

Statement of Expertise

This Preliminary Environmental Information Report has been prepared by competent experts, and the following statement outlines the relevant expertise and qualifications of the EIA Co-ordinator and the lead authors of each technical chapter.

EIA Co-ordination

This PEIR has been prepared and co-ordinated by Susan Raine, BSc MSc PIEMA, Technical Director at Wardell Armstrong LLP. Susan has an MSc in Environmental Impact Assessment and Management from the University of Manchester and is also a Practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). Susan has over 10 years' experience in the co-ordination of EIAs and the preparation of ESs for a range of developments.

Wardell Armstrong LLP is a registrant of the IEMA EIA Quality Mark, demonstrating their commitment to excellence in their EIA activities. Susan manages Wardell Armstrong's registration to the EIA Quality Mark, ensuring the high standard of the scheme is adhered to.

Landscape & Visual

The Landscape and Visual Assessment has been written by Lukasz Mazur MLA/MHort CMLI, Associate Director Landscape Architect and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute. Lukasz has over eighteen years of experience in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, landscape planning, landscape design and masterplanning. Lukasz has built his experience over the years across a range of sectors, such as renewable energy, road and rail infrastructure, mixed-use developments, commercial, residential and education. He has produced a range of Landscape and Visual Assessments alongside Townscape and Visual Assessments for solar schemes, frequently located in sensitive areas, alongside feasibility studies and has a track record of delivering LVIA Assessments for a range of high-profile schemes.

Ecology

The Ecology chapter has been written by Tim Bradford BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM CEnv, Technical Director at Wardell Armstrong LLP. Tim is an ecologist with over 15 years professional experience based in London working mainly in the east and south-east of England. He has worked on a variety of DCO projects including for energy and infrastructure. Tim's experience includes all stages of development from site allocation, planning application (including protected species licencing and Habitats Regulations Assessment), overseeing construction and post-construction monitoring. He is a named ecologist on development licences for bats. Tim is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist.

Cultural Heritage

The Cultural Heritage chapter was written by Victoria Anderton-Johnson, a Principal Heritage Consultant at Wardell Armstrong LLP with over 8 years of experience working in the Historic Environment Sector. Victoria is a Practitioner Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) and holds a Masters degree in Archaeology and Heritage. Victoria has experience of preparing numerous assessments in relation to above ground “built” heritage and below ground archaeological remains. Victoria is experienced in making recommendations to mitigation potential adverse effects to heritage assets and/or to enhance the significance of heritage assets across a range of Sites and development projects in the UK.

The PEIR was overseen by Lorna Goring who has over 14 years’ experience in working within the historic environment sector and is an associate member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) and holds a post graduate diploma (PGDip) in Building Conservation and Regeneration. The Aerial Assessment was undertaken by Cat Peters, an Associate Director at Wardell Armstrong with 10 years’ experience. The Geophysical summary report was undertaken by Mike Birtles, an Associate Director at Wardell Armstrong with 12 years’ experience.

Access & Traffic

The Access & Traffic chapter has been prepared by Joanna French at Wardell Armstrong. Joanna French is a Principal Transport Planner with over 30 years of transport planning experience. Her academic qualifications are BSc (Hons) Economics with Politics and MSc Transport Studies and Policy. Professionally she is a full Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport and she works regularly as an Independent Expert on transport and energy projects and investment programmes for the European Commission. Her relevant expertise includes land use and transport policy development and review, transport infrastructure and service appraisal and development, preparation of Transport Assessment and traffic and transport chapters of EIA reports.

The chapter has been reviewed and approved by Ian Cronshaw, BA (Hons), MCIHT Technical Director at Wardell Armstrong LLP. Ian has over 17 years’ transport planning experience in the development sector, undertaking Transport Assessment, Travel Planning, Construction Traffic Management, and Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to development projects. Ian has recently worked on projects in the renewable energy sector including solar, energy storage, geothermal, and onshore wind. Ian has appeared as expert witness at public inquiries.

