Chapter A Introduction and Background

East Claydon Greener Grid Park Environmental Statement

Chapter A Introduction and Background

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A1.0 Introduction

- A1.1 This Environmental Statement ('ES') has been prepared on behalf of Statkraft UK LTD ('Statkraft', 'the Applicant'). It sets out the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') of proposals for the East Claydon Greener Grid Park ('the Proposed Development') at land located within the Aylesbury Vale area of Buckinghamshire, northwest of the National Grid East Claydon Substation ('the Site').
- A1.2 A plan identifying the extent of land subject to the Proposed Development ('the Site') is provided in Appendix A1 to this ES (Volume 2); it encompasses circa 45.3 hectares (ha).
- A1.3 The Proposed Development is being brought forward through the submission of a detailed planning application. The planning application to which this ES accompanies is being submitted to Buckinghamshire Council.
- A1.4 The description of development is as follows: -

"Construction of a Greener Grid Park comprising energy storage and grid balancing equipment and associated infrastructure including access, drainage, landscaping and other incidental works."

A1.5 The Greener Grid Park compound is the main part of the Proposed Development and will comprise a Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') and grid balancing equipment. The compound will be located at the north of the Site and occupy 8.6ha of the total Site area. The remainder of the Site is proposed to be used for landscaping and access arrangements. A detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided at Chapter C of this ES.

Need for EIA

- A1.6 EIA is a process undertaken in respect of a certain type of development prior to the grant of planning permission. It provides a means of drawing together the findings from systematic analysis of potential significant environmental effects of a scheme to assist local planning authorities, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders in their understanding of the environmental impacts (if any) arising from the Proposed Development.
- A1.7 The need for EIA originally derived from the EU Directive No 2014/52/EU¹ on the assessment of certain public and private projects on the environment. The Directive was incorporated into UK planning legislation through the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017² which came into force on 16 May 2017. They were amended by the Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (EIA) (Amendment) Regulations 2018³ which came into force on 1 October 2018 and other legislation ensuring that the Regulations continue to have effect in domestic law following withdrawal from the European Union. The amended Regulations are referred throughout this ES as 'the 2017 EIA Regulations'. This EIA has been carried out with regard to the requirements of the 2017 EIA Regulations.
- A1.8 The Proposed Development is considered to fall within Part 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the 2017 EIA Regulations as an 'industrial installation for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (unless included in Schedule 1)'; which includes more than 0.5 hectares of land.

- A1.9 For Schedule 2 developments, the Regulations require that an EIA be undertaken where the development is *"likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size of location"*.
- A1.10 The EIA considers the likelihood of significant effects arising during the construction of the Proposed Development and its operation. As planning permission is sought for a temporary period of 40 years, decommissioning is also assessed in this EIA. Where significant adverse effects on the environment are identified, the assessment process establishes mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and, where possible, off-set the effects and monitoring measures to ensure their ongoing delivery.
- A1.11 An assessment has also been carried out of the potential for cumulative effects which may arise from the Proposed Development when considered alongside other relevant nearby development proposals. This is reported in Chapter J of this ES.
- A1.12 Chapter K provides a summary of mitigation and monitoring measures to be taken into account by the Council in its decision-making role.

Structure of this Chapter

- A1.13 Chapter A provides background to the ES including consideration of the need for the Proposed Development and the policy background within which it is brought forward. It also sets out the structure of the ES and the competent experts involved in its preparation. Information is also provided on how copies of the ES can be secured.
- A1.14 This Chapter is supported by the following technical appendices, included at Volume 2 of this Environmental Statement:
 - Appendix A1: Site Location Plan; and
 - Appendix A2: ES Developer Sign-off Sheet.

A2.0 Background and Context

A2.1 This section provides a summary of the background and context to the Proposed Development.

The Applicant

- A2.2 Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with origins going back almost 130 years. In the UK, Statkraft develop, own and operate wind, solar, green hydrogen, hydropower and Greener Grid Park projects.
- A2.3 Since 2006, Statkraft has invested over £1.4 billion in the UK's renewable energy infrastructure and are market leaders in delivering innovative projects that ensure the reliability of our future green electricity supply.
- A2.4 Statkraft is developing Greener Grid Parks as part of the renewable energy network. As renewable energy generation increases across Great Britain, new ways to maintain system stability are required. Greener Grid Parks are sites comprised of various grid stabilising equipment which, depending on the needs of the grid and technology choice, can import, store, and export electricity.

