

CARLTON MAIN BRICKWORKS

Proposed extension to quarry workings and
amendment to restoration proposals

Volume 2C

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY



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SLR



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This Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out to identify the significant environmental effects of the proposed development, was undertaken in line with the EIA Quality Mark Commitments.

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Introduction

Overview

This document comprises a Non Technical Summary ('NTS') of an Environmental Statement (ES) and has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) on behalf of Michelmersh Brick Holdings PLC (the applicant). The NTS is part of a package of documents being submitted to the mineral planning authority, Barnsley Council, in support of two planning applications relating to land at and adjoining Carlton Main Brickworks, Grimethorpe, Barnsley.

1. The applicant is firstly submitting a planning application for a small lateral extension to the clay workings at the Carlton Main Brickworks. Concurrent with this, a second planning application is being submitted to amend the restoration scheme for the mineral workings to remove the requirement to infill the quarry void with non-hazardous biodegradable wastes and create a lower level restoration scheme using quarry (mineral) wastes along with imported inert wastes.
2. The NTS has been produced as a separate document to accompany the planning submission, being a mandatory part of the ES. It provides, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the likely significant effects that the proposed development would have on the environment.

Application Submission Package

3. This NTS comprises part of a larger submission to accompany the planning application. In addition to the formal planning application forms and certificates, the full submission comprises:
 - Planning Statement;
 - Environmental Statement (comprising 11 chapters); and
 - a Non Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement.
4. The Planning Statement supports the planning application and considers the proposals in the context of relevant planning policies and strategies, and other material considerations.
5. The ES aims to provide an objective account of the possible significant environmental effects of the proposed development by setting out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') which has been undertaken. It is intended to provide the MPA with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole. The ES has been prepared in line with the framework provided in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 with cognisance of the guidance set out in the online National Planning Practice Guidance and The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's "*Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*".
6. Paper copies of the ES can be obtained from SLR (whilst stocks last) at the following addresses:

15 Middle Pavement (Floors 2 and 3)
Nottingham
NG1 7DX

7. The ES and other volumes are available in both paper and CD Rom formats. The CD copies are available for a charge of £25; however, due to the size of the application and printing costs there is a charge of £150 per hard copy. An electronic copy of the NTS is available free of charge on request, subject to the provision of a valid email address. The application documents will also be available to download from the Barnsley Council web site.

Planning and EIA

8. The European legislation (the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive or 'EIA Directive' for short) requires that, before granting 'development consent' for projects authorities should carry out a procedure known as environmental impact assessment (or 'EIA') of any project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment. In the UK, development consent includes the grant of planning permission.
9. An ES is a report on the findings of an EIA that is required to be submitted with a planning application.
10. The extent and detail of the studies to be undertaken as part of the EIA has been agreed with the MPA through a formal 'scoping' process. The scoping exercise sets out the issues that need to be addressed as part of the EIA having regard to the nature of the development and local environment;. This is explained in more detail in Chapter 4 of the ES. Through this process it has been identified that the proposals would have the potential for significant impacts in relation to:
- Landscape and visual impact:
 - Ecology;
 - The Water Environment; and
 - Geology (by virtue of part of the existing quarry being designated as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest).