Noise & Vibration

The main body of the assessment, including the authoring of the chapter and preparation of the computer noise model, has been undertaken by Yanko Yankov, Senior Acoustic Consultant at Wardell Armstrong. Yanko is a full member of the Institute of Acoustics and holds a BEng in Acoustic Engineers from the University of

Salford. Yanko has over 7 years' experience in acoustics consultancy. His previous work includes providing commentary on potential design defects or residential complaints raised due to smart motorway upgrades, and a variety of residential and infrastructure projects.

The chapter has been reviewed and approved by Malcolm Walton, BSc, MCIEH, AMIOA, Technical Director at Wardell Armstrong LLP. Malcolm has over 20 years' experience in the technical co-ordination of environmental appraisal of large schemes. Malcolm regularly carries out and co-ordinates noise and air quality assessment work associated with planning applications, including EIA work and PPC permit application/compliance and regularly acts as expert witness in planning inquiries.

Water Resources & Flood Risk

The Water Resources & Flood Risk chapter has been prepared by Rachel Graham BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIWEM, MIEEnvSc and Anna Saich BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIWEM, MIEEnvSc at Wardell Armstrong.

Rachel is a Principal Environmental Scientist who specialises in hydrology and hydrogeology with over ten years' experience working within the environmental consultancy sector. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (MCIWEM), Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEEnvSc) and the British Hydrological Society. Rachel has worked on Water Environment ES chapters for numerous projects including mineral operations (coal, hard rock and sand and gravel), renewable energy (solar, wind and anaerobic digestion plants (AD)), nationally significant linear infrastructure and residential and mixed-use developments. In addition to Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) Rachel also undertakes field and desk studies, Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) and hydrological and appraisals.

Anna is a Chartered Scientist with seventeen years' experience in the environmental consultancy sector. She has been involved in a variety of Environmental Impact Assessments. Anna is experienced in preparation of conceptual site models and groundwater risk assessments for development projects, mines, quarries and landfill sites, providing input into water environment sections of Environmental Statements. Also the production of supporting assessments such as Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessments, groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems assessments and dewatering assessments for quarries.

Climate Change

The Climate Change chapter has been prepared by Rupert Gale, BA (Hons) MSc PIEMA AMEI, Senior Energy and Climate Change Consultant at Wardell Armstrong. Rupert is responsible for the carbon audit for the whole of Wardell Armstrong and is driving forward the firm-wide Carbon Reduction Plan. Rupert has delivered regional decarbonisation feasibility studies for local authorities and third sector organisations. Rupert has experience in preparing climate change chapters as part of EIA for different types of developments.

Glint

The Glint chapter has been prepared by Andi Sihota and Simon Allen at Wardell Armstrong. Andi is an Energy and Climate Change consultant with a Masters in

GeoEnergy from the University of Edinburgh. Andi has gained an interdisciplinary understanding of environmental matters. Andi supports the Energy and Climate Change Team in delivering a wide range of projects, including climate change chapters for environmental statements for planning applications, wind and solar feasibility studies, and glint assessments. Andi has recent experience of working with both local authority and private sector clients, including feasibility assessments for solar and wind for Leicestershire Council and Hull Council, producing a climate chapter for an Environmental Statement for the development of a film hub in Langleybury, and working on several glint assessments for Environmental Statements for DCO applications.

Simon has over 16 years of experience as an Energy and Climate Change Consultant after graduating from Exeter University with a 1st Class degree in Renewable Energy. He has primarily been involved in working on aspects of wind and solar power development. He is competent in project managing Environmental Impact Assessments and planning applications for a range of renewable developments. Previous projects have included onshore wind, biomass CHP, deep geothermal and solar PV projects. In addition to Project Management, his responsibilities have included writing technical chapters, undertaking detailed financial appraisal of project developments, resource modelling and data interpretation. He has carried out greenhouse gas assessments and climate change assessments as well as site appraisals and feasibility studies for a number of projects. Due diligence work has included the resource modelling of a tidal current turbine system on behalf of a major utility, and he has completed heat mapping exercises and worked on district heating schemes for a variety of local government authorities. Simon has also been involved with procuring meteorological wind monitoring equipment and analysing the wind data produced to assess the wind resource available at a site. He is confident using a variety of software packages to support his role including a proprietary technical wind and solar software, data analysis software and he has a good understanding of Geographical Information Systems.

