



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

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1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 This Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ('the Report') has been prepared by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd ('the Applicant') in connection with its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) ('the Application') for Whitestone Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is a solar farm with associated battery storage that would be located on approximately 1,100 hectares of land within the administrative boundaries of City of Doncaster Council (CDC), Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC), Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and Northeast Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC), collectively referred to as 'the host authorities'.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under section 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) (as amended by The Infrastructure Planning (Onshore Wind and Solar Generation) Order 2025) as it is a proposed generating station which would be within England, generates electricity directly from sunlight, would not be offshore and would have a generating capacity of more than 100 MW.
- 1.1.4 In 2024, the Government introduced new statutory guidance for NSIPs:
- Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('the Guidance') (published April 2024) [REF-2].
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus ('the Prospectus') (published 16 May 2024) [REF-6].
- 1.1.5 Both the Guidance and the Prospectus introduce a pre-application requirement for prospective applicants to record and submit to the Planning Inspectorate an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report which:
- establishes the consultation undertaken to date;
 - confirms that the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) have been met; and
 - provides a summary of consultation responses received and how these responses are shaping the application.
- 1.1.6 This Report should enable the Planning Inspectorate and the host authorities to give early consideration of the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, minimising the risk of non-acceptance at the acceptance stage.
- 1.1.7 The Applicant shared a copy of this Report with the host authorities on 4 February 2026. A copy of the responses provided by the host authorities is appended to this Report (see **Appendix E**).
- 1.1.8 This Report provides an overview of how the Applicant has complied with pre-application statutory requirements set out in the PA 2008. This Report does not include detailed information about the non-statutory consultation or other engagement activities, which will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- 1.1.9 **Table 1.1** below provides a checklist to demonstrate that each of these requirements has been fulfilled and indicates where in this Report more

information can be found. The accompanying appendices provide evidence of how each of the requirements has been met.

Table 1.1 Checklist of consultation requirements under sections 42-48 PA 2008

Requirement	Requirement met / comment
<p>Section 42(1)(a) - Did the Applicant consult such persons as may be prescribed?</p> <p>(The persons prescribed for the purposes of s42(1)(a) are the statutory bodies listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024) (the APFP Regulations)). [REF-4]</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.2.2-4.2.5 explain how the Applicant identified the relevant s42(1)(a) prescribed consultees.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 sets out that on 8 September 2025 the Applicant notified the prescribed consultees identified under s42, stating that responses must be received by 11:59pm on 28 October.</p> <p>The list of prescribed consultees is included at Appendix B1.1 of this Report. A copy of the letter sent to prescribed consultees is provided at Appendix B1.2 of this Report.</p>
<p>Section 42(1)(aa) - Did the Applicant consult the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)?</p> <p>The MMO must be consulted in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA 2008.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Section 42(1)(b) Did the Applicant consult each local authority that is within s43?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.2.6 and 4.2.7 explain how the Applicant identified the relevant local authorities, which are listed in Table 4.2 of this Report.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 sets out that those local authorities were notified on 8 September 2025 of the Applicant’s intention to submit the Application and of the requirement to consult.</p> <p>A copy of the letter of notification is included in Appendix B1.3 of this report.</p>

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Requirement	Requirement met / comment
Section 42(1)(c) - Did the Applicant consult the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	Not Applicable
Section 42(1)(d) - Did the Applicant consult each person who is within one or more categories set out in section s44?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.2.8-4.2.14 explain how all persons with an interest in land (PILs) were identified.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 explains that the Applicant wrote to PILs on 8 September 2025. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix B1.4 of this Report.</p>
Section 45(1)-(2) - Did the Applicant notify the persons consulted under s42 of the deadline for the receipt of responses to the consultation; and if so was the deadline notified 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 4.2.15 explains that the Applicant provided notification on 8 September that consultation responses were due by 28 October, which is more than 28 days.</p> <p>Copies of the letters sent to the relevant consultees under s42 are provided at Appendices B1.2-B1.4 of this Report.</p>
Section 46(1)-(2) - Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) of the proposed application; and if so was the information supplied to The Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 4.3 sets out that the Applicant supplied information to notify the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with s46 on 8 September 2025, which was (i) on the same date as the notification to the s42 consultees and (ii) before the commencement of the s42 consultation on 16 September 2025.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at Appendix B2.1 of this Report and a copy of the s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate is provided at Appendix B2.2 of this Report.</p>
Section 47(1) - Did the Applicant prepare a statement setting out how the Applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application,	<p>Yes</p> <p>A copy of the Applicant's final Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) is provided at Appendix A3 of this Report.</p>

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Requirement	Requirement met / comment
people living in the vicinity of the land?	
Section 47(2) - Were the relevant local authorities consulted about the content of the statement?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 3.3.4 describes that relevant local authorities were consulted from 24 July – 22 August 2025.</p>
Section 47(5) - Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the statement?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Table 3.1 sets out the changes the Applicant made to the draft SoCC in response to feedback from the local authorities.</p>
Section 47(6) - Was the statement made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; and was a notice published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC could be inspected?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 3.4 sets out that the SoCC was published on the Applicant’s project website on 10 September 2025 and notices were published in local papers on 11 September.</p> <p>A copy of the notices and the newspaper clippings are included in Appendix B3 of this Report.</p>
Regulation 12 of Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”) - does the statement set out whether the development is EIA development; and does it set out how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Pages 8-9 of the final SoCC explain that the Proposed Development is EIA development for the purposes of the EIA Regulations and set out how the Applicant would publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>
Section 47(7) - Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 4 of this Report sets out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC. Appendix D provides evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</p>
Regulation 4(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations	<p>Yes</p>

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Requirement	Requirement met / comment
<p>2009 (the “APFP Regulations 2009”) - Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?</p>	<p>Paragraphs 4.4.4-4.4.6 explain that the Applicant produced a combined s47/s48 notice. The notice is included at Appendix B3.1 and the newspaper clippings are included at Appendix B3.2-3.9 of this Report.</p>
<p>Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The published combined s47/s48 notice, supplied at Appendix B3.1, contains the required information as set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and address of the applicant (page 1, paragraph 1); 2. a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State (page 1, paragraph 1); 3. a statement as to whether the Proposed Development is EIA development (page 2, paragraph 2); 4. a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development (page 1, paragraphs 4-6; and 5. a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant (page 2, paragraph 6); 6. the address of the website where the documents, plans and maps may be inspected (page 2, paragraph 6); 7. a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps (page 4, paragraph 1); 8. the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection on the website (being a date not earlier than the deadline on page 3, paragraph 3 (page 2, paragraph 6); 9. whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge (page 2, paragraph 6); 10. details of how to respond to the publicity (page 3, paragraph 2); and

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Requirement	Requirement met / comment
	11. a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is published (page 3, paragraph 2).
Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations - Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant?	<p>Yes</p> <p>A copy of the combined s47/s48 notice was sent to the relevant consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation.</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at Appendix B1.2, of this Report, confirms a copy of the combined s47/s48 notice was enclosed.</p>
Section 49(2)-(3) - Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42 and s47 consultations and s48 publicity?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Sections 4.5 and 4.6 of this Report describes how the Applicant has reviewed and taken account of the responses received during the statutory consultation to date.</p> <p>Further engagement with relevant prescribed consultees will continue and shape how this feedback is addressed in the Application documents. The detailed responses to feedback will be included in the Consultation Report.</p>
Section 50 – Has the Applicant had regard to the relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State about pre-application procedure?	<p>Yes</p> <p>As covered in paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 of this Report.</p>

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview of the consultation process

2.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a continuous programme of engagement in parallel with, and complementary to, its two formal phases of pre-application consultation as described in **Table 2.1**. The important distinction between consultation and engagement are as follows:

- Engagement relates to discussions between the Applicant, community and stakeholders outside formal phases of consultation. The programme of engagement undertaken by the Applicant outside of formal phases of consultation will be detailed in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.
- Consultation relates to the formal stages of consultation. There were two stages of consultation: the first was non-statutory (November 2024 – January 2025) and will be detailed in the Consultation Report, while the second consultation (September – October 2025) is considered to be statutory and is further detailed in this Report.

Table 2.1 Summary of pre-application consultation and engagement activities

Dates	Activities
Early engagement and non-statutory consultation	
1 November – 14 November 2024	Early engagement with host authorities, community members and near neighbours
18 November 2024 – 31 January 2025	First consultation (non-statutory)
3 March – August 2025	Ongoing engagement with the community, host authorities and technical organisations
EIA Scoping	
22 April 2025	Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate
3 June 2025	Scoping Opinion published
Development of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)	
27 June – 11 July 2025	Informal consultation with local authorities on the draft SoCC
24 July - 22 August 2025	Formal consultation with local authorities on the draft SoCC
11 September 2025	Notice of Availability of the SoCC as prescribed by s47(6) of the PA 2008
Statutory consultation	
8 September 2025	Notification as prescribed by s42 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations

8 September 2025	Notification of the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State as prescribed by s46 of the PA 2008
11 September– 18 September 2025	Notification of the consultation as prescribed by s48 of the PA 2008
18 September – 28 October 2025	Consultation as prescribed by s42 of the PA 2008 and in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed by s47(7) of the PA 2008

2.2 Early engagement and non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.1 The Applicant conducted consultation outside of the statutory consultation period. This included a period of ‘early engagement’ from 01 November 2024 to 18 November 2024, before a period of non-statutory consultation which occurred between 18 November 2024 and 31 January 2025. After this non-statutory consultation period, the Applicant continued to engage with stakeholders and the community through March and July 2025.
- 2.2.2 The purpose of this non-statutory consultation was to provide information on the early proposals and to seek feedback that could inform design development and the environmental impact assessments at an early stage in the design process.
- 2.2.3 Ahead of the Proposed Development being announced publicly, the Applicant met with relevant local authorities to introduce the Proposed Development and explain the development process shown in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 Early engagement meetings with local authorities

Dates	Stakeholders	Topics discussed
1 Nov 2024	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad project description • Approach to consultation • Planning performance agreement (PPA)
11 Nov 2024	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft masterplan • Consultation strategy
12 Nov 2024	City of Doncaster Council Planning Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad project description • Approach to consultation • Planning performance agreement (PPA) • Draft masterplan • Consultation strategy

2.2.4 To introduce the Proposed Development and first consultation, the Applicant notified the local community as follows:

Table 2.3 Notification of non-statutory consultation

Dates	Activities
12 Nov 2024	Door knocking to 26 properties particularly close or adjacent to the proposed Order Limits
13 Nov 2024	Sending emails to MPs, councillors from CDC and RMBC and host parish councils with an offer to meet
13 Nov 2024	Sending emails to consultees who would be considered relevant statutory consultees for the purposes of s42(1)(a) PA 2008.
13 Nov 2024	Posting leaflets within the consultation zone (approx. 30,000 addresses) introducing the Proposed Development and upcoming consultation
13 Nov 2024	Launching project website whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk with further project information
13 Nov 2024	Issuing a press release to local media outlets with information about the Proposed Development and upcoming consultation
2 Jan 2025	Writing to properties in Conisbrough to announce an additional information event

2.2.5 To provide more information about the Proposed Development, the Applicant developed the following materials which were all available on the project website:

- A masterplan for each of the three components of the Proposed Development: Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3, showing the proposed Order Limits, the areas identified to potentially host solar panels and associated infrastructure, and the areas identified for potential landscape mitigation and enhancement.
- A consultation booklet that provided more information about the Applicant, the development process, and the Proposed Development.
- A questionnaire to collect feedback.

Public events, site visits and stakeholder meetings

2.2.6 During the consultation period, the Applicant hosted eight public information events where members of the community could learn more about the Proposed Development through the consultation materials and by asking questions of the project team. These events were scheduled to be in venues across the project area, such that no one would need to travel more than 15 minutes and to be at various days and times to accommodate a variety of work/life schedules. The details of these events are set out in **Table 2.4**.

Table 2.4 Non-statutory Public Information Events

Dates and times	Location	Public attendance
Friday 29 Nov, 12pm – 4pm	The Ruddle Centre, Doncaster Road, Braithwell, Rotherham S66 7BA	97
Saturday 30 Nov, 10am – 4pm	Aston cum Aughton Leisure Centre, Aughton Rd, Swallownest, Sheffield S26 4SF	67
Tuesday 3 Dec, 2pm – 6pm	Harthill Village Hall, Harthill, Sheffield S26 7YL	134
Wednesday 4 Dec, 2pm – 6pm	Consort Hotel Consort Suite, 8 Brampton Road, Thurgroft, Rotherham S66 9JA	78
Thursday 5 Dec, 10am – 2pm	Ulley Village Hall, Main Street, Ulley, Sheffield S26 3YD	59
Tuesday 10 Dec, 6pm – 7pm	Webinar	7
Monday 13 Jan, 3pm – 7pm	Lord Conyers Hotel, Conisbrough, Doncaster DN12 3LZ	165
Tuesday 14 Jan, 2pm – 6pm	Consort Hotel Consort Suite, 8 Brampton Road, Thurgroft, Rotherham S66 9JA	95
	Total public attendance	702

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2.2.7 In addition to the public information events, the Applicant offered to meet with anyone who lived adjacent to the proposed Order Limits or felt that their views would potentially be significantly impacted (near neighbours). The meetings were an opportunity for the project team to answer any questions and get detailed feedback and on-site assessments of the potential impacts. This resulted in 16 site visits as detailed in **Figure 2.1**.

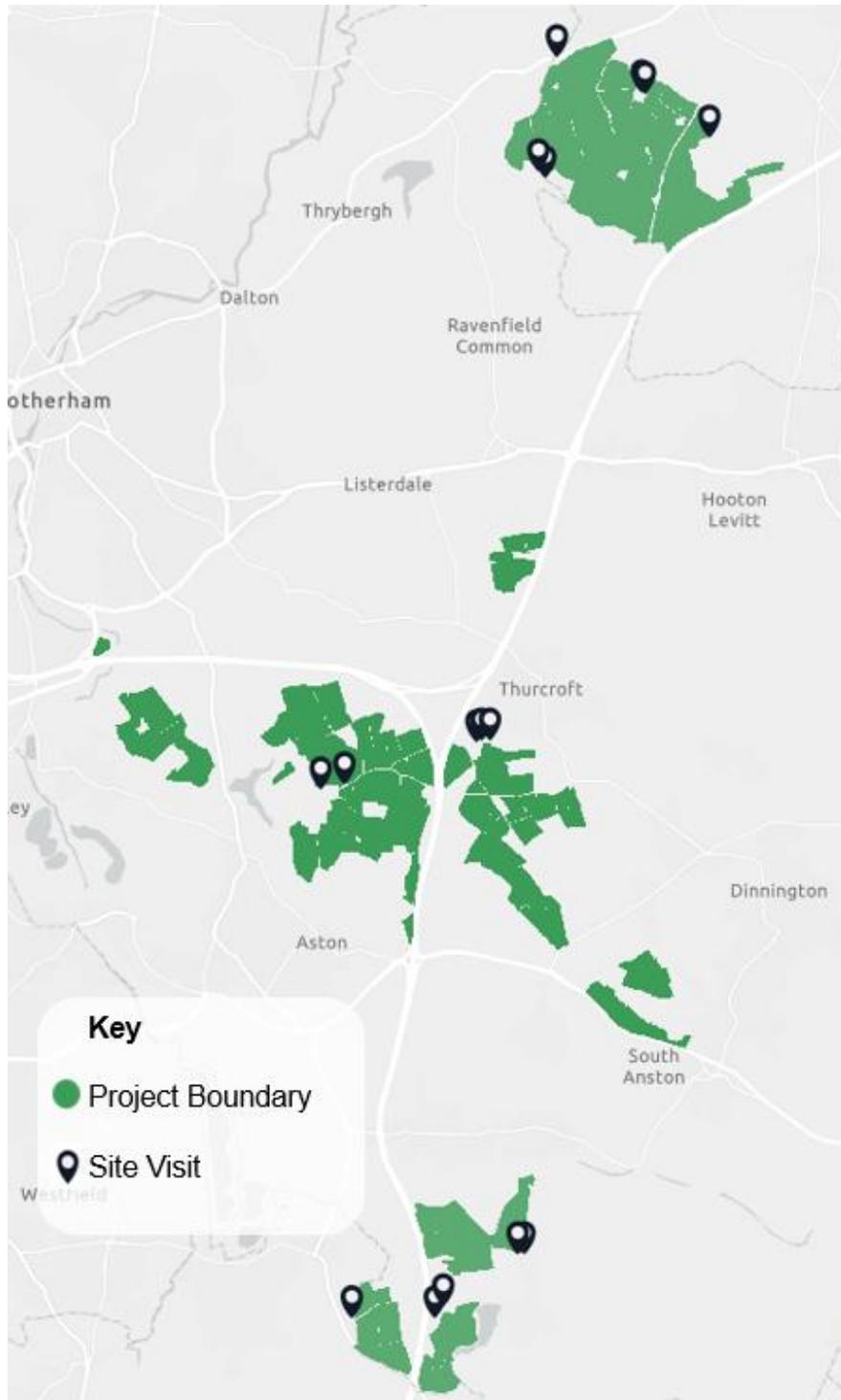


Figure 2.1 Site visits during non-statutory consultation

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2.2.8 The Applicant also offered to meet with host elected representatives, including the parish councils, district councillors and MPs, to provide more information about the Proposed Development and receive their feedback. Two of the MPs, nine of the parish councils and two host authorities responded. These are detailed in **Table 2.5** below. The meeting with CDC occurred after the end of the consultation, so it is described in **Table 2.8**.

Table 2.5. Stakeholder meetings during non-statutory consultation

Dates	Attended by	Topics raised	Applicant response
20 Nov 2024	Staff (on behalf of John Healey MP)	Concerns raised about the size of the development, whether all communities were notified about the consultation, proximity to properties, loss of amenity, impact to historic landscape, lack of community benefits and battery storage safety. An additional information event was requested to be held in Conisbrough.	The Applicant added the requested additional event in Conisbrough. The Applicant explained the approach to consultation and the planning process and how these topics would be addressed through the development of the project.
2 Dec 2024	Jake Richards MP	Concerns raised about size of development, proximity to villages, the nature conservation site near Brampton and lack of community benefits. Requests for maintaining public footpaths, mitigating the visual impact and considering access routes carefully.	The Applicant explained the development process and how these topics would be addressed through both consultation and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
5 Dec 2024	Hooton Roberts Parish Council	Concerns raised about location, size of the development, use of agricultural land, loss of amenity, flood risk and requests for more detail.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
11 Dec 2024	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Overview of the Application process.	The Applicant explained the Application process.

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Dates	Attended by	Topics raised	Applicant response
	Planning Officers 3 rd Meeting		
6 Jan 2025	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Officers and Councillors	Overview of the Application process, consultation strategy, draft masterplan. Concerns raised about the size of the development and different sections, proximity to villages, cumulative impacts of other proposals, the visual impact, the funding behind the scheme and how the project would be decommissioned.	The Applicant explained the Application process, the consultation process and showed the draft masterplans. The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
13 Jan 2025	Conisbrough Parks Parish Council and Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council	Concerns raised about the size of the development, the environmental impact, effect on biodiversity, loss of agricultural land, visual and landscape impact, loss of Green Belt land, economic effect, impact on property value and impact on nearby residents.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation and these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
14 Jan 2025	Harthill with Woodall Parish Council	Concerns raised about continued disruptions to the local community after Northern Powergrid works, visual impact on the village.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
15 Jan 2025	Todwick Parish Council	Acknowledged the need for renewable energy projects and that many villages have been built on Green Belt land. They encourage continued	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and these topics

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Dates	Attended by	Topics raised	Applicant response
		engagement with the community.	would be addressed through the EIA.
20 Jan 2025	Whiston Parish Council	Questions about the development process, and interest in community benefits, particularly for the parish hall.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.
20 Jan 2025	Wickersley Parish Council and Ravenfield Parish Council	Acknowledged the need for renewable energy projects, but raised concerns about the size of the development, loss of agricultural land, cumulative impacts of other proposals, construction vehicle access being difficult, visual impact. Requested that there be biodiversity net gain and all footpaths are maintained. Ravenfield Parish Council also raised concerns about residents in the parish not receiving leaflets notifying them of the consultation.	The Applicant explained how there would be more details provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA. The Applicant expanded the consultation zone to include Ravenfield for the update letter sent out in January 2025.
21 Jan 2025	Thurcroft Parish Council	Concerns raised about the size of the development, the mental health of residents, the proximity to Brampton, the visual impact and effect on property values.	The Applicant explained how there would be more detail provided at the statutory consultation stage and that these topics would be addressed through the EIA.

Feedback to the consultation

- 2.2.9 The following methods were available for individuals to submit their written feedback by the deadline:
- Completing the online questionnaires located at the project website
 - Completing the printed questionnaires available at the information events or by request
 - Emailing the project inbox at info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK Local.
- 2.2.10 The Applicant received written feedback during the non-statutory consultation from the following entities:

Table 2.6 Feedback from non-statutory consultation

Method	Number
Emails from technical organisations that would be considered prescribed consultees	17
Online questionnaires	476
Printed questionnaires	55
Emails to the project inbox	408
Total	956

- 2.2.11 Following the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant analysed all of the responses received. All sources of community feedback, including emails and questionnaires (paper and online) have been aggregated, summarised and grouped by topic. The most common comments, their frequency and the Applicant’s response are included in **Table 2.7** below.

Table 2.7 Key topics raised in feedback from non-statutory consultation

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
Concern about visual impact to countryside views	419	The Applicant’s approach to the design the Proposed Development aims to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential significant visual impacts. In response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant reduced the solar area by more than a quarter around homes, villages, and public rights of way (PRoWs).
Concerns about impact to biodiversity and wildlife	411	Developments like this will soon be required to increase biodiversity by 10%, but solar farms can often provide a larger increase. The Applicant is in the process of identifying opportunities to protect existing wildlife and create new habitats for native species across the site, including planting native grasses and wildflowers, as well as hedgerows and trees around the site, and incorporating features like mammal gates

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Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		within fences. The Applicant will continue to consult with relevant prescribed consultees, including Natural England, on the approach to protecting wildlife and enhancing biodiversity.
General opposition to the proposals	335	Noted.
Concern about using agricultural land	308	<p>National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3 [REF-8 and REF-9] state that it is likely that solar developments of this scale may need to use agricultural land, but that Applicants should seek to minimise their impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land where possible.¹ Through the site selection process, the Applicant avoided areas of BMV located further to the east of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan calls for the rapid acceleration of solar development from 18 GW now to 45 - 47 GW by 2030 [REF-10]. The Solar Roadmap explains the plan to achieve this target, and that only 0.4% of agricultural land would be needed [REF-11].</p> <p>Furthermore, the Applicant is exploring opportunities for agriculture to continue within the Proposed Development through the grazing of sheep under and around the panels.</p>
Request to use rooftops, industrial units, supermarkets, car parks, railways, or brownfield sites instead	273	The Applicant started as a rooftop solar developer and continues to build new rooftop projects for homes, schools and businesses, as well as smaller scale solar projects. To reach national energy targets, a mix of energy developments is needed, and importantly, not all roofs are suitable or available for solar.

¹ Both EN-1 and EN-3 were updated in December 2025, however, the policy around use of BMV has not changed.

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Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		The site selection process included reviews of the CDC and RMBC Brownfield Land Registers; however, there was no brownfield land of an adequate land area to facilitate a large-scale solar project either individually or in combination with other sites.
Concern about building on Green Belt land	272	The Applicant recognises that the land identified for the Proposed Development is on the Green Belt. The Applicant is working to develop the project in a manner that supports many of the same goals as the Green Belt, such as providing opportunities for ongoing agriculture under the panels through grazing, as well as continued recreational access through current PRowWs and new proposed permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife and can increase biodiversity across the site.
Concern about flood risk and panels increasing the risk of flooding	257	The Applicant will provide more information at statutory consultation and in the draft Environmental Statement (ES).
Concern about impact to PRowWs, including footpaths and bridleways	174	<p>The Applicant recognises the importance of PRowWs and is committed to continuing recreational access through current PRowWs and new permissive paths across the site.</p> <p>Based on feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant suggested new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. The Applicant committed to including a 15m offset from either side of paths. In most cases, we have been able to provide more than this minimum by removing panels from the field on one side of the path.</p>
Concern about the impact on the historic Conisbrough Parks	120	As part of the environmental assessments, the Applicant will consult with the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service, Historic England, local authorities and other stakeholders to understand existing

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Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
		<p>heritage features in the local area and our approach to mitigating potential impacts.</p> <p>The Applicant will also complete geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets and desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments. This information will be detailed in the draft ES.</p>
Concern about the size and scale of the proposals and request to reduce the size	119	In response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant reduced the solar area by more than a quarter around homes, villages, and PRowS.
Concern about impact to property values	118	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any impact on house prices due to nearby solar projects in the UK. At this stage, the Applicant's approach to the design of the Proposed Development aims to avoid, reduce or mitigate visual impacts as much as possible.
Concern about noise of construction and construction vehicles	116	<p>As part of the environmental assessments, the Applicant will assess the potential impacts during construction and identify solutions to minimise these potential significant impacts. This will include developing a traffic management plan, in consultation with local highways authorities, to minimise the traffic impacts on local roads as well as using appropriate mitigation measures to reduce dust, noise and other impacts as much as possible.</p> <p>The Applicant will complete noise assessments to understand what the current, baseline noise levels are in the area. This information will be detailed in the draft ES.</p>
Concern about effect to Conisbrough Castle, Roman Villa	115	As part of the environmental assessments, the Applicant will consult with the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service, Historic

Comment	Frequency	Applicant response
and St Peters Church and the views from them		England, local authorities and other stakeholders to understand existing heritage features in the local area and our approach to mitigating potential impacts. The Applicant will also complete geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets and desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments. This information will be detailed in the draft ES.

Changes in response to feedback

- 2.2.12 After the non-statutory consultation, the Applicant made significant changes to the masterplan to reduce approximately one quarter of the solar areas. These changes were made in response to feedback from the consultation, particularly through the site visits, and were designed to reduce potential visual impacts to homes, villages, and PRowS. This includes removing solar areas around isolated dwellings near Conisbrough, and the villages of: Firsby and Clifton in Whitestone 1; Brampton-en-le-Morthen and Ulley in Whitestone 2; and Harthill, Woodall and High Moor in Whitestone 3. Wherever possible, the Applicant also removed solar panels from one side of a PRowS to protect the sense of openness. In most cases, these areas remained in the Proposed Order Limits as potential mitigation land.
- 2.2.13 In order to inform the community and other stakeholders about how the Proposed Development had been updated in response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, and prior to the start of the statutory consultation, the Applicant completed a round of engagement in March and April 2025 as detailed in **Table 2.8** below. Throughout this period, the project website included an option for an individual to sign up for project updates through the ‘Keep Informed List’, which was used for periodic updates, as described below and during the statutory consultation.

Table 2.8 Engagement after non-statutory consultation

Dates	Audience	Engagement activities
11 Feb 2025	CDC Councillors	Meeting to introduce the Proposed Development, provide a summary of the feedback received during the non-statutory consultation and explain next steps.
3 Mar 2025	John Healey MP, Jake Richards MP, Sally Jameson MP	Meeting to provide the updated masterplan.
6 Mar 2025	Near neighbours	Email to offer a follow-up meeting for those individuals that requested a site

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		visit during the non-statutory consultation.
12 Mar 2025	Jake Richards MP	Follow-up meeting on the updated masterplan and next steps
12 Mar 2025	Staff on behalf of John Healey MP	Follow-up meeting on the updated masterplan and next steps
20-22 Mar 2025	Near neighbours	12 follow-up meetings with near neighbours to explain how the Proposed Development had been updated in response to their feedback
26 Mar 2025	Local community	Press release to local media
31 Mar 2025	Local community	Leaflet showing the updated masterplan posted to properties within the consultation zone
31 Mar 2025	Keep Informed List	Email to the Keep Informed List
31 Mar 2025 and 3 April 2025	Parish councils	Two webinars for the host parish councils to explain the changes to the masterplan and next steps
19 July 2025	Parish councils, ward councillors, MPs	Community benefit workshop
8 August 2025	Sarah Champion MP	Introduction to the Proposed Development, site walkover to discuss potential visual impacts
8 August 2025	Firsby Residents group	Meeting to discuss updated masterplan
8 August 2025	Near neighbours	Meeting to discuss Land Interest Questionnaire

2.3 Scoping

- 2.3.1 On 22 April 2025, the Applicant submitted an EIA Scoping Report and a request for a Scoping Opinion to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) under the provisions of the EIA Regulations. This described the scope and methodology for the technical studies proposed to provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment and, where necessary, described suitable mitigation measures. It also described topics and sub-topics proposed to be scoped out of the EIA process, and the justification for doing so. The EIA Scoping Report was developed following consultation with several statutory consultees and the host authorities. Meetings that took place as part of this process will be set out in more detail in the relevant topic chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 2.3.2 Following consultation with statutory bodies, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) adopted a Scoping Opinion on 3 June 2025. The ES is based on the Scoping Opinion.
- 2.3.3 Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion and the Applicant's response were set out in the draft ES. All issues have been considered during the EIA process.
- 2.3.4 Following the adoption of the Scoping Opinion, consultation was undertaken with relevant statutory consultees in the preparation of the draft ES and has also been

considered in the preparation of the ES (including where required by the Scoping Opinion).

- 2.3.5 The Applicant additionally reviewed the list of consultees contacted by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its consultation on its Scoping Opinion to ensure that all organisations contacted by the Planning Inspectorate were included in subsequent consultation activity. All consultees included in Appendix 1 and 2 of the Scoping Opinion were consulted by the Applicant as part of the statutory consultation.
- 2.3.6 The Applicant was not notified of any additional consultation bodies under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.

3 APPROACH TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCC

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 As required by section 47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. In accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted each local authority within section 43(1) of the PA 2008 (i.e. the host authorities) on the contents of the draft SoCC. The Applicant then updated the SoCC in response to feedback from the local authorities and made available and published the SoCC in accordance with section 47(6) of the PA 2008.

3.2 Approach to community consultation

3.2.1 In preparing the draft SoCC, the Applicant's approach was informed by best practice, guidance from the Planning Inspectorate, Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, engagement with the host authorities and feedback from the non-statutory consultation.

3.2.2 The Applicant's approach to pre-application statutory consultation was designed to ensure not just that the consultation would meet legal requirements, guidance and best practice for applications for development consent under the PA 2008, but that anyone with an interest in the Proposed Development had the opportunity to learn more about the proposals and provide their feedback. To ensure the consultation was accessible, the Applicant included the following:

- Providing several mechanisms by which individuals could be notified directly: the Keep Informed email list; by contacting parish councils and other elected representatives directly; the list of community groups, which includes gateway organisations for hard-to-reach individuals in addition to the direct-mail leaflet to addresses within the consultation zone; press releases and advertisements on social media.
- Developing multiple materials for individuals to learn more about the proposals for the Proposed Development using non-technical language in multiple formats.
- Providing multiple methods for interested parties to provide their written feedback.
- Offering to provide materials in alternative formats upon request, including large print, etc.
- Hosting events at venues across the project location, selected for their size and accessibility, to be roughly 15 minutes from any property in the area
- Hosting events at different times of the day and on different days of the week, including a Saturday, to accommodate various work/life schedules.

3.3 Development of the SoCC

- 3.3.1 The Applicant provided the opportunity for two rounds of consultation on the draft SoCC with the host authorities. The first round was considered informal in order to provide initial views ahead of the formal consultation required by section 47(2) of the PA 2008.
- 3.3.2 The Applicant contacted the host authorities to offer a meeting on the draft SoCC. The Applicant met with RMBC on 25 June 2025 and with CDC on 4 July 2025. Their informal feedback is provided in **Table 3.1**. NEDDC responded to say that they were unable to attend a meeting, and DCC did not respond.

Table 3.1 Informal feedback on the draft SoCC

Stakeholder	Informal feedback on draft SoCC	Applicant response
CDC	<p>Moving the Ravenfield event to the evening to be at a different time of day to the Conisbrough event.</p> <p>Organising an update for newly elected members at CDC.</p> <p>Adding Firsby Residents Association to the list of community groups.</p>	<p>The Applicant moved the Ravenfield event to the evening to be at a different time of day to the Conisbrough event.</p> <p>The Applicant organised a briefing meeting for newly elected members at CDC.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured that Firsby Residents Association was added to the list of community groups and invited them to the parish council briefing webinar.</p>
RMBC	<p>Correcting the list of parish councils to include Dinnington Town Council rather than "Dinnington Parish Council".</p>	<p>The Applicant corrected the list of parish councils to read Dinnington Town Council.</p>
NEDDC	No response	Noted
DDC	No response	Noted

3.3.3 The Applicant formally consulted the host authorities on the draft SoCC from 24 July to 22 August 2025, in accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008.

Table 3.2 Formal Feedback on draft SoCC

Stakeholder	Feedback on draft SoCC	Applicant response
CDC	No further comments	Noted
RMBC	No further comments	Noted
NEDDC	Add Eckington Parish Council to the “Keep Informed” list	Eckington Parish Council is a relevant parish council and will be notified as required.
DDC	No response	Noted

3.4 Publication of the SoCC

3.4.1 In accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, on 10 September the SoCC was published on the Applicant’s dedicated project website where it was available to download free of charge. It was also available in printed copy, or on USB, by request (though the Applicant did not receive any such request).

3.4.2 In accordance with Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, on 11 September the applicant published a notice in a newspaper circulated in the vicinity of the land that explained where the SoCC could be inspected. These publications were chosen as they have the highest average circulation figure of local newspapers with a distribution area covering areas of Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.

Table 3.3 Publication of s47 notices with SoCC Availability

Date	Publication
11 September 2025	Derbyshire Times, Doncaster Free Press, Rotherham Advertiser
16 September 2025	London Gazette, The Guardian
18 September 2025	Derbyshire Times, Doncaster Free Press, Rotherham Advertiser

3.4.3 The SoCC was also available for inspection in printed copy at all of the public information events for the statutory consultation, which are described in Chapter 4 of this Report.

4 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The Applicant conducted statutory consultation (Phase Two Consultation: updated plans and proposals) on the Proposed Development in accordance with the PA 2008, APFP Regulations and the EIA Regulations between 16 September and 28 October 2025.
- 4.1.2 The purpose of the consultation was to seek the views of statutory consultees and members of the community on the updated proposals of the Proposed Development.
- 4.1.3 The Applicant conducted consultation under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations [REF 1] simultaneously. This meant that all materials made available for consultation under s47 and s48 of the PA 2008 were available to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations [REF 1].

4.2 Consultation with statutory consultees (s42)

- 4.2.1 Section 42 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult with the prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a), relevant local authorities under s42(1)(b), and PILs under s42(1)(d). Consultation was not undertaken with the Greater London Authority under s42(1)(c) given that the Proposed Development is outside of that authority's administrative area.

Identification of consultees under s42(1)(a)

- 4.2.2 Prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) are defined in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4], which sets out the circumstances in which there is a requirement to consult or notify a specific party.
- 4.2.3 **Appendix B.1.1** of this Report sets out each consultee prescribed in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4], whether that consultee was included in the consultation, and a justification for that inclusion or exclusion, where relevant – for example, consultation was not undertaken with the Marine Management Organisation given the Proposed Development is not likely to affect the marine environment.
- 4.2.4 When identifying relevant s42(1)(a) prescribed consultees, the Applicant had regard to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note three: EIA Notification and Consultation [REF-5].
- 4.2.5 To identify the host and neighbouring parish councils, the Applicant applied the updated proposed Order Limits to the administrative boundaries and identified 21 host and 25 neighbouring parishes, or a total of 46 relevant parish councils. This is a larger list of parish councils than was included in the non-statutory consultation described in Chapter 2 due to the addition of potential cable routes, access roads, and other changes to the draft Order Limits. The relevant parish councils are shown in **Figure 4.1** and listed in **Table 4.1**.

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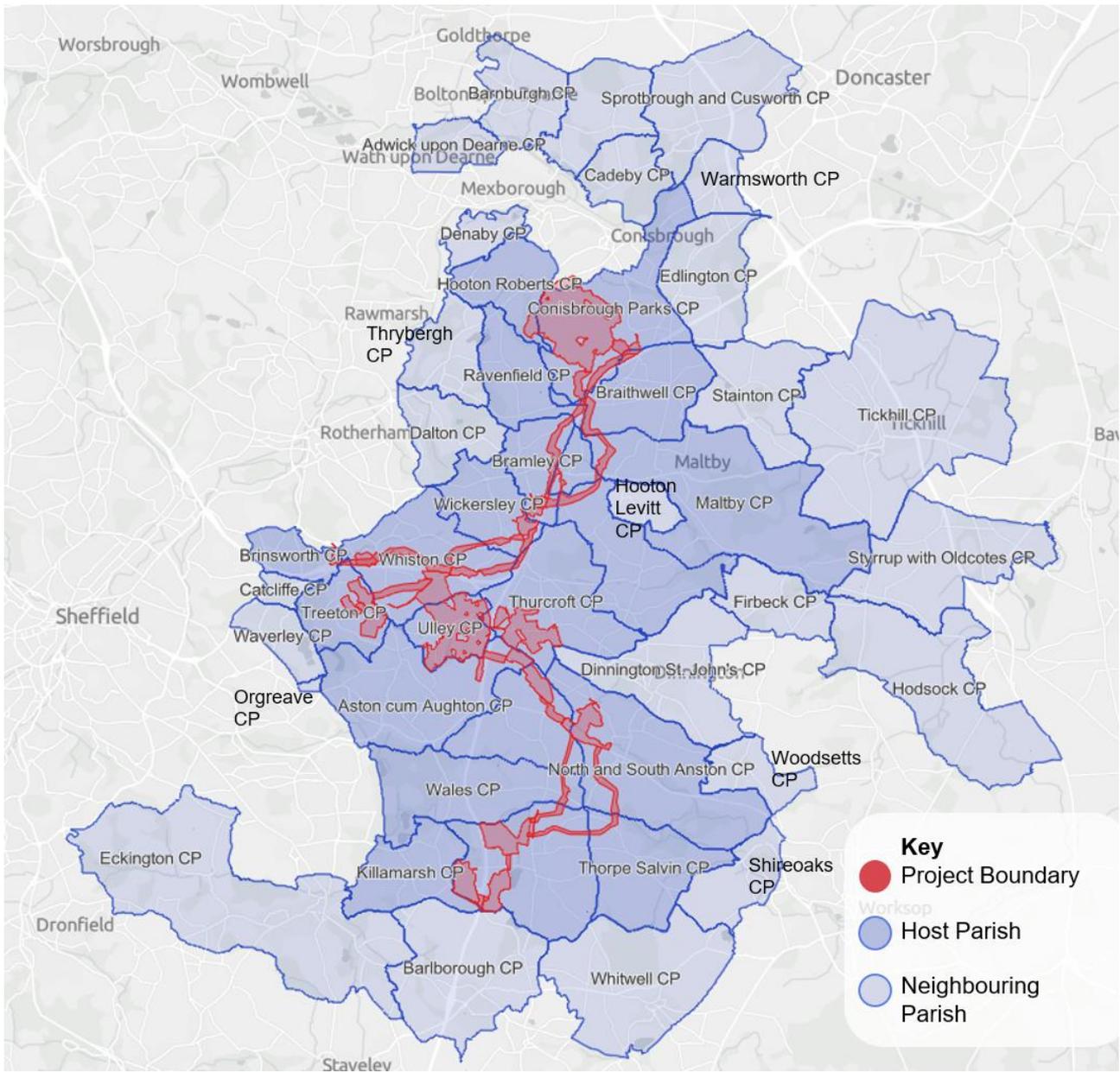


Figure 4.1 Relevant parish councils for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(a)

Table 4.1 Relevant parish councils for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(a)

Parish Council	Host or Neighbouring
Anston Parish Council	Host
Aston cum Aughton Parish Council	Host
Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council	Host
Bramley Parish Council	Host
Brinsworth Parish Council	Host
Conisbrough Parks Parish Council	Host
Harthill with Woodall Parish Council	Host
Hellaby Parish Council	Host
Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting	Host
Killamarsh Parish Council	Host
Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council	Host
Maltby Town Council	Host
Ravenfield Parish Council	Host
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council	Host
Thurcroft Parish Council	Host
Todwick Parish Council	Host
Treeton Parish Council	Host
Ulley Parish Council	Host
Wales Parish Council	Host
Whiston Parish Council	Host
Wickersley Parish Council	Host
Adwick upon Dearne Parish Council	Neighbouring
Barlborough Parish Council	Neighbouring
Barnburgh and Harlington Parish Council	Neighbouring
Cadeby Parish Council	Neighbouring
Catcliffe Parish Council	Neighbouring
Dalton Parish Council	Neighbouring
Dinnington St Johns Town Council	Neighbouring
Eckington Parish Council	Neighbouring
Edlington Town Council	Neighbouring
Firbeck Parish Council	Neighbouring
High Melton Parish Council	Neighbouring
Hodsock Parish Council	Neighbouring
Hooton Levitt Parish Council	Neighbouring
Old Denaby Parish Council	Neighbouring
Orgreave Parish Council	Neighbouring
Shireoaks Parish Council	Neighbouring
Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council	Neighbouring
Stainton Parish Council	Neighbouring
Styrrup with Oldcotes Parish Council	Neighbouring
Thrybergh Parish Council	Neighbouring
Tickhill Town Council	Neighbouring
Waverley Community Council	Neighbouring
Warmsworth Parish Council	Neighbouring
Whitwell Parish Council	Neighbouring

Woodsetts Parish Council	Neighbouring
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Identification of consultees under s42(1)(b)

4.2.6 Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult with the local authorities identified as falling within s43 of the PA 2008, which sets out four categories of authority:

- A is a neighbouring local authority (s43(2)) that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district ‘B’ council within whose area development is situated
- B is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host local authority.
- C is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host local authority.
- D is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host ‘C’ authority – a neighbouring local authority (s43(2A)).

4.2.7 Details of the identification of relevant local authorities, including whether they are an A, B, C or D authority, and the criteria for their identification, are included in **Table 4.2** and shown in **Figures 4.2** and **4.3**.

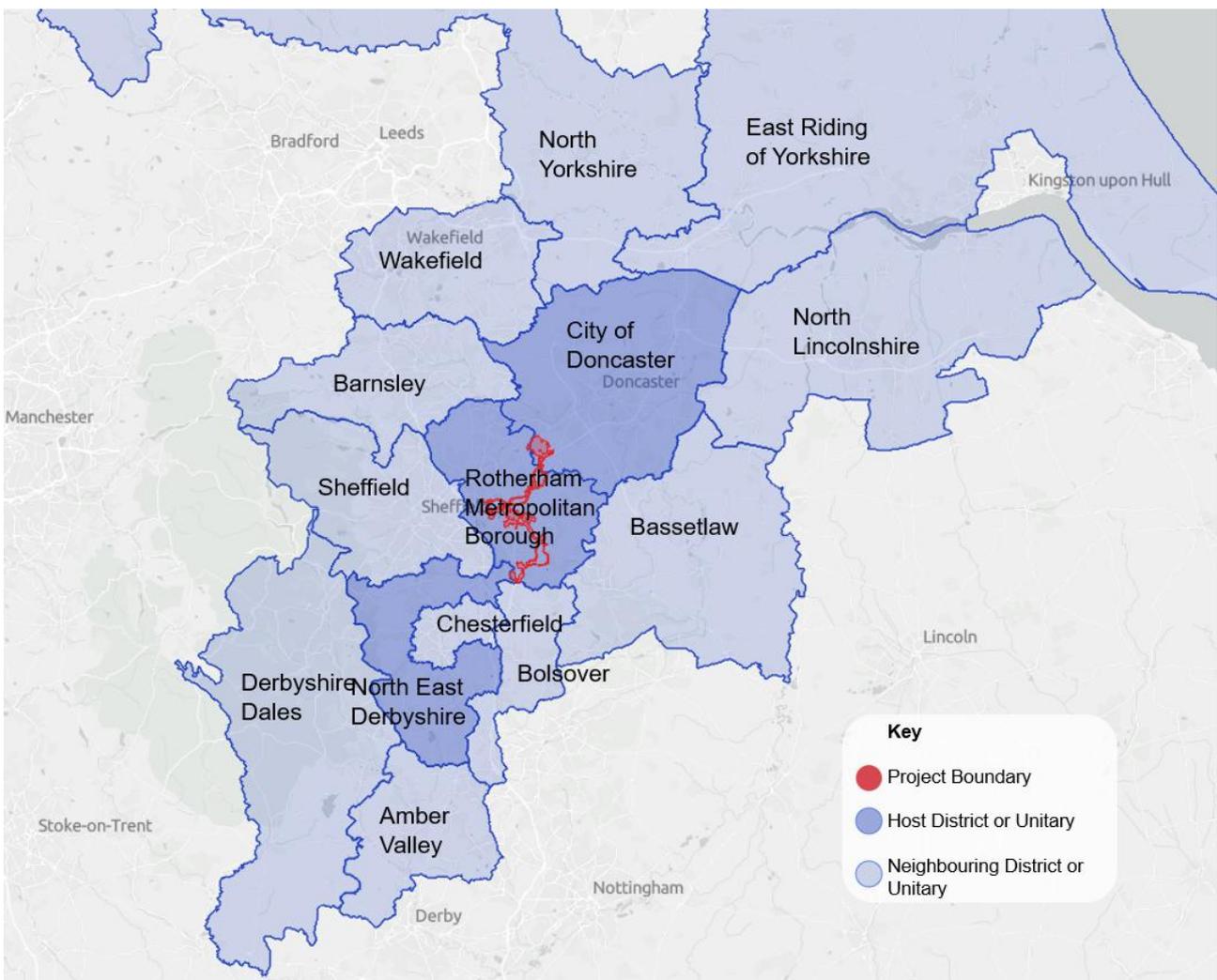


Figure 4.2: Relevant A and B authorities for the purposes of consultation under S42(1)(b)

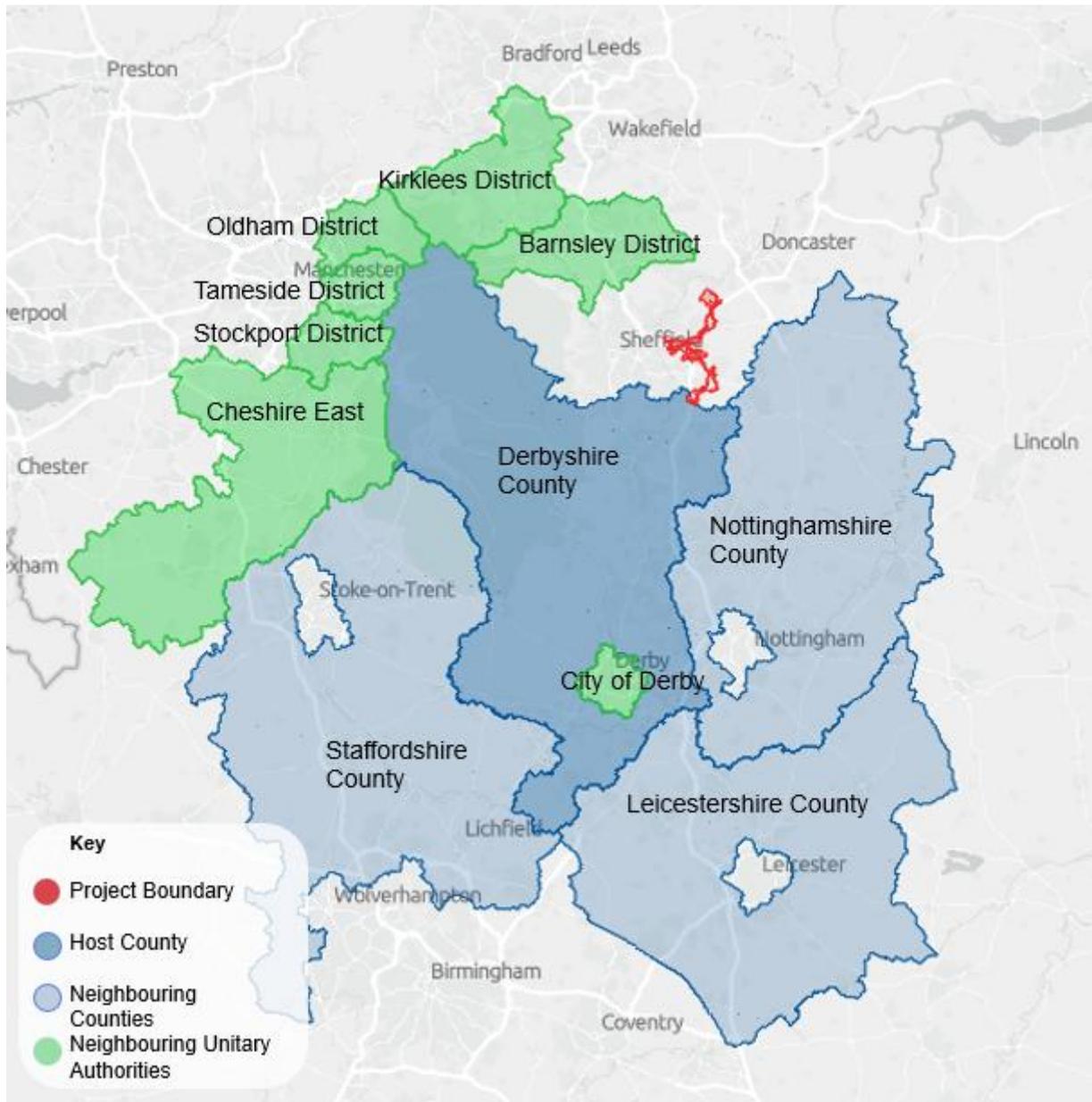


Figure 4.3 Relevant C and D authorities for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(b)

Table 4.2 Relevant local authorities for the purposes of consultation under s42(1)(b)

Name	A, B, C, or D authority	Criteria for identification
City of Doncaster Council	B	The Proposed Development would be located in this unitary authority.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	B	The Proposed Development would be located in this unitary authority.
North East Derbyshire District Council	B	The Proposed Development would be located in this district council.
Derbyshire County Council	C	The Proposed Development would be located in this county council.
Amber Valley Borough Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Bolsover District Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Chesterfield Borough Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Bassetlaw District Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
North Lincolnshire Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
North Yorkshire Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	A	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities.
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	A, D	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary authorities and the host county council.
Sheffield City Council	A, D	This unitary authority neighbours one of the host districts or unitary councils and the host county council.
Derbyshire Dales District Council	A	This district council neighbours one of the host districts or unitary councils.
Nottinghamshire County Council	D	This county council neighbours the host county council.
Leicestershire County Council	D	This county council neighbours the host county council.
Staffordshire County Council	D	This county council neighbours the host county council.
Cheshire East Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.

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Derby City Council	D	This unitary authority neighbours the host county council.
South Yorkshire Combined Authority	D	This combined authority neighbours the host county council.
Peak District National Park Authority	D	This planning authority neighbours the host county council.

Identification of consultees under s42(1)(d)

4.2.8 Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in s44 of the PA 2008 with respect to the Application as follows:

- Category 1 persons: landowners, lessees, tenants or occupiers (s44(1));
- Category 2 persons: those with an interest in the land or the power to sell and convey or release the land (s44(2)); and
- Category 3 persons: those who the Applicant thinks that, if an order for development consent were to be made and fully implemented, would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation (s44(4)).

4.2.9 Section 44 Landowner Identification Process: The Applicant's land referencing consultancy employed a number of methods to identify Section 44 persons, adopting good practice and in accordance with relevant guidance and advice. Methods included:

- the issue of Land Interest Questionnaire (LIQ) letters to all landowners/occupiers and utility companies potentially affected;
- searches at the Land Registry;
- review of legal title documents;
- Companies House and Electoral Roll searches;
- searches for registered correspondence to the relevant address (where appropriate); site visits; and
- discussions with known owners/occupiers, amongst others.

4.2.10 Where an interest remained in 'unknown' ownership, or where it was not clear whether an interest existed or not (in each case following diligent inquiry), the Applicant posted a site notice in the vicinity of the land in question as part of the Statutory Consultation. The notices were secured in place by cable ties and monitored weekly. The notices were monitored for six weeks alongside the general notices. Where notices were removed or damaged before the end of the monitoring period they were replaced, and at the end of the monitoring period the notices and cable ties were taken down and removed. In addition to this, enquiries were also made with adjacent landowners via phone, email and in-person contact to identify owners of unregistered land.

4.2.11 Section 44 places a duty on the Applicant to make 'diligent inquiry' as to the identification of Category 1, 2, or 3 persons. The term 'diligent inquiry' is not defined in the PA 2008, but it sets a threshold of inquiry to allow the termination of that inquiry when reasonable and recognised avenues of research have been exhausted. The Applicant also had regard to the Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note 4 'Section 52'* (March 2017) (now replaced by *Nationally Significant*

Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the process for obtaining information about interests in land (under Section 52 of the Planning Act 2008) (August 2024)) [REF-7].

- 4.2.12 Environmental Impact Assessment: As part of the preparation of the draft ES, the Applicant's environmental specialists and land referencing teams collaborated in identifying receptors potentially impacted by the Proposed Development with a view to understanding whether there were any 'Category 3' persons who might have a 'relevant claim' for compensation as defined by section 44(6) of the PA 2008. The Applicant determined that there were no potential Category 3 individuals due to the Applicant's commitment to not significantly increase noise levels.
- 4.2.13 During a consultation event an interested party identified themselves as having not received a statutory consultation letter. After undertaking an internal inquiry, it was confirmed a notification letter had been sent to the correct address. The interested party provided us with an alternative address that they wished to receive a copy. On 23 October 2025, a copy of the statutory consultation letter was sent to the alternative address, and the consultation period was extended until 23 November 2025 for that consultee.
- 4.2.14 A list of the Category 1, 2 and 3 interests will be provided in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application.

Consultation notification under s42 of the PA 2008

- 4.2.15 The Applicant wrote to all consultees identified under s42 of the PA 2008 to notify them of the consultation. The Applicant wrote by first class post to consultees identified as falling within s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b), and s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 on 8 September 2025, providing information on the Proposed Development, explaining the Applicant's intention to submit the Application, listing the documents being provided as part of the consultation, explaining how to respond to the consultation and providing the deadline for submitting feedback.
- 4.2.16 Within the letter sent on 8 September 2025, the Applicant included a link to its website, where the consultees could find a copy of consultation materials including the consultation booklets, the masterplans, the draft ES, the SoCC, and the questionnaire.
- 4.2.17 A notice of the proposed application which was publicised in accordance with s48 of the PA 2008 and the requirements set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4]. A copy of the notice was also provided to relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations [REF-1]. This notice was included as an attachment to both the 8 September 2025 letters to the s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b), and s42(1)(d) consultees. The s42(1)(d) consultees also received a map showing the Proposed Order Limits.
- 4.2.18 The host parish councils as shown in **Figure 4.1** and **Table 4.1** were contacted by email and first-class post with a similar letter, including an invitation to meet during the statutory consultation period.
- 4.2.19 Copies of the letters sent to consultees under s42 of the PA 2008 are included in **Appendices B1.2-1.4** of this Report.
- 4.2.20 All of the letters and emails were delivered without any bounce-backs or failed deliveries.

4.2.21 The Applicant consulted with PILs under s42(1)(d) and s44 of the PA 2008 at that time. For the statutory consultation, there were 340 Category 1 and 2 consultees.

4.3 Notification of the Secretary of State (s46)

4.3.1 Pursuant to s46 of the PA 2008, the Applicant must send the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) the s42 consultation documents on or before commencing the s42 consultation. The Applicant wrote to the Planning Inspectorate on 8 September 2025 to provide this notification.

4.3.2 The notification provided on 8 September 2025 included the consultation documents listed above electronically via a link to the Applicant's website and a covering letter. These are included in **Appendix B2.1** of this Report.

4.3.3 The Applicant received an acknowledgement of the receipt of its notification under s46 of the PA 2008 from the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2025 (**Appendix B2.2** of this Report).

4.4 Consultation with local communities (s47) and Compliance with the SoCC

4.4.1 The Applicant consulted with the local community in accordance with the SoCC provided in **Appendix A3** of this Report, as prescribed by s47(7) of the PA 2008. Full details of compliance with the SoCC are included in **Appendix D**.

Identification of the community under s47 of the PA 2008

4.4.2 For the purposes of community consultation, the Applicant defined two zones of consultation:

- Zone 1: Core Consultation Zone: An area that included around 45,000 addresses which was drawn 2km from the Proposed Development boundary and then expanded further to ensure parts of communities were not excluded. Being in close proximity to the Proposed Development, this zone was selected as the group of homes and businesses that would have the greater interest in the project (**Figures 4.4-4.6**). This area increased after the non-statutory consultation in order to add the cable routes and other changes to the Proposed Order Limits.
- Zone 2: The Broader Area: which is defined as the host districts of RMBC, CDC, and NEDDC.

Figure 4.5 Core Consultation Zone – Whitestone 2

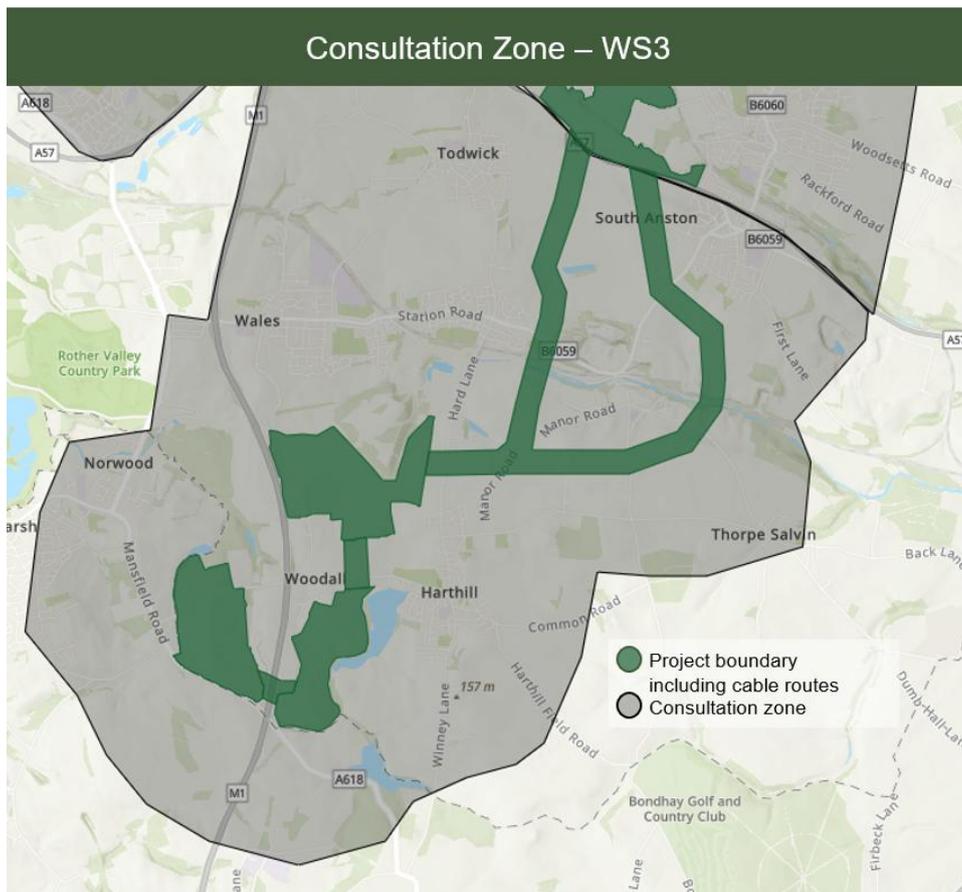


Figure 4.6 Core Consultation Zone – Whitestone 3

Notification of Consultation

- 4.4.3 Section 48 of the PA 2008 requires the Applicant to publish a notice of the proposed application in accordance with Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations [REF-4].
- 4.4.4 The Applicant published a combined section 47 and 48 notice as required in the London Gazette, a national paper (the Guardian), and for two consecutive weeks in local newspapers, as described in **Table 4.3** below.
- 4.4.5 The local newspapers were chosen as they have the highest average circulation figure of local newspapers with a distribution area covering areas of Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3. A copy of this notice as published, which confirms the name of the publication and the date it was published, is provided in **Appendix B3.1** of this Report.
- 4.4.6 All notices were published at least 28 days before the deadline to submit feedback on 28 October 2025.

Table 4.3 Dates of publication of s47/48 notice in newspapers

Publication	Date of publication
Doncaster Free Press	11 September 2025
Rotherham Advertiser	11 September 2025

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Derbyshire Times	11 September 2025
The Guardian	16 September 2025
London Gazette	16 September 2025
Doncaster Free Press	18 September 2025
Rotherham Advertiser	18 September 2025
Derbyshire Times	18 September 2025

4.4.7 In addition to the statutory notices above and consistent with the SoCC, the Applicant provided several methods to notify the community of the upcoming consultation and how to take part, summarised in **Table 4.4**.

4.4.8 After the start of the consultation, the Applicant received feedback from the community requesting an additional information event to be held in Treeton. This additional event was communicated to the community in Treeton through an additional letter sent on 30 September 2025.

