



The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
c/o The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS16PN

Your reference: EN0110020

8 September 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

Whitestone Net Zero Limited

Section 46 Planning Act 2008: Duty to notify Secretary of State of a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero is hereby notified in accordance with section 46 of Planning Act 2007 (the “Act”) of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd’s (company number: 15826972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock, England, BA3 4QF (the “Applicant”) intention to submit a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) to authorise the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Whitestone Solar Farm, a solar photovoltaic (PV) array generating facility and energy storage facility and associated infrastructure (“the Proposed Development”).

We have previously provided notification pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that the Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (“EIA development”), as defined by those regulations. The Applicant has therefore produced a draft Environment Statement (draft ‘ES’) which contains preliminary information about the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, together with a non-technical summary of this information. An Environmental Statement will be submitted with the proposed application.

The submission of the DCO application will follow a period of statutory pre-application consultation carried out pursuant to section 42, section 47 and section 48 of the Act, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations”), and the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The consultation will be carried out from **16 September to 28 October 2025**.



The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development would be located across three main land areas east of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, within the administrative areas of the City of Doncaster Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The southern extent of the Proposed Order Limits cross into the administrative area of North East Derbyshire District Council within Derbyshire County Council. Whitestone 1 is proposed to the south of Conisbrough, Whitestone 2 to the east of Brinsworth, and Whitestone 3 to the west and north of Harthill.

As the Proposed Development would have a generating capacity in excess of 50MW, it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. The threshold is due to change on 31 December 2025 for solar Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to 100MW under The Infrastructure Planning (Onshore Wind and Solar Generation) Order 2025, but the Proposed Development exceeds that prospective threshold. Accordingly, the Applicant must apply to the Secretary of State for a DCO under the Act.

The DCO is proposed to, amongst other things, authorise:

- construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of ground mounted solar PV arrays, inverters, transformers, substations, a Battery Energy Storage System, along with underground cables to connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at the new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Brinsworth B).
- other infrastructure works including on-site cabling, ancillary buildings such as offices and welfare areas, access tracks, and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development. There would also be parts of the Proposed Development used for landscaping which would include features such as biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures, amenity improvements and fencing.

In addition, any necessary rights and powers will be sought to ensure delivery of the Proposed Development, including compulsory acquisition and temporary possession and such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions in relation to public rights of way and consents as needed.

The Applicant will carry out pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development from **16 September to 28 October 2025**. The purpose of this consultation is to obtain views on the Proposed Development ahead of submission of the DCO application.

Statutory Consultation

Please find enclosed the information that has been sent to the section 42 consultees:



- A covering letter sent to those consultees identified pursuant to section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(b), and section 42(1)(d), which includes a copy of the plan showing the site boundary of the Proposed Development.
- Notice of the proposed application which will be publicised in accordance with section 47 and section 48 of the Act and the requirements set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from **16 September 2025**. All consultation materials, including a consultation booklet showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development, a consultation questionnaire to gather feedback on the Proposed Development, the draft ES, and a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC') which was developed in accordance with section 47 of the Act and explains how we will consult with the community, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or a USB device containing the consultation documents can also be provided free of charge upon request. If, however, the Secretary of State requires the material in an alternative format, please do not hesitate to contact us.

There will also be a series of public events held in the area around the Proposed Site to enable anyone to find out more about the Proposed Development and share their views. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the combined section 47 and section 48 notice.

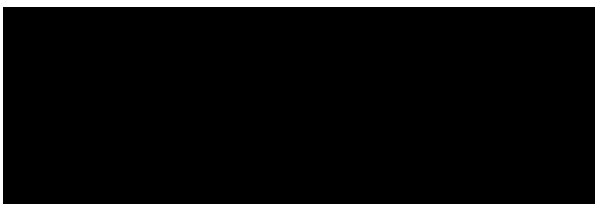
Communications Lines

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of these methods:

- Call Freephone: **0800 688 9936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)**
- Email: **info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk**
- Write to: **Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local** (no stamp is needed)

We would be grateful if you could please acknowledge that this section 46 notice has been received.

Yours sincerely,



Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd