

# Light Valley Solar

Environmental Statement Volume 3

## Appendix 1.4: Statement of Competence

Document Reference: EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.04

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN0110012  
APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)



Light Valley  
Solar

# Infrastructure Planning

## Planning Act 2008

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

# Light Valley Solar

## DCO Submission

---

### Appendix 1.4: Statement of Competence

---

<b>Regulation Reference</b>	APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
<b>Planning Inspectorate Case Reference</b>	EN0110012
<b>Application Document Reference</b>	EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.04
<b>Author</b>	Light Valley Solar Limited

Version	Date	
1.0	February 2026	DCO Submission

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Statement of Competence</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Arup	1
1.3	Competent experts	2

## List of tables

Table 1-1	Qualification and Experience of EIA Coordinator and Technical Leads	2
-----------	---	---

# 1 Statement of Competence

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Statement of Competence has been prepared on behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') by Ove Arup & Partners Limited ('Arup'), as the coordinator of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Light Valley Solar (the 'Proposed Development'), of which this Statement forms part, to outline the competency and relevant professional experience of those responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA.

1.1.2 Paragraph 14(4)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 states that:

*“the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts”*  
(Ref 1)

## 1.2 Arup

1.2.1 Arup is a global multidisciplinary consultancy renowned for delivering innovative and sustainable engineering, design, and advisory services. In the UK, EIA preparation is carried out by Arup's dedicated team of over 300 environmental professionals. Arup's expertise span a comprehensive range of environmental disciplines, and the team have significant and long-standing experience of providing EIA services. They have managed many EIAs and prepared Environmental Statements (ES) and other technical reports to accompany applications under various consenting regimes.

1.2.2 Arup holds the EIA Quality Mark. The EIA Quality Mark is a scheme operated by the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professional (ISEP) (formally the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) that allows organisations (both developers and consultancies) that lead the co-ordination of statutory EIAs in the UK to make a commitment to excellence in their EIA activities and have this commitment independently reviewed.

1.2.3 The EIA Quality Mark registrants adhere to seven key commitments. These commitments underpin and maintain the high standards of EIA activities:

- 1) EIA Management – We commit to using effective project control and management processes to deliver in the EIAs we co-ordinate and the ESs we produce.
- 2) EIA Team Capabilities – We commit to ensuring that all our EIA staff have the opportunity to undertake regular and relevant continuing professional development.
- 3) EIA Regulatory Compliance – We commit to delivering ESs that meet the requirements established within the appropriate UK EIA Regulations.

- 4) EIA Context and Influence – We commit to ensuring that all EIAs we co-ordinate are effectively scoped and that we will transparently indicate how the EIA process, and any consultation undertaken, influence the development proposed and any alternatives considered.
- 5) EIA Content – We commit to undertaking assessment that include: a robust analysis of the relevant baseline; assessment and transparent evaluation of impact significance; and an effective description of measures designed to monitor and manage significant effects.
- 6) EIA Presentation – We commit to deliver ESs that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner.
- 7) Improving EIA Practice - We commit to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with ISEP (formally IEMA) to deliver a mutually agreed set of activities, on an annual basis, and by making appropriate examples of our work available to the wider EIA community.

### 1.3 Competent experts

1.3.1 The qualifications and experience of the EIA Coordinator, responsible for coordinating and reviewing the Environmental Statement, and technical leads for each discipline are set out in Table 1-1.

**Table 1-1 Qualification and Experience of EIA Coordinator and Technical Leads**

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
<b>EIA Project Director</b>	Arup BSc (Hons), MSc, MRTPI	21 years' experience	Associate Director at Arup and a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI) with over 20 years' experience in the assessment and consenting of major energy and infrastructure projects. Provided evidence on land use and planning matters at numerous examinations and inquiries.
<b>EIA Project Manager</b>	Arup BSc (Hons), MSc.	23 years' experience	Associate Environmental Consultant with over 20 years' experience of managing Environmental Impact Assessments under both the Town and Country Planning Act and DCO process. They have worked across a broad range of projects including large scale infrastructure projects in the road, rail, and aviation sectors; as well as residential projects and the energy sector.

