

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of Alleston Clean Energy Limited (the Applicant) to accompany a Development of National Significance (DNS) application for a ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar farm together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works (the Development) on Land at Alleston Farm, Lower Lamphey Road, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire (the Site, see Figure 1.1). The Site extends to approximately 96 hectares (ha) and is located within the administrative boundary of Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC).

Requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process by which development proposals deemed likely to have significant environmental effects are appraised. EIA is described as a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a development's likely significant environmental effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted significant environmental effects, and the scope for reducing them, are properly understood before a decision is made. Information on the likely significant effects of the Development has been gathered and is presented in this document, the ES. The ES will inform the decision-maker (in this case Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)) of the likely significant environmental effects of the Development during construction, operation and decommissioning, and proposes mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.3 The Development falls under the category 'Energy industry projects' in section 3(a) of the Table within Schedule 2, to *the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017*¹ (the EIA Regulations). The Site is not located in a 'sensitive area' as defined by the EIA Regulations however the Development exceeds the 0.5ha threshold. The Applicant did not seek a screening opinion¹ as it was considered that the nature and location of the Development was such that significant effects with regard to views and on the environment are likely and therefore deemed to be EIA development. Further information on the scoping of the ES is set out in Chapter 2 of this ES.

Organisation of the Environmental Statement

- 1.4 Regulation 18 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations sets out the information an ES should include. Table 1.1 below shows where the Regulation 18 information has been provided in this ES. Appendix 1.1 sets out where the information required by Schedule 4 has been provided in this ES.

Table 1.1: Location of Information Required by Regulation 18 of the EIA Regulations

Specified Information		Location within ES
<i>Reg 18 (3) An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least—</i>		
(a)	a description of the proposed Development comprising information on the Site, design, size and other relevant features of the Development;	Chapter 3
(b)	a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed Development on the environment;	Technical Chapters 6-9
(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	Chapter 3 and Technical Chapters 6-9
(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	Chapter 4

¹ A Screening Opinion is a planning authority's view as to whether a development is likely to result in significant effects on the environment in accordance with EIA Regulations.

Specified Information		Location within ES
	chosen, taking into account the effects of the Development on the environment;	
(e)	a non-technical summary of the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d);	Separate standalone NTS
(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	Technical Chapters 6-9
<i>Reg 18 (4) An environmental statement must—</i>		
(a)	the developer must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts;	Each of the contributors to the ES has set out their credentials in the introductory section of their technical assessment chapter and summarised in Appendix 1.2.
(b)	the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.	See statement attached to the ES Main Text Contents Page.
(c)	where a scoping opinion or direction has been issued in accordance with regulation 14 or 15, 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);	Chapter 2
(d)	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	Technical Chapters 6-9
(e)	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.	No duplicate reports of any assessments contained in the ES have been provided as part of the planning application.

ES Structure

1.5 The ES comprises three separate volumes, namely:

- The ES Main Text: The full text of the ES which comprises a total of 10 chapters, illustrated throughout by tables and figures;
- The Technical Appendices: A complete set of the technical surveys and reports undertaken to inform the ES; and
- The Non-Technical Summary (NTS): The NTS provides a concise and straightforward summary of the Development, its likely significant environmental effects and the measures proposed to mitigate or to avoid these effects.

1.6 Table 1.2 sets out the structure of the ES.

Table 1.2 ES Structure

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Description
Volume 1 - Chapters and supporting figures		
1	Introduction	Introduction to the ES, EIA requirements, details of project team, ES organisation and availability.
2	EIA Methodology	Methods used to prepare each chapter, description of ES structure and content, generic significance criteria, scoping and consultation.
3	Site and Development Description	Site description and details of the Development. Summary of effects with respect to climate change, energy and sustainability.
4	Alternatives and Design Evolution	Outline of the main alternatives considered by the Applicant.
5	Construction Methodology and Phasing	Details of anticipated programme for Development and construction methodology.
6	Historic Environment	Assessment of the effects of the Development with respect to listed buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens.
7	Landscape and Visual Effects	Assessment of the effects of the Development with respect to Landscape character and features and Views.
8	Agricultural Land	Assessment of the effects of the Development with respect to Agricultural Land focusing on the potential for effects on Best and Most Versatile Land.
9	Biodiversity	Assessment of the effects of the Development with respect to Biodiversity including statutorily and locally protected ecological sites and flora and fauna identified on the Site.
10	Summary and Residual Effects	Summary of the conclusions of the ES.
Standalone Document	Non-Technical Summary	Summary of the ES in non-technical language.
Volume 2	Technical Appendices	Technical data and reports to support the chapters in Volume 1.

Project Team

1.7 The ES has been coordinated by Stantec on behalf of the Applicant and presents the results of technical studies carried out in conjunction with a number of specialist consultants appointed by the Applicant. The project team is listed in Table 1.3 along with their respective disciplines and contributions to the ES. A 'statement of expertise' as required by Regulation 17(4)(b) of the EIA Regulations is provided in Appendix 1.2.

Table 1.3 Project Team

Organisation	Expertise
Alleston Clean Energy Limited	The Applicant
Stantec	Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment, Historic Environment Assessment, and Landscape and Visual Effects
Kernon Countryside Consultants Ltd.	Agricultural Land Assessment
Clarkson & Woods Ltd.	Biodiversity Assessment

Other Documents

1.8 A number of other documents are submitted in support of the DNS application. These include (but are not limited to):

- Planning Statement
- Design and Access Statement;
- Alternative Sites Assessment;
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment;
- Flood Consequences Assessment;
- Collaborative Benefits Report
- Noise Assessment;
- Glint and Glare Assessment;
- Outline Soil Resources and Management Plan;
- Geophysical Survey; and
- Transport Assessment.

Environmental Statement Availability

- 1.9 Comments on the DNS application can either be made to PEDW or can be forwarded to the following address:

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Tel: 0300 0604400

The ES may be purchased in volumes, the costs for which are set out below:

- Non-Technical Summary (NTS) - £15;
- Volume 1: ES Main Text & Figures - £250;
- Volume 2: ES Appendices - £450; and
- Full copy (Volumes 1 and 2 with NTS) of the ES on a data stick - £15.

- 1.10 For copies of any of the above, please contact the Environmental Planning team at Stantec:

Environmental Planning Team
1st Floor
Vision Court
Caxton Place
Pentwyn
Cardiff
CF23 8HA

Tel: 029 20 765649
Email: IEPEnquiries@Stantec.com

REFERENCES

ⁱ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/567/contents/made>