



**Asesiad o  
Ddatganiad Amgylcheddol**

gan Nicola Gulley MA MRTPI  
Arolygydd a benodir gan Weinidogion Cymru  
Dyddiad: 22/02/2021

**Assessment of  
Environmental Statement**

by Nicola Gulley MA MRTPI  
an Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers  
Date: 22/02/2021

**Cyfeirnod y Cais: DNS/3245065**

**Cyfeiriad Safle'r Cais: Blackberry Lane, Nash, Sir Benfro, SA72 4SJ**

- Cyflwynwyd y Datganiad Amgylcheddol sy'n destun i'r asesiad hwn mewn perthynas â'r cais ar gyfer Datblygiad o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol (DAC) yn unol â Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Asesu Effeithiau Amgylcheddol) (Cymru) 2017 (fel y'u diwygiwyd).
- Gwneir y cais gan Wessex Solar Energy (WSE Pembrokeshire Ltd).

**Canfyddiad ar Gyflawnrwydd**

1. Bod y Datganiad Amgylcheddol fel y'i diwygiwyd gan yr adendwm, yn gyflawn at ddibenion Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Asesu Effeithiau Amgylcheddol) (Cymru) 2017 (Rheoliadau AEA 2017).

**Cyflwyniad**

2. Paratowyd Datganiad Amgylcheddol i gefnogi cais Datblygiad o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol (DAC) sydd wedi'i gyflwyno i'r Arolygiaeth Gynllunio wneud penderfyniad arno. Mae'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol yn cynnwys Cyfrol 1<sup>1</sup>, fel y'i diwygiwyd gan yr adendwm<sup>2</sup>, Cyfrol 2: Atodiadau Technegol<sup>3</sup> a Chyfrol 3: Ffigurau<sup>4</sup>.
3. Cynhyrchwyd y Datganiad Amgylcheddol mewn ymateb i Gyfarwyddyd Cwmpasu<sup>5</sup> a gyhoeddwyd gan yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio ar ran Gweinidogion Cymru.

**Datblygiad Arfaethedig**

4. Disgrifir y datblygiad arfaethedig ar y ffurflen gais fel parc solar gyda seilwaith cysylltiedig ar draws safle 34.25 hectar. Byddai'r datblygiad arfaethedig yn gallu allgludo hyd at 22 MW AC o drydan i'r grid trydan rhanbarthol. Mae elfennau allweddol y datblygiad arfaethedig yn cynnwys: oddeutu 70,000 o Baneli Ffotofoltaig (Celloedd Ffotofoltaig); hyd at 12 o wrthdroyddion a chabanau cysylltiedig; hyd at 12 o newidyddion a chabanau cysylltiedig; un adeilad rheoli; ffordd fynediad ar y safle; a

<sup>1</sup> Datganiad Amgylcheddol Cyfrol 1, Rhagfyr 2020 (Cyfeirnod y Ddogfen: BL001)

<sup>2</sup> Llythyr gan Wessex Solar Energy, dyddiedig 9 Chwefror 2021

<sup>3</sup> Datganiad Amgylcheddol Cyfrol 2: Atodiadau Technegol, Rhagfyr 2020 (Cyfeirnod y Ddogfen: BL002)

<sup>4</sup> Datganiad Amgylcheddol Cyfrol 3: Ffigurau, Rhagfyr 2020 (Cyfeirnod y Ddogfen BL003)

<sup>5</sup> DAC: Cyfarwyddyd Cwmpasu – 3245065 Blackberry Lane, 11 Mawrth 2020

ffens terfyn / diogelwch 2.5 metr o uchder<sup>6</sup>. Disgwylir y byddai'r Parc Solar arfaethedig yn weithredol am 40 o flynyddoedd.