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
<b>EIA Coordinators</b>	Arup (BA (Hons), MA, PISEP, MRTPI)	9 years' experience	Chartered Principal Planner with 8 years' experience particularly focussed on energy and renewable sector infrastructure.
	Arup (BSc (Hons), MCIWEM C.WEM)	10 years' experience	Senior Consultant at Arup with over 10 years' experience as both project lead and project manager on major infrastructure projects, including Killingholme Carbon Capture Power Project, Melbourne Energy and Resource Centre and Bromelton Energy and Resource Centre.
	Arup (BA (Hons), MSc, MISEP, CEnv)	10 years' experience	Principal Environmental Consultant at Arup, 10 years' experience coordination major infrastructure and DCO projects
	Arup (BEng, MSc, PISEP)	7 years' experience	Senior Environmental Consultant at Arup. 7 years' experience working on major infrastructure and DCO projects.
<b>Agricultural Land and Soils</b>	Reading Agricultural Consultants BA (Hons), MSc, FBIAC, MISEP, MI Soil Sci	35 years' experience	Director at Reading Agricultural Consultants, with experience of working on DCO projects (solar farms, interconnectors and highways), LDO projects and Hybrid Bills (HS1 and HS2). Provided expert evidence at over 100 public inquiries and DCO hearings on agricultural land and soils.
<b>Air Quality</b>	Arup BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEnvSc, MIAQM	10 years' experience	Senior Air Quality Consultant at Arup. Has experience working on a range of EIAs including: Truman Brewery EIA, LCH EIA, British Steel EIA, Mournes Gateway EIA, IFA EIA, Gateshead Arena EIA, STDC EIAs.
<b>Arboriculture</b>	Tree Works (BSc (Hons), (MArborA)	19 years' experience	Principal Arboricultural Consultant at Treework Environmental Practice. Has experience providing arboriculture data and analysis for a wide range of planning projects, including projects requiring EIA such as Byers Gill Solar,

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			Avonmouth FFT and Perceval House, Ealing.
<b>Aquatics</b>	Arup (BSc, MSc, CEnv)	18 years' experience	Chartered Freshwater / Fisheries Ecologist, Geomorphologists and Biodiversity Specialist (CEnv) with an academic background in Palaeolimnology and Water Quality. Has significant experience of assessing potential project impacts on aquatic receptors including fisheries.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Tyler Grange (BSc (Hons), ACIEEM)	8 years' experience	Senior Ecological Consultant at Tyler Grange, who holds a great crested newt and Class 1 Natural England bat licence. Has experience working on a wide range of EIA projects including solar schemes.
<b>Climate Change Resilience</b>	Arup	8 years' experience	Senior Climate Change Consultant at Arup. 8 years' experience working on major infrastructure DCO projects in the highways, water and energy sectors.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Arup (Bsc (Hons), PGDip, CEnv)	25 years' experience	Associate Director with 25 years' experience working on and leading Historic Environment EIA across a wide range of disciplines.
<b>Electro-magnetic Fields (EMF)</b>	Pager Power (LLB Hons)	3 years' experience	Senior Technical Analyst at Pager Power. Has experience assessing EMF for a wide variety of projects including several NSIPs.
<b>Glint and Glare</b>	Pager Power (LLB Hons)	3 years' experience	Senior Technical Analyst at Pager Power. Has experience assessing Glint and Glare for a wide variety of projects including several NSIPs.
<b>Greenhouse Gases</b>	Arup (BSc (Hons), MSc)	4 years' experience	Climate Change Consultant at Arup. 4 years' experience working on major infrastructure projects in the transport and energy sectors including Caledonia Offshore Windfarm DCO, Killingholme Carbon Capture and Storage Plant, Transpennine Route Upgrade and WYCA Mass Transit.

