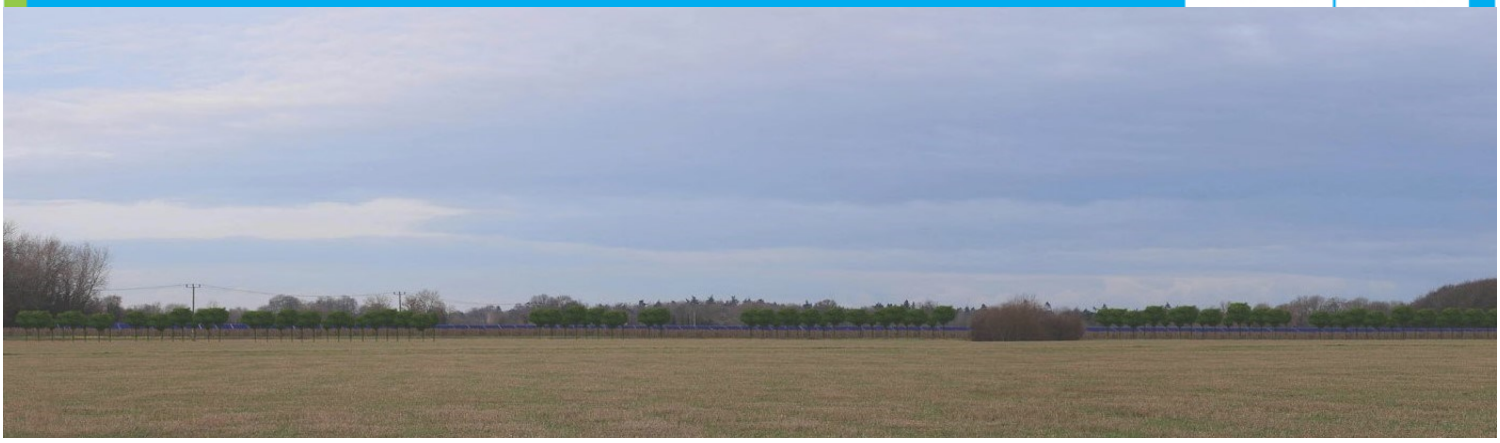
EIA & Consenting

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Renewable Energy - Solar

Client: Luminous Energy

Location: Bracon Ash, Norfolk

Project Overview

Atmos was appointed by Luminous Energy to co-ordinate the delivery of the planning application for a 27MW solar farm approximately 1km west of the village of Bracon Ash, Norfolk.

Atmos undertook the EIA planning process, including: design and access statement, ecology, landscape and visual, cultural heritage, transport and noise assessments.

Key Challenges

The physical and environmental constraints and the fit with National and Local planning policy.

The site was adjacent to two County Wildlife Sites and contained ponds that could serve as Habitats for Great Crested Newts.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) indicated at the point of determining the planning application that they were minded to require an EIA.

Our Solutions

A submission of a revised EIA Screening Opinion request, referencing the environmental assessments completed through the preparation of the planning application as evidence of non-significant environmental effects.

A revised cumulative assessment was prepared to include new schemes in the area that had been submitted after this application.

The creation of wildflower meadows on a dedicated area c.1.5ha, as well as underplanting the panels and the buffer areas between the panels and site boundaries. Other measures included the enhancement of existing habitats including the ponds and hedgerows.

The Successful Outcome

Demonstrated to the LPA that the revised scheme was non-EIA.

A biodiversity net gain of over 150% in habitat units and over 200% in hedgerow units. A gain welcomed as “substantial” by the county ecologist.

Demonstrated that the scheme would have minimal impact on local receptors, with the limited effects able to be addressed through minimal alteration to the design and mitigation measures.

Planning permission was granted by unanimous committee decision in December 2021.

What our client said:

“ The team at Atmos were friendly and a pleasure to work with, the quality of reporting and communication throughout was excellent and I would have no hesitation in recommending them for future projects.

David Bryson, Director

Luminous Energy