

National Grid Cable Tunnel Replacement Project

Environmental Statement Volume VI Appendix 4.3: Competent Expert Evidence

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Quality information

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Table of Contents

1	Competent Expert Evidence	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	About AECOM	1

Tables

Table 1: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Team Qualifications and Experience	2
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1 Competent Expert Evidence

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 In line with Regulation 18(5)(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, this Environmental Statement (ES) has been produced by competent experts with the relevant experience in their respective specialist topics. A summary of the experience of the team is provided in Table 1.
- 1.1.2 These individuals are part of a wider team of engineering and environmental professionals involved in the EIA process and the production of the ES.

1.2 About AECOM

- 1.2.1 AECOM has been awarded the EIA Quality Mark from the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), demonstrating competency in ES preparation. As per Regulation 18(5)(a) of the EIA Regulations, this EIA was undertaken by competent experts with the relevant and appropriate experience in their respective topics. The EIA technical leads responsible for the individual chapters are identified within Table 1.

Table 1: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Team Qualifications and Experience

Topic/Role	Name	Relevant academic and professional qualifications	Relevant experience in the environmental assessment of infrastructure projects
Project Director	David Ritchie	BSc (Hons) Environmental Management and Technology	David is a Technical Director with more than 18 years' experience in environmental planning, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consenting. He has a wide range of expertise in the power sector including electricity transmission and distribution, interconnectors, renewable generation and storage. David specialises leading multi-disciplinary teams undertaking EIAs and other environmental and consenting related studies for developments ranging in size and complexity from small scale or local projects to large scale or nationally significant projects. His project experience covers all of the key stages of a project's typical development lifecycle from site finding, feasibility studies, routeing studies and option appraisals through all aspects of EIA, consultation and consenting as well as public inquiry, post consent and construction. He has extensive experience in developing and successfully implementing project development and delivery strategies as part of the option appraisal, EIA and consenting of large-scale complex projects. At all stages he is well versed with balancing competing environmental, planning, technical, engineering and cost considerations to effectively support the development and construction of projects, reduce environmental and consenting risks and secure positive outcomes.
EIA Lead	Helen Travers	- MSc Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Reconstruction - BSc (Hons) Geography - PIEMA - MIEnvSc	Helen has ten years of consultancy experience working on a variety of EIA projects, both under the NSIP and TCPA consenting regimes within energy, highways and water sectors. Helen has a strong understanding of UK planning and consenting requirements and has successfully prepared, coordinated and delivered environmental assessments and other consenting requirements on a number of projects, including:

Topic/Role	Name	Relevant academic and professional qualifications	Relevant experience in the environmental assessment of infrastructure projects
			• Viking CCS Pipeline (DCO); • Humber Low Carbon Pipeline (DCO); • Nautilus Interconnector (TCPA); • Western Gas Network Project (non-statutory EIA for PD); • Scottish to England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) (Marine Licencing); • Mid Wales Connection Project (DCO); • Lower Thames Crossing (DCO); • A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool (DCO); • Trans-Pennine Upgrade (DCO); • Birmingham Resilience Project (TCPA); • Start up to Waste (TCPA); and • Chichester Wastewater Pipeline (TCPA).
EIA Co-ordinator	Hugo White	• BSc Environmental Science • National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (NEBOSH) • Practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment	Hugo has four years of consultancy experience working on a variety of projects including several EIA's, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure, as well as applications submitted under the Town and County Planning Act within energy, road, rail and urban regeneration sectors. He has knowledge and understanding of the regulatory processes that exist whilst working on large scale infrastructure projects. Hugo has produced non-technical and cumulative chapters for Environmental Statements and has coordinated inputs from environmental specialists for the successful completion of projects. Relevant project experience includes: • Nautilus Interconnector (TCPA); • Immingham Green Energy Terminal (DCO); • A27 Arundel Bypass (DCO); • A34 Lodge Hill (TCPA); • Didcot HIF Road Scheme (TCPA); • GridLink Interconnector (Non-EIA planning application); and • Crystal Palace Park (TCPA).