Table 4.4 Consultation notification under s47 of the PA 2008

Date	Event
10 September 2025	Leaflet sent to addresses in Zone 1
16 September 2025	Website updated with consultation materials
18 September 2025	Facebook adverts live
18 September 2025	Emails sent to keep informed list
23 September 2025	Emails sent to community groups and elected officials in Zone 2
26 September 2025	Press release sent to local media in Zone 2
30 September 2025	Letter to Treeton community regarding additional event

Consultation materials

4.4.9 The Applicant made the following materials available as part of consultation with the local community:

- The SoCC, which set out the Applicant's approach to consulting with the community (**Appendix A3**);
- A consultation booklet providing a non-technical overview of the Proposed Development, the development process, initial EIA results, and next steps (**Appendix C1**);
- The draft ES and accompanying Non-Technical Summary;
- Pop-up banners that described the Proposed Development, how it had changed in response to feedback from the non-statutory consultation, and the Application process (**Appendix C5**);
- Updated masterplans (**Appendix C2**);
- A questionnaire to collect feedback (**Appendix C3**).

4.4.10 All materials were available on the project website to download for free. Printed copies of the booklet, masterplans and questionnaire as well as a USB containing the draft ES were also available for free upon request. There were several requests for the USB with all consultation materials, which were completed by first-class post. Printed copies of materials other than the draft ES were also

available upon request, and many individuals requested these materials which were also sent out by first-class post.

- 4.4.11 The draft ES was available in printed copy for a fee of £750, however no one requested this option. This reflects the high cost of printing the document due to its size. This is a greatly subsidised rate in order to reduce potential burden on interested parties. The Applicant made the full printed version of the document available at all the public information events.
- 4.4.12 As explained in the SoCC, materials were also available in alternative formats upon reasonable request, however there were no such reasonable requests made.

Collection of responses

- 4.4.13 To capture feedback, the Applicant produced a consultation questionnaire inviting comments on the different elements of the Proposed Development. The questionnaire was made available online via the project website. Printed copies were also provided at the public information events and by request. The consultation questionnaire can be found in **Appendix C3**.
- 4.4.14 The questionnaire asked the following questions:
- Q1: Which site are you most interested in? (please tick)
- Whitestone 1
 - Whitestone 2
 - Whitestone 3
 - All of the above
- Q2: Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.
- Q3: Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths? Are there other paths you would like to see?
- Q4: Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.
- Q5: Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.
- Q6: What would you like to see in the community benefit package? Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?
- Q7: Do you have any comments on the environmental topics and the mitigation proposed?
- Q8: Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?
- 4.4.15 Consultees were able to submit their written feedback through the following methods:
- Completing the online questionnaire at the project website
 - Completing the printed questionnaire and returning to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK Local
 - Emailing the project inbox: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

- Writing to the same Freepost address above.

Public information events

4.4.16 The Applicant hosted eight public information events during the consultation period. The purpose of these events was to present information about the Proposed Development through the consultation materials and by asking questions of the project team. The locations of the events are shown in **Figure 4.7** and listed in **Table 4.5** below.

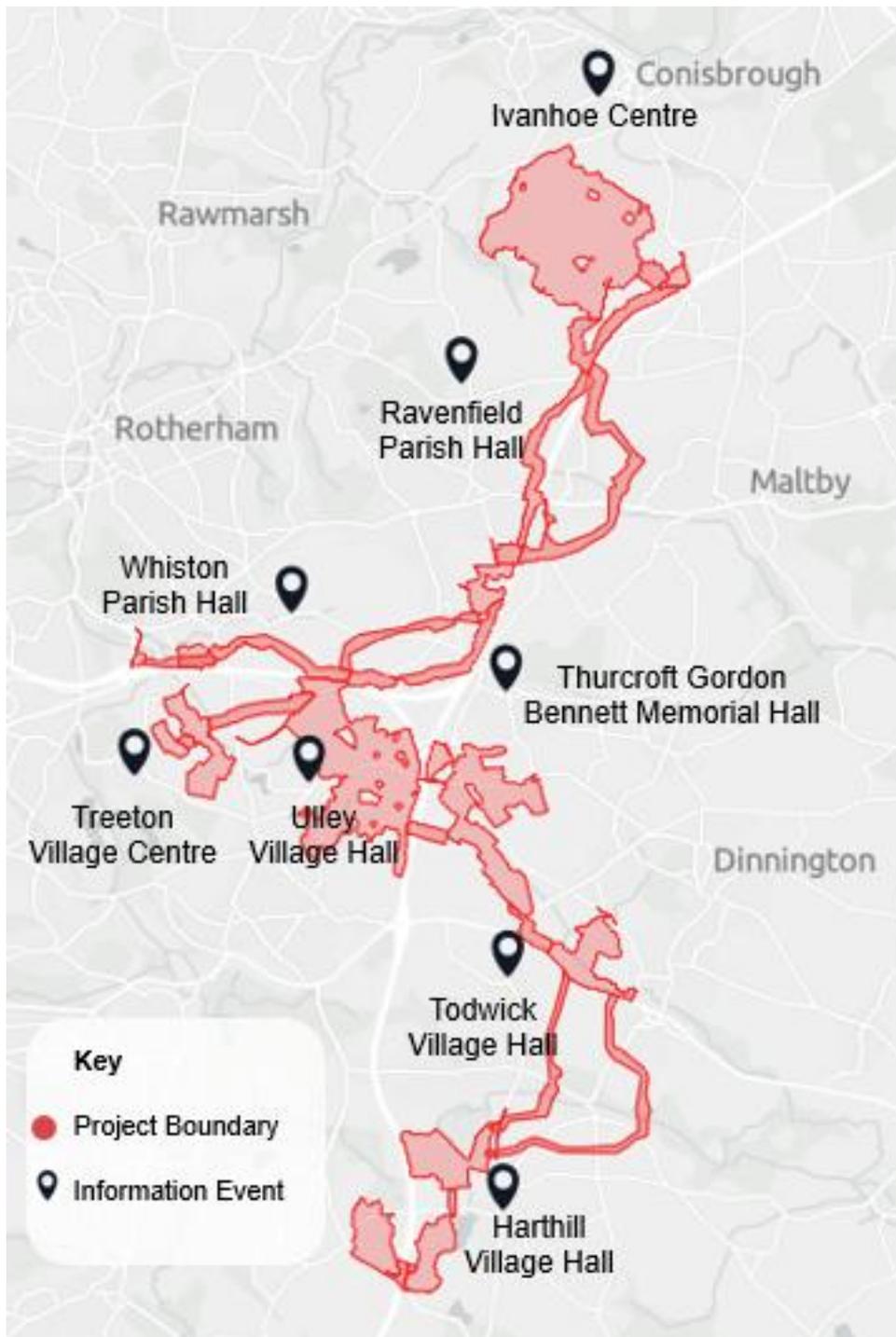


Figure 4.7 Location of public information events during statutory consultation

Table 4.5 Attendance at public information events during statutory consultation

Date and time	Location	Public Attendance
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD	64
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ	43
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX	157
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL	108
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT	108
13 October 2-6pm	Treeton Village Centre, S60 5QT	82
14 October 3-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD	74
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX	82
Total		718

4.4.17 The events were organised to be as accessible as possible for the public by:

- Occurring at various times of day and days of the week to accommodate various work/life schedules
- Being located in at least one venue in each of the three sections of the Proposed Development, with the next nearest venue at a different time of day
- Using accessible venues with sufficient capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of attendees

Meetings with stakeholders

4.4.18 On 17 September 2025, the Applicant wrote to the host parish councils and the Firsby Residents Association to notify them of the upcoming consultation and how to take part. The letter invited them to join a Zoom meeting on 30 September or to attend an in-person meeting before or after the public information events. Only one parish requested the in-person meeting. The Applicant also offered the host MPs a meeting during the statutory consultation. **Table 4.6** details the meetings that took place.

Table 4.6 Stakeholder meetings during statutory consultation

Date	Time	Attendees	Activity
30 September 2025	6pm-7:30pm	Various parish councils	Briefing on statutory consultation, updated masterplans and Q&A
13 October 2025	6pm	Treeton Parish Council	Briefing on statutory consultation, updated masterplans and Q&A
16 October 2025	2:30pm	Jake Richards MP	Updates on statutory consultation
21 October 2025	11am	Sally Jameson MP	Update on changes to the Proposed Development, the statutory consultation and community benefits

Analysing Feedback

4.4.19 Within the consultation period, the Applicant received a total of 10,409 relevant responses to the statutory consultation.

Table 4.7 Feedback received from all consultees

Consultee	Feedback Received
s42(1)(a) – Prescribed Consultees	46
s42(1)(b) – Relevant Local Authorities	10
s42(1)(d) – PILs	38
s47 – Members of the Community	10,315
s48	0
Total	10,409

4.4.20 Responses were received, securely recorded and analysed by a consultancy specialising in public consultation and stakeholder engagement. The following process was utilised:

- When a response was received which provided identifying details (e.g., a postcode, name), the Applicant identified whether the response had been submitted by an individual or organisation under s42, s47 or s48.
- Each response was assigned a unique code, and their feedback was recorded against this code in a secure database.
- Paper questionnaires and letters were manually transcribed and recorded against the respondent’s unique code.
- Responses were analysed at sentence level, using thematic coding to group together comments on similar topics, with unique codes logged against comments to indicate frequency.
- An individual response was analysed in as many layers as was required to ensure that the entire sentiment was captured.
- The analysis process enabled all responses to be indexed according to the issues raised by respondents and allowed a detailed summary to be prepared of the content by themes and topics raised.

- 4.4.21 Adopting a similar approach to that recommended by the Planning Inspectorate’s Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024), the Applicant grouped the responses under the three strands of consultation – s42, s47 and s48 – and then further by their relation to the Proposed Development – prescribed consultees/local authorities, members of the local community and landowners/those with a land interest.
- 4.4.22 None of the consultees who responded identified themselves as specifically responding to the s48 notice, so there is no separate grouping for s48 notice respondents. The Applicant notes that all consultees prescribed under s42(1)(a) and (b) were required to receive the s48 notice.

4.5 Responses to the Statutory Consultation under Section 42

- 4.5.1 A total of 46 responses were received from prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) of the PA 2008. The consultees that responded are listed in **Table 4.8** below. Where these consultees are also PILs under s42(1)(d), this is indicated in the table. The detailed summary of their feedback and the Applicant’s response will be included in the Consultation Report and its appendices submitted as part of the Application.

Table 4.8 Feedback from consultees under s42(1)(a)

Prescribed Consultee under s42 (1)(a)	Also a consultee under s42 (1)(d)
Technical organisations	
Cadent Gas	Yes
Canal and Rivers Trust	Yes
Coal Authority/Mining Remediation	Yes
GTC	Yes
National Highways	Yes
Network Rail	Yes
NGET	Yes
Severn Trent	Yes
SY Fire and Rescue	Yes
Yorkshire Water	Yes
Environment Agency	No
Forestry Commission	No
Health and Safety Executive	No
Health Security Agency	No
Historic England	No
Indigo Network	No
Natural England	No
DCC Operations	No
NDC Welsh Waters	No
North Yorks Police	No
Northern Gas Networks	No
South West Water	No
Water Regulations South	No
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	No

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West Yorkshire Police	No
Parish Councils	
Anston Parish Council	No
Aston-cum-Aughton Parish Council	No
Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council	No
Bramley Parish Council	No
Catcliffe Parish Council	No
Conisbrough Parks Parish Council	No
Dalton Parish Council	No
Edlington Town Council	No
Firbeck Parish Council	No
Harthill Parish Council	No
Hooton Roberts Parish Meeting	No
Ravenfield Parish Council	No
Todwick Parish Council	No
Treeton Parish Council	No
Ulley Parish Council	No
Wales Parish Council	No
Wickersley Parish Council	Yes

- 4.5.2 A total of 10 responses were received from local authority consultees under s42(1)(b) of the PA 2008. The consultees that responded are listed in **Table 4.9** below. Where these consultees are also PILs under s42(1)(d) this is indicated in the table. The detailed responses will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application.

Table 4.9 Feedback from consultees under s42(1)(b)

Consultee under s42 (1)(b)	Also a consultee under s42 (1)(d)
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Yes
Bolsover District Council	No
City of Doncaster Council	Yes
City of York Council	No
Stockport Council	No
Amber Valley Borough Council	No
Chesterfield Borough Council	No
Derby City Council	No
Kirklees Council	No
North Lincolnshire Council	No

- 4.5.3 A total of 38 responses were received from PILs. The detailed responses will be included in the Consultation Report submitted as part of the Application, and the list of land interests will be included in the Book of Reference submitted as part of the Application.

4.6 Responses to the Statutory Consultation under Section 47

- 4.6.1 This section sets out summary detail of the relevant responses received from the local community the purposes of s49 of the PA 2008 including a summary of the most common topics raised.
- 4.6.2 The Applicant received 10,315 responses to the s47 consultation between 16 September and 28 October 2025. A total of 618 copies of the Applicant’s questionnaire, described in paragraph 4.4.14 above, were received either through the digital or paper methods. These responses have been combined and analysed together based on responses to each of the questions. Another 680 emails and letters were received, which have been analysed together by topic and subtopic. An additional 9,015 copies of petitions were received either by post, email, or through the online questionnaire. These petitions were analysed separately. The responses received via each of the available methods is set out in **Table 4.10** below.

Table 4.10 Feedback from consultees under s47 by method

Method	Count
Online Questionnaire	539
Paper Questionnaire	81
Emails	441
Written letter	239
Petitions	9,015
Total	10,315

- 4.6.3 Key themes across all forms of community feedback are listed below with the Applicant’s response and whether this feedback will result in a change to the design of the Proposed Development. The detailed analysis of this feedback will be included in the Consultation Report.

Table 4.11 Key feedback and applicant response

Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
General statements of opposition to development in this location	The starting point of the site selection process was the grid connection at Brinsworth Substation. While National Policy Statements strongly support the development of solar power to meet national energy targets, new solar developments can only connect into the National Grid where there is capacity. The Applicant was able to secure a grid connection agreement for 750 MW into Brinsworth Substation and then looked for land in the nearby area that would be suitable for solar.	Yes

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Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
	<p>The Applicant avoided areas with environmental designations and the highest grade of agricultural land, as well as dense urban areas to the west of the grid connection. The Applicant also sought willing landowners who wanted to be part of the Proposed Development. This resulted in the original Proposed Order Limits that was presented for the non-statutory consultation. The Applicant has reduced the areas for development at each stage of consultation in response to feedback to reduce potential impacts.</p>	
<p>Statements that the Proposed Development is too large</p>	<p>National Policy is clear on the need for solar developments, calling for a trebling of solar to 45-47 MW by 2030 [REF-10], and acknowledges that solar farms require 4-5.6 acres per MW. For a 750 MW grid connection, this would amount to 3,000-4,200 acres. When the Proposed Development was initially introduced, it was roughly 3,500 acres, which included both areas for solar development and areas set aside for environmental mitigation and enhancement.</p> <p>In response to feedback from two rounds of consultation and ongoing stakeholder engagement, the Proposed Development has been reduced significantly. The final size of the Proposed Development is now 2,888 acres, which includes 1,707 acres for solar and associated infrastructure and 1,181 acres for environmental mitigation and enhancement. This is a reduction of 37% of the developable area included in the first indicative masterplan for the non-statutory consultation, in response to feedback.</p> <p>The final masterplan has been refined in order to maximise clean energy provided to the national grid while also minimising potential impacts, resulting in a total amount of land within the guidelines.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Statements that solar technology should be located on rooftops or</p>	<p>In order to produce enough energy to meet the grid connection agreement of 750 MW, ground-mounted solar is</p>	<p>No</p>

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Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
brownfields instead of agricultural fields	needed. The Applicant continues to develop rooftop installations as part of their broader business, but large-scale ground-mounted solar developments are needed to meet national energy targets. Brownfield sites were considered as part of the site selection process, but discounted due to either existing environmental designations, topography, proximity to settlements, size constraints or landowner interest.	
General concerns about visual impacts to PRowS	The Applicant has committed that all existing PRowS will remain open through the lifetime of the Proposed Development, other than temporary closures which may be needed for safety reasons during the construction phase. The Applicant has also proposed new permissive paths to expand access and formalise existing informal routes which are being used across the site. In order to reduce impacts on these paths, the Applicant has included a 10m offset from either side of the footpath to the fences, and a further 5m to the panels, for a total of 15m from the path to the panels as a minimum. This is significantly more than the 5m offset recommended by the British Horse Society. In response to feedback, the Applicant has further expanded this offset to include one open field to either side of the paths wherever possible.	Yes
Concern about visual impact around villages including Firsby, Clifton, Ulley, Harthill and Woodall	After the first consultation, the Applicant removed one quarter of the solar panels around villages and isolated homes near the Proposed Development. In response to the second consultation, the Applicant is further reducing the solar areas around Firsby, Clifton, Ulley and between Harthill and Woodall. Additionally, the Applicant has removed areas that were included for environmental mitigation from the project boundaries around each of these villages, so there will be no change in visual impact in these areas and the existing land use will continue.	Yes

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Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
Concern about impacts to properties near the Proposed Order Limits	In response to feedback from near neighbours to the Proposed Development, the updated masterplan makes changes to reduce solar panels near particular properties, including isolated properties: Hilltop House, Conisbrough Parks Cottages, Greenlands, and properties near the edges of villages in Clifton, Firsby, Ulley, Brampton-en-le-Morthen, and Harthill and Woodall.	Yes
Concern about loss of agricultural land and potential impacts to food security	<p>After the first consultation, the Applicant removed one quarter of the solar panels but left these areas within the Proposed Order Limits. After the second consultation and in response to environmental assessments and landowner engagement, the Applicant reviewed all of the areas that had been set aside for environmental mitigation to determine if they were necessary. Wherever possible, these areas have now been removed from the Proposed Development and will continue under their current land use to maximise agricultural production.</p> <p>The areas that remain in the Proposed Development for solar panels could be used for sheep grazing, which will continue to be developed as the Proposed Development progresses.</p>	Yes
Concern about impact to local wildlife	The Applicant has completed preliminary ecology surveys as shown in the draft ES and continues to engage with Natural England and the local authorities to ensure that potential impacts to wildlife have been assessed and mitigated if significant. While the areas set aside for environmental mitigation have been minimised, the Applicant has ensured that sufficient areas remain available.	Yes
Concern about construction traffic and impacts to local roads	The Applicant presented the proposed access points and access roads for construction traffic in the draft ES during the statutory consultation. In response to this feedback and ongoing engagement with National Highways and local	Yes

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Feedback	Applicant Response	Change to Design
	<p>authorities, the Applicant is altering some of the access points to new locations along the same roads and expanding the Proposed Order Limits slightly to allow for alterations to existing vegetation in order to increase visibility for safety reasons at junctions and crossing points.</p>	
<p>Concern about impacts to heritage assets, including the Roman Villa near Clifton and Conisbrough Castle.</p>	<p>The Applicant has continued to engage with Historic England, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and the host authorities on the approach to heritage assets. To provide more offset around the Roman Villa and the conservation village of Clifton, the updated masterplan removes solar from the field to the north of the Roman Villa and has removed the potential substation and solar fields to the south of Clifton.</p> <p>While the Applicant remains confident of the assessment that there is no significant impact to Conisbrough Castle, the updated masterplan removes the mitigation areas south of Conisbrough from the Proposed Development so the existing land use will continue in these locations. The updated masterplan also removes a small area of solar to further offset from Conisbrough, so that the nearest solar panel is now 1.8 km from the castle.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Concerns about potential fires from the BESS</p>	<p>The Applicant continues to engage with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue on the outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP) and is drafting a Statement of Common Ground that will be submitted with the Application.</p>	<p>No</p>

4.7 Changes to the Proposed Development following the statutory consultation

4.7.1 The Applicant has updated the masterplan in response to feedback from the statutory consultation.

4.7.2 For Whitestone 1, the key changes are shown on **Figure 4.8** and include:

- Removing solar panels from (shown in purple):
 - the field north of Firsby;
 - south of an isolated dwelling near Firsby Lane;
 - north of Conisbrough Lodge; and
 - northwest of Clifton.
- Removing mitigation land from the Proposed Development:
 - north of Firsby;
 - along the A630;
 - between Conisbrough and Conisbrough Parks Cottages; and
 - West of Clifton.
- Selecting the substation location in the centre of Whitestone 1 at WS1 S2.

Removing the potential substation and solar development south of Clifton and removing these fields from the draft Order Limits.

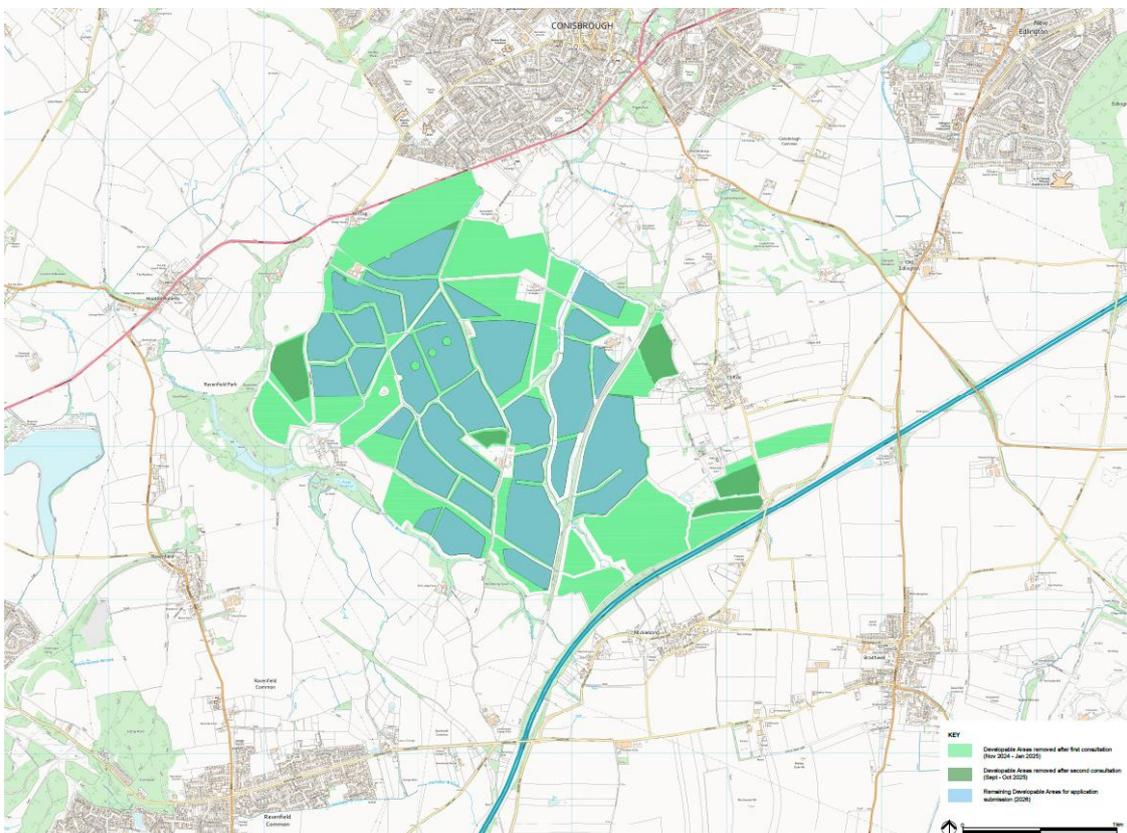


Figure 4.8 Changes to Developable Area – Whitestone 1

4.7.3 For Whitestone 2, the changes are shown in **Figure 4.9** and include:

- Removing solar panels from:
 - the area east of Treeton;
 - south of Ulley to the east of Turnshaw Road;
 - east of Ulley along Penny Hill Lane; and
 - north of Hardwick opposite an isolated residence along Long Road
- Removing mitigation areas from the Proposed Development:
 - on the south-facing hills north of Ulley; and
 - south of Brampton-en-le-Morthen.
- Selecting the primary substation location to the east of Upper Whiston along the M1 and selecting the secondary substation location to the east of Hardwick.

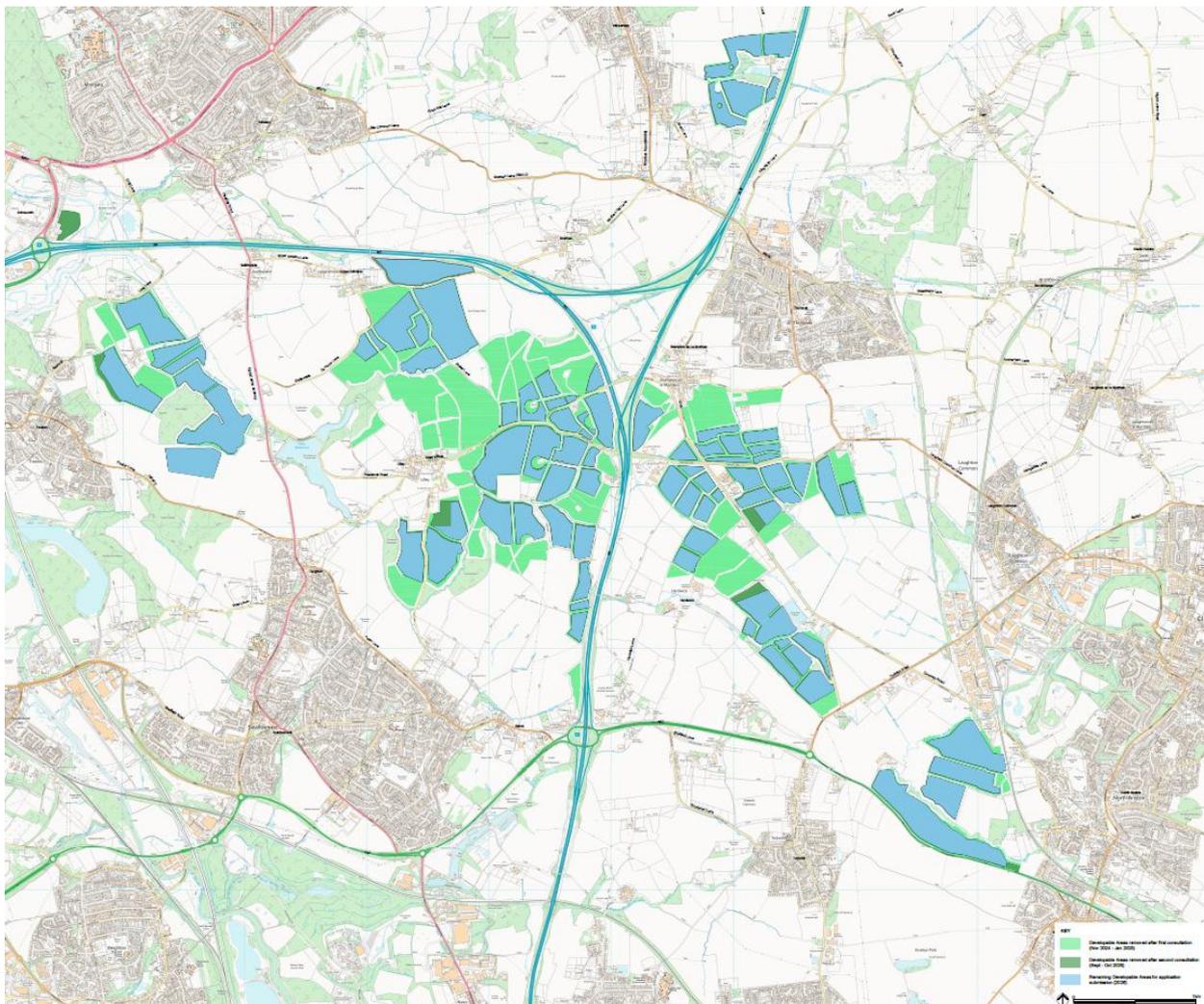


Figure 4.9 Changes to Developable Area – Whitestone 2

4.7.4 For Whitestone 3, the changes are shown in **Figure 4.10** and include:

- Removing solar panels from:
 - the southern-facing portion of the field north of Harthill to Kiveton Park; and
 - the northern portion of the field between Woodall and the Harthill Reservoir.
- Removing the mitigation areas from the Proposed Development:
 - to the east of High Moor; and
 - between Woodall and Harthill north of Woodall Lane and south of the PRow.

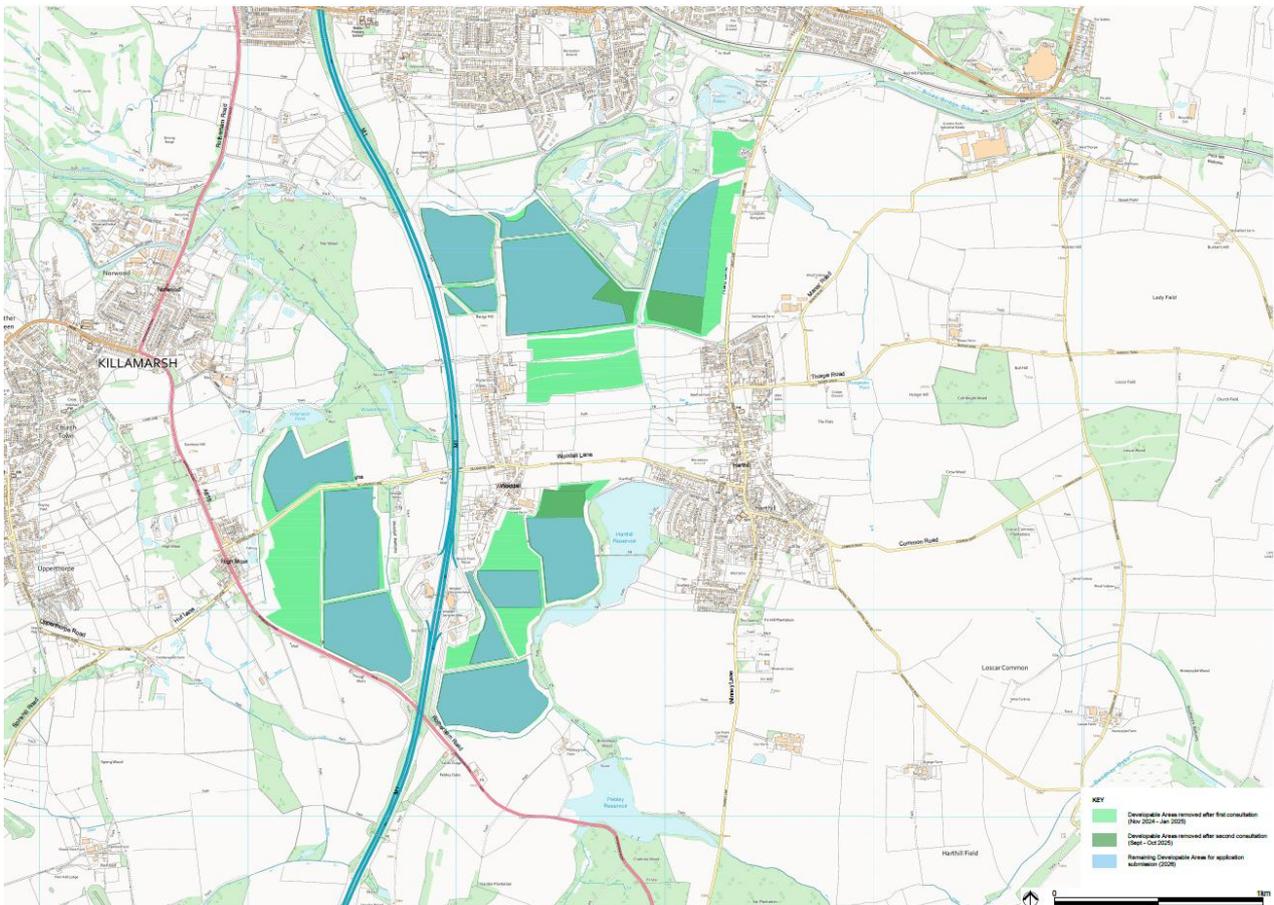


Figure 4.10 Changes to Developable Area – Whitestone 3

4.8 Further consultation and engagement

- 4.8.1 In response to feedback from the statutory consultation, ongoing engagement with local highway authorities and National Highways, as well as technical developments that have an impact on the Proposed Development, the Applicant has identified a number of places where making small changes to the proposed Order Limits would help reduce potential issues. These are largely related to construction traffic and access and the cable route.
- 4.8.2 The Applicant expects to run a targeted consultation on these minor changes, which will be conducted in line with the principles of the SoCC. After the targeted consultation, the Applicant will review any relevant feedback received to help inform any final proposals submitted in the Application.
- 4.8.3 The Applicant also intends to continue to engage with relevant prescribed consultees and local authorities to address key concerns and draft statements of common ground or protective provisions where needed. This engagement is expected to continue up to the submission date and will be described further in the Consultation Report.
- 4.8.4 In order to keep members of the community informed about the updated proposals and the next steps for the development process, the Applicant intends to produce a newsletter and offer stakeholder briefings prior to submission.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 As required by the Guidance and Prospectus, this Report has fulfilled the requirements of the AoCM. This Report has laid out details of the consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, including non-statutory consultation, ongoing engagement and statutory consultation activities. This Report has detailed how the consultation complied with the commitments made in the SoCC. This Report has also shown a summary of the feedback received and how it is shaping the proposals.
- 5.1.2 At the point of writing this Report, the Applicant is making further changes to the Proposed Development in response to feedback from the consultation as described in section 4.7. As a result of ongoing engagement and project development, further changes may be included in the Application.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant has developed a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond legal requirements for consultation to create meaningful opportunities for engagement. Through two stages of consultation and ongoing engagement, the Applicant has sought detailed feedback and had regard to this feedback by implementing significant changes to the Proposed Development. The final masterplan is significantly different to the initial masterplan and has been shaped by the feedback received from the community and at each stage of consultation.
- 5.1.4 To create offsets around homes, villages and PRowS the Applicant has reduced the solar areas by 37% compared to the initial masterplan. The Applicant has also included 478 hectares for environmental mitigation and enhancement to ensure sufficient mitigation for ecology, visual impacts, heritage and other environmental topics, but minimised this area in order to reduce the total size of the Proposed Development by 17% compared to the original masterplan.

6 REFERENCES

- REF-1: The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations 2017).
- REF-2: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)
- REF-3: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report.
- REF-4: Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations 2009) (as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024)
- REF-5: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Advice Note 3: EIA Notification and Consultation
- REF-6: Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus
- REF-7: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the process for obtaining information about interests in land (under Section 52 of the Planning Act 2008)
- REF-8 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).
- REF-9 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3).
- REF-10 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2024). Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.
- REF-11 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025). Solar Roadmap.



WHITESTONE
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Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Appendix A Development of the SOCC

Project reference
EN0110020
Rev00
March 2026

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APPENDIX A1 INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SOCC

Appendix A1.1 Email inviting informal consultation on the draft SoCC

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 June 2025 16:01
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: whitestone - Draft SOCC for review
Attachments: Whitestone draft SoCC for informal review 27 june.docx; Whitestone Community Groups List V1.docx

Hello,

Thank you again for meeting with us this Wednesday to discuss the draft SOCC. It is attached here, along with the draft list of community groups. Can you please review and provide your initial feedback by 11 July?

We will then update it and send it back to you for the formal review period from 21 July to 19 August.

Please let us know if you have any questions,

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

14 Greville Street
London
EC1N 8SB



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Appendix A1.2 Draft SoCC for informal consultation



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM
Statement of Community Consultation

June 2025

whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

REPORT

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REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to a proposed application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as 'the Application') for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Whitestone Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The applicant is inviting feedback from the local community on the Proposed Development as part of a public consultation from 16 September to 28 October 2025 (indicative dates that may be subject to change).
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development is a new solar farm with battery storage, that could make a significant contribution to our national energy goals and energy security by producing renewable energy here in the UK. The Proposed Development is located across three parcels between Rotherham and Doncaster, South Yorkshire, and would connect to the proposed new 400 kV National Grid substation near Brinsworth (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.4 Because the Proposed Development would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The Planning Act 2008 establishes the planning regime for NSIPs and requires that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate and decommission it. Unlike local planning applications which are decided by local planning authorities, our DCO Application will be decided at the national level by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 1.1.5 We have prepared this document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. It explains how we plan to consult with people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development about our proposals. It will be published according to the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, and includes:
- Information about the Proposed Development and the companies behind it;
 - An explanation of the planning process for the Proposed Development including pre-application consultation and environmental assessments;
 - Our approach to community consultation including who we will consult, when, how, and what about;
 - How we will let people know about the consultation, provide information, and receive feedback; and,
 - The next steps after consultation, including how we will have regard to the feedback we receive.

REPORT

1.2 About the Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant has been established as a specialist development business to allow the funding of larger projects, drawing on the expertise of Green Nation, which ensures that there is sufficient funding to build, operate, and decommission the Proposed Development at the end of its life.
- 1.2.2 Since 2011, Green Nation has become one of the leading developers of rooftop solar panels for homes, schools, and businesses in the UK. Green Nation also develop, construct and operate ground-mounted solar farms and battery storage facilities.
- 1.2.3 The current portfolio of Green Nation is shown in Figure 1 below.

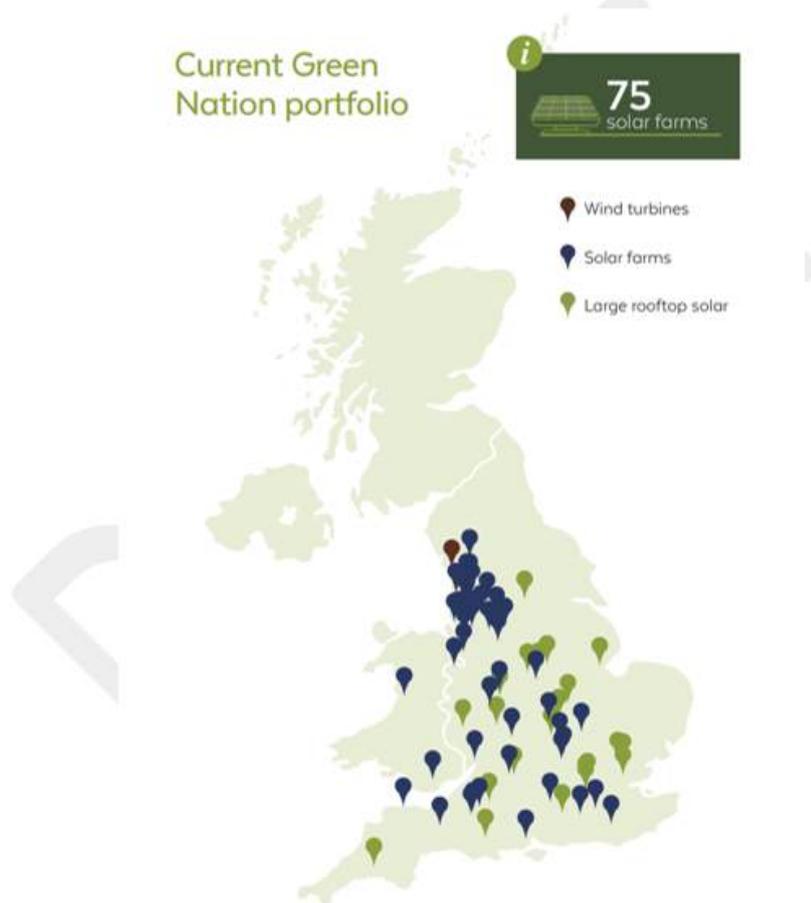


Figure 1: Current Green Nation Portfolio

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1.3 About the Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development is a solar farm with associated battery storage and infrastructure located between Rotherham and Doncaster in South Yorkshire that would help meet the country's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy. This would include three parcels of land, connected by cable routes.
- 1.3.2 The Proposed Development would be located within the City of Doncaster Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's administrative areas, close to the M1 and M18. In the southernmost part of the Proposed Development, the boundary crosses into North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council.



Figure 2: Proposed Development Location

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- 1.3.3 The UK is a global leader in the fight against climate change. The Government has made a legally binding agreement to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and pledged to eliminate all fossil fuels from the power supply as part of the Clean Power 2030 mission. Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy generated here in the UK will not only help reduce carbon pollution, but also support energy security and help reduce future energy costs.
- 1.3.4 In the UK, demand for electricity continues to increase. As other sectors cut their reliance on fossil fuels, they are shifting to electricity for their power needs. For example, by replacing gas boilers and traditional vehicles with heat pumps and electric cars, demand for electricity is projected to double by 2050.
- 1.3.5 Large scale solar is a key part of the solution; it is a tried and tested technology that is ready to be built now, can be constructed quickly and safely, and generate large amounts of energy.
- 1.3.6 If constructed, the Proposed Development could make a significant contribution to meeting this need. We have an agreement to supply National Grid with up to 750 MW of energy, which is enough to power up to 250,000 homes¹.

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home.

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1.4 Components of the Proposed Development

1.4.1 The components that will be needed for the Proposed Development in order to collect the energy from sunlight and prepare it to be transferred to the National Grid are illustrated in Figure 3 below.

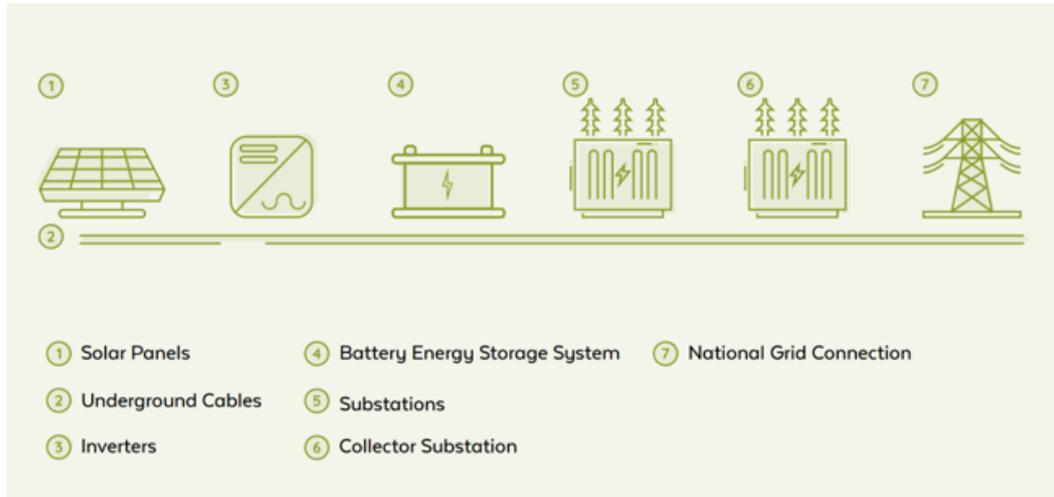


Figure 3: Components of a solar farm

Solar panels (1) would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

Underground cables (2) would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other locations around the site.

Inverters (3) would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC).

During times of low energy demand, the **Battery Energy Storage System (4)** would store the energy until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store it until it is needed.

Substations (5) located in each of the three parcels would increase the voltage to prepare it to connect to the grid.

The **main project substation (6)** would collect electricity from the three parcels.

Then the energy would be transferred to the **National Grid (7)** at Brinsworth, so that it could power homes and businesses across the UK.

1.4.2 In addition to the technical components that are needed to collect and transport energy, the Proposed Development could also include open spaces around and between the panels. As we develop the Proposed Development, we will incorporate best practices to ensure that it is a well-designed solar farm.

1.4.3 The Proposed Development would be designed to help avoid, reduce or mitigate visual impacts where possible, which could include simply setting the panels back from homes, footpaths, or other key locations. This could also include new planting to create a natural visual barrier, which could help reduce visual impacts, as well as creating new habitats for wildlife and increase biodiversity.

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2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 The Development Consent Order application process

- 2.1.1 Because the Proposed Development would produce more than 50MW of energy, it is considered a NSIP.
- 2.1.2 The Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance set out the planning process for NSIPs and require that we apply for a DCO to build and operate the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.3 Unlike planning applications which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided at the national level. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), an independent body that administers the process of reviewing and examining the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero.
- 2.1.4 After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero who will then make the final decision as to whether to grant the DCO.
- 2.1.5 Additional information on the NSIP process can be found on the Inspectorate’s website at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-the-stages-of-the-nsip-process-and-how-you-can-have-your-say>
- 2.1.6 Below in Figure 4 is a timeline of the NSIP development process.

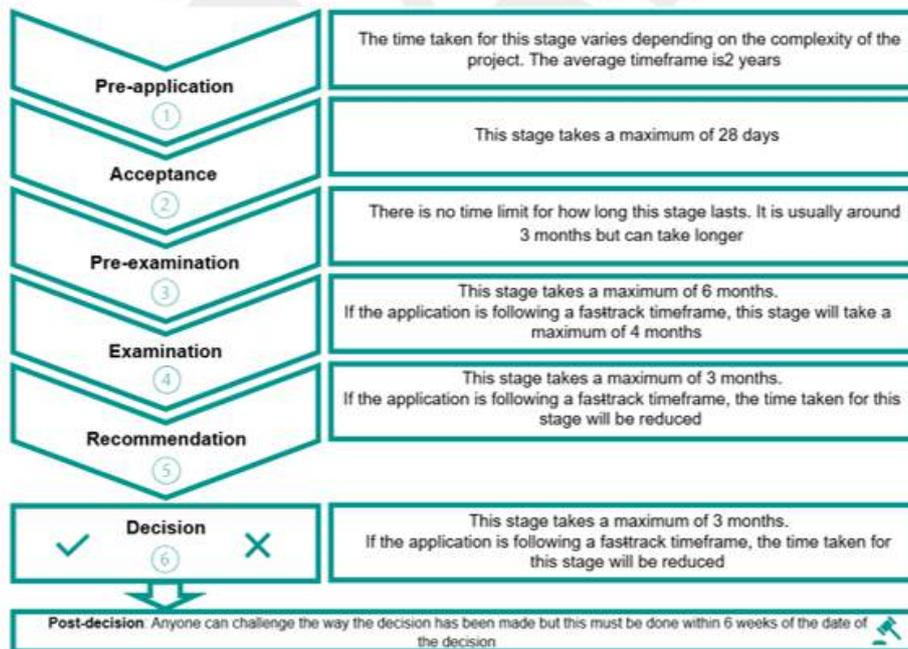


Figure 4: The development process for an NSIP

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2.2 Pre-Application Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation is an important part of the DCO Process. Before we submit our DCO application, the Planning Act 2008 requires us to consult on our proposals. For the Proposed Development, we will consult early and often, throughout the development process, to ensure valuable local knowledge is built into our proposals. Under sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008, we must consult with:

- Local authorities and parish councils in which the Proposed Development is located, or which neighbour the local authorities and parish councils that are hosting the Proposed Development;
- Persons that have an interest in the land affected by the Proposed Development, including landowners, occupants and tenants;
- Certain organisations and technical bodies (like Historic England and the Environment Agency) which have been prescribed by the Planning Act 2008; and,
- The local community.

2.3 Consultation and the Design Process

2.3.1 The design process for the Proposed Development is iterative, which means that there will be several versions of the design as it develops. Feedback from consultations, results of environmental assessments and ongoing technical and engineering work will inform our evolving proposals at each stage. We have carried out one stage of non-statutory consultation already and anticipate one further round of consultation – a round of statutory consultation, to which this SoCC relates:

2.3.2 **Non-Statutory Consultation:** 18 November 2024 – 31 January 2025 - This first consultation was on our initial proposals for the Proposed Development.

2.3.3 **Statutory Consultation:** 16 September – 28 October 2025 - The statutory consultation will be on our revised proposals, which have been updated based on feedback from the first consultation and ongoing environmental assessments. This is a 'statutory consultation', which will be carried out in accordance with this document and the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated design we submit in the DCO application.

2.3.4 **Consultation Report:** The Consultation Report will set out the consultation undertaken as part of the pre-application process and will explain how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback received. It will also explain if changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development as a result of consultation responses received.

2.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

2.4.1 Due to the size and nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered 'EIA Development'. This means that we will conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which we will report on in an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted as part of our DCO application. The EIA will assess the Proposed Development's likely environmental effects in accordance with the requirements of

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the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. If we identify any likely significant environmental effects, we will also explain how we propose to mitigate them in the ES.

- 2.4.2 **Scoping:** An applicant for a DCO can ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero for their opinion on the scope of the EIA and the level of detail to be presented in the EIA. The Applicant asked the Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) for a formal written opinion about the information that should be included in the Draft ES on 23 April 2025. The Inspectorate's response is known as a Scoping Opinion, which was provided on 3 June 2025. The Scoping Opinion will now be used to guide how we will complete our EIA. You can find it on the Inspectorate's website.
- 2.4.3 **Draft Environmental Statement (ES):** As the Proposed Development is EIA development, we are required to consult on preliminary environmental information in relation to it as part of our statutory consultation. We will do this by preparing and publishing a Draft ES. The purpose of the Draft ES is to provide information to enable stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. The Draft ES must include the information which is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 2.4.4 **Final ES:** Our DCO application will include the final results of the environmental assessments in a final ES, which will be submitted and available to view on the Inspectorate's website.

2.5 Indicative Timeline of the Proposed Development



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3 OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 Overview of the consultation process

- 3.1.1 We aim to ensure that anyone who wants to engage in the consultation is able to do so, by providing a variety of ways people can learn about the proposals and provide their feedback.
- 3.1.2 We have developed the approach set out in this document taking into account what has worked well in the previous round of consultation, feedback from local authorities, and best practice. We have also considered requirements included in the Planning Act 2008, EIA regulations, associated guidance and Inspectorate's advice notes.
- 3.1.3 We will structure our consultation to support accessibility, aiming to make it as easy as possible to take part. This means providing materials both in print and online, using easy to understand, non-technical language. We will schedule events for the community to learn about our proposals in locally convenient and wheelchair accessible locations on various days of the week and times of day to accommodate different work/life schedules. We will also reach out to gateway organisations for hard-to-reach groups, so that we can hear from as many voices as possible.
- 3.1.4 Our approach to consultation has been informed by feedback from local authorities, to ensure that we are utilising local knowledge to inform an effective consultation process. From XX to XX, we consulted with the host local authorities on our proposed approach to the next stage of consultation, as laid out in this document. Our strategy has been updated to include their feedback. 

3.2 Consultation to date

First Consultation – Autumn 2024-Winter 2025

- 3.2.1 A non-statutory consultation was held over ten weeks, from Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 31 January 2025. This first phase of consultation introduced the Proposed Development, and sought feedback from the local community, elected officials, landowners, local businesses and interest groups on the proposals.
- 3.2.2 We publicised the consultation by sending an introductory newsletter to a consultation zone that was drafted to include all of the host parishes for the Proposed Development, which includes 30,755 addresses around the proposed site. We also issued press releases to local and trade media and publishing adverts in local media outlets and on social media, updating the Proposed Development's website with details of the consultation, and conducting door knocks to the 26 neighbours closest to the Site.
- 3.2.3 On 13 November ahead of the start of the consultation period, we wrote to a range of stakeholder to notify them of our consultation, and invite them to our in-person events or briefings, including:
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor
 - City of Doncaster Council Members

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- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Members
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough, Rother Valley, Rotherham, and Doncaster Central
 - Host and neighbouring parish councils
- 3.2.4 We developed consultation materials in a range of formats, including a consultation booklet, series of maps, pull-up banners and questionnaire.
- 3.2.5 These materials were made available on our website, at public events and sent to community members by mail on request.
- 3.2.6 During the consultation period, we organised and attended 15 site visits on request to neighbours closest to the site, held seven in person events and one webinar for the wider public, and we met with nine parish councils. At these meetings, individuals could ask questions of the wider project team and provide their feedback.
- 3.2.7 Individuals could share their views by completing an online questionnaire, accessed through the Proposed Development's website, emailing the questionnaire to the Proposed Development's email, posting a hard-copy questionnaire to the Freepost address or submitting comments by email or in writing to the Freepost address.
- 3.2.8 We received 940 pieces of feedback from this consultation, which led to significant changes to the design of the Proposed Development. We removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the Proposed Development, in order to create buffers around homes, villages, and public rights of way. We also received feedback on our approach to consultation, including which venues and locations to use and how to refine the consultation zone to include additional villages.

Proposed Development update – Spring 2025

- 3.2.9 After the non-statutory consultation period, we conducted a round of engagement to inform the public of the updated masterplans.
- 3.2.10 On 20-21 March, we revisited 12 near neighbours closest to the site to discuss the changes made in response to their feedback. On 31 March and 3 April, we offered a briefing to the host parishes. On 2 April, we briefed members of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. We also offered to brief members of City of Doncaster Council, which occurred on 29 April.
- 3.2.11 On 26 March, we sent out an email update to all 509 email addresses signed up to our 'keep informed' list and we sent out a leaflet to 29,012 addresses in the area to update the community about the changes to the proposals based on their feedback. The updated maps and leaflets were also added to the Proposed Development's website.
- 3.2.12 We have continued to meet with statutory and technical consultees to assist with the EIA process and the evolution of our design. This includes relevant statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and National Highways.

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4 APPROACH TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 What are we consulting on?

4.1.1 During our statutory consultation from 16 September – 28 October 2025, we will present our updated proposals and ask for your feedback.

4.1.2 In this statutory consultation period, we will be asking for your views on:

- Our proposals for the Proposed Development as a whole;
- The location of the Proposed Development's components, including the solar panels, substations, batteries, and cable routes;
- The Draft ES and potential impacts from the Proposed Development during construction, operation, and decommissioning to the local environment and community;
- Our proposals for mitigating the potential impacts and environmental enhancements;
- Our proposals to contribute to the local community, including local initiatives or organisations that the Proposed Development could support over its lifetime.

4.1.3 Our consultation includes but is not limited to the list above.

4.2 Who are we consulting?

4.2.1 We want to consult widely with anyone who has an interest in or feels impacted by Whitestone Solar Farm. We have identified a variety of stakeholders that we believe may have an interest in the Proposed Development, and developed a plan to notify these groups and individuals – but anyone is welcome to submit their feedback.

4.2.2 We have defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact are likely to vary with distance to the Proposed Development. These zones have informed how we will publicise the consultation and are set out below, with further detail about the consultation information detailed in section 4.4.

Inner Zone

4.2.3 The inner zone covers people who live and work closest to the Proposed Development and their political representatives. Our consultation activity will be most intensive within this zone. A map of this zone is shown in Figures 5-7.

4.2.4 We have identified an area that includes around 37,000 addresses by drawing a shape approximately 1km from the Site, expanding further to ensure that entire villages were included. Being in close proximity to the Proposed Development, this zone was selected as the group of homes and businesses that would have the greater interest in the Proposed Development.

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- 4.2.5 A leaflet will be sent to all properties within the inner zone to notify them of the start of statutory consultation and invite them to attend public information events, which will be located within this area.

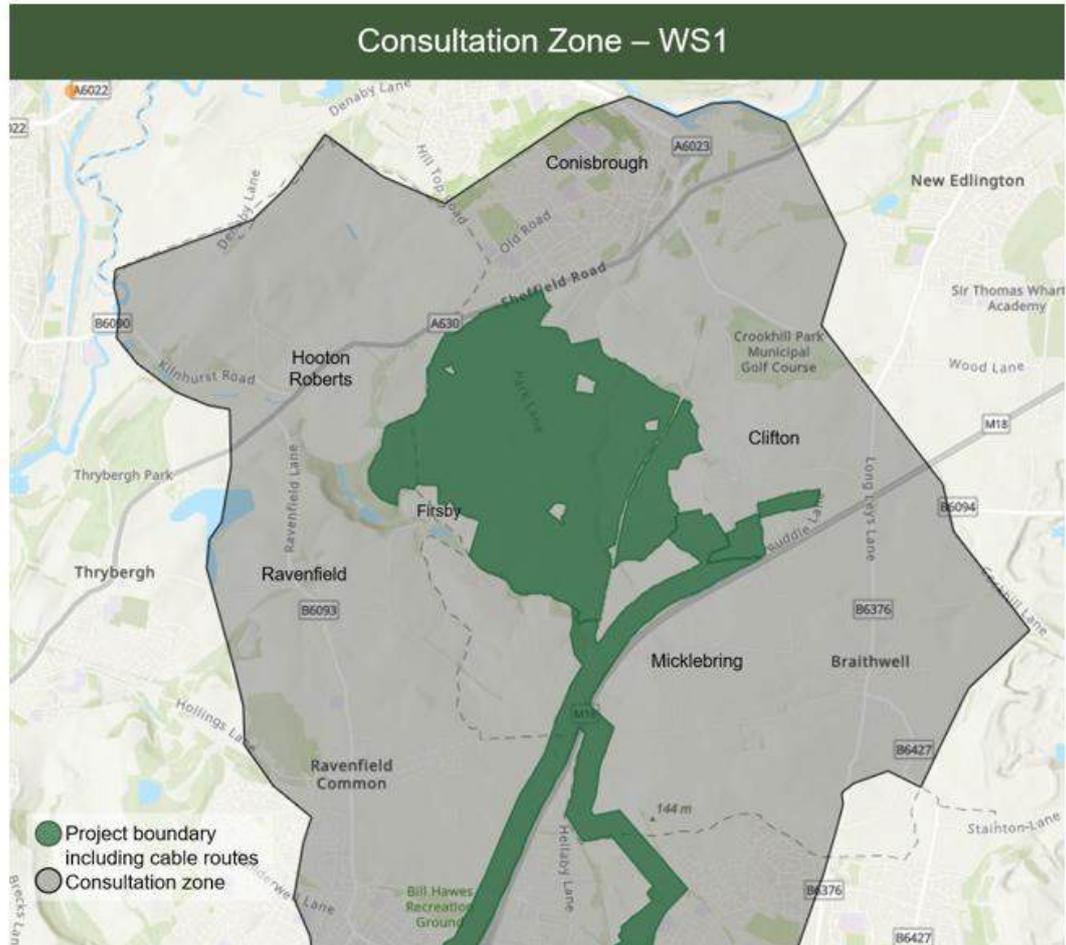


Figure 5: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 1

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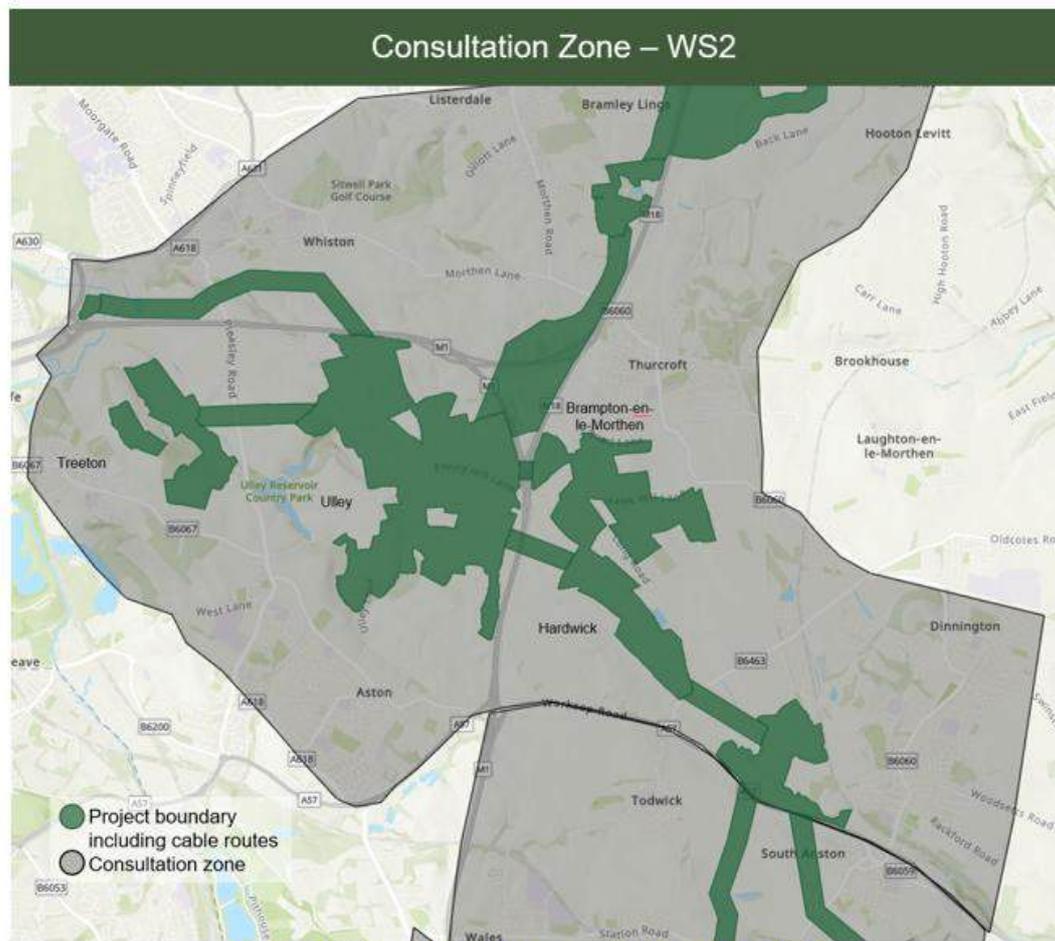


Figure 6: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 2

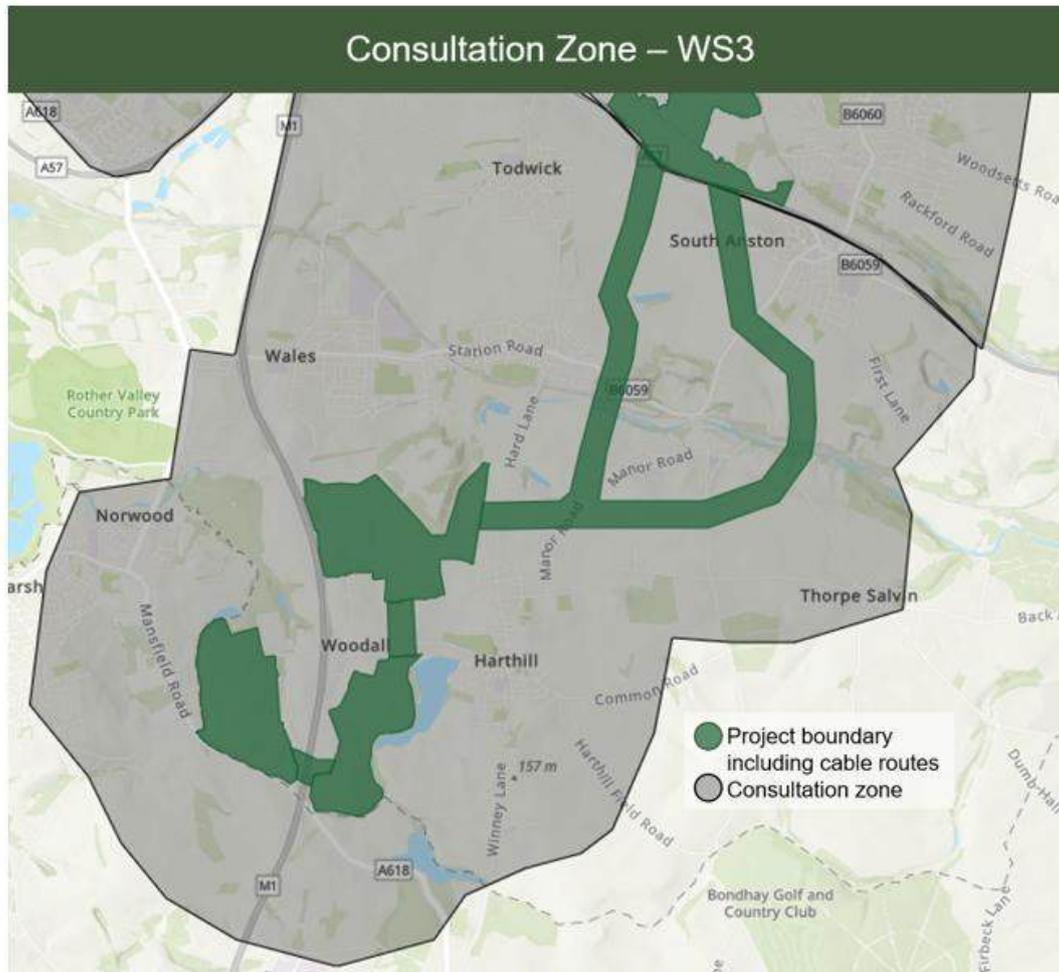


Figure 7: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 3

Outer zone

- 4.2.6 The outer zone covers those living and working in the area outside of the inner zone, who may be affected by or have an interest in our proposals due to the proposals being brought forward in their local authority area. This zone includes others living within the local authority boundaries of the City of Doncaster Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.
- 4.2.7 We will publicise the consultation to people in this zone through the Proposed Development’s website and emailing the consultation information to our ‘keep informed’ list. We will also place adverts on social media, publish statutory notices and issue press releases to local media outlets.