5. Yn ogystal, byddai compownd / ardal osod dros dro ar y safle, yn mesur tua 1600 o fetrau sgwâr, a fyddai'n cynnwys swyddfa ac adeilad lles, yn cael eu darparu i hwyluso adeiladu'r Parc Solar arfaethedig.
6. Er ei fod y tu allan i gwmpas y cais Datblygiad o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol, mae'r cysylltiad grid arfaethedig rhwng y safle a'r is-orsaf bresennol yn Golden Hill yn cael ei esbonio ym mhennod 16 y Datganiad Amgylcheddol. Mae'r bennod yn nodi'n glir mai Western Power Distribution fydd yn ymgymryd â'r gwaith cysylltu o dan bwerau statudol a roddwyd i Weithredwyr Rhwydwaith Dosbarthu gan Ddeddf Trydan 1989.

### **Cyflawnrwydd y Datganiad Amgylcheddol**

7. Nod y Datganiad Amgylcheddol yw darparu adroddiad systematig a gwrthrychol am yr effeithiau amgylcheddol arwyddocaol sy'n debygol o ddeillio o'r datblygiad arfaethedig, gan gynnwys gwybodaeth ddigonol i ddilysu'r casgliadau a nodi ffynhonnell y wybodaeth a ddarparwyd. Mae Rheoliad 17 ac Atodlen 4 Rheoliadau AEA 2017 yn pennu'r wybodaeth sydd i'w chynnwys mewn Datganiad Amgylcheddol. Mae fy asesiad i o gyflawnrwydd y datganiad yn seiliedig ar y gofynion hyn.

### **Disgrifiad o'r Datblygiad**

8. Disgrifir safle'r cais a'r ardal o'i amgylch yn fanwl ym mhennod 6 y Datganiad Amgylcheddol<sup>7</sup>. Mae hyn yn cynnwys manylion yn ymwneud â lleoliad y safle, ei ddefnydd presennol, topograffeg, ecoleg, presenoldeb llwybr troed anffurfiol sy'n croesi'r safle a mynediad i gerbydau. Hefyd, darperir manylion am agosrwydd Ardal Cadwraeth Arbennig Sir Benfro Forol a Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig Dyfrffordd Aberdaugleddau; dynodiadau diwylliannol ac archaeoleg; a'r hawliau tramwy cyhoeddus. Cefnogir y wybodaeth a gynhwysir yn y Datganiad Amgylcheddol gan Ffigur 1.1 – cynllun lleoliad safle.
9. Ceir disgrifiad o'r datblygiad arfaethedig ym mhennod 6, sy'n amlinellu elfennau unigol y cynllun, y seilwaith ategol, gosodiad arfaethedig y parc solar a threfniadau mynediad. Hefyd, trafodir manylion yr ymagwedd at adeiladu'r safle, oriau gweithio a'r rheolaeth ar wastraff a sŵn. Felly hefyd manylion y Cynllun Rheoli Traffig Adeiladu a'r Cynllun Rheoli Amgylcheddol Adeiladu<sup>8</sup>. Cefnogir y disgrifiad o'r datblygiad gan Ffigurau 1.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.2a a 6.2b sy'n darparu manylion darluniadol o osodiad y safle, dimensiynau dangosol y paneli wedi'u gosod, cabanau'r gwrthdroyddion, yr adeilad rheoli a'r fynedfa i'r safle.
10. Ceir gwybodaeth fanwl bellach mewn perthynas â sŵn, traffig, gwastraff a'r cysylltiad grid ym mhenodau technegol 11, 13, 15 ac 16.
11. At ei gilydd, mae'r disgrifiad o'r datblygiad yn foddhaol.

