

Flexible, solar-powered access control for a live mega-project

Project Overview

Project: Major energy infrastructure site
Customer: Wilson James
Product: Dofygate off-grid automatic barrier system
Location: UK
Workforce: ~2,000 currently on site, projected peak ~8,000

OnSite Support has been working with contractors at one of Europe's largest construction projects; at peak construction the site will support nearly 8,000 workers, alongside complex logistics operations involving segregated pedestrian and vehicle movements. On a project of this scale, site layout is not static. Phasing evolves, traffic routes shift, and access control requirements change as construction progresses. In this type of environment, fixed infrastructure can quickly become a constraint rather than a solution.

Challenge:

Managing moving logistics on a changing site

Wilson James, responsible for logistics management, required a barrier solution that could adapt as site phasing evolved.

Traditional barrier systems typically involve fixed installation, groundworks and power connection – and as a result offer limited flexibility once installed. On a large, evolving construction site, this rigidity can become inefficient. Once installed, relocation can require further civils, electrical works and operational downtime; each layout adjustment risks additional cost, programme friction and stranded infrastructure.

The requirement was straightforward but commercially significant: a barrier system that could be deployed quickly, relocated easily and operate independently of fixed power supply.

Solution:

Mobile, solar-powered access control

Wilson James approached OnSite Support through an existing supplier relationship for the Dofygate system. Unlike traditional fixed barriers, Dofygate is:

- Fully mobile (mounted on a wheeled chassis)
- Solar-powered and off-grid
- Remotely operated
- Deployable without permanent civils

The units can be positioned, repositioned and stored as required, making them particularly suited to temporary crossings, segregated pedestrian routes or changing vehicle access points.

Initial orders began with smaller volumes, scaling up as site needs evolved. Importantly,

About OnSite Support

For over 50 years, OnSite Support has delivered safety, welfare, site equipment and tools for the UK built environment by putting people first. We do this by listening to our clients' needs and establishing a solution that is unique to them.

Our Vision

To be the leading national provider to the industry a trusted and positive force, creating a future for the sector rooted in continually raising standards, caring for the planet, and improving lives.

Our Mission

To support every single person in the industry to work **better, safer, and more sustainably**.

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these units were not tied to fixed installations, instead being acquired as reusable logistics assets, ready for deployment whenever and wherever the site required controlled access.

The off-grid nature of the system eliminates the need for electrical connection and reduces installation complexity and avoids repeated installation works, reducing both deployment cost and reliance on fixed utilities – particularly valuable where power provision does not always align with evolving traffic plans.



Outcomes:

Scalable flexibility on a mega-site

While this project was not driven by a formal cost-reduction programme, the commercial logic is clear. By investing in mobile infrastructure rather than fixed installation, Wilson James gained:

- Reusable barrier assets rather than sunk installation cost
- Reduced need for repeated civils or electrical works
- Faster response to phasing changes
- Scalable deployment as traffic patterns evolved

On a project with thousands of operatives and continuous vehicle movement, access control is a safety-critical function. The ability to reposition barriers quickly helps maintain clear segregation between pedestrians and site traffic without waiting for further installation works or infrastructure modification.

The repeated orders indicate adoption beyond trial stage; the product quickly moved from initial deployment to embedded logistics tool, speedily proving its value.

In addition, the units' solar operation supports lower energy grid dependency and aligns with broader sustainability goals, particularly relevant on an energy infrastructure project and in line with the direction of travel for ESG credentials required to win large tenders.

Infrastructure that moves with the project

Energy infrastructure mega-projects are not typical construction sites. But their challenges – changing layouts, evolving traffic routes, temporary segregation requirements – are also common to large, complex construction programmes.

The Dofygate deployment demonstrates a broader principle:

- Not all infrastructure needs to be permanent.
- Flexibility can reduce redeployment friction and avoid repeat installation cost.
- Mobile, off-grid systems remove dependency on fixed utilities.
- Reusable assets can be redeployed across phases.

For logistics-led contractors on various types of project, the priority extends beyond basic functionality to long-term adaptability. A barrier solution must not only perform reliably, but continue to perform as site layouts evolve, traffic routes shift and project phases change.

In dynamic environments, rigidity creates cost and delay. Mobility creates control.