Technical stakeholders

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- 4.2.8 At the same time as consulting the local community, we will also consult a range of statutory consultees as set out by Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the Proposed Development. These groups include:
- The host and neighbouring local authorities;
 - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and others);
 - Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Conisbrough Research and Archaeology Group); and,
 - People with an interest in land (e.g. owners or tenants) that may be affected by the proposals.

Elected representatives

- 4.2.9 At the launch of consultation, relevant elected representatives within the consultation zone will be contacted, including the Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough, Rother Valley, Rotherham, North East Derbyshire, Doncaster Central, and Bolsover, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor, Derbyshire County Councillors, Doncaster City Council Councillors, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councillors and North East Derbyshire District Councillors.
- 4.2.10 We will also contact host parish councils to offer them a joint briefing and invite them to our public events, and support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels.
- 4.2.11 We will contact neighbouring parish councils to inform them about the consultation period and invite them to our public events.
- 4.2.12 Host parish councils include:
- Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
 - Barlborough Parish Council
 - Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council
 - Bramley Parish Council
 - Brinsworth Parish Council
 - Conisbrough Parks Parish Council
 - Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
 - Hellaby Parish Council
 - Hooton Roberts Parish Council
 - Killamarsh Parish Council
 - Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council
 - Maltby Parish Council
 - North and South Anston Parish Council
 - Ravenfield Parish Council
 - Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

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- Thurcroft Parish Council
- Todwick Parish Council
- Treeton Parish Council
- Wales Parish Council
- Whiston Parish Council
- Wickersley Parish Council
- Ulley Parish Council

4.2.13 Neighbouring parish councils include:

- Adwick upon Dearne Parish Council
- Barnburgh Parish Council
- Cadeby Parish Council
- Catcliffe Parish Council
- Dalton Parish Council
- Denaby Parish Council
- Dinnington St John's Parish Council
- Edlington Parish Council
- High Melton Parish Council
- Hooton Levitt Parish Council
- Orgreave Parish Council
- Shireoaks Parish Council
- Spotborough and Cusworth Parish Council
- Stainton Parish Council
- Thrybergh Parish Council
- Warmsworth Parish Council
- Waverley Parish Council
- Whitwell Parish Council
- Woodsetts Parish Council

Seldom heard audiences

4.2.14 It is important to ensure that everyone with an interest in the proposals has the opportunity to comment on our proposals as part of the consultation. We want our consultation to be inclusive and gather feedback from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultations such as people without internet access, seasonal workers, younger people and socially isolated people. We will do this by:

- Writing to organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups directly (list of organisations attached separately).
- Choosing accessible venues for public events.
- Publicising the consultation in digital and print editions of local newspapers.
- Publicising the consultation on social media.

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- Holding public events at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends to enable participation by people with different time commitments.
 - Making provision for people without internet access through the consultation programme. This includes sending a consultation leaflet to every address within the inner zone, holding public events in the area, publicising the consultation in print editions of local newspapers and making hard copies of consultation materials available on-request.
- 4.2.15 Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4.3 Consultation information

- 4.3.1 Information about our proposals will be published for consultation in the following formats:
- 4.3.2 **A consultation leaflet:** a leaflet issued to addresses within the inner zone setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation; including information on accessing materials, the locations and timings of the public events, and how to share their feedback. This will additionally be published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.3 **A consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of our proposals for the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This will be available in hard copy at the public events, by post on request and published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.4 **A questionnaire:** the main way we will collect feedback from the community. The questions will be easy to understand, and the responses will be considered as we refine our plans. This will be available in hard copy at the public events, posted on request and published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.5 **A website:** the Proposed Development's website (www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the draft ES, consultation booklet and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the public events as well as the communications lines.
- 4.3.6 **Exhibition banners:** an accessible summary of our proposals for the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners will also be available as PDFs to download from the Proposed Development's website.
- 4.3.7 **The Draft ES:** containing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.
- 4.3.8 **Masterplan:** we will provide copies of the updated masterplan on the Proposed Development's website, large hard copies at events, and post hard copies on request.
- 4.3.9 We will provide hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the Draft ES). We will review requests for hard copies of the

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Draft ES on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

- 4.3.10 Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4.4 Publicity and advertising

- 4.4.1 We will send out a leaflet to the inner consultation zone identified in Figures 5-7 and an email update to our 'keep informed' list.
- 4.4.2 We will issue a press release to local and trade media outlets to inform them of the upcoming consultation and associated activities.
- 4.4.3 Statutory notices will be published in line with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, in the Rotherham Advertiser, Doncaster Free Press and Derbyshire Times, and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, in the Rotherham Advertiser, Doncaster Free Press, Derbyshire Times, London Gazette and a national newspaper. If for reasons outside of the Applicant's control it is not possible to run the Section 47 and 48 notices, an alternative newspaper or other publication will be chosen with an appropriate distribution area.
- 4.4.4 We will use social media advertising to help publicise the consultation and encourage those with an interest in our proposals to get involved. We are unable to accept feedback via social media.

4.5 Public events

- 4.5.1 We will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and ask questions to members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 4.5.2 The suggested dates and times of these events are listed in Table 1 below. The venues and dates are subject to availability and may change. The events would be held in accessible venues around the Proposed Development and would be organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that people with different schedules are able to attend. This includes events after normal working hours and on the weekend.
- 4.5.3 In the unlikely event that there are changes to the locations or times of our events, we will publicise this information on our website.
- 4.5.4 The map showing the suggested locations of the venues is in Figure 8 below.

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Table 1: Public information events

Location	Date and time
Ulley Village Hall	22 September 3pm-7pm
Ravenfield Parish Hall	23 September 10am-2pm
Harthill with Woodall Village Hall	2 October 3pm-7pm
Whiston Village Hall	3 October 12pm-4pm
Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre	4 October 10am-3pm
Todwick Village Hall	14 October 3pm-7pm
Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall	15 October 10am-2pm



Figure 8: Map of the suggested locations of public events

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4.6 Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 4.6.1 We will offer to brief host parishes and local authorities during the consultation period to find out more about the updated proposals, statutory consultation, the draft ES and community benefits.
- 4.6.2 Details of all our consultation activity will be included in a Consultation Report which we will submit as part of our DCO application.

4.7 Communications lines

- 4.7.1 To find out more information or request copies of the consultation materials, anyone can contact the consultation team by freephone (0800 688 9936) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm). Outside of these hours, callers will be able to leave a message requesting a callback. Phone calls will not be considered as feedback, and individuals will need to use one of the other communications lines to provide written feedback.
- 4.7.2 Alternatively, individuals can email info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or write to the team via Freepost (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL. Individuals can also submit feedback via these communication lines.

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5 HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

5.1 Responding to the consultation

- 5.1.1 We will produce a questionnaire inviting feedback on different elements of the Proposed Development. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.
- 5.1.2 Respondents will be available to complete questionnaire online through the Proposed Development's website: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- 5.1.3 The completed hard-copy questionnaire will also be available in printed form at public events, and on request using the Proposed Development's contact details. The questionnaire can be returned during the consultation period via Freepost address (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL, or at the public events.
- 5.1.4 Alternatively, respondents can write to us via email info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or Freepost (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL. All written feedback will be accepted.

5.2 Consideration of responses

- 5.2.1 In accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, all responses received will be carefully considered and the Applicant will have regard to them when finalising the Proposed Development for DCO application.
- 5.2.2 If, as a result of feedback from the statutory consultation or other assessments or engagement, the Proposed Development is amended, then these may be consulted on via targeted consultation on a proportionate basis. Any targeted consultation will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.
- 5.2.3 The Applicant will summarise consultation responses in a Consultation Report, which will include a description of how the Applicant has had regard of those responses in developing the Proposed Development, and any changes made since the statutory consultation. The consultation report forms part of the DCO application which will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. If the DCO application is accepted, the Consultation Report will be made available for consultees to review how their comments have fed into the process.

5.3 Further information

- 5.3.1 For further information, please contact us by:
- Calling 0800 688 9936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
 - Emailing info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to Whitestone Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local.



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
0800 688 9936

Appendix A1.3 Regard had to host authority feedback on informal consultation on the SoCC

Table A1 Informal feedback from host authorities regarding draft SoCC and the Applicant's response

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant Response
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Updated list of community groups	These will all be included.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Dinnington Town Council should be added to the list of parish councils	This has been updated from Dinnington Parish Council to Dinnington Town Council.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Suggest reducing the consultation zone so that it is smaller near the cable route than the solar panels	We want to consult broadly and ensure that anyone with an interest in the project is able to take part. There will be multiple ways of notifying the public of the consultation, so anyone who lives near the potential solar areas will be informed.
City of Doncaster Council	As with other SoCC's I would advise that other local newspapers are used, there are others available which are free of charge and distributed locally too so I'd possibly advise that a local newspaper publisher is contacted – i.e. Doncaster Star, Weekender (for the Dearne area) I think their contact is via the Rotherham Advertiser office	No change – These newspapers have a smaller mailout zone than the ones suggested
City of Doncaster Council	Its pleasing to see that they have included some community groups, I know you said that you'd raised some last week – as part of the non-statutory period they may have a list of those who engaged, and/or requested to be included in any further consultation for the development, these groups should also be included.	No other community groups have gotten in contact to ask to be involved, but any who have responded to the project will be included.
City of Doncaster Council	The locations of the public events are welcomed and as with their non-consultation period these venues were possibly used previously or suggested to be used.	Noted.
City of Doncaster Council	From a CDC point of view, I would recommend that the	This has been scheduled.

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

	newly elected members are contacted and updated (if not already done so), the non-statutory period was held prior to the elections so changes to the Conisbrough Ward and surrounding Parish Councils have now been established.	
City of Doncaster Council	Concern that there is only one event in Conisborough, and that if anyone works on Saturdays they will not be able to attend.	We do not expect any single event to be convenient for everyone in the local area, which is why we have scheduled a series of information events across the broader area at different days of the week and times of day. However, we note that the next closest event would be Ravenfield, so we have changed the timings of this event to be different to the timings of the Conisbrough event to accommodate a variety of work/life schedules.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	NH noted there are no later/evening events proposed in the north.	We have moved the Ravenfield event to the evening so that it is a different day and time as the Conisbrough event.
City of Doncaster Council	Noted that materials should be available in alternative formats to accommodate disabilities, including blindness.	We confirmed that this will be offered upon request and this is clear in the draft SOCC.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Add Firsby Resident Association to list of community groups	Done.

APPENDIX A2 FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SOCC

Appendix A2.1 Emails inviting formal feedback on the draft SoCC

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2025 21:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Whitestone SoCC - for formal review
Attachments: Whitestone Community Groups List V2.docx; Whitestone draft SoCC for formal review 23 July.docx

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find the updated draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for your review. This will be the formal review period of 28 days. **Please provide any feedback by 22 August.**

The updated SoCC includes several changes from the previous version in response to the initial feedback received.

- We have changed the dates and times of the information events. Particularly for Conisbrough, there was concern that having one event on a Saturday would not be sufficient and that the nearest other location was scheduled to be a similar time of day on a weekday. To address this concern, we have changed the hours of the event in Ravenfield to be in the evening to accommodate anyone with a standing conflict at that time of day.
- Similarly, we have swapped the events that were scheduled for Thurcroft and Todwick. This means that the next closest event to Harthill, which is Todwick, will be in a different time of day. For the central portion around Whitestone 2, there are three events that are all at different times of day and days of the week. This means that for each event, the next nearest is at a different day of the week and time of day.
- We have corrected the list of parish councils to include Dinnington Town Council.
- We have also updated the list of community groups as requested.
- We have not reduced the consultation zone around the cable route, as it was felt that this would cut off communities, and we want to consult widely with anyone who may have an interest in the project.
- We have not changed the newspapers suggested for the notices at this time, as the ones we have identified appear to have a larger distribution area than the ones suggested. We can continue to review this before finalisation.

Please let us know if you have any feedback on either the SOCC or the list of community groups attached.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

T: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]
dwd-itd.co.uk



Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners

DWD

Appendix A2.2 Draft SoCC for formal consultation



WHITESTONE
solar farm

**Statement of Community
Consultation**

**September
2025**

whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

REPORT

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REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to a proposed application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as 'the Application') for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Whitestone Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The applicant is inviting feedback from the local community on the Proposed Development as part of a public consultation from 16 September to 28 October 2025.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development is a new solar farm with battery storage, that could make a significant contribution to our national energy goals and energy security by producing renewable energy here in the UK. The Proposed Development is located across three parcels between Rotherham and Doncaster, South Yorkshire, and would connect to the proposed new 400 kV National Grid substation near Brinsworth (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.4 Because the Proposed Development would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The Planning Act 2008 establishes the planning regime for NSIPs and requires that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate and decommission it. Unlike local planning applications which are decided by local planning authorities, our DCO Application will be decided at the national level by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 1.1.5 We have prepared this document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. It explains how we plan to consult with people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development about our proposals. It will be published according to the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, and includes:
- Information about the Proposed Development and the companies behind it;
 - An explanation of the planning process for the Proposed Development including pre-application consultation and environmental assessments;
 - Our approach to community consultation including who we will consult, when, how, and what about;
 - How we will let people know about the consultation, provide information, and receive feedback; and,
 - The next steps after consultation, including how we will have regard to the feedback we receive.

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1.2 About the Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant has been established as a specialist development business to allow the funding of larger projects, drawing on the expertise of Green Nation, which ensures that there is sufficient funding to build, operate, and decommission the Proposed Development at the end of its life.
- 1.2.2 Since 2011, Green Nation has become one of the leading developers of rooftop solar panels for homes, schools, and businesses in the UK. Green Nation also develop, construct and operate ground-mounted solar farms and battery storage facilities.
- 1.2.3 The current portfolio of Green Nation is shown in Figure 1 below.

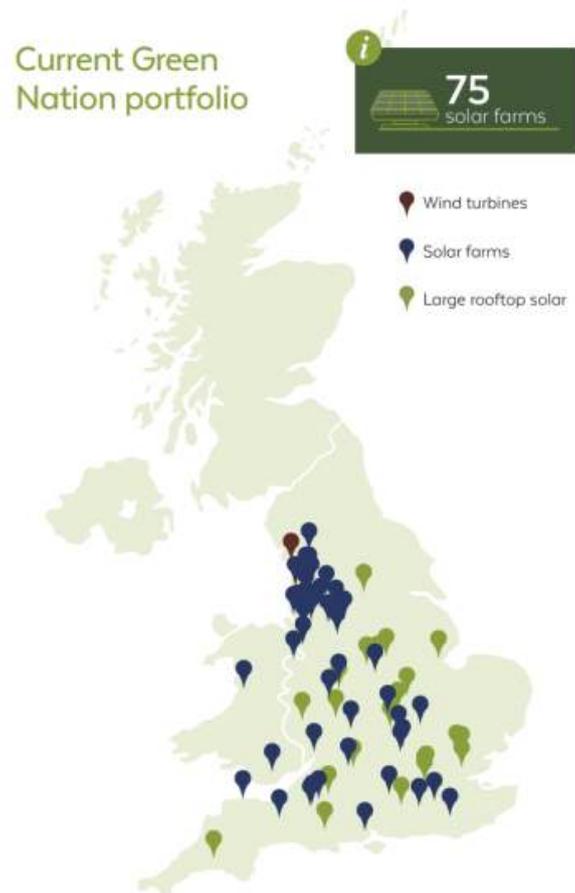


Figure 1: Current Green Nation Portfolio

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1.3 About the Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development is a solar farm with associated battery storage and infrastructure located between Rotherham and Doncaster in South Yorkshire that would help meet the country's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy. This would include three parcels of land, connected by cable routes.
- 1.3.2 The Proposed Development would be located within the City of Doncaster Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's administrative areas, close to the M1 and M18. In the southernmost part of the Proposed Development, the boundary crosses into North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council.



Figure 2: Proposed Development Location

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- 1.3.3 The UK is a global leader in the fight against climate change. The Government has made a legally binding agreement to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and pledged to eliminate all fossil fuels from the power supply as part of the Clean Power 2030 mission. Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy generated here in the UK will not only help reduce carbon pollution, but also support energy security and help reduce future energy costs.
- 1.3.4 In the UK, demand for electricity continues to increase. As other sectors cut their reliance on fossil fuels, they are shifting to electricity for their power needs. For example, by replacing gas boilers and traditional vehicles with heat pumps and electric cars, demand for electricity is projected to double by 2050.
- 1.3.5 Large scale solar is a key part of the solution; it is a tried and tested technology that is ready to be built now, can be constructed quickly and safely, and generate large amounts of energy.
- 1.3.6 If constructed, the Proposed Development could make a significant contribution to meeting this need. We have an agreement to supply National Grid with up to 750 MW of energy, which is enough to power up to 250,000 homes¹.

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home.

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1.4 Components of the Proposed Development

1.4.1 The components that will be needed for the Proposed Development in order to collect the energy from sunlight and prepare it to be transferred to the National Grid are illustrated in Figure 3 below.

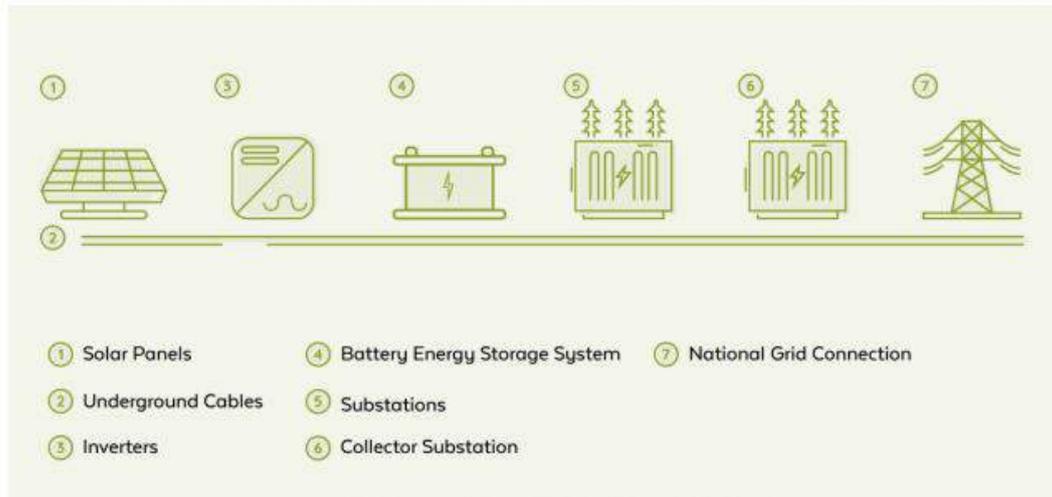


Figure 3: Components of a solar farm

Solar panels (1) would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

Underground cables (2) would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other locations around the site.

Inverters (3) would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC).

During times of low energy demand, the **Battery Energy Storage System (4)** would store the energy until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store it until it is needed.

Substations (5) located in each of the three parcels would increase the voltage to prepare it to connect to the grid.

The **main project substation (6)** would collect electricity from the three parcels.

Then the energy would be transferred to the **National Grid (7)** at Brinsworth, so that it could power homes and businesses across the UK.

1.4.2 In addition to the technical components that are needed to collect and transport energy, the Proposed Development could also include open spaces around and between the panels. As we develop the Proposed Development, we will incorporate best practices to ensure that it is a well-designed solar farm.

1.4.3 The Proposed Development would be designed to help avoid, reduce or mitigate visual impacts where possible, which could include simply setting the panels back from homes, footpaths, or other key locations. This could also include new planting to create a natural visual barrier, which could help reduce visual impacts, as well as creating new habitats for wildlife and increase biodiversity.

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2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 The Development Consent Order application process

- 2.1.1 Because the Proposed Development would produce more than 50MW of energy, it is considered a NSIP.
- 2.1.2 The Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance set out the planning process for NSIPs and require that we apply for a DCO to build and operate the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.3 Unlike planning applications which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided at the national level. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), an independent body that administers the process of reviewing and examining the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero.
- 2.1.4 After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero who will then make the final decision as to whether to grant the DCO.
- 2.1.5 Additional information on the NSIP process can be found on the Inspectorate’s website at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-the-stages-of-the-nsip-process-and-how-you-can-have-your-say>
- 2.1.6 Below in Figure 4 is a timeline of the NSIP development process.

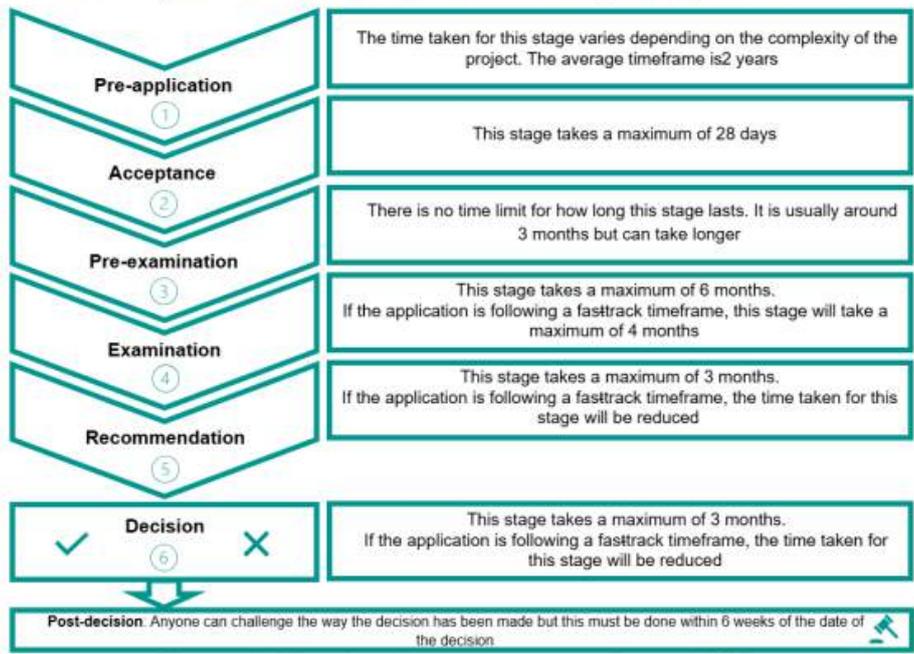


Figure 4: The development process for an NSIP

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2.2 Pre-Application Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation is an important part of the DCO Process. Before we submit our DCO application, the Planning Act 2008 requires us to consult on our proposals. For the Proposed Development, we will consult early and often, throughout the development process, to ensure valuable local knowledge is built into our proposals. Under sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008, we must consult with:

- Local authorities and parish councils in which the Proposed Development is located, or which neighbour the local authorities and parish councils that are hosting the Proposed Development;
- Persons that have an interest in the land affected by the Proposed Development, including landowners, occupants and tenants;
- Certain organisations and technical bodies (like Historic England and the Environment Agency) which have been prescribed by the Planning Act 2008; and,
- The local community.

2.3 Consultation and the Design Process

2.3.1 The design process for the Proposed Development is iterative, which means that there will be several versions of the design as it develops. Feedback from consultations, results of environmental assessments and ongoing technical and engineering work will inform our evolving proposals at each stage. We have carried out one stage of non-statutory consultation already and anticipate one further round of consultation – a round of statutory consultation, to which this SoCC relates:

2.3.2 **Non-Statutory Consultation:** 18 November 2024 – 31 January 2025 - This first consultation was on our initial proposals for the Proposed Development.

2.3.3 **Statutory Consultation:** 16 September – 28 October 2025 - The statutory consultation will be on our revised proposals, which have been updated based on feedback from the first consultation and ongoing environmental assessments. This is a 'statutory consultation', which will be carried out in accordance with this document and the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated design we submit in the DCO application.

2.3.4 **Consultation Report:** The Consultation Report will set out the consultation undertaken as part of the pre-application process and will explain how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback received. It will also explain if changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development as a result of consultation responses received.

2.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

2.4.1 Due to the size and nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered 'EIA Development'. This means that we will conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which we will report on in an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted as part of our DCO application. The EIA will assess the Proposed Development's likely environmental effects in accordance with the requirements of

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the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. If we identify any likely significant environmental effects, we will also explain how we propose to mitigate them in the ES.

- 2.4.2 **Scoping:** An applicant for a DCO can ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero for their opinion on the scope of the EIA and the level of detail to be presented in the EIA. The Applicant asked the Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) for a formal written opinion about the information that should be included in the Draft ES on 23 April 2025. The Inspectorate's response is known as a Scoping Opinion, which was provided on 3 June 2025. The Scoping Opinion will now be used to guide how we will complete our EIA. You can find it on the Inspectorate's website.
- 2.4.3 **Draft Environmental Statement (ES):** As the Proposed Development is EIA development, we are required to consult on preliminary environmental information in relation to it as part of our statutory consultation. We will do this by preparing and publishing a Draft ES. The purpose of the Draft ES is to provide information to enable stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. The Draft ES must include the information which is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 2.4.4 **Final ES:** Our DCO application will include the final results of the environmental assessments in a final ES, which will be submitted and available to view on the Inspectorate's website.

2.5 Indicative Timeline of the Proposed Development



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3 OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 Overview of the consultation process

- 3.1.1 We aim to ensure that anyone who wants to engage in the consultation is able to do so, by providing a variety of ways people can learn about the proposals and provide their feedback.
- 3.1.2 We have developed the approach set out in this document taking into account what has worked well in the previous round of consultation, feedback from local authorities, and best practice. We have also considered requirements included in the Planning Act 2008, EIA regulations, associated guidance and Inspectorate's advice notes.
- 3.1.3 We will structure our consultation to support accessibility, aiming to make it as easy as possible to take part. This means providing materials both in print and online, using easy to understand, non-technical language. We will schedule events for the community to learn about our proposals in locally convenient and wheelchair accessible locations on various days of the week and times of day to accommodate different work/life schedules. We will also reach out to gateway organisations for hard-to-reach groups, so that we can hear from as many voices as possible.
- 3.1.4 Our approach to consultation has been informed by feedback from local authorities, to ensure that we are utilising local knowledge to inform an effective consultation process. From 24 July to 22 August 2025, we consulted with the host local authorities on our proposed approach to the next stage of consultation, as laid out in this document. Our strategy has been updated to include their feedback.

3.2 Consultation to date

First Consultation – Autumn 2024-Winter 2025

- 3.2.1 A non-statutory consultation was held over almost eleven weeks, from Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 31 January 2025. This first phase of consultation introduced the Proposed Development, and sought feedback from the local community, elected officials, landowners, local businesses and interest groups on the proposals.
- 3.2.2 We publicised the consultation by sending an introductory newsletter to a consultation zone that was drafted to include all of the host parishes for the Proposed Development, which includes 30,755 addresses around the proposed site. We also issued press releases to local and trade media and publishing adverts in local media outlets and on social media, updating the Proposed Development's website with details of the consultation, and conducting door knocks to the 26 neighbours closest to the Site.
- 3.2.3 On 13 November ahead of the start of the consultation period, we wrote to a range of stakeholder to notify them of our consultation, and invite them to our in-person events or briefings, including:

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- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor
 - City of Doncaster Council Members
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Members
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough, Rother Valley, Rotherham, and Doncaster Central
 - Host and neighbouring parish councils
- 3.2.4 We developed consultation materials in a range of formats, including a consultation booklet, series of maps, pull-up banners and questionnaire.
- 3.2.5 These materials were made available on our website, at public events and sent to community members by mail on request.
- 3.2.6 During the consultation period, we organised and attended 15 site visits on request to neighbours closest to the site, held seven in person events and one webinar for the wider public, and we met with nine parish councils. At these meetings, individuals could ask questions of the wider project team and provide their feedback.
- 3.2.7 Individuals could share their views by completing an online questionnaire, accessed through the Proposed Development's website, emailing the questionnaire to the Proposed Development's email, posting a hard-copy questionnaire to the Freepost address or submitting comments by email or in writing to the Freepost address.
- 3.2.8 We received 940 pieces of feedback from this consultation, which led to significant changes to the design of the Proposed Development. We removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the Proposed Development, in order to create buffers around homes, villages, and public rights of way. We also received feedback on our approach to consultation, including which venues and locations to use and how to refine the consultation zone to include additional villages.

Proposed Development update – Spring 2025

- 3.2.9 After the non-statutory consultation period, we conducted a round of engagement to inform the public of the updated masterplans.
- 3.2.10 On 20-21 March, we revisited 12 near neighbours closest to the site to discuss the changes made in response to their feedback. On 31 March and 3 April, we offered a briefing to the host parishes. On 2 April, we briefed members of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. We also offered to brief members of City of Doncaster Council, which occurred on 29 April.
- 3.2.11 On 26 March, we sent out an email update to all 509 email addresses signed up to our 'keep informed' list and we sent out a leaflet to 29,012 addresses in the area to update the community about the changes to the proposals based on their feedback. The updated maps and leaflets were also added to the Proposed Development's website.
- 3.2.12 We have continued to meet with statutory and technical consultees to assist with the EIA process and the evolution of our design. This includes relevant statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and National Highways.

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4 APPROACH TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 What are we consulting on?

4.1.1 During our statutory consultation from 16 September – 28 October 2025, we will present our updated proposals and ask for your feedback.

4.1.2 In this statutory consultation period, we will be asking for your views on:

- Our proposals for the Proposed Development as a whole;
- The location of the Proposed Development's components, including the solar panels, substations, batteries, and cable routes;
- The Draft ES and potential impacts from the Proposed Development during construction, operation, and decommissioning to the local environment and community;
- Our proposals for mitigating the potential impacts and environmental enhancements;
- Our proposals to contribute to the local community, including local initiatives or organisations that the Proposed Development could support over its lifetime.

4.1.3 Our consultation includes but is not limited to the list above.

4.2 Who are we consulting?

4.2.1 We want to consult widely with anyone who has an interest in or feels impacted by Whitestone Solar Farm. We have identified a variety of stakeholders that we believe may have an interest in the Proposed Development, and developed a plan to notify these groups and individuals – but anyone is welcome to submit their feedback.

4.2.2 We have defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact are likely to vary with distance to the Proposed Development. These zones have informed how we will publicise the consultation and are set out below, with further detail about the consultation information detailed in section 4.4.

Inner Zone

4.2.3 The inner zone covers people who live and work closest to the Proposed Development and their political representatives. Our consultation activity will be most intensive within this zone. A map of this zone is shown in Figures 5-7.

4.2.4 We have identified an area that includes around 45,000 addresses by drawing a shape approximately 1km from the Site, expanding further to ensure that entire villages were included. Being in close proximity to the Proposed Development, this zone was selected as the group of homes and businesses that would have the greater interest in the Proposed Development.

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- 4.2.5 A leaflet will be sent to all properties within the inner zone to notify them of the start of statutory consultation and invite them to attend public information events, which will be located within this area.

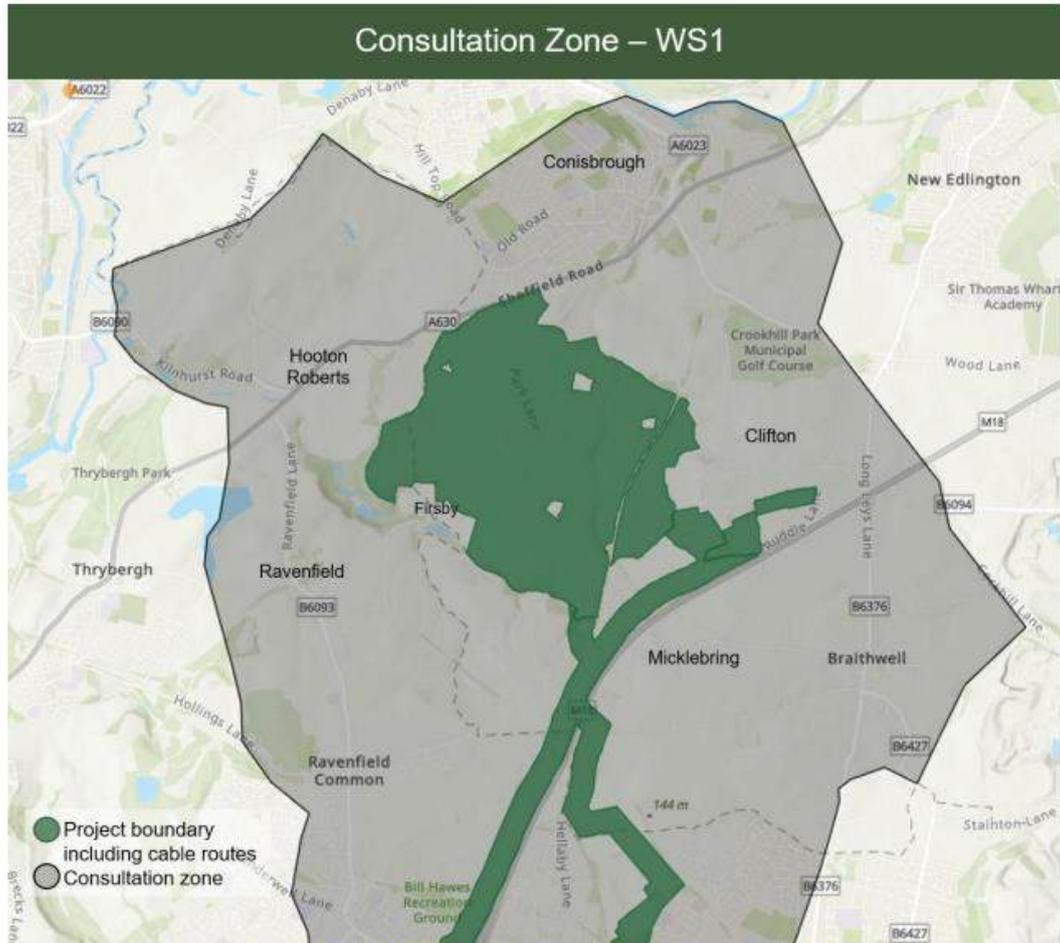


Figure 5: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 1

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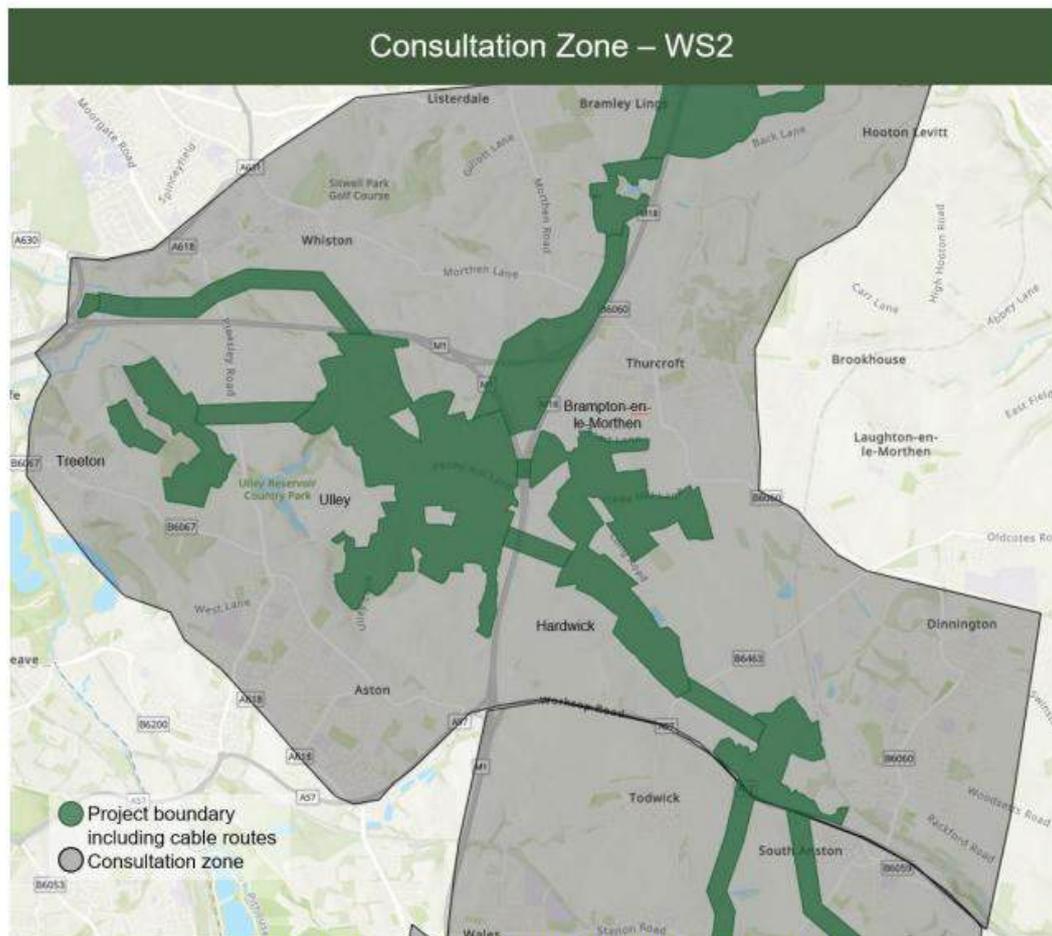


Figure 6: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 2

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- 4.2.8 At the same time as consulting the local community, we will also consult a range of statutory consultees as set out by Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the Proposed Development. These groups include:
- The host and neighbouring local authorities;
 - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and others);
 - Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Conisbrough Research and Archaeology Group); and,
 - People with an interest in land (e.g. owners or tenants) that may be affected by the proposals.

Elected representatives

- 4.2.9 At the launch of consultation, relevant elected representatives within the consultation zone will be contacted, including the Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough, Rother Valley, Rotherham, North East Derbyshire, Doncaster Central, and Bolsover, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor, Derbyshire County Councillors, Doncaster City Council Councillors, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councillors and North East Derbyshire District Councillors.
- 4.2.10 We will also contact host parish councils to offer them a joint briefing and invite them to our public events, and support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels.
- 4.2.11 We will contact neighbouring parish councils to inform them about the consultation period and invite them to our public events.
- 4.2.12 Host parish councils include:
- Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
 - Barlborough Parish Council
 - Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council
 - Bramley Parish Council
 - Brinsworth Parish Council
 - Conisbrough Parks Parish Council
 - Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
 - Hellaby Parish Council
 - Hooton Roberts Parish Council
 - Killamarsh Parish Council
 - Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council
 - Maltby Parish Council
 - North and South Anston Parish Council
 - Ravenfield Parish Council
 - Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

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- Thurcroft Parish Council
- Todwick Parish Council
- Treeton Parish Council
- Wales Parish Council
- Whiston Parish Council
- Wickersley Parish Council
- Ulley Parish Council

4.2.13 Neighbouring parish councils include:

- Adwick upon Dearne Parish Council
- Barnburgh Parish Council
- Cadeby Parish Council
- Catcliffe Parish Council
- Dalton Parish Council
- Denaby Parish Council
- Dinnington St John's Town Council
- Edlington Parish Council
- High Melton Parish Council
- Hooton Levitt Parish Council
- Orgreave Parish Council
- Shireoaks Parish Council
- Spotborough and Cusworth Parish Council
- Stainton Parish Council
- Thrybergh Parish Council
- Warmsworth Parish Council
- Waverley Parish Council
- Whitwell Parish Council
- Woodsetts Parish Council

Seldom heard audiences

4.2.14 It is important to ensure that everyone with an interest in the proposals has the opportunity to comment on our proposals as part of the consultation. We want our consultation to be inclusive and gather feedback from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultations such as people without internet access, seasonal workers, younger people and socially isolated people. We will do this by:

- Writing to organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups directly (list of organisations attached separately).
- Choosing accessible venues for public events.
- Publicising the consultation in digital and print editions of local newspapers.
- Publicising the consultation on social media.

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- Holding public events at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends to enable participation by people with different time commitments.
 - Making provision for people without internet access through the consultation programme. This includes sending a consultation leaflet to every address within the inner zone, holding public events in the area, publicising the consultation in print editions of local newspapers and making hard copies of consultation materials available on-request.
- 4.2.15 Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4.3 Consultation information

- 4.3.1 Information about our proposals will be published for consultation in the following formats:
- 4.3.2 **A consultation leaflet:** a leaflet issued to addresses within the inner zone setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation; including information on accessing materials, the locations and timings of the public events, and how to share their feedback. This will additionally be published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.3 **A consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of our proposals for the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This will be available in hard copy at the public events, by post on request and published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.4 **A questionnaire:** the main way we will collect feedback from the community. The questions will be easy to understand, and the responses will be considered as we refine our plans. This will be available in hard copy at the public events, posted on request and published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.5 **A website:** the Proposed Development's website (www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the draft ES, consultation booklet and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the public events as well as the communications lines.
- 4.3.6 **Exhibition banners:** an accessible summary of our proposals for the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners will also be available as PDFs to download from the Proposed Development's website.
- 4.3.7 **The Draft ES:** containing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.
- 4.3.8 **Masterplan:** we will provide copies of the updated masterplan on the Proposed Development's website, large hard copies at events, and post hard copies on request.
- 4.3.9 We will provide hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the Draft ES). We will review requests for hard copies of the

REPORT

Draft ES on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

- 4.3.10 Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4.4 Publicity and advertising

- 4.4.1 We will send out a leaflet to the inner consultation zone identified in Figures 5-7 and an email update to our 'keep informed' list.
- 4.4.2 We will issue a press release to local and trade media outlets to inform them of the upcoming consultation and associated activities.
- 4.4.3 Statutory notices will be published in line with Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, in the Rotherham Advertiser, Doncaster Free Press, Derbyshire Times, London Gazette and a national newspaper. If for reasons outside of the Applicant's control it is not possible to run the Section 47 and 48 notices, an alternative newspaper or other publication will be chosen with an appropriate distribution area.
- 4.4.4 We will use social media advertising to help publicise the consultation and encourage those with an interest in our proposals to get involved. We are unable to accept feedback via social media.

4.5 Public events

- 4.5.1 We will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and ask questions to members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 4.5.2 The dates and times of these events are listed in Table 1 below. The venues and dates are subject to availability and may change. The events would be held in accessible venues around the Proposed Development and would be organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that people with different schedules are able to attend. This includes events after normal working hours and on the weekend.
- 4.5.3 In the unlikely event that there are changes to the locations or times of our events, we will publicise this information on our website.
- 4.5.4 The map showing the locations of the venues is in Figure 8 below.

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Table 1: Public information events

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Village Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX



Figure 8: Map of the suggested locations of public events

REPORT

4.6 Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 4.6.1 We will offer to brief host parishes and local authorities during the consultation period to find out more about the updated proposals, statutory consultation, the draft ES and community benefits.
- 4.6.2 Details of all our consultation activity will be included in a Consultation Report which we will submit as part of our DCO application.

4.7 Communications lines

- 4.7.1 To find out more information or request copies of the consultation materials, anyone can contact the consultation team by freephone (0800 688 9936) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm). Outside of these hours, callers will be able to leave a message requesting a callback. Phone calls will not be considered as feedback, and individuals will need to use one of the other communications lines to provide written feedback.
- 4.7.2 Alternatively, individuals can email info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or write to the team via Freepost (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL. Individuals can also submit feedback via these communication lines.

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5 HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

5.1 Responding to the consultation

- 5.1.1 We will produce a questionnaire inviting feedback on different elements of the Proposed Development. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.
- 5.1.2 Respondents will be available to complete questionnaire online through the Proposed Development's website: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- 5.1.3 The completed hard-copy questionnaire will also be available in printed form at public events, and on request using the Proposed Development's contact details. The questionnaire can be returned during the consultation period via Freepost address (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL, or at the public events.
- 5.1.4 Alternatively, respondents can write to us via email info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk or Freepost (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL. All written feedback will be accepted.

5.2 Consideration of responses

- 5.2.1 In accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, all responses received will be carefully considered and the Applicant will have regard to them when finalising the Proposed Development for DCO application.
- 5.2.2 If, as a result of feedback from the statutory consultation or other assessments or engagement, the Proposed Development is amended, then these may be consulted on via targeted consultation on a proportionate basis. Any targeted consultation will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.
- 5.2.3 The Applicant will summarise consultation responses in a Consultation Report, which will include a description of how the Applicant has had regard of those responses in developing the Proposed Development, and any changes made since the statutory consultation. The consultation report forms part of the DCO application which will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. If the DCO application is accepted, the Consultation Report will be made available for consultees to review how their comments have fed into the process.

5.3 Further information

- 5.3.1 For further information, please contact us by:
- Calling 0800 688 9936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
 - Emailing info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to Whitestone Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local.



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
0800 688 9936

Appendix A2.3 Regard had to formal feedback from local authorities on the draft SoCC

Table A2 – Formal feedback from host authorities regarding draft SoCC and the Applicant’s response

Consultee	Feedback	Applicant Response
City of Doncaster Council	No further feedback to add to the current Draft SoCC	No comment required.
North East Derbyshire District Council	No further feedback to add to the current Draft SoCC	No comment required.
North East Derbyshire District Council	Ensure Eckington PC are added to the keep informed list	Confirmed that Eckington PC is in our list of host parish councils to contact when launching statutory consultation and providing any updates to parish councils.
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	No further feedback to add to the current Draft SoCC	No comment required.

APPENDIX A3 FINAL SOCC



WHITESTONE
solar farm

**Statement of Community
Consultation**

**September
2025**

whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

REPORT

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) has been prepared on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to a proposed application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 (hereafter referred to as 'the Application') for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Whitestone Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The applicant is inviting feedback from the local community on the Proposed Development as part of a public consultation from 16 September to 28 October 2025.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development is a new solar farm with battery storage, that could make a significant contribution to our national energy goals and energy security by producing renewable energy here in the UK. The Proposed Development is located across three parcels between Rotherham and Doncaster, South Yorkshire, and would connect to the proposed new 400 kV National Grid substation near Brinsworth (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.4 Because the Proposed Development would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). The Planning Act 2008 establishes the planning regime for NSIPs and requires that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate and decommission it. Unlike local planning applications which are decided by local planning authorities, our DCO Application will be decided at the national level by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 1.1.5 We have prepared this document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. It explains how we plan to consult with people living in the vicinity of the Proposed Development about our proposals. It will be published according to the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, and includes:
- Information about the Proposed Development and the companies behind it;
 - An explanation of the planning process for the Proposed Development including pre-application consultation and environmental assessments;
 - Our approach to community consultation including who we will consult, when, how, and what about;
 - How we will let people know about the consultation, provide information, and receive feedback; and,
 - The next steps after consultation, including how we will have regard to the feedback we receive.

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1.2 About the Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant has been established as a specialist development business to allow the funding of larger projects, drawing on the expertise of Green Nation, which ensures that there is sufficient funding to build, operate, and decommission the Proposed Development at the end of its life.
- 1.2.2 Since 2011, Green Nation has become one of the leading developers of rooftop solar panels for homes, schools, and businesses in the UK. Green Nation also develop, construct and operate ground-mounted solar farms and battery storage facilities.
- 1.2.3 The current portfolio of Green Nation is shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Current Green Nation Portfolio

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1.3 About the Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development is a solar farm with associated battery storage and infrastructure located between Rotherham and Doncaster in South Yorkshire that would help meet the country's need for low-carbon, homegrown energy. This would include three parcels of land, connected by cable routes.
- 1.3.2 The Proposed Development would be located within the City of Doncaster Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's administrative areas, close to the M1 and M18. In the southernmost part of the Proposed Development, the boundary crosses into North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council.



Figure 2: Proposed Development Location

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- 1.3.3 The UK is a global leader in the fight against climate change. The Government has made a legally binding agreement to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and pledged to eliminate all fossil fuels from the power supply as part of the Clean Power 2030 mission. Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy generated here in the UK will not only help reduce carbon pollution, but also support energy security and help reduce future energy costs.
- 1.3.4 In the UK, demand for electricity continues to increase. As other sectors cut their reliance on fossil fuels, they are shifting to electricity for their power needs. For example, by replacing gas boilers and traditional vehicles with heat pumps and electric cars, demand for electricity is projected to double by 2050.
- 1.3.5 Large scale solar is a key part of the solution; it is a tried and tested technology that is ready to be built now, can be constructed quickly and safely, and generate large amounts of energy.
- 1.3.6 If constructed, the Proposed Development could make a significant contribution to meeting this need. We have an agreement to supply National Grid with up to 750 MW of energy, which is enough to power up to 250,000 homes¹.

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home.

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1.4 Components of the Proposed Development

1.4.1 The components that will be needed for the Proposed Development in order to collect the energy from sunlight and prepare it to be transferred to the National Grid are illustrated in Figure 3 below.



Figure 3: Components of a solar farm

Solar panels (1) would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.

Underground cables (2) would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other locations around the site.

Inverters (3) would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC).

During times of low energy demand, the **Battery Energy Storage System (4)** would store the energy until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store it until it is needed.

Substations (5) located in each of the three parcels would increase the voltage to prepare it to connect to the grid.

The **main project substation (6)** would collect electricity from the three parcels.

Then the energy would be transferred to the **National Grid (7)** at Brinsworth, so that it could power homes and businesses across the UK.

1.4.2 In addition to the technical components that are needed to collect and transport energy, the Proposed Development could also include open spaces around and between the panels. As we develop the Proposed Development, we will incorporate best practices to ensure that it is a well-designed solar farm.

1.4.3 The Proposed Development would be designed to help avoid, reduce or mitigate visual impacts where possible, which could include simply setting the panels back from homes, footpaths, or other key locations. This could also include new planting to create a natural visual barrier, which could help reduce visual impacts, as well as creating new habitats for wildlife and increase biodiversity.

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2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 The Development Consent Order application process

- 2.1.1 Because the Proposed Development would produce more than 50MW of energy, it is considered a NSIP.
- 2.1.2 The Planning Act 2008 and associated legislation and guidance set out the planning process for NSIPs and require that we apply for a DCO to build and operate the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.3 Unlike planning applications which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided at the national level. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), an independent body that administers the process of reviewing and examining the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero.
- 2.1.4 After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero who will then make the final decision as to whether to grant the DCO.
- 2.1.5 Additional information on the NSIP process can be found on the Inspectorate's website at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-the-stages-of-the-nsip-process-and-how-you-can-have-your-say>
- 2.1.6 Below in Figure 4 is a timeline of the NSIP development process.

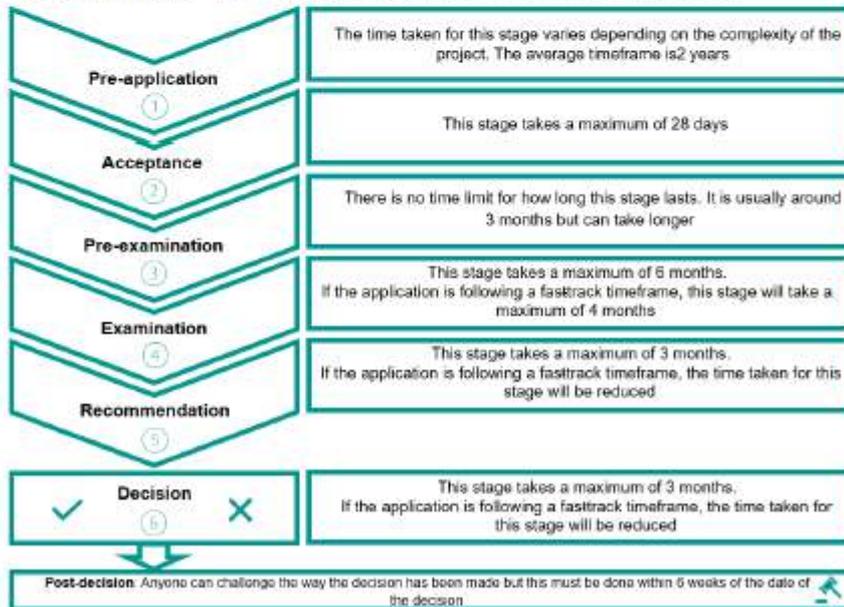


Figure 4: The development process for an NSIP

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2.2 Pre-Application Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation is an important part of the DCO Process. Before we submit our DCO application, the Planning Act 2008 requires us to consult on our proposals. For the Proposed Development, we will consult early and often, throughout the development process, to ensure valuable local knowledge is built into our proposals. Under sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008, we must consult with:

- Local authorities and parish councils in which the Proposed Development is located, or which neighbour the local authorities and parish councils that are hosting the Proposed Development;
- Persons that have an interest in the land affected by the Proposed Development, including landowners, occupants and tenants;
- Certain organisations and technical bodies (like Historic England and the Environment Agency) which have been prescribed by the Planning Act 2008; and,
- The local community.

2.3 Consultation and the Design Process

2.3.1 The design process for the Proposed Development is iterative, which means that there will be several versions of the design as it develops. Feedback from consultations, results of environmental assessments and ongoing technical and engineering work will inform our evolving proposals at each stage. We have carried out one stage of non-statutory consultation already and anticipate one further round of consultation – a round of statutory consultation, to which this SoCC relates:

2.3.2 **Non-Statutory Consultation:** 18 November 2024 – 31 January 2025 - This first consultation was on our initial proposals for the Proposed Development.

2.3.3 **Statutory Consultation:** 16 September – 28 October 2025 - The statutory consultation will be on our revised proposals, which have been updated based on feedback from the first consultation and ongoing environmental assessments. This is a 'statutory consultation', which will be carried out in accordance with this document and the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and associated guidance. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated design we submit in the DCO application.

2.3.4 **Consultation Report:** The Consultation Report will set out the consultation undertaken as part of the pre-application process and will explain how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation feedback received. It will also explain if changes have been made to the design of the Proposed Development as a result of consultation responses received.

2.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

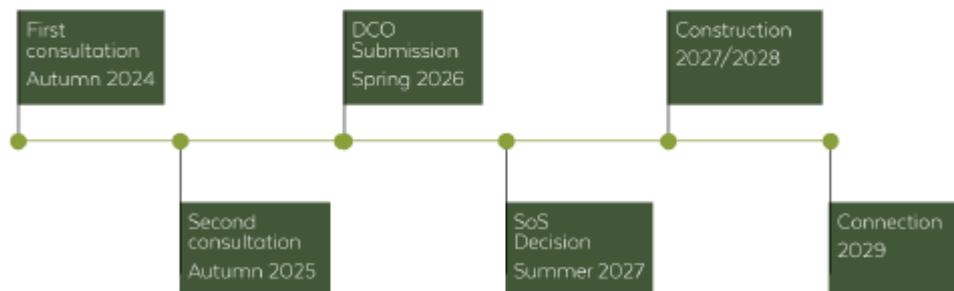
2.4.1 Due to the size and nature of the Proposed Development, it is considered 'EIA Development'. This means that we will conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which we will report on in an Environmental Statement (ES) submitted as part of our DCO application. The EIA will assess the Proposed Development's likely environmental effects in accordance with the requirements of

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the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. If we identify any likely significant environmental effects, we will also explain how we propose to mitigate them in the ES.

- 2.4.2 **Scoping:** An applicant for a DCO can ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net-Zero for their opinion on the scope of the EIA and the level of detail to be presented in the EIA. The Applicant asked the Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) for a formal written opinion about the information that should be included in the Draft ES on 23 April 2025. The Inspectorate's response is known as a Scoping Opinion, which was provided on 3 June 2025. The Scoping Opinion will now be used to guide how we will complete our EIA. You can find it on the Inspectorate's website.
- 2.4.3 **Draft Environmental Statement (ES):** As the Proposed Development is EIA development, we are required to consult on preliminary environmental information in relation to it as part of our statutory consultation. We will do this by preparing and publishing a Draft ES. The purpose of the Draft ES is to provide information to enable stakeholders to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development. The Draft ES must include the information which is reasonably required for consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 2.4.4 **Final ES:** Our DCO application will include the final results of the environmental assessments in a final ES, which will be submitted and available to view on the Inspectorate's website.

2.5 Indicative Timeline of the Proposed Development



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3 OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.1 Overview of the consultation process

- 3.1.1 We aim to ensure that anyone who wants to engage in the consultation is able to do so, by providing a variety of ways people can learn about the proposals and provide their feedback.
- 3.1.2 We have developed the approach set out in this document taking into account what has worked well in the previous round of consultation, feedback from local authorities, and best practice. We have also considered requirements included in the Planning Act 2008, EIA regulations, associated guidance and Inspectorate's advice notes.
- 3.1.3 We will structure our consultation to support accessibility, aiming to make it as easy as possible to take part. This means providing materials both in print and online, using easy to understand, non-technical language. We will schedule events for the community to learn about our proposals in locally convenient and wheelchair accessible locations on various days of the week and times of day to accommodate different work/life schedules. We will also reach out to gateway organisations for hard-to-reach groups, so that we can hear from as many voices as possible.
- 3.1.4 Our approach to consultation has been informed by feedback from local authorities, to ensure that we are utilising local knowledge to inform an effective consultation process. From 24 July to 22 August 2025, we consulted with the host local authorities on our proposed approach to the next stage of consultation, as laid out in this document. Our strategy has been updated to include their feedback.

3.2 Consultation to date

First Consultation – Autumn 2024-Winter 2025

- 3.2.1 A non-statutory consultation was held over almost eleven weeks, from Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 31 January 2025. This first phase of consultation introduced the Proposed Development, and sought feedback from the local community, elected officials, landowners, local businesses and interest groups on the proposals.
- 3.2.2 We publicised the consultation by sending an introductory newsletter to a consultation zone that was drafted to include all of the host parishes for the Proposed Development, which includes 30,755 addresses around the proposed site. We also issued press releases to local and trade media and publishing adverts in local media outlets and on social media, updating the Proposed Development's website with details of the consultation, and conducting door knocks to the 26 neighbours closest to the Site.
- 3.2.3 On 13 November ahead of the start of the consultation period, we wrote to a range of stakeholder to notify them of our consultation, and invite them to our in-person events or briefings, including:

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- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor
 - City of Doncaster Council Members
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Members
 - Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough, Rother Valley, Rotherham, and Doncaster Central
 - Host and neighbouring parish councils
- 3.2.4 We developed consultation materials in a range of formats, including a consultation booklet, series of maps, pull-up banners and questionnaire.
- 3.2.5 These materials were made available on our website, at public events and sent to community members by mail on request.
- 3.2.6 During the consultation period, we organised and attended 15 site visits on request to neighbours closest to the site, held seven in person events and one webinar for the wider public, and we met with nine parish councils. At these meetings, individuals could ask questions of the wider project team and provide their feedback.
- 3.2.7 Individuals could share their views by completing an online questionnaire, accessed through the Proposed Development's website, emailing the questionnaire to the Proposed Development's email, posting a hard-copy questionnaire to the Freepost address or submitting comments by email or in writing to the Freepost address.
- 3.2.8 We received 940 pieces of feedback from this consultation, which led to significant changes to the design of the Proposed Development. We removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the Proposed Development, in order to create buffers around homes, villages, and public rights of way. We also received feedback on our approach to consultation, including which venues and locations to use and how to refine the consultation zone to include additional villages.