Background and Need for the Development

A2.5 Greener Grid Parks require efficient connections to the National Grid to avoid lengthy electricity cables and minimise disturbance to the local area and environment. The Site has been chosen due to its location near to East Claydon substation and the site for the replacement East Claydon substation, which also has strategic benefits at the local and national level.

National Need

- A2.6 The UK Government has committed to increasing the use of renewable energy, with current national targets being to decarbonise the electricity system by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. Renewable energy now accounts for more than 40% of the country's electricity mix, up from just 7% in 2010⁴. However, the UK still heavily relies on energy from fossil fuels for security of supply, and gas made up the largest share of the energy mix (32%) in 2023⁵.
- A2.7 The Government's recently published Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: 'A new era of clean electricity' (December 2024)⁶ is clear on the fundamental overhaul of the energy sector needed to achieve its 2030 targets. It highlights the need for a "*mission focus*" with industry and government working in partnership at pace to achieve "*rapid deployment*" of new clean energy capacity across the UK. The key targets are noted as: 43-50 GW of offshore wind, 27-29 GW of onshore wind, and 45-47 GW of solar power, complemented by flexible capacity including 23-27 GW of battery capacity⁷.
- A2.8 The objective of increasing the volume of renewables connected to the grid network has the effect of an increasing reliance on intermittent renewables such as wind and solar energy provision. This can lead to intermittency supply issues if they do not produce sufficient and consistent levels of electricity. Therefore, a balanced system of electricity generation is required.

- A2.9 Battery storage development is a central component to the UK's sustainable energy objectives, with key benefits including scalability and relatively quick deployment. The Action Plan explains that "*Batteries can reduce the amount of generation and associated network that needs to be built to meet peak demand, helping Britain reach clean power in a cost-effective way and reducing delivery risk associated with other types of energy infrastructure*". It notes that currently there is 4.5 GW of battery storage capacity in Great Britain the majority of which is grid-scale; the targeted increase to up to 27 GW represents a six-fold increase within six years.
- A2.10 This is also reflected in national policy, in that the National Planning Policy Framework⁸ (2024) ('NPPF', paragraph 161) states that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future including supporting renewable and low carbon energy associated infrastructure. In addition, the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)⁹ requires management of the risks of security of energy supply by ensuring sufficient electricity capacity to meet demand at all times, which it notes will only be achieved by a diverse mix of technologies and supply routes. Battery storage is noted as having, "...a key role to play in achieving net zero and providing flexibility to the energy system, so that high volumes of low carbon power, heat and transport can be integrated."
- A2.11 The proposed BESS would store excess electricity generated off-site when intermittent renewable energy generation is high, but demand is low, and release it to the National Grid when renewable energy assets are not generating, at times of high demand. This functionality will compensate for the variability of renewable energy supply, ensuring it can meet peak periods of demand. The Proposed Development therefore increase the resilience of power supply whilst enabling a greater reliance upon renewable sources of energy. The proposed facility will also provide energy security during unplanned outages from other energy generators and provide frequency stabilisation services to prevent blackouts. The grid balancing equipment proposed comprises synchronous compensators which provide the same synchronous inertia as coal or gas power plants, without the associated CO2 emissions and high running costs.

Local Need

- A2.12 As a consequence of the increasing national focus on sustainable energy systems, there has been an increasing shift in the way electricity is being generated, moving away from a centralised energy system with large generators at the national grid level, to more decentralised energy systems, generating power at the local and regional level. This has a number of benefits, in particular it ensures transmission losses are reduced (the quantity of electricity going into the system and where it is used) and facilitates renewables being connected to the network.
- A2.13 East Claydon substation is a part of Great Britain's grid network in the home counties, where National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) have identified low network voltages.
- A2.14 Statkraft has secured a grid offer from the network provider to connect to the national grid. The point of connection will be the new replacement East Claydon substation, in the field west of the current substation and south of East Claydon Road. Please refer to Chapter B for further detail.

A2.15 National Grid is due to undertake a next phase of public consultation on its replacement substation proposals in Spring/Summer 2025, with a planning application targeted for Summer 2025. The substation application is entirely separate from this BESS application. National Grid has advised that the replacement substation is needed as the current substation, originally built in the 1960s, is coming towards the end of its useful life and does not have sufficient capacity to connect new customers to the national grid transmission network. It is anticipated that the replacement substation will be completed by 2030.

