



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.2 Appendix 1C: Statement of Competence

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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



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Planning Act 2008

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

Sunnica Energy Farm

**Environmental Statement
Appendix 1C: Statement of Competence**

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1 Statement of Competence

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The European Union Directive 2014/52/EU (Ref. 1) requires that developers ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (Environmental Statement) is prepared by 'competent experts'. In addition, The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 2) states 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 the Sunnica Energy Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme') development, 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 Environmental Impact Assessment (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 EIA training to a range of organisations, including government agencies. The EIA team is supported by a large team of 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 and undertakes all EIA work in line with the EIA Quality Mark 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** below.

Table 1: Core EIA team

Role	Experience
EIA Project Director	Technical Director with 21 years' experience delivering EIAs, a Chartered Environmentalist, IEMA EIA Practitioner, and Member of Institute of Environmental Sciences. Worked on or led the EIAs for several energy NSIPs including Seabank 3 CCGT, Harewood Energy from Waste facility, and Swansea Tidal lagoon, as well as contributing to Avon Power Station. Currently overseeing and directing the EIA for Longfield Solar Farm NSIP, and the early EIA work for two other confidential solar NSIPs and a confidential Energy from Waste NSIP. Previously delivered EIAs for major applications in the energy sector including S36 applications for several onshore wind farms under the previous major development regime. Has delivered environmental services for over 30 solar farm projects, including the aforementioned schemes and EIAs for a scheme in Kent, two 120MW schemes in Trinidad, a 50MW scheme in Kazakhstan, and currently being engaged by a public sector organisation to deliver the environmental work for 20 solar farm sites in Southern England.
EIA Manager	Associate Director with nearly 20 years of experience, and a Chartered Environmental Scientist with experience in a broad range of sectors including power, water, transportation, defence, and urban development. Specialist knowledge and practical experience in EIA, environmental auditing, monitoring and mitigation, environmental permitting and stakeholder engagement. The AECOM EIA Manager is highly skilled in managing diverse project teams and providing a single point of contact between the design team and technical specialists. Recent project experience includes the delivery of EIAs for major applications in the energy sector including Harlesford Solar Farm and Cornwall Solar Farm.

1.4.2 This Environmental Statement brings together the following technical studies. These have been prepared and approved by competent experts, both within and external to AECOM, who hold professional memberships and are committed to undertaking continued professional development within their respective fields.

Table 2: Technical Leads

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Climate Change	BA (Hons)	20	The Climate Change technical lead is a Technical Director with extensive experience in major infrastructure projects and a track record of successful technical delivery for a wide variety of DCO schemes. Specialist experience includes 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. Recent project experience includes:

