Renewable Energy

- *Solar Farm, Honington, Suffolk*
- *Wind Turbines, Crowfield, Suffolk*

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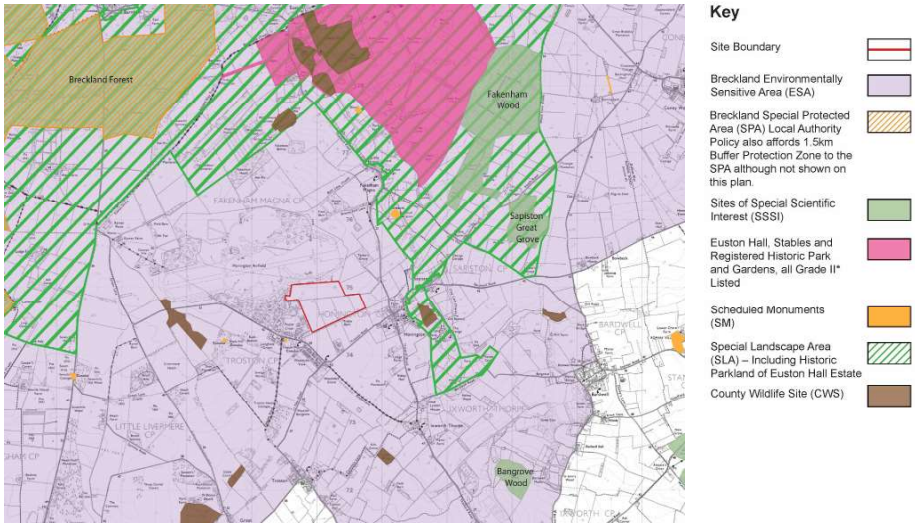
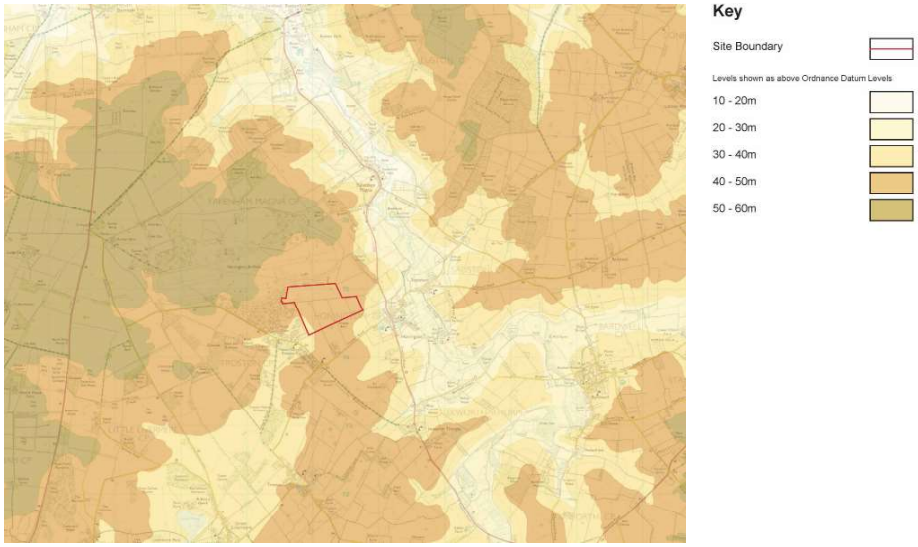
Renewables ~ Solar Farm

Honington, Suffolk

"The work you have done is excellent." ***Tim Dobson (Switch to Renewables).***



Landscape Designations Mapping.



Topographical Plan Mapping.

Project Description

The United Kingdom has made a commitment to reduce carbon emissions to 30% below 1990 levels, by the year 2020 and to 80% below by 2050. The National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012 set out a presumption in favour of sustainable development and support for the delivery of renewable energy.

ELD was commissioned by Switch2Renewables, to act as part of the consultant team for a proposed 20MW Solar Park. The site covered a total area of 100 acres in rural Suffolk, covering part of a former airfield at Honington. Following submission of a screening opinion to St Edmundsbury Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority, and as a result of pre-application meetings, it was deemed necessary to complete a Landscape & Visual Assessment (LVIA) report and mitigation strategy.

The LVIA report submitted in reponse to this requirement consisted of an analysis of character and visual aspects of the site and a review of the likely impacts which would occur as a consequence of the development. Key recommendations for mitigation measures were put forward to reduce any residual effects.

The application was granted permission with landscape conditions which included the implementation of boundary planting and management of the site. The management strategy would integrate grazing by sheep and the protection of ecological features.

Project Particulars

Client: Switch 2 Renewable Ltd

Proposed Photovoltaic Panel Type.

Proposed Enclosure Type.

View of Part of the Existing Site.

