

Client: Enviromena

Location: County Durham

Sectors: Renewable Energy

Services: Transport Planning, Infrastructure Design

Project overview: Design of site access plans to ensure safe and efficient HGV manoeuvrability and swept path analysis to mitigate vehicular disruption during the construction phase

Added value:

- More than 3,100 homes powered annually
- 1,700 tonnes of carbon saved per year
- Biodiversity net gains in habitat and hedgerow units

Fox Cover Solar Farm, Seaham

The successful application for a 8.5MWp solar farm in County Durham will help drive the UK's transition towards a decarbonised energy system. Motion provided transport planning and infrastructure design engineering advice to Enviromena for the Fox Cover scheme in Seaham. Despite the positive outcome, the team had to overcome the site's difficult topography when assessing the best access route and respond quickly to changing requirements arising from the landowner's evolving plans for adjacent land.

Plans to build EV charging bays with a drive-thru coffee outlet to the east of the site would result in construction vehicles interacting with drive-thru traffic. An alternative route was identified to the northeast of the site but the large differences in ground levels on the approach road would be difficult for HGVs to navigate safely.

Motion's infrastructure design team was commissioned to develop the site access that provided a balanced cut and fill to minimise the volume of earthworks required. The earthworks calculations and new access plans demonstrated that HGVs could follow the contours of the slope and manoeuvre safely and efficiently within the development, maximising the site's capacity.

The provision of comprehensive and timely data and Soil Management Plan overcame one of the key objections from the local planning authority.



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