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<sup>6</sup> Tabl 6-1

<sup>7</sup> Adran 6.2

<sup>8</sup> Adran 6.4 – 6.9

## Disgrifiad o'r dewisiadau amgen rhesymol

12. Ceir asesiad o'r prif ddewisiadau amgen ym mhennod 5 y Datganiad Amgylcheddol. Mae'r asesiad yn ystyried ystod o ddewisiadau amgen gan gynnwys y rheiny'n ymwneud â dewis safle, dyluniad y datblygiad a'r defnydd o gyfarpar a thechnoleg.
13. Mae pennod 5 yn amlinellu'r ymagwedd ddilyniannol a fabwysiadwyd i nodi ac asesu safleoedd posibl ar gyfer datblygu ynni solar. Nododd yr asesiad nifer o safleoedd posibl yn Ne Cymru a De Lloegr, a chan ddefnyddio methodoleg asesu a oedd yn cynnwys ystyried ffactorau fel argaeledd cysylltiad grid, y defnydd tir presennol, presenoldeb / agosrwydd dynodiadau ecolegol, tirwedd a diwylliannol a dosbarthiad tir amaethyddol, lleihawyd y rhain wedyn i nifer o safleoedd a oedd yn gallu derbyn datblygiad solar. Wedyn, roedd y 7 o safleoedd a oedd yn weddill yn destun asesiad manwl penodol i safle. Daeth canfyddiadau'r asesiad i'r casgliad, er bod safle'r cais yn cynnwys cymysgedd o dir amaethyddol Gradd 2, 3a a 3b, oherwydd materion capasiti yn y rhwydwaith dosbarthu trydan lleol, mai'r safle oedd yr un mwyaf priodol i'w ddatblygu<sup>9</sup>.
14. Mae'r bennod hefyd yn amlinellu'r ystyriaethau a roddwyd i ddefnyddio cyfarpar amgen, fel system tracio un echel neu baneli solar gogwydd sefydlog, a thechnoleg amgen, yn cynnwys datblygu'r safle ar gyfer storio ynni, fel fferm wynt ar y tir ac ar gyfer datblygiad ffotofoltaig solar ar raddfa lai. Caiff pob un o'r dewisiadau amgen hyn eu hystyried yn fanwl, ac eglurir y rhesymau pan y'u dewiswyd / diystyriwyd.
15. Mae'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol yn dangos bod dewisiadau amgen rhesymol wedi'u hystyried yn briodol gan yr ymgeisydd.

## Disgrifiad o'r agweddau ar yr amgylchedd y mae'n debygol yr effeithir arnynt yn sylweddol

16. Mae Rheoliadau AEA 2017 yn rhestru'r agweddau ar yr amgylchedd y mae'n debygol yr effeithir arnynt yn sylweddol megis poblogaeth, iechyd pobl, bioamrywiaeth, tir, pridd, dŵr, aer, hinsawdd, asedau perthnasol, treftadaeth ddiwylliannol, a thirwedd.
17. Mae'r Cyfarwyddyd Cwmpasu ar gyfer y datblygiad arfaethedig yn nodi ei bod yn debygol y byddai effeithiau sylweddol mewn perthynas ag: effaith ar y dirwedd ac effaith weledol; ecoleg a chadwraeth natur; archaeoleg a threftadaeth ddiwylliannol; sŵn yn ystod y cyfnod adeiladu; hydroleg, hydroddaeareg a daeareg; yr hinsawdd; gwastraff; cysylltiad grid; ac effeithiau cronol. Ynghyd â thraffig yn ystod y cyfnod adeiladu, eir i'r afael â'r agweddau amgylcheddol allweddol hyn yn y penodau technegol o'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol<sup>10</sup>.
18. Mae'r disgrifiad o'r agweddau ar yr amgylchedd y mae'n debygol yr effeithir arnynt yn sylweddol, sy'n cynnwys data gwaelodlin lle bo angen, yn gyflawn ac yn foddhaol.

## Disgrifiad o effeithiau sylweddol tebygol y datblygiad ar yr amgylchedd

19. Mae'r penodau technegol o'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol yn darparu disgrifiadau digonol o effeithiau sylweddol tebygol y cynllun, gan ystyried cyfnodau adeiladu, gweithredu a datgomisiynu'r datblygiad arfaethedig. Mae hyn yn cynnwys defnyddio adnoddau naturiol, allyriadau, yr effeithiau ar iechyd pobl, treftadaeth ddiwylliannol, yr

<sup>9</sup> Adran 5.3

<sup>10</sup> Penodau 8 i 16

amgylchedd naturiol, a'r effeithiau cronol gyda phrosiectau eraill presennol a / neu brosiectau sydd wedi'u cymeradwyo.

