

Appendix 3 – Witnesses' CVs

Sam Oxley

Sam Oxley BSC (Hons) MA CMLI Director of Landscape Planning

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Sam is a Chartered Landscape Architect and a Director of Landscape Planning, with considerable experience as an expert witness in the field of landscape and visual impact assessment.

Key Skills

Landscape and Visual Expert Witness

Landscape, Seascape & Visual Impact Assessment

Landscape feasibility and scoping

Landscape/Seascape Character Assessment

Landscape planning advice

Qualifications

MA Landscape Design, University of Sheffield 1995

BSc (Hons) Geography, University of Durham 1992

Professional memberships

Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute since 1999

Brings to her projects

Sam has over 25 years of experience in the field of LVIA and has worked on numerous commercial and renewable energy projects, across the UK. Her work includes LVIA and review for a large number of wind, solar and battery storage projects, as well as grid connection projects. It includes a large number of projects in Scotland and many landscape and visual feasibility studies. Sam is a respected Expert Witness who has prepared proofs of evidence and written and graphical productions for Public Inquiries, Hearings and Examinations throughout the UK and Ireland. She regularly gives landscape and visual evidence, providing professional advice throughout the appeal process and at both oral

Hearings and under cross examination at Public Inquiries. Sam seeks to use assessment in an iterative way to help feed into the design process and to mitigate potential impacts. She is experienced in working to influence project design and minimise environmental impacts.

Selected Experience

Sam has previously given evidence at numerous Examinations, Inquiries and Hearings including:

Cairn Duhie 2 Wind Farm (Highland, RES Ltd, 2022). LVIA expert evidence.

Oaklands Solar Farm NSIP LVIA and Examination (BayWa 2024). Landscape and visual impact assessment and Examination.

Narachan Wind Farm (Argyll and Bute, Energiekontor, 2023). LVIA expert evidence.

Dell Wind Farm (Highland Council, Coriolis, 2019). LVIA expert evidence.

Killean Wind Farm S.36 (Argyll and Bute, RES UK Ltd, 2019). LVIA expert evidence.

Cairn Duhie Wind Farm (Highland, RES, 2016). LVIA expert evidence.

Pencloe Wind Farm S.36 (East Ayrshire, North British Wind, 2018). LVIA expert evidence.

Proposed Distribution Units and Lorry Park at Dordon (North Warwickshire Borough Council, 2024). LVIA expert evidence.

Proposed housing in North Warwickshire (for NWBC, 2020). LVIA expert evidence.

Caplich Wind Farm S.36 (Highland, Muirhall Energy, 2017). LVIA expert evidence.

Cnoc an Eas Wind Farm (Highland, Force 9 Energy, 2017). LVIA expert evidence.

Crossburns Wind Farm S.36 (Perth and Kinross, Crossburns Wind Farm Ltd, 2016). LVIA expert evidence.

Swift Wind Farm (England, RES, 2015). LVIA expert evidence.

Clocaenog Wind Farm NSIP (Mid Wales, RWE npower renewables Ltd 2014). LVIA expert evidence.

River Valley Wind Farm (England, RWE npower renewables Ltd, 2014). LVIA expert evidence.

Llynfi Afan Wind Farm (South Wales, Gamesa, 2013). LVIA expert evidence.

Burnhead Wind Farm (North Lanarkshire, Wind Prospect, 2012). LVIA expert evidence.

Fforch Nest Wind Farm (South Wales, RWE npower renewables Ltd, 2011). LVIA expert evidence.

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Lochelbank Wind Farm (Perth and Kinross, npower Renewables, 2007-8). LVIA expert evidence.

Kildrummy Wind Farm (Aberdeenshire, npower renewables, 2008). LVIA expert evidence.

Luas Line (Dublin, Carl Bro Ireland/RPA, 2001/2006). LVIA expert evidence.

Waverley Railway Project (Scottish Borders, Scottish Borders Council, 2006). LVIA expert evidence.

Edinburgh Airport Rail Link (Edinburgh, EARL, 2006). LVIA expert evidence.

Sam has prepared proofs of evidence or supporting information for numerous other appeals including:

Fenwick Solar Farm NSIP (advice to Doncaster City Council, 2024). Landscape and visual review. Examination process to follow.

Stone Pit Lane Solar Farm NSIP (advice to Natural England, 2024). Landscape and visual review prior to Examination.

Fillongley Solar Farm (advice to NWBC, 2024-5). Landscape and visual review and expert evidence at appeal.