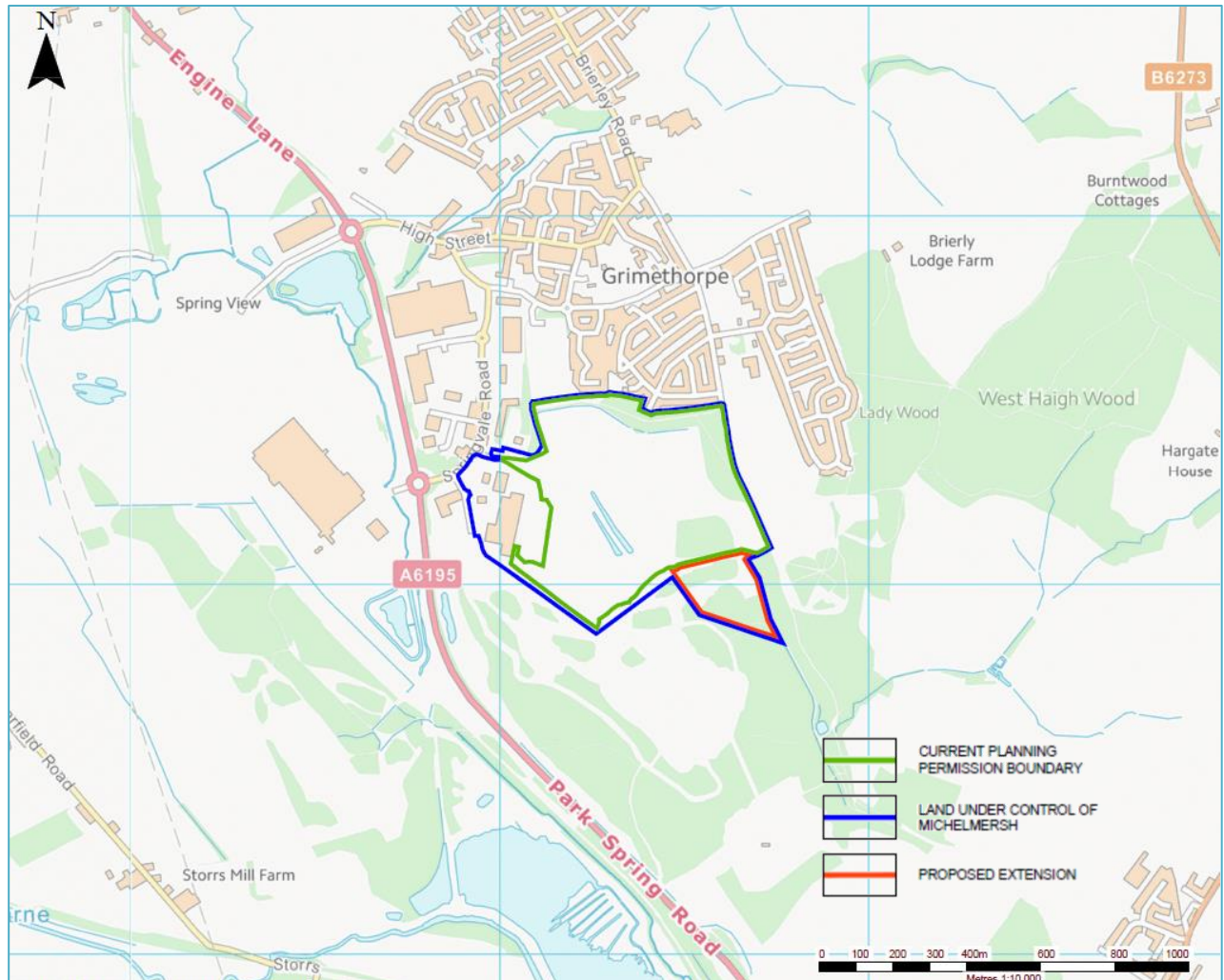
The Site

11. Chapter 2 in the ES provides a detailed description of the existing quarry at Carlton Main Brickworks and the proposed Southern Extension.
12. The Carlton Main Brickworks and its associated quarry are located¹ approximately 7km to the east of Barnsley and 4.4km to the south west of South Kirkby, with Wakefield lying 15.5km to the north northwest. More specifically, it is located immediately to the south of Grimethorpe, in the eastern side of the A6195 Park Spring Road.
13. The brickworks comprises a brick manufacturing plant and associated stockyards within the western part of the applicant's land holding along with a quarry which provides the raw materials for the plant. The quarry occupies an area of around 19ha lying immediately to the east of the brickworks (be it the planning permission covers around 27.2ha due to wide landscaped margins being left to the northern and eastern edges of the workings). The Southern Extension is located at the south-eastern corner of the quarry workings and extends southwards for around 250m, covering an area of around 3.5ha.
14. For identification purposes the extent of the Quarry is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SE 41319 08218.