20. Mae'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol yn darparu asesiad eang o fuddion economaidd, cyflenwad trydan ac amgylcheddol y datblygiad arfaethedig. Wrth wneud hynny, mae'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol yn cydnabod buddion amgylcheddol y cynllun, gan gynnwys y rheiny sy'n gysylltiedig â llai o allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr, atal allyriadau o nwyon asid a llygryddion ansawdd yr aer lleol fel sylffwr deuocsid, ocsidau nitrogen a chyfansoddion organig anweddol. Yn erbyn y buddion hyn, mae amcangyfrif o'r gost bosibl y byddai'r datblygiad arfaethedig yn ei chael ar waelodlin amgylcheddol y safle wedi'i darparu<sup>11</sup>.
21. Mae effeithiau sylweddol tebygol y datblygiad ar yr amgylchedd wedi'u hasesu'n systematig i gyd, ac maent wedi'u disgrifio'n ddigonol.

### **Mesurau atal a / neu liniaru**

22. Mae manylion y mesurau lliniaru wedi'u hamlinellu ym mhenodau technegol y Datganiad Amgylcheddol. Delir â'r mesurau hyn, sy'n mynd i'r afael â materion fel effaith ar y dirwedd ac effaith weledol; ecoleg ac adareg, treftadaeth ddiwylliannol; sŵn, daeareg, hydroleg, hydrodaeareg, traffig, seilwaith, a'r cysylltiad grid, yn ystod y cyfnodau adeiladu, gweithredu a datgomisiynu. Mae trefniadau ar gyfer monitro a rheoli mesurau lliniaru dros oes y cynllun wedi'u cynnig lle bo'n briodol.
23. Mae'r mesurau lliniaru a ddisgrifiwyd yn y Datganiad Amgylcheddol yn foddhaol.

### **Dynodiad o unrhyw anawsterau wrth grynhai'r wybodaeth ofynnol**

24. Mae'r Datganiad Amgylcheddol wedi'i grynhai gan ddefnyddio methodolegau a nodwyd.
25. Cydnabyddir yr anawsterau a gafwyd wrth lunio trosolwg o'r holl rywogaethau sy'n bresennol yn ardal yr arolwg ecolegol. Felly hefyd y problemau a gafwyd wrth gael mynediad i'r holl dir sy'n cyffinio â safle'r cais er mwyn cynnal arolygon maes gyda'r bwriad o asesu presenoldeb cynefinoedd a rhywogaethau nodedig. Nid oes unrhyw anawsterau sylweddol eraill wrth gael gwybodaeth wedi'u nodi.

### **Darparu Crynodeb Annhechnegol**

26. Mae crynodeb annhechnegol wedi'i ddarparu ac mae'r wybodaeth a geir ynddo yn ddigonol.

### **Casgliadau Cyffredinol**

27. Deuaf i'r casgliad y cadarnheir bod y Datganiad Amgylcheddol a gyflwynwyd gan Wessex Solar Energy ar 12 Ionawr 2021 yn cynnwys y lefel wybodaeth a nodwyd yn Rheoliad 17 ac Atodlen Rheoliadau AEA 2017 a'i fod yn gyflawn at ddibenion y Rheoliadau hynny.

