



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

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Environmental Statement Volume 2 Appendix 1.1: Statement of Competence November 2022

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 - Reg 5 (2) (a)

Appendix 1.1 - Statement of Competence

Introduction

- 1.1.1. Regulation 14(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 states:

“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.”

- 1.1.2. As such, this Statement of Competence has been prepared by LDA Design, as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Coordinator for the Proposed Development, and outlines the relevant professional experience, capabilities and competency of the individuals responsible for preparing the Environmental Statement (ES).

LDA Design

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Quality Mark

- 1.1.3. LDA Design is a registrant to the IEMA EIA Quality Mark, a voluntary scheme through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, and adheres to the seven IEMA Quality Mark Commitments:
- EIA Management - We commit to using effective project control and management processes to deliver quality in the EIAs we co-ordinate and the Environmental Statements we produce.

- EIA Team Capabilities - We commit to ensuring that all our EIA staff have the opportunity to undertake regular and relevant continuing professional development.
- EIA Regulatory Compliance - We commit to delivering Environmental Statements that meet the requirements established within the appropriate UK EIA Regulations.
- EIA Context & Influence - We commit to ensuring that all EIAs we coordinate are effectively scoped and that we will transparently indicate how the EIA process, and any consultation undertaken, influenced the development proposed and any alternatives considered.
- EIA Content - We commit to undertaking assessments that include: a robust analysis of the relevant baseline; assessment and transparent evaluation of impact significance; and an effective description of measures designed to monitor and manage significant effects.
- EIA Presentation - We commit to deliver Environmental Statements that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner.
- Improving EIA Practice - We commit to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with IEMA to deliver a mutually agreed set of activities, on an annual basis, and by making appropriate examples of our work available to the wider EIA community.



Competent Experts

- 1.1.4. Summaries of the qualifications and experience of the relevant Technical Leads are presented in Table 1 and Table 2, below.

Table 1: Environmental Impact Assessment

<p>EIA Director</p>
<p>Director with 14 years' experience delivering EIAs across a range of sectors, including urban regeneration, greenfield development, renewable energy and infrastructure projects. The EIA Project Lead is Head of EIA at LDA Design and a Practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). They are responsible for maintaining a high standard of quality throughout the business, which is recognised by LDA Design's accreditation to the IEMA EIA Quality Mark Scheme. Their approach is always to challenge the norm and push the project team to think differently about how to approach EIA. They are continually looking to deliver proportionate EIAs through design and reduce the scope of EIA projects where significant impacts are unlikely to occur, minimising costs and programme risks. Relevant project experience includes working as Project Lead on North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park, Heathrow Airport, London and Bryn Henllys, Powys.</p>
<p>Environment Lead</p>
<p>Director with 21 years' experience in EIA and an IEMA Practitioner. The Environment Lead is Head of Infrastructure and Energy EIA at LDA Design. They were the EIA Lead for the Longfield Solar DCO Application 2020-2022 and have 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, such as the Southwick Estate, Lynt Farm, and Woodington Farm. Previously worked on initial feasibility stages for the Cleve Hill Solar DCO scheme, and led the EIA for Hams Hall Energy from Waste project. They have worked on or delivered onshore and offshore wind projects including Goonhilly, Carland Cross, and Garlenick Estates, and the Dudgeon offshore wind farm. They were also the EIA Lead for the Dublin Airport North Runway Application.</p>

Table 2: Qualifications and Experience of Technical Leads

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Landscape and Visual	PGDip, BSc, CMLI	20	<p>The Landscape and Visual technical lead specialises in landscape architecture, environmental planning, with extensive experience in site feasibility and promotion, Landscape and Visual Impact assessment, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment, Green Infrastructure Strategies and Landscape Masterplanning and Landscape and Ecological Management Plans. They have worked on a broad range of development and infrastructure projects of varying scales and complexity, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), Developments of National Significance (DNS) in Wales and Section 36 energy consents in Scotland. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penderi Solar Farm, Camarthenshire; • Bubney Solar Farm, Shropshire; and • Sandridge Solar Farm, Wiltshire.
Ecology and Biodiversity	MSc, BSc, MCIEEM, CEcol	17	<p>The Ecology technical lead specialises in ecological and ornithological impact assessment, particularly for major infrastructure projects. They have 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</p>

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			<p>and Habitat Regulations Assessments. This has included working on a wide range of projects in various areas of Britain. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New holiday parks at coastal sites in Kent and Essex; • Solar farm projects in Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire; and • Large urban extensions in Northamptonshire and Gloucestershire.
Cultural Heritage	BSc (Hons); MCIfA	21	<p>The technical lead has coordinated and delivered the cultural heritage (including archaeology) components of over 250 EIAs and in excess of 750 heritage impact assessments. They stand as expert witness for half-a-dozen different appeals every year. They have been involved in the development and detailed design of schemes in some of the most 'heritage sensitive' locations in the UK. They have developed industry guidance and best practice on assessing change to heritage significance. They were part of the team that revised the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) cultural heritage impact assessment guidance for the Highways Agency in 2007. They drafted the Historic England guidance on assessing noise impacts on heritage significance. They were the author of the recent revision to the cultural heritage chapter of the 'EIA Handbook'. They also sit on the Advisory Panel for the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) /Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) / Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>publication 'Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment'. Recent selective project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oikos Storage Facility DCO, Essex; • Penderi DNS Solar Scheme, Camarthenshire; and • Eastgate Solar Scheme, Scarborough.
Transport and Access	DipENG, Professional Certificate in Highway and Traffic Engineering (2006)	22	<p>The Highways and Access technical lead specialises in highways and traffic engineering in support of planning applications, assessing the transport impacts of developments on the local transport network. They have particular expertise in undertaking traffic engineering assessments to mitigate transport impacts. This has included working on a wide range of projects across the United Kingdom. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterbrook Park, Ashford; • North West Bicester, Oxford; • Nicholls Quarry, Hythe; and • Shelford Quarry, Nottingham.

