

Springwell Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Appendix 1.1: Statement of Competence

Volume 3

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November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009



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1. Statement of Competence

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. Regulation 14(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 states:

“In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement –

The applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and

The environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.

1.1.2. This Statement of Competence has been prepared by RSK Environment Limited, as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Coordinator for the Proposed Development, and outlines the relevant professional experience, capabilities and competency of the individuals responsible for preparing the Environmental Statement (ES).

1.2. RSK Environment Limited

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Quality Mark

- 1.2.1. RSK Environment Limited is registered to the EIA Quality Mark scheme operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), recognising that RSK Environment Limited produces Environmental Statements (and EIA Reports in Scotland) in accordance with current best practice standards. This scheme is based around a set of EIA Commitments. The EIA Quality Mark provides a benchmark for EIA activities and allows registrants to demonstrate a commitment to delivering quality EIA and ESs.



1.3. Competent Experts

- 1.3.1. **Table 1** and **Table 2** below summarise the relevant professional experience, capabilities and competency of the individuals responsible for preparing the Environmental Statement.

Table 1 Environmental Impact Assessment

EIA Director

Technical Director with over 24 years' experience in the environment sector, 23 of which have been spent in environmental consultancy. Their main experience relates to the environmental assessment and management of a wide range of projects including energy, road infrastructure projects (motorway, smart motorway, trunk road and local authority road schemes in Wales, England and Scotland), residential/mixed-use developments, pipelines and gas storage facilities.

As a Chartered Environmentalist, they have demonstrated an excellent level of EIA and planning knowledge, with particular areas of expertise in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects; project management of small, medium and large scale EIAs; providing pragmatic advice to clients on environmental issues and opportunities; working closely with clients and statutory/non-statutory organisations; and undertaking stakeholder consultation.

They are also a former chair of IEMA's Impact Assessment Steering Group.

EIA Lead Coordinator

Principal Environmental Consultant with over 8 years' experience in managing and coordinating Environmental Impact Assessments. Their key experience relates to the environmental assessment, coordination, management and delivery of a broad range of projects including renewable energy and mixed-use projects of varying scales and complexity.

A Practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA), they have key expertise in EIA, identifying and managing environmental constraints and opportunities and coordinating multidisciplinary teams.

EIA Coordinator

Senior Environmental Consultant with six years of experience in EIA. Holds a Bachelor of Science on Environmental Science and is an Affiliate member of IEMA and Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM). Demonstrates strong expertise across all aspects of the EIA process, delivering top-quality projects for clients in the UK and worldwide. Has led the preparation and review of ES chapters and technical reports for a variety of projects, from road infrastructure, urban regeneration to renewable energy projects. Coordinated and supported multiple projects simultaneously, ensuring timely delivery and effective communication with clients and technical consultants.

Table 2 Qualifications and experience of technical leads

EIA technical discipline	Qualifications/professional memberships/accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of previous project experience of technical leads
Acoustics	BEng (Hons) Audio Acoustics Member of the Institute of Acoustics	9	Experience in undertaking a variety of noise impacts assessments for differing renewable energy projects. Including Solar, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), onshore wind, hydrogen and electrical infrastructure projects.
Air Quality	PhD Air Quality MEng Environmental Engineering BEng Civil Engineering Practitioner Member of IEMA Full Member of Institute of Air Quality Management and Institute of Environmental Sciences Chartered Scientist Chartered Environmentalist	30	With over 30 years of experience in environmental consultancy this professional has undertaken, coordinated or reviewed Air Quality Impact Assessments for several infrastructure development projects in the UK and overseas, including solar, BESS, onshore and offshore wind, carbon capture, hydrogen and electrical infrastructure projects. Currently engaged in five additional large scale solar National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). Also experienced in preparing and presenting evidence at public inquiries and oral hearings.
Arboriculture	FdSc Arboriculture and Tree Management Level 5 Level 3 Technician's Certificate in Arboriculture	25	With over 25 years in the arboricultural industry from contractor to consultant overseas and the UK, this professional brings a comprehensive skill set encompassing hazard assessments, tree

EIA technical discipline	Qualifications/professional memberships/accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of previous project experience of technical leads
	<p>National Diploma Horticulture</p> <p>National Diploma Forestry</p> <p>LANTRA professional tree inspection</p> <p>ISA tree risk assessment qualification</p> <p>Professional member of the Arboriculture Association</p> <p>CSCS Supervisor card holder</p> <p>NPTC CS chainsaw and tree climbing certificates</p>		<p>management plans, project management, Arboricultural Clerk of Works and development project surveys. They have led large-scale tree hazard surveys across the south of England.</p> <p>Their portfolio includes extensive experience of undertaking BS 5837 development tree surveys. Have undertaken development surveys across the country for a range of projects: large scale NSIPs including solar, wind and electric, local authorities, schools, rail networks, housing developers, and utilities companies.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Net Gain and Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences</p> <p>Fellow of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management</p> <p>Chartered Ecologist</p> <p>Chartered Environmentalist</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>With over 30 years' experience in ecological consultancy, this professional has provided ecological support for a wide range of developments including solar, wind and nuclear. They are currently working on at least five large scale solar NSIPs. They have also served as an expert witness at public inquiries, providing ecological expertise for the Canal and River Trust and more recently for Dorset Council in opposition to large-scale housing developments.</p>

