

# Appendix A – Statement of Competency

## Jessica Muirhead BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, CSI

### Principal Air Quality Consultant

Qualifications	Professional memberships	Years of experience
PhD Soil Science and Geostatistics	Member of Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM)	15
MSc Environmental Science	Member of Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSci)	<b>Years with AECOM</b>
BSc (Hons) Environmental Geoscience	Chartered Scientist (CSci).	8

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Dr Muirhead provides technical leadership to AECOM's team of air quality specialists undertaking impact assessments for major infrastructure and regeneration projects, with experience of assessing construction and operational phase emissions from renewable energy schemes.

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### Professional history

From her early career role as the Air Quality Officer for Waverley Borough Council, Dr Muirhead developed a strong understanding of Local Air Quality Management and the Planning Process, which she has built upon in her time in consultancy. In addition to the preparation of air quality impact assessments (AQIA), identification of mitigation and drafting of air quality management plans, she currently provides technical peer reviews of local authority air quality action plans on behalf of Defra and provides AQIA review assistance for planning authorities including Kent County Council, the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and LB Enfield. She has fulfilled the role of air quality expert on a range of schemes, including providing (oral and written) evidence at planning and at appeal hearings. She engages in a confident and open manner with technical officers representing key stakeholders and has successfully represented her clients in discussions to agree common ground on proportionate air pollution mitigation.

### Selected Project Experience

**Project Name: 100 West Cromwell Road, Kensington (Meyer B v RB Kensington and Chelsea)**

**Client: Spen Hill / Meyer Bergman**

**Dates: 2016-2017**

Jess was the technical lead on an update of the Low Emissions Strategy and preparation of an Air Quality Neutral Assessment for a revised Planning Application. The project involved detailed negotiations with the local Council, focussing particularly on the issue of potential impacts from uncontrolled emissions during the construction phase. The application went to a Planning Inspectorate Appeal Hearing, where Jessica presented evidence regarding the dust impacts, and successfully obtained planning permission.

**Project Name: Sutton Free School (Wates Construction Ltd v Sutton Council)**

**Client: Wates Construction Ltd**

**Dates: 2019-2020**

Jess led the air quality assessment for a new secondary school and SEN school facility at Rosehill Recreation Ground, Sutton, SM1 3HH. The Planning application was rejected and went to Appeal. Jess led the preparation of a supplementary technical note to investigate the main source of the Council's objections (uncertainty in the traffic data). The subsequent Statement of Common Ground and Statement of Case documents resulted in the Council accepting the Air Quality Assessment, and this reason for refusal was withdrawn prior to the hearing. Permission was granted in 2021 for the School to be built.

**Project Name: Sunnica Energy Farm**

**Client: Sunnica Ltd**

**Dates: 2020-ongoing**

Jess led the air quality input to the DCO process, including PIER and ES chapters, including consideration of potential emissions from site works, off site traffic and potential emissions from the battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The assessment of the construction traffic and dust generated by construction was delivered

to the assessment methods aligned to current good practice guidance published by the Institute of Air Quality Management. Jess was responsible for the technical quality of the assessment of unplanned atmospheric emissions from battery energy storage systems.

**Project Name: Longfield Energy Farm**

**Client: Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd**

**Dates: 2021-ongoing**

Longfield Energy Farm is a large solar farm categorised as an NSIP. Jess led the team that prepared the air quality impact assessments submitted into the DCO process, including PIER and ES chapters. She was responsible for the technical quality of all aspects of the work including the assessment of unplanned atmospheric emissions from battery energy storage systems.

**Northern Arc Masterplan (2018-2019)**

**Client: Homes England**

Jess led the air quality work for the Northern Arc Development at Burgess Hill. This work started with an initial constraints and risk assessment, and an outline planning application with detailed modelling. The scope of the air quality impact assessment included consideration of operational and construction phase impacts to sensitive receptors representative of human health, the wider environment and public amenity. Addressing the potential for nuisance effects arising from a nearby waste water treatment works was achieved through liaison with Southern Water, ensuring that planned works on the sewage treatment works had been undertaken to minimise the potential for odour impact on the proposed housing.

**Project Name: City of London Markets**

**Client: BeFirst**

**Dates: 2019 – 2020**

The City of London had identified that the current Market sites (Smithfield, Spitalfield and Billingsgate) are no longer fit for purpose, and planned to relocate the markets to Dagenham on one consolidated site. Jess led the team that delivered the air quality input to Environmental Statement that supported the planning application. The project required close communication with the Transport Consultants and the Project Team. The Greater London Authority (GLA) were key stakeholders, and Jess worked with the GLA to establish a suitable method for assessing whether the proposed development was Air Quality Neutral. The Local Council objected to the scheme on the basis of potential air quality impacts, and Jess prepared technical notes and supported her client at meetings in order to address comments and concerns raised by the objecting council.

**Project Name: Compton Air Quality Action Plan**

**Client: Guildford Borough Council**

The AQAP for Compton involved a full investigation of the sources of NO<sub>2</sub> within the Compton Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Traffic counts undertaken with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) allowed detailed information about the vehicle fleet to be collated. This showed that the fleet using the road through the AQMA was older on average than the standard fleet in the UK. This was part of the reason for the higher than expected concentrations at the location. Detailed modelling of various low emission strategies and interventions was undertaken for the action plan development.

**Project Name: Palmerston Court**

**Client: Urbanest**

**Dates: 2019 – 2020**

Mixed use residential and commercial development of four buildings up to 20 storeys, with 868 student flats, office space, enterprise business space and new café / pub in Wandsworth. AECOM delivered an EIA, waste strategy and MEP and sustainability services. The client was delighted and consider it a remarkable achievement to deliver full design, planning application and EIA in less than a year since acquiring the site. Jess was responsible for all aspects of assessment of potential impacts on air quality or amenity that were submitted in support of the planning application.

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