Proposed Development update – Spring 2025

- 3.2.9 After the non-statutory consultation period, we conducted a round of engagement to inform the public of the updated masterplans.
- 3.2.10 On 20-21 March, we revisited 12 near neighbours closest to the site to discuss the changes made in response to their feedback. On 31 March and 3 April, we offered a briefing to the host parishes. On 2 April, we briefed members of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. We also offered to brief members of City of Doncaster Council, which occurred on 29 April.
- 3.2.11 On 26 March, we sent out an email update to all 509 email addresses signed up to our 'keep informed' list and we sent out a leaflet to 29,012 addresses in the area to update the community about the changes to the proposals based on their feedback. The updated maps and leaflets were also added to the Proposed Development's website.
- 3.2.12 We have continued to meet with statutory and technical consultees to assist with the EIA process and the evolution of our design. This includes relevant statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, and National Highways.

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4 APPROACH TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 What are we consulting on?

4.1.1 During our statutory consultation from 16 September – 28 October 2025, we will present our updated proposals and ask for your feedback.

4.1.2 In this statutory consultation period, we will be asking for your views on:

- Our proposals for the Proposed Development as a whole;
- The location of the Proposed Development's components, including the solar panels, substations, batteries, and cable routes;
- The Draft ES and potential impacts from the Proposed Development during construction, operation, and decommissioning to the local environment and community;
- Our proposals for mitigating the potential impacts and environmental enhancements;
- Our proposals to contribute to the local community, including local initiatives or organisations that the Proposed Development could support over its lifetime.

4.1.3 Our consultation includes but is not limited to the list above.

4.2 Who are we consulting?

4.2.1 We want to consult widely with anyone who has an interest in or feels impacted by Whitestone Solar Farm. We have identified a variety of stakeholders that we believe may have an interest in the Proposed Development, and developed a plan to notify these groups and individuals – but anyone is welcome to submit their feedback.

4.2.2 We have defined two geographic zones – an inner zone and an outer zone – for the purpose of consulting with the local community. This recognises the fact that levels of potential impact are likely to vary with distance to the Proposed Development. These zones have informed how we will publicise the consultation and are set out below, with further detail about the consultation information detailed in section 4.4.

Inner Zone

4.2.3 The inner zone covers people who live and work closest to the Proposed Development and their political representatives. Our consultation activity will be most intensive within this zone. A map of this zone is shown in Figures 5-7.

4.2.4 We have identified an area that includes around 45,000 addresses by drawing a shape approximately 1km from the Site, expanding further to ensure that entire villages were included. Being in close proximity to the Proposed Development, this zone was selected as the group of homes and businesses that would have the greater interest in the Proposed Development.

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4.2.5 A leaflet will be sent to all properties within the inner zone to notify them of the start of statutory consultation and invite them to attend public information events, which will be located within this area.

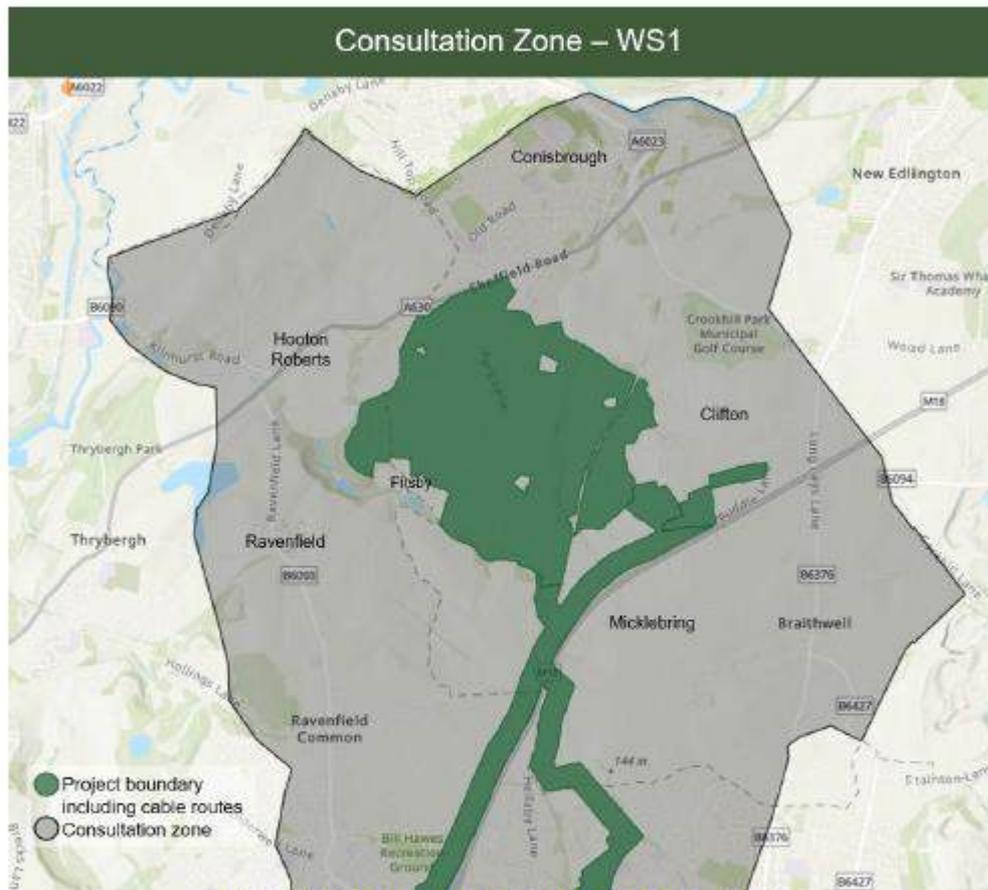


Figure 5: Map of inner consultation zone - WS 1

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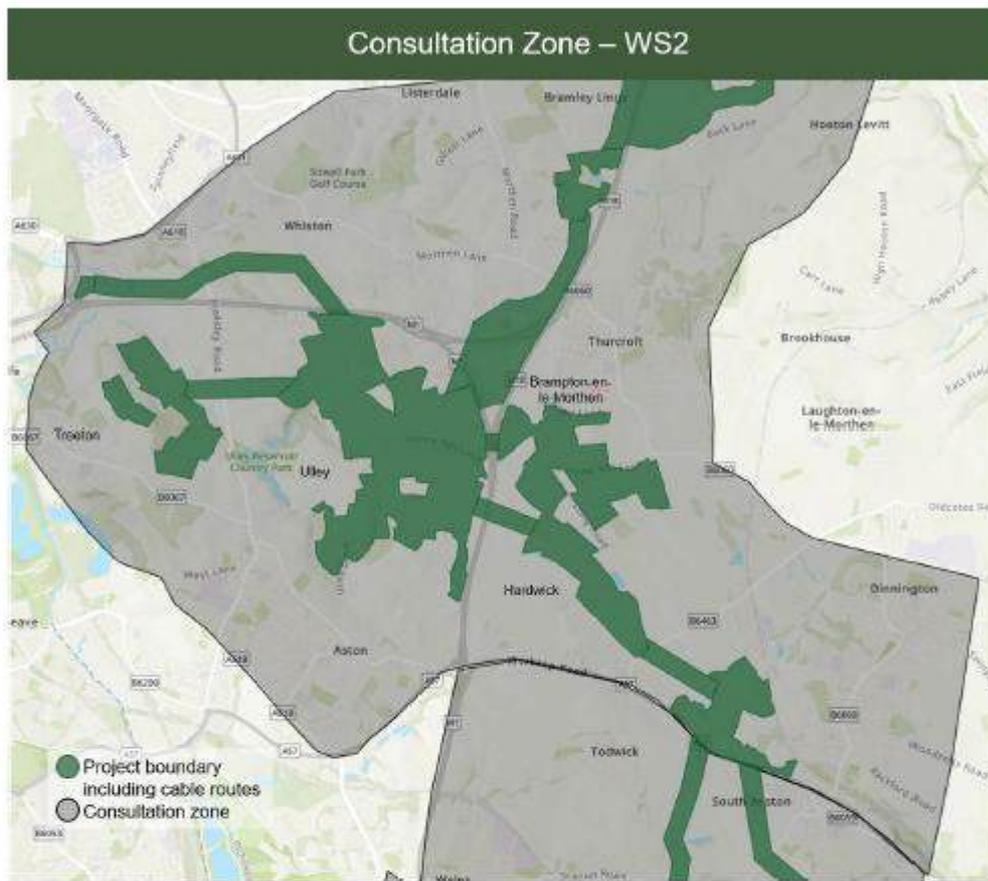


Figure 6: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 2

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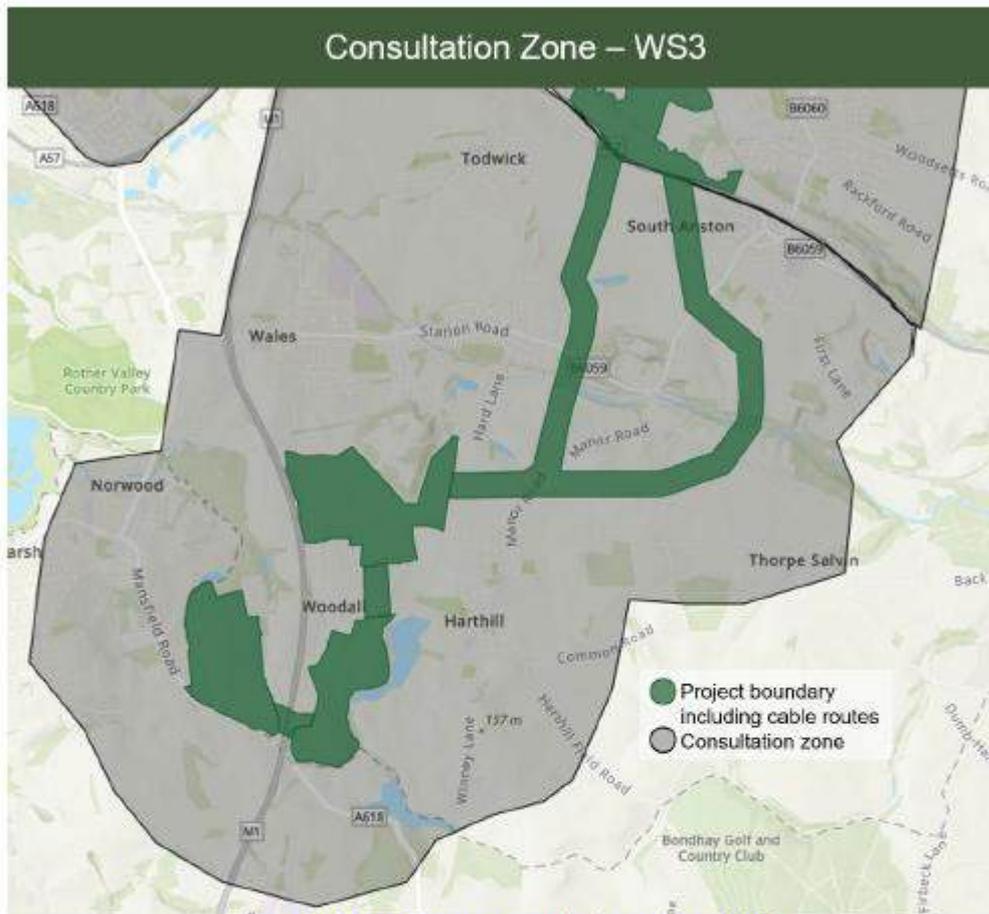


Figure 7: Map of inner consultation zone – WS 3

Outer zone

- 4.2.6 The outer zone covers those living and working in the area outside of the inner zone, who may be affected by or have an interest in our proposals due to the proposals being brought forward in their local authority area. This zone includes others living within the local authority boundaries of the City of Doncaster Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.
- 4.2.7 We will publicise the consultation to people in this zone through the Proposed Development's website and emailing the consultation information to our 'keep informed' list. We will also place adverts on social media, publish statutory notices and issue press releases to local media outlets.

Technical stakeholders

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- 4.2.8 At the same time as consulting the local community, we will also consult a range of statutory consultees as set out by Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and additional organisations that we recognise to have an interest in the Proposed Development. These groups include:
- The host and neighbouring local authorities;
 - Statutory bodies (such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England and others);
 - Other community groups and organisations that may have an interest in the proposals (such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Conisbrough Research and Archaeology Group); and,
 - People with an interest in land (e.g. owners or tenants) that may be affected by the proposals.

Elected representatives

- 4.2.9 At the launch of consultation, relevant elected representatives within the consultation zone will be contacted, including the Members of Parliament (MPs) for Rawmarsh and Conisbrough, Rother Valley, Rotherham, North East Derbyshire, Doncaster Central, and Bolsover, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor, Derbyshire County Councillors, Doncaster City Council Councillors, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Councillors and North East Derbyshire District Councillors.
- 4.2.10 We will also contact host parish councils to offer them a joint briefing and invite them to our public events, and support them in promoting the consultation using their existing communication channels.
- 4.2.11 We will contact neighbouring parish councils to inform them about the consultation period and invite them to our public events.
- 4.2.12 Host parish councils include:
- Aston cum Aughton Parish Council
 - Barlborough Parish Council
 - Braithwell with Micklebring Parish Council
 - Bramley Parish Council
 - Brinsworth Parish Council
 - Conisbrough Parks Parish Council
 - Harthill with Woodall Parish Council
 - Hellaby Parish Council
 - Hooton Roberts Parish Council
 - Killamarsh Parish Council
 - Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council
 - Maltby Parish Council
 - North and South Anston Parish Council
 - Ravenfield Parish Council
 - Thorpe Salvin Parish Council

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- Thurcroft Parish Council
- Todwick Parish Council
- Treeton Parish Council
- Wales Parish Council
- Whiston Parish Council
- Wickersley Parish Council
- Ulley Parish Council

4.2.13 Neighbouring parish councils include:

- Adwick upon Deame Parish Council
- Bambergh Parish Council
- Cadeby Parish Council
- Catcliffe Parish Council
- Dalton Parish Council
- Denaby Parish Council
- Dinnington St John's Town Council
- Edlington Parish Council
- High Melton Parish Council
- Hooton Levitt Parish Council
- Orgreave Parish Council
- Shireoaks Parish Council
- Spotborough and Cusworth Parish Council
- Stainton Parish Council
- Thrybergh Parish Council
- Warmsworth Parish Council
- Waverley Parish Council
- Whitwell Parish Council
- Woodsetts Parish Council

Seldom heard audiences

4.2.14 It is important to ensure that everyone with an interest in the proposals has the opportunity to comment on our proposals as part of the consultation. We want our consultation to be inclusive and gather feedback from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultations such as people without internet access, seasonal workers, younger people and socially isolated people. We will do this by:

- Writing to organisations representing seldom heard individuals and groups directly (list of organisations attached separately).
- Choosing accessible venues for public events.
- Publicising the consultation in digital and print editions of local newspapers.
- Publicising the consultation on social media.

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- Holding public events at a variety of times, including evenings and weekends to enable participation by people with different time commitments.
 - Making provision for people without internet access through the consultation programme. This includes sending a consultation leaflet to every address within the inner zone, holding public events in the area, publicising the consultation in print editions of local newspapers and making hard copies of consultation materials available on-request.
- 4.2.15 Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4.3 Consultation information

- 4.3.1 Information about our proposals will be published for consultation in the following formats:
- 4.3.2 **A consultation leaflet:** a leaflet issued to addresses within the inner zone setting out how to find out more about the proposals and participate in the consultation; including information on accessing materials, the locations and timings of the public events, and how to share their feedback. This will additionally be published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.3 **A consultation booklet:** an accessible summary of our proposals for the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps. This will be available in hard copy at the public events, by post on request and published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.4 **A questionnaire:** the main way we will collect feedback from the community. The questions will be easy to understand, and the responses will be considered as we refine our plans. This will be available in hard copy at the public events, posted on request and published on the Proposed Development's website to view and download.
- 4.3.5 **A website:** the Proposed Development's website (www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk) will host all of the consultation documents, including the draft ES, consultation booklet and online questionnaire. It will also include details of the public events as well as the communications lines.
- 4.3.6 **Exhibition banners:** an accessible summary of our proposals for the Proposed Development, the EIA process, the consultation and planning process, approach to community benefit and next steps which will be displayed at the public events. The exhibition banners will also be available as PDFs to download from the Proposed Development's website.
- 4.3.7 **The Draft ES:** containing the initial results of our ongoing environmental assessments as well as preliminary information on measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any likely significant adverse effects.
- 4.3.8 **Masterplan:** we will provide copies of the updated masterplan on the Proposed Development's website, large hard copies at events, and post hard copies on request.
- 4.3.9 We will provide hard copies of the consultation booklet, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the Draft ES). We will review requests for hard copies of the

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Draft ES on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

- 4.3.10 Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.

4.4 Publicity and advertising

- 4.4.1 We will send out a leaflet to the inner consultation zone identified in Figures 5-7 and an email update to our 'keep informed' list.
- 4.4.2 We will issue a press release to local and trade media outlets to inform them of the upcoming consultation and associated activities.
- 4.4.3 Statutory notices will be published in line with Section 47 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008, in the Rotherham Advertiser, Doncaster Free Press, Derbyshire Times, London Gazette and a national newspaper. If for reasons outside of the Applicant's control it is not possible to run the Section 47 and 48 notices, an alternative newspaper or other publication will be chosen with an appropriate distribution area.
- 4.4.4 We will use social media advertising to help publicise the consultation and encourage those with an interest in our proposals to get involved. We are unable to accept feedback via social media.

4.5 Public events

- 4.5.1 We will hold in-person public events during the consultation period to enable anyone with an interest in the proposals to find out more about them and ask questions to members of the team. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire will be available at these events for members of the public to take away. Completed questionnaires will be able to be returned at the events.
- 4.5.2 The dates and times of these events are listed in Table 1 below. The venues and dates are subject to availability and may change. The events would be held in accessible venues around the Proposed Development and would be organised at a range of dates and times to ensure that people with different schedules are able to attend. This includes events after normal working hours and on the weekend.
- 4.5.3 In the unlikely event that there are changes to the locations or times of our events, we will publicise this information on our website.
- 4.5.4 The map showing the locations of the venues is in Figure 8 below.

REPORT

Table 1: Public information events

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Village Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX



Figure 8: Map of the suggested locations of public events

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4.6 Presentations and stakeholder meetings

- 4.6.1 We will offer to brief host parishes and local authorities during the consultation period to find out more about the updated proposals, statutory consultation, the draft ES and community benefits.
- 4.6.2 Details of all our consultation activity will be included in a Consultation Report which we will submit as part of our DCO application.

4.7 Communications lines

- 4.7.1 To find out more information or request copies of the consultation materials, anyone can contact the consultation team by freephone (0800 688 9936) during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm). Outside of these hours, callers will be able to leave a message requesting a callback. Phone calls will not be considered as feedback, and individuals will need to use one of the other communications lines to provide written feedback.
- 4.7.2 Alternatively, individuals can email info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or write to the team via Freepost (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL. Individuals can also submit feedback via these communication lines.

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5 HOW TO RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

5.1 Responding to the consultation

- 5.1.1 We will produce a questionnaire inviting feedback on different elements of the Proposed Development. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.
- 5.1.2 Respondents will be available to complete questionnaire online through the Proposed Development's website: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- 5.1.3 The completed hard-copy questionnaire will also be available in printed form at public events, and on request using the Proposed Development's contact details. The questionnaire can be returned during the consultation period via Freepost address (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL, or at the public events.
- 5.1.4 Alternatively, respondents can write to us via email info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or Freepost (no stamp required): Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK LOCAL. All written feedback will be accepted.

5.2 Consideration of responses

- 5.2.1 In accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008, all responses received will be carefully considered and the Applicant will have regard to them when finalising the Proposed Development for DCO application.
- 5.2.2 If, as a result of feedback from the statutory consultation or other assessments or engagement, the Proposed Development is amended, then these may be consulted on via targeted consultation on a proportionate basis. Any targeted consultation will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.
- 5.2.3 The Applicant will summarise consultation responses in a Consultation Report, which will include a description of how the Applicant has had regard of those responses in developing the Proposed Development, and any changes made since the statutory consultation. The consultation report forms part of the DCO application which will be submitted to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008. If the DCO application is accepted, the Consultation Report will be made available for consultees to review how their comments have fed into the process.

5.3 Further information

- 5.3.1 For further information, please contact us by:
- Calling 0800 688 9936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
 - Emailing info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
 - Writing to Whitestone Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local.



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936



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Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Appendix B Notification of Consultees

Project reference
EN0110020
Rev00
March 2026

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APPENDIX B1 NOTIFICATION UNDER S42

Appendix B1.1 List of Consultees identified under S42(1)(a)

Table B1 s42(1)(a) Prescribed Consultees

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
John Healey MP	The Secretary of State for Defence	Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB	██████████@parliament.uk
██████████	The Environment Agency	Environment Agency Head Office, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH	consultation.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk ██████████@environment-agency.gov.uk
██████████	Natural England	Natural England Head Office, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX	consultations@naturalengland.org.uk ██████████@naturalengland.org.uk; sp-yorkshire@environment-agency.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission Yorkshire and North East, Forestry Commission, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX	██████████@forestrycommission.gov.uk nationalenquiries@forestrycommission.gov.uk ██████████@forestrycommission.gov.uk planning.trentside@environment-agency.gov.uk cc: Nlteam@environment-agency.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission East and East Midlands, Forestry Commission, Santon, Downham, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0TJ	██████████@forestrycommission.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	4th Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA	e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk e-yorks@english-heritage.org.uk e-neast@HistoricEngland.org.uk cc: ██████████@HistoricEngland.org.uk ██████████@HistoricEngland.org.uk
The Company Secretary	Danvm Drainage Commissioners	Danvm Drainage Commissioners, 24, Innovation	contact@idbs.org.uk info@yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
		Drive, Newport, Brough, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU15 2FW	
The Company Secretary	Doncaster East IDB	Doncaster East IDB, Wellington House, Manby Park, Manby, Lincolnshire, LN11 8UU	enquiries@deidb.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Trent Valley IDB	Trent Valley IDB, The Newark Beacon, Beacon Hill Office Park, Cafferata Way, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG24 2TN	enquiries@lmbd.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board	Isle of Axholme and North, Nottinghamshire Water Level, Management Board, Wellington House, Manby Park, Manby, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 8UU	enquiries@lmbd.co.uk
The Company Secretary	The Canal & River Trust	Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW	planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk; [REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk
[REDACTED]	National Highways	National Highways, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ	dcostatutoryprocessesteam@nationalhighways.co.uk; planningM@nationalhighways.co.uk; planningEE@highwaysengland.co.uk
The Highways Team	City of Doncaster Highways Department	Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU	highwaysdc@doncaster.gov.uk
The Highways Team	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Highways Department	Council Highways Department, Riverside House, Main St, Rotherham S60 1AE	development.control@rotherham.gov.uk
The Highways Team	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Highways	11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S1 2BQ	enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk
The Highways Team	Derbyshire County Highways	County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG	highways.hub@derbyshire.gov.uk; development.management@derbyshire.gov.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
The Highways Team	Nottinghamshire County Highways	County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP	contactus@viaem.co.uk
The Highways Team	Staffordshire County Highways	1 Staffordshire Place, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2DH	highways@staffordshire.gov.uk
The Highways Team	Leicestershire Highways	County Hall, Leicester Rd, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA	customer.services@leicester.gov.uk
The Highways Team	West Yorkshire	Wellington House, 40-50 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE	ycc@york.gov.uk
The Highways Team	East Riding of Yorkshire	Beverley County Hall, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA	transport.policy@eastriding.gov.uk
Heidi Alexander MP	The Secretary of State for Transport	Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR	██████████@parliament.uk
The Highways Team	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	South Yorkshire Mayoral, Combined Authority Highways, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S1 2BQ	enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	The Civil Aviation Authority	The Civil Aviation Authority, 5th Floor, Westferry House, 11 Westferry Circus, London, E14 4HD	OGCMailbox@caa.co.uk; airspace@caa.co.uk
The Company Secretary	The Health and Safety Executive	The Health and Safety Executive, Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, L20 7HS	NSIP.Applications@hse.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	The United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	The United Kingdom Health Security Agency, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU	Enquiries@ukhsa.gov.uk
Amanda Pritchard	NHS England	NHS England, Wellington House, 133-135 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG	england.contactus@nhs.net
The Company Secretary	The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority, 200 Lichfield Ln, Mansfield, NG18 4RG	planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate Commissioners, 1 St James's Market, London, SW1Y 4AH	NSIP@thecrownestate.co.uk
The Police Commissioner	South Yorkshire Police	South Yorkshire Police HQ, Carbrook House, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S9 2EH	info@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
The Police Commissioner	Derbyshire Police	Derbyshire Constabulary, Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derby, DE5 3RS	PCCOffice@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK
Sharon Caddell	Nottinghamshire Police	Nottinghamshire Police Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PP	[REDACTED]@notts.police.uk; OfficePCC@Notts.police.uk
The Police Commissioner	Humberside police	Priory Police Station (Humberside HQ), Priory Rd, Hull HU5 5SF	pcc@humberside.pnn.police.uk
The Police Commissioner	North Yorkshire Police	North Yorkshire Police Headquarters, North Yorkshire Police, Alverton Court, Crosby Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1BF	general.enquiries@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
The Police Commissioner	West Yorkshire Police	West Yorkshire Police, Force Headquarters, 10-12 Laburnum Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 3QP	media@westyorkshire.police.uk
Chief Executive	Yorkshire Ambulance Service Trust (host)	Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Trust, Brindley Way, Wakefield WF2 0XQ	yas.foi@nhs.net
Richard Henderson	East Midlands Ambulance Service	East Midlands Ambulance Service, 1 Horizon Place, Mellors Way, Nottingham NG8 6PY	pals.office@emas.nhs.uk; foi.foi@emas.nhs.uk
The Chief Executive	North East Ambulance Service	North East Ambulance Service, Bernicia House, Goldcrest Way, Newburn Riverside, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 8NY	publicrelations@neas.nhs.uk
The Chief Executive	North West Ambulance Service	North West Ambulance Service, Ladybridge Hall, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 5DD	nwas.enquiries2@nwas.nhs.uk
Chief Fire Officer	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, 197 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3FG	bfs.cs@syfire.gov.uk; comments@syfire.gov.uk
Craig Parkin	Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue	Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Joint Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 8PP	enquiries@notts-fire.gov.uk
Chief Fire Officer	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue, Butterley Hall, Ripley DE5 3RS	enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk
Chief Fire Officer	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Oakroyd Hall, Whitehall Rd W, Birkenshaw, Bradford BD11 2DY	SDAH@westyorksfire.gov.uk
Chief Fire Officer	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Europark, Station Rd, Thirsk YO7 1GQ	Capabilities@northyorksfire.gov.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
██████ ██████	Humberside Fire and Rescue	Humberside Fire and Rescue, Head Office, Summergroves Way, Hessle, Hull HU4 7BB	██████@humbersidefire.gov .uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Table B2 s42(1)(a) Statutory Undertakers

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
The Chief Executive	NHS South Yorkshire ICB	NHS South Yorkshire ICB, 197 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 3FG	icb.communications@nhs.net; helloworkingtogether@nhs.net
The Chief Executive	NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB	NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB, First Floor, The Council House, Corporation St, Derby DE1 2FS	ddicb.enquiries@nhs.net
The Chief Executive	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6DA	nnicb-nn.comms@nhs.net
The Chief Executive	Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICB	Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICB, New Beacon Building, Stafford Education and Enterprise Park, Weston Road, Stafford, ST18 0BF	ssotics.comms@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk
The Chief Executive	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICB	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICB, Room G30, Pen Lloyd Building, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8TB	llricb-llr.enquiries@nhs.net
The Chief Executive	West Yorkshire ICB	West Yorkshire ICB, White Rose House, West Parade, Wakefield, WF1 1LT	westyorkshireics.governance@nhs.net
The Chief Executive	East Riding, Humber and Yorkshire ICB	East Riding, Humber and Yorkshire ICB, Health Place, Wrawby Road, Brigg, DN20 8GS	hnyicb.mpqueries@nhs.net
The Chief Executive	NHS England	NHS England, Wellington House, 133-135 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG	england.contactus@nhs.net
The Company Secretary	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd, Waterloo General Office, London, SE1 8SW	TownPlanningLNE@networkrail.co.uk; Cc: [REDACTED]@networkrail.co.uk; DCO_CPO@networkrail.co.uk; [REDACTED]@networkrail.co.uk
The Company Secretary	National Highways Historical Railways Estate	National Highways Historical Railways Estate, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP	hreenquiries@nationalhighways.co.uk
The Company Secretary	The Canal and River Trust	Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW	planning@canalrivertrust.org.uk cc: [REDACTED]@canalrivertrust.org.uk
The Company Secretary	Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority, 5th Floor, Westferry House, 11 Westferry Circus, London, E14 4HD	OGCMailbox@caa.co.uk Cc: airspace@caa.co.uk
The Company Secretary	NATS En-Route Safeguarding	NATS En-Route Safeguarding, 4000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, PO15 7FL	natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Royal Mail Group	Royal Mail Group, 185 Farringdon Rd, London, EC1A 1AA	[REDACTED]@realestate.bnpparibas cc: [REDACTED]@royalmail.com; [REDACTED]@struttandparker.com

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
	The Environment Agency Yorkshire and North-East	Environment Agency Head Office, Horizon House, Bristol BS1 5A	consultation.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
The Company Secretary	Yorkshire Water	Yorkshire Water, Western House, Halifax Road, Bradford, BD6 2SZ	planningconsultation@yorkshirewater.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Northumbrian Water	Northumbrian Water, Northumbria House, Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5FJ	waterregssouth@eswater.co.uk
The Company Secretary	United Utilities	United Utilities, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere Business Park, Lingley Green Avenue, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA5 3LP	customer.services@uuplc.co.uk
	Anglian Water	Anglian Water, Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE29 6XU	@anglianwater.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Severn Trent	Severn Trent Centre, PO Box 5309, Coventry, CV3 9FH	stw.ofwat@severntrent.co.uk
The Company Secretary	South Staffs Water	South Staffs Water, Green Lane, Walsall, WS2 7PD	waterregulations@south-staffs-water.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Thames Water	Thames Water, Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading RG1 8DB	developer.services@thameswater.co.uk
The Company Secretary	South West Water	South West Water, Peninsula House, Rydon Ln, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7HR, United Kingdom	waterregs@south-west-water.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Hafren Dyfrdwy, PO Box 507, Darlington, DL1 9XF	water.regulations@HDCymru.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Dŵr Cymru	Dŵr Cymru, Linea, Fortran Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0LT	WaterRegulations@dwrcymru.com
The Company Secretary	Cadent Gas Limited	Cadent Gas Limited, Pilot Way, Ansty Park, Coventry, CV7 9JU	@cadentgas.com; landservices@cadentgas.com
The Company Secretary	Northern Gas Networks Limited	Northern Gas Networks Limited, 1100 Century Way, Thorpe Business Park Colton, Leeds, LS15 8TU	BeforeYouDig@northerngas.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Scotland Gas Networks Plc	Scotland Gas Networks Plc, St Lawrence House, Station Approach, Horley, RH6 9HJ	customer@sgn.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Southern Gas Networks Plc	Southern Gas Networks Plc, St Lawrence House, Station Approach, Horley, RH6 9HJ	customer@sgn.co.uk
The Company Secretary	CNG Services Ltd	CNG Services Ltd, Virginia House, 56 Warwick Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7HX	info@cngservices.co.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
The Company Secretary	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited, Arkwright House, 2 Arkwright Court, 98 King Street, Darwen, BB3 0FG	info@energyassetsnetworks.co.uk
The Company Secretary	ES Pipelines Ltd	ES Pipelines, 1st Floor, Bluebird House, Mole Business Park, Leatherhead, KT22 7BA	Design@espug.com; ESPEDesign@espug.com; Operations@espug.com; CustomerServices@espug.com
The Company Secretary	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited, 2 Europa View, Sheffield Business Park, Sheffield, S9 1XH	FPLPlant@fulcrum.co.uk
The Company Secretary	GTC Pipelines Limited	GTC Pipelines Limited, Synergy House, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9UP	██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk; ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited, Toll Bar Road, Marston, Grantham, NG32 2HT	info@harlaxtonenergynetworks.com
The Company Secretary	Independent Pipelines Limited	Independent Pipelines Limited, Synergy House, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9UP	██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk; ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Indigo Pipelines Limited	Indigo Pipelines Limited, 200 Brook Drive, Reading, RG2 6UB	enquiries@indigopipelines.co.uk; completionpacks@indigonetworks.co.uk; ██████████@indigopipelines.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Inovyn Enterprises Ltd	Inovyn Enterprises Ltd, Bankes Lane Office, Bankes Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4EL	
The Company Secretary	Last Mile Gas Ltd	Last Mile Gas Ltd, Fenick House, Lister Way Hamilton International Technology Park, Glasgow, G72 0FT	info@lastmile-uk.com
The Company Secretary	Leep Gas Networks Limited	Leep Gas Networks Limited, Level 2, Metro, 33 Trafford Road, Manchester, M5 3NN	operations@leeputilities.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Mua Gas Limited	Mua Gas Limited, Hiview House, Highgate Road, London, NW5 1TN	gasnetworks@murphygroup.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Stark Infra-Gas Limited	Stark Infra-Gas Limited, Sentinel House, 10-12 Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7DE	enquiries@stark.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Quadrant Pipelines Limited	Quadrant Pipelines Limited, Synergy House, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9UP	██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk; ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk
The Company Secretary	National Gas Transmission PLC	National Gas Transmission PLC, National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA	box.assetprotection@nationalgas.com; Cc: ██████████@nationalgas.com
The Company Secretary	Wales & West Utilities	Wales & West Utilities, Wales & West House, Spooner Close	enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
		Coedkernew, Newport, South Wales, NP10 8FZ	
The Company Secretary	Humbly Grove Energy Services Ltd	Humbly Grove Energy Services Ltd, Weston Common The Avenue, Lasham, Alton, Hants, United Kingdom, GU34 5SY	enquiries@humblyenergy.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Saltfleetby Energy Ltd	Saltfleetby Energy Ltd, Building 3, Chiswick Park, 566 Chiswick High Road, London, England, W4 5YA	
The Company Secretary	Smart DCC Ltd	Smart DCC Ltd, First Floor, 2 Kingdom Street, Paddington, London, England, W2 6BD	servicecentre@smartdcc.co.uk
The Company Secretary	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) PLC, Avonbank, Feeder Road, Bristol, BS2 0TB	nged.info@nationalgrid.co.uk; NGED.MapResponse@NationalGrid.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC, Lloyds Court, 78 Grey Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6AF	generalenquiries@northernpowergrid.com
The Company Secretary	Northern Powergrid (Northeast) PLC	Northern Powergrid (Northeast) PLC is Lloyds Court, 78 Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6AF	getconnected@northernpowergrid.com
The Company Secretary	Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd	Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd, Nexus Park, Avenue East, Skyline 120, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex, United Kingdom, CM77 7AL	enquiries@advancedelectricitynetworks.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Aidien Ltd	Aidien Ltd, International House, 1 St. Katharines Way, London, United Kingdom, E1W 1YL	
The Company Secretary	Aurora Utilities Ltd	Aurora Utilities Ltd, 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, United Kingdom, EC2N 2AX	
The Company Secretary	Eclipse Power Networks Ltd	Eclipse Power Networks Ltd, 25 Osier Way, Olney, England, MK46 5FP	enquiries@eclipsepower.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Energy Assets Networks Ltd	Energy Assets Networks Ltd, 98 King Street, Manchester, England, M2 4WU	info@energyassetsnetworks.co.uk
The Company Secretary	ESP Electricity Ltd	ESP Electricity Ltd, First Floor Kings Court, 41-51 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, United Kingdom, KT22 7SL	ESPEDesign@espug.com; Design@espug.com; Operations@espug.com; CustomerServices@espug.com
The Company Secretary	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Ltd	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Ltd, 2 Europa View, Sheffield Business Park, Sheffield, United Kingdom, S9 1XH	enquiries@fulcrum.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd, 1 Blossom Yard, Fourth Floor, London, United Kingdom, E1 6RS	info@greengencymru.com

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
The Company Secretary	Harlaxton Energy Networks Ltd	Harlaxton Energy Networks Ltd, Toll Bar Road, Marston, Grantham, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom, NG32 2HT	info@harlaxtonenergynetworks.com
The Company Secretary	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU	info@idcs.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Indigo Power Ltd	Indigo Power Ltd, 200 Brook Drive, Green Park, Reading, England, RG2 6UB	IndigoPower@indigopipelines.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Independent Power Networks Ltd	Independent Power Networks Ltd, Synergy House Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, England, IP30 9UP	customer.services@gtc-uk.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Last Mile Electricity Ltd	Last Mile Electricity Ltd, Fenick House Lister Way, Hamilton International Technology Park, Glasgow, Scotland, Scotland, G72 0FT	info@lastmile-uk.com
The Company Secretary	Leep Electricity Networks Ltd	Leep Electricity Networks Ltd, Level 2, Metro, 33 Trafford Road, Manchester, England, M5 3NN	electricity@leeputilities.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Mua Electricity Ltd	Mua Electricity Ltd, Hiview House, Highgate Road, London, United Kingdom, NW5 1TN	mail@murphygroup.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Optimal Power Networks Ltd	Optimal Power Networks Ltd, 1 Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 3JH	OptimalPowerNetworks@sse.com
The Company Secretary	Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd	Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd, Sentinel House, 10-12 Massetts Road, Horley, United Kingdom, RH6 7DE	enquiries@stark.co.uk
The Company Secretary	The Electricity Network Company Ltd	The Electricity Network Company Ltd, Synergy House, Windmill Avenue, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, England, IP30 9UP	██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk; ██████████@gtc-uk.co.uk
The Company Secretary	UK Power Distribution Ltd	UK Power Distribution Ltd, Eleanor House, Queenswood Office Park, Newport Pagnell Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England, NN4 7JJ	newconnections@ukpowerdistribution.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Utility Assets Ltd	Utility Assets Ltd, 5 Brayford Square, London, England, E1 0SG	distributionmanager@utilityassets.co.uk
The Company Secretary	Vattenfall Networks Ltd	Vattenfall Networks Ltd, 5th Floor, 70, St Mary Axe, London, United Kingdom, EC3A 8BE	UK-networks@vattenfall.com
The Company Secretary	Vital Energi Power Networks Ltd	Vital Energi Power Networks Ltd, Century House, Roman Road, Blackburn, Lancashire, United Kingdom, BB1 2LD	billing@vitalenergi.co.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Individual	Organisation	Address	Email
The Company Secretary	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc, 1 - 3 Strand, London, WC2N 5EH	[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com; box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com; assetprotection@nationalgrid.com; box.NGVops@nationalgrid.com; ; [REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com
The Company Secretary	National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited	National Grid Electricity System Operation Limited, 1 - 3 Strand, London, WC2N 5EH	transmissionconnections@nationalgrideso.com; commercial.operation@nationalgrideso.com; assetprotection@nationalgrid.com; box.NGVops@nationalgrid.com

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Table B3 s42(1)(a) Relevant Parish Councils

Organisation	Address	Email
Adwick upon Dearne Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@adwickupondearneparishcouncil.org.uk
Anston Parish Council	Anston Parish Council, Anston Parish Hall, 15a Ryton Road, North Anston, Sheffield, S25 4DL	Clerk@anston.gov.uk
Aston cum Aughton Parish Council	[REDACTED]	admin@aston-pc.gov.uk
Barlborough Parish Council	The Community Centre, Park View, Barlborough, Chesterfield S43 4HJ	clerk@barlboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barnburgh and Harlington Parish Council	[REDACTED]	barnburghpc@gmail.com
Braithwell and Micklebring Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk_bwmpc@yahoo.com
Bramley Parish Council	Bramley Parish Council, The Bill Chafer Youth & Community Centre, Flash Lane, Bramley, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S66 1TS	clerk@bramleypc.gov.uk
Brinsworth Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@brinsworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cadeby Parish Council	N/A	highmeltonpc@outlook.com
Catcliffe Parish Council	Catcliffe Memorial Hall, Old School Lane, Catcliffe, S60 5SP	clerk@catcliffepc.com
Conisbrough Parks Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@conisbroughparksparishcouncil.org.uk
Dalton Parish Council	Dalton Parish Hall, Doncaster Road, Dalton, S65 3ET	daltonparishcouncil@daltonpc.org.uk
Dinnington St John's Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@dinningtonstjohns-tc.gov.uk
Eckington Parish Council	Eckington Civic Centre Market Street Eckington S21 4JG	clerk@eckington-pc.gov.uk
Edlington Town Council	The Grainger Centre and Council Offices, Stubbins Hill, Edlington, Doncaster, DN12 1JN	clerk@edlingtontowncouncil.org
Firbeck Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@firbeckparishcouncil.gov.uk
Harthill with Woodall Parish Council	Village Hall, Winney Hill, Harthill, Sheffield, S26 7YL	clerk@harthillwithwoodall-pc.gov.uk
Hellaby Parish Council	Centenary Hall, Bateman Road, Hellaby, Rotherham, S66 8HA	hellabyparishhall@outlook.com
High Melton Parish Council	[REDACTED]	highmeltonpc@outlook.com
Hodsock Parish Council	Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Markham Road, Langold, Worksop, S81 9SW	hodsockparish@hotmail.co.uk
Hooton Levitt Parish Council	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]@sgb-associates.com
Hooton Roberts Parish Council	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]@outlook.com

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Organisation	Address	Email
Killamarsh Parish Council	Killamarsh Parish Council, Parish Council Office, Stanley Street, Killamarsh, Derbyshire S21 1EL	parish.office@killamarsh-pc.gov.uk; Deputy.ParishClerk@Killamars h-pc.gov.uk
Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council	The Village Hall, Firbeck Avenue, Rotherham, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, S25 1YD	clerk@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Maltby Town Council	Edward Dunn Memorial Hall, Tickhill Rd, Maltby, Rotherham S66 7NQ	clerk@maltbytowncouncil.co.uk
Old Denaby Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@olddenaby-pc.gov.uk
Orgreave Parish Council	[REDACTED]	orgreavepc@gmail.com
Ravenfield Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk
Shireoaks Parish Council	[REDACTED]	shireoaksparish@gmail.com
Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Stainton Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk_stainton@yahoo.com
Styrrup with Oldcotes Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@styrrupwitholdcotes.pc@gmail.com
Thorpe Salvin Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@ts-pc.gov.uk
Thrybergh Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk.thryberghpc@gmail.com
Thurcroft Parish Council	Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD	clerk@thurcroftparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tickhill Town Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@tickhilltowncouncil.gov.uk
Todwick Parish Council	[REDACTED]	clerk@todwick-pc.gov.uk
Treeton Parish Council	[REDACTED]	treetonpc@aol.com
Ulley Parish Council	Ulley Village Hall, Main Street, Ulley, Sheffield, S26 3YD	clerk.ulleypc@outlook.com
Wales Parish Council	[REDACTED]	office@walesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Warmsworth Parish Council	Warmsworth Resource Centre, Stapleton Road, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9LL	clerk.warmsworthpc@gmail.com
Waverley Parish Council	c/o Catcliffe Memorial Hall, Old School Lane, Catcliffe, Rotherham, S60 5SP	clerk@waverley-cc.gov.uk
Whiston Parish Council	The Parish Hall, Well Lane, Rotherham, Whiston, S60 4HX	clerk@whistonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Whitwell Parish Council	The Whitwell Centre, Portland Street Whitwell Worksop Nottinghamshire S80 4QR	clerk@whitwell-pc.gov.uk

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Organisation	Address	Email
Wickersley Parish Council	Wickersley Community Centre, 286 Bawtry Road, Rotherham, Wickersley, S66 1JJ	clerk@wickersleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Woodsetts Parish Council	Woodsetts Village Hall, Gildingwells Road, Woodsetts, Worksop, S81 8QB	clerk@woodsettsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Appendix B1.2 Sample letters sent to consultees under s42(1)(A)



Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed Whitestone Solar Farm (EN0110020)
Statutory consultation: 16 September to 28 October 2025
Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 Duty to consult on a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

Why we are consulting you

I am writing regarding 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') application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development'). The Applicant intends to make the DCO application in Q2 2026.

I am writing to you because you have been identified as a prescribed consultee under section 42(1)(a) of the Act, and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and/or the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'), meaning we are required to consult with you on the proposed DCO before submitting an application. From 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 we held our non-statutory consultation, which resulted in the changes made to the proposed DCO application.

This letter is a notice of the pre-application statutory consultation. The statutory consultation period for the Proposed Development is from **16 September to 28 October 2025**. We invite you to submit your feedback on the Proposed Development during this period.

This letter explains how to take part in the statutory consultation and how you can share your views on the Proposed Development. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the combined section 47 and 48 notice published under the Act.

Overview of Whitestone Solar Farm

The Proposed Development would comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') array electricity generating facility and battery energy storage system with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW and import/export connection to the National Electricity Transmission System.

The Proposed Development would be located across three main land areas located 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

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15826972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF



proposed to the south of Conisbrough, Whitestone 2 to the east of Brinsworth, and Whitestone 3 to the west and north of Harthill.

You can find further details about the consultation in our booklet at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or request via the details provided in this leaflet all our consultation materials on a USB free of charge.

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.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the EIA 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. Further environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken, and a full Environmental Statement will be produced and submitted with the proposed DCO application.

Consultation Materials

We have developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from **16 September 2025**. All consultation materials will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire, available at our events or via post on request, and return it at an event or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday 28 October 2025.

Next steps



Following this statutory consultation, the Applicant will consider all the feedback received and continue to refine the Proposed Development before submitting a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in Q2 2026. The DCO application will include a Consultation Report, which will set out how we have consulted on the Proposed Development, summarise the responses received and explain how we have had regard to them.

Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process.

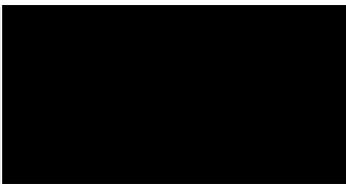
When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-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 the contact methods provided below:

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

Yours sincerely,



Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Appendix B1.3 Sample letters sent to consultees under s42(1)(b)



Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed Whitestone Solar Farm (EN0110020)
Statutory consultation: 16 September to 28 October 2025
Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008: Duty to consult on a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

Why we are consulting you

I am writing regarding 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') application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development'). The Applicant intends to make the DCO application in Q2 2026.

I am writing to you because you have been identified as a prescribed consultee under section 42(1)(b) of the Act and/or the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'), meaning we are required to consult with you on the proposed DCO before submitting an application. From 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 we held our non-statutory consultation, which resulted in the changes made to the proposed DCO application.

This letter is a notice of the pre-application statutory consultation. The statutory consultation period for the Proposed Development is from **16 September to 28 October 2025**. We invite you to submit your feedback on the Proposed Development during this period.

This letter explains how to take part in the statutory consultation and how you can share your views on the Proposed Development. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the combined section 47 and 48 notice published under the Act.

Overview of Whitestone Solar Farm

The Proposed Development would comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') array electricity generating facility and battery energy storage system with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW and import/export connection to the National Electricity Transmission System.

The Proposed Development would be located across three main land areas located 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.

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15826972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF



You can find further details about the consultation in our booklet at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or request via the details provided in this leaflet all our consultation materials on a USB free of charge.

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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.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the EIA 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. Further environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken, and a full Environmental Statement will be produced and submitted with the proposed application.

Consultation Materials

We have developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from **16 September 2025**. All consultation materials will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

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Date and time	Location
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14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire, available at our events or via post on request, and return it at an event or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday 28 October 2025.

Next steps

Following this statutory consultation, the Applicant will consider all the feedback received and continue to refine the Proposed Development before submitting a DCO



application to the Planning Inspectorate in Q2 2026. The DCO application will include a Consultation Report, which will set out how we have consulted on the Proposed Development, summarise the responses received and explain how we have had regard to them.

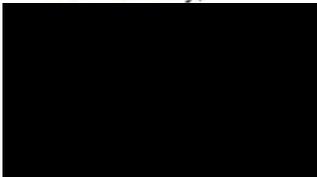
When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice

Communications Lines

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Project, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided below:

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

Yours sincerely,



Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Appendix B1.4 Sample letters sent to consultees under s42(1)(d)



Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed Whitestone Solar Farm (EN0110020)
Statutory consultation: 16 September to 28 October 2025
Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008: Duty to consult on a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

Why we are consulting you

I am writing regarding 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') application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State') under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act') to authorise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development'). The Applicant intends to make the DCO application in Q2 2026.

I am writing to you because you have been identified as a prescribed consultee under section 42(1)(d) of the Act, and/or the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations'), meaning we are required to consult with you on the proposed DCO before submitting an application. From 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 we held our non-statutory consultation, which resulted in the changes made to the proposed DCO application.

This letter is a notice of the statutory pre-application consultation. The statutory consultation period for the Proposed Development is from **16 September to 28 October 2025**. We invite you to submit your feedback on the Proposed Development during this period.

This letter explains how to take part in the statutory consultation and how you can share your views on the Proposed Development. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the combined section 47 and 48 notice published under the Act.

Overview of Whitestone Solar Farm

The Proposed Development would comprise the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') array electricity generating facility and battery energy storage system with a generating capacity in excess of 50MW and import/export connection to the National Electricity Transmission System.

The Proposed Development would be located across three main land areas located 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.

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15826972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF



You can find further details about the consultation in our booklet at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or request via the details provided in this leaflet all our consultation materials on a USB free of charge.

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.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the EIA 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. Further environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken, and a full Environmental Statement will be produced and submitted with the proposed application.

Consultation Materials

We have developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from **16 September**. All consultation materials will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire, available at our events or via post on request, and return it at an event or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday 28 October 2025.

Next steps

Following this statutory consultation, the Applicant will consider all the feedback received and continue to refine the Proposed Development before submitting a DCO



application to the Planning Inspectorate in Q2 2026. The DCO application will include a Consultation Report, which will set out how we have consulted on the Proposed Development, summarise the responses received and explain how we have had regard to them.

Any comments received will be analysed by the Applicant and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the DCO process.

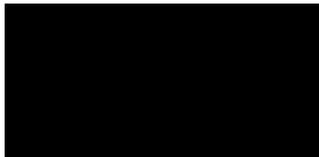
When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-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 the contact methods provided below:

- Call Freephone: **0800 688 9936**
- Email: **info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk**
- Write to: **Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local** (no stamp is needed)

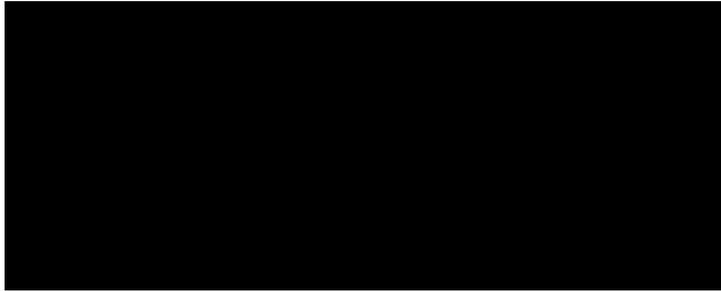
Yours sincerely,



Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

APPENDIX B2 NOTIFICATION UNDER S46

Appendix B2.1 Email to Planning Inspectorate under S46



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**.

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15826972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF



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.

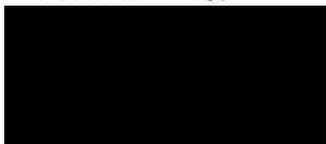
Communications Lines

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

Appendix B2.2 Confirmation of receipt from Planning Inspectorate under s46



Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure
Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: WhitestoneSolarfarm@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

To Whitestone Next Zero Limited

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN0110020

Date: 10 September 2025

By email only

Dear Sir

Planning Act 2008 – section 46 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – regulation 8

Proposed application by Whitestone Net Zero Limited for an order granting development consent for Whitestone Solar Farm

Acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning proposed application

Thank you for your email of 8 September 2025 and the following documentation:

- Section 46 notice

We acknowledge that you have notified the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application for an order granting development consent for the purposes of section 46 of The Planning Act 2008 and when the information for consultation under section 42 will become available.

We also acknowledge that you have provided notification in accordance with regulation 8(1)(b) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 as part of your Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report dated 23 April 2025 that you propose to provide an environmental statement in respect of the proposed development.

Please contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Sheard

Matthew Sheard

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



Case Manager

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our ['Privacy Notice'](#) before sending information to The Planning Inspectorate.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>



APPENDIX B3 NOTIFICATION UNDER S47 AND S48

Appendix B3.1 Combined S47/S48 Notice



**Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008
Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009
Notice of publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order
for Whitestone Solar Farm**

Notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15826972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock, England, BA3 4QF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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").

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

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

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15826972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF



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 Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA 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 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.

Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Act.

The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from **16 September 2025**. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a



maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harhill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitstone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning



Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-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@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: **Whitstone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local** (no stamp is needed)

Appendix B3.2 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in Doncaster Free Press 11 September 2025

Doncaster Free Press

doncasterfreepress.co.uk | facebook.com/DonnyFP | @donnyfreepress

Thursday, September 11, 2025 £1.90

Google ROUND BRAND
Doors & Windows
• Online pricing
• No Salesman
www.roundbrand.co.uk
Tel: 01302 833023
Coorose Lane, Airedale, Doncaster DN3 3ED

PICKERING MOTOR COMPANY
Pickering Motor Company Ltd
Peel Hall Business Village, Peel Road, Blackpool, FY4 5JX
www.pickeringmotorcompany.co.uk
TEL: 01253 545 848
NATIONWIDE DELIVERY £99

OVER 100 QUALITY USED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES AVAILABLE
A family run business with over 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE, offering huge savings on quality used wheelchair accessible vehicles direct from the Motability fleet.

RAC Approved Dealer Motability Scheme

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES



Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Notice of publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitestone Solar Farm
 notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15829872) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Stratton-on-the-Avon, Radstock, England, BA3 4DF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application (the "Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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).

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publishes where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation. Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development would be located across three main land areas east of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, within the administrative area 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 Bircworth, 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 > 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 Bircworth (Bircworth B);
- other infrastructure works including on-site cabling, ancillary buildings such as office 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 Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA 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 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. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(9) of the Act.

The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from 16 September 2025. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge in a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is holding a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, 566 800
3 October 1pm-6pm	Toadwick Village Hall, S25 1HU
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S25 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicly during the period 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on 28 October 2025.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, our postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-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 5836 (9.05am 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)

Appendix B3.3 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in Doncaster Free Press 18 September 2025

Doncaster Free Press

doncasterfreepress.co.uk | facebook.com/DennyFP | @dennyfreepress

Thursday, September 18, 2025 **TRUSTED NEWS SINCE 1925** £1.90

It's back! Unlimited rail travel from **£12**

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Doors & Windows
• Online pricing
• No Salesman
www.doorsandwindows.co.uk
Tel: 01302 833029
Carpenter Lane, Airedale,
Doncaster DN1 2JF

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Get your **FREE Brochure Pack NOW!**

0800 0373 443
www.adjustamatic.uk

ADJUSTAMATIC
COMFORT YOU CONTROL



**Whitstone Net Zero Ltd
Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008**

**Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
Notice of publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitstone Solar Farm**

Notice is hereby given that WHITSTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15026972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Station-On-The-Pease, Radstock, England, BA3 4QF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application (the "Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to authorise the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Whitstone Solar Farm, a solar photovoltaic (PV) array generating facility and energy storage facility and associated infrastructure (the "Proposed Development").

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publishes where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation. Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publish the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with these provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

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 150MW 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 S);
- 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 Proposed Development is an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA 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 Applicant will carry out pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development from 15 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. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(8) of the Act.

The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from 16 September 2025. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is holding a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon (Bernall) Memorial Hall, S85 9DD
3 October 1pm-3pm	Tadwick Village Hall, S26 1HU
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Inverhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Rivankfield Parish Hall, S66 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Winston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicly during the period 16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitstone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during 16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025 when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report. Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-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 666 9936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Email: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitstone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

Appendix B3.4 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in Rotherham
Advertiser 11 September 2025

ROTHERHAM
Advertiser
Thursday, September 11, 2025 **MAKING YOUR VOICE LOUDER** £1.50

healthbeds **SALE NOW ON**
50% OFF ALL CLEARANCE
UPTO 20% OFF MADE TO ORDER BEDS
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM: Kingsforth Road, Thurgroft, Rotherham, Sat Nav: S66 9HU
Tel: 01709 550602 • www.healthbeds.co.uk



Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Notice of publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitestone Solar Farm
 Notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15456972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Station-On-The-Fosse, Radstock, England, BA3 4QF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application (the "Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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).

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publishes where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation. Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

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 Birtworth, 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 Birtworth (Birtworth 5);
- other infrastructure works including gravel/crushing, 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 Proposed Development is an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations). The Applicant has therefore produced a draft Environmental 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 Applicant will carry out pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development from 16 September to 28 October 2025. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(8) of the Act.

The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC. The consultation materials will be available in several formats from 16 September 2025. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events
 In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thunroff Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, 866 5DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HU
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S66 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Uiley Village Hall, S28 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S69 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for assentation. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report. Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on 28 October 2025.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice

Communications Lines

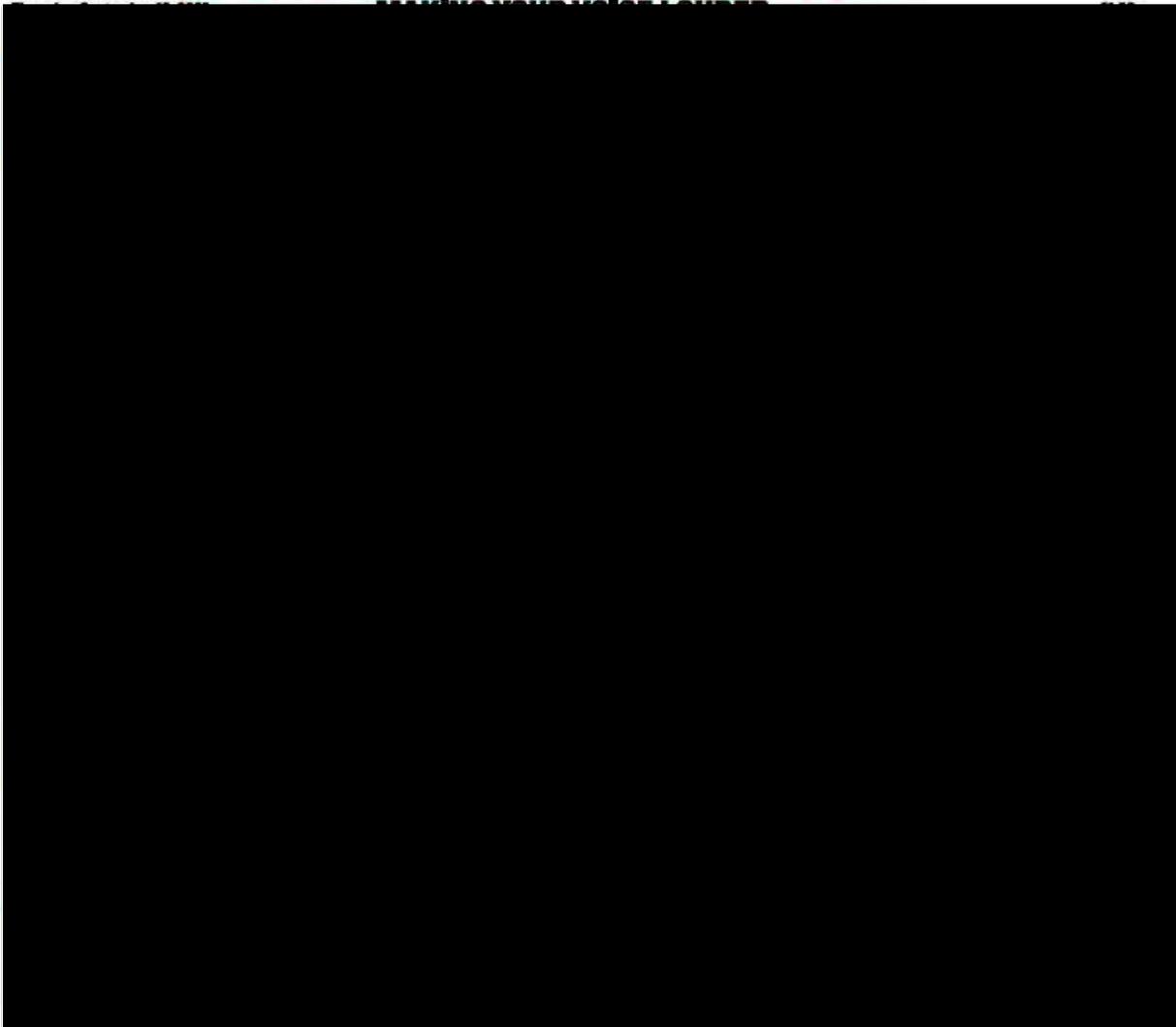
If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of these methods:

- Call Freephone: 0800 866 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)

**Appendix B3.5 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in Rotherham
Advertiser 18 September 2025**



ROTHERHAM
Advertiser



NW&S
NORRIE WAITE & SLATER
SOLICITORS

Parkgate Office, Rotherham
Dedicated to providing YOU with legal support
www.norriewaite.co.uk | 01709 523983

Thursday, September 18, 2025 www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk



Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008
Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009
Notice of publishing a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitestone Solar Farm

Notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 19829972) of The Long Barn Manor, Courtyard, Station-On-The-Fosse, Nantwick, England, BA3 4GF (the "Applicant") propose to make an application (The "Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") to permit 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).

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publishes where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publish the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with these provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development would be located across three main land areas east of Skelton, South Yorkshire, within the administrative areas of the City of Doncaster Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The southern extent of the Proposed Core Link area lies 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 Uthwaite, 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. This threshold is due to change on 31 December 2025 for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project to 100MW under The Infrastructure Planning (Onshore Wind and Solar Generation) Order 2025, but the Proposed Development exceeds this 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 Safety Energy Storage System, along with underground cables to connect to the National Electricity Transmission System at the new National Grid substation at Binsworth (Binsworth 5);
- 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 easements as needed.