Topic/Role	Name	Relevant academic and professional qualifications	Relevant experience in the environmental assessment of infrastructure projects
Ecology Lead	John Simmons	- BSc Biology - Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) - Chartered Ecologist (CEcol) - Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)	John has over 19 years of experience as an ecological consultant and leads AECOM's ecology teams in the East and South East of England. John has extensive experience in undertaking ecological impact assessments for large scale infrastructure. In addition, he is experienced in overseeing large scale survey works and the design and implementation of protected species mitigation. John was responsible for developing the template and approach for ecological assessment in support of High Speed 2 Phase One, and authoring the route wide chapter on ecology. Recent project experience includes: - South East Aylesbury Link Road – Phases 1 and 2 (TCPA); - A40 Smart Corridor (TCPA); - Access to Witney (TCPA); - HS2 Phase 2B (Hybrid Bill); - A27 Arundel Bypass (DCO); and - Cwm Taf Water Treatment Works (TCP Regs Wales).
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Lead	James Riley	- BSc Biology - MSc Crop Protection - PhD Restoration Ecology - Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) - Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)	Dr Riley leads AECOM's HRA business across the UK and Republic of Ireland. He has been a practicing HRA consultant since 2003 and has worked on hundreds of HRAs, including those for nationally important plans (such as the Northern Ireland Climate Action Plan, the Irish National Cycle Network Plan, and five of the six English Marine Plans produced by the Marine Management Organisation), Local Plans, and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects such as the Thames Tideway Tunnel for Thames Water, Sealink for National Grid, HS2, the A303 Stonehenge for National Highways and the Net Zero Teesside project. He has lectured on HRA at Imperial College, London, and provided HRA training to the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and to National Grid. He has appeared in an HRA context at Local Plan Examinations, DCO Examinations, Public Inquiry and Consistory Court.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Lead	Lewis Deacon	- PhD Microbial Ecology - BSc (Hons) Biology - MCIEEM - CEnv	Lewis has over 20 years' experience in the ecological sector, comprised of consultancy experience in ecology, biodiversity and environmental

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			management and academic experience post-degree, including lecturing, research, funding applications and publication in peer reviewed journals. He has 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. He works closely with other teams in AECOM to ensure engagement at the critical points in project lifecycles at both the project and the client level.
Landscape and Visual Lead	Ruth Mauritzen	• BSc Environmental Science; • MLA of Landscape Architecture; • Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute.	Ruth is a chartered landscape architect with over 24 years of experience of landscape planning for major infrastructure projects over a wide range of sectors including energy transmission and generation. She has delivered these projects through the whole consenting lifecycle with a particular focus on robust and rigorous LVIAs and the full supporting suite of technical documents. Ruth has acted as an expert witness at Public Inquiry and Hearings for T&CP applications, DCOs and s36/s37 applications. Recent project experience includes: • Sea Link (DCO) • Scotland England Green Link 2 (TCPA); • Viking Link (TCPA); • Neuconnect (TCPA); • Gala to Harker Network Upgrade (s37); • Denny Wishaw Network Upgrade (s37) • Spirebush Wind Farm Connection (s37)

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Historic Environment Lead	Iain Williamson	BA (Hons) Archaeology Associate Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	Iain has 25 years experience of commercial archaeology, with over 15 years as an archaeological consultant. His expertise includes the successful delivery of a range of desk-based assessments, Environmental Statement Chapters and the design, procurement and implementation of archaeological field surveys and mitigation. He has extensive experience of designing and overseeing the delivery of programmes of archaeological investigation and historic environment works having been seconded to Crossrail and HS2 Phase 1. His project experience includes: • Cwm Taf Water Treatment Works (TCP Regs Wales) • HS2 Phase 1 Enabling Works (Hybrid Bill) • Oval Gasworks, (TCPA) • Crossrail (Hybrid Bill) • Bank Station Capacity Upgrade Scheme (TWA0) • Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford, (TCPA) • M1 J10a Improvements (DCO)
Traffic and Transport Lead	Chris Burlton	• BSc Geography • Member of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (MCIHT) • Member of the Society of Road Safety Auditors (MSoRSA)	Chris has 15 years of transport planning experience (including seven years of road safety experience), working on the variety of projects including several EIAs, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS), as well as applications submitted under the Town and Country Planning Act within the energy, residential, employment and educational sectors. He has knowledge and experience of the key considerations and challenges relating to traffic and transport on large-scale infrastructure projects. Chris has produced Traffic and Transport chapters for Preliminary Environmental Impact Reports (PEIR) and Environmental Statements (ES), as well as supporting Transport Assessments, Outline Construction Traffic Management Plans, Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plans and cumulative impact assessment chapters. He has also supported the above deliverables by providing advice and fulfilling a checker role. Relevant project experience includes:

