

## Challenges:

Solum faces several sustainability challenges, particularly in reducing carbon emissions from essential materials such as concrete and improving the social value of the communities where it operates. Understanding the environmental impact of its operations and responding to the growing demand for social value continues to present significant hurdles.

One of the primary challenges is identifying the main sources of carbon emissions, particularly from materials like concrete, which are crucial to Solum's work. Finding sustainable alternatives that balance performance, cost-effectiveness, and emission reductions remains a key issue.

On the social value front, aligning community engagement initiatives with client expectations while ensuring measurable and long-term impact proves difficult. As the demand for social value rises, effectively tracking and demonstrating the success of these efforts in line with client expectations is an ongoing challenge.

Additionally, embedding sustainability principles across Solum's sites and throughout its broader workforce has been tough. Encouraging a deeper, company-wide understanding of sustainability's importance at all levels remains an area for continued improvement.

## Impact:

Since engaging with the School, Solum has utilised its resources to address key sustainability challenges. For instance, attending the "Understanding Social Value" webinar helped Solum recognise the growing importance of social value in the construction sector. This directly led to the development of a social value strategy and policy for the company.

**Assessments** - The assessment process has provided a clear snapshot of Solum's position in key sustainability areas. It has helped identify knowledge gaps and areas for improvement within the organisation.

**Action Plan** - The tailored action plans have offered a practical and structured roadmap for improvement. They have helped Solum prioritise key sustainability areas and allowed the company to leverage the School's broad range of resources to enhance its understanding and drive progress.

**E-learning Modules** - The e-learning modules cover a wide range of topics and offer flexibility, enabling team members to complete them at their own pace. The interactive questions at the end of each module promote engagement and ensure the material is absorbed effectively.

## Fact box



### Company

Solum SW

### No of employees

76

### HQ

Buckover, Wotton-under-Edge

### Website

<https://www.solumsw.com/>

### Main contact

Chris Down

[cdown@solumsw.com](mailto:cdown@solumsw.com)

### Services

We provide a complete groundworks package across a range of sectors, including excavation, foundations, utility installation, concreting, landscaping, trenching, site clearance, drainage, and retaining walls.

### About

*Solum is an owner-managed business with a directly employed team. We specialise in groundworks and have decades of experience. We offer a full range of services, beginning with pre-construction. On-site, we ensure timely delivery by supplying the necessary resources. We manage progress throughout the project and handle the account to avoid any unexpected issues.*

### Value gained:

Being a member of the School has provided Solum with valuable insights into social value and carbon reduction. The School has helped the company gain a better understanding of these key sustainability priorities, strengthening its reputation as a trusted partner and better positioning Solum for future opportunities.

With many major clients now requiring membership, Solum has been able to align more closely with their needs. The tools and resources offered by the School have also played a crucial role in upskilling the team, ensuring the company stays ahead of evolving industry trends.

Solum is now better equipped to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability, ensuring the company can meet the needs of both current and future clients.

### Future proofing:

Solum is committed to maintaining its membership and expanding access to training resources for key team members. The company's future engagement with the Supply Chain Sustainability School will focus on further developing its team's involvement with its resources, particularly in areas such as reducing wastage on sites.