

APPENDIX ES2.4
STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

Appendix ES2.4**Statement of Competence**

1. Regulation 18(5) of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) states that:

‘(5) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement—

(a) the developer must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and

(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.’

2. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the subsequent Environmental Statement (ES) for the proposed development have been prepared by specialist and competent experts in their own fields. Taking each of the fields in turn: -

Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment

3. MJCA prepared and coordinated the EIA and the preparation of this ES. MJCA are specialist and competent in this regard. MJCA was established in 1983 to provide technical advice to the waste and mineral industries. The Company comprises a multidisciplinary team of planners, geologists, hydrogeologists, geotechnical engineers, engineers, surveyors, chemists and environmental permitting experts specialising in all areas of environmental management. MJCA have prepared and submitted several hundred applications for planning permission for mineral and waste management facilities, energy development and built development including numerous applications for EIA development supported by ESs and we have contributed to very many more. MJCA has a sound understanding of the EIA legislation which ensures that procedurally and technically robust EIAs are undertaken in accordance with best practice.

4. The management systems implemented by MJCA for all projects, including this one, are in accordance with ISO EN 9001:2015 with the high quality of our environmental advice and recommendations maintained through an externally certified quality assurance system.
5. The team members also have experience in the decision making processes that are integral to the iterative approach to such assessments as well as the development and incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures in order to ensure that ESs are prepared thoroughly and competently. Each aspect of the work has been reviewed by a Practitioner Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and supervised and authorised by an appropriate MJCA Technical Director with relevant qualifications and either more than 20 years of relevant direct experience and/or who is a Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Traffic and transport

6. The Transport Statement has been prepared by ADC Infrastructure. ADC Infrastructure are a technical consultancy that specialise in transport, highway and drainage infrastructure. The Transport Statement has been prepared by a consultant with over 15 years of experience of providing transport and highways advice who regularly prepares Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans to support developments within the residential, industrial, regeneration, leisure and education sectors. The Transport Statement has been reviewed by a Technical Director of ADC Infrastructure and member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation with over 20 years of professional experience in the industry.

Landscape and visibility

7. Specialist input has been provided for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment by DB Landscape Consultancy Ltd. DB Landscape Consultancy Ltd was established in 2008 and is an independent consultancy specialising in landscape consultancy services. The Director who carried out the assessment holds a (BSc) Geography and (MA) Landscape Architecture, is a Chartered Landscape Architect and Member of the Institute of Quarrying with over 20 years of professional experience gained both in industry and consultancy roles. The Director who carried out the assessment has extensive

experience of undertaking Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to EIA standard, including the preparation of accompanying graphics.

Flood risk and surface water drainage

8. The flood risk and surface water drainage assessment has been prepared by MJCA. The members of the hydrology and hydrogeology team at MJCA regularly prepare water quality risk and impact assessments, land contamination assessments, water resources assessments and flood risk assessments for planning applications, Environmental Statements and Environmental Permit applications for minerals and waste related developments together with built developments. The members of the hydrology and hydrogeology team hold relevant qualifications at least to degree level. The work has been reviewed by a Chartered Geologist and authorised by an appropriate Technical Director with relevant qualifications and more than 20 years of direct relevant experience.

Ecology and biodiversity

9. The Ecological Impact Assessment has been prepared by a specialist and competent team at Ecological Services Limited (ESL). The Managing Director with ESL, who had overseen the assessments and reviewed the reports, holds an Honours Degree in Environmental Studies and is a Full Member of CIEEM (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management). The team members who carried out the survey work and prepared the Ecological Impact Assessment hold Masters Degrees in either Zoology, Environmental Management or Countryside Management together with other appropriate qualifications, charterships or professional memberships. The Arboricultural Assessment was undertaken by a team member with Dip Arb L4 (ABC). The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment was undertaken by a team member with an ecology degree.

Cultural heritage

10. The cultural heritage statement has been prepared by a specialist team of competent experts at Andrew Josephs Associates. Andrew Josephs Associates is a consultancy specialising in archaeology and cultural heritage founded in 2002. The Director who has reviewed the assessment and the report has extensive experience of all periods and

facets of cultural heritage including the authorship of over 800 Heritage Statements under the EIA Regulations. The Director was previously Principal Consultant (Director of Heritage and Archaeology) at two leading multidisciplinary consultancies.

Noise

11. The noise assessment has been prepared by a specialist and competent team at Vibrock Limited. Vibrock Limited is an established independent environmental consultancy who has been providing noise, dust and vibration consultancy services for over 25 years. Vibrock Limited is a member of the Association of Noise Consultants and its consultants are qualified to degree level as a minimum and are Associate or Corporate Members of the Institute of Acoustics.

Amenity including dust

12. The amenity and dust assessment has been prepared by MJCA. The members of the team regularly prepare amenity and dust assessments for planning applications and ESs. All the work has been supervised and authorised by an appropriate Technical Director with relevant qualifications and more than 20 years of direct relevant experience.