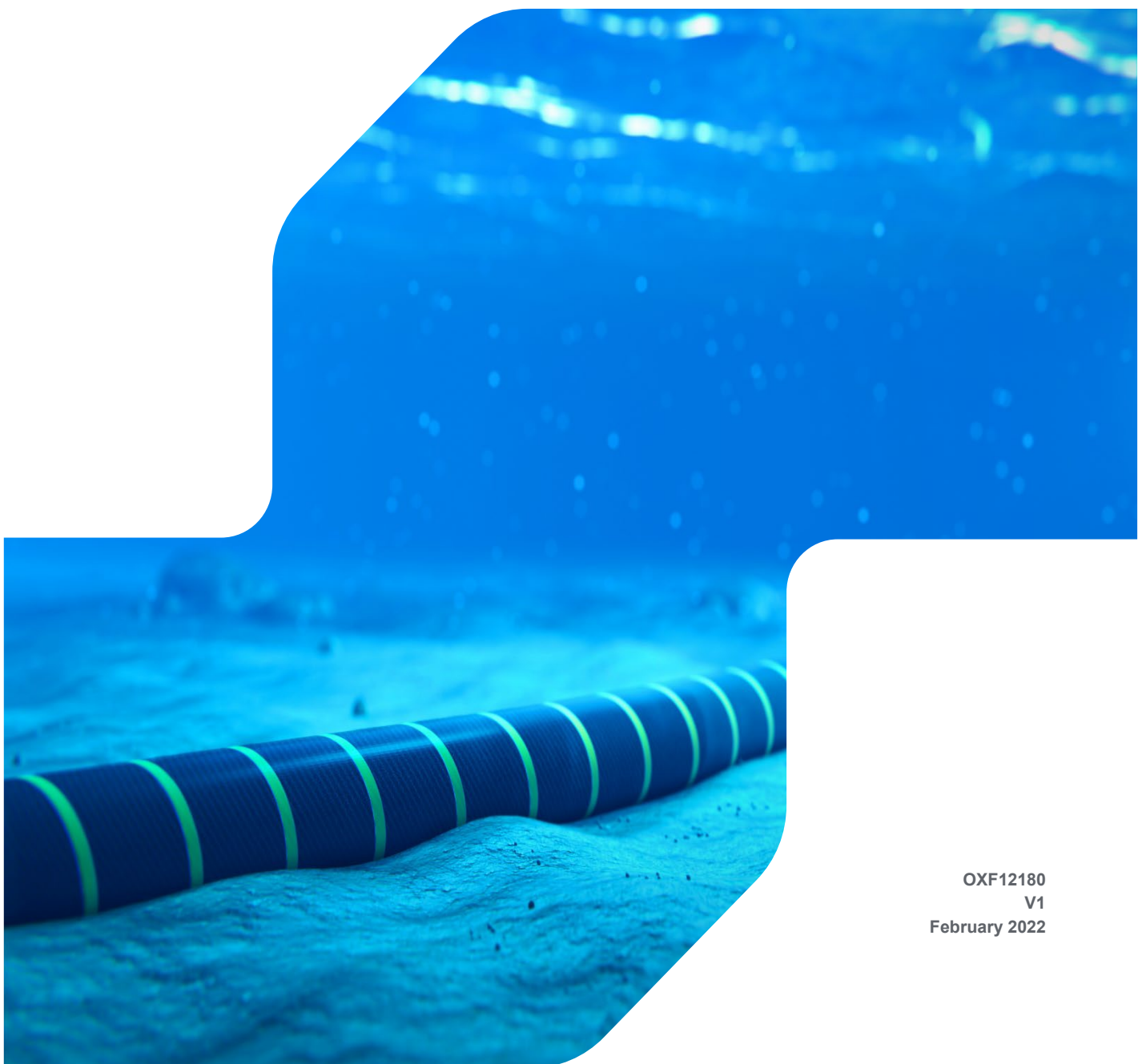


# XLCC CABLE FACTORY - HUNTERSTON

## Appendix 1.2 – Statement of Expertise



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# 1 STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