¹ All distances measured from the centre of the site to centre of the settlement using Google Earth

15. **Drawing CM 2/1** within the ES shows the application site, an extract of which is provided in Figure 1 below (red line denotes the application site for the Southern Extension, the green line the existing consented area, and blue line the land ownership boundary).

Figure 1
Site Location



16. The existing Quarry is broadly rectangular in shape with the northern boundary mainly formed by the southern edge of Grimethorpe and the southern boundary formed by the New Park Springs Country Park (a reclaimed colliery tip). The eastern boundary abuts a cemetery and open land whilst the western boundary is formed by a clay stockpile, buildings and yard areas associated with the brickworks.
17. Figure 2 (based on aerial imagery provided by Google Earth) below illustrates the main features of the application site and quarry complex.

Figure 2
Site Context



The Proposed Development

18. The applicant is submitting two planning applications at Carlton Main Brickworks.
19. The first planning application is for a small lateral extension to the quarry workings to facilitate the extraction of around 500,000m³ of mudstone/siltstone (gross, not allowing for mineral waste²) for use in the brickworks. The extension would encompass around 3.5 hectares (ha) of land, which despite being in the ownership of the applicant, comprises part of the neighbouring country park. Clay would be extracted in the same fashion as elsewhere in the Quarry using a back hoe hydraulic excavator³, which loads the mineral into articulated dump trucks for transfer to the stockpiling area (which is located on the eastern side of the brickworks building). In view of the variable nature of the deposit, it is necessary to work several faces at once to ensure that a suitable 'blend' of raw material is available for the brickworks; in this respect, a series of 3m to 5m high faces have been excavated and progressively advanced in an easterly direction, advancing up the eastern slope. Each face is separated from the next by an access 'bench' upon which the excavator sits.
20. The applicant currently extracts mudstones and siltstones from the Quarry on a campaign basis (i.e. the mineral is extracted over a period of around 12 weeks per year, as opposed to continuously throughout the year). Campaigns are principally undertaken during the drier summer months, as the weak and friable nature of the rocks forming the quarry benches (see below) can lead to problems in maintaining the integrity of haulage routes within the Quarry during periods of wet weather. As such, there are periods of activity and periods when there are no operations within the quarry workings.

² Mineral waste accounts for between 15% and 25% of the gross volume meaning useable reserve for brickmaking ranges between 375,000m³ and 425,000m³

³ sandstone seams are pre-crushed adjacent to the face using mobile crushing plant

21. During annual excavation campaigns, approximately 50,000m³ to 60,000m³ of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone are excavated and transferred to the stocking area adjacent to the brickworks. This material weathers (break down) in the stockpile over the year; the material is blended during the load out process prior to feeding into factory for crushing and mixing.
22. The second planning application is being made pursuant to section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to 'vary' the approved restoration scheme for the wider quarry workings, as authorised by planning permission ref. 2007/1784 (dated 4 January 2008). The approved restoration scheme envisaged that the void would be filled with biodegradable (non-hazardous) wastes; typically being sourced from household, commercial and industrial premises within the South Yorkshire area. However, in view of European and national policy drivers to divert such waste from landfill (in line with the 'Waste Hierarchy') landfill of non-hazardous wastes is no longer seen as a viable or sustainable means of restoring the site. In view of this, the second aspect of the scheme seeks to amend the restoration scheme, moving away from infilling with non-hazardous wastes and using inert construction and demolition wastes instead to create the restored landform. Moreover, it is proposed to amend the final profile of the restored landform; due to the change in waste type, it is no longer necessary to create a domed profile and so a lower level restoration scheme is being proposed. In so doing the timescale for achieving final restoration is greatly reduced.
23. The planning applications do not make any changes to the existing brickworks, which are located to the west of the Quarry and subject to separate planning permissions.
24. Further details regarding the proposed development are set out in Chapter 3 of the ES.