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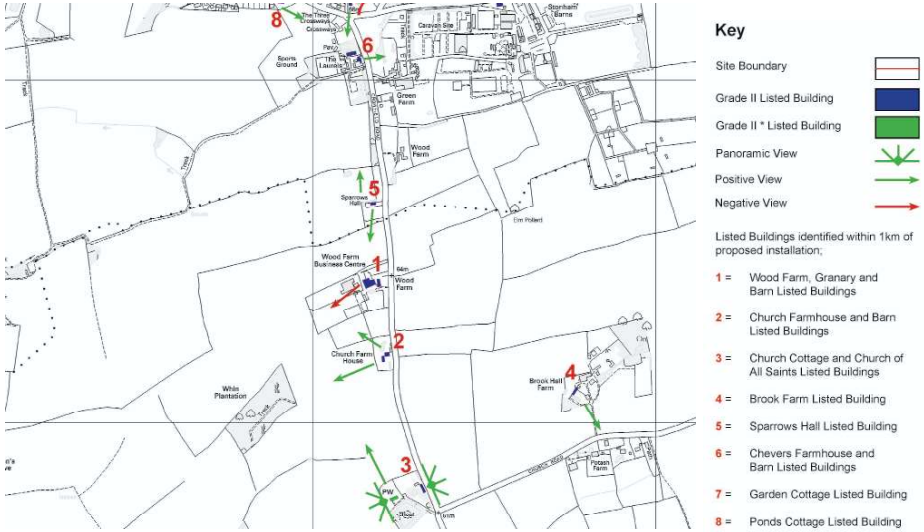
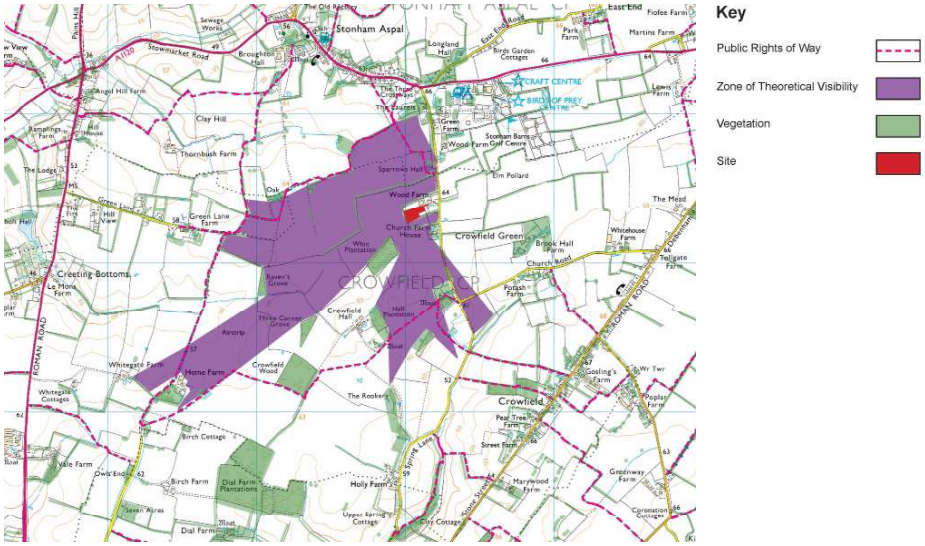
Renewables ~ Wind Turbines

Crowfield, Suffolk



Heritage Designations Mapping.



Zone of Theoretical Influence, Vegetation & Public Rights of Way Mapping.

Project Description
Windcrop Ltd provides small scale turbines to farmers, schools, homes and businesses to allow them to benefit from wind generated electricity under the Government's Feed-in Tariff. The National Planning Policy Framework recognises that small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and that Local Authorities should approval applications if impacts can be made acceptable.

ELD was approached by Windcrop to review thier Company strategy for planning applicatins, to gain planning permission for wind turbine sites across East Anglia. As part of the service offered to landowners, they were responsible for the site assessment and planning application for these installations, which were facing an increasing amount of public objection. Before ELD intervention, Windcrop's report production did not follow Landscape Institute LVIA Guidelines and planning application data was often confusing and misleading, due to a lack of prefessional input from landscape assessment experts.

ELD produced a CPD training presentation for Windcrop staff, to enable them to produce more robust landscape assessment documentation in accordance with industry methods of best practice. The training included a checkilst for baseline mapping and practical methods of site analysis (including estimating turbine heights on site as shown below). Following the training, ELD completed a number of Landscape & Visual Impact Assessments with Historical Landscape Assessments to gain approval for turbines in rural Suffolk, with reports acting as a template for the Client to use for ongoing schemes.

Project Particulars
Client: Windcrop Ltd

Proposed Typical Wind Turbine

ELD Director, Ruth Elwood, Demonstrates how to Estimate the Height of Structures

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