

Stonestreet Green Solar
Environmental Statement
Volume 4: Appendices
Chapter 1: Introduction
Appendix 1.5: Statement on Expertise and
Qualifications of Competent Experts

PINS Ref: EN010135

Doc Ref. 5.4

Version 1

June 2024

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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



Appendix 1.5: Statement on Expertise and Qualifications of Competent Experts

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Regulation 14(4) of the EIA Regulations 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 on Expertise and Qualifications of Competent Experts has been prepared by Quod Ltd, as the EIA Coordinator for the Project. It outlines the relevant professional experience, capabilities and competency of the individuals responsible for preparing the ES for the Project.

1.2 Quod

1.2.1 Quod is a registrant to the IEMA EIA Quality Mark, a voluntary scheme through which EIA activity is independently reviewed and adheres to seven IEMA Quality Mark Commitments. The EIA Quality Mark is an accreditation scheme which sets high standards for EIA practice and demonstrates a commitment to excellence in EIA activities.

1.3 Competent Experts

1.3.1 Summaries of the qualifications and experience of the relevant EIA technical leads responsible for preparing the ES chapters (**Chapters 7 – 15**) and providing input to **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Topics (Doc Ref. 5.2)** are provided in **Table 1**. All other chapters of the ES have been drafted by Quod.

Table 1: Technical Topic Leads

EIA Topic	Company, Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Cultural Heritage	Wardell Armstrong BA (Hons)	28	<p>The Cultural Heritage technical lead is a Technical Director with a broad range of experience of the assessment of heritage assets and the historic landscape, including over 90 EIA developments; with a background in both heritage consultancy and archaeological contracting. 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 on projects with a range of scales, including large-scale infrastructure projects and renewable energy schemes. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Magor Net Zero (DNS/Welsh Government), Monmouthshire; ▪ A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling Scheme (National Highways), Peterborough; ▪ Former Dicot Power Station (EIA), Oxfordshire; ▪ Catherine-de-Barnes Battery Energy Storage Scheme, Warwickshire; and ▪ High Ercall Solar Farm, Shropshire.
Landscape and Views	SLR BA (Hons) PG-Dip CMLI	13	<p>The Landscape and Views technical lead is a Technical Director of Landscape Architecture and a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute. They have significant experience providing landscape planning and design deliverables for renewable energy and built environment projects, including EIA developments. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beavor Grange Solar Farm (EIA) – East Devon; ▪ Alfreton Solar Farm, Derbyshire; ▪ Frome Power BESS – Somerset; and ▪ Siddington Solar Farm, Gloucester.

EIA Topic	Company, Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Biodiversity	LloydBore BSc(Hons), CEnv, MCIEEM	16	<p>The Biodiversity technical lead is a Principal Ecologist and Chartered Member of CIEEM and has an extensive record in the role of ecological lead, working in multi-disciplinary teams on a range of projects, including nationally significant infrastructure, energy and transmission projects.</p> <p>He has produced multiple EIA chapters for schemes with potential to impact internationally designated sites. These projects have included bespoke mitigation approaches such as the provision of alternative natural green space for recreational pressure effects, ornithological mitigation and monitoring plans for projects adjacent to Special Protection Areas, specialist mitigation as part of Natural England protected species licensing (masterplan for the 15-year build out of a phased residential development) and reptile population modelling and carrying capacity reports to evidence translocations as a viable mitigation approach.</p> <p>Recent project experience including ES and NSIP applications includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slough Multifuel Project, SSE, Slough, Berkshire; ▪ Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme, Network Rail, Croydon, London; ▪ Sealink, National Grid, Thanet, Kent; and ▪ Arreton Exploratory Well Site, UK Oil and Gas Plc, Isle of Wight.
Water Environment	SLR MSc BSc (Hons) CIWEM, CSci	20	<p>The Water Environment technical lead is a Technical Director in Hydrology and Hydrogeology and Chartered Member of CIWEM and a Chartered Scientist, 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"> ▪ Fleet Solar PV and BEES (BayWa r.e.); ▪ Norwich BESS (EDF); and ▪ North East Lincolnshire Solar Farm (Engie).

