
EAST YORKSHIRE SOLAR FARM

East Yorkshire Solar Farm
EN010143

Environmental Statement

Volume 2, Appendix 1-4: Statement of Competence
Document Reference: EN010143/APP/6.2

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

November 2023
Revision Number: 00

2009

BOOM-POWER.CO.UK

BOOM
POWER

Prepared for:

East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited

© 2023 AECOM Limited. All Rights Reserved.

This document has been prepared by AECOM Limited (“AECOM”) for sole use of our client (the “Client”) in accordance with generally accepted consultancy principles, the budget for fees and the terms of reference agreed between AECOM and the Client. Any information provided by third parties and referred to herein has not been checked or verified by AECOM, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document. No third party may rely upon this document without the prior and express written agreement of AECOM.

Table of Contents

1.	Statement of Competence	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	AECOM	1
1.3	IEEMA EIA Quality Mark	1
1.4	Competent Experts.....	1
2.	References.....	11

Tables

Table 1.	EIA Project Director	2
Table 2.	EIA Project Manager.....	2
Table 3.	Technical Leads	3

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 East Yorkshire Solar Farm 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 22 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 Longfield Solar Farm, Sunnica Energy Park, Gate Burton Energy Park, 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 Fosse Green Energy solar 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 50 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: EIA Associate Director with over 18 years' experience in the direction and delivery of environmental assessments and environmental approvals in the power generation and power distribution sectors. Project experience of EIA contributor or lead for North Wales Connection NSIP, Viking CCS Pipeline DCO, and Scotland England Green Link 1 & 2.

Table 3. Technical Leads

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Climate Change	BA (Hons), Certified Project Manager, Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (MIEMA) Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)	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 on a range of high-profile climate impact assessments including master-planning, urban regeneration, transport and other large-scale infrastructure projects. Recent NSIP experience includes Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables), Longfield Solar Farm (EDF-Renewables), Gate Burton Energy Farm (Low Carbon Solar), West Burton Power Station, (EDF), and Sizewell C Power Station (EDF).
Built Heritage	BA (Hons), MA, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA), Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA)	19	The Built Heritage Technical Lead is a Principal Heritage Consultant with a broad range of experience as a historic building specialist and archaeologist 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 renewable energy and heritage-led regeneration schemes. Recent Project Experience includes Viking Link Interconnector (National Grid), Humber Zero (Phillips 66 / VPI), Fenwick Solar Farm (Boom Solar), Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme (Snowdonia Pumped Hydro), Wylfa Newydd

