

Appendix ES1.1 Statement of Competence

1. Regulation 14(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 states that:

'(4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement—

(a) the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and

(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.'

2. This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the subsequent Environmental Statement (ES) have been prepared by specialist and competent experts in their own fields. Taking each of the fields in turn: -

Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment

3. MJCA prepared and coordinated this Environmental Statement. MJCA are specialist and competent in this regard. MJCA was established in 1983 to provide technical advice to the waste and mineral industries. The Company comprises a multidisciplinary team of planners, geologists, hydrogeologists, geotechnical engineers, engineers, surveyors, chemists and environmental permitting experts specialising in all areas of environmental management. MJCA have prepared and submitted several hundred applications for planning permission for mineral and waste management facilities and built development including numerous applications for EIA development supported by Environmental Statements and we have contributed to very many more. MJCA has a sound understanding of the EIA legislation which ensures that procedurally and technically robust EIAs are undertaken in accordance with best practice.

4. The management systems implemented by MJCA for all projects, including this one, are in accordance with ISO EN 9001:2015 with the high quality of our environmental advice and recommendations maintained through an externally certified quality assurance system.
5. The team members also have experience in the decision making processes that are integral to the iterative approach to such assessments as well as the development and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures in order to ensure that Environmental Statements are prepared thoroughly and competently. Each aspect of the work has been supervised and authorised by an appropriate MJCA Technical Director with relevant qualifications and either more than 20 years of relevant direct experience and/or who is a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

6. Additional specialist input has been provided for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment by DB Landscape Consultancy Ltd. DB Landscape Consultancy Ltd was established in 2008 and is a small independent consultancy specialising in landscape consultancy services. The Director holds a (BSc) Geography and (MA) Landscape Architecture, is a Chartered Landscape Architect and Member of the Institute of Quarrying with over 20 years professional experience gained both in industry and consultancy roles. The Director has extensive experience of undertaking Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to EIA standard, including preparation of accompanying graphics.

Transport Assessment

7. Additional specialist input has been provided for the Transport Assessment (TA), by specialists at Cannon Consulting Engineers. The TA has been prepared by

the Consultants, Dean Smy (Associate) who holds a BSc (hons) in Civil Engineering and Robert Evans (Director) who holds a BEng (hons) in Civil and Structural Engineering and an MSc in European Traffic and Transportation. Dean and Rob are both Members of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation. The Consultants warrant that in preparing this Document they exercised all the reasonable skill care and diligence to be expected of a competent and qualified professional consultant of the relevant discipline experienced in carrying out services of a similar nature, value and complexity.

Ecological Impact Assessment

8. The Ecological Impact Assessment has been prepared by a specialist and competent team at Ecological Services Limited (ESL). The Managing Director with ESL holds an Honours Degree in Environmental Studies and is a Full Member of CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management). The team members who carried out the survey work and prepared the Ecological Impact Assessment and the Ecological management, monitoring and aftercare plan hold Masters Degrees in either Zoology, Environmental Management or Countryside Management together with other qualifications, charterships or professional memberships. The Arboricultural Assessment was undertaken by a team member with Dip Arb L4 (ABC). The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment was undertaken by a team member with an ecology degree.

Water resources and flood risk assessment

9. The water resources assessment and flood risk assessment has been prepared by MJCA. The members of the hydrogeological team at MJCA regularly prepare water quality risk and impact assessments, land contamination assessments, water resources assessments and flood risk assessments for planning applications, Environmental Permit applications and Environmental Statements for minerals and waste related developments together with built developments.

The members of the hydrogeology team hold relevant qualifications at least to degree level. The work has been reviewed by a Chartered Geologist and Fellow of the Geological Society with over 20 years of professional experience gained in industry.

Cultural heritage assessment

10. The assessment of archaeological potential has been prepared by a specialist team of competent experts at Andrew Josephs Associates. Andrew Josephs Associates is a consultancy specialising in archaeology and cultural heritage founded in 2002. The Director has extensive experience of all periods and facets of cultural heritage including the authorship of over 800 Heritage Statements under the EIA Regulations. The Director was previously Principal Consultant (Director of Heritage and Archaeology) at two leading multidisciplinary consultancies.

Noise

11. The noise assessment has been prepared by a specialist and competent team at Vibrock Limited. Vibrock Limited is an established independent environmental consultancy who has been providing noise, dust and vibration consultancy services for over 25 years. Vibrock Limited is a member of the Association of Noise Consultants and its consultants qualified to degree level as a minimum and are Associate or Corporate Members of the Institute of Acoustics.

Air quality and amenity

12. The air quality assessment and the amenity assessment have been prepared by MJCA. The members of the team regularly prepare amenity assessments for planning applications and Environmental Statements. All the work has been supervised and authorised by an appropriate Technical Director with relevant qualifications and more than 20 years of direct relevant experience.

Soil resources

13. Additional specialist input has been provided for the soil assessment by Robert Askew at Askew Land and Soil. Robert is a Chartered Scientist (CSci) and a Fellow (F.I. Soil Sci) of the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS). Robert is a Registered Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Practitioner with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). He has over thirty years of experience in environmental research and consultancy. Robert is highly experienced in land quality assessments, especially Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), as well as general soil surveying and evaluation. He routinely prepares soil management strategies and advises upon the sustainable use of soil resources on construction and mineral sites. Robert meets the requirements of the BSSS Professional Competency Standard (PCS) scheme for Agricultural Land Classification. The BSSS Scheme is endorsed, amongst others, by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Natural England, the Science Council, and IEMA.