



Candwr Solar Farm

Pre Application Consultation

Environmental Statement

Contents & Statement of Competence

2 July 2026



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O. STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

- O.1.1. In line with Regulation 17 (4)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the ES and all technical assessments have been undertaken by suitably qualified 'competent experts' within the project team.
- O.1.2. In addition, Regulation 17 (4)(b) of the EIA Regulations, require that the environmental statement must 'contain a statement by or on behalf of the applicant or appellant describing the expertise of the person who prepared the environmental statement'. As such, this Statement of Competence has been prepared to outline the capability of the companies and the competency of the individuals responsible for undertaking and reporting the EIA. Details of their relevant expertise are set out in Table 1-1.

Table 1.1 – Statement of Competence

Logo	Specialism	Statement of Competence
 	Environmental Impact Assessment Landscape and Visual Water Environment Transport and Access Built Heritage	Pegasus Group (Pegasus) is the consultancy that has compiled this Environmental Statement (ES). This consultancy was established in 2004 and has over the years expanded to a company that strives for “good development” across the whole of the UK. Pegasus is a multi-disciplinary planning consultancy and has provided the following services in the context of this ES: environmental planning and landscape and visual. Pegasus Group is accredited under the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) ‘Quality Mark’ scheme which is a mark of excellence in EIA co-ordination and management. IEMA changed its name to 'Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)' in July 2025. The guidance produced and referenced in this ES drafted by IEMA is still valid and has been used for this assessment. Pegasus Group ESs and the processes that it

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		undertakes to create them are regularly subjected to external review via this accreditation to ensure that all Pegasus Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are legally compliant and apply best practice. This ES has been coordinated by a Member of IEMA. The landscape team at Pegasus have broad range of experience in landscape assessment and a detailed understanding of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, undertaking Landscape and Visual Assessments (LVIA) as part of the EIA process, including input into scoping, screening and assessment. They carry out all LVIA in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) 2013, published by the Landscape Institute (LI) and IEMA, along with all relevance guidance. The LVIA has been prepared by a team of Landscape Architects and environmental professionals holding professional qualifications based in the Pegasus Cirencester Office. The Water Environment ES chapter has been produced by Pegasus Group by Flood Risk Consultant; Katie Moore – BSc (Hons) Physical Geography with over 4 years' experience, reviewed by Principal Flood Risk Consultant; Lucy Ginn – BSc MSc with 6 years' experience and approved by Director – Environmental Engineering

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		(Infrastructure); Catherine Thorpe – BSc (Hons) Geography, fully chartered with the Institute of Civil Engineering Surveyors and with over 10 years' experience. The Transport and Access chapter and assessment has been prepared by Pegasus Group. The lead author, Katie Stock, is a Chartered Transport Planning Professional (CTPP) and Member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (MCIHT). The Built Heritage Chapter has been prepared by Pegasus Group. Elizabeth Pratt (BA Hons, MA, PhD), has authored this chapter and is a Member level accreditation of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and ten years' experience of EIA.
	Ecology	The Ecology chapter has been prepared by Avian Ecology. Over the last 10 years, Avian Ecology Ltd (AEL) has successfully delivered ecological support for more than 300 solar PV developments across the UK, ranging from small-scale schemes to nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) exceeding 1,000 hectares in extent. AEL has extensive experience in the preparation of ecological chapters and supporting technical assessments for Environmental Statements, as well as ecological inputs for non-EIA developments. Services encompass the full project lifecycle, including EIA

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		scoping, baseline surveys, ecological impact assessment, mitigation and enhancement strategy design, examination and consenting support, discharge of planning conditions, and post-construction monitoring. Through its team of specialist ornithologists and ecologists, AEL has considerable experience in identifying, assessing and addressing complex ecological constraints associated with large-scale solar developments, helping to ensure robust assessments and successful project outcomes. Beth Gray – The lead author of the ecology elements of this assessment was Ms Bethany Gray (Principal Ecologist), Ms Gray has 9 years of experience in ecological consultancy and has led the preparation of ecology chapters for Environmental Statements supporting a variety of infrastructure projects, including solar energy developments. Graeme Garner – The lead author of the ornithology elements of this assessment was Mr Graeme Garner (Principal Ornithologist). Mr Garner has 17 years' experience in ecological consultancy and, in this time, he has authored and reviewed many ornithology chapters for ESs and reports to inform Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) for numerous renewable energy

