

# The Drovers Solar Farm

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## Appendix 1.1: Statement of Competence

Prepared by: LDA Design

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APFP Regulation Reg 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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





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# 1 Statement of Competence

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Competence has been prepared on behalf of The Drovers Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) by LDA Design, as the coordinator of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of The Drovers Solar Farm (the Scheme), 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).

### LDA Design

- 1.1.3 The LDA Design team have significant and long-standing experience of providing EIA services and have managed many EIAs and prepared Environmental Statements and other technical reports to accompany applications under various consenting regimes, including several successful Development Consent Order (DCO) Applications.

### Competent Experts

- 1.1.4 The qualifications and experience of the EIA Coordinators, 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 Coordinators and Technical Leads**

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
EIA Coordinators	Rob Pile (Environmental Design Lead)	15 years	Rob Pile is a Director at LDA Design, with experience delivering EIAs across a range of sectors, including urban regeneration, greenfield development, renewable energy and infrastructure projects. Rob is a Practitioner member of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			(ISEP) and sits on the Impact Assessment Steering Group. Rob is responsible for maintaining a high standard of quality throughout the business, which is recognised by LDA Design's accreditation to the ISEP (formerly IEMA) Quality Mark Scheme. Relevant project experience includes working on Mallard Pass Solar DCO, Springwell Solar Farm DCO, North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, Heathrow Airport, and Bryn Henllys, Powys.
	Peta Donkin, BSc (Hons), MA, PIEMA  (EIA Lead)	25 years	<p>Peta Donkin is a Director at LDA Design and the EIA Lead for The Drovers. She has led several DCO's including Longfield Solar DCO, Mallard Pass DCO, and Maen Hir DCO, and has worked on or led the EIAs for many renewable energy projects including various solar and storage projects over 50MW scale throughout the UK and Ireland, including nuclear, energy from waste, and wind.</p> <p>She was also the EIA Lead for the Dublin Airport North Runway Application, and several onshore and offshore wind projects.</p> <p>Peta sits on the Board of the National Infrastructure Planning Association (NIPA) and leads their Policy and Practice Working Group.</p>



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
	Rob Brydges	5 years	Rob Brydges is a Senior EIA Consultant at LDA Design who has project managed, co-ordinated, and contributed to the production of EIA outputs on large scale renewable energy infrastructure projects, as well as urban regeneration projects, across the UK. Rob holds Practitioner level membership with the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP).
	Edward Carr, BA Hons	4 years	Edward Carr is an EIA Project Consultant at LDA Design who is responsible for co-ordinating large scale UK based renewable energy infrastructure DCOs and major infrastructure projects.
Energy system expert	Si Gillet	9 years	Si Gillett is Director at Humbeat Ltd, an independent GB energy consultancy established in 2016. Si has extensive experience in GB power including the transition to an energy system which meets the UK Government's aim for secure, affordable and low carbon supplies. Si has provided support on need, energy generation and technical energy market matters to low carbon generation developments through both the DCO and TCPA process. Si has masters degrees in mathematics and nuclear regulation.





EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
Safety SME	Jim Tough	21 years	Jim Tough has 21 years experience as a Safety and Environmental Management Consultant and prior to this 5 years' experience as a Ministry of Defence Accident Investigator. Jim has considerable experience with Lithium-Ion technologies spanning BESS, Rail, Vehicle and Aircraft fitted systems. Jim has been a BESS Safety Subject Matter Expert witness at multiple BESS project Planning Appeals and provided safety advice, guidance and expertise to multiple Planners and Developers.
Landscape and Visual	Olli Wheeler BSc, MA, CMLI	10 years	Principal Landscape Architect with 10 years experience at LDA Design, who has worked on large UK based renewable energy developments. Olli specialises in LVIA and TVIA, advising on and designing Schemes alongside other technical consultants to limit landscape and visual impacts.
Ecology and Biodiversity	Colin Lee BSc, PhD, MCIEEM	20 years	Colin Lee has considerable experience in dealing with a variety of large- and small-scale projects, including the management and resolution of complex ecological issues at sensitive sites and settings throughout the UK. His core skills and experience focus on the production of ecological impact assessments, environmental



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			statements, shadow Habitats Regulations Assessments and associated considerations and the design and implementation of detailed ecological management, enhancement and mitigation schemes, including specific measures for protected species and comprehensive enhancement designs as well as biodiversity offsetting considerations. Additional experience includes preparation of proofs of evidence for planning appeals and local plan inquiries, liaison with statutory agencies and conservation bodies. Colin is experienced in a range of ecological surveys and assessments for protected species and regularly conducts and oversees work under licences issued by Natural England to survey or implement direct mitigation works in regard to safeguarding protected species within the development framework.
Heritage and Archaeology	Paul Gajos, BA Hons, MA, MCIfA	29 years	Paul Gajos has 29 years professional experience in the heritage sector, working for nine years as a field archaeologist before moving into a consultancy role and worked for several multi disciplinary consultancies specialising in archaeology and heritage before setting up his own practice in 2021.