The Proposed Development is an "IA" (Environmental Impact Assessment) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA 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 Applicant will carry out pre-application consultation on the Proposed Development from 18 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. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(8) of the Act.

The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from 18 September 2025. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-history/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is holding a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback.

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-5pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9GD
9 October 10am-5pm	Tyebank Village Hall, S26 1HU
4 October 10am-5pm	Conisbrough Leamhoe Centre, DN12 3UX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenhill Parish Hall, S25 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Uthay Village Hall, S26 3TD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whitson Village Hall, S20 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period 18 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost BBC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during 18 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on 28 October 2025.

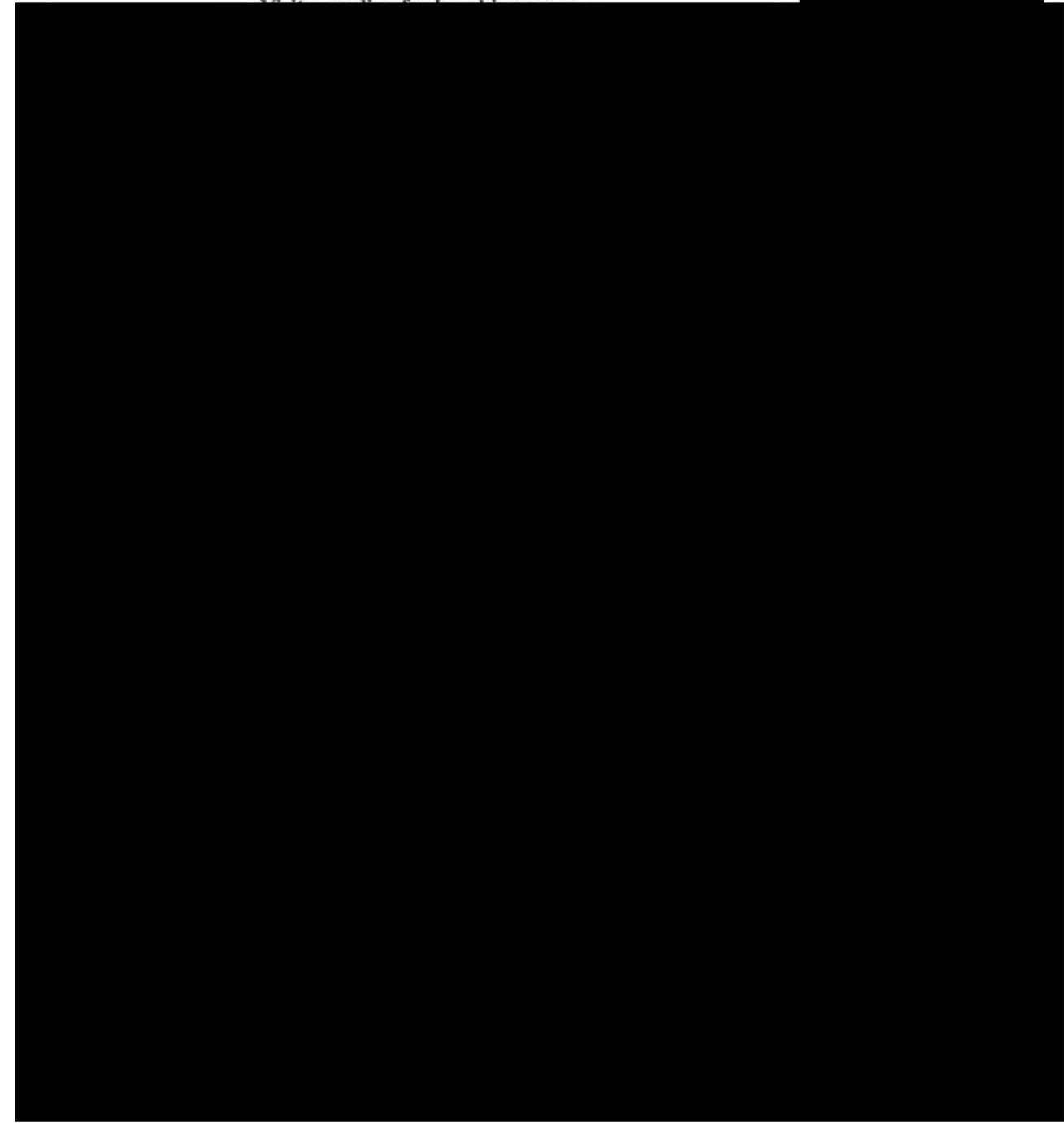
When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of those purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-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 686 9006 (9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday)
- Email: info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEMPOST BBC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

Appendix B3.6 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in Derbyshire Times 11 September 2025



ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Thursday, September 11, 2025 www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk



Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008

Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Notice of publishing a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitestone Solar Farm

Notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15426972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Redstock, England, BA3 4GF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application (the "Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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).

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publishes where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publish the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

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 Binsworth, and Whitestone 3 to the west and north of Hartfield.

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 a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project to 100MW under The Infrastructure Planning (Closure 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 Binsworth (Binsworth II);
- 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 easements as needed.

The Proposed Development is an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (IPA Regulations). The Applicant has therefore produced a draft Environmental 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 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. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(8) of the Act.

The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from 16 September 2025. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipients.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9UD
3 October 1pm-3pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HU
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3DX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Hartfield Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Milly Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWCASTLE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on 28 October 2025.

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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 888 8836 (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)

Appendix B3.7 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in Derbyshire Times 18 September 2025

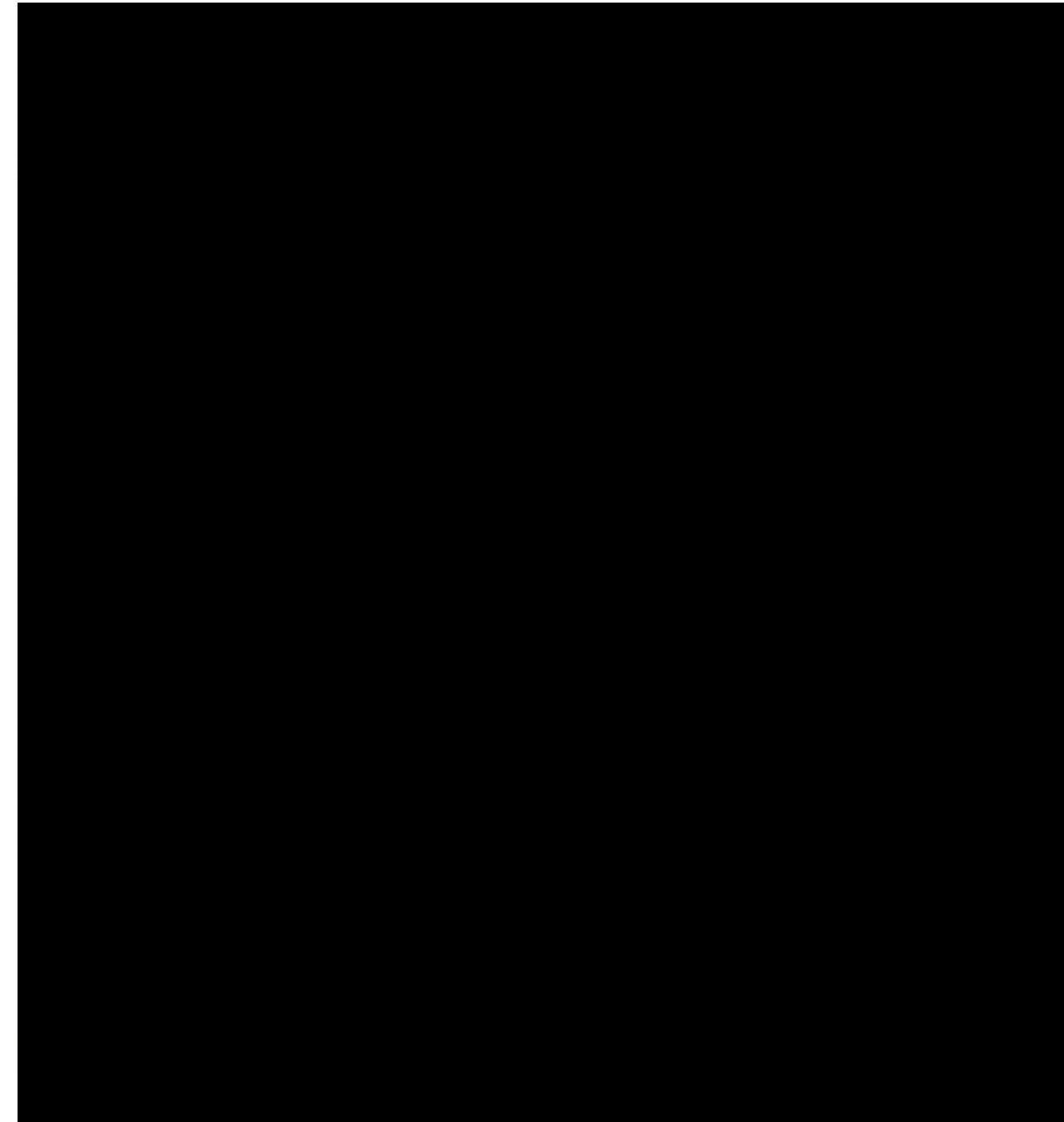
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incorporating Ilkeston Advertiser, Ripley & Heanor News, Belper News

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Thursday, September 13, 2025

£1.90





DERBYSHIRETIMES | 10



Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008
Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
Notice of publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitestone Solar Farm

Notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 16826972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Station-On-The-Fosse, Reafoot, England, BA3 4QF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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").

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation. Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with these provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

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 Binsworth, 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 Binsworth (Binsworth 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 easements as needed.

The Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('IA 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 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. Under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, the Applicant has produced a SoCC. The SoCC explains how the Applicant will undertake the consultation with the local community and stakeholders about the Proposed Development, where the consultation documents can be viewed, where public events will be held and explains how people can comment on the proposals and provide responses to the consultation. This notice provides formal notification of the publication of the SoCC including where and when it can be inspected in accordance with Section 47(6) of the Act.

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Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S26 9XD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Roxburgh Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Uley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period 16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during 16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025 when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for consideration. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses, for further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notice

Communications Lines

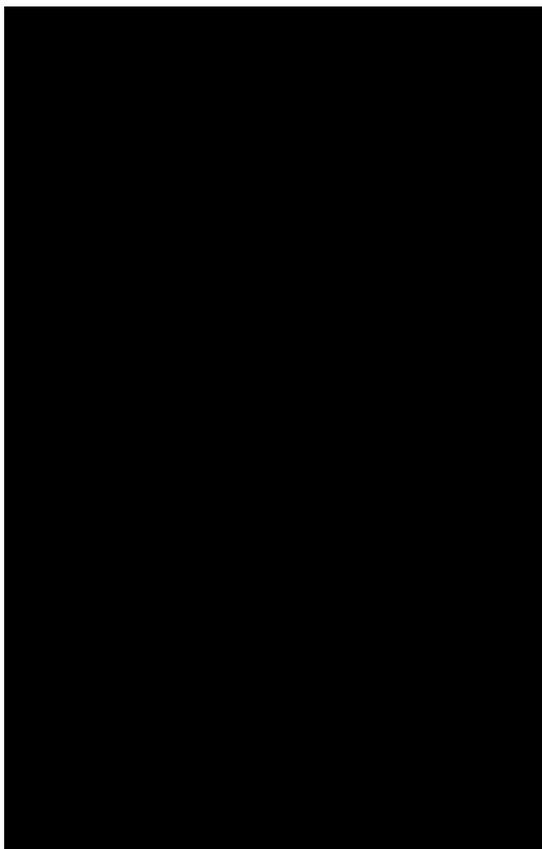
If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of these methods:

- Call Freephone: 0800 888 8936 (9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Email: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

Appendix B3.8 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in London Gazette

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE



**WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD
SECTION 47 AND 48 PLANNING ACT 2008
REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS
PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009
NOTICE OF PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER FOR WHITESTONE SOLAR
FARM**

Notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15826972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock, England, BA3 4QF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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").

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

Additionally, the Applicant has a duty to publicise the proposed Application under Section 48 of the Act in line with Regulation 4 of the 2009 Regulations. In accordance with those provisions, this notice also summarises the main proposals and explains where the consultation documents can be viewed.

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 Proposed Development is an 'EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('EIA 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 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.

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The Applicant has developed a variety of materials to provide more information about the Proposed Development, 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 the SoCC.

The consultation materials will be available in several formats from 16 September 2025. All consultation materials, including the SoCC, will be available to download online free of charge at www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/document-library/ or free of charge on a USB on request using the details in this notice. Printed copies of the consultation booklet, SoCC and questionnaire are available free of charge upon request using the details in this notice. Requests for hard copies of the draft ES will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents) may be charged to the recipient.

Upcoming information events

In addition, the Applicant is hosting a number of public events at the following dates and locations to enable individuals to learn more about the Proposed Development and share their feedback:

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
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8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** through any of the following methods:

- Complete a questionnaire online at the project website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received during **16 September to 11:59pm on 28 October 2025** when developing the DCO application once the consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a consultation report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the DCO application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of that consultation report.

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on 28 October 2025.

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planninginspectorate-privacy-notices

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@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: **Whitstone Solar Farm, FREEPOST SEC Newgate UK Local** (no stamp is needed) (4963396)

LONDON GAZETTE | CONTAINING ALL NOTICES PUBLISHED ONLINE ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 | 18011

REPORT TITLE

whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

Appendix B3.9 Evidence of S47/S48 Notice in The Guardian

Section:GDN IN PaGe:16 Edition Date:250916 Edition:01 Zone: Sent at 15/9/2025 10:10

cYanmaGentaYellow

ADVERTISEMENT

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Section 47 and 48 Planning Act 2008
Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
Notice of publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for Whitestone Solar Farm

No notice is hereby given that WHITESTONE NET ZERO LTD (company number: 15826972) of The Long Barn Manor Courtyard, Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock, England, BA3 4QF (the "Applicant") proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the "Act") for 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").

In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, this notice publicises where and when the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) can be inspected. The SoCC sets out how the Applicant will undertake its consultation.

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The Proposed Development

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7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

How to respond to the consultation

Any person may comment on the Proposed Development or otherwise respond to this publicity during the period 16 September to 11.59pm on 28 October 2025 through any of the following methods:

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- Complete a paper questionnaire and return it at one of our events or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Send written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

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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, FREPOST SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

APPENDIX B4 NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMUNITY AS SPECIFIC IN THE SOCC

Appendix B4.1 Leaflet posted to core consultation zone



We will soon start a second round of consultation on our updated plans for Whitestone Solar Farm, a proposed solar farm with battery storage that would be located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster.

In response to the feedback we received at the first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, we have made significant changes to the project design. This included removing around one fourth of the solar panels to create buffers around homes, villages and public rights of way. Based on technical and environmental assessments, we have now updated the masterplan to include the potential locations for substations, batteries, and cable routes.

We are presenting the updated masterplan for your feedback, along with the initial findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Feedback received during this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will continue to inform the project proposals.

Find out more

Visit the project website www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk for more information on our updated proposals. You can also attend any of the public information events to learn more and ask questions of the project team.

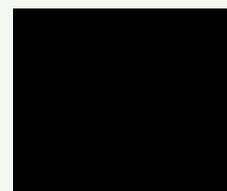
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Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
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7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

Submit your feedback

Submit your written feedback via the following methods by 11:59pm on 28 October:

- **Complete an online feedback form**, available through our website: whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Complete a paper feedback form**, available at our information events or by request
- **Send an email to:** info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Write to:** Whitestone Solar Farm
Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local
(no stamp is needed)



0800 688 9936 info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk



Why here?

The starting point for the project was the grid connection at Brinsworth Substation in Rotherham. From there, we looked for land nearby that would be suitable for solar while avoiding the most productive agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas. We will continue to refine the design based on environmental assessments and feedback from the community.



Why use agricultural land instead of rooftops or brownfields?

We support the rooftop revolution and continue to develop rooftop installations as part of our wider business. However, to meet national energy needs, large scale projects like Whitestone are needed because they can produce a significant amount of energy, and are a tried and tested technology that can be developed quickly.



Have you taken environmental considerations into account?

We are undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment, which will assess potential impacts on biodiversity, landscape, flood risk, cultural heritage, and more. The initial findings from our assessments are part of this consultation and can be viewed in the draft Environmental Statement, available on our website whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk and at our public information events.



Why does this application go to national government rather than through local planning?

Because of its size, Whitestone is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the project, which will be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. Even though local authorities will not make the final decision, they have a vital role to play in shaping the proposals through consultation and ongoing engagement.



Will my feedback be considered?

Yes, we are holding two consultations before the application is submitted. Our first round of consultation ran for 11 weeks, and included public events, meetings with parish councils and other stakeholders, and individual discussions with local residents. We received 940 pieces of written feedback, which we have reviewed and considered, to inform the updated design shown at this round of consultation. We are now holding our second consultation on the updated masterplan and draft Environmental Statement, which will help inform the proposals we submit in our DCO application next spring.



0800 688 9936



info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk



whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

Appendix B4.2 Social Media Advertising

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Whitestone Solar Farm

September 18, 2025 · 🌐

...

The second round of consultation on our updated plans for Whitestone Solar Farm is now open and will run from 16 September to 28 October 2025.

In response to the feedback we received at the first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, we have made significant changes to the project design. This included removing around one fourth of the solar panels to create buffers around homes, villages and public rights of way.

More detailed information about the proposals, including our consultation booklets, maps and the draft Environmental Statement can be found on our website: www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

You can submit your feedback by 11:59pm on 28 October in any of the following ways:

- Complete an online feedback form at www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form (available at our information events or by request)
- Email us: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp needed)



We will soon start a second round of consultation on our updated plans for Whitestone Solar Farm, a proposed solar farm with battery storage that would be located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster.

In response to the feedback we received at the first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, we have made significant changes to the project design. This included removing around one fourth of the solar panels to create buffers around homes, villages and public rights of way. Based on technical and environmental assessments, we have now updated the masterplan to include the potential locations for substations, batteries, and cable routes.

We are presenting the updated masterplan for your feedback, along with the initial findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Feedback received during this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will continue to inform the project proposals.

Find out more

Visit the project website www.whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk for more information on our updated proposals. You can also attend any of the public information events to learn more and ask questions of the project team.

Public information events

Date and time	Location
2 October 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
3 October 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
4 October 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
7 October 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
8 October 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
14 October 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
15 October 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

Submit your feedback

Submit your written feedback via the following methods by 11:59pm on 28 October:

- **Complete an online feedback form**, available through our website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Complete a paper feedback form**, available at our information events or by request
- **Send an email to:** info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Write to:** Whitestone Solar Farm
Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local
(no stamp is needed)



0800 688 9936



info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk



whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

Appendix B4.3 Sample email sent to non-statutory consultees

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to let you know that the second round of consultation on our updated plans for Whitestone Solar Farm is now open and will run from **16 September to 28 October 2025**.

In response to the feedback we received at the first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, we have made significant changes to the project design. This included removing around one fourth of the solar panels to create buffers around homes, villages and public rights of way.

Based on technical and environmental assessments, we have now updated the masterplan to include the potential locations for substations, batteries, and cable routes. We are presenting the updated masterplan for your feedback, along with the initial findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Feedback received during this consultation, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will continue to inform the project proposals.

More detailed information about the proposals, including our consultation booklets, maps and the draft Environmental Statement can be found on our website: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

How to provide your feedback

You can submit your feedback by 11:59pm on 28 October in any of the following ways:

- **Complete an online feedback form** at www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Complete a paper feedback form** (available at our information events or by request)
- **Email us:** info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- **Write to:** Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp needed)

Public Information Events

We invite you to attend any of our upcoming events to learn more and ask the project team any questions you may have.

Date	Location
Thursday, 2 October 2025 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
Friday, 3 October 2025 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
Saturday, 4 October 2025 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
Tuesday, 7 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
Wednesday, 8 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
Tuesday, 14 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 12pm-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

Please do get in touch if you have any questions, and provide your feedback on the proposals.

Kind regards,

Appendix B4.4 List of non-statutory consultees

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Organisation	Role	Consultee
Cabinet Members		
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)	Leader of the Council, Councillor for Swinton Rockingham	Cllr Chris Read
RMBC	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working, Councillor for Rawmarsh East	Cllr Dave Sheppard
RMBC	Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities, Councillor for Boston Castle	Cllr Saghir Alam
RMBC	Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor for Aston & Todwick	Cllr Sarah Ann Allen
RMBC	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Councillor for Rawmarsh West	Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers
RMBC	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor for Kilnhurst & Swinton East	Cllr Victoria Cusworth
RMBC	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, Councillor for Aughton & Swallownest	Cllr Robert Taylor
City of Doncaster Council (CDC)	Elected Mayor	Ros Jones CBE
CDC	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Safer Communities, Councillor for Hexthorpe and Balby North	Cllr Glyn Jones
CDC	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Public Health, Councillor for Bentley	Cllr James Church

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15828972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



CDC	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, Councillor for Stainforth and Barnby Dun	Cllr Sue Farmer
CDC	Cabinet Member for Adults, Wellbeing and Culture, Councillor for Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall	Cllr David Nevett
North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC)	Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance, Councillor for North Wingfield Central	Cllr Nigel Barker
NEDDC	Deputy Leader of The Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance, Councillor for Sutton	Cllr Pat Kerry
NEDDC	Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets, Councillor for North Wingfield Central	Cllr Jayne Barry
NEDDC	Portfolio Holder for Council Services, Councillor for Sutton	Cllr Joseph Birkin
NEDDC	Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place, Councillor for Eckington South and Renishaw	Cllr Stephen Pickering
NEDDC	Portfolio Holder for Health & Leisure, Councillor for Clay Cross North	Cllr Kathy Rouse
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)	South Yorkshire Mayor	Oliver Coppard
Planning Committees		
RMBC	Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor for Wath	Cllr Sheila Cowen
RMBC	Chair of Planning Board, Councillor for Hooper	Cllr John Williams

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



RMBC	Vice-Chair of Planning Board, Councillor for Wickersley North	Cllr James Mault
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Rother Vale	Cllr Terry Adair
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Rotherham East	Cllr Angham Ahmed
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Rawmarsh West	Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Dinnington	Cllr Sophie Castledine-Dack
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Keppel	Cllr Simon Currie
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Greasbrough	Cllr Rob Elliott
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Sitwell	Cllr David Fisher
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Boston Castle	Cllr Ashiq Hussain
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Rotherham West	Cllr Eve Rose Keenan
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Wickersley North	Cllr Stuart Knight
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Anston & Woodsetts	Cllr Drew Tarmey
RMBC	Planning Board, Councillor for Sitwell	Cllr Paul Thorp
CDC	Chair of Planning Committee, Councillor for Town	Cllr Majid Khan
CDC	Vice-Chair of Planning Committee, Councillor for Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall	Cllr Alexander Jones
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Rossington and Bawtry	Cllr Bob Anderson

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Finningley	Cllr Steve Cox
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Hatfield	Cllr Dan Dawson
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Town	Cllr Rob Dennis
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Bessacarr	Cllr Chris Kidger
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Norton and Askern	Cllr Vicky Lawson
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Adwick and Carcroft	Cllr Steven Plater
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Roman Ridge	Cllr Craig Ward
CDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Stainforth and Barnby Dun	Cllr Neil Wood
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Grassmoor	Cllr Lee Hartshorne
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Killamarsh East	Cllr Tony Lacey
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Dronfield South	Cllr David Cheetham
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Pilsley and Morton	Cllr Andrew Cooper
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Brampton and Walton	Cllr Peter Elliott
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Coal Aston	Cllr Mark Foster
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Eckington North	Cllr Christine Gare

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Dronfield South	Cllr William Jones
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Shirland	Cllr Heather Liggett
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Clay Cross South	Cllr Fran Petersen
NEDDC	Planning Committee, Councillor for Clay Cross North	Cllr Kathy Rouse
Ward councillors		
RMBC	Councillor for Anston & Woodsetts	Cllr Tim Baum-Dixon
RMBC	Councillor for Anston & Woodsetts	Cllr John Blackham
RMBC	Councillor for Anston & Woodsetts	Cllr Drew Tarmey
RMBC	Councillor for Aston & Todwick	Cllr Joshua Bacon
RMBC	Councillor for Aston & Todwick	Cllr Sarah Ann Allen
RMBC	Councillor for Aughton & Swallownest	Cllr Lyndsay Pitchley
RMBC	Councillor for Aughton & Swallownest	Cllr Robert Taylor
RMBC	Councillor for Bramley & Ravenfield	Cllr Liz Duncan
RMBC	Councillor for Bramley & Ravenfield	Cllr Greg Reynolds
RMBC	Councillor for Brinsworth	Cllr Adam Carter
RMBC	Councillor for Brinsworth	Cllr Charlotte Carter
RMBC	Councillor for Dinnington	Cllr Sophie Castledine- Dack
RMBC	Councillor for Dinnington	Cllr Amanda Clarke

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



RMBC	Councillor for Dinnington	Cllr Julia Hall
RMBC	Councillor for Hellaby & Maltby West	Cllr Simon Ball
RMBC	Councillor for Hellaby & Maltby West	Cllr Lynda Stables
RMBC	Councillor for Rother Vale	Cllr Terry Adair
RMBC	Councillor for Rother Vale	Cllr Jamie Baggaley
RMBC	Councillor for Sitwell	Cllr Mike Bower
RMBC	Councillor for Sitwell	Cllr David Fisher
RMBC	Councillor for Sitwell	Cllr Paul Thorp
RMBC	Councillor for Thurcroft & Wickersley South	Cllr Tom Collingham
RMBC	Councillor for Thurcroft & Wickersley South	Cllr Zachary Collingham
RMBC	Councillor for Wales	Cllr Dominic Beck
RMBC	Councillor for Wales	Cllr Marnie Havard
CDC	Councillor for Conisbrough	Cllr Jason Charity
CDC	Councillor for Conisbrough	Cllr Rachel Reed
CDC	Councillor for Conisbrough	Cllr William Shaw
CDC	Councillor for Tickhill & Wadsworth	Cllr Jackie Dudley
CDC	Councillor for Tickhill & Wadsworth	Cllr Martin Greenhalgh
NEDDC	Councillor for Killamarsh East	Cllr Tony Lacey
NEDDC	Councillor for Killamarsh East	Cllr Stephen Reed
Bolsover	Councillor for Barlborough	Cllr Duncan Haywood
Bolsover	Councillor for Barlborough	Cllr Vicky Waplington
Members of Parliament (MPs)		



House of Commons	MP for Rawmarsh & Conisbrough	John Healey
House of Commons	MP for Rother Valley	Jake Richards
House of Commons	MP for Rotherham	Sarah Champion
House of Commons	MP for North East Derbyshire	Louise Jones
House of Commons	MP for Doncaster Central	Sally Jameson
Economic		
South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership	N/A	N/A
Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottingham LEP	N/A	N/A
Doncaster Chamber of Commerce	N/A	N/A
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Investment & Development Office (RiDO)	N/A	N/A
Rotherham & Barnsley Business Link	N/A	N/A
Country Land and Business Association	N/A	N/A
National Farmers Union	N/A	N/A
Yorkshire Agricultural Society	N/A	N/A
Environmental		
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	N/A	N/A
Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust	N/A	N/A
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	N/A	N/A
Don Catchment Rivers Trust	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Friends of Chesterfield Canal	N/A	N/A
CPRE South Yorkshire	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Conservation Volunteers	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Climate Alliance	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group	N/A	N/A
Environmental Action South Yorkshire (EASY)	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Bat Group	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Badger Group	N/A	N/A
Sheffield Friends of the Earth	N/A	N/A
St Johns Road Allotments	N/A	N/A
Climate Action Rotherham	N/A	N/A
Doncaster Green Space Network	N/A	N/A
Friends of Ulley Country Park	N/A	N/A
Winthrop Gardens	N/A	N/A
Ravenfield Ponds	N/A	N/A
Ravenfield Allotments	N/A	N/A
Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals	N/A	N/A
TCV Dinnington Community Woodland	N/A	N/A



Treeton Village Picker Litters	N/A	N/A
Kiveton Community Woodland	N/A	N/A
Heritage		
National Trust	N/A	N/A
English Heritage	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS)	N/A	N/A
Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology	N/A	N/A
Thorton Society of Nottinghamshire	N/A	N/A
Conisbrough Research and Archaeology Group (CRAG)	N/A	N/A
Firsby Residents Association	N/A	N/A
Doncaster & District Heritage Association	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Heritage Association	N/A	N/A
Hunter Archaeological Society	N/A	N/A
Aston-cum-Aughton History Group	N/A	N/A
Brinsworth and Catcliffe History Group	N/A	N/A
Whiston Heritage Society	N/A	N/A
Friends of Brinsworth Manor	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Friends of Maltby Cemetery	N/A	N/A
Recreation		
Anston Cricket Club	N/A	N/A
Anston Bowling Club	N/A	N/A
Aston Cricket Club	N/A	N/A
Botanical Illustration Society, Wales	N/A	N/A
Bramley Scouts	N/A	N/A
Bramley & Wickersley Lions	N/A	N/A
Brampton Bowling Club	N/A	N/A
Brinsworth Art Group	N/A	N/A
Brinsworth Bowling Club	N/A	N/A
Brinsworth Crafty Talk	N/A	N/A
Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Ramblers	N/A	N/A
Dearne Valley Ramblers	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Bowling Club	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Colliery Band	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Guides/Brownies	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Town FC	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Badminton Club	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Rugby Club	N/A	N/A
Dinnington & District Art Society	N/A	N/A
Doncaster Ramblers	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Harthill Outdoor Bowles and Leisure Centre	N/A	N/A
Herringthorpe Valley Bowling Club	N/A	N/A
Kiveton Park CDT & Community Sports Park	N/A	N/A
Lyric Theatre Players	N/A	N/A
Maltby Lions	N/A	N/A
Maltby Diving Club	N/A	N/A
Maltby Musical Theatre Group	N/A	N/A
Maltby Model Village Community Association	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Metro District Ramblers	N/A	N/A
Rotherham ROAR	N/A	N/A
Rother Valley Swallows	N/A	N/A
Saxon Golf Society	N/A	N/A
Strideout Aston	N/A	N/A
Sustrans	N/A	N/A
TAK Pony Rescue	N/A	N/A
Wales Community Theatre Players	N/A	N/A
Wickersley CI Bowling Club	N/A	N/A
Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club	N/A	N/A
Wickersley Bingo Group	N/A	N/A
5th Rotherham Scouts	N/A	N/A
37th Rotherham Brownies	N/A	N/A
Seldom heard		

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Aston Cum Aughton Recreational Charity	N/A	N/A
Age UK Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Age UK Rotherham	N/A	N/A
Age UK Derby and Derbyshire	N/A	N/A
Active Careers Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Active Fusion Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Association of Ukrainians in GB-Doncaster Branch	N/A	N/A
Anston Methodist Church Community Group	N/A	N/A
Aston-cum-Aughton Ladies Group	N/A	N/A
Bevan Crescent Community Group	N/A	N/A
BME United Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Bramley & Wickersley Lions Club	N/A	N/A
Bramley Townswomens Guild	N/A	N/A
Brampton Youth Group	N/A	N/A
Brampton-en-le-Morthen Village Association	N/A	N/A
Carers4Carers	N/A	N/A
Conisbrough Carers' & Former Carer's Social Group	N/A	N/A
Conisbrough Community Association	N/A	N/A
Community Development Trust, Wales	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Charles Foster Community Centre	N/A	N/A
Denaby & Conisbrough Family Hub	N/A	N/A
Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group	N/A	N/A
Dial Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Dinnington Area Regeneration Trust (DART)	N/A	N/A
Doncaster and Rotherham Alzheimer's Society in Conisbrough	N/A	N/A
Doncaster Conversation Club	N/A	N/A
Doncaster Ethnic Minority Regeneration Partnership (DEM RP)	N/A	N/A
Doncaster Mind	N/A	N/A
Forget-Me-not Memory Café	N/A	N/A
Hellaby Community Project	N/A	N/A
JADE Centre Youth and Community Centre	N/A	N/A
Laughton en le Morthen Parent and Toddler Group	N/A	N/A
Laughton Creative Stitching	N/A	N/A
Live Inclusive Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Maltby Foodbank – St Mary Magdalene RC Church	N/A	N/A
Maltby Coleman Centre	N/A	N/A
Maltby Catholic Club	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Maltby East Royal British Legion	N/A	N/A
National Autistic Society Rotherham (NAS)	N/A	N/A
Peregrine Way Community Centre		
Proud Gypsy Traveller Doncaster	N/A	N/A
Ravenfield Older People's Social Fund	N/A	N/A
Ravenfield Women's Institute	N/A	N/A
Redwood Friends Community Group	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Access Group	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Alzheimers Society	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Deaf Connections	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Federation of Communities	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Foodbank	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Independent Volunteer Organisation (RIVO)	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Visually Impaired Group	N/A	N/A
Rotherham Volunteer Centre	N/A	N/A
RotherFed	N/A	N/A
Royal British Legion Dinnington District	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



South Yorkshire Federation Of Women's Institutes	N/A	N/A
South Yorkshire's Community Foundation	N/A	N/A
St Andrews Church Lunch Club	N/A	N/A
St Albans Church	N/A	N/A
St Johns Room, Kiveton Park	N/A	N/A
Sunnyside Community Centre	N/A	N/A
The Rivers Team (4 Churches)	N/A	N/A
The Brecks Community Hub	N/A	N/A
The Centre, Brinsworth	N/A	N/A
The Learning Community, Dinnington	N/A	N/A
The Grange Coffee Morning, Hellaby	N/A	N/A
Thurcroft Hub	N/A	N/A
Thurcroft Miners Institute	N/A	N/A
Todwick Grey Matters	N/A	N/A
Treeton Community Centre	N/A	N/A
Treeton Luncheon Club	N/A	N/A
Treeton Reading Rooms		
Voluntary Action Rotherham	N/A	N/A
Whiston Parish Council Youth Club	N/A	N/A

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Wickersley Community Centre	N/A	N/A
Wickersley Neighbourhood Group (WING)	N/A	N/A
Wickersley Library & Neighbourhood Hub	N/A	N/A
YMCA Doncaster	N/A	N/A
YMCA White Rose	N/A	N/A

Appendix B4.5 Press Release to local media



News Release

26 September 2025

Second consultation underway on updated proposals for Whitestone Solar Farm

The second round of consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm in South Yorkshire has begun and will run from **16 September to 28 October 2025**. Anyone with an interest in the project, including residents, businesses, and stakeholders, is encouraged to review the updated plans and provide their feedback.

Significant Changes in Response to Community Feedback

Green Nation, the developer behind the project, held a first round of consultation last autumn. In response to the feedback received, they made significant changes to the project design to address key issues, while balancing the need to produce homegrown, clean energy.

The updated masterplan and initial results of environmental assessments are now available for the community to provide their feedback.

Key Project Updates:

- **Panel reduction:** Over one fourth of solar areas removed from the proposals, to create buffers for homes, villages, and public rights of way.
- **Component locations:** The project masterplan now includes potential locations for key infrastructure as well as proposed landscaping to reduce potential visual impacts
- **Community benefits:** The developer is offering a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year, potentially providing £300,000 annually or up to £18 million for the lifetime of the project to support local initiatives.
- **Draft Environmental Statement:** The initial results of the Environmental Impact Assessment and proposals to mitigate potential impacts are included in the draft Environmental Statement.

How to Get Involved

Anyone can submit their written feedback by 11:59pm 28 October through the following methods:

- Complete the digital feedback form at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, available at public events or by request via the project's contact details



- Send an email to info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp required)

About Whitestone Solar Farm

Whitestone is a proposed solar farm with associated battery storage that would be located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster and connect into the National Grid at the new Brinsworth Substation. The project is being developed by Green Nation and Net Zero One Ltd and would make a significant contribution to national energy goals to reduce energy costs, support energy security and fight against climate change. If consented, the project would generate approximately **750 MW** of clean electricity – enough to power **250,000 homes** or **35 large hospitals**¹. The project is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and will require a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Jonathan Thompson, CEO and Founder of Green Nation and Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd, said: "I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you."

Attend a Public Event

Meet the project team, view the updated plans, and ask questions at the following events:

Date	Location
Thursday, 2 October 2025 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
Friday, 3 October 2025 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
Saturday, 4 October 2025 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
Tuesday, 7 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
Wednesday, 8 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
Tuesday, 14 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 12-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.



Next Steps

Feedback from this statutory consultation will help shape the final proposals before the DCO application is submitted in 2026. All responses will be considered and reported as part of the application process.

Contact

For further information, please contact:

- Freephone: 0800 688 9936
- Email: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

ENDS

For further information, please contact [REDACTED]

Notes to Editors:

About Green Nation:

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.

About National Significant Infrastructure Projects:

The scheme is classified a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because of its generating capacity. NSIPs are major developments which require planning permission to be granted by the relevant Secretary of State through a Development Consent Order (DCO). This is a process established by the Planning Act 2008.



Unlike local planning permissions, which are considered by local authorities, DCO applications are decided at the national level. The Planning Inspectorate is an independent government body that will review the DCO application on behalf of the Secretary of State. In this case, the relevant Government Department is the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

DCOs are governed by a fixed, statutory process which requires applicants to consult with the local community and to carry out environmental assessments. The developers will complete two rounds of consultation. The first round of consultation is not required by the Planning Act, so it is considered 'non-statutory'. A second consultation will occur next year and will be considered the 'statutory consultation' following the requirements of the Planning Act.

Further information about the DCO process is available at the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

Appendix B4.6 Notification of additional information event



30 September 2025

Whitestone Solar Farm information event in Treeton

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are writing to inform you of an additional public information event regarding the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm taking place in Treeton.

To ensure that anyone with an interest has the opportunity to learn more about the project and ask any questions they may have, we have arranged an extra session alongside the other events taking place.

- Venue: Treeton Parish Room
- Date: Monday 13 October
- Time: 2:00pm – 6:00pm

This drop-in event will provide updated information during the second consultation for the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm (which is running until 28 October), and members of the project team will be available to discuss the plans and answer questions.

This is in addition to the other information events taking place. You are welcome to attend any event, as the same information will be presented at each.

We encourage you to submit your feedback by 28 October via the following methods:

- Completing a questionnaire online at the project website: whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Completing a paper questionnaire, available at our events or via post on request, and return it at an event or to the Freepost address: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL (no stamp is required)
- Sending written comments by post to the Freepost address above, or by email to info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Thompson

Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
Registered in England and Wales.
Company number
15826972.

Registered address:
The Long Barn Manor Courtyard,
Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Radstock,
England, BA3 4QF



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936



WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Appendix C Consultation Materials

Project reference
EN0110020
Rev00
March 2026

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APPENDIX C1 STATUTORY CONSULTATION BOOKLET

Appendix C1.1 Consultation Booklet Whitestone 1



Consultation Booklet

16 September – 28 October 2025



Whitestone 1

Overview

We are now carrying out the second consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm. After the first consultation, held last autumn and winter, we have made significant changes to the project in response to your feedback. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels across the project to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

During this second consultation, we are presenting the updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES). Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

Whitestone is split across three areas, Whitestone 1 (WS1), Whitestone 2 (WS2) and Whitestone 3 (WS3). This booklet contains information about Whitestone 1.

Throughout this booklet you will see text boxes to indicate the specific questions we are asking for this consultation. You can respond to them through our online feedback form located at whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk. You can also submit your written feedback using the paper feedback form, by email or by freepost to the communications lines on the back of this booklet. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm 28 October 2025.

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Scan here to access the online feedback form

Green Nation

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.

I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Founder of Green Nation and
Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Introduction to the project

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply. The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to fund commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are also needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

Why here?

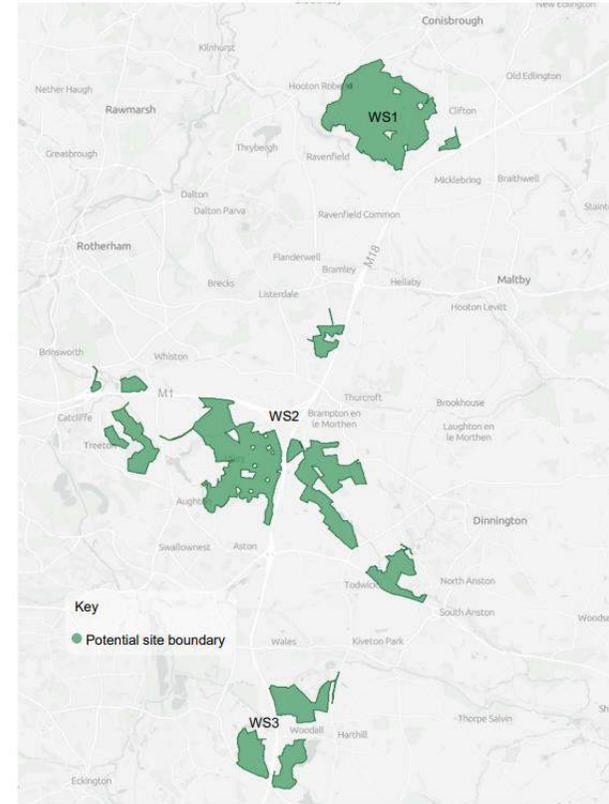
The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features. See more about the buffers that we have included in the masterplan on pages 10-11, and provide your feedback about them in your response to the consultation questionnaire.

 Whitestone would generate approximately 750 MW, which is enough to support 250,000 houses or 35 large hospitals.¹

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.

Introduction to the project



We recognise that the land identified for the project is on the Green Belt. We are working to develop the project in a manner that supports many of the same goals as the Green Belt, such as providing opportunities for ongoing agriculture under the panels through grazing, as well as continued recreational access through current public rights of way and new permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife, and we plan to create new habitats for wildlife to increase biodiversity.

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Introduction to the project

Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.² We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review and consider the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how this has shaped our proposals. If the application meets the requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline



² Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

Introduction to the project

Consultation

Before we submit our DCO application, we are required to consult with local communities, elected officials and technical stakeholders. We held our first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 on our initial proposals. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met with 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

We reviewed all the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project design. This includes removing one fourth of the panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way (see pages 10-17 for more information about how the design has changed).

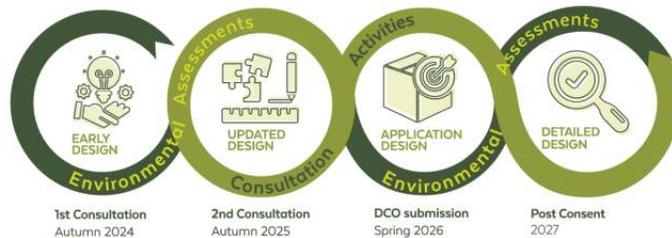
We also received feedback around the specific topics to consider in the environmental assessments, which we are now presenting in the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES) as part of this second consultation. This consultation is considered 'statutory' because it is required by the Planning Act 2008. See pages 26-29 of this booklet for more information on the draft ES or view it in its entirety at our project website (whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk) and in person at the public information events.

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Design

Design process

By their nature, the development of projects like Whitestone is iterative. This means that at each stage of consultation, we will present an updated project design that has been refined by consultation feedback and the results of the environmental and technical assessments. As the project progresses, we will be able to present a more refined and detailed design. Even if an individual or organisation submitted feedback during the first consultation, we would encourage them to submit their feedback again in the second consultation to help further refine the project.



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Consultation Booklet 

Design

Design principles

We have defined the following design principles that we will use throughout the development process. These design principles will evolve in time and be informed by feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

- Maximise the amount of renewable energy provided to the National Grid
- Craft a project that is resilient to climate change
- Limit the amount of embodied carbon across the project where reasonable
- Engage with stakeholders to develop the design
- Find out what is important to people about the local area and seek to incorporate feedback
- Consider how people engage with their local environment and retain these patterns
- Enhance recreational access across the landscape
- Respect landscape character and cultural heritage
- Minimise visual impact
- Aim to support local wildlife and biodiversity
- Support local ecology and enhance biodiversity, enriching ecosystems where possible
- Support research and development

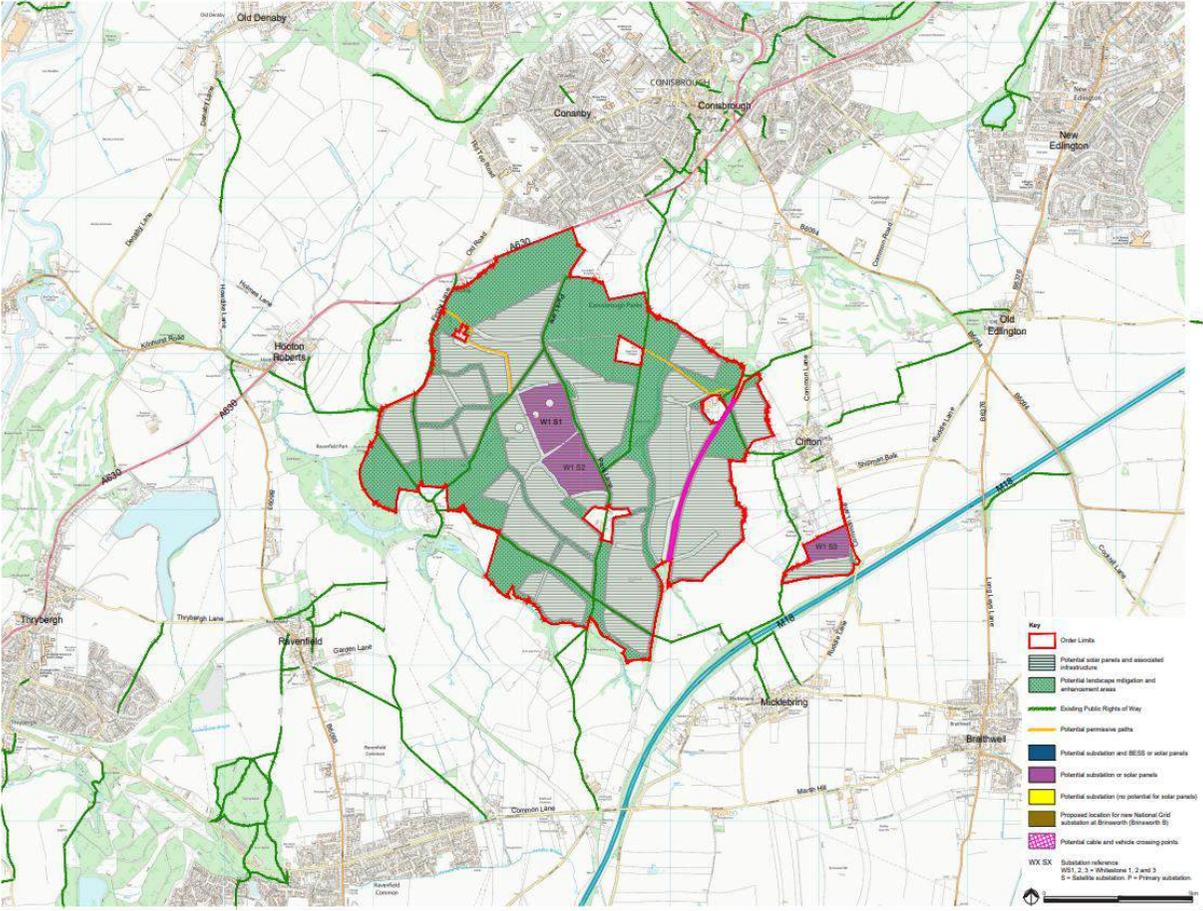
 Consultation Booklet

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Design

Design

Updated Masterplan - Whitestone 1



Design

Design

Summary of design changes

During the first consultation, we received detailed feedback around requested offsets near homes, villages and public rights of way to reduce potential visual impacts. In response to this feedback, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the project. To better understand the scale of these changes for Whitestone 1, please see the images below.

Clifton



Before

After

Firsby



Before

After

 Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.

Design

Design

Setbacks and environmental mitigation

Where we have removed solar panels from the project to reduce potential visual impacts, the land could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but may still be needed for underground cables or access tracks to support the rest of the project.

These spaces could be planted with a mix of native grasses or wildflowers to support local wildlife. Projects like Whitestone are now required to increase biodiversity by at least 10%, however, most solar farms exceed this requirement. We are exploring a variety of methods to increase biodiversity in these areas, which could include bat boxes, bug hotels and water scrapes to provide new habitats for vital pollinators, small mammals and bird species.

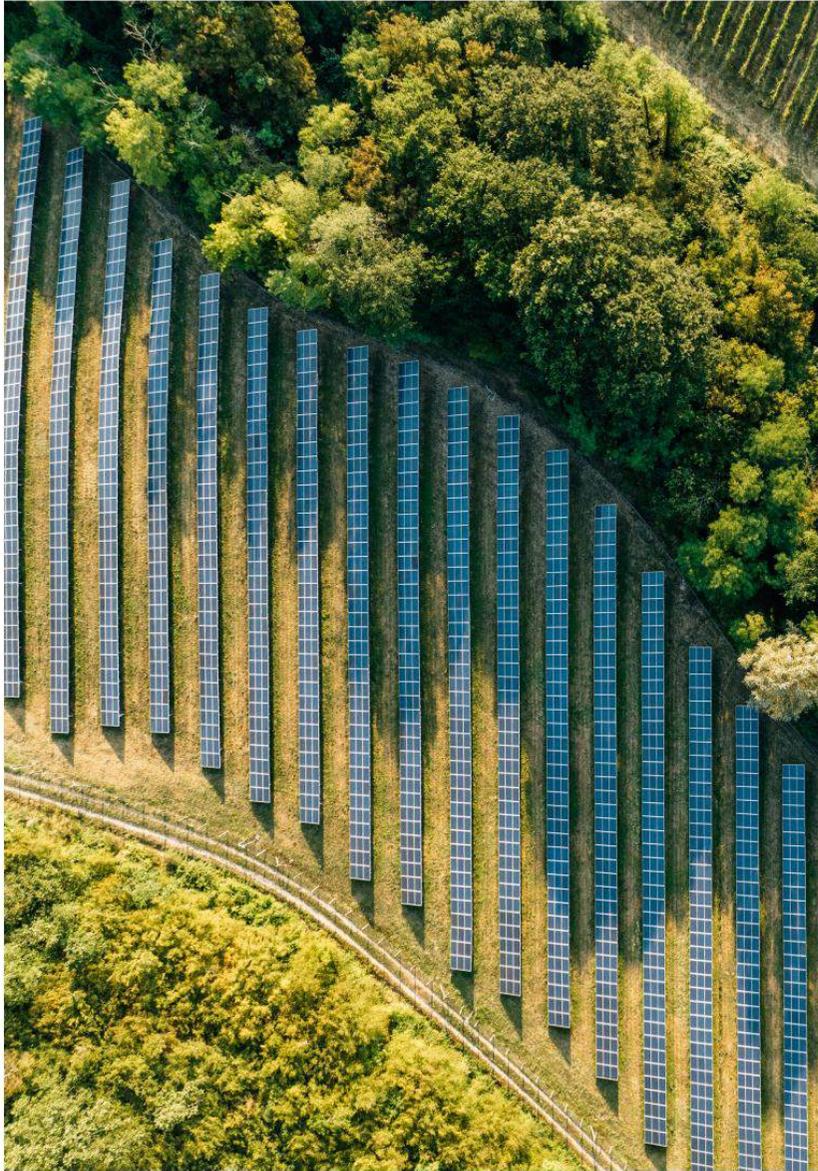
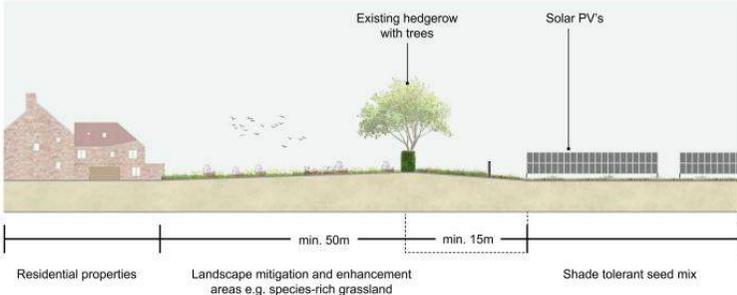
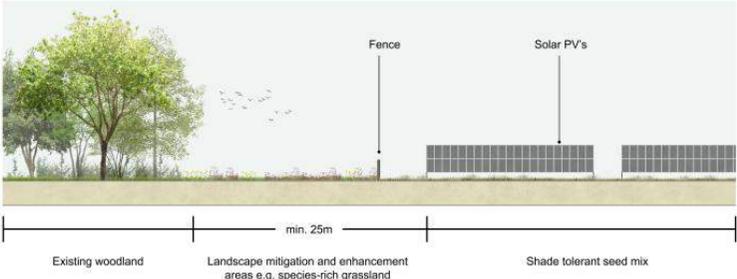
As we complete the environmental impact assessments, we may identify the need to set aside land for certain species to mitigate potential impacts in other areas of the project. If we identify that we do not need all of this land for mitigation, we may choose to remove it from the project boundary altogether. In this case, the land would remain with the landowner and could continue to be used as it is today.



Design

Visualisations

Below are examples of offsets from woodlands and homes.



Design

Existing public rights of way and new permissive paths

We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. In most cases, we have been able to provide more than this minimum by removing panels from the field on one side of the path.

As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders, we are proposing new permissive paths across the site (shown in the masterplan on pages 10-11). They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project. These will continue to evolve based on feedback from this consultation and ongoing discussions with landowners.



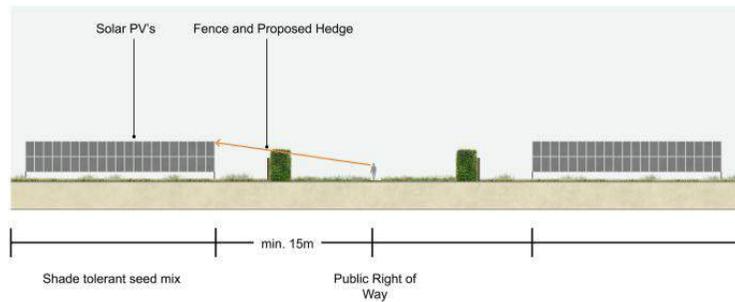
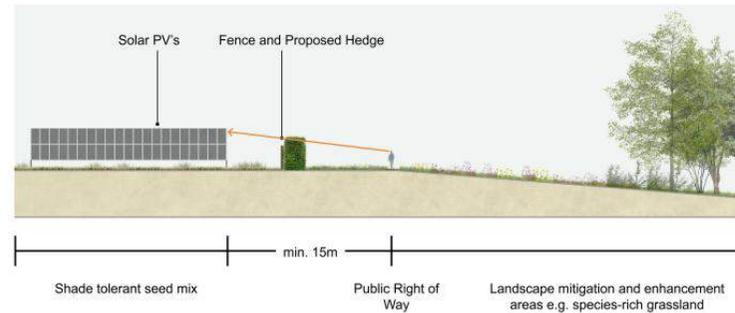
Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?
Are there other paths you would like to see?

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Consultation Booklet 

Design

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.

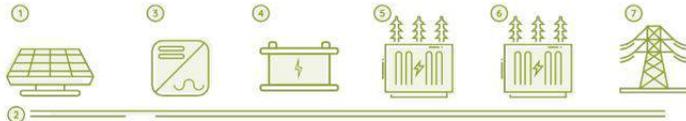


Consultation Booklet 

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Components of a solar farm

Components of a solar farm



- 1 **Solar panels** would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.
- 2 **Underground cables** would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.
- 3 **Power conversion stations (PCS)** would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.
- 4 **A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.
- 5 **Substations** would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity. Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.
- 6 The energy would then be transferred into the **National Grid** at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

Components of a solar farm

Appearance

The power conversion stations (PCS) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.



Security

For safety and security, fields with solar panels would be surrounded by fencing, of wooden post and wire configuration. The fence would include CCTV, installed along the fence lines looking inward. Mammal gates would be included to ensure that local wildlife can still move across the area, while keeping humans out. For safety reasons, the substations and BESS areas would need more substantial 'palisade' fencing to prevent anyone entering these areas.

Components of a solar farm

Noise

The solar panels would be fixed, so they do not make any noise. However, some of the other components of the solar farm, including the power conversion stations (PCS), batteries and substations do make a buzzing sound. Therefore, it is important that we locate these components away from homes and other key locations to minimise potential impacts.

In the updated masterplan, the potential locations for substations and batteries are at least 250m away from homes to avoid noise impacts. The PCS units would be located in the fields with the solar panels, at least 100m away from homes and 50m away from public rights of way whenever possible. If they need to be located closer to homes or paths, then they would include noise mitigation to ensure that they do not increase ambient noise levels by more than 5 decibels subject to local context.

These distances will be further informed by ongoing noise assessments to better understand the existing noise levels and how the technology could create potential impacts.

Heights

Solar technology is evolving rapidly, which means that we might not be able to confirm the specific details of components that we will use right now. Where this is the case, we are assessing the impacts of a 'worst-case' scenario. For example, if we don't yet know how tall a part of the project will be, we assess its tallest possible height. You may see this called 'the Rochdale Envelope' which is the principle that allows flexibility in design for DCO projects like Whitestone to permit changes in its design up to certain parameters. This is important so that we can account for uncertainties in the design and technological changes.

These are the maximum heights for the various components that we are assessing:

- Solar Panels: **3.8m**
- Wooden pole and wire fencing: **2.2m**
- BESS: **3.5m**
- Substations: **13.5m**

Components of a solar farm

Substations and batteries

In order to collect the energy from the solar panels and transfer it to the grid, the project needs three substations: one primary substation in WS2, and one satellite substation for both WS1 and WS2. The primary substation would be up to 100m wide by 170m long, while the smaller satellite substations would be up to 90m wide by 130m long. As shown in the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11, we have identified three different potential locations for the primary substation, and five potential locations for the satellite substations. These are based on technical assessments, including access and ground conditions, as well as proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, we have identified two different locations where the batteries could be located within WS2. We are now consulting on these options for substations and batteries in order to make the final decision on where they should be located.



Example of a typical substation



Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

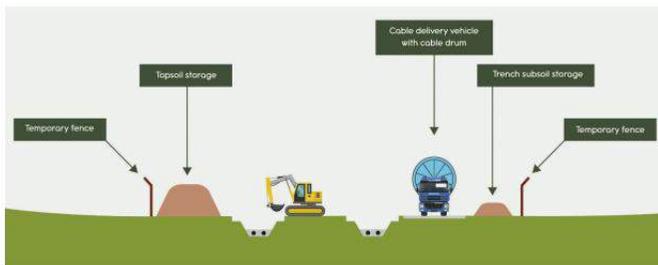
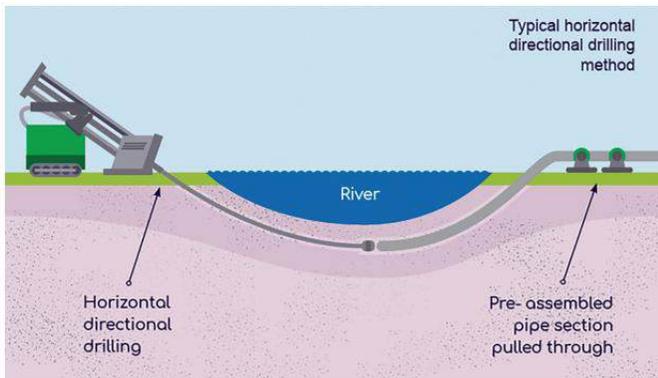
ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Components of a solar farm

Underground cabling

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

Most cables could be laid through open trenches, where the cable is laid approximately 1m below the ground level, and then soil is replaced on top. Through more sensitive areas, such as woodlands, highways, or streams, we may need to use trenchless crossing methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), which drills under the sensitive area and pulls the cable through.

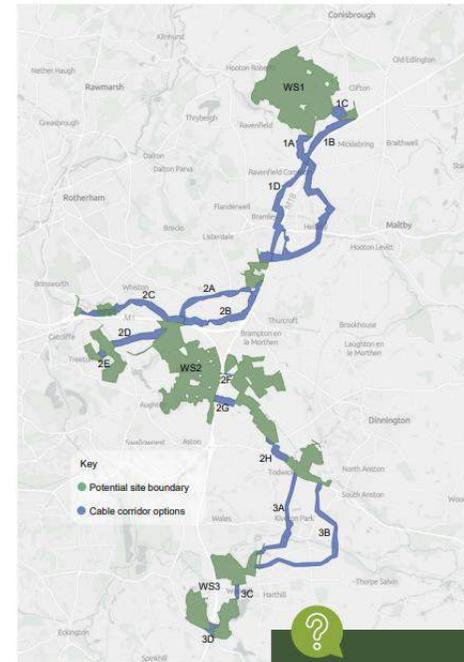


Components of a solar farm

Cable corridor options

To connect WS1, WS2 and WS3 to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, as well as initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas.

We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which routes to use.



Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Environmental assessments

Protecting the environment

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **The Scoping Opinion** is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- **The draft Environmental Statement (draft ES)** includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are required to consult on these initial results in order to fact check our approach and findings, before completing the assessments.
- **The Environmental Statement (ES)** will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

All of the DCO application will be made public through the PINS website.

Environmental assessments

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA:



Biodiversity and nature conservation



Climate change and greenhouse gas



Landscape and visual



Air quality



Cultural heritage and archaeology



Traffic and transport



Ground conditions and land quality



Noise and vibration



Water resources and flood risk



Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation and land use

Other environmental issues

Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.



