

**Byers Gill Solar
EN010139**

6.4.1.1 Environmental Statement

Appendix 1.1 Competent Expert Evidence

Planning Act 2008
APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009
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1. Competent Expert Evidence

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. European Union Directive 2014/52/EU 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 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 Arup, as lead EIA Coordinator for Byers Gill Solar (the Proposed Development), to outline the capability of the company and the competency of the individuals responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA.

1.2. Arup

- 1.2.1. Arup is a leading provider of environmental services to a wide range of clients and development sectors in the UK. Arup has a large and highly experienced team of EIA practitioners who have managed hundreds of EIAs and prepared Environmental Statements and other technical reports to accompany applications under various consenting regimes. The EIA team is supported by a large team of technical environmental specialists, covering a wide range of technical disciplines.

1.3. IEMA EIA Quality Mark



Arup 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 Arup'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 project team are presented below.

EIA technical approver - Arup

- 1.4.2. The EIA approver is a Chartered Town Planner (MRTPI) with more than eighteen years' relevant experience, including EIA. Qualifications include a BSc in Human Geography and an MSc in Regeneration Studies, both from the Cardiff University School of City and

Regional Planning. They have led a number of solar projects through the planning process and have extensive experience in the assessment and consenting of renewable energy project, including acting as Expert Witness on land use and planning matters.

EIA lead - Arup

- 1.4.3. The EIA lead is a Senior Environmental Consultant with over 10 years' experience in delivering Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) across a wide range of projects in sectors including rail, highways, waste, energy and water. They are an accomplished environmental generalist, with a broad range of experience and knowledge across many environmental-related disciplines. They are experienced in undertaking EIA in both the UK and Australia, and have provided expert environmental inputs into a range of infrastructure projects.
- 1.4.4. The project team changed in October 2023 and a new environment lead took over the EIA leadership. The new environment lead (BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEMA, CEnv) is a Senior Environmental Consultant with 11 years consultancy experience, specialising in the project management and delivery of EIA and other environmental inputs for major infrastructure projects across a variety of consenting routes. They hold a wide breadth of experience across a variety of development types including energy schemes, mixed-use developments, and linear infrastructure.

EIA coordinator - Arup

- 1.4.5. The EIA coordinator (BSc (Hons), CEnv MIEMA) is an Environmental Consultant with over 6 years' experience in the delivery of EIAs. They hold a wealth of project experience coordinating multidisciplinary teams on a range of projects, including energy, rail, urban regeneration and property sectors.

Climate Change - Arup

- 1.4.6. The climate change lead holds Chartered Engineer (CEng), Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), Chartered Water and Environmental Manager (CWEM), and MEng (Hons) qualifications.
- 1.4.7. The lead author is an Environmental Consultant with 6 years' experience across a wide range of projects including Development Consent Order applications, EIA coordination, Town and Country Planning Act applications and permitted development projects. Practitioner with the Institute of Environmental Assessment (IEMA) and has specialised in EIA Climate Change chapters assessing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate change resilience and applying IEMA, PAS 2080 and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) guidance to embed mitigation within the design. Using knowledge gained in this area has allowed the author to become a decarbonisation and net zero advisor across Arup.

Biodiversity – RSK Biocensus

- 1.4.8. The biodiversity lead author is an Associate Director holding a BSc (Hons), Full Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM), Chartered Ecologist (CEcol), and CEnv qualifications. They hold over 30 years ecological experience and a proven track record in the biodiversity assessment of large-scale energy projects.
- 1.4.9. The deputy author is a Senior Ecologist holding a BSc (Hons) and full member of CIEEM, and has managed the coordination of the biodiversity survey work as well as co-authoring the biodiversity assessment. They hold over 10 years ecological experience.

Landscape and Visual – Abesline

- 1.4.10. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) have been prepared by a MA Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI). They are a Landscape Architect with 22 years' experience of LVIA and RVAA for a wide range of types and scales of development across the UK.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology – Wessex Archaeology

- 1.4.11. Technical Assurance and review for the cultural heritage assessment has been undertaken by a Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (MCI fA). They have over 25 years' experience in undertaking EIA in the cultural heritage sector, with a considerable specialty in renewables. They have been involved with a wide range of now consented schemes across the UK, including numerous wind farms in Scotland. They regularly appear as an Expert Witness at Inquiries and are responsible for the quality and technical accuracy of all Wessex Archaeology's EIA work.
- 1.4.12. The cultural heritage assessment has been prepared by a Principal Heritage Consultant with a BSc in Archaeological Science and MA in Landscape Archaeology. They have 12 years' experience in the cultural heritage sector and considerable experience in undertaking a wide range of projects, including the research and production of desk-based assessments, heritage statements and carrying out EIA. They hold extensive experience in EIA for renewables and large-scale infrastructure.