*Nicola Gulley*

Arolygydd

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<sup>11</sup> Adran 3.6



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## Asesiad o

## Ddatganiad Amgylcheddol

gan Nicola Gulley MA MRTPI

Arolygydd a benodir gan Weinidogion Cymru

Dyddiad: 22/02/2021

## Assessment of

## Environmental Statement

by Nicola Gulley MA MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers

Date: 22/02/2021

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**Application Reference: DNS/3245065**

**Application Site Address: Blackberry Lane, Nash, Pembrokeshire, SA72 4SJ**

- The Environmental Statement which is the subject of this assessment has been submitted in relation to the application for a Development of National Significance (DNS) in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
  - The application is made by Wessex Solar Energy (WSE Pembrokeshire Ltd).
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### Finding on Completeness

1. That the Environmental Statement (ES) as amended by the addendum, is complete for the purposes of the Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017 EIA Regulations).

### Introduction

2. An ES was prepared to support a Development of National Significance (DNS) application which has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for determination. The ES Comprises Volume 1<sup>1</sup>, as amended by the addendum<sup>2</sup>, Volume 2: Technical Appendices<sup>3</sup> and Volume 3: Figures<sup>4</sup>.
3. The ES was produced in response to a Scoping Direction<sup>5</sup> issued by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

### Proposed Development

4. The proposed development is described on the application form as a solar park and associated infrastructure across a 34.25 hectare site. The proposed development would be capable of exporting up to 22 MW AC of electricity into the regional electricity grid. The key elements of the proposed development include: approximately 70,000 PV Panels (PV Cells); up to 12 inverters and associated cabins; up to 12 transformers and associated cabins; a single control building; an on-site access road;

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<sup>1</sup> ES Volume 1, December 2020 (Document Reference: BL001)

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Wessex Solar Energy, dated 9 February 2021

<sup>3</sup> ES Volume 2: Technical Appendices, December 2020 (Document Reference: BL002)

<sup>4</sup> ES Volume 3: Figures, December 2020 (Document Reference BL003)

<sup>5</sup> DNS: EIA Scoping Direction – 3245065 Blackberry Lane, 11 March 2020

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and a 2.5 metre high perimeter / security fence<sup>6</sup>. It is anticipated that the proposed Solar Park would be operational for 40 years.

5. In addition, a temporary site compound / laydown area measuring some 1600 square metres, which would include an office and welfare accommodation, would be provided to facilitate the construction of the proposed Solar Park.
6. Although outside the scope of the DNS application, the proposed grid connection between the site and the existing substation at Golden Hill is explained in chapter 16 of the ES. The chapter makes clear that the connection works will be undertaken by Western Power Distribution under statutory powers afforded to Distribution Network Operators by the Electricity Act 1989.

### **Completeness of Environmental Statement**

7. The aim of an ES is to provide a systematic and objective account of the significant environmental effects likely to arise from the proposed development, including sufficient information to verify the conclusions and identify the source of the information provided. Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations specifies the information to be included in an ES. My assessment of completeness is based on these requirements.

### **Description of the Development**

8. The application site and surrounding area are described in detail in chapter 6 of the ES<sup>7</sup>. This includes details in relation to the location of the site, its current use, topography, ecology, the presence of an informal footpath crossing the site and vehicular access. Details of the proximity of the Sir Benfro Forol Special Area for Conservation and the Milford Haven Waterway Site of Special Scientific Interest; cultural and archaeology designations; and public rights of way are also provided. The information contained in the ES is supported by Figure 1.1 – site location plan.
9. A description of the proposed development is contained in chapter 6 which outlines the individual components of the scheme, the supporting infrastructure, the proposed layout of the solar park and access arrangements. Details of the approach to the construction of the site, working hours and the management of waste and noise are also discussed. As are details of the Construction Traffic Management Plan and the Construction Environmental Management Plan<sup>8</sup>. The description of the development is supported by Figures 1.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.2a and 6.2b which provide illustrative details of the layout of the site, the indicative dimensions of the mounted panels, the inverter cabins, control building and site access.
10. Further detailed information in relation to noise, traffic, waste, and the grid connection are contained in technical chapters 11, 13, 15 and 16.
11. Overall, the description of the development is satisfactory.

