



Longfield Solar Farm

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Appendix 1C: Statement of Competence

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Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd

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Table of Contents

1.	Statement of Competence.....	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	AECOM	1
1.3	IEMA EIA Quality Mark.....	1
1.4	Competent Experts	1

Table of Tables

Table 1: EIA Project Director	2
Table 2: EIA Project Manager.....	2
Table 3: Technical Leads.....	2

1. Statement of Competence

1.1 Background

1.1.1 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 Longfield Solar Farm (here after referred to as the 'Scheme'), 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 more than 400 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 below.

Table 1: EIA Project Director

EIA Project Director

Experience: Technical Director with 21 years' experience delivering EIAs and 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 Sunnica Energy 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 100MW 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.

Table 2: EIA Project Manager

EIA Project Coordinator

Experience: Associate Director with 21 years' experience, and IEMA EIA Practitioner. 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, including the Southwick Estate, Lynt Farm, and Woodington Farm. Previously worked on initial feasibility stages for the Cleve Hill DCO scheme, and led the Hams Hall Renewable Energy Centre, and has worked on or delivered onshore and offshore wind projects including Goonhilly repowering, and the Dudgeon offshore wind farm.

Table 3: 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 an Associate 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 master-planning, urban regeneration, transport and other large-scale infrastructure projects. Recent project experience includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables);

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Burton Power Station, DCO, (EDF); and • Sizewell C Power Station, DCO, (EDF).
Cultural Heritage	PhD, BSc (Hons)	14	<p>The Cultural Heritage Technical Lead is a Principal Heritage Consultant with a broad range of experience as a historic building's specialist and archaeologist with a background in both archaeological contracting and heritage consultancy. The Technical Lead has in depth knowledge of heritage legislation and policy and the application of appropriate guidance for the assessment of impact to cultural heritage. The Technical Lead works primarily on large-scale infrastructure projects including road and rail, as well as in renewable energy and carbon capture schemes. Recent Project Experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keadby 3 Low Carbon CCGT Power Station (DCO); • Didcot Garden Town Strategic Transport Improvements (EIA); and • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables);
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"> • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables); • NeuConnect Interconnector, Kent and southern North Sea; and • King's Lynn B CCGT Power Station, Eggborough Power, Norfolk.
Water Environment	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>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables); • 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"> • Ollerton Solar Farm; • Solar Farms and Battery Storage, UK Wide; • Sandon Brook Solar Farm (Low Carbon), and • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables).
Noise and Vibration	BEng (Hons) IEng MIOA CEnv MIEnvSc	17	<p>The Noise and Vibration technical lead is an Associate Director with 17 years' consulting in environmental noise and vibration assessment. 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"> • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables); • Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 Power Station DCO (Multifuel Energy Ltd.); and • Future Luton PEIR (Luton Rising).
Socio-Economics and Land Use	MSc BSc (Hons)	13	<p>The Socio-Economics technical lead is an Associate Director with 13 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"> • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables); • M42 Junction 6 Capacity Upgrade DCO, (Highways England); and • A303 Stonehenge DCO (Highways England).

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 master-planning through to implementation. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery Park (Discovery Park Ltd); • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables); • 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. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of London Markets (BeFirst); • Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables); • Palmerston Court (Urbanest); and • Lansdown House (CORE).
Other Environmental Topics	BSc (Hons) AIEMA	15	<p>The Other Issues lead is an Associate Director with 21 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> <p>Contributors to this chapter include a Ground Conditions technical lead, a Glint and Glare technical lead, a major accidents or disasters technical lead, a telecommunications technical lead and a waste technical lead. These individuals all have over 15 years' experience in their respective discipline, contributing to large scale energy NSIPs and were involved in the Sunnica solar energy scheme.</p>

1.5 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 Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations
2017, (SI 2017/572) (as amended) HMSO**