

Case Study :

Hawk & Owl Trust – Solar Power

Customer Profile

The Hawk & Owl trust is a registered charity working for Owls and other birds of prey. The charity is dedicated to conserving birds of prey in the wild and increasing the knowledge and appreciation of these magnificent creatures.

i-Catcher CCTV Solutions

i-Catcher Console is the most functional/cost effective solution for digital CCTV available today.

Using i-Catcher products, you can build advanced CCTV systems using your company's existing I.T. infrastructure, getting the best value from your hardware investment. With over 10,000 systems installed worldwide, we are a market leader in this new technology.

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Summary

The Hawk and Owl Trust are committed to increasing the knowledge and appreciation of birds of prey. Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve was created by the Hawk & Owl Trust to protect and enhance the very special habitat in the Wensum valley of Norfolk.

Using live and recorded video footage assists further with education and understanding of the surrounding wildlife, footage from which has also been used by the BBC's Spring Watch TV series.

The Requirements

Sculthorpe Moor is located in the Wensum valley in Norfolk and consists of around 42 acres of reed bed, valley fen, alder carr and woodland.

The Moor currently use iCatcher Console for recording and displaying footage from several cameras, placed over the Moor, in feeders, owl boxes, bird tables and otter holts.

There was a requirement for a new camera to be added deep in the fens attached to the new Scrape hide. The closest power source to this hide is over 500m away, at the Whitely hide.

The Choice

There are two suitable solutions for this problem. Either run the power and data cable, or source an alternative power source and use a wireless link.

Suitable fibre optic cable, capable of coping with the harsh conditions of the Norfolk Fens, would cost in excess of £5 per metre. On top of this the cable would need armouring to prevent rats chewing through it.

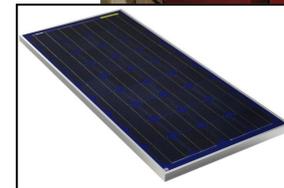
With over 500m of power and fibre cable required this would be hugely costly option for a registered charity.

In keeping with the green ethos of the conservation area, it was decided that renewable energy should be used to power to camera and hardware with a wireless link being used to send the live footage back to iCatcher Console.

The solution

The Scrape hide has been fitted with two deep cycle lead acid batteries, a charge controller, an 85W Solara Solar Panel, a 1 KM Yagi AV sender and a Genie day / night camera.

Once charged, the batteries are capable of powering the system for up to 48 hours without any additional sun.



The Result

"It really is as simple as it looks" comments David Gittens, of Sculthorpe Moor. "Wireless link setup is child's play. Worked straight out of the box! Line of sight distance from Scrape hide to Whitely hide is around 275m. The picture on the monitor connected to the receiver is brill. I'd definitely commend this system both in terms of setup and performance."

To learn more about i-Catcher, and solutions that can be built using i-Catcher technology, visit our web site at the address below or give us a call on +44(0)1329 835335.