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Noise and Vibration	Dipl. Eng., PhD, MIOA	17	<p>The Noise and Vibration technical lead is a full member of the Institute of Acoustics and leads the environmental noise team of the Hoare Lea acoustics 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 for a range of UK projects in the building and energy sectors. This included several nationally significant projects including the Brechfa Forest West and Clocaenog Wind Farms. He has also presented expert witness evidence on the topic at several planning inquiries and hearings.</p>
Water Resources and Ground Conditions	BSc C.WEM, MCIWEM	15	<p>The Hydrology technical lead is a chartered member of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and has over 15 years' experience in the assessment of renewable energy developments. This experience has led to a particular focus on the consentability of large-scale solar farms in areas of flood risk, including Flood Risk Assessments, Drainage Strategies and EIA hydrological assessment. This has included key roles in schemes across the UK including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleve Hill Solar Farm, Kent, England; • Longfield Solar Farm, Essex, England; and • Sutton Bridge Solar Farm, Lincolnshire, England.

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	BSc	6	<p>The Ground Conditions technical lead has extensive experience in the development and management of field surveys and ground condition assessments, including Contaminated Land Assessments, management of Ground Investigations, Peat Slide Risk Assessment (PSRA), Borrow Pit Assessment (BPA) and Peat Management Plans (PMP). They also have experience in the production of documentation utilised during the construction of large-scale developments, such as Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) and Construction and Environmental Management Plans (CEMP).</p> <p>Their experience includes key roles in the Geology, Soils & Peat aspect of multiple onshore wind, offshore wind, solar and battery storage projects throughout the UK, delivering EIA chapters and technical assessments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutton Bridge Solar Farm, Lincolnshire, England; • Corriegarth Wind Farm, Highlands, Scotland; and • Heathland Wind Farm, West Lothian & North Lanarkshire, Scotland.
Land Use and Soils	BSc(Hons), MRICS, FBIAC	35	<p>The Land Use and Soils technical lead is a Chartered Surveyor with extensive 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 Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveyors who meet</p>

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			<p>the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) ALC standards. The technical lead has worked on, and are currently working on, numerous solar farm proposals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paytherden Solar Farm, Devon; • Parc Solar Traffwll, Anglesey; • Penpergwm Solar Farm, Monmouthshire; and • Heckington Fen, Lincolnshire.
Climate Change and Resilience	BA, MCIWEM	3	<p>The Climate Change and Resilience Lead has experience in the consenting process of large-scale renewables schemes with a working focus on climate change resilience associated with solar farms. This has included working on a range of renewables schemes including DCO and Town and Country Planning scale solar schemes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm, Essex, England; • Larport Lane solar Farm, Herefordshire; and • Sutton Bridge Solar Farm, Lincolnshire, England.
Socio-Economics	BSc, MSc, MRTPI	23	<p>The Socio-economics technical lead is a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute with a wealth of experience across the planning system ranging from the production of evidence base studies to inform Local Plan policies, through to</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>development planning, including site feasibility, promotion and application submission and consent. The technical lead has analytical skills in the production of a range of technical studies, including economic and retail impact assessments, that are required in support of planning applications, and has particular experience of undertaking socio-economic impact assessments for EIAs, as well as producing statements to help demonstrate the range and extent of benefits that schemes will bring to local areas. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic and tourism impact assessments for public realm enhancements at Plymouth City Centre; • Tourism impact assessments to inform the preferred route of Hinkley C grid connection; and • Development of the evidence base underpinning the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, and the production of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Vision document.
Air Quality	BSc (Hons), AMIEnvSc, MIAQM	10	<p>The Air Quality technical lead is an Associate Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences and a Full Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management.</p> <p>They have a diverse portfolio of experience and have worked on a range of projects</p>

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			<p>from initial site feasibility through planning and development to construction and operation. Their expertise covers air quality in planning and they have completed over 50 EIAs in the past eight years throughout the UK and abroad including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasley Hill (residential); • St Johns Manchester (mixed use residential, retail and hotel site); • Sky Studios Elstree, Borehamwood (Film Studio); and • Chestnut Avenue in Eastleigh (residential and community use).
Arboriculture	NDFor, MArborA	35	<p>The Arboricultural technical lead specialises in providing impact assessments and method statements for any tree-related matters affecting development control: this is for schemes of all sizes ranging from minor domestic extensions to major infrastructure projects. In addition, there is particular expertise in statutory tree-related obligations, health and safety procedures, pests and diseases, tree surgery specifications and innovative technical solutions for arboriculturally sensitive construction in mature tree environments. This has included working on a wide range of projects throughout the United Kingdom for both private clients and public authorities. 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"> • Sizewell C Arboricultural Impact Assessment; • Sandringham Estate Health & Safety Inspection & Maintenance Plan; and • East Suffolk Council Tree Preservation Order Review.
Glint and Glare	BSc	3	<p>The Glint and Glare technical lead has undertaken over 100 glint and glare assessments in the UK and internationally, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The technical lead has provided additional technical assistance and project support to address concerns from stakeholders such as international airports, railway operators, highways agencies, and local residents. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Farm (UK); • Oaklands Solar Project (UK); and • Kilrue Solar Park (Ireland).