Rhigos Road Solar Farm (Regener8, 2022-3, consented) Landscape and visual impact assessment.

A8000/M9 Spur (East Lothian, City of Edinburgh Council, 2007). LVIA and expert evidence.

Garthdee Retail Development (Aberdeen, Haslemere Estate Management, 2001-2003). LVIA and expert evidence.

Dalry Road Shopping Centre (Edinburgh, Scottish Metropolitan, 2001). LVIA and expert evidence.

Warrenpoint Deep Water Quay (Northern Ireland, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, 2000). LVIA and expert evidence.

Other relevant projects Sam has worked on include:

Norwich to Tilbury 400kv Overhead Powerline NSIP (National Grid, 2022-24). LVIA.

Dunside Wind Farm, Scottish Borders (EDF, 2022-5). LVIA.

Cloich Wind Farm, Scottish Borders (EDF, 2021-4). LVIA.

Teviot Wind and Solar Farm (Muirhall Energy 2022-4).

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Tealing to Kintore OHL and substations, Aberdeenshire (SSN, 2023-4). LVIA.

Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm, North Sea (East Riding of Yorkshire and Teesside, Forewind, 2012-13, 2018-19) Operational. SLVIA.

Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm Firth of Forth and East Lothian (Mainstream, 2012-13) (partly operational). LVIA.

Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm, North Sea (Orsted 2018-19). Landscape and visual impact assessment.

Shetlands Islands Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (2008-9), for wind farms. Shetland Islands Council.

Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Norfolk (Scira, 2005-6). SLVIA.

Humber Offshore Wind Farm, Humberside (2006-2008) (operational). SLVIA.

Orkney overhead line connections (2016, Scottish and Southern Energy). Sam was involved in the identifying of corridors and for proposed overhead trident lines as well as a number of substations.

Islay Offshore Wind Farm (SSE Renewables, 2012). LUC was commissioned to carry out SLVIA for this large offshore wind farm, 13km from Islay on the west coast.

Siadar Wave Energy Project (Xodus, 2012). LUC prepared the SLVIA for a proposed inshore wave energy converter on the north-west coast of Lewis.

Port of Cairnryan (P&O, 2012). Sam led the LVIA work for proposed changes to the roll-on roll-off facilities at Cairnryan.

Marr Solar Farm (advice to Doncaster City Council, 2024-5). Landscape and visual review.

Collacott Solar Farm (Longspur Capital, 2020). Landscape and visual impact assessment.

Whitelee Solar, Hydrogen and Battery Storage (Scottish Power Renewables, 2020). LVIA.

Eastern Link, East Lothian (SPEN, 2022-3). Landscape and visual advice on siting and design.

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David Bell

Experience Summary

David Bell has over 30 years' experience of planning and development practice in the private sector, advising on a range of development projects in the UK and overseas. Mr Bell is a recognised leading expert in energy planning, in particular with regard to onshore wind and solar developments – providing advice on development projects throughout the UK. He advises on feasibility studies, planning and Section 36 applications, planning Appeals, Compulsory Purchase matters and frequently acts in the capacity of expert witness in Public Inquiries. His experience covers practice in Scotland, England and Wales, and in various locations overseas.

Recent projects in the energy sector include:

- Onshore wind Planning and Section 42 Applications and Section 36 and 36C Variation applications in all regions of Scotland.
- Overhead transmission lines by way of Section 37 applications in Scotland and associated substations, throughout Scotland including Highland region (including the Skye Reinforcement) and the Shetland Islands.
- Offshore Wind Farm developments including the 4.1 GW Berwick Bank development in Scotland (s.36 application) (one of the largest in the world), Ossian Wind Farm and Awel y Mor in North Wales (DCO process).
- Onshore wind projects through the Developments of National Significance (DNS) procedural process in Wales.
- Ground mounted solar and battery energy storage projects in Scotland, England and Wales.
- Tidal stream development under the Transport and Works Act 1992.
- Advice to the Energy Systems Catapult on local area energy planning in England and Wales.

Previous Positions

- 2019: established David Bell Planning Ltd
- 2000-2019: Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), Director & Head of Planning
- 1992-2000: Associate, Halcrow Fox, Edinburgh
- 1990-1992: Development Planner, Gillespies, Glasgow
- 1984-1985: Planner, Shankland Cox, Al Ain City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Education and Affiliations

- BSc (Hons) (First Class) Town & Country Planning (Heriot Watt University)
- Diploma in Urban Design (Strathclyde University)

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- Chartered Town Planner, Corporate Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute
- Chartered member of the Institute of Highways & Transportation

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