Scan here to view the Scoping Opinion



Scan here to view the full Draft Environmental Statement

Environmental assessments

Below are some of the key findings in the draft ES:



Biodiversity and nature conservation

We have consulted with the Environment Agency (EA), Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to understand the existing local ecology. We have also conducted a variety of surveys to identify protected or sensitive species, including badgers, winter birds, breeding birds, bats, great crested newts, reptiles, otters and water voles. Subject to the completion of the remaining surveys and the use of appropriate buffers in the masterplan, we do not expect any significant adverse effects and do expect significant benefits for biodiversity.



Landscape and visual

We used desk-based research to understand landscape character, and conducted on site walkovers, both in winter and summer, to assess potential views from viewpoints. This assessment considers residents within the local area, users of public rights of way and bridleways, users of the local road network, and visitors to local attractions. Some significant impacts are found just after construction. These will be mitigated with new plantings, including hedgerows and trees, to create a natural screening.



Cultural heritage and archaeology

We have consulted with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service to discuss our proposed approach to fieldwork. We have completed geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets. We have also completed desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, which include Conisbrough Castle and the Roman villa located in WSI. The masterplan includes offsets around these assets to reduce potential impacts. While a few minor impacts are identified, they are not considered to be significant and will be mitigated with further changes to the masterplan or introduction of natural screening.



Ground conditions and land quality

In addition to desk-based assessments, we have also completed agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys to identify soil quality across most of the solar areas, which found that 21% is considered best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) while the remaining 79% is lower grade agricultural land.



Climate change and greenhouse gas

We have completed a carbon footprint assessment and found that while the project would produce around 525,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) during construction, operation and decommissioning, it would avoid 16 million tonnes of CO₂e through the production of renewable energy during the project's lifetime. This is a net reduction of 15.5 million tonnes of CO₂e.

Environmental assessments



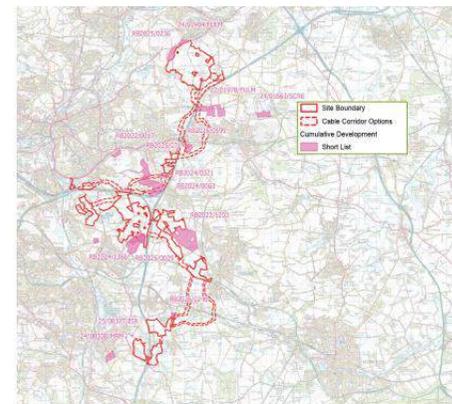
Water resources and flood risk

The EA Flood Map shows that most of the site is in Flood Zone 1 (lowest flood risk), with some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The project will be designed to remain operational without increasing flood risk elsewhere up to and including the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, which includes allowances for increases in rainfall and river flows due to climate change. We have found a potential negligible impact on flooding during the construction phase, which would be mitigated with drainage design and other best practices. By placing solar panels outside of high flood risk areas or growing grass below and between the panels, we find a negligible or even positive impact during the operational stage. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy available on our website sets out the surface water management measures which will be in place to ensure the project does not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.



Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, we must also assess the cumulative impacts of planned and consented developments in the local area. The map below shows the other projects that we have considered as part of this assessment. We will continue to consult on the list of projects to be considered. At this stage, we have identified the projects to include in this assessment considering timing, proximity, and we will work with these other developers to reduce potential impacts where possible.



Do you have any comments on the environmental topics and the mitigation proposed?

Construction

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Management plans

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts. We will submit outlines of these plans in our DCO application. They will be based on best practices and will include:

- **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)** explains the measures and controls we will take to manage construction, including how we will avoid or reduce impacts such as noise, dust and disturbance.
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)** describes how we will manage vehicles travelling to and from site during construction. We will consult with National Highways, as well as the local highway authorities to minimise impacts on local roads.
- **Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (oLBMP)** describes how we will manage and maintain the landscape and environmental mitigation.
- **Outline Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan** describes how we will maximise the local economic benefit from the project.
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP)**, provides an overview of the approach to safety for the proposed BESS.
- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP)** will describe how to manage the decommissioning process at the end of the life of the project.
- **Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP)** sets out methods and controls to protect and conserve the soil during construction.

Construction

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours – for example, when we need to move a very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an 'Abnormal Indivisible Load') or to perform a trenchless crossing (e.g. HDD) on the cable route or solar area, we may do this at night or in the early hours of the morning. We would consult on activities like this with local authorities and communicate with residents in advance.

Construction compounds

These spaces would be needed for unloading and storing materials, staff parking and welfare facilities, and management offices and oversight. Their locations have been selected to minimise impacts on local roads.

Traffic management

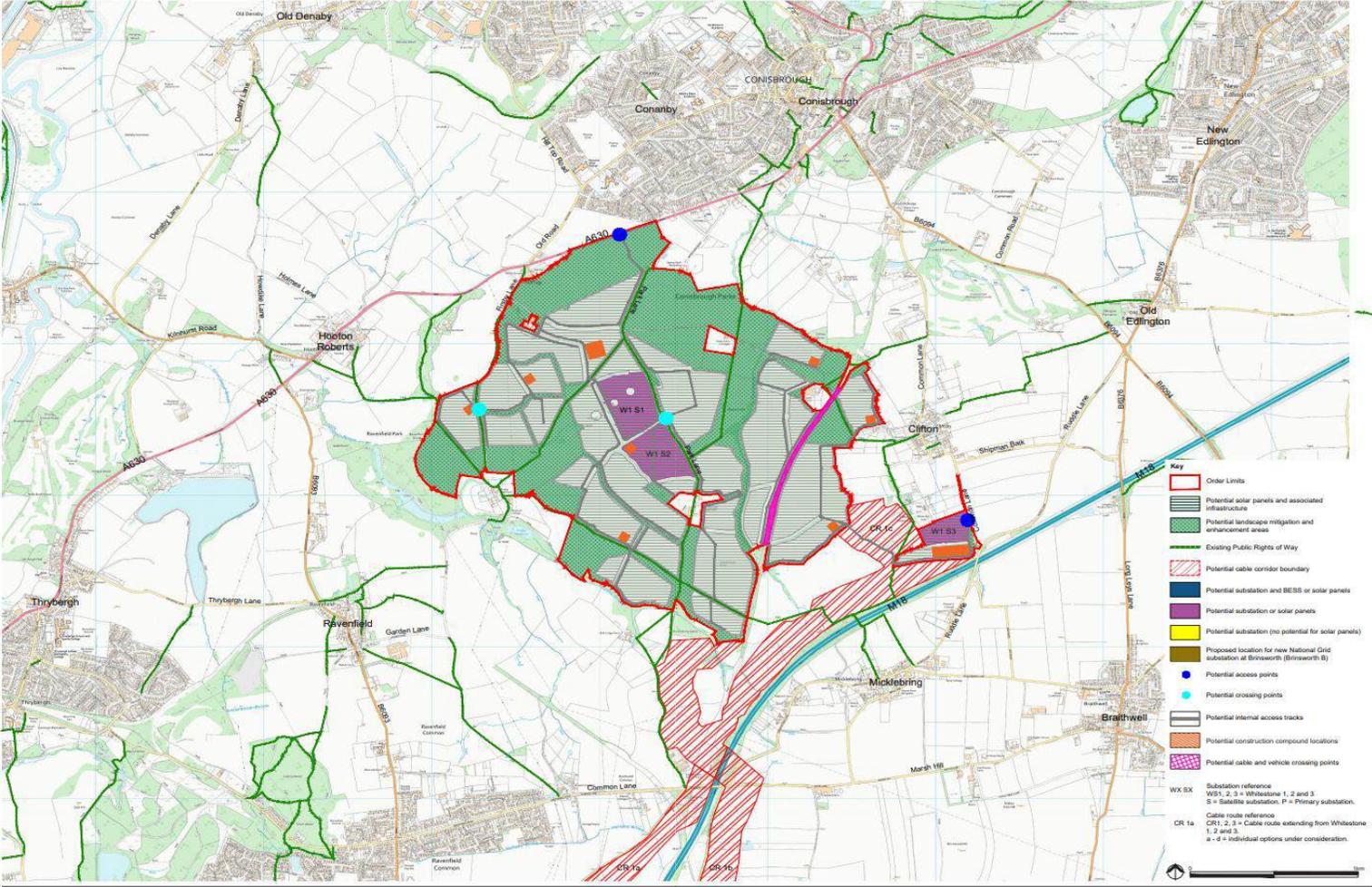
While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period. Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. At the very peak of construction, we estimate that there would be 630 daily round trips by construction workers and approximately 203 round trips of HGVs per day. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm).

We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic. This includes avoiding roads that would be too small for construction vehicles (HGVs) or have other size limitations on traffic. We have also assessed the current traffic levels to understand the potential impacts of construction vehicles. We have sought to avoid traffic through villages wherever possible.

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Construction

Construction

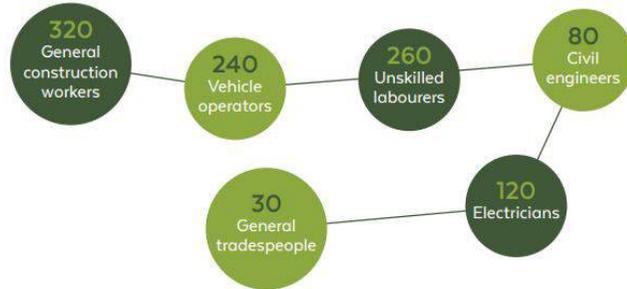


Construction

Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Where possible, we want to work to ensure those skills are developed and retained within the local community. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:



Once operational, we would need a team of at least 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



Construction



Community benefits

Community benefits

When we first introduced Whitestone, we explained that we were committed to providing a community benefit package to ensure that there are local benefits from the project. We want to design the community benefit package collaboratively with the community, to make sure that it provides a meaningful benefit that supports existing initiatives and priorities. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with elected officials, we have developed the following proposal for your feedback.

We would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. The final figure would be based on the operational MW output, the lifetime of the project, and the outcomes of this consultation.

We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

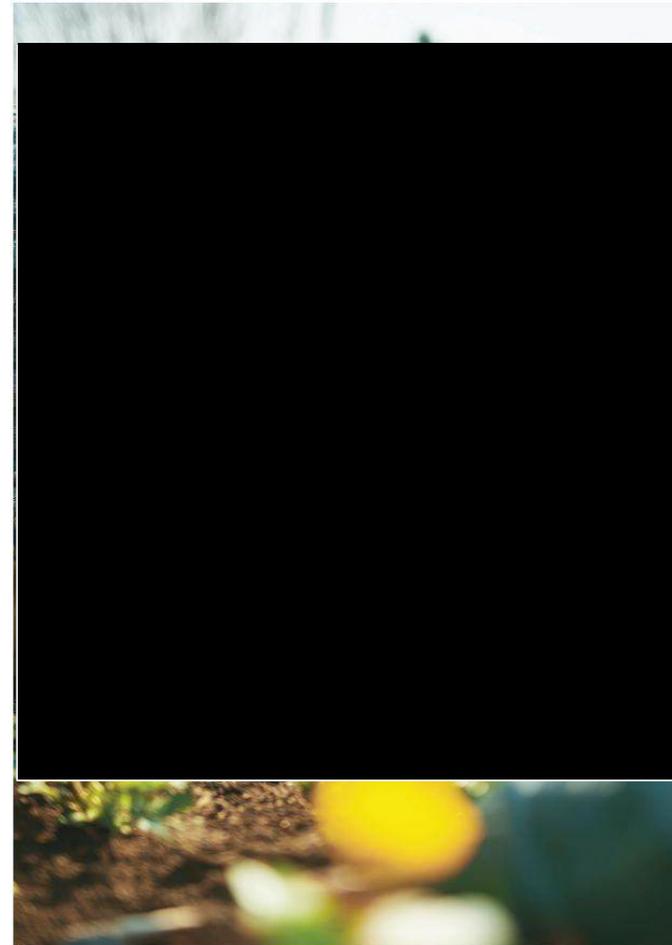
- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, and other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Support to reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.



What would you like to see in the community benefit package?

Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?

Community benefits



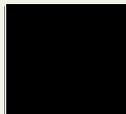
ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Consultation

Consultation

This consultation is running for six weeks, from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- Complete the online feedback form at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- Send an email to: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)



Scan here to access the online feedback form

Next steps

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk.



Get in touch

Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.

 0800 688 9936

 info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

 whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

 Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

Appendix C1.2 Consultation Booklet Whitestone 2



Consultation Booklet

16 September – 28 October 2025



Whitestone 2

Overview

We are now carrying out the second consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm. After the first consultation, held last autumn and winter, we have made significant changes to the project in response to your feedback. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels across the project to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

During this second consultation, we are presenting the updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES). Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

Whitestone is split across three areas, Whitestone 1 (WS1), Whitestone 2 (WS2) and Whitestone 3 (WS3). This booklet contains information about Whitestone 2.

Throughout this booklet you will see text boxes to indicate the specific questions we are asking for this consultation. You can respond to them through our online feedback form located at whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk. You can also submit your written feedback using the paper feedback form, by email or by freepost to the communications lines on the back of this booklet. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm 28 October 2025.

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Components of a solar farm	20
Environmental assessments	26
Construction	30
Community benefits	36
Consultation	38
Next steps	39

 Scan here to access the online feedback form

2 Consultation Booklet 

Green Nation

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.



I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Founder of Green Nation and
Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Introduction to the project

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply. The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to fund commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are also needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

Why here?

The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

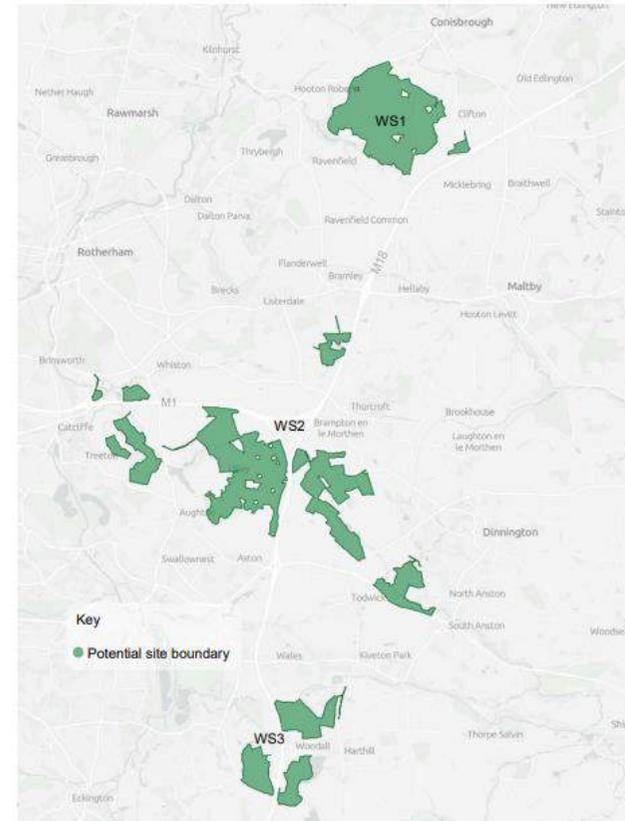
This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features. See more about the buffers that we have included in the masterplan on pages 10-11, and provide your feedback about them in your response to the consultation questionnaire.



Whitestone would generate approximately 750 MW, which is enough to support 250,000 houses or 35 large hospitals.¹

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.

Introduction to the project



We recognise that the land identified for the project is on the Green Belt. We are working to develop the project in a manner that supports many of the same goals as the Green Belt, such as providing opportunities for ongoing agriculture under the panels through grazing, as well as continued recreational access through current public rights of way and new permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife, and we plan to create new habitats for wildlife to increase biodiversity.

Introduction to the project

Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.² We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review and consider the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how this has shaped our proposals. If the application meets the requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline



² Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

Introduction to the project

Consultation

Before we submit our DCO application, we are required to consult with local communities, elected officials and technical stakeholders. We held our first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 on our initial proposals. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met with 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

We reviewed all the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project design. This includes removing one fourth of the panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way (see pages 10-17 for more information about how the design has changed).

We also received feedback around the specific topics to consider in the environmental assessments, which we are now presenting in the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES) as part of this second consultation. This consultation is considered 'statutory' because it is required by the Planning Act 2008. See pages 26-29 of this booklet for more information on the draft ES or view it in its entirety at our project website (whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk) and in person at the public information events.

Design

Design process

By their nature, the development of projects like Whitestone is iterative. This means that at each stage of consultation, we will present an updated project design that has been refined by consultation feedback and the results of the environmental and technical assessments. As the project progresses, we will be able to present a more refined and detailed design. Even if an individual or organisation submitted feedback during the first consultation, we would encourage them to submit their feedback again in the second consultation to help further refine the project.



Design

Design principles

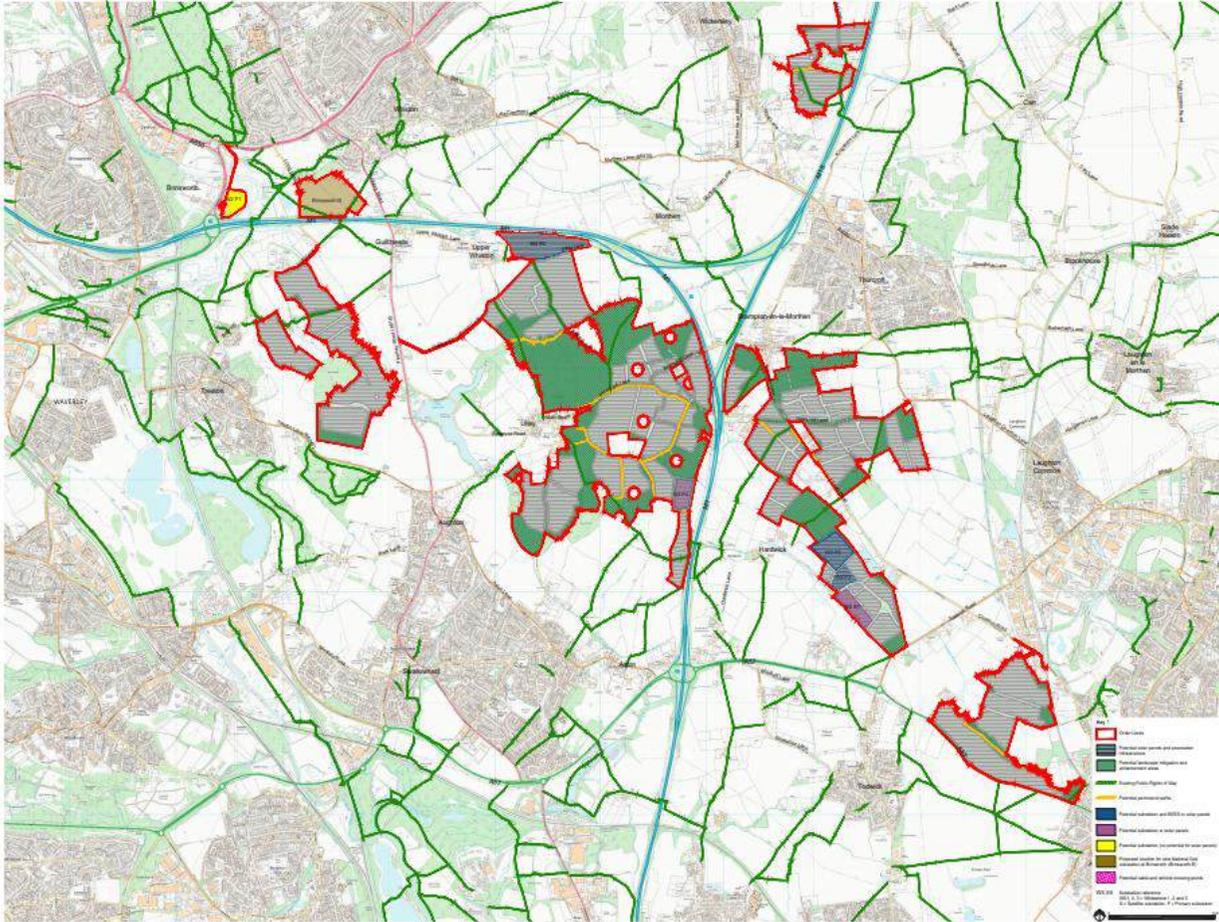
We have defined the following design principles that we will use throughout the development process. These design principles will evolve in time and be informed by feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

- Maximise the amount of renewable energy provided to the National Grid
- Craft a project that is resilient to climate change
- Limit the amount of embodied carbon across the project where reasonable
- Engage with stakeholders to develop the design
- Find out what is important to people about the local area and seek to incorporate feedback
- Consider how people engage with their local environment and retain these patterns
- Enhance recreational access across the landscape
- Respect landscape character and cultural heritage
- Minimise visual impact
- Aim to support local wildlife and biodiversity
- Support local ecology and enhance biodiversity, enriching ecosystems where possible
- Support research and development

Design

Design

Updated Masterplan - Whitestone 2



Design

Summary of design changes

During the first consultation, we received detailed feedback around requested offsets near homes, villages and public rights of way to reduce potential visual impacts. In response to this feedback, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the project. To better understand the scale of these changes for Whitestone 2, please see the images below.

Ulley



Before



After

Design

Brampton



Before



After



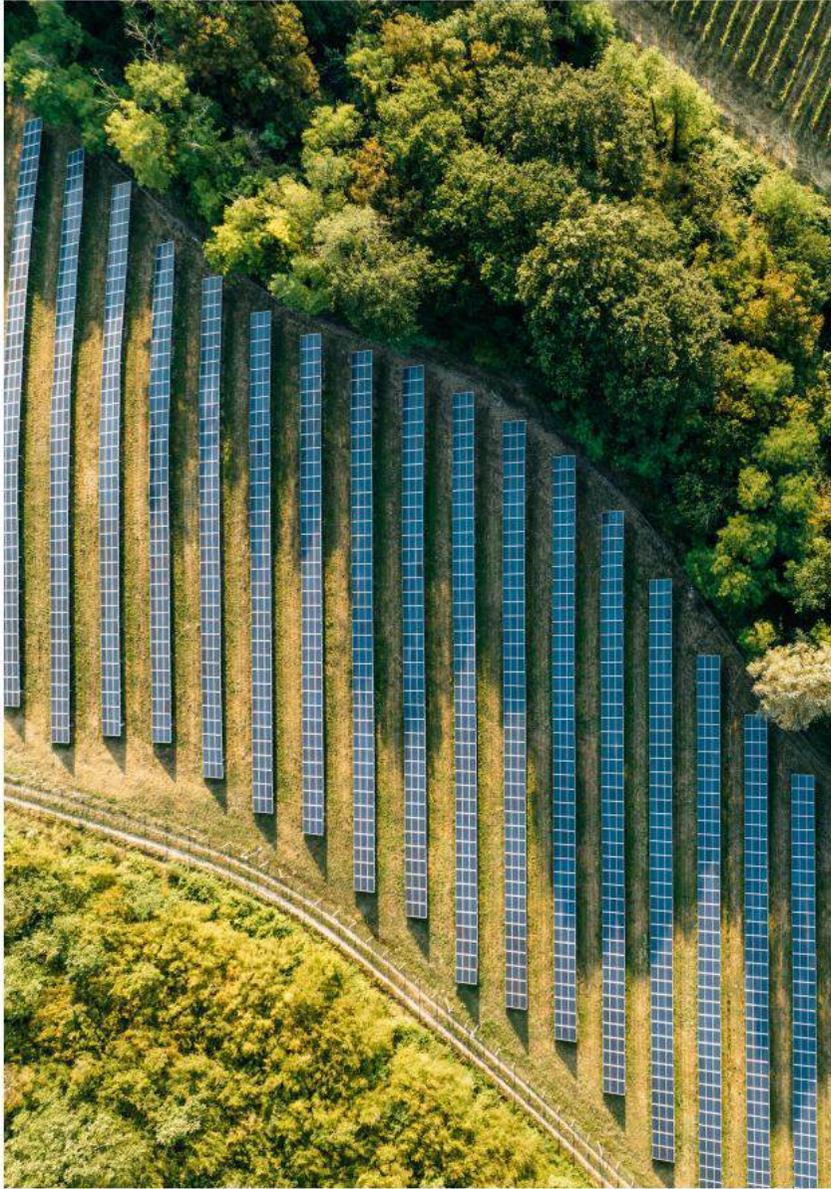
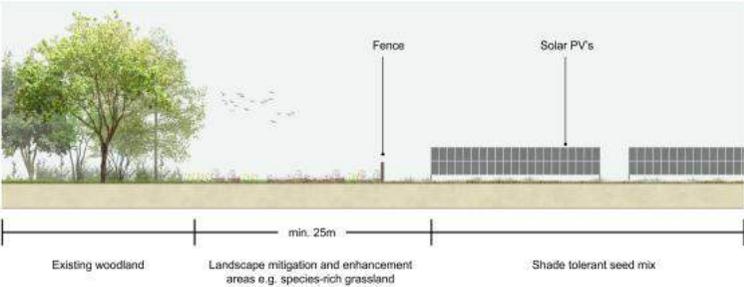
Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.



Design

Visualisations

Below are examples of offsets from woodlands and homes.



Design

Existing public rights of way and new permissive paths

We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. In most cases, we have been able to provide more than this minimum by removing panels from the field on one side of the path.

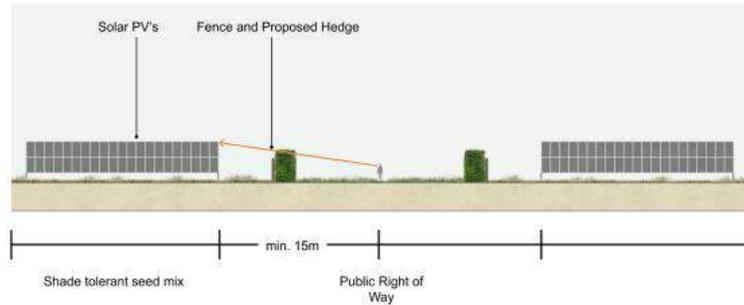
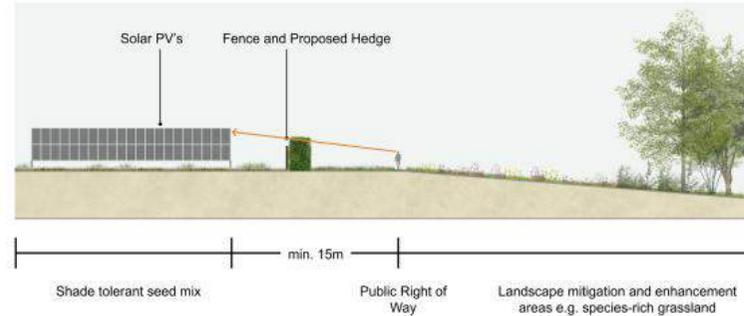
As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders, we are proposing new permissive paths across the site (shown in the masterplan on pages 10-11). They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project. These will continue to evolve based on feedback from this consultation and ongoing discussions with landowners.



Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?
Are there other paths you would like to see?

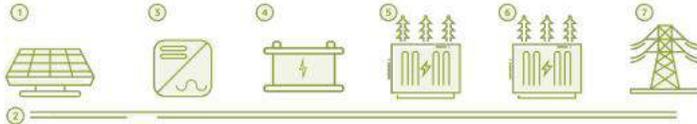
Design

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.



Components of a solar farm

Components of a solar farm



- 1 **Solar panels** would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.
- 2 **Underground cables** would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.
- 3 **Power conversion stations (PCS)** would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.
- 4 **A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.
- 5 **Substations** would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity. Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.
- 6 The energy would then be transferred into the **National Grid** at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

Components of a solar farm

Appearance

The power conversion stations (PCS) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.



Security

For safety and security, fields with solar panels would be surrounded by fencing, of wooden post and wire configuration. The fence would include CCTV, installed along the fence lines looking inward. Mammal gates would be included to ensure that local wildlife can still move across the area, while keeping humans out. For safety reasons, the substations and BESS areas would need more substantial 'palisade' fencing to prevent anyone entering these areas.

Components of a solar farm

Noise

The solar panels would be fixed, so they do not make any noise. However, some of the other components of the solar farm, including the power conversion stations (PCS), batteries and substations do make a buzzing sound. Therefore, it is important that we locate these components away from homes and other key locations to minimise potential impacts.

In the updated masterplan, the potential locations for substations and batteries are at least 250m away from homes to avoid noise impacts. The PCS units would be located in the fields with the solar panels, at least 100m away from homes and 50m away from public rights of way whenever possible. If they need to be located closer to homes or paths, then they would include noise mitigation to ensure that they do not increase ambient noise levels by more than 5 decibels subject to local context.

These distances will be further informed by ongoing noise assessments to better understand the existing noise levels and how the technology could create potential impacts.

Heights

Solar technology is evolving rapidly, which means that we might not be able to confirm the specific details of components that we will use right now. Where this is the case, we are assessing the impacts of a 'worst-case' scenario. For example, if we don't yet know how tall a part of the project will be, we assess its tallest possible height. You may see this called 'the Rochdale Envelope' which is the principle that allows flexibility in design for DCO projects like Whitestone to permit changes in its design up to certain parameters. This is important so that we can account for uncertainties in the design and technological changes.

These are the maximum heights for the various components that we are assessing:

- Solar Panels: **3.8m**
- Wooden pole and wire fencing: **2.2m**
- BESS: **3.5m**
- Substations: **13.5m**

Components of a solar farm

Substations and batteries

In order to collect the energy from the solar panels and transfer it to the grid, the project needs three substations: one primary substation in WS2, and one satellite substation for both WS1 and WS2. The primary substation would be up to 100m wide by 170m long, while the smaller satellite substations would be up to 90m wide by 130m long. As shown in the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11, we have identified three different potential locations for the primary substation, and five potential locations for the satellite substations. These are based on technical assessments, including access and ground conditions, as well as proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, we have identified two different locations where the batteries could be located within WS2. We are now consulting on these options for substations and batteries in order to make the final decision on where they should be located.



Example of a typical substation



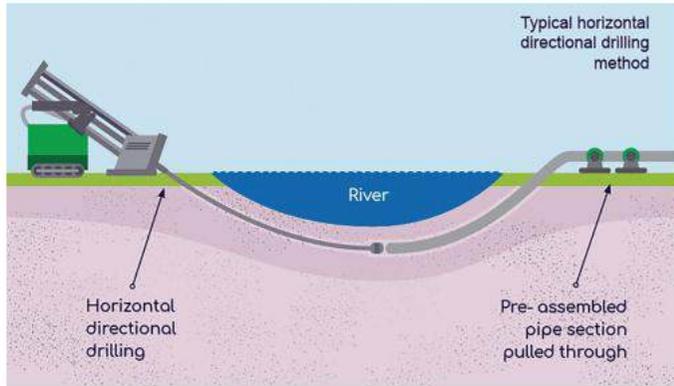
Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

Components of a solar farm

Underground cabling

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

Most cables could be laid through open trenches, where the cable is laid approximately 1m below the ground level, and then soil is replaced on top. Through more sensitive areas, such as woodlands, highways, or streams, we may need to use trenchless crossing methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), which drills under the sensitive area and pulls the cable through.

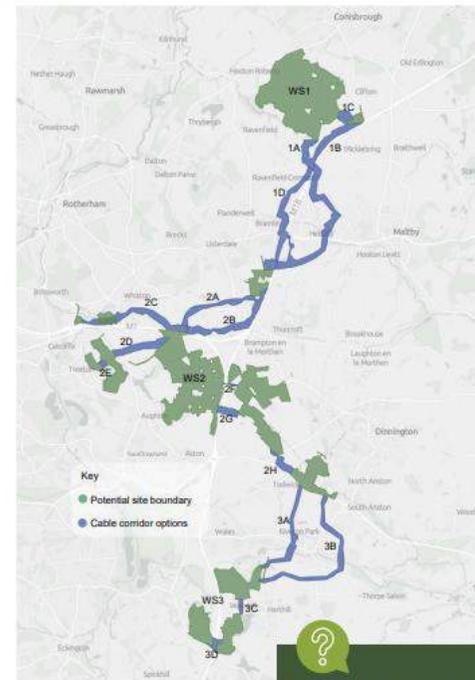


Components of a solar farm

Cable corridor options

To connect WS1, WS2 and WS3 to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, as well as initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas.

We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which routes to use.



Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Environmental assessments

Protecting the environment

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **The Scoping Opinion** is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- **The draft Environmental Statement (draft ES)** includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are required to consult on these initial results in order to fact check our approach and findings, before completing the assessments.
- **The Environmental Statement (ES)** will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

All of the DCO application will be made public through the PINS website.

26 Consultation Booklet 

Environmental assessments

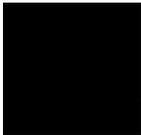
These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA:

 Biodiversity and nature conservation	 Climate change and greenhouse gas
 Landscape and visual	 Air quality
 Cultural heritage and archaeology	 Traffic and transport
 Ground conditions and land quality	 Noise and vibration
 Water resources and flood risk	 Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation and land use

Other environmental issues
Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.



Scan here to view the Scoping Opinion



Scan here to view the Full Draft Environmental Statement

Consultation Booklet  27

Environmental assessments

Below are some of the key findings in the draft ES:



Biodiversity and nature conservation

We have consulted with the Environment Agency (EA), Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to understand the existing local ecology. We have also conducted a variety of surveys to identify protected or sensitive species, including badgers, winter birds, breeding birds, bats, great crested newts, reptiles, otters and water voles. Subject to the completion of the remaining surveys and the use of appropriate buffers in the masterplan, we do not expect any significant adverse effects and do expect significant benefits for biodiversity.



Landscape and visual

We used desk-based research to understand landscape character, and conducted on site walkovers, both in winter and summer, to assess potential views from viewpoints. This assessment considers residents within the local area, users of public rights of way and bridleways, users of the local road network, and visitors to local attractions. Some significant impacts are found just after construction. These will be mitigated with new plantings, including hedgerows and trees, to create a natural screening.



Cultural heritage and archaeology

We have consulted with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service to discuss our proposed approach to fieldwork. We have completed geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets. We have also completed desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, which include Conisbrough Castle and the Roman villa located in WS1. The masterplan includes offsets around these assets to reduce potential impacts. While a few minor impacts are identified, they are not considered to be significant and will be mitigated with further changes to the masterplan or introduction of natural screening.



Ground conditions and land quality

In addition to desk-based assessments, we have also completed agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys to identify soil quality across most of the solar areas, which found that 21% is considered best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) while the remaining 79% is lower grade agricultural land.



Climate change and greenhouse gas

We have completed a carbon footprint assessment and found that while the project would produce around 525,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) during construction, operation and decommissioning, it would avoid 16 million tonnes of CO₂e through the production of renewable energy during the project's lifetime. This is a net reduction of 15.5 million tonnes of CO₂e.

Environmental assessments



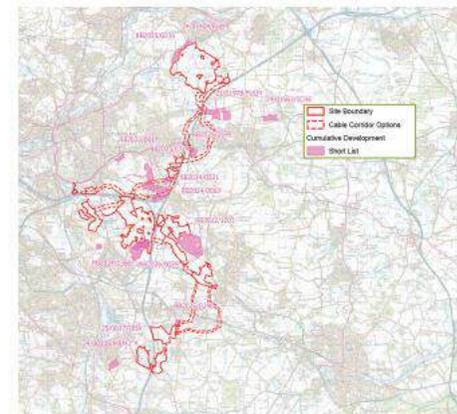
Water resources and flood risk

The EA Flood Map shows that most of the site is in Flood Zone 1 (lowest flood risk), with some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The project will be designed to remain operational without increasing flood risk elsewhere up to and including the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, which includes allowances for increases in rainfall and river flows due to climate change. We have found a potential negligible impact on flooding during the construction phase, which would be mitigated with drainage design and other best practices. By placing solar panels outside of high flood risk areas or growing grass below and between the panels, we find a negligible or even positive impact during the operational stage. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy available on our website sets out the surface water management measures which will be in place to ensure the project does not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.



Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, we must also assess the cumulative impacts of planned and consented developments in the local area. The map below shows the other projects that we have considered as part of this assessment. We will continue to consult on the list of projects to be considered. At this stage, we have identified the projects to include in this assessment considering timing, proximity, and we will work with these other developers to reduce potential impacts where possible.



Do you have any comments on the environmental topics and the mitigation proposed?

Construction

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Management plans

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts. We will submit outlines of these plans in our DCO application. They will be based on best practices and will include:

- **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)** explains the measures and controls we will take to manage construction, including how we will avoid or reduce impacts such as noise, dust and disturbance.
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)** describes how we will manage vehicles travelling to and from site during construction. We will consult with National Highways, as well as the local highway authorities to minimise impacts on local roads.
- **Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (oLBMP)** describes how we will manage and maintain the landscape and environmental mitigation.
- **Outline Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan** describes how we will maximise the local economic benefit from the project.
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP)**, provides an overview of the approach to safety for the proposed BESS.
- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP)** will describe how to manage the decommissioning process at the end of the life of the project.
- **Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP)** sets out methods and controls to protect and conserve the soil during construction.

Construction

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours - for example, when we need to move a very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an 'Abnormal Indivisible Load') or to perform a trenchless crossing (e.g. HDD) on the cable route or solar area, we may do this at night or in the early hours of the morning. We would consult on activities like this with local authorities and communicate with residents in advance.

Construction compounds

These spaces would be needed for unloading and storing materials, staff parking and welfare facilities, and management offices and oversight. Their locations have been selected to minimise impacts on local roads.

Traffic management

While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period. Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. At the very peak of construction, we estimate that there would be 630 daily round trips by construction workers and approximately 203 round trips of HGVs per day. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm).

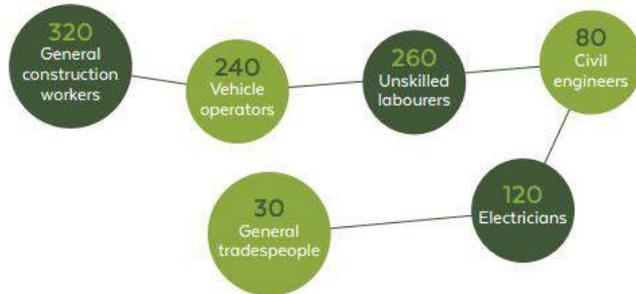
We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic. This includes avoiding roads that would be too small for construction vehicles (HGVs) or have other size limitations on traffic. We have also assessed the current traffic levels to understand the potential impacts of construction vehicles. We have sought to avoid traffic through villages wherever possible.

Construction

Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Where possible, we want to work to ensure those skills are developed and retained within the local community. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:



Once operational, we would need a team of at least **11** local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



Construction



Community benefits

Community benefits

When we first introduced Whitestone, we explained that we were committed to providing a community benefit package to ensure that there are local benefits from the project. We want to design the community benefit package collaboratively with the community, to make sure that it provides a meaningful benefit that supports existing initiatives and priorities. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with elected officials, we have developed the following proposal for your feedback.

We would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. The final figure would be based on the operational MW output, the lifetime of the project, and the outcomes of this consultation.

We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

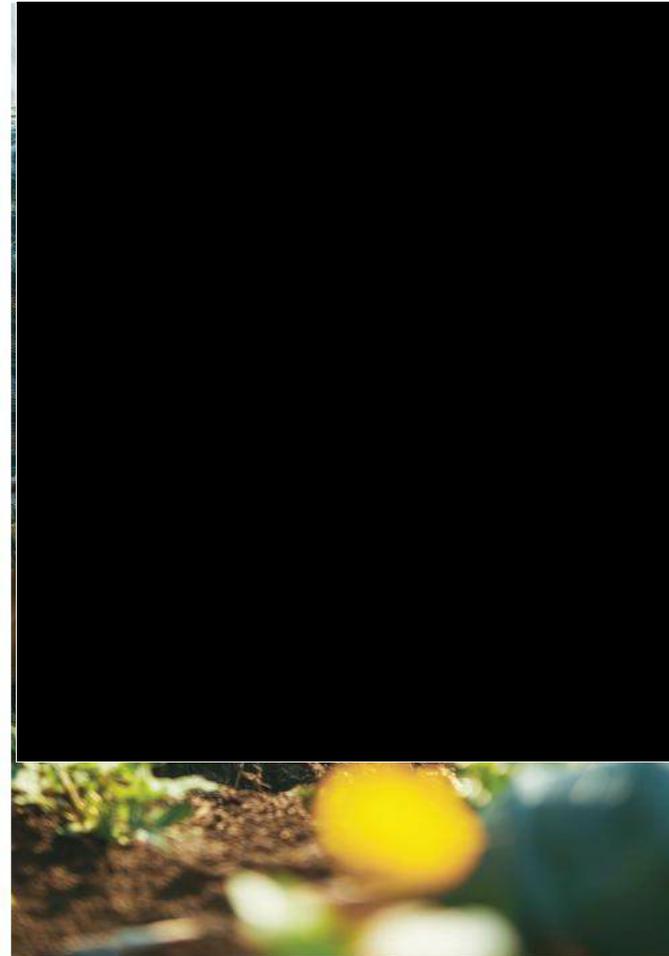
- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, and other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Support to reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.



What would you like to see in the community benefit package?

Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?

Community benefits



Consultation

Consultation

This consultation is running for six weeks, from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- Complete the online feedback form at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- Send an email to: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)



Scan here to access the online feedback form

Next steps

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk.



Get in touch

Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.

 0800 688 9936

 info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

 whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

 Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

Appendix C1.3 Consultation Booklet Whitestone 3



Consultation Booklet

16 September – 28 October 2025



Whitestone 3

Overview

We are now carrying out the second consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm. After the first consultation, held last autumn and winter, we have made significant changes to the project in response to your feedback. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels across the project to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.

During this second consultation, we are presenting the updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES). Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

Whitestone is split across three areas, Whitestone 1 (WS1), Whitestone 2 (WS2) and Whitestone 3 (WS3). This booklet contains information about Whitestone 3.

Throughout this booklet you will see text boxes to indicate the specific questions we are asking for this consultation. You can respond to them through our online feedback form located at whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk. You can also submit your written feedback using the paper feedback form, by email or by freepost to the communications lines on the back of this booklet. Please provide your feedback by 11:59pm 28 October 2025.

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Design	8
Components of a solar farm	20
Environmental assessments	26
Construction	30
Community benefits	36
Consultation	38
Next steps	39



Scan here to access the online feedback form

Green Nation

Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission Whitestone and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.



I want to thank everyone who took part in the first consultation and encourage you to provide your feedback again in this second consultation on our updated proposals. Your feedback matters to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Jonathan Thompson
CEO and Founder of Green Nation and
Director of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

Introduction to the project

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply. The Solar Roadmap explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to fund commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are also needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

Why here?

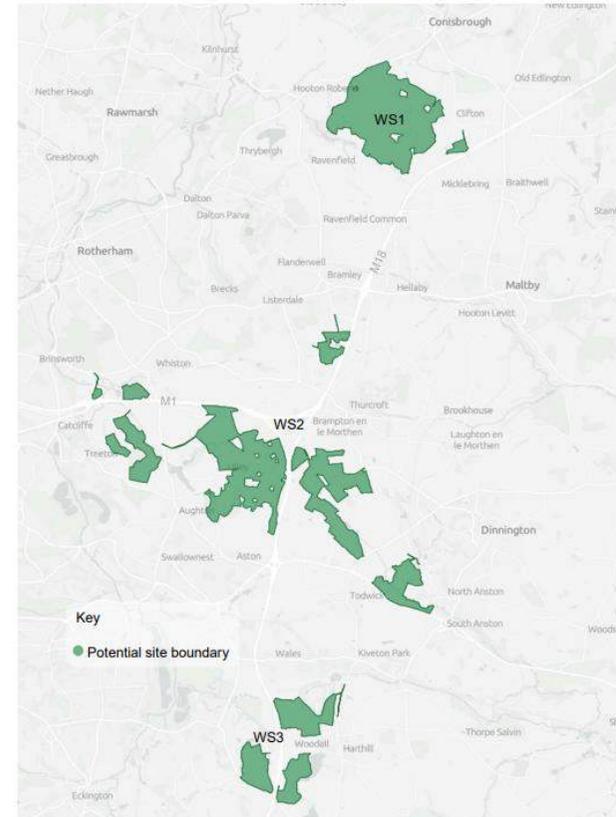
The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features. See more about the buffers that we have included in the masterplan on pages 10-11, and provide your feedback about them in your response to the consultation questionnaire.

i
Whitestone would generate approximately 750 MW, which is enough to support 250,000 houses or 35 large hospitals.¹

¹ This is based on the average energy consumption of 3,200 kWh per year per home, and the average energy consumption of Sheffield Northern General Hospital.

Introduction to the project



We recognise that the land identified for the project is on the Green Belt. We are working to develop the project in a manner that supports many of the same goals as the Green Belt, such as providing opportunities for ongoing agriculture under the panels through grazing, as well as continued recreational access through current public rights of way and new permissive paths across the site. Solar farms also provide habitats for local wildlife, and we plan to create new habitats for wildlife to increase biodiversity.

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Introduction to the project

Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.² We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review and consider the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS). We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how this has shaped our proposals. If the application meets the requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline



² Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.

Introduction to the project

Consultation

Before we submit our DCO application, we are required to consult with local communities, elected officials and technical stakeholders. We held our first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 on our initial proposals. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met with 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

We reviewed all the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project design. This includes removing one fourth of the panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way (see pages 10-17 for more information about how the design has changed).

We also received feedback around the specific topics to consider in the environmental assessments, which we are now presenting in the draft Environmental Statement (draft ES) as part of this second consultation. This consultation is considered 'statutory' because it is required by the Planning Act 2008. See pages 26-29 of this booklet for more information on the draft ES or view it in its entirety at our project website (whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk) and in person at the public information events.

Design

Design process

By their nature, the development of projects like Whitestone is iterative. This means that at each stage of consultation, we will present an updated project design that has been refined by consultation feedback and the results of the environmental and technical assessments. As the project progresses, we will be able to present a more refined and detailed design. Even if an individual or organisation submitted feedback during the first consultation, we would encourage them to submit their feedback again in the second consultation to help further refine the project.



Design

Design principles

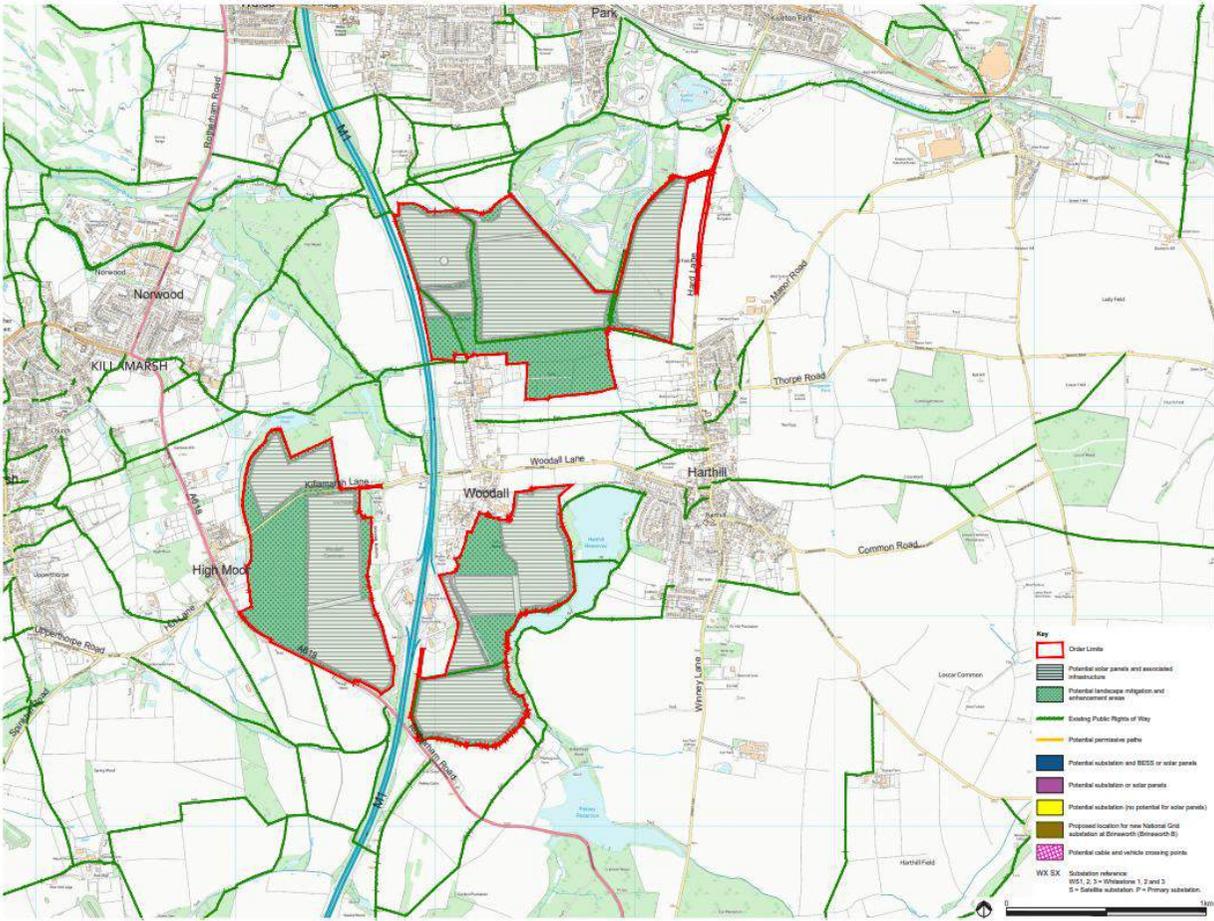
We have defined the following design principles that we will use throughout the development process. These design principles will evolve in time and be informed by feedback from the local community and wider stakeholders.

- Maximise the amount of renewable energy provided to the National Grid
- Craft a project that is resilient to climate change
- Limit the amount of embodied carbon across the project where reasonable
- Engage with stakeholders to develop the design
- Find out what is important to people about the local area and seek to incorporate feedback
- Consider how people engage with their local environment and retain these patterns
- Enhance recreational access across the landscape
- Respect landscape character and cultural heritage
- Minimise visual impact
- Aim to support local wildlife and biodiversity
- Support local ecology and enhance biodiversity, enriching ecosystems where possible
- Support research and development

Design

Design

Updated Masterplan - Whitestone 3



Design

Summary of design changes

During the first consultation, we received detailed feedback around requested offsets near homes, villages and public rights of way to reduce potential visual impacts. In response to this feedback, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels from the project. To better understand the scale of these changes for Whitestone 3, please see the images below.

Harthill



Before



After

Design

Woodall Road



Before



After



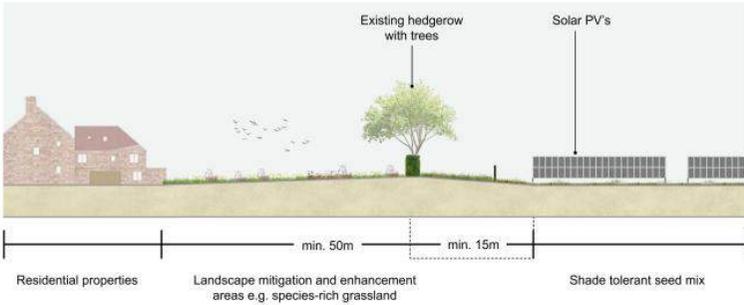
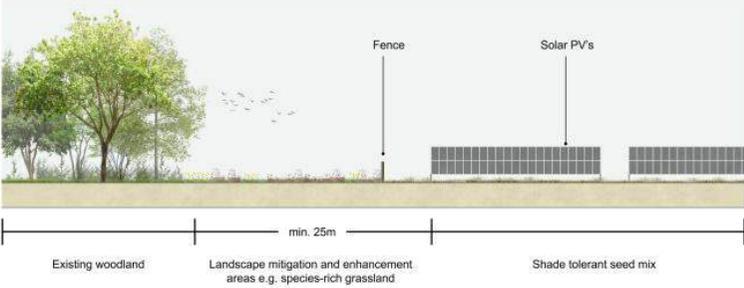
Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.



Design

Visualisations

Below are examples of offsets from woodlands and homes.



Design

Existing public rights of way and new permissive paths

We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. In most cases, we have been able to provide more than this minimum by removing panels from the field on one side of the path.

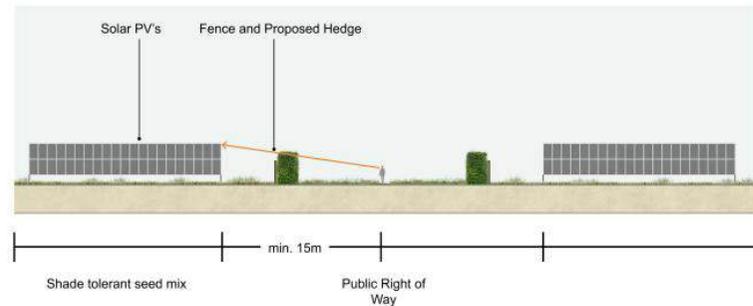
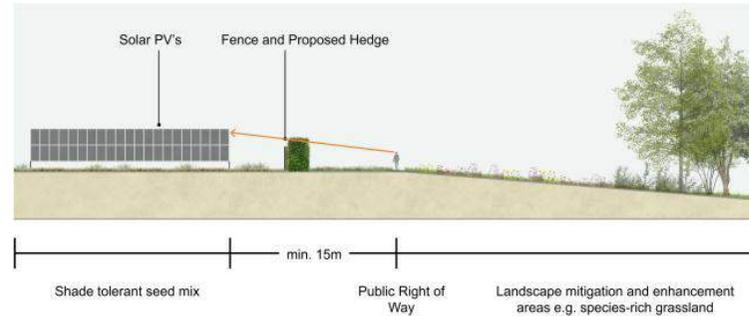
As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site and formalise informal paths that are already being used. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders, we are proposing new permissive paths across the site (shown in the masterplan on pages 10-11). They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project. These will continue to evolve based on feedback from this consultation and ongoing discussions with landowners.



Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?
Are there other paths you would like to see?

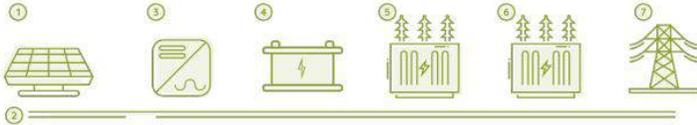
Design

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.



Components of a solar farm

Components of a solar farm



- 1 **Solar panels** would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, direct current (DC) electricity.
- 2 **Underground cables** would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.
- 3 **Power conversion stations (PCS)** would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.
- 4 **A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.
- 5 **Substations** would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity. Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.
- 6 The energy would then be transferred into the **National Grid** at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

Components of a solar farm

Appearance

The power conversion stations (PCS) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.



Security

For safety and security, fields with solar panels would be surrounded by fencing, of wooden post and wire configuration. The fence would include CCTV, installed along the fence lines looking inward. Mammal gates would be included to ensure that local wildlife can still move across the area, while keeping humans out. For safety reasons, the substations and BESS areas would need more substantial 'palisade' fencing to prevent anyone entering these areas.

Components of a solar farm

Noise

The solar panels would be fixed, so they do not make any noise. However, some of the other components of the solar farm, including the power conversion stations (PCS), batteries and substations do make a buzzing sound. Therefore, it is important that we locate these components away from homes and other key locations to minimise potential impacts.

In the updated masterplan, the potential locations for substations and batteries are at least 250m away from homes to avoid noise impacts. The PCS units would be located in the fields with the solar panels, at least 100m away from homes and 50m away from public rights of way whenever possible. If they need to be located closer to homes or paths, then they would include noise mitigation to ensure that they do not increase ambient noise levels by more than 5 decibels subject to local context.

These distances will be further informed by ongoing noise assessments to better understand the existing noise levels and how the technology could create potential impacts.

Heights

Solar technology is evolving rapidly, which means that we might not be able to confirm the specific details of components that we will use right now. Where this is the case, we are assessing the impacts of a 'worst-case' scenario. For example, if we don't yet know how tall a part of the project will be, we assess its tallest possible height. You may see this called 'the Rochdale Envelope' which is the principle that allows flexibility in design for DCO projects like Whitestone to permit changes in its design up to certain parameters. This is important so that we can account for uncertainties in the design and technological changes.

These are the maximum heights for the various components that we are assessing:

- Solar Panels: **3.8m**
- Wooden pole and wire fencing: **2.2m**
- BESS: **3.5m**
- Substations: **13.5m**

Components of a solar farm

Substations and batteries

In order to collect the energy from the solar panels and transfer it to the grid, the project needs three substations: one primary substation in WS2, and one satellite substation for both WS1 and WS2. The primary substation would be up to 100m wide by 170m long, while the smaller satellite substations would be up to 90m wide by 130m long. As shown in the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11, we have identified three different potential locations for the primary substation, and five potential locations for the satellite substations. These are based on technical assessments, including access and ground conditions, as well as proximity to homes and environmentally sensitive areas. Similarly, we have identified two different locations where the batteries could be located within WS2. We are now consulting on these options for substations and batteries in order to make the final decision on where they should be located.



Example of a typical substation



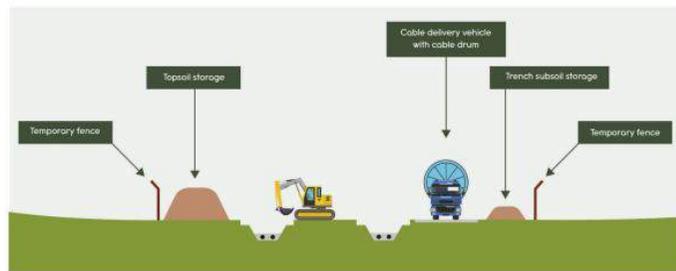
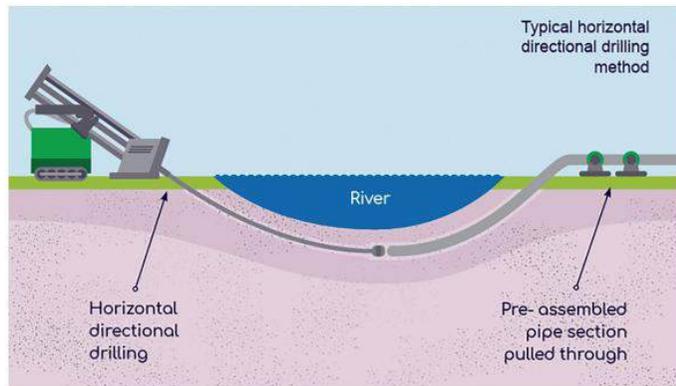
Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

Components of a solar farm

Underground cabling

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

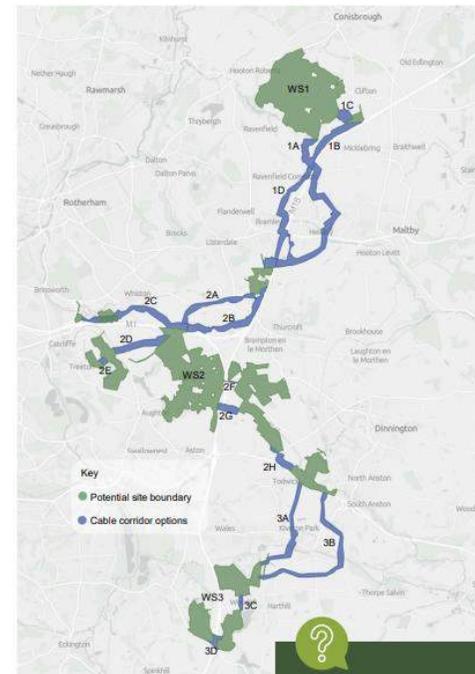
Most cables could be laid through open trenches, where the cable is laid approximately 1m below the ground level, and then soil is replaced on top. Through more sensitive areas, such as woodlands, highways, or streams, we may need to use trenchless crossing methods, such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), which drills under the sensitive area and pulls the cable through.



Components of a solar farm

Cable corridor options

To connect WS1, WS2 and WS3 to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, as well as initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas. We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which routes to use.



Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

Environmental assessments

Protecting the environment

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- **The Scoping Opinion** is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- **The draft Environmental Statement (draft ES)** includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are required to consult on these initial results in order to fact check our approach and findings, before completing the assessments.
- **The Environmental Statement (ES)** will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

All of the DCO application will be made public through the PINS website.

Environmental assessments

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA:



Biodiversity and nature conservation



Climate change and greenhouse gas



Landscape and visual



Air quality



Cultural heritage and archaeology



Traffic and transport



Ground conditions and land quality



Noise and vibration



Water resources and flood risk



Socioeconomics, tourism and recreation and land use

Other environmental issues

Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.



Scan here to view the Scoping Opinion



Scan here to view the full Draft Environmental Statement

Environmental assessments

Below are some of the key findings in the draft ES:



Biodiversity and nature conservation

We have consulted with the Environment Agency (EA), Canal and Rivers Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to understand the existing local ecology. We have also conducted a variety of surveys to identify protected or sensitive species, including badgers, winter birds, breeding birds, bats, great crested newts, reptiles, otters and water voles. Subject to the completion of the remaining surveys and the use of appropriate buffers in the masterplan, we do not expect any significant adverse effects and do expect significant benefits for biodiversity.



Landscape and visual

We used desk-based research to understand landscape character, and conducted on site walkovers, both in winter and summer, to assess potential views from viewpoints. This assessment considers residents within the local area, users of public rights of way and bridleways, users of the local road network, and visitors to local attractions. Some significant impacts are found just after construction. These will be mitigated with new plantings, including hedgerows and trees, to create a natural screening.



Cultural heritage and archaeology

We have consulted with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service to discuss our proposed approach to fieldwork. We have completed geophysical surveys across the majority of the solar areas to identify underground cultural assets. We have also completed desk-based assessments to identify above-ground assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments, which include Conisbrough Castle and the Roman villa located in WS1. The masterplan includes offsets around these assets to reduce potential impacts. While a few minor impacts are identified, they are not considered to be significant and will be mitigated with further changes to the masterplan or introduction of natural screening.