Relationship of the ES to the Planning Application

- A2.16 The ES is submitted alongside the detailed planning application for the Proposed Development. In addition to the ES, the planning application comprises a range of documents including the following: -
 - Completed Application Forms, Ownership Certificates and Agricultural Holdings Certificates;
 - Covering Letter, prepared by Lichfields;
 - Plans and Drawings (detailed in the Covering Letter and Chapter C of this ES);
 - Planning, Design and Access Statement, prepared by Lichfields;
 - Statement of Community Involvement, prepared by Quatro;
 - Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy, prepared by Motion;
 - Phase 1 Geo-environmental Investigation, prepared by A-squared Studio;
 - Minerals Resource Assessment Report, prepared by A-squared Studio;
 - Agricultural Land Classification Report, prepared by Kernon Countryside Consultants Ltd;
 - Ecology and Trees Checklist, completed by Keen Consultants and Applied Ecology;
 - Outline Battery Safety Management Plan, prepared by DNV; and
 - Tree Survey, Method Statement and Impact Assessment, prepared by Keen Consultants.

A3.0 Policy Context

A_{3.1} This section provides a summary of the main policy context in which the Proposed Development is being brought forward. A full assessment of the Proposed Development's compliance with policy is included in the Planning Statement submitted with the planning application.

National Planning Policy

- A_{3.2} The National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') sets out the national planning policies for England, as updated in December 2024.
- A_{3.3} The current version of NPPF sets out national policy relevant to the Proposed Development, as follows:
 - Chapter 2 Achieving Sustainable Development;
 - Chapter 6 Building a strong, competitive economy;
 - Chapter 8 Promoting healthy and safe communities;
 - Chapter 9 Promoting sustainable transport;
 - Chapter 11 Making effective use of land;
 - Chapter 12 Achieving well-designed places;
 - Chapter 14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change;
 - Chapter 15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and,
 - Chapter 16 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Statutory Development Plan

- A_{3.4} The statutory development plan for the Site comprises the following documents:
 - Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033 (2021)¹⁰
 - Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2019)¹¹
- A_{3.5} The Buckinghamshire Local Plan is currently in development, which will replace the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. Until this is adopted, the above documents comprise the statutory development plan.

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033 (2021)

- A_{3.6} The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan is the long-term strategic plan for development within the Aylesbury Vale area, and includes the strategic vision, objectives and the policies needed to achieve sustainable development in Aylesbury Vale to 2031. Key planning policies that are relevant to the Proposed Development include:
 - Policy S1 Sustainable Development;
 - Policy S2 Spatial strategy for growth;
 - Policy S3 Settlement hierarchy and cohesive development;

- Policy S7 Previously developed land;
- Policy T1 Delivering the sustainable transport vision;
- Policy T4 Capacity of the transport network to deliver development;
- Policy T5 Delivering transport in new development;
- Policy T6 Vehicle Parking;
- Policy T7 Footpaths and cycle routes;
- Policy BE1 Heritage assets;
- Policy BE2 Design of new development;
- Policy BE3 Protection of the amenity of residents;
- Policy BE4 Density of new development;
- Policy NE1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
- Policy NE2 River and stream corridors;
- Policy NE4 Landscape character and locally important landscape;
- Policy NE5 Pollution, air quality and contaminated land;
- Policy NE7 Best and most versatile agricultural land;
- Policy NE8 Trees, hedgerows and woodlands;
- Policy C3 Renewable Energy;
- Policy C4 Protection of public rights of way;
- Policy I1 Green infrastructure;
- Policy I4 Flooding; and,
- Policy I5 Water resources and Wastewater Infrastructure

Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2019)

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan ^{Ref 11} identifies part of the site as a Minerals Safeguarding area (MSA) for Alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel). The below policies are therefore relevant to the Proposed Development:

- Strategic Objective 2 Safeguarding of Minerals Resources
- Policy 1 Safeguarding Minerals Resources

Local Policy

A3.8

A3.7

In addition to the Statutory Development Plan outlined above, the following documents are considered to be relevant and material in determining the planning application which this ES accompanies.

- Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (2008)¹²
- Biodiversity Net Gain SPD (2022)¹³

- Watercourse advice note (Aylesbury Vale Area) (2022)¹⁴
- Vale of Aylesbury Design SPD (2023)¹⁵

Other Relevant Guidance

A3.9

At a national level, the below guidance is of relevance to the Proposed Development:

- Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning¹⁶
- Natural England's Provisional Agricultural Land Classification map¹⁷
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)
- National Fire Chiefs Council Planning Guidance (2022)¹⁸
- Planning Practice Guidance (2024)¹⁹
- Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2024)
- National Grid ESO 'Future Energy Scenarios' (2024)²⁰
- NGESO 'Beyond 2030 A national blueprint for a decarbonised electricity system in Great Britain' (March 2024)²¹
- Powering Up Britain (2023)²²
- British Energy Security Strategy (2022)²³
- Energy White Paper 'Powering our Net Zero Future' (December 2020)²⁴
- UK's Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (January 2020)²⁵
- The National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)²⁶
- Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020)²⁷
- Smart Power- National Infrastructure Commission (March 2016)²⁸

Summary of Key Policy Themes

A_{3.10} The range of policy documentation establishes several key policy themes to be taken into account in consideration of the Proposed Development:

- 1 The principle of development for BESS and grid stability infrastructure ;
- 2 Design and Landscape;
- 3 Ecology, nature conservation and trees;
- 4 Flood risk and drainage;
- 5 Local transport;
- 6 Noise;
- 7 Heritage;
- 8 Air quality; and
- 9 Other environmental and safety considerations: agricultural land quality, fire safety and contamination.

- A_{3.11} The Planning, Design and Access Statement submitted with the planning application for the Proposed Development includes at Section 6, key planning considerations across nine topics to assess the Proposed Development's compliance with policy at the local and national level.
- A_{3.12} It identifies that the Proposed Development has a strong alignment with national and local sustainable energy policy objectives which should be granted significant weight. It demonstrates that the Proposed Development has considered a range of issues through technical assessment and appropriate mitigation has been employed. It notes that the site can be restored to agricultural use after decommissioning. The Proposed Development is considered appropriate to the location due to the prevailing operational requirements of the facility and limited environmental effects of its development.
- A_{3.13} The assessment of compliance against the range of environmental considerations has been drawn from detailed technical appraisals including those reported within this ES. It has been shown that impacts associated with the development of the Site are typical of a scheme of this nature, and the mitigation defined by this ES work to ensure that the scheme is consistent with the key policy objectives.
- A_{3.14} There are no residual significant adverse effects on views to/from the surrounding landscape, nor on landscape character. There are no significant adverse effects on local amenity, biodiversity, trees and other natural features, heritage, transport, air quality, noise, flood risk, or on ground conditions.
- A_{3.15} The Planning Statement demonstrates that the Proposed Development complies with the Statutory Development Plan and the overarching aims and objectives of National Planning Policy and Guidance. As such, the planning assessment is in favour of the Proposed Development and it is considered that planning permission should be granted without delay.

A4.0 Structure of the ES

A4.1 The findings of the EIA are set out in this ES which comprise three volumes: -

- Volume 1 Main Technical Assessments
- Volume 2 Technical Figures and Appendices
- Volume 3 Non-Technical Summary
- A4.2 In addition to the technical assessments, the ES contains a consideration of the relevant policy and legislation contained within the individual chapters. A summary of the form and nature of consultation which has taken place with the local community, consultees, and stakeholders in relation to the EIA is also included. The inter-relationships of the effects and the construction methodology and programme used as the basis for assessment are identified.
- A4.3 The ES contains all of the information required in Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations which is necessary to assess the environmental effects of the Proposed Development and also accords with the details specified in regulation 18(3), 18(4) and 18(5) which defines what comprises an ES.

A4.4 The EIA has been prepared with reference to best practice including that prepared by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ('IEMA').

A_{4.5} The location of information specified in Schedule 4 is identified in Table A_{4.1} below and the location of information specified in paragraphs 18(3) and 18(4) is set out in Table A_{4.2}: -

Table A4.1 Schedule 4 of the updated 2017 EIA Regulations - Location of information in the ES

Requirements of Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations for Inclusion			Location of Information
1			(a) Chapter C. Section
T	A 06	escription of the development, including in particular:	(a) Chapter C, Section
	(a)	a description of the location of the development;	C2.0
	(b)	a description of the physical characteristics of the whole	(b) Chapter C, Section
		development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition	C3.0 and C4.0
		works, and the land-use requirements during the construction	(c) Chapter C
		and operational phases;	(d) Chapters D to I
	(c)	a description of the main characteristics of the operational	
		phase of the development (in particular any production	
		process), for instance, energy demand and energy used,	
		nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources	
		(including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used;	
	(d)	an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and	
		emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise,	
		vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of	
		waste produced during the construction and operation phases	
2	A de	escription of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms	Chapter C, Section C5.0
	of development design, technology, location, size and scale)		
	studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed		
	project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the		
	main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a		
	comparison of the environmental effects.		