Land use and Socioeconomics - Arup and Reading Agricultural

- 1.4.13. The land use and socio-economics chapter has been led by a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI) with more than eighteen years' relevant experience including EIA. Qualifications include a BSc in Human Geography and an MSc in Regeneration Studies, both from the Cardiff University School of City and Regional Planning. They have led a number of solar projects through the planning process and have extensive experience in the assessment and consenting of renewable energy project, including acting as Expert Witness on land use and planning matters.
- 1.4.14. The agricultural land and soils assessment lead author holds a BA (Hons), MSc, Fellow of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants (FBIAC), Practitioner of the Institute of

Environmental Management and Assessment (PIEMA), and MI Soil Sci. They are a Director of Reading Agricultural Consultants Ltd with over 30 years' experience of assessing the impacts of developments on agricultural land and soils, and considerable experience of providing expert evidence at public inquiries, hearings and DCO examinations. The deputy author holds a BSc (Hons), MSc, and MI Soil Sci, with 11 years' experience as a soil scientist, assessing impacts of developments on agricultural land and soils.

Hydrology and Flood Risk - HydroSolutions

- 1.4.15. The hydrology and flood risk chapter lead holds a Meng, CEng and MICE and has 30 years' experience as a civil engineer managing the delivery of multi-disciplinary projects and technical reporting for hydrology assessments for EIA. They have been appointed by Welsh Government to the Wales Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee.
- 1.4.16. The deputy author holds a MEng and is a Graduate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers (GMICE). They hold 3 years' experience specialising in flood risk management and water infrastructure. They have experience authoring and leading on the preparation of Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) for EIA and have prepared numerous FRAs for solar farm projects.

Noise and Vibration – Wardell Armstrong

- 1.4.17. The noise and vibration chapter approvals have been undertaken by a Technical Director with over 30 years of experience in the acoustics and vibration and are a full member of the Institute of Acoustics. Holds a post graduate diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control and a Master of Arts in Environmental Law and Policy
- 1.4.18. The lead author is an Associate Director with over 10 years' experience in acoustics and vibration and full member of the Institute of Acoustics and is the current chair of the Welsh Branch. Holds a post-graduate diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control.

Traffic and Transport - Arup

- 1.4.19. The traffic and transport assessment has been led by a Chartered Transport Planning Professional (CTTP) with nearly 20 years of experience undertaking transport assessments for large scale development projects. They hold a Masters in Geography (MGeog) and have a PGCert in GI Systems and Science. They are a former Chair of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) and former Director and Secretary of the Transport Planning Society (TPS).

Arboriculture – Tree work Environmental Practice

- 1.4.20. The arboricultural assessment has been led by a Professional Member of the Arboricultural Association with 15 years' experience of assessing the impacts of development on trees, woodland and hedges across the UK, including extensive experience of renewables schemes.

Glint and Glare – Pager Power

- 1.4.21. The Glint and Glare assessment has been led by a technical analyst at Pager Power with two years of experience in assessing the potential impacts of glint and glare from solar developments on surrounding residential amenity, road safety, railway operations and infrastructure, and aviation activity. The assessment has been reviewed by a Business Growth Director at Pager Power, who has over eight years of experience in assessing the potential impacts of glint and glare from solar developments.
- 1.4.22. Pager Power has been involved with many solar developments, a large number of which are not yet in the public domain, and are therefore confidential. Pager Power has undertaken over 1,100 glint and glare assessments worldwide for inclusion within solar development planning applications. The reports have assessed concerns from stakeholders such as Network Rail, Ministry of Defence, Civil Airports and local planning authorities. Pager Power has a good working relationship with the stakeholders listed above, developed through our involvement within the wind energy sector. We have carried out other technical assessments for renewable energy projects in 58 countries across Europe, South Africa, Canada and the Middle East.

Major Accidents and Disasters - Arup

- 1.4.23. The major accidents and disasters appendix of the ES has been led by an environmental consultant with 17 years' experience. They have led a number of large EIA projects at all scales.

Waste - Arup

- 1.4.24. The waste assessment has been supervised and reviewed by a Chartered Environmentalist and Chartered Waste Manager with 15 years of experience in resource and waste management projects worldwide. They have been a waste and materials topic lead on a large number of EIA projects and have led assessments at all scales, including complex national infrastructure.

Construction dust - Arup

- 1.4.25. The construction dust assessment was led by a chartered environmentalist with over 10 years' of experience of assessing air quality impacts worldwide. The assessment lead has acted as air quality topic lead for a large number of EIA projects at all scales, including national significant infrastructure projects.