

# **HEOLDDU SOLAR FARM**

## **Environmental Statement**

**Volume 3, Appendix 1.1: Statement of Expertise**

**September  
2025**

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**Prepared by:**

**RPS**

**Prepared for:**

**Heolddu Solar Park Ltd**

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# 1 STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

## 1.1 RPS

### EIA Management

1.1.1 This document forms Volume 3, Appendix 1.3: Statement of Expertise of the Environmental Statement (ES) prepared for the development of Heolddu Solar Farm (referred to hereafter as 'the Proposed Development').

- 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/EIA Reports 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/EIA Reports 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/EIA Reports that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner.
- Improving EIA Practice – We commit to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with ISEP (formerly 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.

1.1.2 An ISEP (formerly IEMA) Quality Mark review service has been provided by the RPS EIA & Sustainability team as part of an ongoing peer review service to support RPS Cardiff.

1.1.3 EIA management and preparation of the Environmental Statement (ES), including the preparation of introductory chapters 1 – 4, has been undertaken by Emily Avery.

1.1.4 Emily Avery (Bsc (Hons), Msc, MRTPI, PIEMA) is a chartered town planner and a Practitioner Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Emily has 5+ years' experience of preparing and managing major, multi-disciplinary

projects and planning applications. Emily also manages multidisciplinary technical teams to prepare comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments.

## 1.2 Topic Authors

### Landscape and Visual

- 1.2.1 Environmental Statement **Volume 1, Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual** has been prepared by the RPS Landscape team.
- 1.2.2 Amir Iqbal is a Senior Landscape Architect and has 8 years of experience in landscape architecture, initially working on large scale NSIPs such as HS2 which included landscape design and mitigation, landscape graphics. This has evolved into a focus on landscape planning with an involvement in numerous energy and renewable schemes from solar PVs, wind farms, energy from waste, battery storage and geothermals / power stations. As a Senior Landscape Planner, Amir is involved principally with Development Consent Order (DCO) projects across renewables such as energy transmission, solar and wind farm arrays, as well as residential development and housing schemes for the preparation of Landscape and Visual Assessments (LVIA), Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVA) and conducting landscape and visual site surveys.

### Technical Reviewer

- 1.2.3 George Lilley is a Chartered Senior Landscape Architect with some 20 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.

### Biodiversity

- 1.2.4 Environmental Statement **Volume 1, Chapter 6: Biodiversity** has been prepared by the RPS Ecology team.
- 1.2.5 Lloyd Richards (BSc, MSc) is an associate ecologist at RPS. He is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and has over 10 years of experience in ecological consulting on a wide range of infrastructure projects. Lloyd has spearheaded the biodiversity design on schemes of varying scales, including designing appropriate avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures for habitats and species. As part of mitigation design and delivery, Lloyd has held European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences and has implemented the necessary measures, on a range of sites. Lloyd has prepared ecological impact assessments for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects within the energy sector and has undertaken habitats regulations assessments (Stage 1 and Stage 2) for an array of different development types, including appropriate liaison with the relevant stakeholder/consultee as part of both processes.

### Technical Reviewer

- 1.2.6 Tim is a highly experienced ecologist leading the ecology team in the RPS Bristol office, managing all the services provided by the team. Tim has worked on numerous complex and challenging projects throughout the UK including infrastructure and transport, renewables, residential, energy, waste, public sector, ports, mineral extraction, residential, and conservation. With over twenty years' experience he brings a depth of experience and technical expertise to projects and has a detailed understanding of how to resolve ecology issues. Tim leads on integrated environmental design and the provision of green infrastructure; actively collaborating with multi-disciplinary teams to achieve environmental and development objectives.

### Soils

- 1.2.7 Environmental Statement **Volume 1, Chapter 7: Soils** has been prepared by Kernon Countryside Consultants Ltd.
- 1.2.8 Tony Kernon is a Chartered Surveyor and a Fellow of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants. He has almost 40 years' experience in assessing the effects of development proposals on agricultural land, soils and farm businesses. Tony has extensive experience of solar farm sites and their installation and operation in so far as they affect soils and land quality.

### Cultural Heritage

- 1.2.9 Environmental Statement **Volume 1, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology.
- 1.2.10 Robert Sutton (BSc (Hons), MCIfA), Director of Heritage Consultancy at Cotswold Archaeology, has 25 years' experience of working in the heritage sector. Robert has coordinated and delivered the cultural heritage (including archaeology) components of over 250 EIAs and in excess of 750 heritage impact assessments. He stands as expert witness for half-a-dozen different appeals every year. Rob has been involved in the development and detailed design of schemes in some of the most 'heritage sensitive' locations in the UK and has developed industry guidance and best practice on assessing change to heritage significance. Rob was part of the team that revised the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) cultural heritage impact assessment guidance for the Highways Agency in 2007 and drafted the Historic England guidance on assessing noise impacts on heritage significance. Rob was also the author of the recent revision to the cultural heritage chapter of the 'EIA Handbook'. He also sits on the Advisory Panel for the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) /Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) / Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) publication 'Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment'.