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
<b>Ground Conditions and Contamination</b>	Arup (BSc (Hons), MSc)	15 years' experience	Senior Geologist at Arup. Has experience working on a range of EIA projects including Luton Airport Extension DCO, British Steel EIA, Keadby Next Generation Power Station DCO, Weir Mill EIA
<b>Human Health</b>	Arup (BSc (Hons), PD Dip, CEnv)	20 years' experience	Health Assessment Lead at Arup, with over 20 years' experience in health impact assessment. Health Technical Lead on numerous major national infrastructure projects including High Speed 2 Phases 1, 2a and 2b (HS2 Ltd), Luton Airport Expansion (London Luton Airport Ltd), Lionlink Interconnector (National Grid), Water for Life (Southern Water), North Irish Sea Array (EirGrid). Prepared health assessments, engaged with stakeholders, supported Public Examinations and acted as an expert witness in public hearings
<b>Landscape and Visual</b>	Arup (BSc, Chartered Landscape Architect)	20 years' experience	Chartered Landscape Architect and Associate Director at Arup with over 20 years of experience in planning, design and management of major infrastructure. He has supported numerous DCO applications, including A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements, Sunnica Energy Farm, Gate Burton and Longfield Solar Farm projects.
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>	Arup (BEng MSc CEng Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA))	13 years' experience	Senior Acoustics Consultant at Arup. Has experience in noise impact assessments for large infrastructure projects including DCO projects. Experience in the energy sector include Lion Link DCO, H2NE DCO, H100 noise impact assessment, Rye Power House environmental permitting, British Steel EIA.
<b>Ornithology</b>	Avian Ecology Ltd.	8 years' experience	Principal Ornithologist at Avian Ecology. Has a total of eight years' experience in ecological

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
	MSc, BSc (Hons), MCIEEM		consultancy with expertise in ornithological assessment. Has led and coordinated major infrastructure projects across multiple sectors, delivering robust ornithological impact assessments. Skilled in survey design, technical reporting, impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, and project management and also holds experience in protected species surveying, licensing, and Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) roles.
	Avian Ecology Ltd. MSc MCIEEM	25 years' experience	Managing Director of Avian Ecology. Has over 25 years' experience in ecological consultancy, specialising in ornithological assessment and complex renewable energy projects across the UK, particularly with respect to impacts on European Protected Sites. Experienced EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) practitioner. Also lead author on Solar Energy UK Position Statement on nesting Skylarks. Skilled in survey design, technical reporting, impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, and project management.
<b>Plume Analysis</b>	Arcadis	19 years' experience	Principal Air Quality Consultant at Arcadis. Worked on air quality assessments for complex EIA for a variety of projects, ranging from NSIPs to mixed use developments of various scales. 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, Towy Usk, Humber Low Carbon Pipeline, Green Hill Solar Farm,

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			Lime Down Solar Park and East Park Energy.
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	Arup (BA(Hons) MPhil, FRTPI FRSA MIED)	25 years' experience	Associate Director at Arup. Has experience working on leading socioeconomic assessments including DCOs such as Tilbury2, North London Heat and Power, A14, A66, Fens Reservoir, Lincs Reservoir and Southern Water pipeline.
<b>Traffic and Movement</b>	Arup (MA Geog) Chartered Transport Planning Professional (CTTP), Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (FCIHT)	22 years' experience	Associate Transport Planner with experiencing managing transport input across a range of major projects. Recent DCO experience includes transport technical lead on the Byers Gill Solar DCO (2023-25), and as a Public Liaison Officer on the A66 Northern TransPennine Project (2020-24).
<b>Water Resources and Flood Risk</b>	Arup (BA (Hons), MSc, CGeol, FGS)	19 years' experience	Principal Hydrogeologist at Arup. Has experience working on a range of EIA projects including Water Lead for Metsa Tissue Paper Mill, Lostrigg Solar DCO and Groundwater Lead for HS2 Phase 2b Leeds leg.

## References

- Ref 1 UK Government. "The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations," 2017 [Online]. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/regulation/14> [Accessed January 2026].



Light Valley  
**Solar**

W: [Lightvalleysolar.co.uk](http://Lightvalleysolar.co.uk)  
E: [info@lightvalleysolar.co.uk](mailto:info@lightvalleysolar.co.uk)