



Planning • Heritage

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

Lilbourne Windfarm, Northants

Client

Hemex LLP

Location

Between Lilbourne and
Yelvertoft villages, Nr Rugby

Services Provided

Archaeology
Historic Buildings

Date of Completion

June 2012

Key issues

Archaeological Assessment

Appraisal of Impact on the
Setting of Heritage Assets

Expert Witness Statement for
Public Inquiry



Mike Dawson of CgMs Kettering successfully steered the archaeological and heritage appraisal of this multi-turbine site through to a recommendation for approval by Daventry District Council. Starting with a desk based assessment, CgMs met on site with the County archaeological advisor to review the degraded state of medieval agricultural earthworks to argue that ridge and furrow was not a constraint to development. Subsequently consultation with English Heritage and Daventry District led to a preliminary list of visualisations which formed the basis of a detailed heritage appraisal.

In a complex historic environment the impact of the turbines was assessed on the nearby listed buildings of Stanford Hall and Lilbourne All Saints Church, together with two Scheduled Ancient Monuments - the medieval motte and bailey castles at Lilbourne and Lilbourne Gorse. In addition the potentially harmful impact of the turbines was assessed for monuments and buildings within the Zone of Visual Impact (ZVI) up to 15km away.

Despite CgMs agreeing with the local authority that the harm brought by the turbines was less than substantial, and securing a recommendation for approval, the planning committee refused the application. One reason given was the impact on the historic environment. At appeal Mike Dawson provided the expert witness statement in response to the heritage issues raised by the planning committee. In the debate the inspector accepted a Wheatcroft proposal from Tim Mould QC and noted that 'without turbine 1, the other turbines would be a good distance from the heritage assets and although some would still be visible to some extent, because of the distance I consider that the significance, special architectural and historic interest and setting of these assets would be preserved and would accord with the aims and objectives of development plan'.

The appeal was allowed.



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