Heritage	Lanpro	BA (Hons), MSc, MifA	12	The cultural heritage lead has experience leading on major infrastructure solar projects. They have delivered the cultural heritage component of numerous complex projects, and has extensive experience worked on a range of Solar TCPA, as well as the Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project NSIPs located in Lincolnshire.
Transport and Access	Transport Planning Associates	BSc, MSc, CMILT, MCIHT	24	The transport and access lead has considerable experience in transport planning and highway engineering and has been involved with projects in a full range of land uses across the UK. They have a

EIA Technical Discipline	Organisation	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
				broad range of specialist skills including highway mitigation solutions, town centre regeneration studies, strategic traffic modelling and DCO applications. They have detailed working knowledge of the Manual for Streets, the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, and is cognisant of the latest transport planning policies and EIA regulations.
Noise and Vibration	AECOM	MSci, PhD, FIOA, MIMA, CMath	22	The noise and vibration lead is a recognised expert in environmental acoustics with experience of a wide variety of research and consultancy projects, including providing official advice to government and several NSIPs. They recently led the noise and vibration element of the Tillbridge Solar Farm project through the DCO examination, including answering questions at an issue specific hearing.
Air Quality	Arcadis	BSc (Hons), MRes, MEnvSc, MIAQM, CEnv	19	The air quality lead has worked on air quality assessments for complex EIA for a variety of projects, ranging from NSIP to mixed use developments of various scales. They have been the technical lead for numerous energy projects including Richborough Connection Project and Feeder 9 Gas Pipeline Project, and is currently air quality lead for the North Humber to High Marnham Reinforcement project, the South East Anglia (SEA) Link project, the Towy Usk project, the Humber Low Carbon Pipeline project and Green Hill Solar Farm.
Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Lanpro	BA (Hons) MA, AIEMA	6	The socio-economics, tourism and recreation lead has led on technical delivery of this aspect of the EIA for Green Hill Solar Farm, and the now-consented Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project DCOs including representing the respective Applicants at DCO examination. Their experience includes socio-economic and population assessments for TCPA and DCO projects with particular focus on residential and energy infrastructure developments.
Soils and Agricultural Land	Reading Agricultural Consultants	BA (Hons), MSc, FBIAC, PISEP, MI Soil Sci	35	The soils and agricultural land lead has considerable experience of assessing the impacts of a variety of projects on agricultural land and soils. They have been involved with solar PV schemes for the last 10 years and has given evidence at several solar farm public inquiries and DCO examinations.

EIA Technical Discipline	Organisation	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Human Health	Lanpro	BA (Hons) MA, AIEMA	6	The human health lead has led on technical delivery of this aspect of the EIA for Green Hill Solar Farm, and the now-consented Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project DCOs including representing the respective Applicants at DCO examination. Their experience includes EIA-integrated and standalone health impact assessments for TCPA and DCO projects with particular focus on residential and energy infrastructure developments.
Ground Conditions	Geosyntec	BSc(Hons), CSci	18	The ground conditions lead is a contaminated land professional with over 18 years' experience in environmental regulation and consultancy. They are a chartered scientist with the Institution of Environmental Sciences and has spent over a decade working as a Local Authority regulator, which has given them significant expertise in navigating the framework of regulation around contaminated land in the UK, as well as developing skills in human health risk assessment, site conceptualisation and data gap assessment. Their unique background allows him to assist clients in navigating the UK planning regime, as well as permit application and surrender and regulator liaison. They have led multiple EIA projects in the energy sector including those providing CCUS pipelines, cabling for off-shore wind farms, and solar farms at sites across the UK.
Minerals	Clover Planning	BA(Hons) DipTP MRTPI	34	The mineral lead has extensive experience in all aspects of mineral planning, including planning policy and development control roles within local government. They specialise in minerals and waste planning on behalf of both private clients and local authorities. Specialist experience includes the preparation and submission of the planning application and accompanying EIA for a range of major mineral related projects. Recent experience includes undertaking a number of mineral resource assessments for developments, including solar farms, located in Minerals Safeguarding Areas. These include NSIP, such as the Cottam Solar Project, West Burton Solar Project and Green Hill Solar Farm.

EIA Technical Discipline	Organisation	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Materials and Waste	AECOM	BSc (Hons) MSc, MCIWM, CRWM, CEnv	18	The materials and waste lead has experience most recently delivering environmental assessments in the energy sector. They are a Chartered Resource and Waste Manager (CRWM) and Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), with experience having led a number of energy NSIP, including the material and waste assessments for One Earth Solar Farm, East Yorkshire Solar Farm, Fenwick Solar Project, and Tillbridge Solar Project. The lead has also supported the Gate Burton examination and post consent work for Longfield.
Glint and Glare	Pager Power	LLB (Hons)	2.5	The glint and glare lead is a senior technical analyst with experience working on solar farms in the UK and in 10 other countries. The technical lead has completed over 100 glint and glare assessments, including for five NSIP.
Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	Pager Power	LLB (Hons)	2.5	The EMF lead is a senior technical analyst with experience working on solar farms in the UK and in 10 other countries. They have experience working on EMF assessments for multiple NSIP and other renewable energy developments in the UK and internationally.
Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Safety	BST&T Consultancy Services	BA (Hons), MBA	8	The BESS safety 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, suppression system and explosion protection test planning, and BESS incident ERP drafting/planning. They have worked on a number of Solar NSIPs, including the Fenwick Solar Farm, East Yorkshire Solar Farm and Tillbridge Solar Project.
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	AECOM	BA, MA, Independent Board Member, ISEAL Alliance, Accredited UK Govt/FCDO Social Development Advisor	22	The EqIA lead is a multi-disciplinary leader with experience in supporting the design and delivery of sustainable and inclusive development. They lead a team that delivers social impact research, EqIA, and embeds social value in infrastructure projects.
Energy Need	Humbeat	MA, MSc	20	The energy need lead is a UK energy market professional with experience including integrated oil majors, integrated electricity

EIA Technical Discipline	Organisation	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
				<p>utilities. Their focus since 2018 has been large-scale renewable generation developments as an independent consultant.</p> <p>They have provided electricity market expertise and need and benefits advice provided to over 4,000 MW of consented offshore wind generation developments in the UK and over 3,000 MW of consented NSIP ground mount solar schemes. Providing advice to a further 5,000 MW of ground-mount solar schemes currently under development in the UK.</p>

1.5 References

- Ref 1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2017/572>. [Accessed 26 March 2025].
- Ref 2 Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) (2024). Quality Mark. Available at: [REDACTED]
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