EIA technical discipline	Qualifications/professional memberships/accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of previous project experience of technical leads
Biodiversity	BSc (Hons) Environmental management MSc (Hons) Countryside management Full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management	15	<p>With 15 years of experience in ecological consultancy, this professional has managed a wide range of projects of various sizes; from client and stakeholder liaison, organisation and leading of surveys, to writing technical reports. Their project management experience includes ecological input into schemes ranging from rail, road, utilities, residential, commercial, Ministry of Defence and renewable energy sectors.</p> <p>Experienced in carrying out a wide range of botanical and protected species surveys, and of leading and organising survey teams. They hold survey licences for bats and great crested newts, have held mitigation licences for badgers, and have acted as an accredited agent on bat, great crested newt and dormouse mitigation licences.</p>
Climate	PhD Paleoclimate BSc (Hons) Earth and Environmental Science Fellow of the Geological Society	9	<p>A Principal Consultant within Nature Positive's Carbon and Sustainability team, holding a PhD in Climate Science, with nine years of experience. Specialises in leading the greenhouse gas assessment and climate-risk workstreams needed for EIA, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, and a number of other compliance-related projects.</p>

EIA technical discipline	Qualifications/professional memberships/accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of previous project experience of technical leads
			To date, has successfully delivered 20 Climate Change chapters for EIAs.
Cultural Heritage	BA (Hons) Archaeology and Ancient History PG Dip Landscape Archaeology and Geomatics Member of Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	21	A Principal Archaeology and Built Heritage Consultant with Headland Archaeology with 21 years post-graduate experience and 14 years' specialising in EIA. Experienced in delivering and overseeing the production of 20 Cultural Heritage chapters for EIAs, providing expert input on archaeological and heritage matters for a wide range of development projects.
Glint and Glare	BEng Mechanical Engineering	2	Over two years of experience in undertaking, coordinating and reviewing technical impact, providing expert guidance on a range of consenting issues related to solar developments.
Landscape/Visual	BA (Hons) Landscape Design and Town Planning Postgraduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute	25	With 25 years' experience in undertaking, coordinating or reviewing Landscape Visual Impact Assessments for over 100 commercial scale renewable energy and grid infrastructure projects in the UK including solar, BESS, onshore and offshore wind, carbon capture, hydrogen and electrical infrastructure projects. A regular landscape expert witness and has given evidence at many solar and wind project public inquiries and appeal hearings. Currently undertaking a role as the landscape lead or

EIA technical discipline	Qualifications/professional memberships/accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of previous project experience of technical leads
			<p>technical reviewer for a further five large scale solar NSIPs.</p>
Land, Soil and Groundwater	Member of the Institute of Soil Science	9	<p>Senior Soils Consultant with extensive experience of coordinating, managing and delivering Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys on solar, BESS, rail and highway infrastructure projects. This professional has produced and inputted into several EIAs. Currently coordinating the delivery of ALC surveys on a further five large scale solar NSIPs.</p>
Land, Soil and Groundwater	BSc (Hons) Environmental Geology MSc Environmental Diagnostics Chartered Geologist European Geologist	24	<p>Provided expertise for all stages of EIA developments for numerous projects, including solar farms, onshore wind farms, linear infrastructure projects and onshore elements of offshore wind farm projects.</p>
Population	BSc (Hons) Geography MSc Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Practitioner member of IEMA	7	<p>Principal EIA Coordinator and specialist in population and human health. Successfully led population assessment for numerous major development projects, the vast majority of which relate to solar energy generation.</p>
Traffic and Transport	HND Civil Engineering	27	<p>Responsible for authoring, coordinating or reviewing numerous EIA related to traffic and transport impacts</p>

EIA technical discipline	Qualifications/professional memberships/accreditation	Years of Experience	Summary of previous project experience of technical leads
	Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation		associated with energy generation and transmission schemes across the UK and overseas. Experienced in several NSIP projects which have included preparation and active participation during examination periods and hearings.
Water	BSc (Hons) Environmental Science MSc Environmental Water Management Chartered Water and Environment Manager Practitioner member of IEMA	22	Specialising in the impacts of development on the water environment, flood risk drainage consultancy and design.



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