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<sup>6</sup> Table 6-1

<sup>7</sup> Section 6.2

<sup>8</sup> Section 6.4 – 6.9

## **Description of the reasonable alternatives**

12. An assessment of the main alternatives is contained in chapter 5 of the ES. The assessment considers a range of alternatives including those relating to site selection, the design of the development and the use of equipment and technology.
13. Chapter 5 outlines the sequential approach taken to the identification and assessment of potential sites for the development of solar energy. The assessment identified a number of possible sites in South Wales and Southern England which, using an assessment methodology which included consideration of factors such as the availability of a grid connection, the existing land use, the presence / proximity of ecological, landscape and cultural designations and agricultural land classification, were then reduced to a number of sites capable of accommodating a solar development. The remaining 7no. sites were then subject to a detailed site-specific assessment. The findings of the assessment concluded that, even though the application site contains a mixture of Grade 2, 3a and 3b agricultural land, because of capacity issues in the local electricity distribution network the site was the most appropriate for development<sup>9</sup>.
14. The chapter also outlines the considerations given to the use of alternative equipment, such as single axis tracking or fixed tilt solar panels, and alternative technology, including the development of the site for energy storage, as an onshore wind farm and for smaller-scale solar PV development. Each of these alternatives are considered in detail and the reasons why they were chosen /discounted explained.
15. The ES demonstrates that reasonable alternatives have been properly considered by the applicant.

## **Description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected**

16. The 2017 EIA Regulations list the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected as population, human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and landscape.
17. The Scoping Direction for the proposed development identifies that there were likely to be significant impacts in relation to: landscape and visual impact; ecology and nature conservation; archaeology and cultural heritage; construction noise; hydrology, hydrogeology and geology; climate; waste; grid connection; and cumulative impacts. Together with construction traffic, these key environmental aspects are addressed in the technical chapters of the ES<sup>10</sup>.
18. The description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected, which includes baseline data where necessary, is complete and satisfactory.

## **Description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment**

19. The technical chapters of the ES generally provide adequate descriptions of the likely significant effects of the scheme, taking into account the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development. This includes the use of natural resources, emissions, the effects on human health, cultural heritage, the

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<sup>9</sup> Section 5.3

<sup>10</sup> Chapters 8 to 16

natural environment, and the cumulative effects with other existing and / or approved projects.

20. The ES provides a broad assessment of the economic, electricity supply and environmental benefits of the proposed development. In doing so, the ES acknowledges the scheme's environmental benefits including those associated with the reduced emission of greenhouse gases, the prevention of emissions of acid gases and local air quality pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds. Against these benefits, an estimate of the potential cost the proposed development would have on the environmental baseline of the site is provided<sup>11</sup>.
21. The likely significant effects of the development on the environment have all been systematically assessed and are sufficiently described.

### **Prevention and / or mitigation measures**

22. Details of the mitigation measures are outlined in the technical chapters of the ES. These measures, which address matters such as landscape and visual impact, ecology and ornithology, cultural heritage, noise, geology, hydrology, hydrogeology, traffic, infrastructure, and grid connection, are dealt with during the operational, construction and decommissioning phases. Arrangements for monitoring and management of mitigation measures over the life of the scheme are proposed where appropriate.
23. The mitigation measures described in the ES are satisfactory.

### **Indication of any difficulties in compiling the required information**

24. The ES has been compiled using identified methodologies.
25. The difficulties experienced in compiling an overview of all the species present in the ecological survey area is acknowledged. As are the problems experienced with gaining access to all the land neighbouring the application site to undertake field surveys intended to assess the presence of notable /habitats and species. No other significant difficulties in obtaining information have been noted.

### **Provision of a Non-Technical Summary**

26. A non-technical summary has been provided and the information contained therein is sufficient.

### **Overall Conclusions**

27. I conclude that the ES submitted by Wessex Solar Energy on 12 January 2021 be confirmed as containing the level of information identified in Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and being complete for the purposes of those Regulations.

*Nicola Gulley*

Inspector

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<sup>11</sup> Section 3.6