

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 6
Environmental Statement
Appendix 1-3: EIA Statement of Competence
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1. Statement of Competence

1.1 Background

1.1.1 European Union Directive 2014/52/EU (Ref 1) 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 (Ref 2) 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 AECOM, as lead EIA Coordinator for the Tillbridge Solar (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme') development, 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.

1.5 EIA Project Manager, BSc, MSc, CEnv, MIEnvSc, PIEMA

1.5.1 The AECOM EIA Project Manager is an Associate Environmental Consultant with 11 years' of experience in environmental consultancy across a broad range of large-scale projects and sectors including energy, transportation, residential and water in the UK and Australia. Their Development Consent Order (DCO) project experience includes:

- a. Sunnica Energy Farm, Sunnica Ltd;
- b. A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements, Highways England;
- c. Wylfa Newydd Project, Horizon Nuclear Power; and
- d. A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement, Highways England.

1.6 EIA Project Manager, BSc, MPhil, CEnv MIEnvSc, PIEMA

1.6.1 The second AECOM EIA Project Manager is an Associate Director with over 12 years' experience in EIA coordination and project management for infrastructure and urban regeneration projects, environmental due diligence, compliance and auditing. The second EIA AECOM EIA Project Manager has been involved in all aspects of the EIA process and works closely with clients, sub-consultants, architects and engineers to ensure the smooth running of the EIA process. Recent DCO experience includes Luton Airport Expansion and Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station.

1.7 EIA Project Director, BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEnvSc, CEnv

1.7.1 The AECOM EIA Project Director is a Technical Director with 22 years' experience delivering environmental assessments in the energy sector. They are a Chartered Environmentalist and qualified EIA Practitioner, with experience having led over 10 energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), including the EIAs for Sunnica Energy Farm DCO in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, Longfield Solar Farm DCO in Essex, Gate Burton Energy Park DCO in Lincolnshire, and East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO in Yorkshire.

1.7.2 They have worked on and delivered over 30 solar projects in the UK, along with EIAs for the largest solar projects in Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. Other experience includes having contributed to or led the environmental work for NSIPs for two energy from waste facilities, two gas fired CCGT DCOs, and contribution to a tidal lagoon DCO.

1.8 Environmental Statement Technical Chapter Leads

- 1.8.1 This Environmental Statement brings together the technical studies presented in **Chapters 6 to 17** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. These have been prepared and approved by competent experts, both within and external to AECOM, who hold professional memberships and are committed to undertaking continued professional development within their respective fields.

Table 1. Technical Leads

EIA Technical Discipline	Company	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience
Air Quality	AECOM	PhD, BSc, MIAQM, MIEEnv Sci	33	<p>AECOM's technical lead for Air Quality has 33 years of experience, including as technical lead for renewable power, conventional power and linear infrastructure projects. Relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Farm • Gate Burton Energy Park • Sizewell C • South Humber Bank Energy Centre • King's Lynn B CCGT.
Climate Change	AECOM	BSc (Hons), CEnv, MIEMA	20	<p>AECOM's technical lead for Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases has over 20 years of experience in the field of climate and carbon management. They have worked on a wide range of DCO applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm • Sunnica Energy Farm • Gate Burton Energy Park • Viking CCS Project • Keadby III Power Station • Net Zero Teesside Power Station • Peterhead II Power Station • Luton Airport Expansion

EIA Technical Discipline	Company	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience
Cultural Heritage	AECOM	MA, BSc; MCIfA; CSCS	25.	<p>AECOM’s technical lead for heritage has 25 years of experience in undertaking and reporting cultural heritage assessments as part of environmental impact assessments (EIA) for a wide variety of development types. They have worked on numerous schemes across the UK from the options appraisal stage through to construction. Recently they have worked on Connah’s Quay Low Carbon Power (CQLCP) and Jersey Coastal Resilience Framework.</p>
Ecology and Nature Conservation	AECOM	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"> • Sunnica Energy Farm • Gate Burton Energy Park • Longfield Solar Farm • NeuConnect Interconnector • King’s Lynn B CCGT Power Station.