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm (EDF Renewables and Padero Solar) • West Burton Power Station, DCO, (EDF); and • Sizewell C Power Station, DCO, (EDF).
Cultural Heritage	MA BA (Hons) MCIfA	20	<p>The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology technical lead is a Technical Director with a broad range of experience and an in-depth knowledge of heritage legislation and policy. The technical lead now works principally on large scale infrastructure and master planning projects, specialising in DCO applications. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogger Bank Creyke Beck Offshore Wind Farm (onshore infrastructure) (Forewind - SSE and Equinor); and • Thames Tideway DCO (Thames Water).
Ecology	MSc, BSc,	18	<p>The Ecology technical lead specialises in ecological and ornithological impact assessment, particularly for major infrastructure projects. Particular expertise in undertaking assessments where there is the potential for impact on Ramsar designated wetlands and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the EU Wild Birds Directive, including the co-ordination and production of EIA/ESIA and Habitat Regulations Assessments. This has included working on a wide range of projects in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm (EDF Renewables and Padero Solar); • NeuConnect Interconnector; and • King's Lynn B CCGT Power Station.
Flood Risk, Drainage and Surface Water	MSc BSc (Hons) MCIWEM CEnv	16	<p>The Road Drainage and Water Environment technical lead is a Chartered Environmentalist and Full Member of CIWEM (both since 2011) with 16 years' experience of environmental impact assessment and management, specialising in water science. The technical lead has considerable experience undertaking EIA for projects across a wide range of sectors including energy. Recent project experience includes:</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm, (EDF Renewables and Padero Solar); • Peterhead CCGT Power Station (SSE); and • Barking Reach Power Station Redevelopment (City of London Markets).
Landscape and Visual Amenity	MA BA (Hons) CMLI, PIEMA	19	<p>The Landscape and Visual technical lead is an Associate Landscape Architect with 19 years' experience in Landscape and Townscape Assessments covering renewable energy, industrial and commercial schemes, and landscape character assessments (LCA), national infrastructure planning applications, examination and representations of Local Plans and Public Inquiries. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandon Brook Solar Farm (Low Carbon), and • Longfield Solar Farm, (EDF Renewables and Padero Solar).
Arboriculture	FdSc (Arb) BSc (Hons) MArborA	10	<p>The Arboriculture lead has over ten years of experience working with trees. Experience includes the applied management of privately owned trees and Local Authority tree stock in urban environments. The lead has delivered tree health and risk surveys for major landowner organisations using a wide range of bespoke survey software packages, and has managed a wide range of large scale development projects reliant on the production of detailed British Standard (BS) 5837 (2012) surveys, baseline study reports, impact assessment reports (AIA) and Method Statements for planning submission. Subsequent to this requirement, the technical lead has broad experience supervising site contractors to ensure adherence to agreed tree protection measures, and to satisfy approved planning conditions.</p>
Noise and Vibration	PhD MEng BSc CEng FIOA	18	<p>The Noise and Vibration technical lead is a Chartered Acoustic Engineer with 18 years' consulting and research experience working in UK, Europe, China, and South East Asia, and has broad experience in environmental acoustics, building</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>acoustics and industrial noise and vibration assessment and control.</p> <p>The lead is a member of the Membership Steering Committee of the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and has served the Measurement and Instrumentation Committee of the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) for three years. They are a reviewer of several international renowned acoustic journals including the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America and Journal of Sound and Vibration.</p>
Socio-Economics	MSc BSc (Hons)	14	<p>The Socio-Economics technical lead is an Associate Director with 14 years' experience in the assessment of socio-economic impacts on communities arising from infrastructure development in the UK. The technical lead has prepared and overseen inputs into DCO projects and Environmental Statements across a range of sectors. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm, (EDF Renewables and Padero Solar); • M42 Junction 6 Capacity Upgrade DCO, (Highways England); and • A303 Stonehenge DCO (Highways England).
Soils and Agriculture	M.I. Soil Sci.	24	<p>The Soils and Agriculture lead is an experienced Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveyor having worked both in private consultancy and for the former Land Use Planning Unit of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) (as was). Since 1992 the lead has undertaken assessments of land quality at many sites across England and Wales. In addition to ALC assessment the lead also provides advice on the impact of development on Farm Businesses, and the conservation of soil resources.</p> <p>Notable recent projects include ALC survey, soil resource assessment and farming circumstances appraisal for the Sizewell C Power Station, and HS2 rail developments.</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Transport and Access	BSc CEng MICE FCIHT	42	<p>The Transport and Access technical lead is a Regional Director with 42 years' experience. For the last thirty years the technical lead has led a team of planners and engineers working on all transportation and highway aspects of development projects from masterplanning through to implementation. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm; • Discovery Park (Discovery Park Ltd); • Former Manston Airport (Lothian Shelf); and • Northern Arc (Homes England).
Air Quality	PhD MSc BSc	15	<p>The Air Quality technical lead is a Principal Air Quality Consultant with 15 years' experience delivering air quality assessments for a wide range of public and private sector projects. Specialist knowledge includes Urban Regeneration projects, and EIA and Air Quality Assessments in addition to air quality assessments such as due diligence assessments, roads and highways schemes.</p> <p>Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm; • City of London Markets (BeFirst); • Palmerston Court (Urbanest); and • Lansdown House (CORE).
Other Issues	BSc (Hons) AIEMA	20	<p>The Other Issues lead is an Associate Director with 20 years' experience, and IEMA EIA Practitioner. The lead has worked on or led the EIAs for many renewable energy projects including delivering over 450MW various scale Solar projects throughout the UK and Ireland.</p>
Battery Fire safety	MCIBSE	18	<p>The Battery Fire Safety lead is a Principal Fire Engineer with over 18 years' experience designing Fire Protection according to American (NFPA / FM Global), British (BS / LPC) and German (VdS / CEA) Standards for the built environment including, but not limited to, hospitals, industrial process plants, offices, churches, high rise buildings, retail and distribution warehousing to name a few. The Fire Protection Systems range from</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			Automatic Sprinkler, High Pressure Water Mist and Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems. Recent project experience includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shell London Upgrade – Fire Suppression Systems; • Aircraft Engine Test Facility - Fire Suppression Systems; and • Palace of Westminster-Fire Suppression Systems.

2 References

- Ref. 1 Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment Text with EEA relevance.
- Ref. 2 HMSO (2009) Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.