Policy Background

25. The Government is committed to a plan led system, with the Development Plan forming the basis of all planning decisions. Legislation confers a presumption in favour of development proposals which accord with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
26. The planning application will be determined in accordance with prevailing policies at national and local level. National planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework⁴ (NPPF), which is accompanied by the web based Planning Practice Guidance⁵ resource. Many sections of the NPPF are not relevant to this proposal since the application site is not located within a sensitive area subject to land use planning constraints (e.g. a National Park, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest⁶ or a Scheduled Monument⁷). At a local level relevant planning policy is set out in the following documents which form the Development Plan:
 - Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019); and
 - Barnsley Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Local Plan (March 2012).
27. The Development Plan, in common with national planning policy, seeks to reconcile the development needs of society against safeguarding the environment and amenity of local communities. In so doing, it sets out a series of policies which seek to guide developments in terms of acceptable limits and design, whilst ensuring interests of landscape, the water environment, cultural heritage, and ecological

⁴ Department of Communities and Local Government. March 2012

⁵ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁶ A national ecological designation.

⁷ A national archaeological/heritage designation

importance are protected, and that the local amenity and environment of communities are not derogated through pollution to air, land or water.

28. The ES sets out (in Chapter 5) the key planning policies and other material planning considerations that have been taken into account as part of the EIA. A separate appraisal of the proposed development against those policies has been undertaken and is presented in the Planning Statement which forms part of the planning application but is not part of the ES.

Alternatives

29. As an extension to an operational quarry, the nature of the development is such that very few alternatives present themselves for consideration as part of the EIA.
30. One option would be to continue to develop the quarry workings with restoration by landfill with non-hazardous wastes. Given the drivers to treat waste as a resource and move away from landfill, then this is not considered to be a sustainable option. Moreover, the volume of residual non-hazardous waste arising is diminishing with more treatment facilities coming on line. This would result in either waste being transported over greater distances (and thus increasing carbon emissions associated with transportation) or require a much longer timeframe for completing the restoration scheme. In view of this, continuing with the approved restoration scheme has been dismissed.
31. At the other end of the spectrum, the option exists to restore the workings without importing any waste materials. It is anticipated that ground water levels would rebound to around 36m AOD and so would result in the creation of a large waterbody in the base of the workings. In places, the waterbody would be 11m deep and so the ability to increase biodiversity would be hampered.
32. Finally, there is always the alternative of not carrying out the development (i.e. the 'do-nothing' scenario). This would result in the land associated with the Southern Extension remaining in the country park, being used for recreational purposes. However, some 375,000m³ of reserves would not be realised and the quarry would continue to develop in line with the extant planning permission for the next 16 years.

Landscape and Visual Impact

33. A landscape and visual assessment of the proposed change to the working scheme has been completed in accordance with accepted guidance, and is presented in Chapter 6 of the ES.
34. The LVIA has assessed the potential landscape and visual implications of the proposed development. This included a baseline study of the existing site and its surroundings, a study of the landscape and visual characteristics of the proposed development, and an assessment of the residual landscape and visual effects likely to be generated after mitigation has been considered and their significance.
35. The application site does not form part of any national valued landscape designation, although it is located within the Green Belt.
36. At a local level, the proposed development would alter the classification of the extension area from "*Sloping Amenity Grassland and Woodland Mosaic*" to "*Operational Brick Clay Quarry with Ancillary Stockpiles*". This would extend the existing classification of the existing operational site.
37. Following final restoration, the local classification would become "*Sloping Conservation Grassland and Woodland Mosaic, with Wetland*". Again, this would occur over much of the existing operational site in

the absence of the proposed development, in accordance with the approved restoration scheme, albeit as a lower-level valley feature.