Requirements of Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations for Inclusion in Environmental Statements			Location of Information in the ES
3	A de env evo far a with env	escription of the relevant aspects of the current state of the ironment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely lution thereof without implementation of the development as as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed in reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of ironmental information and scientific knowledge.	Chapter C, Section C5.0 and sections 4.0 of Chapters D to I.
4	A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape		Chapters D to I
5	A de the (a) (b)	escription of the likely significant effects of the development on environment resulting from, inter alia: the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works; the use of natural resources in particular land, soil, water and	Chapters D to J
	(c)	biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; 73 the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and	
	(d)	the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);	
	(e)	the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;	
	(f)	the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;	
	(g) The specindi mec and take esta the	the technologies and the substances used. description of the likely significant effects on the factors cified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any rect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, dium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive negative effects of the development. This description should e into account the environmental protection objectives ablished at Union or Member State level which are relevant to project, including in particular those established under Council	
6	A de ider incl	escription of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to ntify and assess the significant effects on the environment, uding details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies	Chapters B and D to I

Requirements of Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations for Inclusion in Environmental Statements		Location of Information in the ES
	or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	
7	A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post- project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.	Chapters D to I and Chapter K
8	A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU(c) of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom(d) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	Relevant consultation with regulatory bodies is set out at Chapter B in relation to fire risk. Chapter C and Chapters D to I consider this requirement where relevant.
9	A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	See ES Volume 3 – Non Technical Summary
10	A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.	Included at the end of each Chapter

Table A4.2 How the Claydon Greener Grid Park ES (2025) complies with Regulations 18(3) to (5) of the updated 2017 EIA Regulations

Req Reg	uirements of Regulation 18(3), 18(4) and 18(5) of the 2017 EIA ulations of what comprises an Environmental Statement	How the Claydon Greener Grid Park ES (2025) complies
(3)	An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least: -	
(a)	a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;	See Chapter C
(b)	a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	See Chapters D to K
(c)	a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;	See Chapters D to I and K
(d)	a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	See Chapter C

Requirements of Regulation 18(3), 18(4) and 18(5) of the 2017 EIA Regulations of what comprises an Environmental Statement		How the Claydon Greener Grid Park ES (2025) complies	
(e)	a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub- paragraphs (a) to (d); and	See Volume 3 of this ES – Non Technical Summary	
(f)	any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.	See Table A4.1 for relevant cross- references.	
(4) /	An environmental statement must: -		
(a)	where a scoping opinion or direction has been issued in accordance with regulation 15 or 16, be based on the most recent scoping opinion or direction issued (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion or direction);	See Chapter B for further consideration of how the EIA is based on the Scoping Opinion.	
(b)	include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and	Chapters D to I provide an assessment of significant effects arising from the development. Chapter K provides information to assist Buckinghamshire Council in reaching a reasoned conclusion with reference to necessary mitigation and monitoring identified as part of the EIA process.	
(c)	be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which are reasonably available to the person preparing the environmental statement, with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.	Not relevant to this EIA	
(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	See Appendix A2 of this ES plus commentary in Section A5.0 of this Chapter.	
(b)	the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts	See Appendix A2 of this ES plus commentary in Section A5.0 of this Chapter. See also Chapters D to I of this ES.	

A5.0 The Team

A_{5.1} The applicant has assembled an experienced and competent team to undertake the EIA of the Proposed Development. The team and their roles are identified below: -

Table A5.1 The EIA Team		
Chapter	Title	Responsibility
А	Introduction and Background	Lichfields
В	Scope, Methodology and Consultation	Lichfields
С	Site and Scheme Description	Lichfields
D	Landscape and Visual Impact	Urban Green
E	Noise	TNEI
F	Ecology	Applied Ecology
G	Traffic and Transport	WSP
Н	Climate Change	Hilson Moran
I	Archaeology	Headland Archaeology
J	Residual Effects and Cumulative Impact	Lichfields
К	Mitigation and Monitoring	Lichfields

A_{5.2} Appendix A₂ to this ES includes a signed statement from Statkraft which confirm that they have ensured that the ES has been prepared by persons with sufficient expertise to ensure the completeness and quality of the Statement. A summary of the professional credentials and competencies taken into account by the Applicant in forming its view is set out below, in respect of the co-ordination of the EIA, and within Chapters D to I under the heading 'About the Author' (specifying the experience and competency of those technical experts involved in carrying out the EIA).