## RPS

### EIA Management

- 1.1 RPS is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments (IEMAs) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Quality Mark. This means that RPS adheres to the following quality mark commitments.
- EIA Management – We commit to using effective project control and management processes to deliver quality in the EIAs we co-ordinate and the Environmental Statements/EIA Reports we produce.
  - EIA Team Capabilities – We commit to ensuring that all our EIA staff have the opportunity to undertake regular and relevant continuing professional development.
  - EIA Regulatory Compliance – We commit to delivering Environmental Statements/EIA Reports that meet the requirements established within the appropriate UK EIA Regulations.
  - EIA Context and Influence – We commit to ensuring that all EIAs we co-ordinate are effectively scoped and that we will transparently indicate how the EIA process, and any consultation undertaken, influenced the development proposed and any alternatives considered.
  - EIA Content – We commit to undertaking assessments that include: a robust analysis of the relevant baseline; assessment and transparent evaluation of impact significance; and an effective description of measures designed to monitor and manage significant effects.
  - EIA Presentation – We commit to deliver Environmental Statements/EIA Reports that set out environmental information in a transparent and understandable manner.
  - Improving EIA Practice – We commit to enhance the profile of good quality EIA by working with IEMA to deliver a mutually agreed set of activities, on an annual basis, and by making appropriate examples of our work available to the wider EIA community.

## Topic Authors

### Ecology and Nature Conservation

- 1.2 The principal author of this chapter is Julia Ferguson BSc (Hons) Zoology, MSc (Distinction) Ecology. Julia is a Principal Ecologist at RPS Consulting Ltd. Julia is a Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and has worked in the environmental consultancy industry for over 12 years with a background in ecology and contaminated land. Her project management experience ranges from pre-application studies for large scale infrastructure projects, such as grid connection developments, to small scale pipeline improvement works for Scottish Water. Her current role includes project management, technical reporting and production of Ecological Impact Assessments. She also has experience providing Clerk of Works services on construction sites.
- 1.3 The ornithology author is Joanna Carter BSc (Hons) Zoology, MSc Ecology. Joanna is a Principal Consultant at RPS Consulting Ltd. Joanna has eight years of experience in a diverse range of projects from offshore wind and tidal to onshore infrastructure. She is an adept technical writer and a proficient project manager. Joanna has managed many baseline ornithological surveys from small intertidal sites to lengthy export cable routes with multiple habitats and sensitivities.

She is skilled in intertidal survey design, analysis and data presentation, and she is supported by the highly experienced RPS ornithology team.

### Historic Environment

- 1.4 This chapter was prepared by Richard Conolly MA (Hons) MCIfA of RPS Consulting Ltd. Richard has 25 years' professional experience. He has prepared numerous cultural heritage impact assessments for a wide range of projects throughout the UK and has authored guidance on cultural heritage in the context of EIA on behalf of HES and NatureScot.

### Landscape and Visual Effects

- 1.5 This chapter was prepared by Paul Ellis BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture, DIP. LA of RPS Consulting Ltd. Paul is an experienced landscape architect who has worked in the discipline for over 30 years. He has been involved in a diverse range of projects which have required landscape planning, assessment design and implementation inputs. He has extensive experience in the preparation of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments for Environmental Statements and townscape and seascape characterisations and assessments. Paul is familiar with the consultation process with both statutory and non-statutory consultees, providing support at public exhibitions. He has appeared as an expert witness at public inquiries, hearings and DCO hearings.

### Hydrology and Flood Risk

- 1.6 The Hydrology and Flood Risk chapter was prepared by Francesca Caggiano (BSc, MSc), a senior consultant at RPS Consulting Ltd. Francesca is a Flood Risk and Drainage Consultant with four plus years' experience in the field of hydrology, having authored numerous Flood Risk and Flood Consequence Assessments in line with National Policy Statements, the NPPF, Planning Practice Guidance, Planning Policy Wales and TAN 15, as well as SuDS guidance. Areas of expertise include flood modelling, GIS and Microdrainage.
- 1.7 The technical reviewer of this chapter is Jonathan Morley BSc (Hons) Environmental Management. Jonathan is an Associate Director within the Hydrology team at RPS Consulting Ltd. Jonathan is a highly experienced project manager and technical expert in hydrology, having authored numerous EIAs, Flood Risk Assessment (FRA and Flood Consequence Assessments (FCA) documents in line with National Policy Statements, the NPPF, Planning Practice Guidance, Planning Policy Wales and TAN 15, as well as the SuDS guidance for a range of residential, commercial, industrial, and energy developments. These include energy facilities, solar farms, Battery Storage and Gas Engine sites, CHPs, EfW, onshore Wind Farms and European interconnector projects. He has also produced the evidence base required to support case making and for the removal of drainage and flood risk related planning conditions for several high-profile applications.