38. The potential effect relating to the overall landscape character within the Landscape Character Type would be no more than minor.
39. Visibility of the proposed development would be restricted to relatively close-in locations to the south and more distant, elevated locations on the valley sides to the west and south-west. For example, local residents and users of the public right of way on the edges of Cudworth and visitors to New Park Springs country park and Cudworth Common.
40. The development would not detract from the character or function of the Green Way or Public Rights of Way to the east.
41. In landscape and visual terms it is not considered that the proposals would not constitute urban sprawl and ensure that the land is kept open.
42. Although the proposed development would necessitate the temporary loss of recently restored woodland and grassland habitats, tracks and trails this would be located on former mining land, and an appropriate landscaping and restoration scheme would be provided.
43. Overall, there were no significant landscape and visual effects predicted as a result of the proposed development.

Ecology

44. Chapter 7 of the ES assesses the potential impacts on valued ecological receptors resulting from the development of the proposed Southern Extension.
45. The assessment provides a summary of relevant policy and legislation, the assessment methodology that has been adopted and the ecological baseline. The scope of the assessment and a detailed assessment of the likely significant effects are then presented, along with details of environmental measures (additional mitigation) to avoid, minimise, mitigate or compensate for any remaining adverse effects (where required). The assessment concludes with a summary of residual effects and an evaluation of their significance, following incorporation of these environmental measures (where required) into the scheme.
46. The scope of the work undertaken to inform the assessment has comprised a desk study and consultation, followed by extensive habitat and species surveys.
47. The ecological impact assessment has found that there would be mainly temporary impacts on habitats and species, which would be avoided or minimised through the mitigation and compensation measures which are proposed in this assessment. However, no significant adverse residual effect on important ecological features has been predicted.
48. The proposed landscaping and habitat creation scheme is considered to represent an overall long-term residual gain for biodiversity as more extensive and better-quality habitats would be delivered when compared to the existing local value of the habitats currently present in the site.
49. The composition and management of the new habitats would be tailored to the needs of specific fauna where necessary and they would be appropriately managed for the lifetime of quarry.

Water Environment

50. Chapter 8 of the ES considers the water environment in terms of ground and surface water. The chapter describes the scope, relevant legislation, assessment methodology and the baseline conditions currently existing at the application site and its surroundings. It then considers any potential significant environmental effects the proposed Southern Extension to the quarry and changes to restoration could have on this baseline environment, the mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects, and the potential residual effects after these measures have been employed.
51. Compilation and review of both third-party and site specific data sources has allowed the baseline conditions prevailing within the application site and surrounding area to be fully described.
52. A qualitative risk assessment methodology has been used to assess the significance of the potential effect associated with the proposed development.
53. Groundwater within the underlying and adjacent Coal Measures aquifer is classified as a Secondary A aquifer which indicates that it is capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers. This aquifer has been determined as the primary receptor. The review of the hydrological setting indicates that there is no direct surface water drainage route from the site to any main watercourses. It is possible that the groundwater within the underlying aquifer will provide some baseflow to watercourses at a significant distance away from the site, but the argillaceous and thin sandstone deposits that would be intercepted during excavation are likely have very limited aquifer properties and hydraulic connections.
54. There are no identified licensed water abstractions within a 2km radius of the site which are dependent on groundwater present at the Site and therefore no further assessment of impact on water abstractions is required.
55. The assessment has considered water levels and flow of both ground and surface water, together with water quality for the operational and restoration phases of the proposed development. Consideration has also been given to flood risk and surface water management. The assessment has shown that at worst, the potential significance would be minor, and in many cases negligible; neither of these are a significant effect under the EIA Regulations.

