

MAES MAWR SOLAR FARM

Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Appendix 1.2 Statement of Expertise

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1 STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

RPS

EIA Management

- 1.1 RPS is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments (IEMAs) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Quality Mark. This means that RPS adheres to the following quality mark commitments.
- 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 out 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 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.

Topic Authors

Landscape and Visual Effects

- 1.2 RPS has been at the forefront of landscape consultancy for over 25 years, providing advice and solutions upon the sustainable development of the urban and rural environment for the benefit of community, commerce and the environment. RPS has extensive experience in the assessment of effects on landscape and visual resources for developments in rural locations. These projects include Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and other large-scale renewable energy developments.
- 1.3 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken by George Lilley BA DipLA CMLI (Senior Landscape Architect). George has some 15 years' experience in landscape consultancy, with approaching 10 years' service with RPS Group Ltd. Throughout his career, George has specialised in a number of disciplines, with a focus in recent years on landscape planning and assessment of major infrastructure projects, urban extension and mixed-use developments. These have included proposals affecting both the urban and rural landscape. He has also completed landscape and visual impact assessments for a number of large scale solar farm developments within Wales and other parts of the UK.
- 1.4 The LVIA ES chapter was peer reviewed by Corinna Demmar (Senior Director, Landscape) who has some 40+ years' experience in landscape consultancy. With a primary focus on the landscape

planning sector, completed a number of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments for proposals affecting both the urban and / or rural landscape, including landscape expert witness work for several schemes.

Ecology and Nature Conservation

- 1.5 Tim Oliver is a Technical Director at RPS, and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. With over 23 years' experience in ecological consultancy with long standing experience in a wide range of sectors including residential, energy, renewables, education, industrial, infrastructure, commercial and minerals.
- 1.6 Tim's has led the Bristol ecology team since 2007 and brings a depth of experience and technical expertise to projects with a detailed understanding of biodiversity planning, impact assessment and mitigation design. Tim has a strong understanding of the ecology requirements within an EIA through his involvement as the ecology project manager on a range of schemes, from small-scale industrial and mixed-use schemes to National Significant Infrastructure Projects.
- 1.7 Tim provides ecology support to all stages of development, from pre-application through to post-construction monitoring; regularly producing terrestrial ecology chapters for EIA and Habitat Regulations Assessments. Tim has expertise in a wide range of species survey and devises large-scale complex mitigation strategies for multiple species. He works collaboratively with other technical disciplines advising on the biodiversity enhancement as part of integrated environmental design.

Historic Environment

- 1.8 The Historic Environment baseline assessments and ES have been undertaken by Gregory Barrett and Philip Bethell.
- 1.9 Philip Bethell (BA (Hons), MCIfA) is a Senior Associate Director in the RPS Historic Environment Team, specialising in archaeology. Philip prepared the archaeological desk-based assessment for Maes Mawr. He has undertaken a considerable number of similar assessments, particularly in South Wales, contributing to environmental statements both as author of baseline studies and of ES chapters. Philip is a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, with over 40 years' experience in the archaeology/heritage sector.
- 1.10 Gregory Barrett (BA (Hons), MPhil (Cantab), FRSA, IHBC) is a Senior Consultant in the RPS Historic Environment Team, specialising in built heritage. Gregory prepared the Heritage Impact Assessment for Maes Mawr. Gregory is a full member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and is a licentiate member of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Additionally, Gregory is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has 3.5 years' experience with RPS in built heritage consultancy, building upon previous experiences in architecture and urban design. During his time at RPS, Gregory has had experience researching and preparing built heritage input to chapters of Environmental Statements, Heritage Impact Assessments, Assessments of Significance, and Historic Building Recording on a wide variety of project types and scales.

Climate Change

- 1.11 The climate change assessment has been undertaken by Stephen Turtle, a graduate consultant in sustainability and EIA. During his time at RPS, Stephen has authored various climate change ES chapters for renewable energy projects, multiple specifically within the Welsh solar context.
- 1.12 It has been reviewed by Tom Dearing, an Associate Director at RPS with 12 years' experience. Tom has undertaken climate impact assessments for a variety of renewable power, infrastructure and other development projects. He is co-author of IEMA's 2022 guidance on GHG impact assessment in EIA and has given expert witness evidence at oral hearing and planning inquiries.

Ground Conditions

- 1.13 The principal author of this chapter is 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.
- 1.14 The approver of the Ground Conditions Chapter is Gary Riches Bsc, FGS. Gary 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.