



Renewable Energy - Solar Energy

Client: Compton Group

Location: Deeside

Project Overview

Atmos were contracted to provide technical ecological expertise to the Compton Group for their 45MW Shotwick Solar Park site adjacent to Deeside Industrial Estate in Flintshire, north Wales.

Our team undertook a range of services including: extended Phase 1 habitat survey of the site and surrounding area and production of the ecological assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Key Challenges

Whilst the site itself supported arable fields and was generally of low intrinsic ecological value, its proximity to the internationally designated Dee Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Inner Marsh Farm RSPB Reserve meant that particular attention was paid to considering the waterbirds potentially wintering on and adjacent to the site and the displacement and disturbance that may be caused.

Our Solutions

Our team liaised closely with the RSPB on the development of a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) to offset the effects on waterbirds by enhancing an area of adjacent land. The HMP also included biodiversity enhancements for the hedgerows present and provision of bat and bird boxes.

The Successful Outcome

This collaborative problem-solving approach greatly assisted the site in gaining planning consent and was then taken on by British Solar Renewables to install the solar panels and grid connection.

Atmos were subsequently contracted by British Solar Renewables to carry out surveys and an ecological assessment for the grid connection route.

The site was fully constructed and operational with HMP monitoring in place in 2016.

What our client said

“We were extremely happy with the way Atmos staff negotiated with Flintshire County Council and the RSPB on our behalf to obtain agreement to the Habitat Management Plan and satisfy the planning condition requirements for the site.”

Stephen Gibbins, Compton Group

Renewable Energy Capabilities

When it comes to the renewable energy sector, Atmos has been at the heart of the sector since 2007, eyes and ears on the ground providing technical and professional services throughout the UK. Why do companies choose to work with us? Simple: our value for money approach, experience, expertise and service delivery across all aspects of renewable energy – optimising project value, whilst consistently achieving an above an above average planning success rate.

Our highly experienced and talented consultants include Planners, EIA Consultants, Noise Consultants, Ecologists Ornithologists, hydrologists and GIS specialists.

Together, they bring an in-depth understanding of the policy landscape, sector trends and environmental best practice to deliver robust, defensible and commercially pragmatic solutions that protect your interests and maximise the value of your investment. Always several steps ahead, anticipating barriers and constraints, they act quickly to optimise results so you're not missing any opportunities or losing valuable time and money.

Within the solar energy sector Atmos offers a comprehensive consulting service covering all environmental and planning aspects of solar power feasibility, solar farm planning, design and planning applications (including grid connection) and the environmental impact of solar energy projects (including all relevant specialist surveys).

Our Solutions

Atmos offers a comprehensive range of environmental and planning solutions across the entire project life-cycle. From feasibility, scoping and planning submissions through to construction and on to post construction and operational monitoring. Our services include:

- Acoustics and Noise
- Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)
- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- GIS and Data Solutions
- Habitat Management and Restoration
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Ornithology
- Site Feasibility and Scoping
- Soils and Peatland Management
- Stakeholder and Public Consultation
- Visualisation and Mapping



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