



Land North of Camer Road, Meopham

Environmental Statement

Appendix 1.5: Competency Statement

Iceni Projects Limited on
behalf of The McManus Family

February 2026

Iceni Projects Ltd.

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EIA Quality Mark

This Environmental Statement, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out to identify the significant environmental effects of the proposed development, was undertaken in line with the EIA Quality Mark Commitments.

The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by ISEP, through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:

- *EIA Management*
- *EIA Team Capabilities*
- *EIA Regulatory Compliance*
- *EIA Context & Influence*
- *EIA Content*
- *EIA Presentation*
- *Improving EIA practice*



To find out more about the EIA Quality Mark please visit:

<https://www.isepglobal.org/>

Background

Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament requires that, for all developments considered to constitute an Environmental Impact Assessment development ('EIA development'), the EIA report (i.e. the Environmental Statement) is prepared by '*competent experts*'. In addition, the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended)¹ section 18 (5)(b) states that "*the Environmental Statement must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts*'.

As such, this Statement of Competence has been prepared by Iceni Projects, as lead EIA Coordinator for the Proposed Development, to outline the capability of the company and the competency of the individuals responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (legislation.gov.uk)

Iceni Projects

Iceni Projects ('Iceni') is a registrant of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals ('ISEP') EIA Quality Mark programme; the certificate is located on page 2 of this document. Iceni is a leading provider of environmental services with a thorough understanding of the UK town and country planning system and the EIA Regulations, which enables us to ensure that we deliver comprehensive and robust Environmental Statements. Iceni have managed numerous EIA projects across the UK, and we clearly and concisely understand the impact of development on the environment.

Competent Experts

Summaries of the qualifications and experience of the EIA Project Management Team responsible for the coordination and review of the Environmental Statement, and authors of Chapters 1 to 3, the residual effects chapter and the NTS, are presented below.

EIA Project Director, MRTPI, PISEP

The EIA Project Director is a Director within the Strategic Planning Team at Iceni Projects with over 13 years' professional experience, specialising in EIA, and is a Practitioner Member of ISEP.

The EIA Project Director has experience in the preparation and coordination of EIAs for a range of residential, commercial, mixed-used and infrastructure projects around the UK.

EIA Project Manager, MRTPI, PISEP

The EIA Project Manager is an EIA Consultant within the Strategic Planning Team at Iceni Projects with four years' professional experience, specialising in EIA, and is a Practitioner Member of ISEP.

They have experience in the preparation and coordination of EIAs for a range of projects around the UK.

EIA Technical Consultants

EIA Technical Discipline	Consultant	Summary
Chapter 4: Socio-Economics	Iceni Projects	This chapter of the ES has been prepared by a Senior Consultant who has 13 years technical experience and is a Member of the Institute of Economic Development (MIED), and Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI). It has been reviewed by a Director who has 8 years technical experience and is a Member of the Institute of Economic Development (MIED). Iceni Projects holds the IEMA QMark.
Chapter 5: Transport and Access	tcc	This assessment has been undertaken by skilled professionals with over 25 years of combined experience in transport planning. This experience spans many sectors including housing, commercial, education and public realm with particular experience working within the local and highway authority areas relevant to this scheme.
Chapter 6: Air Quality	Entran Ltd	This assessment was undertaken by a senior consultant with over nine years experience in the field of air quality. They hold a BSc (Hons) in Geography and Environmental Management and are a member of the Institute of Air Quality Management. This chapter has been reviewed by a Technical Director with over 25 years' experience in the field of air quality. They hold a BSc (Hons), MSc and PG Dip, are a member of the Institute of Air Quality Management and are a Chartered Environmentalist.
Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration	Entran Ltd	This chapter was undertaken a Principal Consultant with over 13 years' experience in conducting environmental noise and vibration impact assessments for a range of project types. Stuart holds an MSc in Environmental and Architectural Acoustics and is a Member of the Institute of Acoustics.
Chapter 8: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	GTA Civils & Transport	The EIA Project Director for GTA holds IEng, ACIWEM and MCIHT qualifications and has over 30 years' experience in civil engineering design work, specialising in Flood Risk solutions, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and producing compliant designs to Environment Agency (EA) and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) standards.

EIA Technical Discipline	Consultant	Summary
Chapter 9: Archaeology	Iceni Projects	The Principal Author undertaking this assessment obtained a BA and MA in Archaeology in 2006 from the University of Lund, Sweden with subsequent approximately 20 years' experience in British commercial Archaeology, ranging from fieldwork to project management to consultancy.
Chapter 10: Ecology	Greenspace Ecology	This assessment was undertaken by a suitably experienced Greenspace Ecological Solutions' Ecologist who is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). The assessment was overseen, reviewed and approved by a GES Associate Director with over 13 years' experience in Commercial Ecology and Technical Assessments, and a member of CIEEM. The Author's experience within the planning system ranges from initial identification of ecological constraints and opportunities, through to design of ecological mitigation and enhancement strategies and master planning, management of large-scale EIAs, stakeholder consultation, and design and implementation of post-planning management and monitoring strategies. The Author is an accomplished field surveyor, experienced in a wide range of habitat/botanical and protected species surveys, and holds Natural England survey licences for bats and great crested newts. The Author is also experienced in Habitats Regulations Assessment and has a proven track record of successful project delivery in the presence of often complex ecological constraints.
Chapter 11: Built Heritage	Iceni Projects	Edward Wollaston BA(Hons) PGDip is a Senior Consultant in the Built Heritage and Townscape Team. He has over 10 years' experience as a heritage and townscape consultant on a range of project types. Georgia Foy BA(Hons) MA MAUD IHBC is an Associate Director in the Built Heritage and Townscape team. She has over 8 years' experience in both public and private sector and has acted as expert witness at examination hearings and public inquiry. She is a full member of the IHBC.

EIA Technical Discipline	Consultant	Summary
		Laurie Handcock MA (Cantab) MSc IHBC, MCIfA is the Director of the Built Heritage and Townscape team at Icen Projects. He has extensive experience advising on both heritage and town-scape matters, including acting as expert witness at numerous public inquiries. He is a full member of the IHBC and ClfA.
Chapter 12: LVIA	Icen Projects	This assessment has been prepared by a qualified Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) and Practitioner of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (PISEP) with over 15 years' years' experience of writing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments that form part of Environmental Statements, as well as appearing as an expert witness on landscape and Green Belt matters.