### Hydrogeology, Geology and Ground Conditions

- 1.8 The principal author of this chapter is Liz Williams (BSc, MSc). Liz has 20 years' experience specialising in contaminated land assessments to support planning applications. Liz's work includes the assessment of potential impacts of ground conditions on proposed developments, determination of a site's suitability for use, and identifying potential development constraints. She has produced technical reports on Ground Conditions, Hydrogeology and Geology Environmental Statement (ES) chapters for a number of large-scale developments and major infrastructure projects across the UK.
- 1.9 The technical reviewer for the chapter is David Gemmel BSc (Hons) Geography, MSc Environmental Rehabilitation. David is a Director within RPS's Environmental Compliance and

Ground Engineering (ECGE) team with 22 years consultancy experience (mainly in Scotland), predominantly in the contaminated land discipline, but also with an understanding of other environmental disciplines (and ground engineering) and is a qualified environmental auditor.

### Traffic and Transport

- 1.10 This chapter has been prepared by Russell Henderson BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering, MSc Transport Planning & Engineering. Russell is a senior member of RPS's Transportation & Engineering project team based across the UK. Russell is an experienced Project Manager and has a wide range of experience in transport planning and policies, highway design, traffic engineering, development planning, master planning, and public consultation.

### Noise and Vibration

- 1.11 Susan is a Principal Acoustic Consultant and environmental acoustics specialist with over 14 years' experience. She has been a member of the Institute of Acoustics since 2007 and a corporate Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA) since 2012. She has managed projects and undertaken assessments for a variety of developments, including on-shore and off-shore windfarms and their associated infrastructure; energy from waste facilities; manufacturing facilities; power stations; warehouses; minerals extraction and processing; and road schemes.
- 1.12 She has provided input into EIAs and undertaken noise assessments to support planning applications, discharge planning conditions and planning appeals; provided technical advice on mitigation options and attended planning hearings. She has a Continuous Professional Development Record to support this competency and experience.
- 1.13 Susan has carried out many BS 4142 noise assessments using both the previous and current 2019 version of the standard. On the basis of Susan's overall experience in acoustics combined with particular focus on BS 4142, she is deemed competent to undertake BS 4142 assessments.
- 1.14 For this project Susan has taken on the role of Technical Lead for noise and vibration. Susan was responsible for reviewing the baseline survey data, assessment, and noise model and preparing the noise and vibration EIA Report chapter, figures and appendices.

### Climate Change

- 1.15 The principal author of this chapter is Tom Dearing CEnv, MSc, BA (Hons). Tom is an Associate Director at RPS Consulting Ltd and specialises in carbon and climate change assessment for Environmental Impact Assessment and corporate reporting. He has ten years' experience undertaking carbon reporting and climate change risk assessments for clients in the power generation, transport, waste, oil & gas, residential and major infrastructure sectors.

### Socio-Economics

- 1.16 The socio-economic assessment has been led by Simon Cleary. Simon is the Economics Director at BiGGAR Economics and has been at the company for ten years. He has led multiple projects considering the offshore wind sector supply chain in Scotland, including as part of the Scotwind process and assessments of the Beatrice, Seagreen and Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farms. He has also assessed the economic impacts of the development of port side infrastructure and has given evidence at hearings concerning energy developments and tourism.

### Air Quality

- 1.17 Fiona Prismall is the Technical Director for Air Quality at RPS. She has an MSc in Applied Meteorology and a BSc (Hons) in Pure Mathematics. She is a Chartered Environmentalist and a

Fellow of the Institute of Air Quality Management. Fiona has extensive experience in undertaking air quality assessments for a broad range of developments including major transport infrastructure schemes, airport surface access schemes, waste management facilities, minerals operations, industrial installations, commercial, retail, residential and mixed-used developments. She regularly undertakes detailed assessment work using advanced atmospheric dispersion models (ADMS and AERMOD), the Highways England's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) model, WebTAG, GIS and emissions inventory packages. Fiona was the IAQM secretary until 2020 and was a member of the working groups that produced the IAQM 2014 'Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction', the EPUK & IAQM 2015 'Land-use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality' and the 2019 IAQM 'A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites'. Fiona has also undertaken intensive expert witness training and acted as an expert witness both preparing and presenting evidence.

### **Technical Assessment Authors**

#### **Population and Health Assessment**

- 1.18 Senuri is a Health Impact Assessment Consultant at RPS with 4 years of professional experience within the health and environmental impact assessment sector. She has extensive experience in delivering bespoke Health Impact Assessments (HIA) and Population and Health ES chapters for a wide range of infrastructure projects including residential developments, urban expansions, airports and aviation, road and rail, energy facilities (including nuclear), waste management, and renewables. Senuri is an associate member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. She has co-authored a WHO paper on circular economy and HIA, and presented UK best practice on assessing health within EIA for the European Public Health Association.