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		developments across the UK and Ireland. Joe Whittick – The reviewer of the assessment was Joe Whittick BSc(Hons) MCIEEM (Managing Director of AEL). Mr Whittick is an experienced ecologist with 20 years in the environmental sector and has led and reviewed multiple Environmental Statements and Habitat Regulations Assessments across a range of sectors including utilities, consultancy and local government for a range of project types including solar energy developments.
 PAGERPOWER Urban & Renewables	Glint and Glare	Pager Power is a dedicated consultancy company based in Suffolk, UK. The company comprises a team of experts to provide technical expertise and guidance on a range of planning issues for large and small developments, and has undertaken projects in 62 countries internationally. Pager Power has undertaken over 1,600 Glint and Glare assessments. The studies have included assessment of civil and military aerodromes, railway infrastructure and other ground-based receptors including roads and dwellings. Pager Power has published its own glint and glare guidance document, now in its fourth edition, which is based on industry experience, independent studies, and extensive consultation with industry stakeholders, including airports and aviation regulators. Pager

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		Power's assessments withstand legal scrutiny, and the company can provide support for a project at any stage. Pager Power has successfully attended hearings, tribunals and appeals for projects globally, including DNS and NISP projects.
 KERNON COUNTRYSIDE CONSULTANTS LIMITED	Agricultural Circumstances	The Agricultural chapter has been prepared by Kernon Countryside. The lead authority on agricultural matters is Tony Kernon (BSc (Hons), RICS, FBIAC) who is a Chartered Surveyor and a Fellow of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants. Tony has specialised in assessing the effects of development proposals on agricultural land (land quality and soils) and agricultural and rural businesses, for over 35 years. Tony's experience includes many Environmental Assessments, DNS and DCO applications, including road, rail, residential, industrial, infrastructure and energy proposals, mostly in England and Wales. He regularly acts as expert witness for local planning authorities, Government agencies and developers. He is currently involved in multiple NSIP and DNS renewable energy development proposals.
 Air Quality CONSULTANTS PART OF Logika Group	Air Quality	The Air Quality chapter has been prepared by AQC. The following experts prepared the chapter and accompanying appendices and figures –

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		Dr Jessica Muirhead, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, CSci, MEnvSci, MIAQM Dr Muirhead is an Associate Director with AQC with over 18 years experience in Air Quality consultancy. Prior to joining AQC in 2024, she spent eleven years at AECOM leading the Air Quality Team's Urban Regeneration and Solar Farm work streams. She has been responsible for delivering numerous air quality assessments for planning applications and Development Consent Orders (DCOs) including Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) across London and the UK. She spent a year as Technical Advisor to the Greater London Authority delivering training workshops to the London Boroughs, reviewing referable planning applications and responding to queries on air quality positive and air quality neutral. Jess also has extensive experience providing technical peer reviews for a number of Planning Authorities in the UK, and for The Royal Commission for Al Ula in Saudi Arabia. Anna McMahon, BSc (Hons) MSc CEnv MEnvSci MIAQM Ms McMahon is a Principal Consultant with AQC with over 14 years' relevant experience. She has undertaken air quality assessments ranging in scope from small scale standalone reports to large scale EIA development ES chapters for a range of sectors including

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		residential, commercial, industrial, energy and highways. She has extensive experience of quantitative methods to assess road traffic and stationary source emissions utilising detailed dispersion modelling software such as ADMS Roads, ADMS-5 and Breeze AERMOD, for both planning and permitting purposes. She also has experience in ambient air quality monitoring, the analysis and interpretation of air quality monitoring data, the assessment of nuisance dust and odours and indoor air quality for BREEAM. Anna is a Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management and is a Chartered Environmentalist. Emily Portergill, MChem (Hons) Emily is a Senior Consultant with 6 years' experience in the air quality field. Prior to this, Emily completed a master's degree in chemistry from Cardiff University and spent a year undertaking research at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Emily has extensive experience undertaking air quality assessments across different sectors including industrial, energy, transport and mixed-use developments, including numerous ES chapters for EIA. These assessments have included detailed dispersion modelling and analysis of effects on human health and ecological habitats.

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