Topic/Role	Name	Relevant academic and professional qualifications	Relevant experience in the environmental assessment of infrastructure projects
			• Sea Link (DCO); • Longfield Solar Farm (DCO); • Gate Burton Energy Park (DCO); • Fosse Green Energy (DCO); • Nautilus Interconnector (TCPA); • Crouch Solar Farm (TCPA); • Barnfields Solar Farm (TCPA); and • Reeds Solar Farm (TCPA).
Noise and Vibration Lead	Edward Robinson	• BSc Physics with Music • Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control • Member of the Institute of Acoustics	Edward has worked for AECOM for fourteen years and has 17 years' experience working as a noise and vibration consultant. Edward is a specialist in undertaking environmental noise impact assessments and leads the AECOM acoustics environmental impact assessment noise work for London and the south. Edward has a track record of delivering high quality reports in tight time scales and has undertaken a number of high-profile Environmental Impact Assessments. Edward has been a key witness for noise in DCO examinations. Relevant project experience includes: • Sunnica Solar Farm (DCO) • Longfield Solar Farm (DCO) • Gate Burton Energy Park (DCO) • Fosse Green Energy (DCO) • Nautilus Interconnector (TCPA) • Project Llyr (TCPA)
Air Quality Lead	Gareth Hodgkiss	BSc (Hons) Geography MSc Environmental Management Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences	Gareth has 16 years of experience in the assessment of air quality impact for various schemes including major linear infrastructure projects. He has experience of delivering ES chapters that form part of a DCO application and has acted as Expert Witness at Public Inquiry. Project examples include:

Topic/Role	Name	Relevant academic and professional qualifications	Relevant experience in the environmental assessment of infrastructure projects
			• York Potash Mine and Pipeline, North Yorkshire Moors; • North Wales Connection DCO; • Immingham Green Emissions Terminal DCO; • High Speed 2 Phase A and Phase B; and • Various National Highways projects, including the M54-M6 Link Road DCO.
Water Environment Lead	Owen Tucker	• BSc (Hons) Geography, Durham University • MSc (by research in physical Geography) thesis 'Late Holocene Relative Sea Level Reconstruction in NW Iceland, Durham University • Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) (2011) • Full Member Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)	Owen is a Chartered Environmentalist and Full Member of CIWEM with over 19 years' experience specialising in water science and environmental management, focused on the assessment of new infrastructure projects across the UK. As part of a diverse Water Environment Team, Owen leads the application of AECOM's water science services on a wide range of infrastructure projects across the UK. Their activities are typically undertaken as part of EIA and WFD assessments and for different planning and consenting regimes (e.g. DCOs, TCPA, s36 Electricity Act etc.). Owen has experience of a wide range of sectors including: Transport (e.g. highways, airports and rail), utilities (e.g. pipelines, WwTW, overhead power lines), power (e.g. solar, pumped storage hydro, wind, biomass and CCGT), water resource infrastructure, flood management and coastal infrastructure, and industrial/ leisure/ residential/ commercial developments. Relevant project experience includes: • Viking CCS Pipeline (DCO); • Barking Reach Power Station Redevelopment EIA (TCPA); • Teeside Clean Gas Project EIA (DCO); • Sunnica Solar Farm EIA (DCO); • Longfield Solar Farm EIA (DCO); • Gate Burton Energy Park EIA (DCO); • Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Scheme EIA (DCO);

Topic/Role	Name	Relevant academic and professional qualifications	Relevant experience in the environmental assessment of infrastructure projects
Materials and Waste Lead	Lucy Hill	• MSc Environmental Management • University Advanced Diploma in Asphalt Technology • BSc (Hons) Environmental Science • Chartered Resource and Waste Manager (Member Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (MCIWM, CRWM)) • Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) • Individual Member International Solid Waste Association, International Waste Manager	Lucy has 15 years of experience providing expertise from a materials and waste perspective, including producing ES chapters for TCPA and DCO applications. Relevant project experience includes the following projects: • Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal; • Immingham Green Energy Terminal; • VPI Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT); • Humber Zero; • Keadby 3 Carbon Capture Power Station; • H2 Teesside; • HyGreen Teesside; • Luton Rising (Luton Airport expansion); • Cwm Taf Water Treatment Works; • A1 Doncaster to Darrington, A1-A19 Junctions North of Newcastle (National Highways); • A34 Lodge Hill, A40 Smart Corridor and Access to Witney (Oxfordshire County Council); and • Chesterfield Staveley Regeneration Route (Derbyshire County Council).