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Archaeology	Dip HE Archaeology	25	<p>Nuclear Power Station (Horizon Power), Keadby 3 Low Carbon Generating Station, SSE Thermal.</p> <p>The Archaeology Technical Lead is a senior member of the archaeology team and 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 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, including renewable energy projects. Recent Project Experience includes Gate Burton Energy Park NSIP, Sunnica Energy Farm DCO, V Net Zero NSIP, Luton Airport Expansion DCO, Scotland to England Green Link DCO, CCS Net Zero Teesside DCO, Eggborough Power Station CCGT DCO, Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm DCO.</p>
Arboriculture	BA (Hons), L6 Dip Arb, MArborA, Associate member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters	19	<p>Technical Lead for Arboriculture for AECOM in the UK. In depth knowledge of legislation, planning policy, impact assessment and best practice in relation to arboriculture. Technical lead for arboriculture for multiple large scale infrastructure projects across the UK. Recent Project Experience includes Sunnica Energy Farm DCO, Longfield Solar Farm, Gate Burton Energy Park, Yorkshire Green DCO, A27 DCO, and A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down (Stonehenge).</p>
Soils and Agricultural Land	PhD, BSc (Hons), MICFor	33	<p>Technical Lead for Agriculture, Forestry and Soils for AECOM in the UK. Specialises in integrated environmental land management and has peer-reviewed publications in soil biology and nutrient cycling. Experience of undertaking EIA, for large-scale infrastructure, including energy, road, and rail. Recent</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>experience of EIA/DCO includes projects for HS2, National Grid, and SSEN.</p> <p>The soil survey was carried out by Land Research Associates.</p>
Terrestrial Ecology	MSc, BSc (Hons), MCIEEM	20	<p>The Ecology technical lead specialises in ecological impact assessment, particularly for major infrastructure projects. Particular expertise in undertaking assessments where there is the potential for impact on statutory designated sites, and protected habitats and species, including the co-ordination and production of EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessments. This has included working on a wide range of projects in a variety of sectors. Recent project experience includes Maen Hir Solar Farm, Anglesey (LightsourceBP), Expansion of London Luton Airport, Luton (Luton Rising), North Humber to High Marnham transmission reinforcement (National Grid), and North Wales Connection transmission reinforcement, National Grid.</p>
Ornithology	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 Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables), Longfield</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
			<p>Solar Farm, Gate Burton Energy Park, NeuConnect Interconnector, Kent and southern North Sea, and King's Lynn B CCGT Power Station, Eggborough Power, Norfolk.</p>
Aquatic Ecology	MSc BSc (Hons) MCIEEM	12	<p>The Aquatic Ecology lead is a technical director is AECOM's Water Environment team. He has completed aquatic ecological assessments for numerous solar farm and other scheme DCOs, including water quality and protected species assessments, fisheries assessment, and Water Framework Directive assessment. Recent examples include Longfield Solar Farm (Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd), Gate Burton Solar Farm (Low Carbon), Minworth and Grand Union Canal SRO, on-going (Affinity Water).</p>
Biodiversity Net Gain	BSc (Hons), PhD, CEnv, MCIEEM	21	<p>The BNG technical lead has over 20 years' experience in the ecological sector, comprised of consultancy experience in ecology, biodiversity and environmental management and academic experience post-degree, including lecturing, research, funding applications and publication in peer reviewed journals.</p> <p>They have worked on small to large scale projects across the UK in multiple disciplines and has a strong background in biodiversity net gain, stakeholder management, consultation, project assurance, ecological project management and liaison with statutory bodies. They work closely with other teams in AECOM to ensure engagement at the critical points in project lifecycles at both the project and the client level. Recent project examples include Sunnica Energy</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Habitats Regulations Assessment	BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, CEnv, MCIEEM	22	<p>Farm, Longfield Solar Farm, and Gate Burton Energy Park.</p> <p>The HRA technical lead has led the HRA work on hundreds of plans and projects since 2003, across the UK and Republic of Ireland. This includes work for the Marine Management Organization, the Defence Infrastructure Organization, National Highway, the Environment Agency and Natural England. It also includes DCOs for Sunnica Energy Farm, Longfield Solar Farm, Gate Burton Energy Park, the Thames Tideway Tunnel, A303 dualling, Abergelli OGCT project, and Net Zero Teesside project.</p>
Water Environment	MSc BSc (Hons)	19	<p>The Water Environment impact assessment technical lead is a Chartered Environmentalist and Full Member of CIWEM (both since 2011) with 19 years' experience of environmental impact assessment and 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 Longfield Solar Farm DCO EIA (EDF Renewables Ltd 2020-2022), Sunnica Solar Farm DCO EIA (Sunnica Ltd 2018-2022), Viking CCS Pipeline DCO EIA (Harbour Energy, 2021-2023), Anglian to Affinity Water Transfer Pipeline Gate 2 Environmental Appraisal (2022), ILI Pumped Storage Hydro Schemes EIAs (2018 – present), and Peterhead CCGT Power Station EIA (SSE).</p>
Landscape and Visual Amenity	BA(Hons) Grad Dip LA CMLI	24	<p>The Landscape and Visual technical lead is a Chartered Landscape Architect with 24 years'</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Noise and Vibration	BEng (Hons) IEng MIOA CEnv MIEnvSc	18	<p>experience in Landscape Architecture with considerable experience of undertaking landscape and visual impact assessments for DCO developments across a wide range of sectors including energy and utilities cables and pipelines. Recent project experience includes Viking Carbon Capture Storage Pipeline DCO (Harbour Energy), Humber Zero (Phillips 66 / VPI), Keadby 3 Low Carbon Generating Station, SSE Thermal, CCS Net Zero Teesside DCO, Eggborough Power Station CCGT DCO, West Burton Power Station, DCO, (EDF).</p> <p>The Noise and Vibration technical lead is an Associate Director with 18 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 Gate Burton Energy Park (Low Carbon), Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables), Longfield Solar Farm (EDF Renewables), Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 Power Station DCO (Multifuel Energy Ltd.).</p>
Socio-Economics and Land Use Human Health and Wellbeing	MA (Oxon), MRTPI, MIED	19	<p>The Socio-Economics and Human Health and Wellbeing technical lead is an Associate Director with 19 years' experience in the assessment of socio-economic and health impacts on communities arising from development projects in the UK. The technical lead has prepared and overseen inputs into NSIPs and Environmental Statements across a range of sectors including energy and infrastructure. Recent experience includes Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables), Longfield Solar Farm (EDF-</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Transport and Access	BSc CMILT	18	<p>Renewables), Viking Carbon Capture Storage Pipeline DCO (Harbour Energy), A64 Hopgrove Junction (National Highways).</p> <p>The Transport and Access technical lead is an Associate Director with 18 years' experience who heads up a small team of development transport planning and management professionals. The lead and his team work on a wide range of transportation projects across a number of sectors; this includes a number of large-scale renewable energy schemes. Recent relevant project experience includes Viking Link Interconnector (National Grid), Humber Zero (Phillips 66 / VPI), Fenwick Solar Farm (Boom Solar), Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme (Snowdonia Pumped Hydro), Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station (Horizon Power), Keadby 3 Low Carbon Generating Station, SSE Thermal.</p>
Flood Risk	MSc BSc (Hons)	21	<p>The Flood Risk lead is a Principal Flood Risk and Planning Consultant with 21 years' experience consulting in flood risk. The technical lead has prepared and overseen flood risk assessment risk inputs into DCO/NSIP projects and Environmental Statements across a range of sectors. Recent experience includes Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 Power Station DCO (Multifuel Energy Ltd.), Selby Levels 1 & 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (Selby District Council), HS2 Phase 2b (Area 1a Kegworth and Tibshelf), (HS2 Ltd), West Burton Power Station, DCO, (EDF), Viking Carbon Capture and Storage DCO, (Harbour Energy).</p>

EIA Technical Discipline	Qualifications/Professional Memberships/Accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of Previous Project Experience of Technical Lead
Other Environmental Topics	BSc (Hons) AIEMA	21	<p>The Other Environmental Topics 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 Principal Consultant from Neo Environmental with experience having worked on Sunnica Energy Farm, Longfield Solar Farm, and Gate Burton Energy Farm), a major accidents or disasters technical lead, a telecommunications technical lead and a materials and waste technical lead. These individuals all have over 15 years' experience in their respective discipline, contributing to large scale energy NSIPs including solar energy schemes.</p>
Air Quality	PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), CSci MIEEnvSc, MIAQM	18	<p>The Air Quality technical lead is a Principal Consultant with 18 years' experience in air quality. The technical lead has prepared and overseen inputs into DCO projects and Environmental Statements across a range of sectors. Recent project experience includes Sunnica Energy Farm (Tribus Energy and PS Renewables), Longfield Solar Farm, Gate Burton Solar Farm, Tillbridge Solar Farm.</p>

2. References

- Ref. 1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572>