

# Gate Burton Energy Park Environmental Statement

Volume 3, Appendix 1-D: Statement of Competence  
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APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)  
Planning Act 2008  
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Prepared for:

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# 1. Statement of Competence

## 1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref 1) (the EIA Regulations) require that an applicant for a Development Consent Order (DCO) must ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (Environmental Statement) is prepared by 'competent experts'. In addition, the EIA Regulations (Ref 1) require 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 Gate Burton Energy Park (hereafter 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, 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.

**Table 2 EIA Project Manager**

**EIA Project Manager**

**Experience:** Chartered Environmentalist and EIA Technical Director with over 20 years' experience in the direction and delivery of environmental assessments and environmental approvals in the power generation, power distribution, transport, rail, highways, residential and commercial development sectors for EDF, BP, Bristol Airport, Highways England, AWE, Southstream, TransGrid and Multiplex. Extensive experience of UK Town and Country Planning (T&CP) Act and Development Consent Order (DCO) processes including Avonmouth Power Station, Sizewell C DCO and A303 Stonehenge DCO.

**Table 3 Technical Leads**

<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>	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 master-planning, urban regeneration, transport and other large-scale infrastructure projects. Recent project experience includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables);</li> <li>• West Burton Power Station, DCO, (EDF); and</li> <li>• Sizewell C Power Station, DCO, (EDF).</li> </ul>
<b>Built Heritage</b>	PhD, BSc (Hons)	15	The Built Heritage Technical Lead is a Principal Heritage Consultant with a broad range of experience as a historic building's specialist and archaeologist

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>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 largescale 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"> <li>• Keadby 3 Low Carbon CCGT Power Station (DCO);</li> <li>• Didcot Garden Town Strategic Transport Improvements (EIA); and</li> <li>• Peterhead II CCGT Power Station</li> </ul>
<b>Archaeology</b>	BA (Hons), Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCI(A))	35	<p>The Archaeology 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 Archaeology Technical Lead works primarily on largescale infrastructure projects. Recent Project Experience includes:                      A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (Stonehenge)</p>
<b>Ecology</b>	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"> <li>• Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables);</li> <li>• NeuConnect Interconnector, Kent and southern North Sea; and</li> <li>• King's Lynn B CCGT Power Station, Eggborough Power, Norfolk.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Environment</b>	MSc BSc (Hons) MCIWEM CEnv	18	<p>The Water Environment impact assessment technical lead is a Chartered Environmentalist and Full Member of CIWEM (both since 2011) with 18 years' experience of environmental impact assessment and</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>management, specialising in water science. The technical lead has considerable experience undertaking EIA for projects across a wide range of sectors including energy and utilities cables and pipelines. Recent and relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longfield Solar Farm DCO EIA (EDF Renewables Ltd 2020-2022)</li> <li>• Sunnica Solar Farm DCO EIA (Sunnica Ltd 2018-2022)</li> <li>• V Net Harbour CO2 Pipeline DCO EIA (Harbour Energy, 2021-2022);</li> <li>• Anglian to Affnity Water Transfer Pipeline Gate 2 Environmental Appraisal (2022);</li> <li>• ILI Pumped Storage Hydro Schemes EIAs (2018 – present); and</li> <li>• Peterhead CCGT Power Station EIA (SSE).</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape and Visual Amenity</b>	Dipl.-Ing. (FH) LA, MILI	19	<p>The Landscape and Visual technical lead is an Associate Landscape Architect with 19 years' experience in Landscape Architecture and 14 years in Landscape and Townscape Assessments covering renewable energy, industrial and commercial schemes, national infrastructure planning applications, expert witness duties at Public Inquiries / Oral Hearings and preparation of affidavits. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midleton Solar Farm, Co Cork, IE (Amarenco);</li> <li>• Kilroot Multifuel Power Station as well as CCGT, OCGT developments, UK (EP UKI);</li> <li>• BESS, FlexGen, Substation, Transmission Line Projects (ESB) across IE;</li> <li>• North-South 400kV Interconnector, IE &amp; UK (EirGrid / SONI)</li> </ul>
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>	BEng (Hons) IEng MIOA CEnv MEnvSc	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"> <li>• Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables);</li> <li>• Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 Power Station DCO (Multifuel Energy Ltd.); and</li> <li>• Future Luton PEIR (Luton Rising).</li> </ul>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
<p><b>Socio-Economics and Land Use</b></p> <p><b>Human Health and Wellbeing</b></p>	MSc BSc (Hons)	14	<p>The Socio-Economics and Human Health and Wellbeing technical lead is an Associate Director with 14 years' experience in the assessment of socio-economic and health impacts on communities arising from energy and infrastructure development in the UK. The technical lead has prepared and overseen inputs into NSIPs and Environmental Statements across a range of sectors and representations of Local Plans and Public Inquiries. Recent NSIP experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longfield Solar Farm (EDF Renewables and PS Renewables)</li> <li>• Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables);</li> <li>• A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Upgrade (National Highways); and</li> <li>• A303 Stonehenge (National Highways).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transport and Access</b></p>	BSc CEng MICE FCIHT	23	<p>The Transport and Access technical lead is an Associate Director with 23 years' experience who heads up a team of development transport planning and management professionals. The lead and his team work on a wide range of transportation projects ranging from scheme feasibility to implementation across all sectors; this includes a number of large scale, NSIP and/ or renewable energy schemes. Recent relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longfield Solar Farm (Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd)</li> <li>• Sandon Brook Solar Farm (Low Carbon)</li> <li>• Sea Link (National Grid)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Environmental Topics</b></p>	BSc (Hons) AIEMA	21	<p>The Other Issues lead is a Technical 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'</p>



<b>EIA Technical Discipline</b>	<b>Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead</b>
			experience in their respective discipline, contributing to large scale energy NSIPs and were involved in the Sunnica solar energy scheme.

# References

- Ref 1. Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, (SI 2017/572)  
(as amended) HMSO