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Culham Storage: Competent Experts and Relevant Experience

Regulation 18(5) of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (referred to as 'the EIA Regulations') require that to ensure the completeness and quality of the ES:

'(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'.

The 'developer' as referenced in the EIA Regulations is Statera Energy Ltd.

As set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction and EIA Methodology** of the ES, Trium is an environmental consultancy specialising in Environmental Impact Assessment projects in the United Kingdom (UK). Trium hold an IEMA Quality Mark and understand the expectations of Local Planning Authorities (LPA's). Trium is therefore considered to be 'competent experts' as referenced in the EIA Regulations. In addition, and for completeness, Table 1 below sets out the company, persons and expertise of all the key technical specialists that have worked on the EIA.

Table 1 Experts Involved in the Production of the ES and their Relevant Experience

| EIA Technical Discipline | Company | Summary of Experience |
|--|---------|--|
| EIA Coordination | Trium | Trium's Partners and Employees have extensive experience in managing the environmental issues and impacts surrounding development projects. The Partners and Employees of Trium have, over the course of their careers to date (including with former employers), project directed, managed or contributed to over 600 EIAs. Trium's lead EIA practitioner for this project has 11 years EIA experience of managing EIA projects. |
| Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases | Trium | As part of their practice in Environmental Impact Assessment, Trium's Partners and Employees have acquired extensive experience in assessing the climate change and greenhouse gas emissions issues and impacts surrounding development projects. |
| Water Resources, Flood Risk and Drainage | RPS | RPS is a multi-disciplinary consulting company with divisions covering energy, design, environment and planning. The Hydrology Team of RPS forms part of the Environment Division and has extensive experience in carrying out hydrology and flood risk assessments for various types of developments within the UK and abroad. Projects range from small to large scale developments within the commercial, retail, residential, leisure, cultural, infrastructure, energy and industrial sectors. The RPS team can provide anything from; simple stand-alone flood risk and drainage assessments, and feasibility studies to large EIAs. The consultants of the RPS Hydrology Team are highly qualified and are experts in hydrology, flood risk and water management. The Hydrology Team includes members of the Chartered Institute of Water Management (CIWEM) and Institute of Civil Engineers. The discipline lead for this project has more than 20 years of experience across the environmental sector, having provided expert technical support on a number of large scale projects across the UK. |
| Noise and Vibration | RPS | RPS is a multi-disciplinary consulting company with divisions covering energy, design, environment and planning. The Acoustics Team of RPS is part of the Environment Division and has extensive experience in carrying out noise and vibration impact assessment for various types of developments within the UK and abroad. Projects range from small to large scale developments within the commercial, retail, residential, leisure, cultural, infrastructure, energy and industrial sectors. Our team can provide anything from simple stand-alone noise impact assessments and feasibility studies to large EIAs. The employees of the RPS Acoustics Team are highly qualified and are experts in noise and vibration assessments. The Acoustics Team is full member of the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and the majority of our team are corporate members of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA or FIOA). The discipline lead for this project has more than 20 years of experience with various acoustic assessments and specialises in complex industrial sites. |

| EIA Technical Discipline | Company | Summary of Experience |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Land Take and Agricultural Land Change | SOYL | SOYL is the leading precision crop production service provider in the UK covering over 1 million hectares of land. The sampling side of the service is mainly involved with taking topsoil samples but can include soil survey of topsoil and subsoil. This enables their farmer customers to make sensible decisions on variably farming their land in order to push the boundaries of yield, quality and profit margin. SOYL's expertise extends to classifying agricultural land where a change of use is being considered. They have over 10 years experience of land classification and have worked on over 30 projects ranging in area from a few hectares near Oxford to over 400 hectares in Dorset. SOYL is a division of Frontier Agriculture, the UK's leading crop production and grain marketing business. |
| Archaeology | Oxford Archaeology | <p>Oxford Archaeology (OA) was established in 1973 and has grown to be one of the largest archaeological practices in Europe, employing over 200 people, including historic environment consultants, field archaeologists, historic buildings and finds specialists and a team of illustrators and computing and survey personnel.</p> <p>OA offers a comprehensive range of historic environment services including strategic policy advice, heritage management services, historic landscape assessment, desk-based appraisals, documentary research, archaeological fieldwork and survey, building recording, industrial archaeology and publication. Specialist areas of work include development of strategic approaches to the historic environment, public inquiries and Scheduled Monument Consent cases, historical research and specialist input for environmental assessment. OA works on projects throughout the UK and abroad, recently completing large projects in France, Turkey and Ireland with further work carried out in Montserrat (West Indies), Greece, Albania, Libya, Oman and Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>OA is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), a Registered Organisation of the CIfA, and a member of the Council for British Archaeology. Individual staff are members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists to whose Code of Conduct OA subscribes.</p> |
| Ecology and Biodiversity | Ecology by Design | Ecology by Design Ltd is an ecology consultancy based in Chalgrove, Oxfordshire setup in early 2015. We are a team of 13 ecologists (excluding business support, seasonal staff and sub-contractors), all of which are members or applicants of CIEEM (the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management) which promotes the highest standards of practice. We are also a CIEEM Registered Practice, recognised as an ambassador for our profession. Each of our ecologists has undertaken a relevant degree and, in many instances, higher education. Our team has a wide range of survey skills, competent at assessing all terrestrial habitats and conducting detailed surveys for protected and priority species. We efficiently conduct surveys, handle and analyse data and produce mapping in accordance with industry standard guidance (BS 42020:2013). We routinely prepare preliminary ecological appraisals and additional output required to inform planning applications and progress with developments including Ecology chapters for Environmental Statements and Biodiversity Impact Assessments, primarily within the renewables, minerals, leisure and residential sectors. |
| Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment | Sightline | Sightline Landscape is a landscape consultancy which has undertaken hundreds of landscape and visual impact assessments, (LVIA's), for local authorities and commercial clients for a wide range of projects such as residential development, on shore wind, ground mounted solar, battery storage, gas and waste fired power stations. This includes work for Environmental Statements and for projects within highly sensitive landscapes such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Beauty. The author of the LVIA has 32 years' experience as a Chartered Landscape Architect (UK Landscape Institute) and has undertaken landscape planning and visual assessment work for the World Bank, UNESCO and the Governments of Jordan and St Lucia to ensure the protection and enhancement of highly sensitive landscapes, such as World Heritage Sites. |

It can be confirmed that Statera Energy Ltd. (the 'developer' under the definition of the EIA Regulations) has ensured that the ES is prepared by competent experts. This document is therefore considered to address the requirements of Regulation 18(5) of the EIA Regulations.