

# Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

**Environmental Statement | Volume 1: Technical Chapters**

**Chapter 0: Contents and Statement of Competence**

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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February 2023



**CHAPTER 0: CONTENTS AND STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE**

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			Volume 1 Main Text	Volume 2 Figures	Volume 3 Technical Appendices
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<b>20.</b>	<b>GLOSSARY</b>		✓		
		No Figures	-		
		No Appendices			-

1. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

- In line with Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations<sup>1</sup>, the ES and all technical assessments have been undertaken by suitably qualified 'competent experts' within the project team. Details of their relevant expertise are set out in **Table 1.1**.



**Table 1.1: Statement of Competence**

Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
 	<p>Planning</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Socio- Economics</p> <p>Landscape and Visual</p> <p>Residential Visual Amenity</p> <p>Transport and Access</p> <p>Miscellaneous Issues</p>	<p>Pegasus Group (Pegasus) is the consultancy that has compiled this Environmental Statement (ES). This consultancy was established in 2003 and has over the years expanded to a company that strives for “good development” across the whole of the UK. Pegasus is a multi-disciplinary planning consultancy and has provided the following services in the context of this ES: planning, environmental planning, heritage, and economics.</p> <p>Pegasus is Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) ‘Quality Mark’ Accredited and its ESs and the processes that it undertakes to create them are regularly subjected to external review via this accreditation to ensure that all Pegasus Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are legally compliant and apply best practice. This ES has been coordinated by a Chartered Environmentalist and Member of IEMA.</p> <p>Our Heritage Team is the trusted UK market leader in the provision of quality archaeological and heritage services, delivered from a national network of offices. We provide expertise in heritage consultancy, archaeology, geophysical survey and marine archaeology supported by specialist staff from our graphics, research and outreach teams. We are registered members of a number of professional bodies.</p> <p>The Transport and Infrastructure team at Pegasus provide consultancy services in transport planning and infrastructure design. The company employs an experienced team whom have extensive background in the production of Environmental Statements and supporting Transport Assessments, Travel Plans,</p>

<sup>1</sup> HMSO (2017) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017





Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
		<p>Construction Traffic Management Plans and other technical documentation for a wide range of development projects. The main author of the ES chapter is a Chartered Transport Planning Professional (CTPP) and all staff who have inputted to the preparation of the chapter are members of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation.</p> <p>Within the Socio-Economics team working on this application, Laura Day (BA (Hons), MA, PIEMA, MIED) is a Principal Consultant in the Economics team at Pegasus Group. Laura has almost 14 years' experience working in Socioeconomics and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) project management. Her experience spans a range of sectors including residential, commercial, retail, renewable energy and energy infrastructure. Richard Cook (BA (Hons), MA, MIED) is a Director in the Economics team at Pegasus Group. Richard has more than 18 years' experience working in economic development and has written more than 20 socio-economic chapters in the last two years for a variety of schemes, including residential, commercial, student accommodation and older person accommodation developments.</p> <p>The landscape team at Pegasus have broad range of experience in landscape assessment and a detailed understanding of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, undertaking Landscape and Visual Assessments (LVIA) as part of the EIA process, including input into scoping, screening and assessment. They carry out all LVIA in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) 2013, published by the Landscape Institute (LI) and IEMA, along with all relevance guidance. BMD is also a LI Registered Practice and the staff that have undertaken this LVIA are all Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute (CMLI).</p>
	<p>Air Quality Noise and Vibration</p>	<p>Air Quality Chapter: Chris Rush (Hoare Lea), BSc (Hons), MSc, PG Dip Acoustics, CEnv, MIOA, MIEMA, MIEEnvSc, MIAQM- Chris is an Associate Director Air Quality Consultant with Hoare Lea. He is a</p>


Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
		<p>Chartered Environmentalist, a Member of the Institute of Acoustics, a Full Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, a Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences and a Full Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM). He has a diverse portfolio of experience and has worked on a range of projects from initial site feasibility, through planning and development to construction and operation. Chris’s expertise covers planning, noise and air quality, specifically in relation to residential developments, industrial fixed installations such as waste management centres and transportation environmental impact on developments including air traffic. Chris is involved in the testing and assessment of the impact of indoor air quality and how building design contributes to this. He also is a member of Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) Air Quality Working Group and a committee member of the IAQM.</p> <p>Lauren Buchanan (Hoare Lea), MSc, BSc (Hons), AMIEnvSc, MIAQM-Lauren is a Senior Air Quality Consultant at Hoare Lea. She is an Associate Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences and a Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management. She has worked on a range of projects gaining experience in many different aspects of air quality assessment, including monitoring and detailed dispersion modelling of dust, odour, roads and industrial emissions for a variety of sectors and to fulfil Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties on behalf of Local Authorities. Lauren has undertaken air quality assessments for permit requirements and planning applications, including stand-alone reports, Environmental Impact Assessments, Habitats Regulations Assessments and Development Consent Orders.</p> <p>Noise and Vibration Chapter: Matthew Cand Dipl. Eng., PhD, MIOA, Associate Director within Hoare Lea LLP. Hoare lea’s acoustic group is one of the UK’s largest and longest established acoustic consultancies. Matthew is a full member of the Institute of Acoustics. Within Hoare</p>

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		<p>Lea LLP, Matthew heads the environmental noise group, which has a focus on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). He has over 17 years' experience in the assessment of environmental acoustics and has conducted more than 50 noise assessments for EIA. Matthew has been engaged as expert witness at several planning inquiries and noise nuisance cases.</p>
 <div data-bbox="225 698 547 790" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Kevin Shepherd</b> Consultant Ornithologist</p> </div> 	<p>Ecology Ornithology</p>	<p>Neil Bostock qualified from Bath University in 1980 with a 2:1 BSc (Hons) in Applied Biology, and is a Full Member of CIEEM since 2008. Since May, 2003 Neil has worked as an ecological consultant conducting surveys on birds, bats, butterflies and Odonata along with Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys. Neil has conducted and reported extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys (at 50 sites); target noting Badger activity, Water Vole and Otter activity, sightings of reptiles and identified potential sites for Great Crested Newts and for roosting bats. Neil has worked on behalf of a wide range of companies including: Ecotricity, Npower, Golder Associates (UK) Ltd., ECOSA, AB Ecology Ltd., Torc Ecology Ltd., RSPB, Betts Ecology, Scott-Wilson, SKM Ltd., Kevin Shepherd Ornithological Consultancy, Heritage Environmental Ltd., ESS-Ecology, Thompson Ecology Ltd., CSa Environmental Planning and Avian Ecology.</p> <p>Kevin Shepherd (BSc Hons Zoology, University of Aberdeen) has been an active ornithologist for 48 years, a professional ornithologist for 39 years and an independent Consultant Ornithologist for 28 years. He has been constantly involved with bird survey and assessment throughout these periods, with increasing focus on precise and pragmatic application of the numerous and varied techniques to suit all requirements. He co-designed the universally recognised and applied 'Brown &amp; Shepherd' technique for survey of upland breeding birds. Professionally, he has undertaken ornithological assessments for numerous road, housing, industrial, forestry, quarrying, opencast coalmine, pipeline, solar and onshore wind farm projects, the latter in particular where he has been involved in the</p>



Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
		<p>compilation of over one hundred Ecological Technical Chapters and Environmental Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Dr. Simon Pickering, who carried out the Assessment, is an experienced ecologist. Dr. Simon Pickering has a Bachelor of Science with Honours degree in Biological Sciences from Hatfield Polytechnic and a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology from the University of Durham. He has worked as a professional ecologist for over 40 years and has been the Principal Ecologist at Ecotricity since 2008. He is responsible for overseeing the ecological assessment process for renewable energy as well as other development projects for the company and has experience of writing over 40 Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA), including the original Heckington Fen Wind Park EIA, and the most recent ones being for the approved Forest Green Rovers football stadium, energy storage facilities at Berkeley Green in Gloucestershire, solar parks in Leicestershire and Devon, and wind parks in the Scottish Borders and Argyll and Bute.</p> <p>RSK Biocensus undertook botanical surveys by Pete Flood and Kate Gwynn. Pete is a Senior Ecological Consultant, a member of CIEEM, with a MSc in Plant Diversity and a Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC) at Level 6. Kate is an Aquatic Consultant with extensive experience of macrophyte surveys. Pete also undertook the Phase I Habitat Survey for the Cable Route Corridor alongside Graduate Ecologist Joe Pepper. Pete is highly experienced in carrying out habitat surveys of this type. The GCN surveys were carried out by ecologists Sophie Elliot and Charlotte Rose. Sophie is an experienced consultant with a Level 1 GCN Class Licence. Charlotte also undertook the water vole surveys.</p>

Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
	<p>Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage</p>	<p>The Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk and Drainage Chapter has been prepared by JBA Consulting on behalf of Ecotricity Generation Limited. JBA Consulting is registered with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) as an EIA Quality Mark organisation. The EIA Quality Mark is a scheme operated by 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.</p>
	<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>The Climate Change Chapter has been written by LUC and 3ADAPT, consultants competent in climate change assessment. The lead author, Joanna Wright (MA MSc FIEMA CEnv), has almost 30 years of professional EIA experience with LUC and postgraduate masters level qualifications in both EIA and carbon management.</p>
 	<p>Land Use and Agriculture</p>	<p>The Land Use and Agriculture Chapter has been prepared by Tony Kernon BSc(Hons), MRICS, FBIAC. Tony is a Chartered Surveyor with 35 years' experience in assessing the effects of development on agricultural land, and the practical and policy implications of development. The land quality has been assessed by a team of ALC surveyors who meet the BSSS ALC standards.</p> <p>Appendix 16.3 of the PEIR was prepared by Duncan Winspear and Christopher Miles at Savills. Duncan gained a 1st class BSc Hons degree in Agriculture from Newcastle University. He has undertaken a post graduate diploma in Farm Business and Rural Management from Harper Adams and has worked as a farm consultant for 15 years. He is a Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme (FACTS) qualified advisor, and on day-to-day basis gives detailed technical advice on farm cash flows and budgets, soil management, crop and grass nutrition and overall farm business decisions. Christopher is a qualified</p>

Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
		<p>Chartered Surveyor with 30 years' experience at Savills advising Farmers and Landowners on strategic business planning including the sale and purchase of farms and estates. He has been a director of Savills for over 10 years and is on National Farms and Estates board and the EXCO board for the central region.</p>
	<p>Glint and Glare</p>	<p>The Glint and Glare Chapter was co-written by Paul Evans and Simon Allen at Wardell Armstrong. Paul Evans is a Chartered Environmentalist with the Energy Institute and has worked exclusively in the fields of renewable energy and climate change. He is currently the sector head for energy &amp; climate change at Wardell Armstrong LLP where he has worked on over 150 wind farm applications and was instrumental in consenting the UK's first grid scale solar farm. Following this he has since been involved with many hundreds of MW of solar PV development nationally and internationally. He also led the consents team for the UK's first commercial deep geothermal well. This has led on to a number of innovative projects including 'Solar Wind' and the use of energy storage to maximize grid connections and the use of renewable energy to reduce diesel dependence at remote mine sites. More recently he has been working with clients to assess and reduce carbon emissions and both corporate and project levels as well as assisting listed entities with their carbon and environmental reporting requirements.</p> <p>Simon Allen has over 15 years' experience as an Energy &amp; Climate Change consultant, after graduating from Exeter University with a 1st Class degree in Renewable Energy. He has been involved in various aspects of wind and solar PV development and is competent in project managing Environmental Impact Assessments and planning applications for a range of renewable developments. Previous projects have included onshore wind, biomass CHP, deep geothermal and solar PV developments. His other responsibilities have included writing technical chapters, feasibility assessments and detailed financial appraisals across a range of different project types, as well as</p>

<b>Logo</b>	<b>Specialism</b>	<b>Statement of Competence</b>
		carrying out resource modelling, GIS and data interpretation. He has completed numerous greenhouse gas and climate change assessments across activities as diverse as built development to mining operations, as well as carrying out site appraisals and due diligence work.