EIA Technical Discipline	Company	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience
Surface Water, Flood Risk and Drainage	AECOM	MSc, BSC (Hon), MCIWEM, CEnv	18	<p>AECOM’s technical lead for surface water, flood risk and drainage has over 18 years of experience in undertaking the assessment and reporting as part of environmental impact assessments for a wide variety of development types. They have experience of a wide variety of DCO roads schemes, together with other large solar schemes. Relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Farm • Gate Burton Energy Park • Longfield Solar Farm • Custodian up to Scoping level assessment
Human Health	AECOM	BSc MSc MIED	15	<p>AECOM’s technical lead for the human health impact assessment has significant experience working on EIAs across a range of energy, energy infrastructure and other NSIP developments across the UK, including several solar energy and renewables projects. Relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Park • Longfield Solar Farm • Gate Burton Energy Park • Viking Link CCUS Project • Immingham Gas to Energy Terminal
Landscape and Visual Amenity	AECOM	CMLI	11	<p>The Landscape and Visual technical lead has extensive experience across a wide range of infrastructure and energy schemes. Relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathside Bay container port (Harwich)

EIA Technical Discipline	Company	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience
Noise and Vibration	AECOM	BEng MIOA	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Park Quarry extension, Surrey • Bulls Lodge Quarry extension, Essex • Preston New Road, Lancashire (Public Inquiry) • Various 1-3 turbine wind energy proposals, UK wide • High Park Foot Solar Farm, Cumbria <p>The noise and vibration technical lead has completed numerous noise and vibration assessments across a range of both small and large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as co-authoring technical guidance on the relevant industry standard for industrial and commercial noise. Relevant project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Park • Gate Burton Energy Park • Longfield Solar Farm • HS2 Phase 2b • Manchester Metrolink • Melton Mowbray Distributor Road • Cuadrilla Preston New Road
Socio-Economics and Land Use	AECOM	BSc MSc MIED	15	<p>AECOM's technical lead for the socio-economics and land use assessment has significant experience working on EIAs across a range of energy, energy infrastructure and other NSIP developments across the UK. Relevant project experience includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunnica Energy Park

EIA Technical Discipline	Company	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience
Soils and Agriculture	Daniel Baird Soil Consultancy Ltd	M.I. Soil Sci	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longfield Solar Farm • Gate Burton Energy Park • Immingham Gas to Energy Terminal • A303 Stonehenge Tunnel and Bypass • A428 Black Cat Improvements <p>The Soils and Agriculture lead is an experienced Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveyor having worked both in private consultancy and for the former Land Use Planning Unit of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) (as was). Since 1992 the lead has undertaken assessments of land quality at many sites across England and Wales. In addition to ALC assessment the lead also provides advice on the impact of development on Farm Businesses, and the conservation of soil resources.</p> <p>Notable recent projects include ALC survey, soil resource assessment and farming circumstances appraisal for the Sizewell C Power Station, Sunnica Energy Farm and HS2 rail developments.</p>
Transport and Access	AECOM	BSC (Hons) CEng MStructE	26	<p>The Transport Consultant is an Associate at AECOM with experience in Environmental Statements, Transport Assessments and Travel Planning for a wide range of commercial and residential-led developments and infrastructure schemes. Recent project experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didcot HIF1 scheme (Oxfordshire County Council) • A40 Smart Corridor Scheme (Oxfordshire County Council)

EIA Technical Discipline	Company	Qualifications/ Professional Memberships/ Accreditations	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience
Other Environmental Topics	AECOM	BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1128 373 2076 450">Northern Arc, Burgess Hill (3,500 homes and 7ha of employment; Homes England) <p data-bbox="1128 469 2076 798">The lead for Other Environmental Topics is a Technical Director with 22 years' experience delivering environmental assessments in the energy sector. They are a Chartered Environmentalist and qualified EIA Practitioner, with experience having led over 10 energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), including the EIAs for Sunnica Energy Farm DCO in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, Longfield Solar Farm DCO in Essex, Gate Burton Energy Park DCO in Lincolnshire, and East Yorkshire Solar Farm DCO in Yorkshire.</p>

2. References

- Ref 1. Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment Text with EEA relevance. Available at: [REDACTED] [Date Accessed: 18/22/2023].
- Ref 2. HMSO (2017) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents> [Date Accessed: 18/12/2023].