



Botley West Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 3

Appendix 1.1: Statement of Expertise

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1 Statement of Expertise

1.1 EIA Management

Overview

1.1.1 RPS is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Quality Mark. This means that RPS adheres to the following quality mark commitments.

- EIA Management – We commit to using effective project control and management processes to deliver quality in the EIAs we co-ordinate and the Environmental Statements we produce.
- EIA Team Capabilities – We commit to ensuring that all our EIA staff have the opportunity to undertake regular and relevant continuing professional development.
- EIA Regulatory Compliance – We commit to delivering Environmental Statements that meet the requirements established within the appropriate UK EIA Regulations.
- EIA Context and Influence – We commit to ensuring that all EIAs we co-ordinate are effectively scoped and that we will transparently indicate how the EIA process, and any consultation undertaken, influenced the development proposed and any alternatives considered.
- EIA Content – We commit to undertaking assessments that include: a robust analysis of the relevant baseline; assessment and transparent evaluation of impact significance; and an effective description of measures designed to monitor and manage significant effects.
- EIA Presentation – We commit to deliver Environmental Statements that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner.

1.1.2 Improving EIA Practice – We commit to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with IEMA to deliver a mutually agreed set of activities, on an annual basis, and by making appropriate examples of our work available to the wider EIA community.

1.2 Topic Authors

Historic Environment

1.2.1 Mick Rawlings is a Director at RPS with more than 35 years of professional experience within the historic environment sector, with projects in the UK and overseas. This time has provided Mick with an excellent and wide-ranging understanding of the policy and guidance regarding historic environment across all parts of the UK. He has been employed by contracting and consulting organisations that provide archaeological and historic environment services to a wide range of clients. These include transport and infrastructure providers as well as public agencies and private sector developers. His

experience includes recreational, road, rail and aviation projects, renewable energy schemes (including onshore and offshore wind farms) and a considerable number of large-scale residential schemes. Mick is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Working Party and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and has prepared and presented evidence on behalf of clients at public and local plan inquiries and at Development Consent Order (DCO) hearings.

Landscape and Visual Resources

- 1.2.2 George Lilley is a Chartered Principal Landscape Architect with some 15 years' professional experience in the public and private sector. George has extensive experience in a diverse range of projects within the landscape planning, assessment, design and implementation sector. This includes large scale renewable energy schemes with a primary focus and extensive knowledge in the preparation of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA), Appraisals (LVA) and Statements (LVS), including inputs to Environmental Impact Assessments.

Ecology and Nature Conservation

- 1.2.3 Nick Betson is a Director at RPS and is a highly experienced ecologist and project manager with over 20 years of experience in ecology, having worked in consultancy since 2007. During this time, Nick has managed the ecology component of over 400 projects, including large-scale infrastructure. Combining a strategic appreciation of ecology with a thorough understanding of the EIA process, Nick has built up substantial experience of overall project management in relation to ecology. As lead ecologist on large-scale EIA projects, this has often included liaison and discussions with key consultees such as Natural England and the Environment Agency, as well as wider stakeholder engagement. He has undertaken ecological appraisals for a broad range of brownfield and greenfield sites to support planning applications and the development of long-term site management plans as the ecology lead for EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Hydrology and Flood Risk

- 1.2.4 Tamsin Jones is a member of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and has a Msc (Hons) in Flood Risk Management. She has six years' experience working in flood risk consultancy and environmental due diligence. Tamsin has an MSc (Hons) in Flood Risk Management and primarily gained experience in hydraulic modelling, hydrology assessments and flood risk reporting. She has prepared various water resources and hydrology chapters within EIA projects under the DCO process and the Town and Country Planning Act, including several Nationally Significant Infrastructure projects.

Ground Conditions

- 1.2.5 Gary Riches is a Principal Geo-environmental Consultant at RPS with over 30 years of experience in the planning, implementation and reporting of geo-

environmental site investigations, risk assessments and remediation strategies and verification works. He has operated as a consultant providing advice on contaminated land issues, resolution of planning conditions and permit surrender for a wide range of Clients from the highways, residential, commercial/industrial and energy sectors including preparation of EIA chapters, factual and interpretative reports, remediation method statements and review/checking of site investigation data for major road schemes.

Traffic and Transport

- 1.2.6 Charlotte Routledge, a Graduate Consultant with nearly two years' experience of transport planning and environmental impact assessment. Charlotte's experience has included assisting with the identification and design of access arrangements, analysing the suitability of access routes, estimating construction vehicle movements, analysing the requirements for Abnormal Indivisible Loads and accommodation / mitigation measures, undertaking highway capacity assessments, undertaking environmental impact assessments and drafting the necessary reporting in a format that satisfies Highway Officers and enables progression through the consenting process.
- 1.2.7 David Archibald, Director, a Member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation with over 20 years' experience of transport planning, highway engineering and environmental impact assessment. David has a particular expertise in preparing the transport related documents associated with obtaining Development Consent Orders (DCO) for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), particularly for Power, Energy and Infrastructure projects. David is experienced in preparing the submission documents and participating during the Examination process, including appearing and contributing to Issue Specific Hearings and other transport related Hearings. David has provided transport advice and led the transport aspects associated with over 100 energy related development proposals.

Noise and Vibration

- 1.2.8 Richard Calvert is an Associate in the acoustics team at RPS and has over 20 years' experience in acoustic consultancy. He holds a BSc (Hons) in acoustics. He is an Corporate Member of the Institute of Acoustics and holds the Institute of Acoustics Environmental Noise certificate. Richard has been technical lead and topic author for a number of large-scale projects including renewables, industrial and infrastructure he has a wide range of experience in the measurement and prediction of noise impacts from solar farms.
- 1.2.9 Jonty Stewart has an MSc in Environmental Acoustics from the University of Salford and is an Associate Director of the RPS Acoustics Team with more than 20 years of experience in acoustic consultancy. He is a member of Institute of Acoustics and is a specialist acoustic consultant with a wide range of experience gained in the UK and worldwide working with electroacoustics, psychoacoustics, architectural acoustics and environmental acoustics. Jonty has been the technical lead and topic author of a number of large-scale environmental impact assessments, with experience in both traditional and renewable energy.

Climate Change

- 1.2.10 Andrew Tasker, Associate Director, has over 9 years' experience and technical knowledge in the principles of sustainability, specialising in climate change and corporate sustainability. He is responsible for advising on and performing climate change assessments at both project/asset and corporate / strategic levels in support of planning applications (EIA and non-EIA). Andrew has successfully been the technical lead for climate change assessments across a variety of sectors including residential, commercial, renewable energy and battery storage for both local level and nationally significant infrastructure projects (DCO applications). He is a co-author of the latest update to the IEMA GHG in EIA Guidance document.

Socio Economics

- 1.2.11 Dan Hay, Technical Director of socioeconomics at RPS, is a skilled Chartered Town Planner (MRTPI) and Member of the Institute of Economic Development (MEID) with over 10 years' experience in advising on the social and economic impacts arising from large scale strategic development projects both in the private and public sector. Dan co-ordinates the delivery of socioeconomic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) chapters for a wide variety of projects working closely with RPS teams across the UK. He has considerable experience in advising on the socio-economic impacts of renewable energy projects including large scale solar farms and onshore wind projects via the DCO and DNS processes, large scale residential and commercial developments, and other nationally important infrastructure projects within the UK context.
- 1.2.12 Joney Ramirez is a Principal Planning Consultant at RPS and a Chartered Town Planner (MRTPI) with over 10 years of experience in the public and private sectors. Joney has extensive experience in a range of large scale residential, leisure and commercial developments across the UK with inputs to Environmental Impact Assessments.

Human Health

- 1.2.13 Ryngan Pyper is the Director of Health and Social Impact at RPS. Ryngan is first author of the IEMA health in EIA guidance 2022 and the Institute of Public Health (IPH) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) guidance 2021. Ryngan is also first author of the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 review of international practice on health in EIA and SEA. Ryngan is a registered public health practitioner with the Faculty of Public Health, as well as an Honorary Research Fellow and Member of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health in Impact Assessments at the University of Liverpool. Ryngan has over 18 years' experience as a professional consultant, with a public health, environmental science and legal practice background. Ryngan is chair of the health section of the International Association for Impact Assessment. Ryngan is experienced with renewable projects, as well as many other sectors. As an expert witness Ryngan has demonstrated robust health assessment at Public Inquiry and DCO hearings.

Agricultural Land Use and Public Rights of Way

- 1.2.14 Julia Tindale is a Senior Director at RPS and has over 30 years of experience in land use, recreation and environmental assessment. During her career, Julia has specialised in the preparation of soils, agricultural and recreation assessments for ESs together with the development and implementation of soil and Public Rights of Way management plans. Julia also has experience of overall project management of large-scale infrastructure projects. Her specialist experience includes road and aviation projects, mineral extraction and renewable energy schemes as well as a number of large scale residential schemes. Julia has presented expert evidence on soils, agricultural land quality, land restoration, recreation and common land at Public Inquiry and DCO hearings.

Waste and Resources

- 1.2.15 Clare Russell is an Associate Director at RPS with over 20 years' experience in environmental consultancy, specialising in EIA. Clare has managed multi-disciplined teams to deliver high quality ESs for a range of developments including several NSIPs and road improvement schemes. Clare also has a broad range of experience covering other aspect of planning and EIA including due diligence, contaminated land and the management of construction impacts, which has been valuable to clients in understanding potential environmental impacts. Clare has worked closely with Project Directors to successfully deliver a number of high profile ESs. She adopts a proactive approach in building good working relationships within the environ and the client/design teams. Clare is the onshore EIA co-ordinator for BP/ EnBW Mona Offshore Wind Farm and is responsible for the preparation of the PEIR. She specialises in assessing construction impacts and the management of construction and operation waste. Clare has also prepared Site Waste Management Plans, Code of Construction Practice documents and Construction Environmental Management Plans.

Air Quality

- 1.2.16 Kathryn Barker has a BSc in Environmental Science, an MSc in Environmental Pollution Control and is a Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM) and the Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc). Kathryn has worked in air quality consultancy since 2015. Kathryn has extensive experience modelling emissions from traffic, industrial sites, energy from waste facilities, short term operating reserve facilities and mixed-use developments with energy centres. Kathryn has undertaken monitoring of NO₂ using diffusion tubes, monitoring of suspended and deposited dust and odour monitoring.
- 1.2.17 Will Hunt has a BSc in Earth and Ocean Science and is a Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM) and the Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc). Will has worked in air quality consultancy since 2019. Will has extensive experience assessing the impacts of dust and modelling of emissions from traffic, data centres, industrial sources, energy from waste facilities and short-term operating reserves.

Cumulative Effects and Inter-relationships

- 1.2.18 The cumulative effects and inter-relationships assessment has been informed by the topic-specific authors mentioned above with input and coordination from the EIA management team at RPS.