Ground conditions and land quality

In addition to desk-based assessments, we have also completed agricultural land classification (ALC) surveys to identify soil quality across most of the solar areas, which found that 21% is considered best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) while the remaining 79% is lower grade agricultural land.



Climate change and greenhouse gas

We have completed a carbon footprint assessment and found that while the project would produce around 525,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) during construction, operation and decommissioning, it would avoid 16 million tonnes of CO₂e through the production of renewable energy during the project's lifetime. This is a net reduction of 15.5 million tonnes of CO₂e.

Environmental assessments



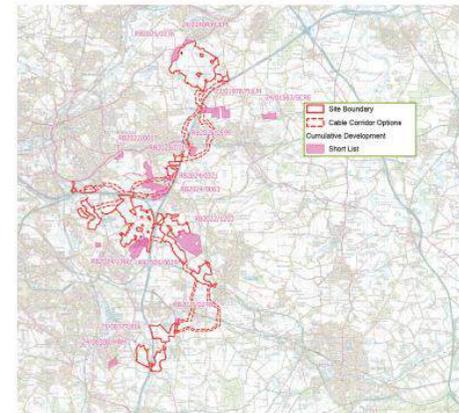
Water resources and flood risk

The EA Flood Map shows that most of the site is in Flood Zone 1 (lowest flood risk), with some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The project will be designed to remain operational without increasing flood risk elsewhere up to and including the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, which includes allowances for increases in rainfall and river flows due to climate change. We have found a potential negligible impact on flooding during the construction phase, which would be mitigated with drainage design and other best practices. By placing solar panels outside of high flood risk areas or growing grass below and between the panels, we find a negligible or even positive impact during the operational stage. The Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy available on our website sets out the surface water management measures which will be in place to ensure the project does not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.



Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, we must also assess the cumulative impacts of planned and consented developments in the local area. The map below shows the other projects that we have considered as part of this assessment. We will continue to consult on the list of projects to be considered. At this stage, we have identified the projects to include in this assessment considering timing, proximity, and we will work with these other developers to reduce potential impacts where possible.



Do you have any comments on the environmental topics and the mitigation proposed?

Construction

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

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- **Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)** explains the measures and controls we will take to manage construction, including how we will avoid or reduce impacts such as noise, dust and disturbance.
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP)** describes how we will manage vehicles travelling to and from site during construction. We will consult with National Highways, as well as the local highway authorities to minimise impacts on local roads.
- **Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan (oLBMP)** describes how we will manage and maintain the landscape and environmental mitigation.
- **Outline Skills and Supply Chain Management Plan** describes how we will maximise the local economic benefit from the project.
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (oBSMP)**, provides an overview of the approach to safety for the proposed BESS.
- **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP)** will describe how to manage the decommissioning process at the end of the life of the project.
- **Outline Soils Management Plan (oSMP)** sets out methods and controls to protect and conserve the soil during construction.

Construction

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours - for example, when we need to move a very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an 'Abnormal Indivisible Load') or to perform a trenchless crossing (e.g. HDD) on the cable route or solar area, we may do this at night or in the early hours of the morning. We would consult on activities like this with local authorities and communicate with residents in advance.

Construction compounds

These spaces would be needed for unloading and storing materials, staff parking and welfare facilities, and management offices and oversight. Their locations have been selected to minimise impacts on local roads.

Traffic management

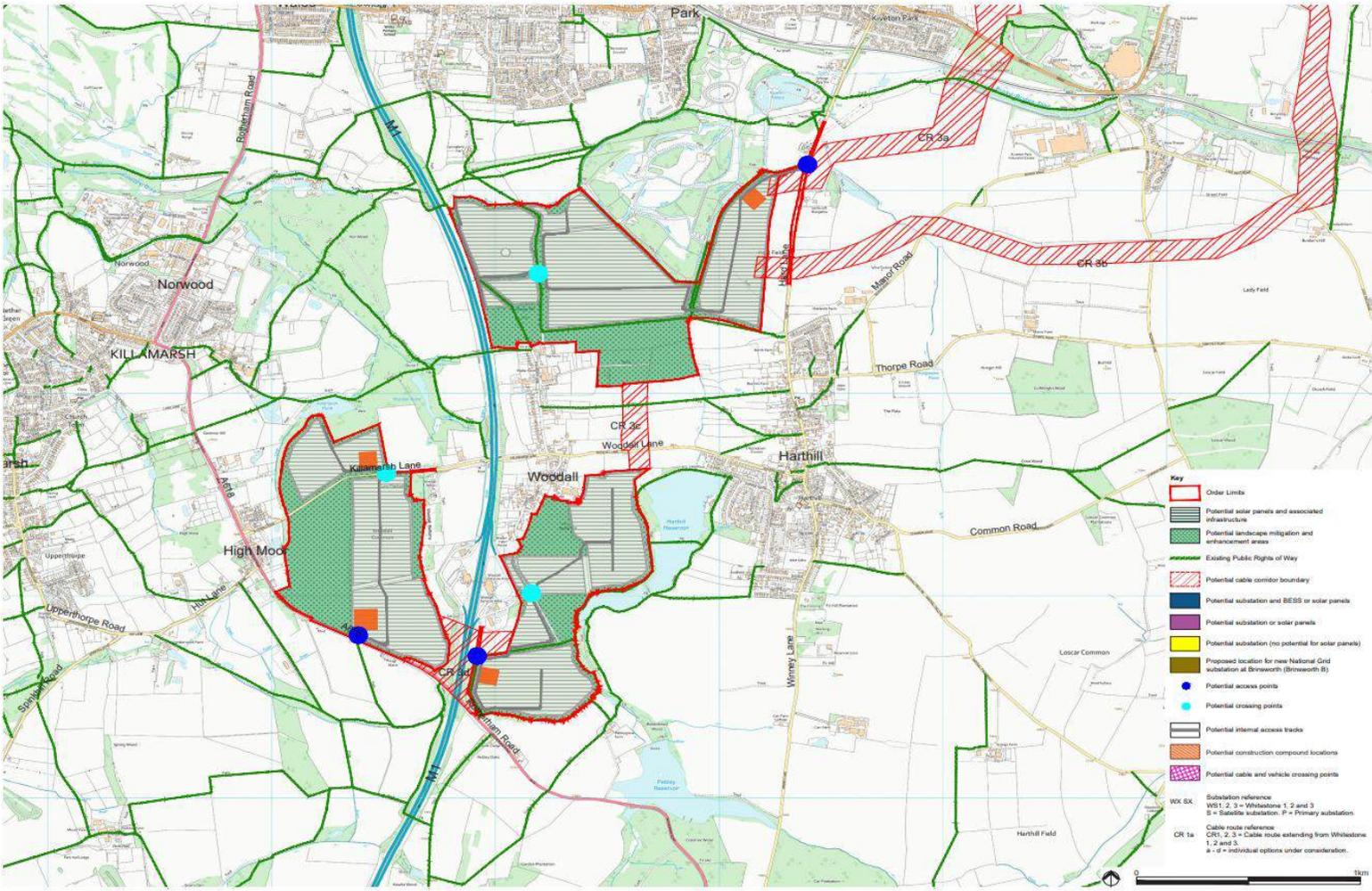
While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period. Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. At the very peak of construction, we estimate that there would be 630 daily round trips by construction workers and approximately 203 round trips of HGVs per day. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm).

We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic. This includes avoiding roads that would be too small for construction vehicles (HGVs) or have other size limitations on traffic. We have also assessed the current traffic levels to understand the potential impacts of construction vehicles. We have sought to avoid traffic through villages wherever possible.

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Construction

Construction



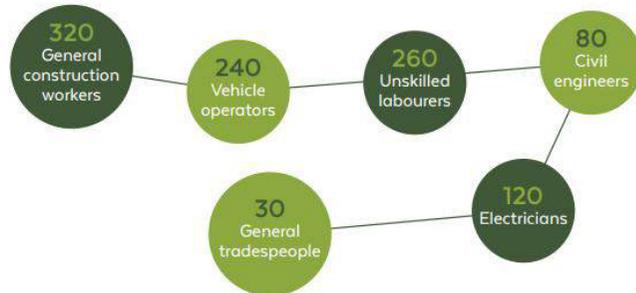
Construction

Construction

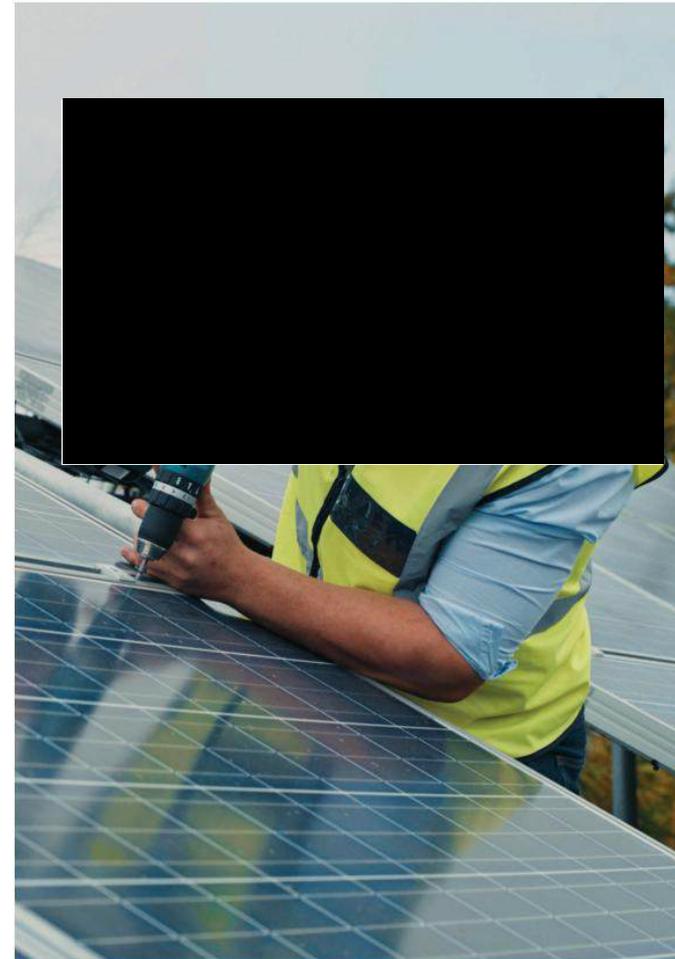
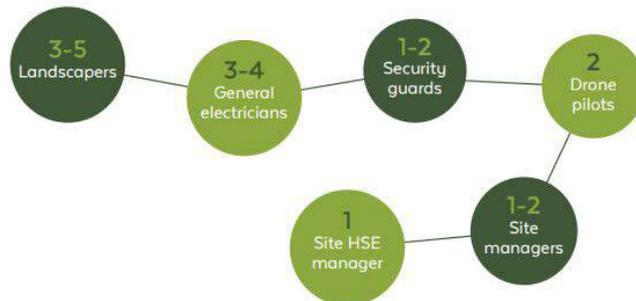
Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Where possible, we want to work to ensure those skills are developed and retained within the local community. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £119,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:



Once operational, we would need a team of at least 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:



Community benefits

Community benefits

When we first introduced Whitestone, we explained that we were committed to providing a community benefit package to ensure that there are local benefits from the project. We want to design the community benefit package collaboratively with the community, to make sure that it provides a meaningful benefit that supports existing initiatives and priorities. In response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with elected officials, we have developed the following proposal for your feedback.

We would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. The final figure would be based on the operational MW output, the lifetime of the project, and the outcomes of this consultation.

We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

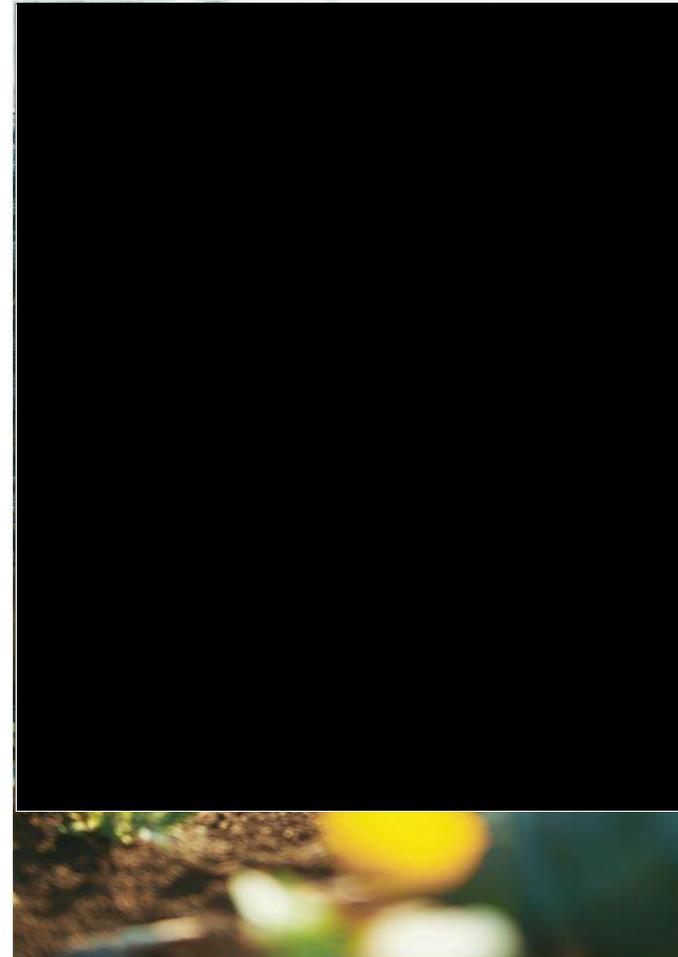
- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, and other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Support to reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.



What would you like to see in the community benefit package?

Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?

Community benefits



Consultation

Consultation

This consultation is running for six weeks, from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- Complete the online feedback form at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- Send an email to: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to: Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)



Scan here to
access the online
feedback form

Next steps

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments, will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk.



Get in touch

Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.

 0800 688 9936

 info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

 whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

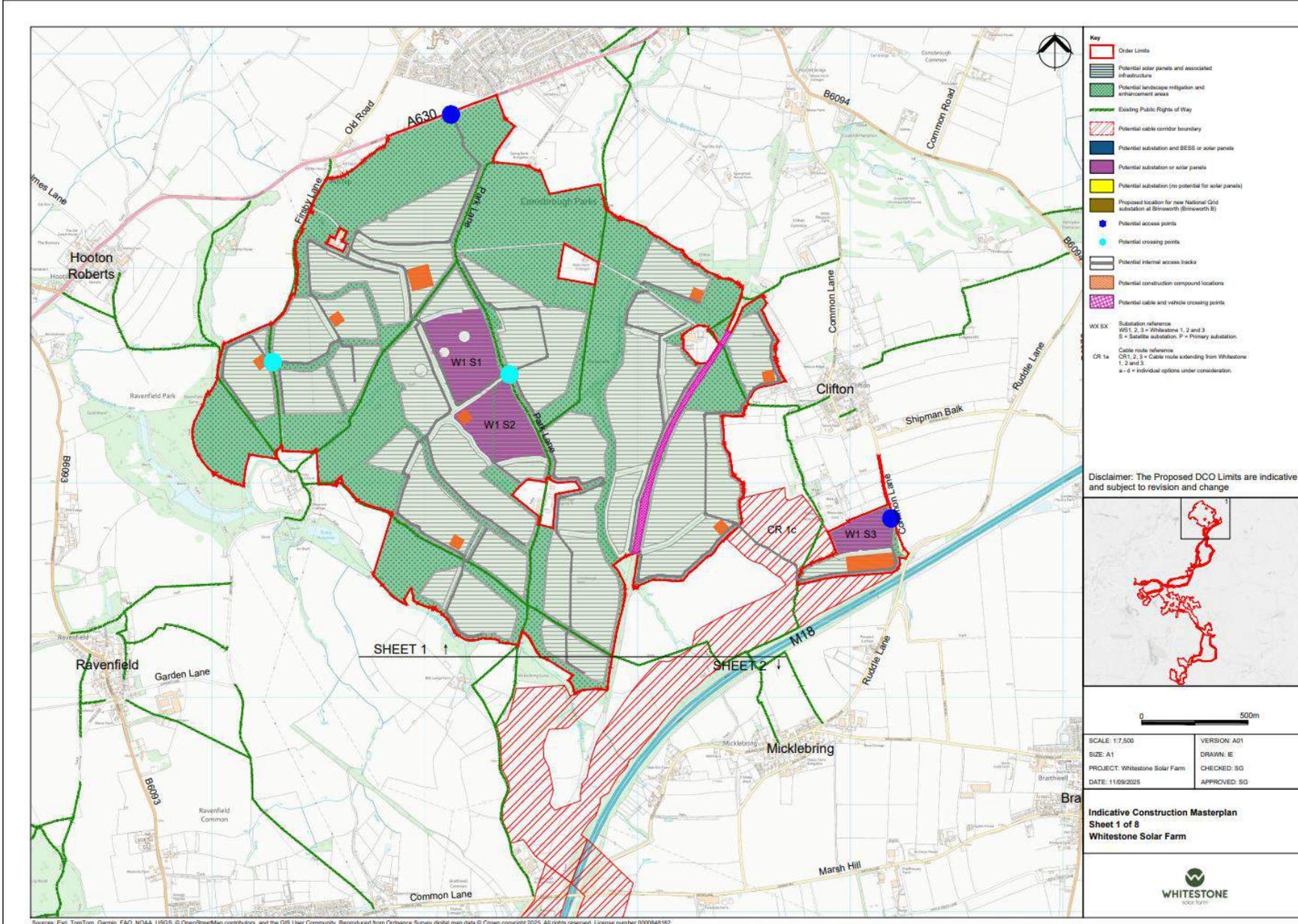
 Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local

APPENDIX C2 MASTERPLANS

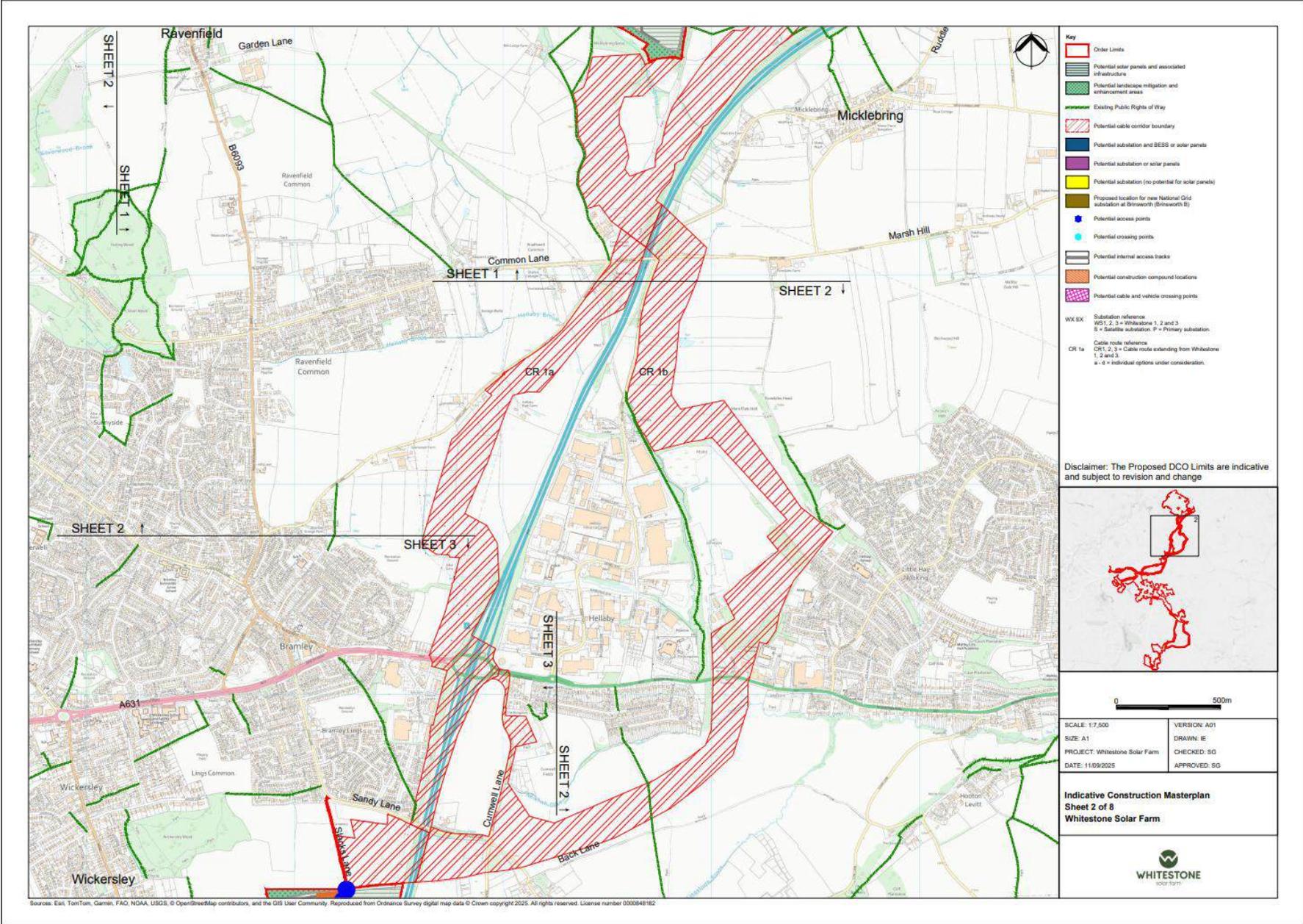
Appendix C2.1 Indicative Construction Masterplan (8 slides)

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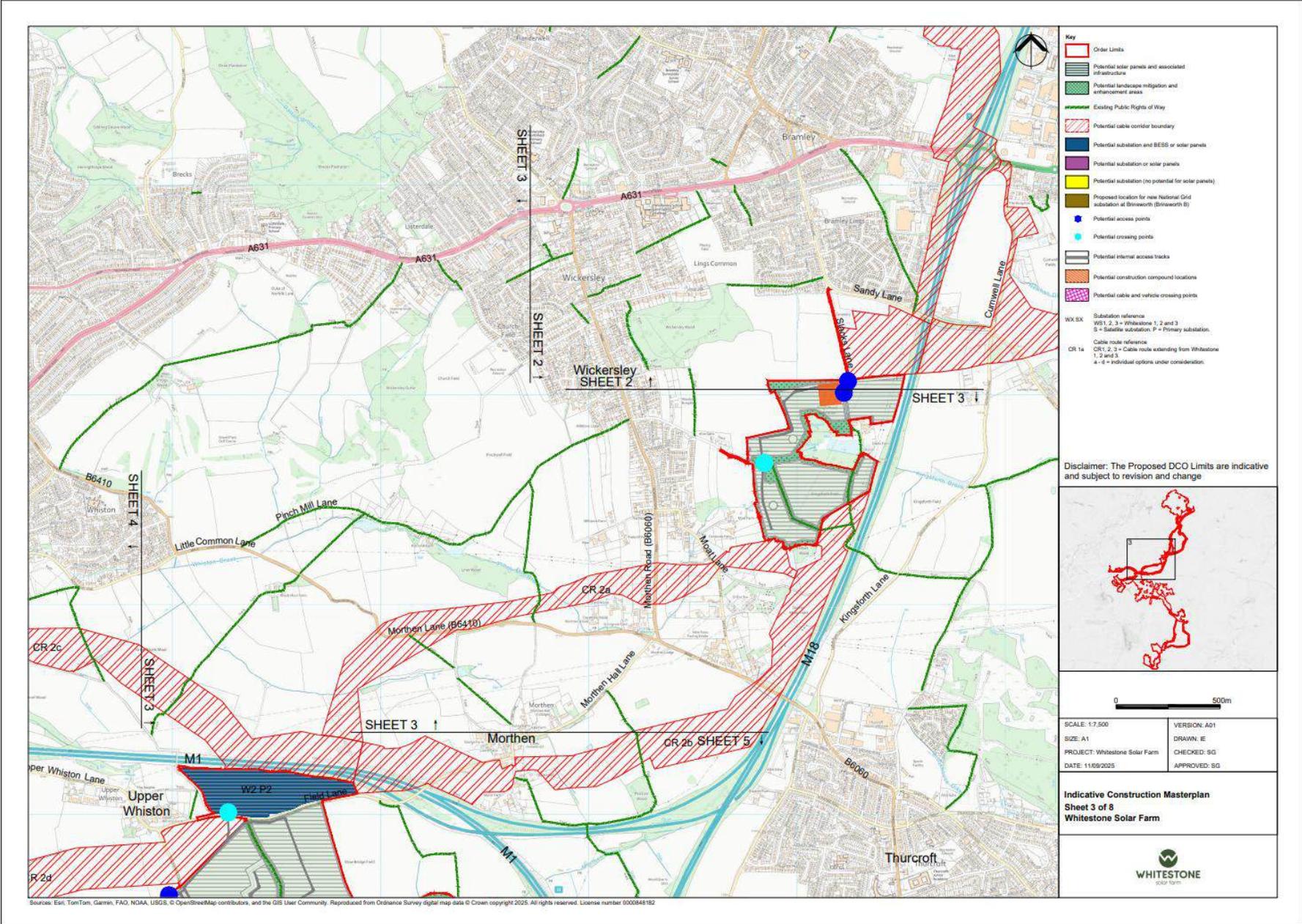
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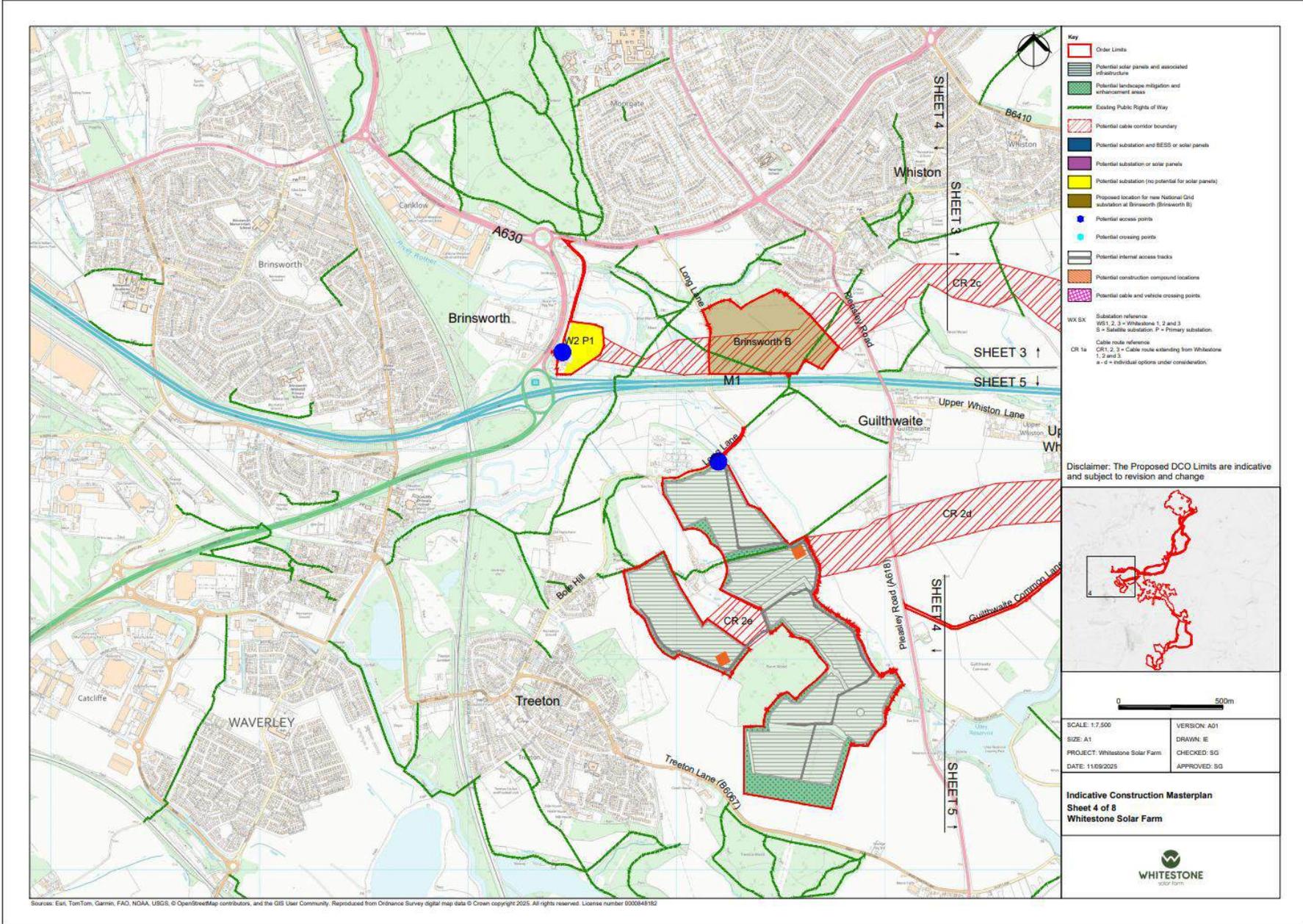
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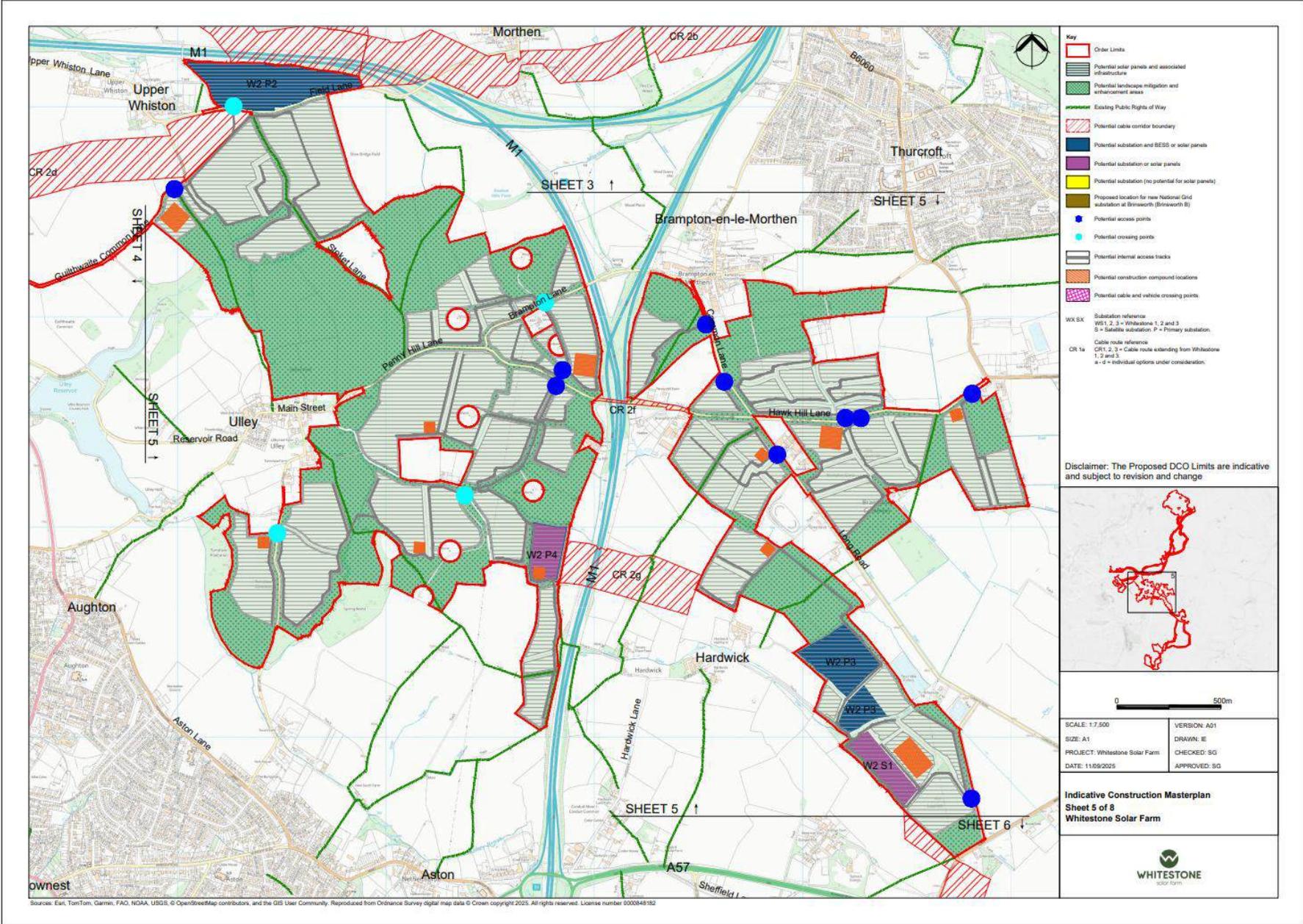
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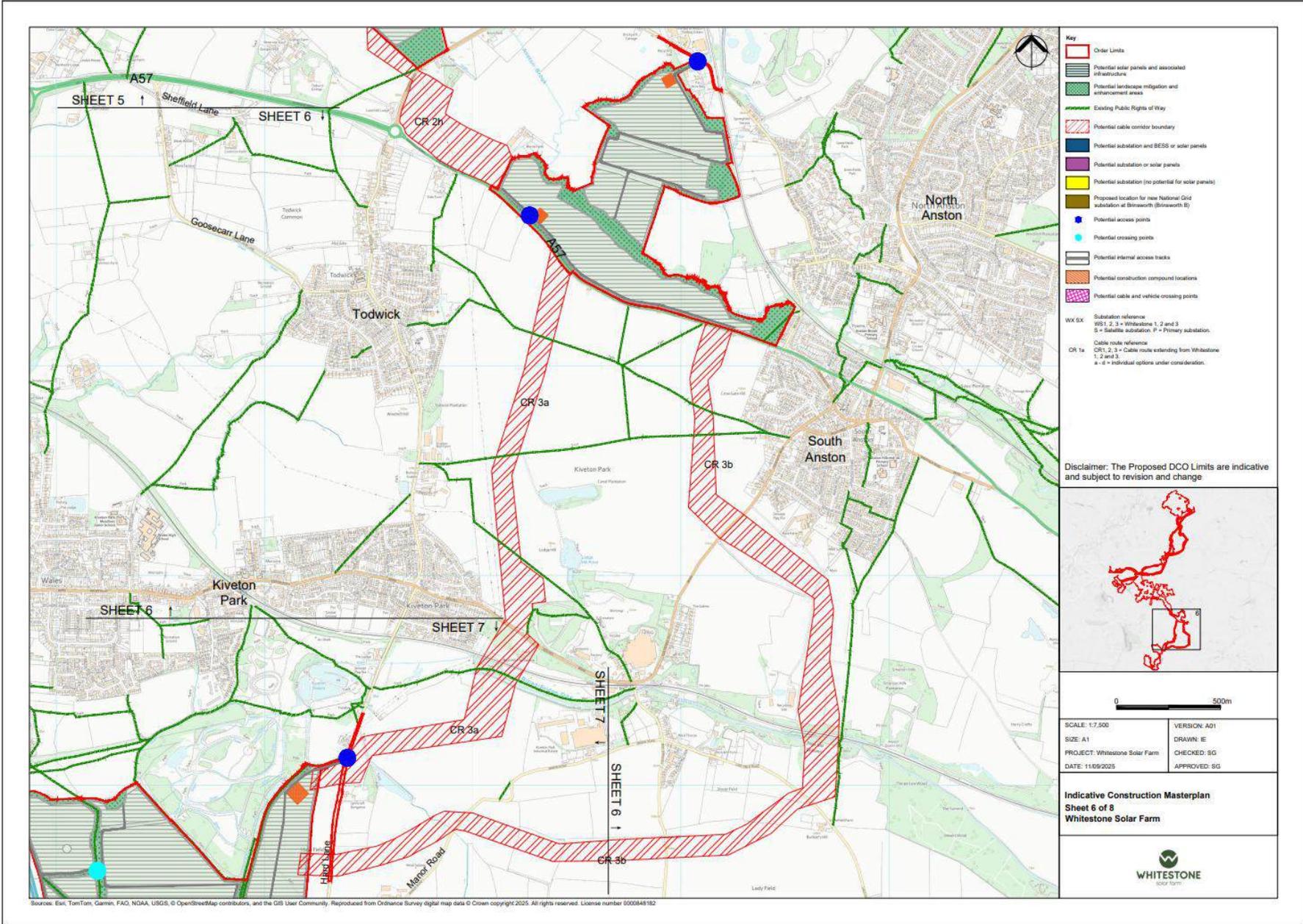
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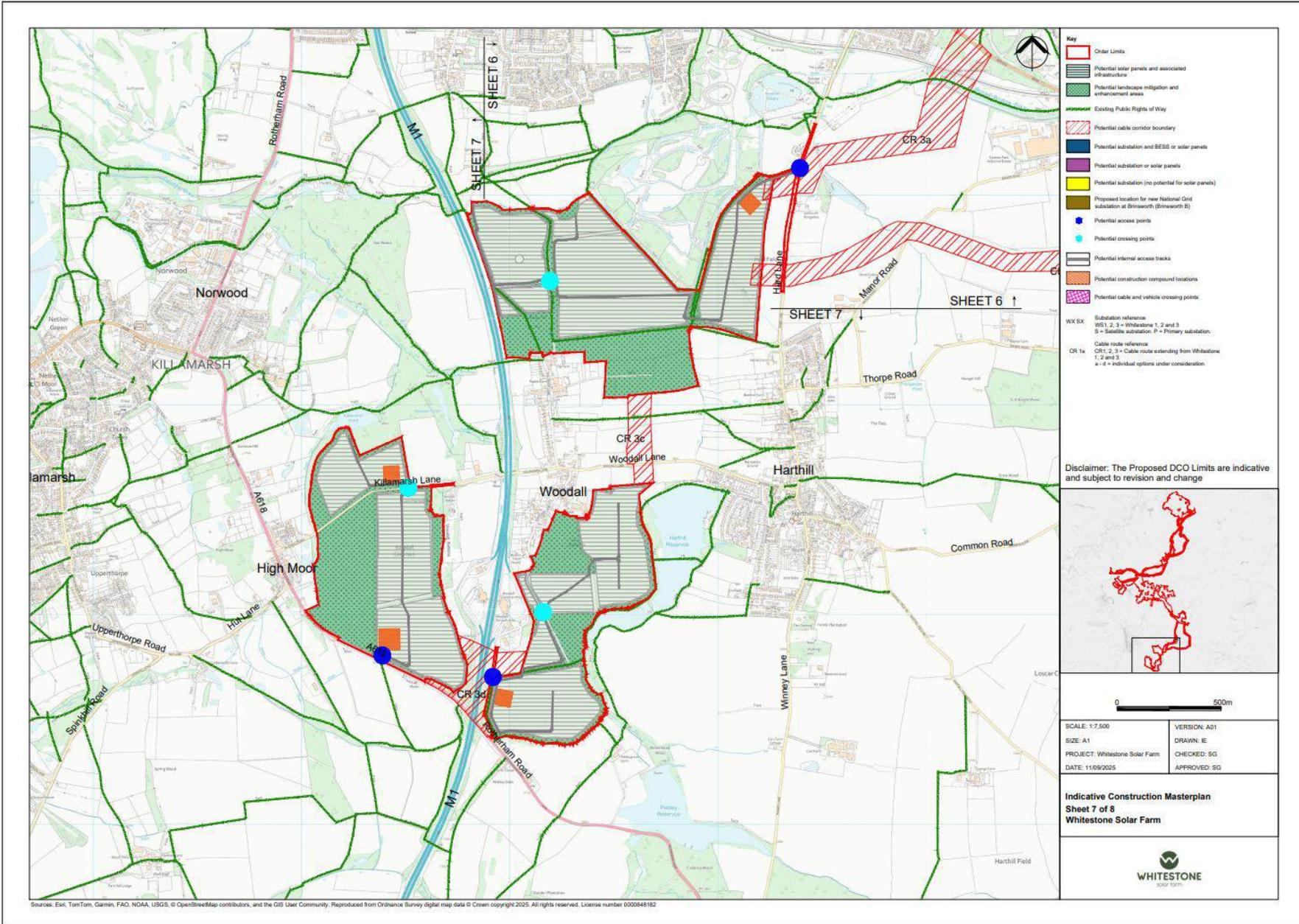
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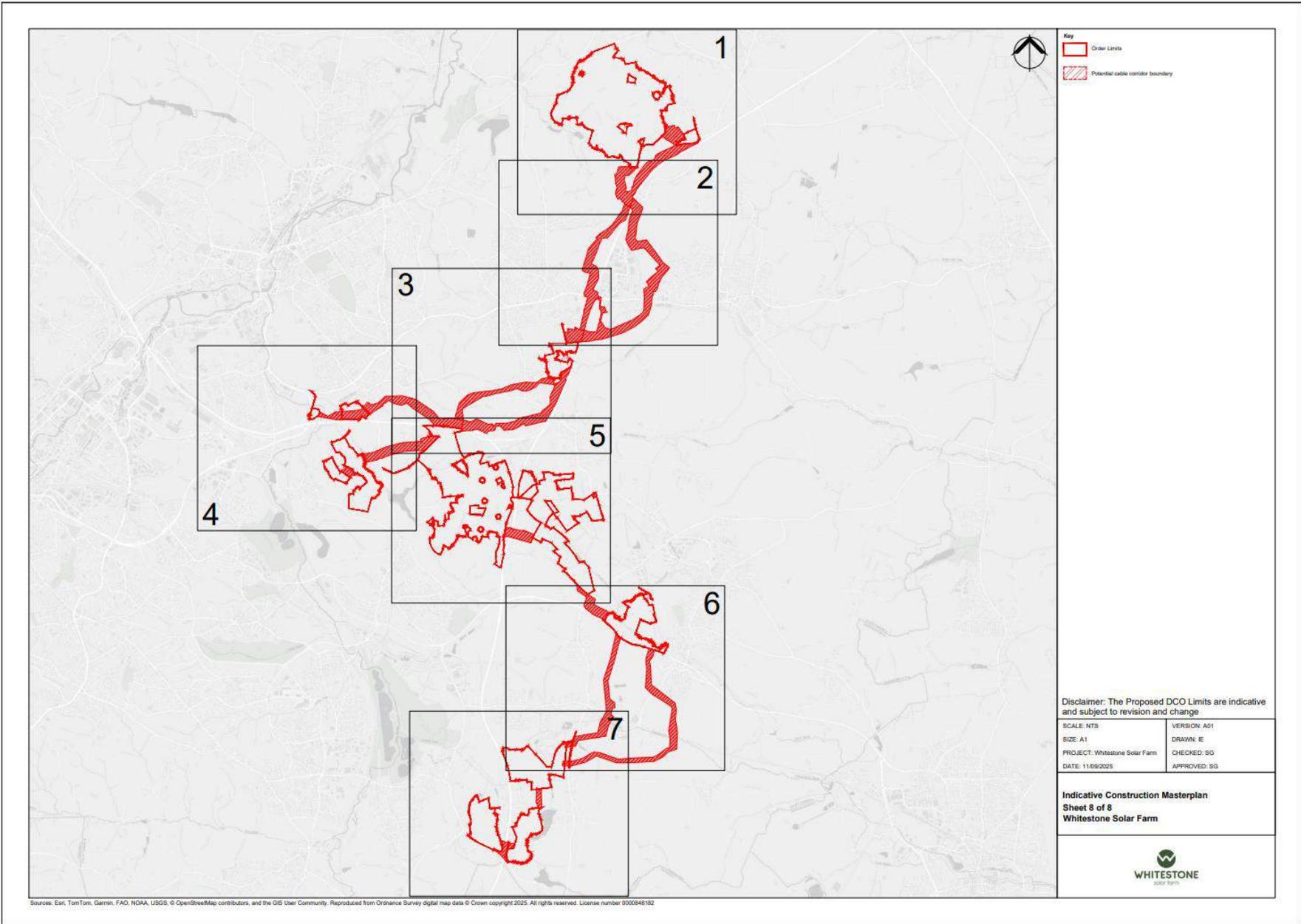
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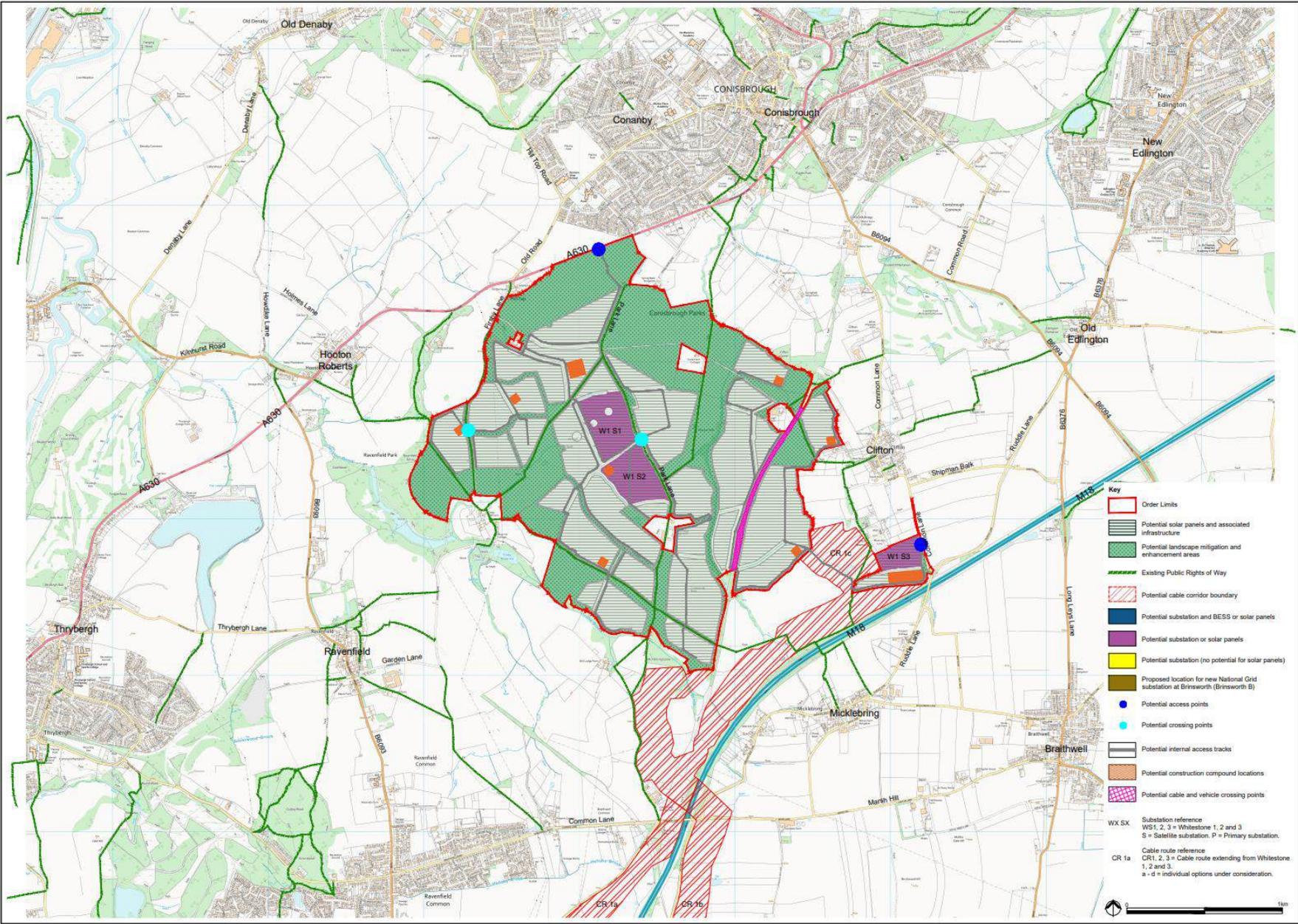


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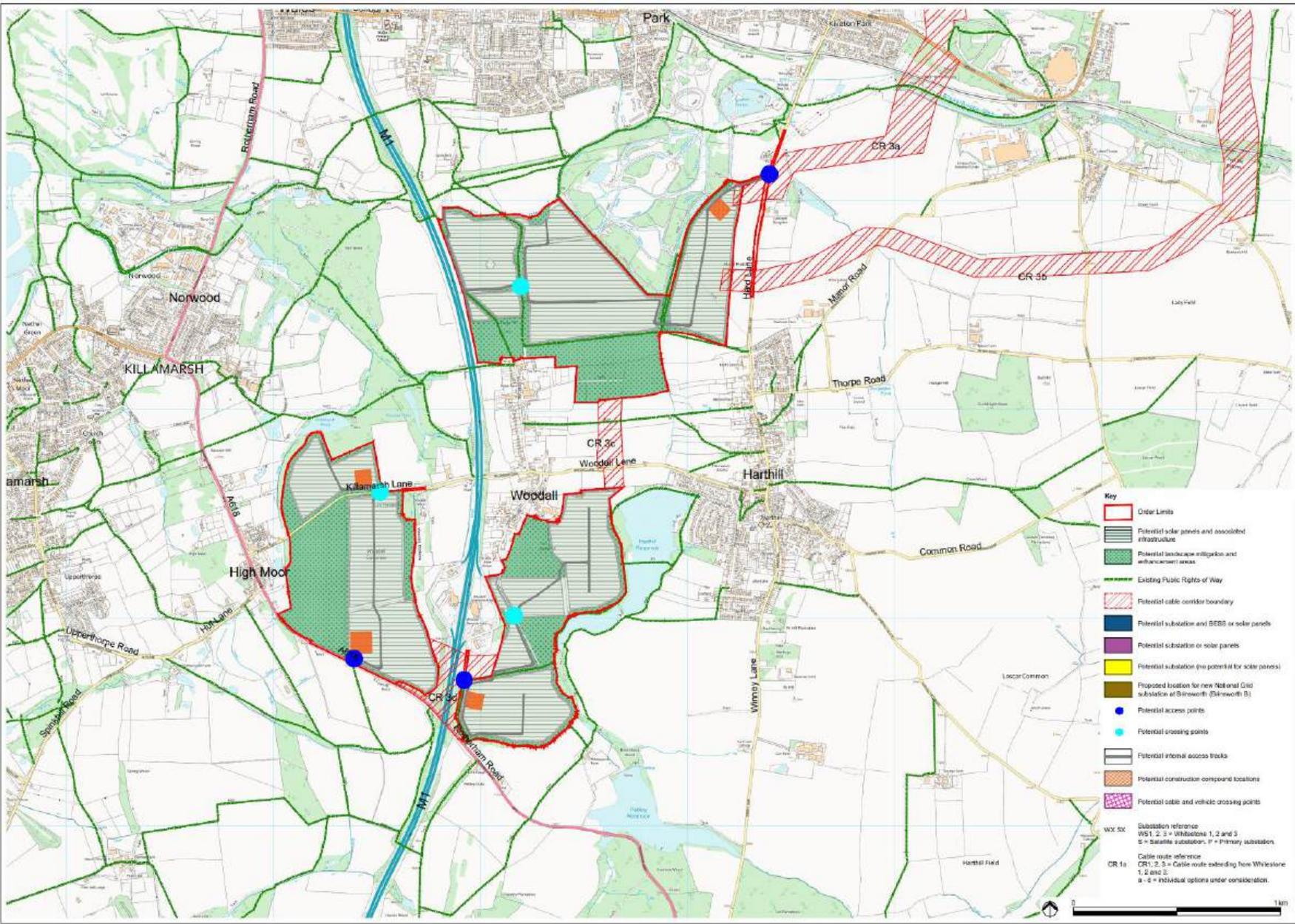
Appendix C2.2 Indicative Construction Masterplan (Whitestone 1, 2 and 3)

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report Appendix C

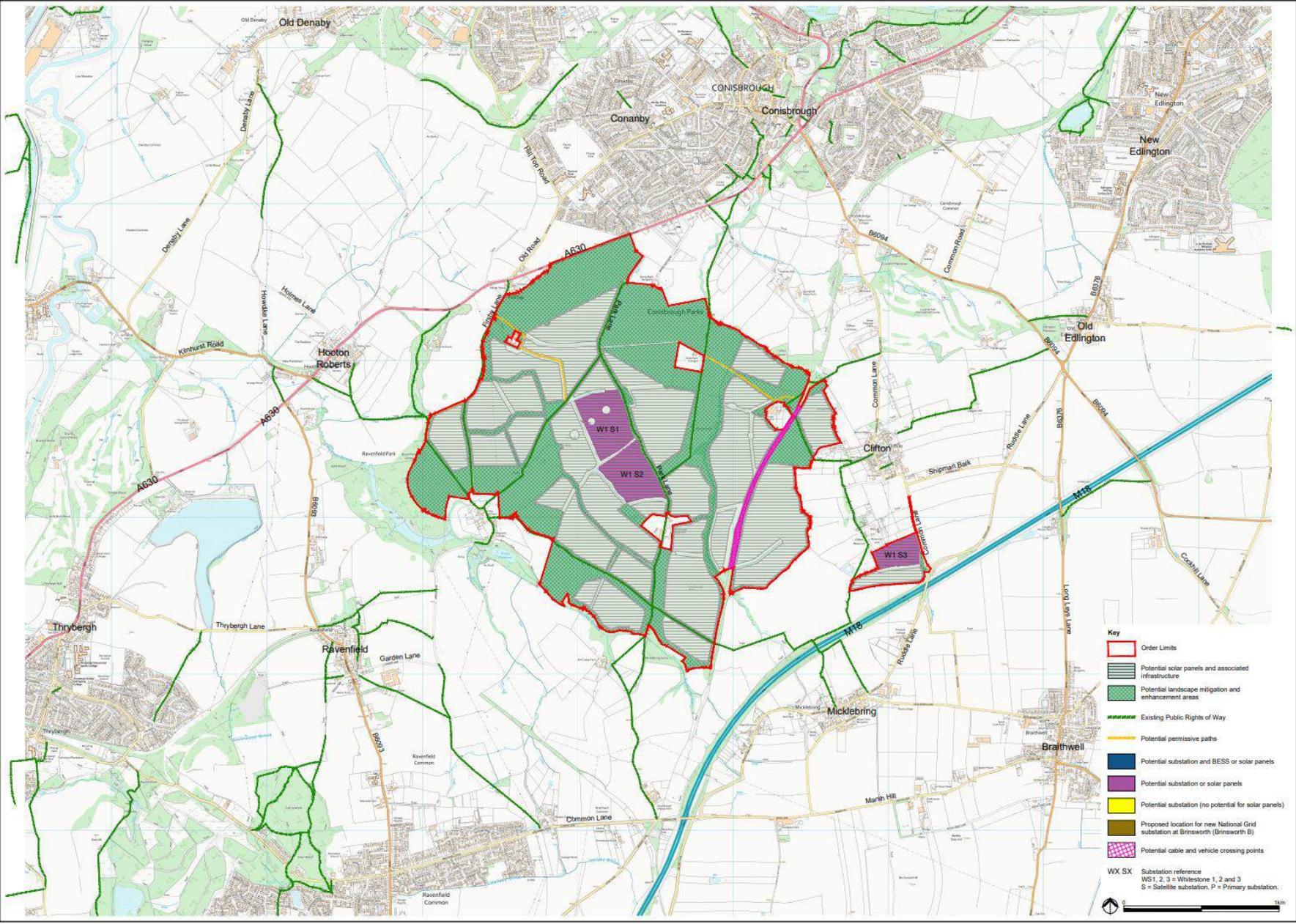
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Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report Appendix C

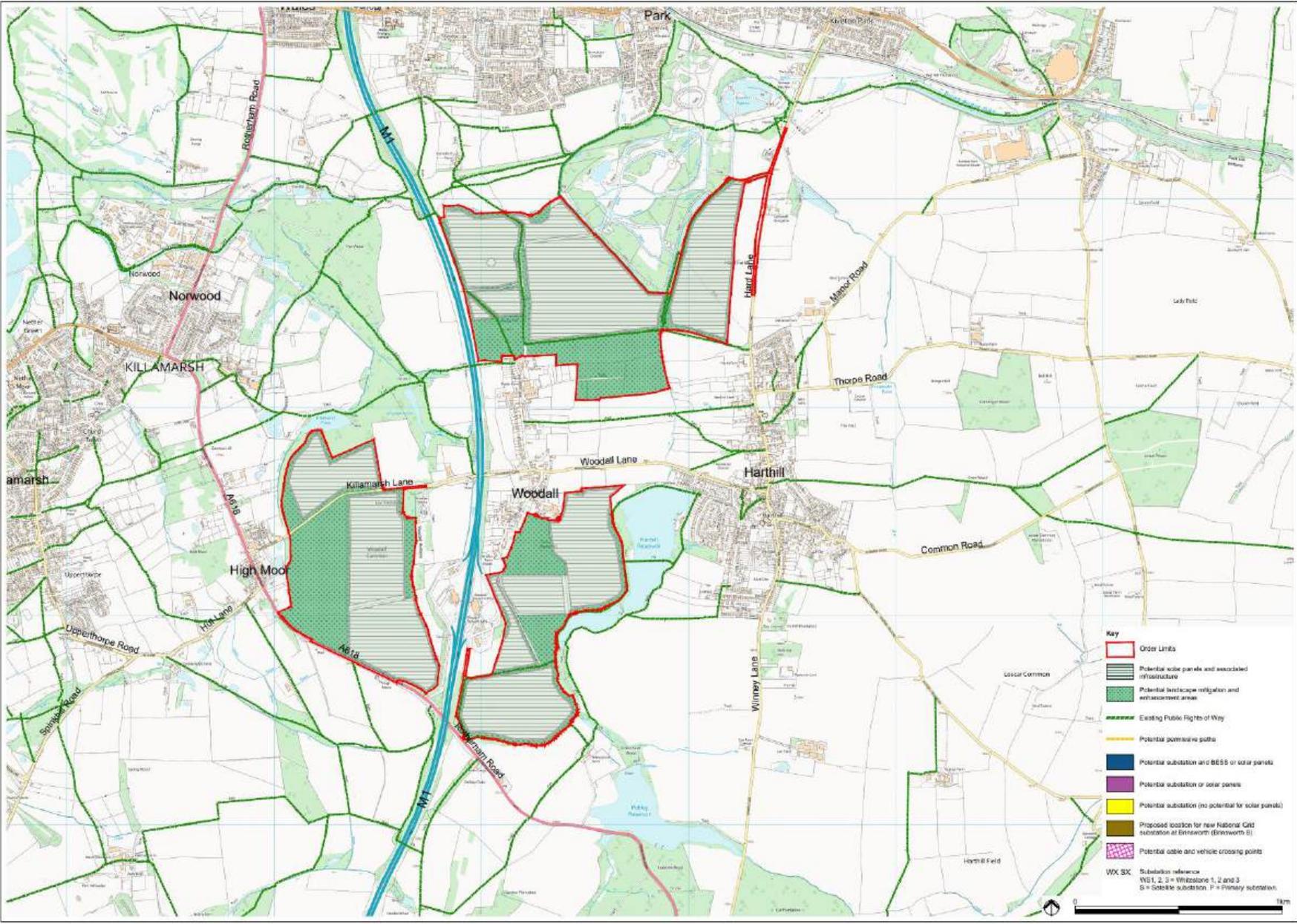
Appendix C2.3 Indicative Operation Masterplan (Whitestone 1, 2 and 3)