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			Paul deals with a wide range of heritage issues throughout the country including a extensive experience of EIA developments and renewable schemes.
Transport and Access	Claudio Ricci, BSc Hons MCIHT	Nine years	Claudio Ricci is Associate Director at Velocity with nine years of experience. Claudio has extensive experience working across EIA development and DCOs, including acting as an expert witness at hearings and planning enquiries. Claudio was the lead on the recent DCO for the Mallard Pass Solar Farm.
Noise and Vibration	Matthew Cand, Associate Director, Dipl. Eng., PhD, MIOA	19 years	Matthew Cand is an Associate Director and lead of Environmental Acoustics Team at Hoare Lea, with 19 years experience in renewable energy projects; providing support for over 70 EIA in renewable developments. He also has extensive experience in providing expert witness in appeals and public inquiries on renewable projects.
Land Use (Soils and Agriculture)	Tony Kernon BSc(Hons), MRICS, FBIAC	40 years	Tony Kernon is a Chartered Surveyor and a Fellow of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants. He has almost 40 years experience in assessing the effects of development proposals on agricultural land, soils and farm businesses. Tony has extensive experience of solar farm sites and their





EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			installation and operation in so far as they affect soils and land quality.
Water Resources	Liam Nevins BSc hons MCIWEM C.WEM	18 years	<p>Liam Nevins is the Director of Raincloud with over 18 years' experience in EIA for renewable energy projects. He was the lead author of the Water Resources inputs to DCOs for Cleve Hill Solar Park, Great North Road Solar &amp; Biodiversity Park. and Mallard Pass Solar Farm, where he acted as expert witness at examination.</p> <p>Liam is a Chartered Water and Environmental Manger</p>
Climate Change	Daniel Clampin, BA, MIAQM, MIES	12 years	<p>Daniel Clampin has 12 years experience in environmental consultancy services. He has worked to provide expert advice on a range of issues, including Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Climate Change Resilience and Carbon. He has completed assessments for a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects 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. Daniel has also completed detailed technical studies of emissions from construction sites, road vehicles and industrial emissions sources. He is a Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM) and Member of the</p>



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc)
Socio-economics	Ellie Evans (BA, MA [Cantab] Mathematics and Economics)	21 years	<p>Ellie Evans is the Senior Partner of Volterra with over 20 years' experience in socio-economics and health impact assessment. Ellie has undertaken and led several socio-economics and health assessments, preparing the associated ES inputs for numerous major infrastructure and developments.</p> <p>Ellie has acted as an expert witness on matters of economics, socio-economics and health for multiple DCO projects, most recently contributing written representations and speaking at the Issue Specific Hearings for Mallard Pass Solar Farm and Immingham East RoRo Terminal.</p> <p>Ellie is also currently acting as the expert advisor for Volterra's work on the Maen Hir solar farm in Anglesey.</p>
Human Health	Ellie Evans (BA, MA [Cantab] Mathematics and Economics)	21 years	<p>Ellie Evans is the Senior Partner of Volterra with over 20 years' experience in socio-economics and health impact assessment. Ellie has undertaken and led several socio-economics and health assessments, preparing the associated ES inputs for numerous major infrastructure and developments.</p>



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>Ellie has acted as an expert witness on matters of economics, socio-economics and health for multiple DCO projects, most recently contributing written representations and speaking at the Issue Specific Hearings for Mallard Pass Solar Farm and Immingham East RoRo Terminal.</p> <p>Ellie is also currently acting as the expert advisor for Volterra's work on the Maen Hir solar farm in Anglesey</p>
Air Quality	Chris Rush (BSc (Hons), MSc, PG Dip Acoustics, CEnv, MIOA, MIEMA, MEnvSc, MIAQM)	17 years	Chris Rush is the lead of the Air Quality Group at Hoare Lea and Chair of the Institute of Air Quality Management with 17 years of experience, Chris has extensive experience in assessing air quality for a range of projects. He has delivered Air Quality aspects for a number of consented Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
Glint and Glare	James Plumb LLB (Hons)	3 years	<p>James Plumb is a Senior Technical Analyst at Pager Power with 3 years of experience assessing Glint and Glare.</p> <p>James has completed assessments for a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, including preparation of ES inputs and speaking at Issue Specific Hearings.</p>



EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Experience of Technical Lead
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Television Receptors	Aspect topic covered in Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters prepared by EIA Coordinators		
Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)	Aspect topic covered in Chapter 16: Other Environmental Matters, assessment undertaken by Pager Power Ltd, chapter contents prepared by EIA Coordinators		
Waste	Stephen Flynn, BA (Hons), MA, AISEP	8 years	<p>Stephen Flynn is a Senior Planner at Lanpro with 8 years of experience across multiple EIA disciplines including waste.</p> <p>Stephen's experience includes position as technical lead for waste assessment, including representation at examination hearings, on the now consented Cottam and West Burton solar DCOs.</p> <p>Senior oversight provided by Associate Director (MRTPI, PISEP) with more than 25 years' experience including EIA.</p>



## References

- Ref 1-1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.  
Paragraph 14(4)(b).



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