EIA Topic	Company, Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Land Contamination	Wardell Armstrong MSc MGeol FGS	7	<p>The Land Contamination assessment has been led by a Principal Geoenvironmental Engineer with experience in contaminated land assessment and remediation design for proposed infrastructure development across the UK. As a consultant, they have extensive experience in project management and co-ordination of site investigations, remediation works and verification reporting and ES chapters.</p> <p>They have prepared and overseen inputs into DCO projects and ES across a range of sectors. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Riverside Energy Park, Belverdere; ▪ Byers Gil Solar Farm; ▪ Lower Swansea Valley Regeneration Scheme; and ▪ Five Estuaries Off-shore Wind.
Socio-Economics	Quod BSc (Hons) MA	15	<p>The Socio-Economics technical lead is a Director with 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 ES across a range of sectors. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sizewell C (EDF Energy); ▪ Hinkley Point C (EDF Energy); and ▪ Lower Thames Crossing (National Highways).
Traffic and Access	Prime Transport BA (Hons) CMILT MCIHT	18	<p>The Traffic and Access technical lead is an Associate Director. The technical lead has expertise in traffic impact assessment and has prepared numerous ES chapters for major developments across a range of sectors, including energy, across the UK. Recent project experience includes:</p>

EIA Topic	Company, Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peterborough Green Energy Project (Peterborough Green Energy Ltd); ▪ Stanworth Land, Chorley (FIREM); ▪ Frodsham Marshes Wind Farm, Ellesmere Port (Peel Energy); and ▪ Flexible Energy and BESS, UK-wide (Conrad Energy).
Noise	Wardell Armstrong BSc (Hons) MSc (Hons) PgDip	15	<p>The Noise technical lead is an Associate Director. The technical lead has prepared and overseen inputs into DCO projects and ES across a range of sectors. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manchester Metrolink Trafford Park Line, Laing O'Rourke; and ▪ Peel Hall, Warrington, Satnam Develop.
Climate Change	Ecolyse PhD, BSc (Hons)	20	<p>The Climate Change technical lead is a Director with extensive experience in climate change assessment for the purposes of EIA of major infrastructure projects including for DCO schemes.</p> <p>Specialist experience includes climate change resilience and greenhouse gas assessments for inclusion in EIA on a range of high-profile climate impact assessments including master-planning, urban regeneration, transport and other large-scale infrastructure projects. Recent projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barry Biomass Energy Facility, South Wales ▪ Northumberland Development Project S.73 Application, North London ▪ London City Airport Expansion, Newham

Other Topics

EIA Topic	Company, Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Agriculture and Soils	Wardell Armstrong PhD, MSc, Bsc (hons)	17	<p>The Agricultural and Soils technical lead is a Service Lead acting for soils at Wardell Armstrong and has experience providing soil and water assessment services to the construction, agricultural, waste management and regulatory sectors.</p> <p>Specialist experience includes technical soils advice for land use change assessments for inclusion in EIA with specific effort to ensure natural capital is dealt with sustainably and that any impacts are accurately understood, minimised, and mitigated appropriately. Recent examples of relevant project experience include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beacon Fen PV (DCO) – Low Carbon; and ▪ PEP Wind and Solar (DNS) – Convatec.
Minerals	IC Planning BA (Hons), MSc, MRTPI	18	<p>The Minerals technical lead is a specialist minerals planner, with extensive experience of EIA development, minerals safeguarding and other minerals planning related matters. The technical lead is the Managing Director of IC Planning who has been an expert minerals planning witness at several high profile public inquiries.</p> <p>Alongside the minerals planning advice the IC Planning team provides technical planning support to a wide variety of renewable energy schemes, including solar, BESS, onshore wind, green hydrogen and critical mineral extraction across the UK. The team also regularly provides specialist minerals planning training on behalf of the RTPI and RICS. Recent project Experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mineral Safeguarding Assessment, Appledore Road, Tenterden, Kent; and ▪ Mineral Planning Safeguarding Assessment, Gomm Road, High Wycombe.
Glint and Glare	PagerPower BSc (Hons)	4	<p>The Glint and Glare technical lead is a Senior Technical Analyst and has undertaken over 110 glint and glare assessments in the UK and internationally, including nationally significant infrastructure projects. The technical lead has provided additional technical assistance and</p>

EIA Topic	Company, Qualifications, Professional Memberships, Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>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 ▪ Mallard Pass (UK).
Vibration	SLR BSc. (Hons) Pg. Dip MIOA	18	<p>The Vibration technical lead is a Technical Director. The technical lead has prepared and overseen inputs into DCO projects and ES across a range of sectors. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awel Y Mor Offshore Wind Farm (recently consented); and ▪ Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm.