Examination Period 3: 2017/18

**LEM300318N**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Ecological Survey &amp; Consultancy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Six</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time Allowed</td>
<td>Three hours</td>
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Instructions to students:
- Enter your student number **not** your name on all answer books.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Questions are not equally weighted, refer to individual mark allocations for each question.
- Begin each answer on a new page; label each page clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
- This is a seen paper. Questions have been distributed to candidates two weeks prior to the examination.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.
- Students are permitted to take one annotated copy of the case study into the examination room. This must be handed in with the answer books at the end of the examination.

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Answer all questions.

The exam paper is based around a case study for a wind farm development titled Watford Gap Renewable Energy Park. Below is an extract from the Planning Statement which provides an outline for the development. You have also been provided with a copy of the Ecology Report extracted from the Environmental Statement. The questions in this exam are all based around this case study.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

This Planning Statement has been prepared to accompany a planning application submitted to Daventry District Council ("the Council") by Gamesa Energy UK ("the Applicant") for the construction and operation of a proposed wind farm and associated infrastructure at Watford Gap Renewable Energy Park ("the Development") south of Watford and north-west of Long Buckby.

In view of the scale of the Development, the Applicant, in agreement with the Council, considered it to be a Schedule 2 Development under The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 ("the 1999 Regulations"), and consequently an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") has been undertaken. An Environmental Statement ("ES") has been prepared to accompany the planning application for the Development, in accordance with these regulations.

This Planning Statement considers the policies within the Development Plan, and any material considerations, which are relevant to the Development and assesses its compliance with planning policy.

1.2 The Development

Planning permission is being sought for the development of Watford Gap Renewable Energy Park ("the Development" or "the REP") for a period of 25 years from the date of exportation of electricity from the wind farm to the national grid. After this period, the Development will be decommissioned or, alternatively, an application may be submitted to extend the operational life of the Development.

The Development comprises of the following:

- Seven wind turbines, each with a hub height of 78 metres ("m"), and a maximum height to blade tip of 123 m;
- Turbine infrastructure including transformers, foundations, crane pads and cabling;
- Upgraded site access and new access tracks;
- Substation and control building;
- Permanent meteorological mast; and
- Site accommodation and temporary works.

The Development will be connected to the grid via an underground connection to an existing overhead powerline. In the event that the works are not permitted development, an application for consent under the relevant legislation will be brought forward at a later date.
1. Critically evaluate the survey methodology that has been used in this report ensuring that you commend evidence of good practice and provide recommendations for areas that could have been improved upon. Ensure you make reference to relevant industry standards and/or expectations.

(30 marks)

2. Based on the results presented in this report evaluate the nature conservation value of the site and the potential impact of this development on the ecology of the site.

(30 marks)

3. Prepare a mitigation strategy to reduce and manage the ecological impacts of this proposed development. Due consideration must be given to the seasonal timings for any proposed mitigation measures.

(40 marks)

End of Paper