Geology

56. The geology of the area around Grimethorpe comprises late Carboniferous (Westphalian) strata of the Middle and Upper Pennine Coal Measures. The strata comprise sequences of clastic sedimentary rocks (mudstones, sandstones and conglomerates) interspersed with coal seams and ironstones.
57. The central and western parts of the Quarry are designated as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which extends across 15.5 ha of the existing quarry workings. The particular interest is a horizon which is the highest Coal Measures marine band (the Westphalian C Top Marine Band, also known as the Cambriense Marine Band in more recent publications) in Britain, which is the latest evidence of normal marine conditions in this country during the Carboniferous period. The SSSI boundary does not currently cover the eastern part of the existing quarry nor the proposed Southern Extension area.
58. Boreholes drilled in the vicinity of the Southern Extension show a slightly different sequence to that of the existing quarry working area, with a thick (20m+) sandstone bed beneath 15m to 25m of mudstone.

This difference suggests a fault between this area and the main excavation, although no evidence for a fault has been observed, nor is a fault recorded on the geological maps.

59. If the 'Cambriense (Top) Marine Band' is present in the proposed extension, then quarrying would expose the sequence within some of the quarry faces to be developed. The proposed development would therefore potentially result in a net increase in the extent of the marine band visible within the quarry walls compared to the existing quarry. The proposals would therefore potentially result in a minor improvement in relation to the geological SSSI.
60. The proposed restoration scheme would include the retention of quarry faces along the eastern and northern boundaries. Should the future development of the quarry expose new sections of the Cambriense (Top) Marine Band, it may be possible, subject to safe access and suitable restoration, to retain an exposure of the unit for recording and future research. The restoration to amenity grassland with associated public footpaths would also improve the access to the features of interest in comparison to the existing situation and the currently approved restoration scheme which would have resulted in the ultimate loss of these features. The proposed revised restoration scheme would therefore provide a net minor improvement compared to the current approved scheme.

Topics scoped out

61. The purpose of an EIA is to assess the significant environmental effects of a development. The following topics have been scoped out of the EIA:
- Amenity Effects (Air Quality and Noise);
 - Cultural Heritage;
 - Climate Change;
 - Transportation; and
 - Vulnerability to Accidents and/or Disasters.
62. This is set out in more detail in Chapter 10 of the ES.

Cumulative Effects

63. The final chapter of the ES (Chapter 11) considers cumulative effects.
64. Cumulative effects may result from a number of situations:
- the interaction or proximity of two or more current mineral operations (not necessarily for the same type of mineral) or developments of a similar nature;
 - the continuation of a particular working over a period of time through successive extensions;
 - the interaction or accumulation of different impacts at one site, affecting a range of sensitive receptors; and
 - a combination of the above scenarios.
65. In considering the potential cumulative impacts, it is important to keep in mind the extant planning permission for the quarry.

66. Consideration has been given to the potential cumulative effects with existing operations and no cumulative effects have been identified. There are no other mineral operations within the immediate vicinity of the proposed Southern Extension that could give rise to cumulative effects. In addition, there are no other forms of developments in the area that would give rise to any significant cumulative effects.

Conclusion

67. This Non Technical Summary has outlined the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the development proposals contained within an ES.
68. The EIA has considered the likelihood of significant environmental effects occurring from the proposed extension of the working area upon the site itself and its surroundings. The environmental issues addressed as part of the scheme have been identified through a combination of review of published data; desk based and site survey work; and consultation with the Barnsley Council and other organisations.
69. The ES has not identified any significant effect from the proposed development. The overall conclusion is that, with the adoption of the mitigation measures embodied within the project design, or imposed through planning conditions, any impacts identified can be maintained within acceptable limits.

Statement of Competence

70. The EIA Regulations introduce a new requirement for the *“developer to ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts”, with the environmental statement to be “accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant experience and qualifications of such experts”*.
71. The ES has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd which has a specialist capability in mineral and waste planning. SLR is a member of the ‘Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’ (IEMA) with an awarded ‘EIA Quality Mark’. The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by IEMA through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:
- EIA Management
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 - EIA Regulatory Compliance
 - EIA Context & Influence
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72. The ES has thus be prepared by ‘competent experts’, and is supported by an EIA project team with expertise and experience in the technical disciplines to be assessed.

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