Soils & Agricultural Land

The preparation of this chapter has been led by Dr Bill Crooks who is sector lead for Soils at Wardell Armstrong. Bill has a BSc, Msc and Phd in soil science and has over 18 years' experience in soils survey and soil consultancy. Bill is a full member of the British Society for Soil Science and has attended their sponsored ALC training course. Bill has led on two PIER chapters in the past year as well as on several ALC, LCA and soil management projects.

The survey and reporting are being led by Duncan Rose who holds a BSc (Hons) in Geography and an MSc in Environmental Diagnosis and Management. He is an experienced soil scientist working for over 10 years as a soils and agricultural consultant and is a full member of the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS). His main interest is around soil health assessment and management and has developed novel assessment methodology and interpretation that is widely used across the UK farming industry. Duncan is experienced in providing technical soil and crop management reports to farmers, nutrient management planning for compliance with environmental regulations, soil carbon assessments as well as soil resource surveys and plans for development projects. He has also undertaken BSSS sponsored Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) training and provides ALC surveys and reports to clients to meet the requirements of planning conditions on a wide range of developments across the UK.

Socio-economic

The Socio-economic chapter has been prepared by Julia Sztucka BAsc, MSc, AIEMA Social Specialist and Alexandra Ommer BSc (ACSM), MSc, MIMMM Technical Director, Environmental and Social Specialist at Wardell Armstrong.

Julia is a social specialist with experience undertaking socio-economic, human rights and community health, safety and security baselines and scoping studies, social and socio-economic and health impact assessments, following IEMA Guidelines and International best practice standards (IFC, EBRD, EP). Julia acted as a consultant for Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration process in Guinea and Montenegro. She has worked on mining, regeneration and renewables projects in England, Wales, the Isle of Man, West Africa, Kazakhstan, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Montenegro and Saudi Arabia.

Alexandra is an environmental and social specialist focusing on undertaking socioeconomic impact assessments and assisting companies and projects with developing effective stakeholder engagement strategies. Alexandra has worked on Projects across the UK and Overseas utilising best practice from around the world to frame all her work. She is knowledgeable in the implementation of the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards and the Performance Requirements of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as UK policy and legislation, and best practice guidance. She has worked on Projects in varying phases from inception through to execution. Including input into scoping, design and collection of social baselines, undertaking social impact assessments and development of socioeconomic chapters. Alexandra has experience in mining, renewable energy, health care and property development, working with an interdisciplinary team both across Wardell Armstrong and with contractors. Alexandra brings a holistic approach to social impact assessments, ensuring that ecosystem services, the link between environmental and social disciplines, are effectively covered, whilst using lessons learnt from best practice around the world and applying these to a UK context.

Air Quality

The Air Quality chapter has been prepared by Dr Paul Sanderson at Wardell Armstrong. Paul has over 7 years' experience in the environmental sector, is a full member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc) and Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM) and holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Chemistry and a PhD in Environmental Health. Paul has experience of undertaking a number of large, complex EIA projects examining the air quality impact of various schemes including commercial and residential developments. He has wide experience in the use of ADMS-Roads advanced dispersion model for undertaking detailed air quality modelling, regularly liaising with transport consultants on traffic data requirements for input into the model, as well as experience in air quality monitoring using nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes across sites within the UK.

For ensuring that the air quality aspects of the Air Quality chapter has been appropriately addressed, technical support has been provided by Mariam Weatherley at Wardell Armstrong. Mariam is a Chartered Environmental Scientist and a full member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc) and Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM) and holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Environmental Sciences / Environmental Biology and an MSc in Environmental Management. Mariam has experience in the environmental profession predominantly in relation to air quality, gained from over 15 years employment in this sector. Mariam's background in

environmental consultancy has provided her with a good range of skills and knowledge through the involvement in air quality projects both as individual commissions and as part of EIAs for public and private sector clients, as well as leading teams of air quality specialists on technical assessments.