### Technical Reviewer

- 1.2.11 Julia Sulikowska (MA, MCIfA), Principal Heritage Consultant at Cotswold Archaeology, has been a professional archaeologist for over 19 years. Julia has managed and contributed to over 500 archaeology and heritage projects supporting planning applications across England and Wales. She has extensive experience of undertaking

archaeology and cultural heritage assessments and has been involved in the preparation of cultural heritage Environmental Statement chapters for renewable, residential, mixed-use, and commercial schemes since 2013.

## Noise

- 1.2.12 Environmental Statement **Volume 1, Chapter 9: Noise** has been prepared by Inacoustic.
- 1.2.13 Archie Byard BSc (Hons), TechIOA, is a Senior Acoustic Consultant with over 4 years of experience in acoustics. His expertise includes noise and vibration measurements and surveys, detailed noise modelling, and preparing noise impact assessments to support planning applications, discharge of conditions and detailed design. He has worked extensively on projects involving constrained Energy Storage Systems, Solar developments and STOR schemes across England and Wales. Archie has authored both standalone Technical Reports as well as Environmental Statement chapters relating to noise and vibration.

## Technical Reviewer

- 1.2.14 Neil Morgan MSc, BSc, has over twenty years' experience in engineering and environmental Consultancy, with specific expertise in acoustics developed over the past two decades. He is highly experienced in a wide range of noise measurement, prediction and assessment projects. His expertise includes environmental noise and vibration surveys, compliance monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Permit assessments and planning, and occupational, construction, road traffic, rail traffic and industrial noise and vibration assessments. Neil is also an expert in strategic noise mapping and delivering acoustic input to EIAs and planning submissions. He is highly proficient in the use of advanced noise and vibration measurement instrumentation and specialist noise modelling suite software.

## Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Ground Conditions

- 1.2.15 Environmental Statement **Volume 1, Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Ground Conditions** has been prepared by RPS Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions teams.
- 1.2.16 Caitlin Evans (BSc, MSc). Caitlin has over 2 years of experience working in the RPS Hydrology team where she is responsible for preparing flood risk/consequence assessments and designing conceptual drainage strategies in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Practice Guidance, Scottish Planning Policy, Planning Policy Wales and TAN 15. Caitlin has also authored hydrology and flood risk related Environmental Statement (ES) chapters and supporting technical reports. Additionally, Caitlin interprets a wide range of technical data such hydraulic modelling outputs and flood mapping, for inclusion with the discipline.
- 1.2.17 Liz Williams (BSc, MSc). Liz has 20+ years' experience specialising in contaminated land assessments to support planning applications. Liz's work includes the assessment of potential impacts of ground conditions on proposed developments, determination of a site's suitability for use, and identifying potential development constraints. She has

produced technical reports on Ground Conditions, Hydrogeology and Geology Environmental Statement (ES) chapters for a number of large-scale developments and major infrastructure projects across the UK.

### **Technical Reviewers**

- 1.2.18 Jonathon Morley BSc (Hons) is a Technical Director with over 18 years' experience undertaking environmental reporting, hydrological assessment, geo-environmental investigations and contaminated lands surveys. Jonathan provides hydrological and flood risk technical support and advice for a wide range of development proposals including; residential, employment, business parks, manufacturing, Energy from Waste facilities, and renewable energy scheme comprising solar, battery and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). Notable schemes include; Hornsea One, Two and Three, National Grid Viking Link, Viking Link Shetland and FABLink. During the course of supporting planning applications and associated Environmental Impact Assessments, Jonathan has both prepared and technically reviewed Flood Risk Assessments and Hydrological Models, which have been utilised to refine Flood Zones for development applications. His role includes project management and liaison with various stakeholders to address concerns pertaining to project development, as well as inputting into hydrological aspects of Development Consent Orders (DCO).
- 1.2.19 Gary Riches (BSc, FGS) has over 30 years' 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. Gary has been technical lead and both prepared and technically reviewed reports on ground conditions and land contamination for planning applications and EIA for several large renewable energy projects including those through Development Consent Orders (DCO) including Botley West Solar Farm, Xlinks Morocco-UK Power DCO Project and Great North Road Solar Farm.