



Planning • Heritage

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

Bradwell-on-Sea Wind Farm, Essex

Client

RWE npower renewables

Location

Bradwell-on-Sea

Services Provided

Archaeology
Historic Buildings

Date of Completion

Ongoing

Bradwell-on-Sea is a village in Essex on the Dengie Peninsular. RWE npower renewables proposed a wind farm comprising 10 wind turbines constructed on farm land to the south of Bradwell-On-Sea.

CgMs prepared a cultural heritage chapter for an Environmental Statement. This included a geophysical survey of an area of high archaeological potential and the trenching of proposed turbine locations which resulted in a minor revision to the location of 1 turbine to avoid potentially sensitive remains.

It was clear from the outset that whilst there were other heritage assets to consider, the setting of the Grade I listed Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall was the main issue in terms of Cultural Heritage. CgMs undertook extensive documentary research obtaining prints, photographs and maps of the Chapel and its surrounding area which helped determine the setting of the Chapel. When the scheme was refused and appealed CgMs provided expert witness concluding that the proposed wind farm lies outside the setting of any listed building - including the Grade I Chapel. This was contested by the local authority and the English Heritage but this view was upheld by the Inspector.

'I do not accept that the setting of the Chapel is as wide as suggested by the Council. The wider landscape clearly has historic links with the chapel, but I do not see these as being unacceptably altered by the proposal'.

Although allowed by the Inspector, this decision was quashed by an order of the High Court in June 2008 because of drafting errors in two of the planning conditions. The appeal was reheard in 2009 CgMs again provided historic environment expert witness to the public inquiry. The second appeal was upheld.

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