



So why Cumbria?

As a resident of Cumbria, I may not quite be as impartial as others in extolling its' many virtues, but as Managing Director of Solomons, I am duty bound to take an impartial view of the business opportunities this unique county offers.

Recently I have been introduced to a couple of excellent groups – the British Energy Coast Cluster and Choose Cumbria. Both offer an insight into the future investment in the county and happily dispel the firmly held view by many, that Sellafield is the only place to focus on for business opportunities in the region.

It's true, Sellafield is a major player and it is reported that they spend approximately £1.6 billion per year on running their various plants and storage facilities. Coupled with this, the National Audit Office have estimated that the cost of decommissioning the asset will be in the region of £67 billion over the next century. And whilst much of that spend is with the supply chain, with long term frameworks such as the Infrastructure Strategy Alliance, the Operational Site Works framework, the soon to be Programme and Project Partners framework, and of course the plethora of individually awarded maintenance and capital projects, it is not all that Cumbria has to offer for an SME partner like ourselves.

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership are strong advocates of Cumbria's future role in the 'Northern Powerhouse':

"Cumbria is positioned to take a leading role in the Northern Powerhouse and the future of energy provision. Whilst an established home to extensive nuclear capability, there are other growth opportunities too for example in renewable power from off shore wind and tidal schemes, together with other forms of renewable energy generation.

With these capabilities, the energy sector in Cumbria can be an integral part of the national industrial strategy and play a crucial role in the success of the Northern Powerhouse.

We must therefore be alive to the opportunities..."

George Beveridge, Chair, Cumbria LEP

It is these potential opportunities, along with the sense of pride, optimism and vision that these great Cumbrian organisations instil in the hearts and minds of supply chain partners like ourselves that has spurred the team here at Solomons to look to expand our team from our current Crooklands office further into Northern and Western Cumbria.



For us, we currently work with Tier 1 Contractors at Sellafield such as Morgan Sindall and Arup on the ISA, Doosan Babcock on some of the smaller projects, and with Jacobs Field Services on the close out of the Multi Discipline Site Wide programme. But it's not all about Sellafield, United Utilities cover the Cumbria region and Solomons has firm foundations in the water sector. We have existing relationships with some of the capital delivery partners including MWH and Balfour Beatty Utilities and significant investment is taking place in the region most notably with the 4.5 year, £300 million West Cumbria Pipeline project in the north of the county.

At Barrow in Furness, BAE Systems are currently undertaking an 8 year redevelopment programme to get the site ready to build Britain's next generation of nuclear submarines. Several projects are currently ongoing, and we are supporting Morgan Sindall on the £90 million Primary Build Capability project.

And that's not all.....Dong Energy are one of the biggest employers in Barrow, and we had surveyors supported the project teams in the construction of the West of Duddon Sands Windfarm development, and with the current expansion plans are optimistic for further opportunities in this sector - so watch this space!

Exciting times, there is much investment going on in Cumbria, and we are set to position ourselves to take part in some exciting and influential projects... So for us, it's all about building foundations to cement lasting relationships for the future.....

Dominic Doig – Managing Director

Solomons Europe

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