EIA Co-ordination

- A_{5.3} This Environmental Statement has been co-ordinated by Lichfields, which is accredited with an Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ("IEMA") EIA 'Quality Mark'²⁹. Further details of this accreditation are provided in Figure A_{5.1} below.
- A_{5.4} The EIA co-ordination has been led by Gayle Black who is a Registered EIA Practitioner with IEMA with 12 years of EIA experience. Gayle has been supported by Nancy Stuart, an Associate Director with 6 years experience co-ordinating EIAs. The coordination role included the production of Chapters A, B, C, J and K along with the Non-Technical Summary.

Figure A5.1 IEMA EIA Quality Mark Statement



A6.0 Availability of the Document

- A6.1 A paper or electronic (electronic file transfer) copy of the full ES can be obtained from:
 - Lichfields, The Minster Building, 21 Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7AG
 - Tel: +44(0)20 7837 4477
- A6.2 Reasonable copying and printing charges will be applied to a paper copy. An electronic copy is available free of charge.
- A6.3 Alternatively the ES and associated planning application documents can be viewed online at https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/search.
- A6.4 All comments on the ES (and Planning Application) should be issued to Buckinghamshire Council (Aylesbury Vale Area).

A7.0 Abbreviations & Definitions

Abbreviations

- BESS Battery Energy Storage System
- ES Environmental Statement
- EIA Environmental Impact Assessment
- EU European Union
- GW Gigawatt
- HDD Horizonal Directional Drill
- IEMA Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
- MSA Minerals Safeguarding Area
- NGESO National Grid Electricity System Operator
- NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

Definitions

- **Cumulative effects** effects that arise from the combined effect of the Proposed Development with other committed development schemes that, individually, may be insignificant, but when combined with other impacts, may be significant.
- **Embedded Mitigation** modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase that are an inherent part of the project, and do not require additional action to be taken.
- Environmental Impact Assessment a process of assessment of significant environmental effects leading to the preparation of an Environmental Statement as well as any consultation, publication or notification required by legislation and ensuring that any decision taken has regard to the outcomes of the process.
- **Proposed Development** the proposals which are assessed through the Environmental Impact Assessment and for which planning permission is sought, also known as the 'East Claydon Greener Grid Park'.
- **Receptor** those features or aspects that have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
- **Significant/Significance** a measure of the importance or gravity of an environmental effect defined by the significance criteria specific to the environmental topic or aspect assessed.
- The Council for this ES: Buckinghamshire Council (Aylesbury Vale Area).
- **The Site** land within the boundary identified at Appendix A1, Volume 2 to this ES, which covers 45.3ha.
- The Greener Grid Park, or the Proposed Developed Area, or the compound – the area of land within the Site covering 8.4ha which contains built development.

A8.0 **References**

- 1. EU Directive No 2014/52/EU
- 2. Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017
- 3. Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (EIA) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
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- 5. Future Energy Scenarios: ESO Pathways to Net Zero, ESO, July 2024
- 6. Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: 'A new era of clean electricity' (December 2024)
- 7. Modo Energy (2024), 'Indices & Benchmarks' (viewed in December 2024)
- 8. National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)
- 9. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)
- 10. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033 (2021)
- 11. Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2019)
- 12. Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (2008)
- 13. Buckinghamshire Council Biodiversity Net Gain SPD Version 2.0 (July 2022)
- 14. Watercourse advice note (Aylesbury Vale Area) (2022)
- 15. Vale of Aylesbury Design SPD (2023)
- 16. Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning
- 17. Natural England's Provisional Agricultural Land Classification map
- 18. National Fire Chiefs Council Planning Guidance (2022)
- 19. Planning Practice Guidance (2024)
- 20. National Grid ESO 'Future Energy Scenarios' (2024)

21. NGESO 'Beyond 2030 – A national blueprint for a decarbonised electricity system in Great Britain' (March 2024)

- 22. Powering Up Britain (2023)
- 23. British Energy Security Strategy (2022)
- 24. Energy White Paper 'Powering our Net Zero Future' (December 2020)
- 25. UK's Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (January 2020)
- 26. The National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)
- 27. Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020)
- 28. Smart Power- National Infrastructure Commission (March 2016)
- 29. IEMA Quality Mark https://www.iema.net/corporate-programmes/eia-quality-mark/