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT



Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report Appendix C

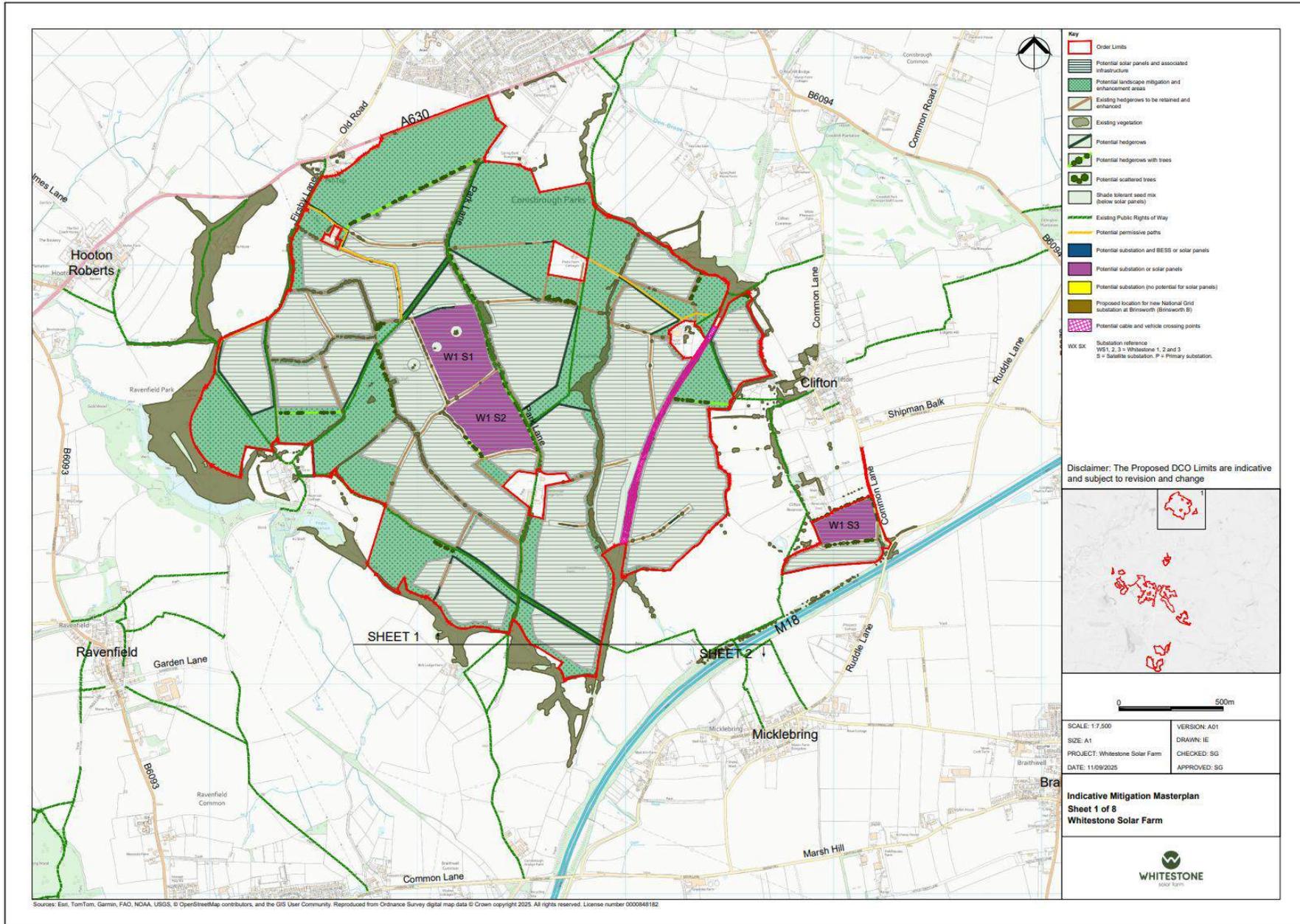
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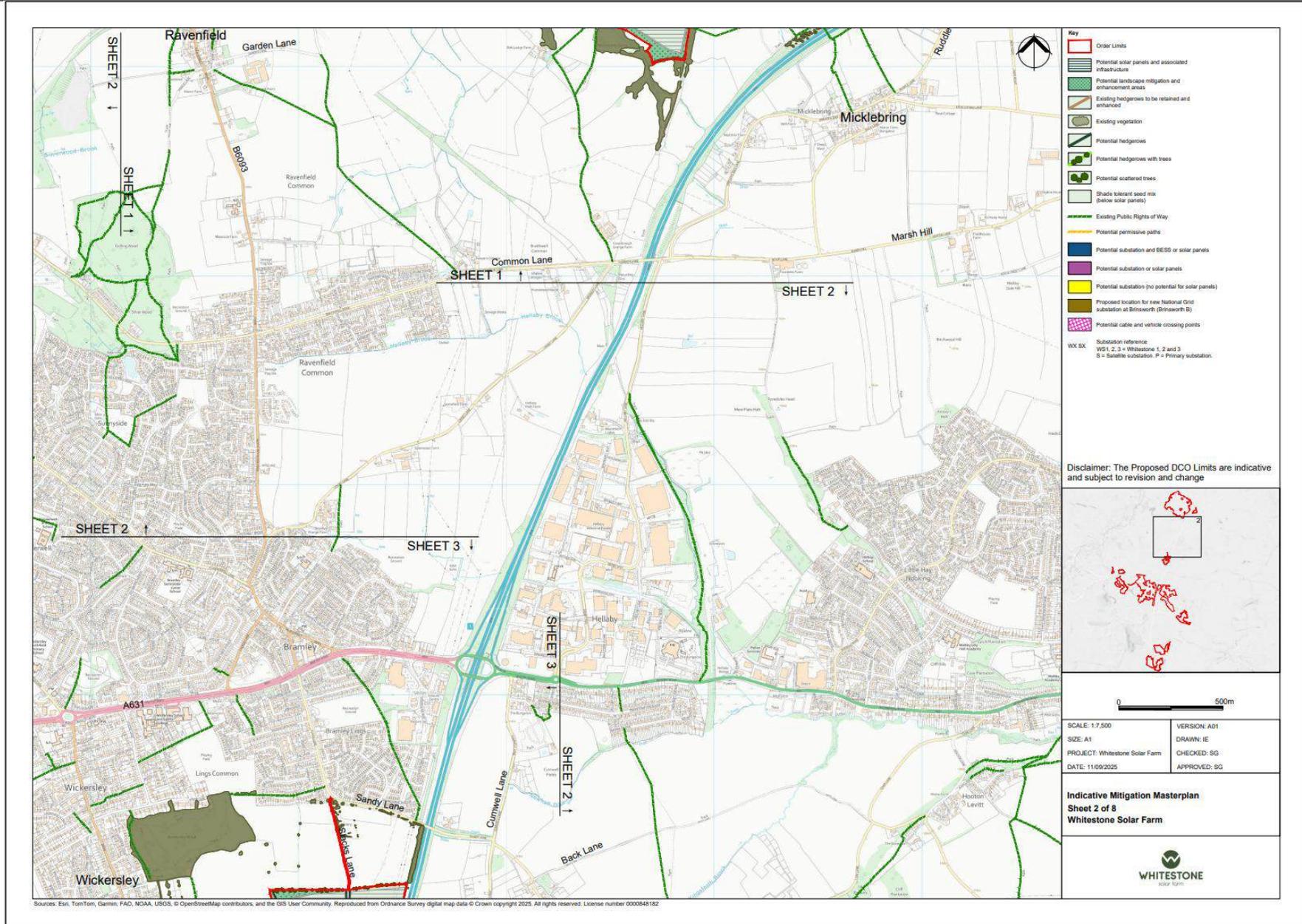
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Appendix C2.4 Indicative Operation Masterplan (8 slides)

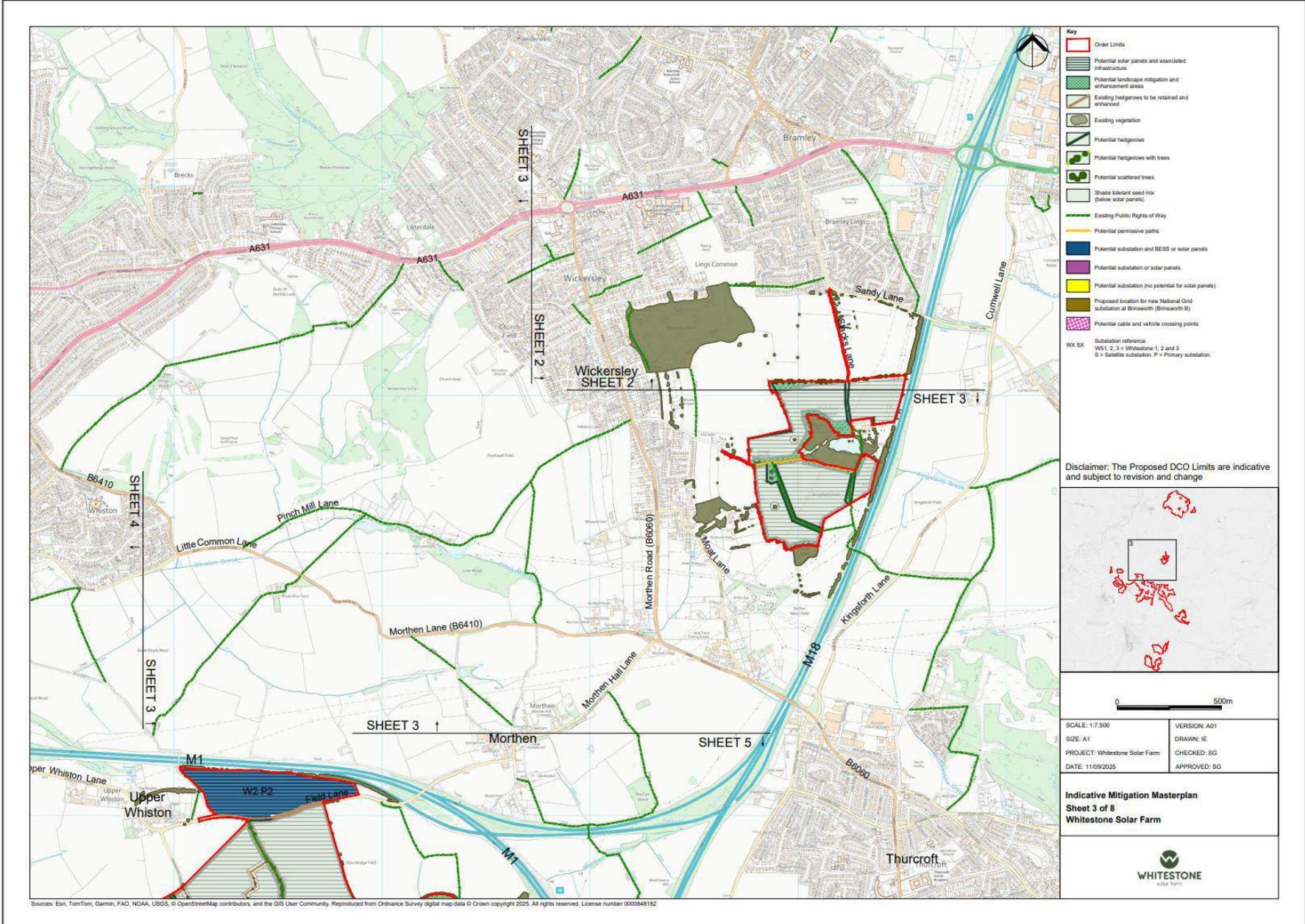
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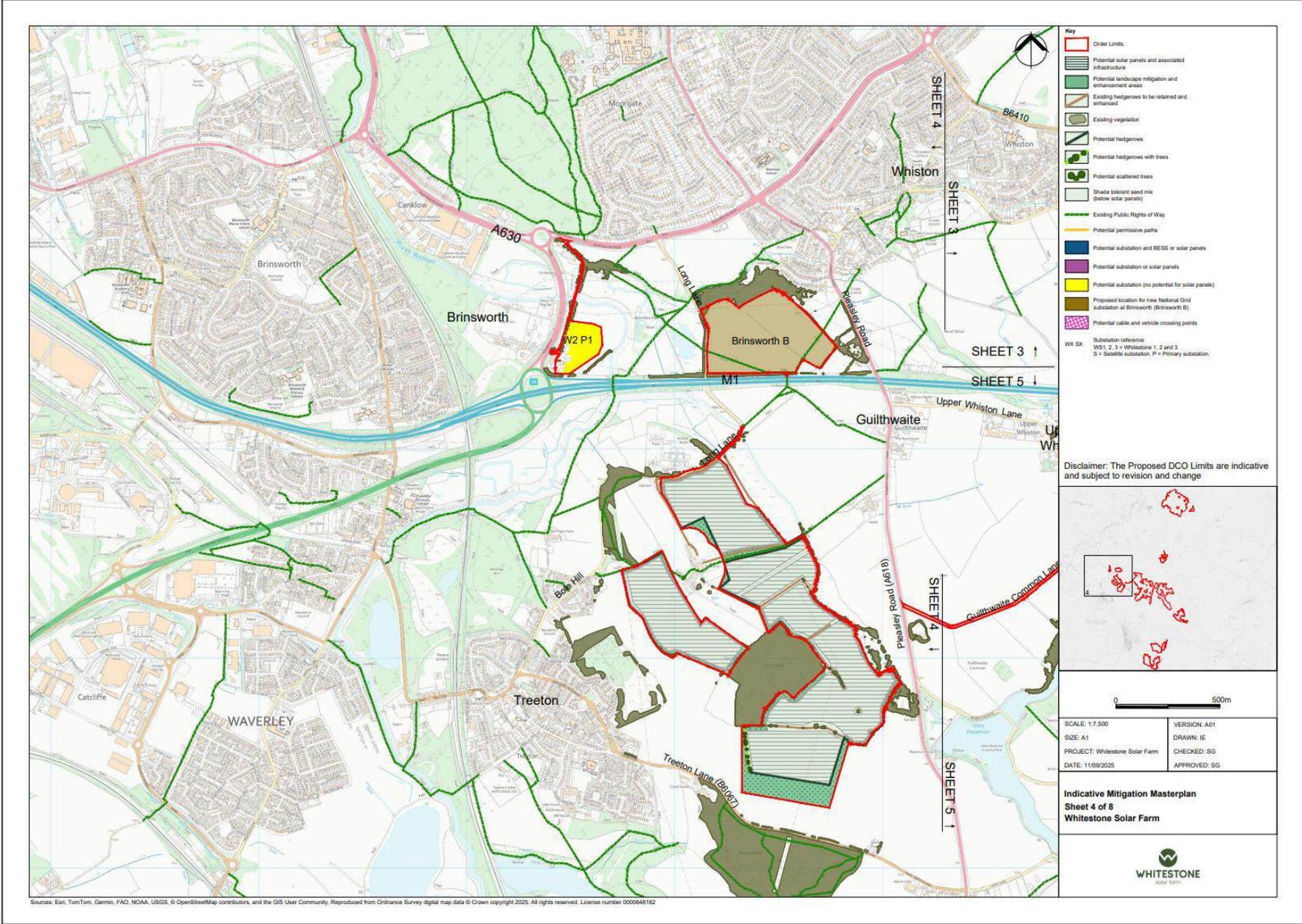
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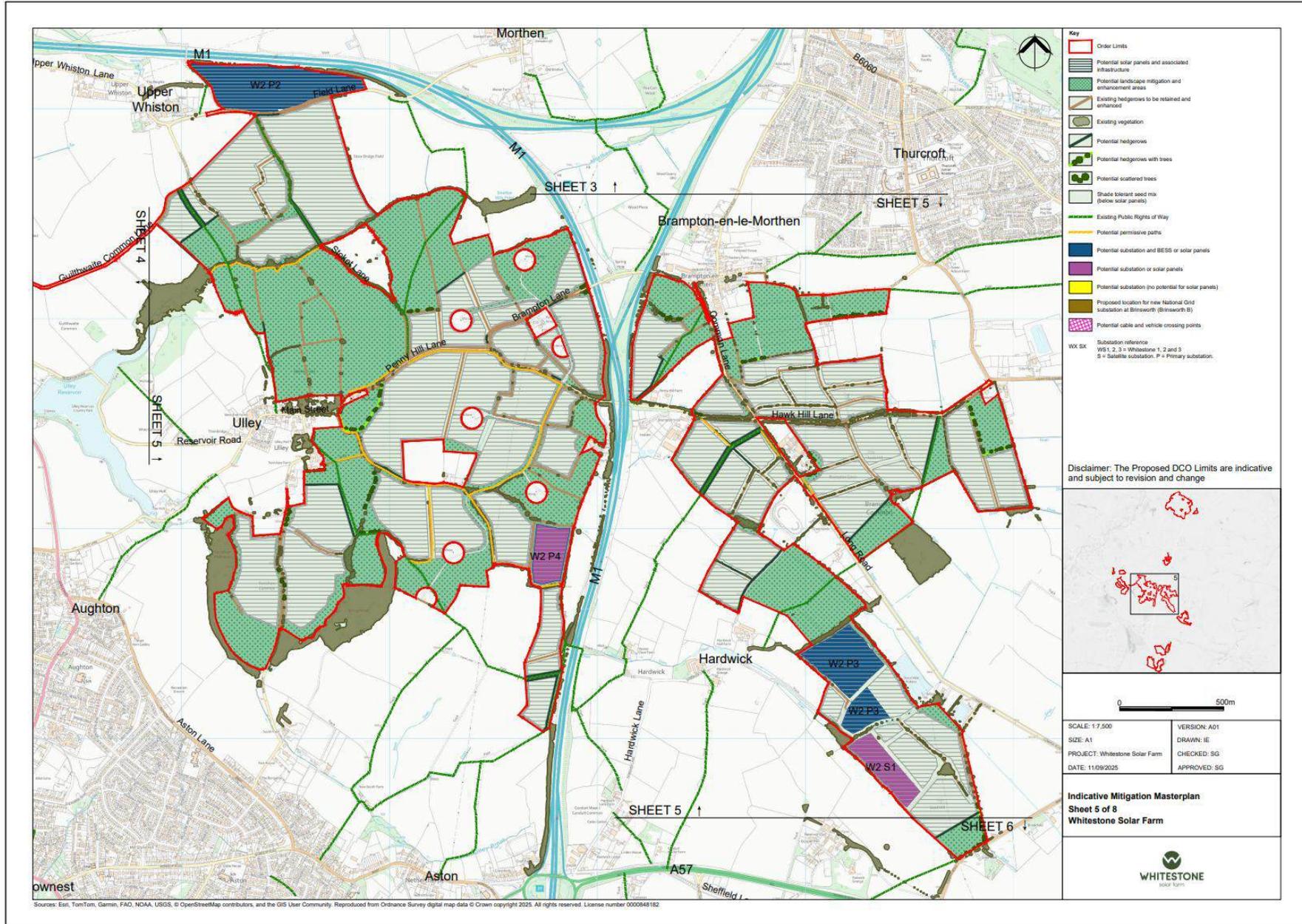
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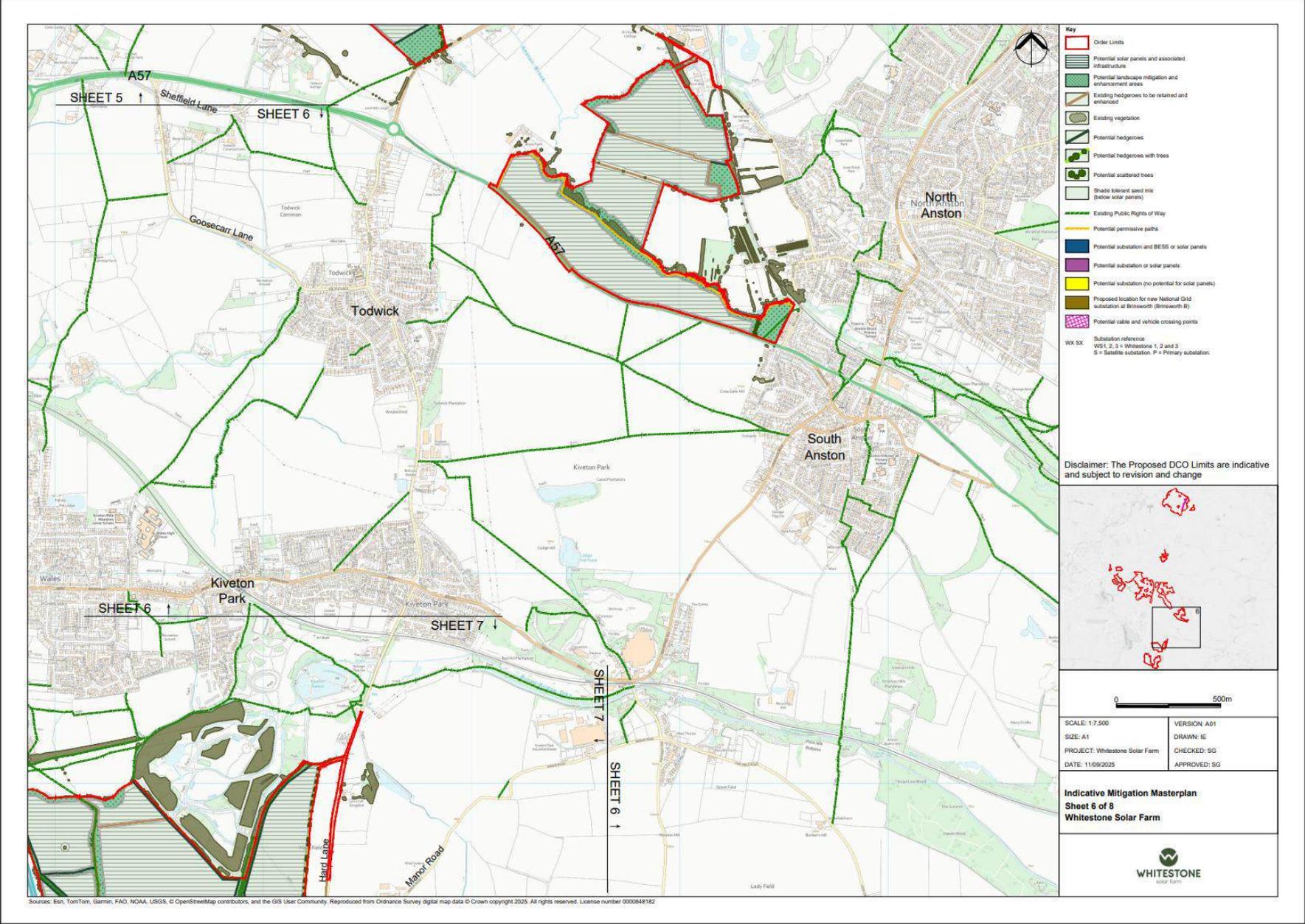
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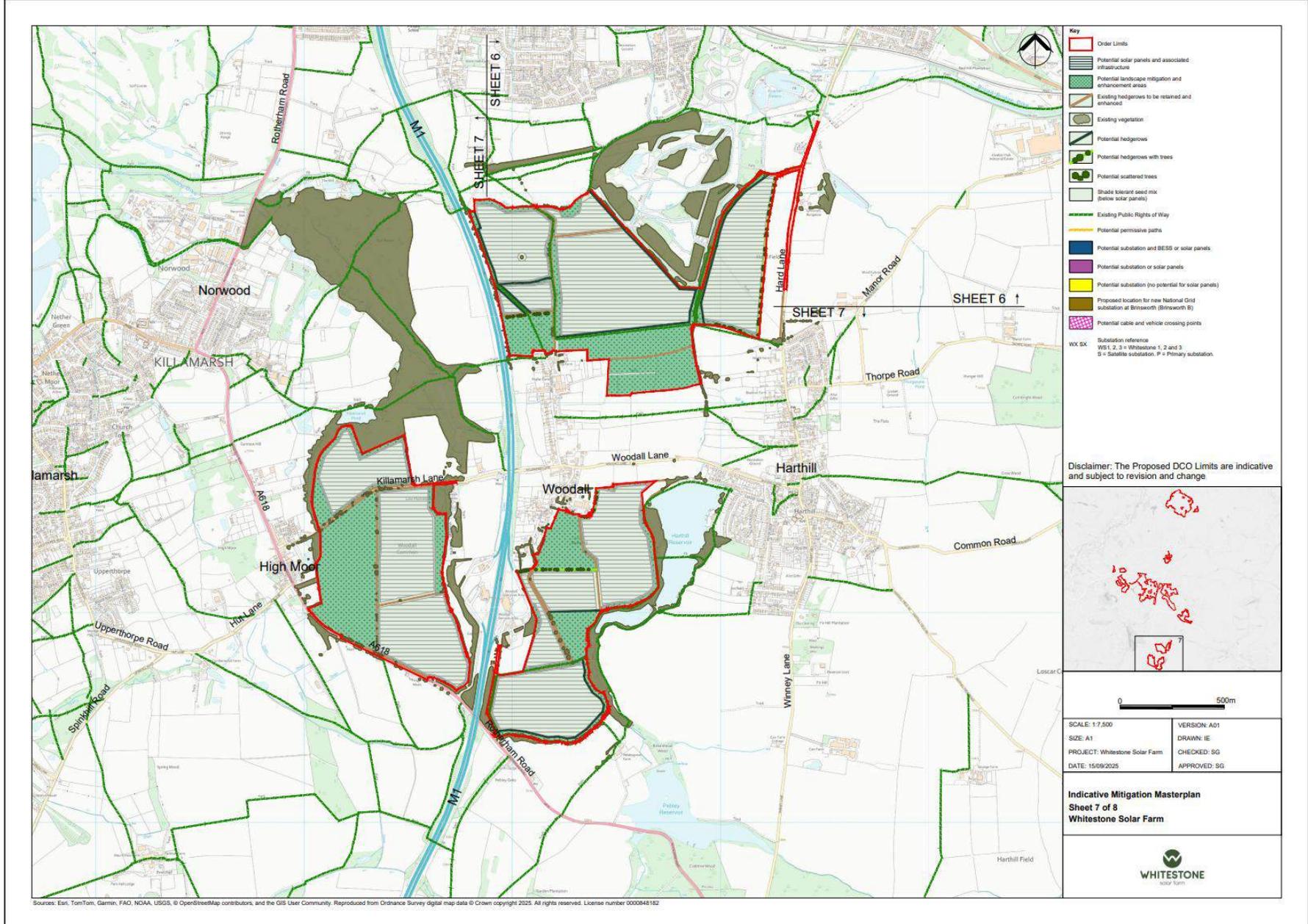
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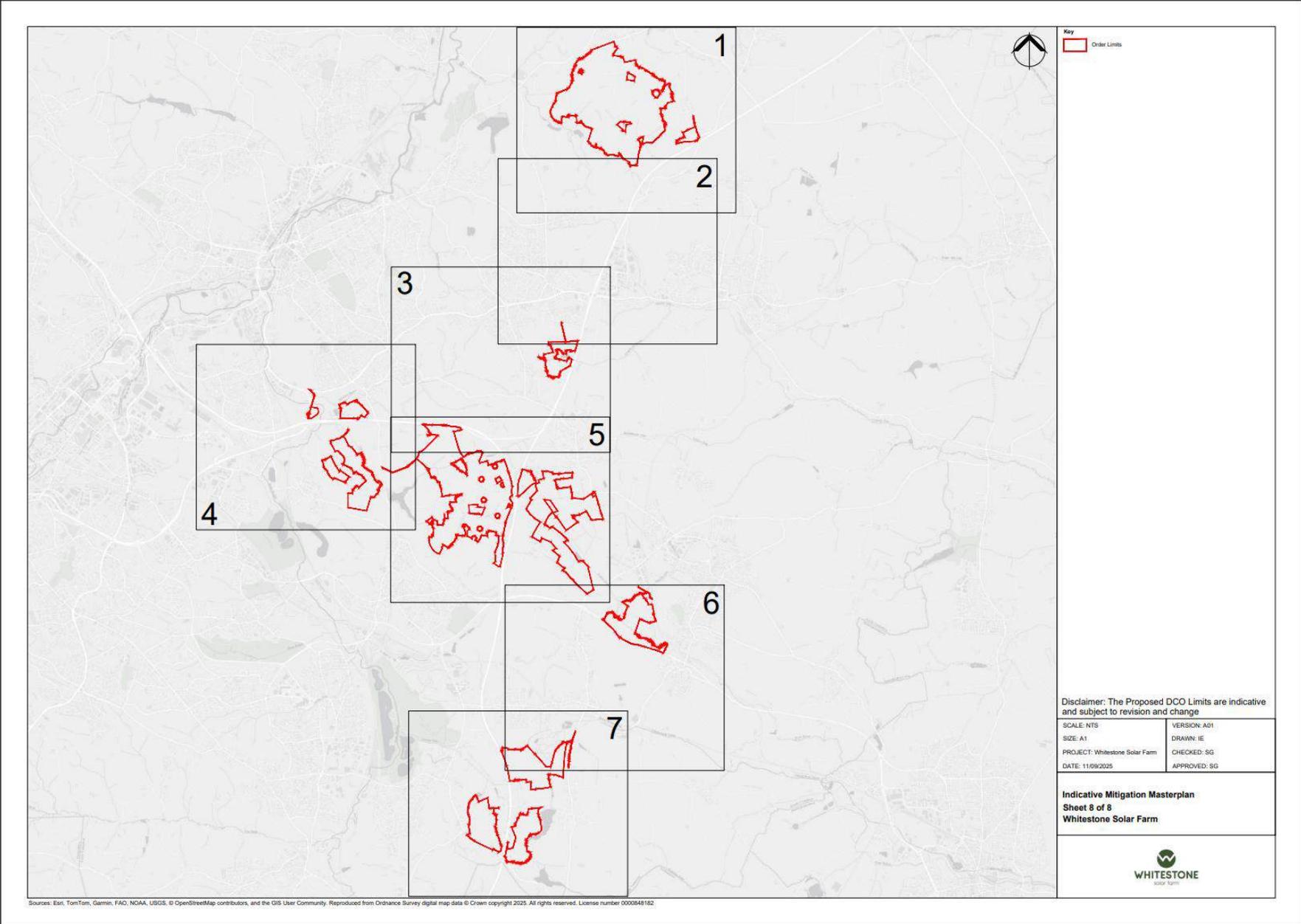
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APPENDIX C3 STATUTORY CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE



We are currently conducting our second round of consultation for Whitestone Solar Farm, and we want to hear from you.

This questionnaire is designed to be used alongside the consultation booklet, available on our website, at our information events or by request, which provides more information about the proposals. You can answer as many or as few questions as you like.

All responses must be received by 11:59pm on 28 October 2025. To submit your feedback, return this completed questionnaire by post (no stamp required) to: **Whitestone Solar Farm FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL.**

You can also complete this questionnaire online at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk or, if you would prefer to not use this form, you can email your feedback to info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk.

After this consultation, we will consider all the feedback that we have received, which will help inform the design.

By submitting your feedback, you agree to our terms and conditions and that you have read our Privacy Notice.

About you

You do not need to provide any personal information, however it will assist us in contacting you regarding your feedback, if needed. All personal information will be stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Name:	_____
Email:	_____
Postcode:	_____

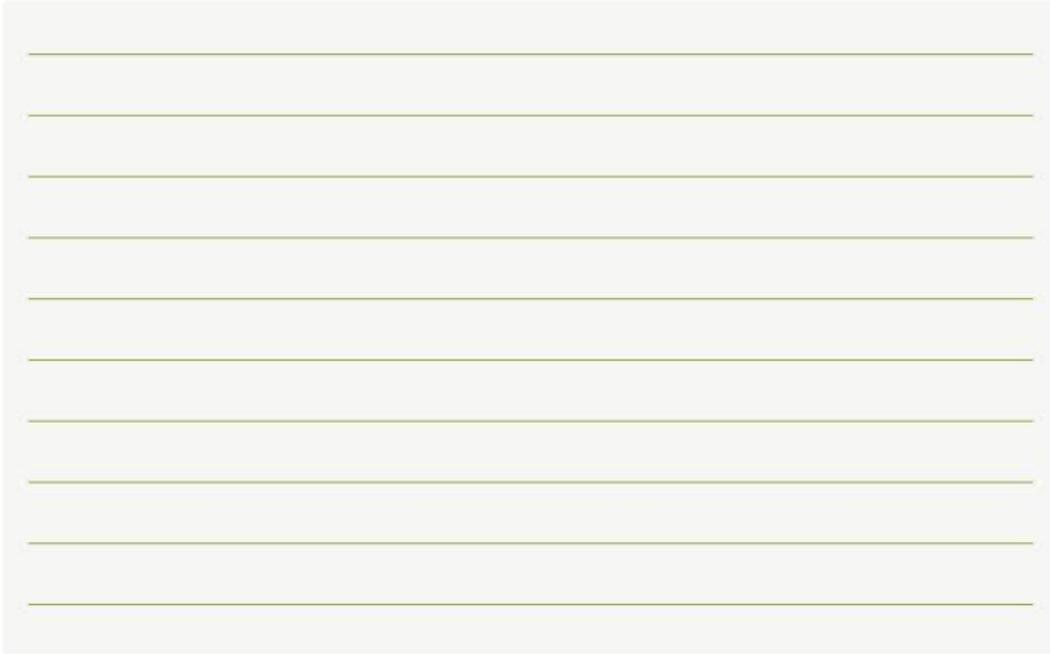
Q1. Which site are you most interested in? (please tick)

These are shown on the map on page 5 of the consultation booklet.

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3
- All of the above

Q2. Please provide your feedback on our updated masterplan.

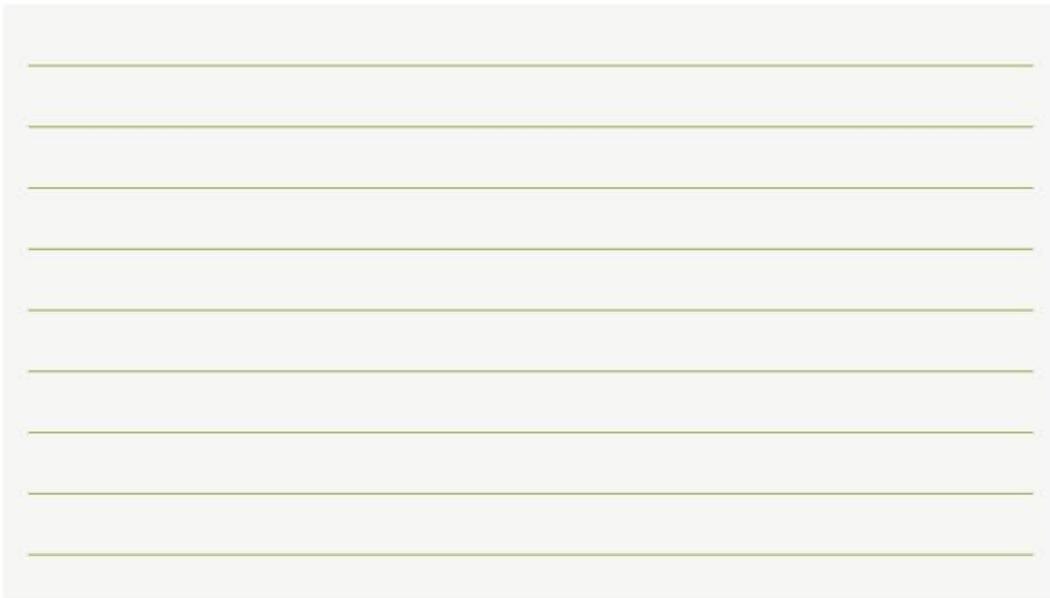
You can view our updated masterplans on our website whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk or in the consultation booklet on pages 10-11.



A large rectangular area with horizontal green lines for writing feedback.

**Q3. Do you have feedback about the proposed permissive paths?
Are there other paths you would like to see?**

You can view our proposed permissive paths on pages 10-11 in the consultation booklet.



A large rectangular area with horizontal green lines for writing feedback.

Q4. Please provide any feedback you have on the potential locations for the substations and batteries.

You can find the potential locations on the illustrative masterplan on pages 10-11.

Q5. Please provide any feedback on the potential cable route options.

You can find out more information about cable routes on **page 25** of the consultation booklet.

**Q6. What would you like to see in the community benefit package?
Are there other ideas that you think should be included or considered?**

Please see **page 36** of the consultation for more information about our proposed community benefit fund.

Q7. Do you have any comments on the environmental topics and the mitigation proposed?

For information on our preliminary environmental assessments, please see our consultation booklet from pages 26-29 and the draft Environmental Statement, available to view on our website whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk.

Q8. Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?

Get in touch

Please contact the project team with any questions you may have.



0800 688 9936



info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk



whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk



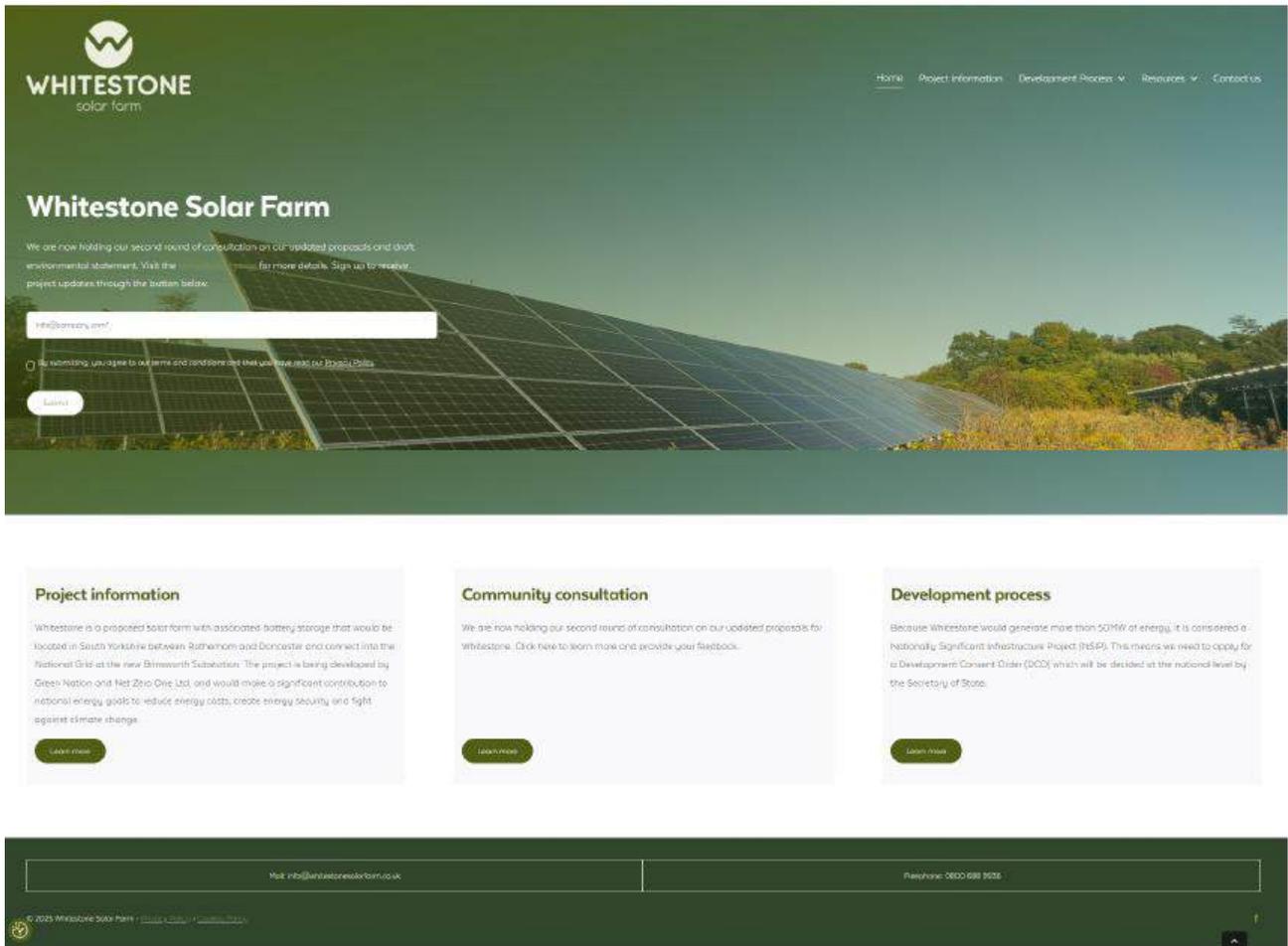
Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC
Newgate UK Local

Privacy Policy

Personal information that is supplied to the Applicant in response to this consultation will be held securely and only used for purposes in connection with the statutory consultation, the DCO process and further development of the Proposed Development. Outside of these purposes, the Applicant may be required to provide personal details if under a legal obligation to do so such as if the Planning Inspectorate requests original responses. For further details please see our privacy policy at: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk/privacy-policy-2/ and the Planning Inspectorate's Privacy Notice at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-inspectorate-privacy-notices

APPENDIX C4 SCREENSHOTS OF PROJECT WEBSITE

Appendix C4.1 Home Page



Appendix C4.2 Project Information page

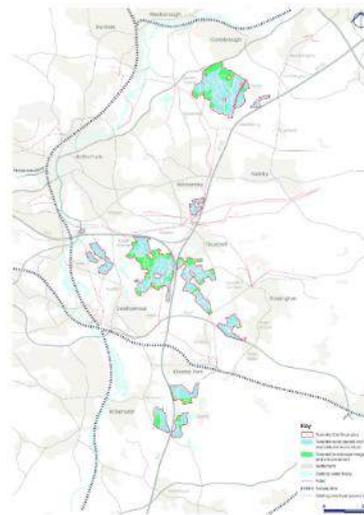


Project information

Project location

Whitestone is a proposed solar farm that would be located in South Yorkshire, between Rotherham and Doncaster. The project is located across three sections, Whitestone 1 in the north near Conisbrough, Whitestone 2 in the centre around Ulley, and Whitestone 3, in the south near Harthill and Woodall.

The project would connect into the new National Grid substation near Brinsworth. Underground cables would connect the three sections of the project together and into the grid connection.



Why here?



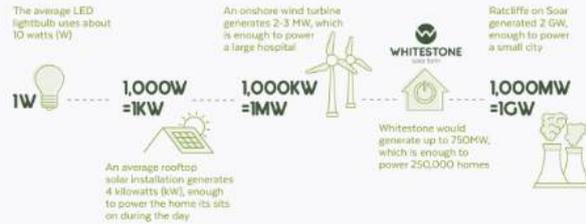
The National Grid connects power users to power sources across the UK, through a network of substations, pylons and cables. New energy projects can only connect into the National Grid at locations where there is available capacity. There was capacity at Brinsworth, so we were able to secure an agreement for a new energy project to connect at this location. Once we had secured the grid connection agreement, we looked for land nearby that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land, where possible.

Why solar?

The UK has committed to eliminating fossil fuels from the power supply, to provide energy security and reduce future energy costs while supporting the fight against climate change. Now that the last coal power station in the UK, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, has been closed down, new renewable energy sources are needed to come forward to keep the lights on. At the same time, our demand for electricity continues to increase and is projected to double by 2050. To meet these future energy needs, we must quickly ramp up production of renewable energy here in the UK.

The *Clean Power 2030* mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, while also ramping up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply.

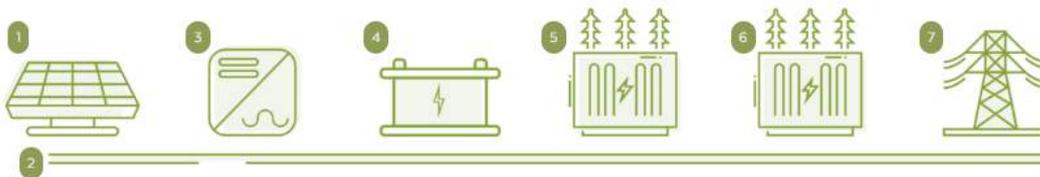
The *Solar Roadmap* explains how the UK will achieve the Clean Power mission and includes new mechanisms to increase rooftop solar installations. From 2027, most new homes will be required to include solar panels, known as the Future Homes Standard. We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to explore commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.



The figures above refer to 'peak energy use' times of the day we use the most energy, which are in the morning (7-10am) and in the evening (5-9pm).

Components of a solar farm

Whitestone would include the necessary components to collect energy from sunlight and prepare it to be transferred to the National Grid, where it will go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK. Hover over the numbers below to learn more about the components that Whitestone would include.



Green spaces

In addition to the technical components that are needed for the project to operate, there would be green spaces beneath, between and around the panels. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, and would be planted with a mix of native species, including grasses, wildflowers, hedges and trees to support local wildlife. These spaces would help reduce potential impacts by creating offsets away from key locations, including homes and public rights of way as well as environmental and culturally sensitive locations.



Detailed proposals

The project is still in early stages of design, but has already changed significantly in response to feedback from the first consultation, as well as the results of environmental and technical assessments.

Initial design (Autumn 2024)

During the first consultation, we presented the initial proposals for Whitestone, which can be found here: [Whitestone 1](#), [Whitestone 2](#), and [Whitestone 3](#).

Updated design (Spring 2025)

In response to feedback from the community and other stakeholders, we removed around one fourth of the area for solar panels in order to create buffers around homes, villages, and the public rights of way. Most of these areas are still included in the project boundary, and would be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. This means that they would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but would be planted with a mix of native wildflowers and grasses to support wildlife. They are marked in green in the updated masterplans saved here: [Whitestone 1](#), [Whitestone 2](#), and [Whitestone 3](#).

Current proposals (Autumn 2025)

Based on environmental and technical assessments, we have identified potential locations for the substations and batteries. We have also identified the potential cable route options to connect the three parts of the project together and into the National Grid. We presented these proposals for feedback in the second consultation.

The Developer



The Proposed Development is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd). Net Zero One Ltd is a specialist renewable energy development business, founded in 2021 to ensure there is sufficient funding to build, operate and decommission the Proposed Development and other similar projects.

The overall manager for the project is Green Nation. Established in 2011, Green Nation has been among the leaders in making the energy transition work. It is a UK-based solar developer and manager of operational sites with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects. Green Nation currently manages 75 solar farms and more than 700 solar rooftop installations across the country. Its solar farm portfolio totals over 200 MW of electricity producing capacity for the UK.

Mail: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 688 9936

Appendix C4.3 Development Process page



Applying for Consent

Whitestone is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), because it would produce more than 50MW of energy. The Planning Act 2008 sets out the planning process for NSIPs and requires that we apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build, operate and decommission Whitestone. Please note that the threshold is set much lower, 50MW or 100MW at the end of 2025, but Whitestone would still be considered an NSIP under the new requirements.

Unlike planning applications which are determined by local authorities, NSIPs are submitted to and decided on the national level. We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PI), an independent body that administers the process of reviewing and assessing the DCO application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero (Secretary of State). An Examining Authority will be appointed to review and examine the DCO application. After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the project, before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State.

You can find out more about the planning process for the project by clicking the button below.

[Find out more](#)

Protecting the environment

One of its aims, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Whitestone. The EIA will assess the likely significant effects that the project would have on the environment throughout project's lifetime during construction, operation, and decommissioning. If any significant effects are identified, then we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Scoping

During this stage, we presented our proposed approach and methodology for completing the assessments, known as a 'scoping report'. This report presented an initial view of the potential impacts associated with Whitestone. The Secretary of State then consulted on our scoping report with a variety of technical bodies and local stakeholders and provided their 'scoping opinion' that now defines how we are approaching the EIA. View the scoping opinion [here](#).

Draft Environmental Statement (ES)

The preliminary results of the environmental assessments are presented in the draft ES.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The final version of the ES will be submitted as part of our DCO application.

Consulting with local communities and experts

Before we submit our DCO application, the Planning Act 2008 requires us to consult on our project. We will consult with local authorities, technical bodies including Natural England and the Environment Agency, and members of the community. This pre-application consultation is an important part of the development at Whitestone, to ensure that valuable local knowledge is built into the design.

First Consultation

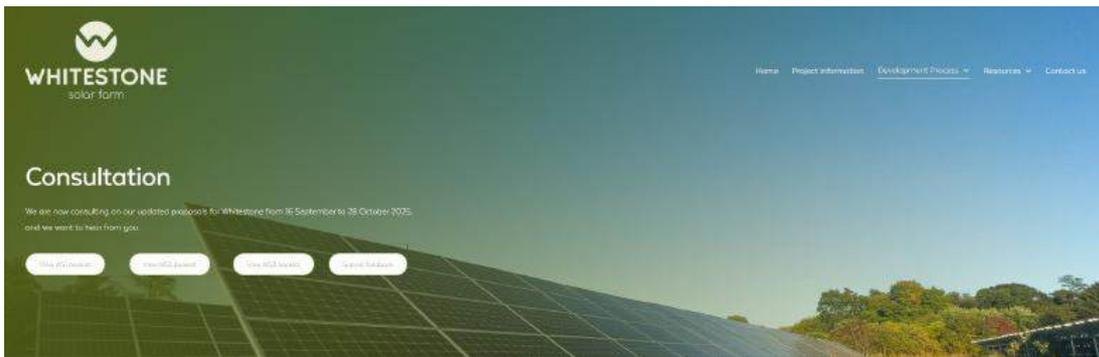
Our first consultation occurred from 16 November 2024 to 31 January 2025. During this period, we presented our initial proposals including the draft masterplan. Because this consultation was not required by the Planning Act 2008, it was considered non-statutory. Feedback from the consultation will inform the updated proposals we submit during the second consultation.

Second Consultation

During the second consultation from 16 September to 29 October 2025, we are presenting our updated proposals and the Draft ES. This consultation will be considered our statutory consultation, as required by the Planning Act 2008. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals we submit in the DCO application.



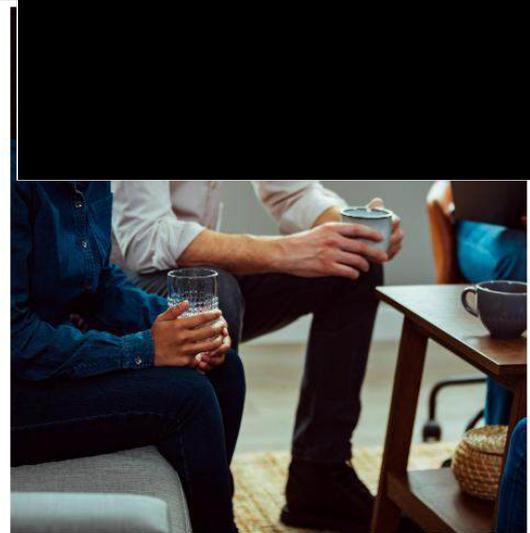
Appendix C4.4 Consultation page



Consultation is an important part of the development of Whitestone Solar Farm. We held our first round of consultation from 18 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 on our initial proposals. We reviewed and considered all of the feedback we received and made significant changes to the project to address key concerns.

Our second round of consultation ran over a six-week period from 16 September to 28 October 2025. We presented our updated proposals and the preliminary results of the environmental assessments for consultation.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and submit their feedback. We are now processing and analysing this feedback so that it can be reviewed by the project team. Feedback from this consultation, along with the results of ongoing environmental and technical assessments will help inform the updated project design and final Environmental Impact Assessment that we submit in our application for development consent.



Consultation materials

Learn more about our updated proposals through the consultation materials below.

Consultation Booklet & Questionnaire

The Consultation Booklet is the main document for the consultation and has all the information you need to respond to the consultation questionnaire. There are three versions of the booklet, one each for section of the project:

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3

The questionnaire is available [here](#).

Indicative Masterplans

The indicative operational masterplan shows the updated design. This includes potential areas for development (solar panels, batteries and substations), as well as the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement areas. This is available for each of the three sections of the project, as well as the whole project spread over 8 pages to be the same zoomed in perspective.

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3
- Whole project, 8 slides

The construction masterplan shows construction access, cable routes and compounds, and is available for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2, Whitestone 3, as well as the whole project spread over 8 pages to show the same perspective.

- Whitestone 1
- Whitestone 2
- Whitestone 3
- Whole project, 8 slides

The Draft Environmental Statement

The non-technical summary and its figures are [here](#). View the full document at the [document library](#) [here](#).



ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

Information events

To learn more about our proposals and meet the project team, we held eight public information events during the consultation period.

Date	Location
Thursday, 2 October 2025 10am-2pm	Thurcroft Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, S66 9DD
Friday, 3 October 2025 1pm-5pm	Todwick Village Hall, S26 1HJ
Saturday, 4 October 2025 10am-3pm	Conisbrough Ivanhoe Centre, DN12 3JX
Tuesday, 7 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Harthill Village Hall, S26 7YL
Wednesday, 8 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ravenfield Parish Hall, S65 4PT
Monday, 13 October 2025 2pm-6pm	Treeton Reading Room, S60 5QP
Tuesday, 14 October 2025 3pm-7pm	Ulley Village Hall, S26 3YD
Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 12-4pm	Whiston Village Hall, S60 4HX

Have your say

We want to hear from you. You can provide your written feedback by midnight 28 October 2025 through the methods below.



Fill in our online questionnaire

Survey link



Email us

info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk

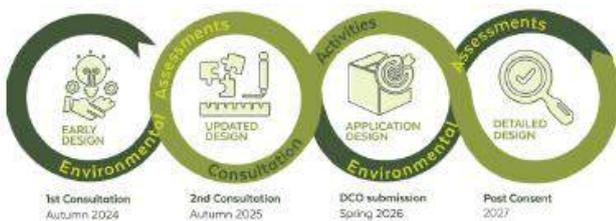


Write to us

Whitstone Solar Farm

Freedom SEC NEWDATE LN LOCAL

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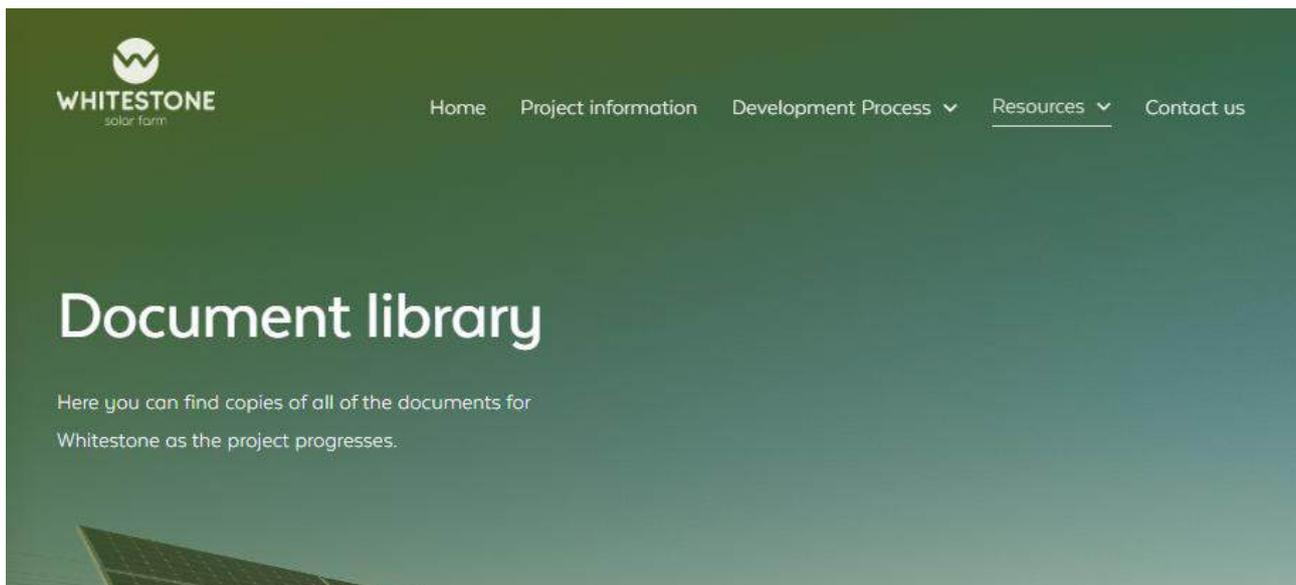


Next steps

After this consultation, we will review and consider all of the feedback that we have received. This feedback, along with ongoing environmental assessments will help inform the updated proposal and Final Environmental Statement that we submit in our application for development consent. To learn more about the development process, [click here](#).

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Appendix C4.5 Document Library



Second Consultation September – October 2025

- This is the leaflet to announce the consultation.
- This is the Statement of Community Consultation which explains how we plan to consult with the community.
- The exhibition boards from the public information events.
- **Consultation booklet** for
 - Whitestone 1
 - Whitestone 2
 - Whitestone 3
- **Illustrative Masterplans include:**
 - Updated illustrative masterplans for
 - Whitestone 1
 - Whitestone 2
 - Whitestone 3
 - The whole project over 8 slides.
 - Construction illustrative masterplans for
 - Whitestone 1
 - Whitestone 2
 - Whitestone 3
 - The whole project over 8 slides.
- **The Draft ES includes:**
 - the Non Technical Summary
 - the Non Technical Summary Appendix 1 Figures
 - the full document is available in the toggles below

Draft ES: Volume 2 - Figures

- Figure 3.1 Proposed Order Limits
- Figure 3.2 Site Referencing
- Figure 3.3 Environmental Designations
- Figure 4.1 Constraints for Site Location
- Figure 4.2 Alternate Site Options
- Figure 5.1 Penny Hill Wind Farm Site Restrictions
- Figure 6.1 Local Designated Sites
- Figure 6.10.1 Bat GLTA Results
- Figure 6.10.2 Bat Acoustic Static Monitoring Locations
- Figure 6.10.3 Bat Spring Transect Survey Routes
- Figure 6.2 International and National Designated Sites
- Figure 6.2.1a – 6.2.1j UK Habitat Classification – The Site
- Figure 6.2.2a- 6.2.2c UK Habitat Classification – The Cable Corridor Options
- Figure 6.2.3 Priority Habitats
- Figure 6.3 Land Parcel Reference
- Figure 6.4 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 2 North)
- Figure 6.5 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 2 West)
- Figure 6.6 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 2 East)
- Figure 6.6.1 Site Boundary and BBS Parcels
- Figure 6.6.2 Access Limitations
- Figure 6.6.3 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Skylark – W1 – A01
- Figure 6.6.4 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Skylark – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.6.5 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Skylark – W3 – A01
- Figure 6.6.6 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Lapwing, Grey Partridge and Yellow Wagtail – W1 – A01
- Figure 6.6.7 Breeding Bird Survey Results – Lapwing, Grey Partridge and Yellow Wagtail – W2 – A01
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- Figure 6.7 Land Parcel Reference (Whitestone 3)
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- Figure 6.8.4a-6.8.4c GCN – HSI and eDNA Assessment – Cable Corridor Options
- Figure 6.9.1a Reptile Mat Locations – W1 – A01
- Figure 6.9.1b Reptile Mat Locations – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.9.1c Reptile Mat Locations – W3 – A01
- Figure 6.9.2a Reptile Sighting Locations – W1 – A01

- Figure 6.9.2b Reptile Sighting Locations – W2 – A01
- Figure 6.9.2c Reptile Sighting Locations – W3 – A01
- Figure 7.1 Study Area and Proposed Order Limits
- Figure 7.1.1 Cable Corridor Options Study Area
- Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Overview
- Figure 7.2.1 ZTV (W1)
- Figure 7.2.2 ZTV (W2)
- Figure 7.2.3 ZTV – W3
- Figure 7.2.4 ZTV Cable Corridor Options
- Figure 7.2.5 ZTV BESS
- Figure 7.2.6 ZTV Substation – W1S1
- Figure 7.2.7 ZTV Substation – W1S2
- Figure 7.2.8 ZTV Substation – W1S3
- Figure 7.2.9 ZTV Substation – W2S1
- Figure 7.2.10 ZTV Substation (W2S2)
- Figure 7.3 Environmental and Landscape Designations
- Figure 7.4 National Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 7.4.1 Local Landscape Character Areas with ZTV – W1
- Figure 7.4.2 Local Landscape Character Areas with ZTV – W2
- Figure 7.4.3 Local Landscape Character Areas with ZTV – W3
- Figure 7.4.4 Local Landscape Character Areas – W1
- Figure 7.4.5 Local Landscape Character Areas – W2
- Figure 7.4.6 Local Landscape Character Areas – W3
- Figure 7.5 Representative Viewpoints and ZTV Overview
- Figure 7.5.1 Representative Viewpoints – W1
- Figure 7.5.2 Representative Viewpoints – W2
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- Figure 7.5.4 Private Receptors and Public Rights of Way and ZTV W1
- Figure 7.5.5 Private Receptors and Public Rights of Way and ZTV W2
- Figure 7.5.6 Private Receptors and Public Rights of Way and ZTV W3
- Figure 7.6.1 – 7.6.58 Baseline Photography Photosheets_
- Figure 8.1 Location of Study Areas
- Figure 8.10 Non-Des Assets within 1 km Study Area
- Figure 8.11 Designated Assets within 1 km
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- Figure 8.13 Cable Corridor Options W1

- Figure 8.15 Cable Corridor Options W3
- Figure 8.16 Geophysical Results for W1
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- Figure 8.24 Events within W1
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- Figure 15.5 Social Infrastructure
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- Figure 15.8 Tourism Attractions and Accommodation
- Figure 16.2.1 Residential and Transport Receptors – W1
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- Figure 17.1 Long-List of Cumulative Developments
- Figure 17.2 Short-List of Cumulative Developments
- Figure 17.3 Cumulative Effects Assessment – Zones of Influence

Draft ES: Volume 3 - Appendices

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- Appendix 2.2 – EIA Scoping Opinion
- Appendix 2.3 – Commitments Register
- Appendix 4.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 4.2 – Design Evolution
- Appendix 5.1 – Indicative Operation Masterplan
- Appendix 5.2 – Indicative Construction Masterplan
- Appendix 5.3 – Indicative Mitigation Masterplan
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- Appendix 6.2 – UK Habitat Survey Report
- Appendix 6.4 – Interim Baseline BNG Report
- Appendix 6.5 – Wintering Bird Survey Report
- Appendix 6.6 – Breeding Bird Survey Report
- Appendix 6.8 – Interim Great Crested Newt Report
- Appendix 6.9 – Reptile Survey Report
- Appendix 6.10 – Protected Species Bat Survey
- Appendix 7.1 – Legislation, Policy, and Guidance
- Appendix 7.2 – LVIA Methodology
- Appendix 7.3 – Landscape Character Assessment
- Appendix 7.4 – Representative Viewpoint Assessment
- Appendix 8.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
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- Appendix 8.3 – Sieving Exercise
- Appendix 8.3A – Sieving Exercise Assets
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- Appendix 15.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 16.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 16.2 – Glint and Glare Report
- Appendix 17.1 – Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Appendix 17.2 – Long and Short List of Developments for CEA

Project update: August 2025

- This is the Programme Document.

Project update: March 2025

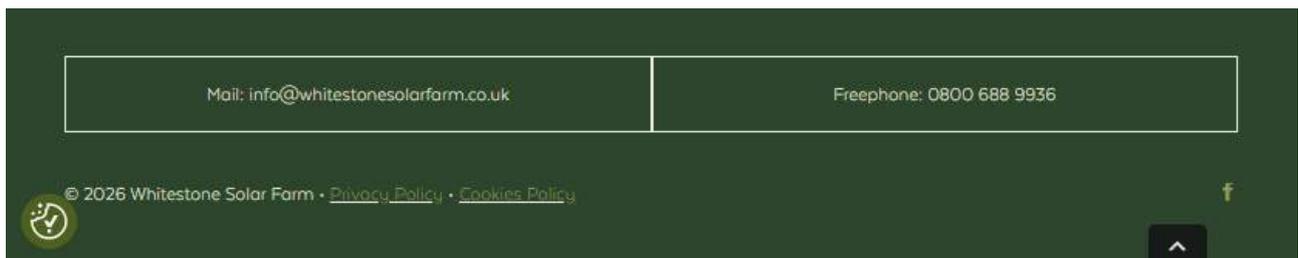
- These are the updated masterplans for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.
- This is a community update newsletter for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.

First Consultation (Non-statutory): November 2024 – January 2025

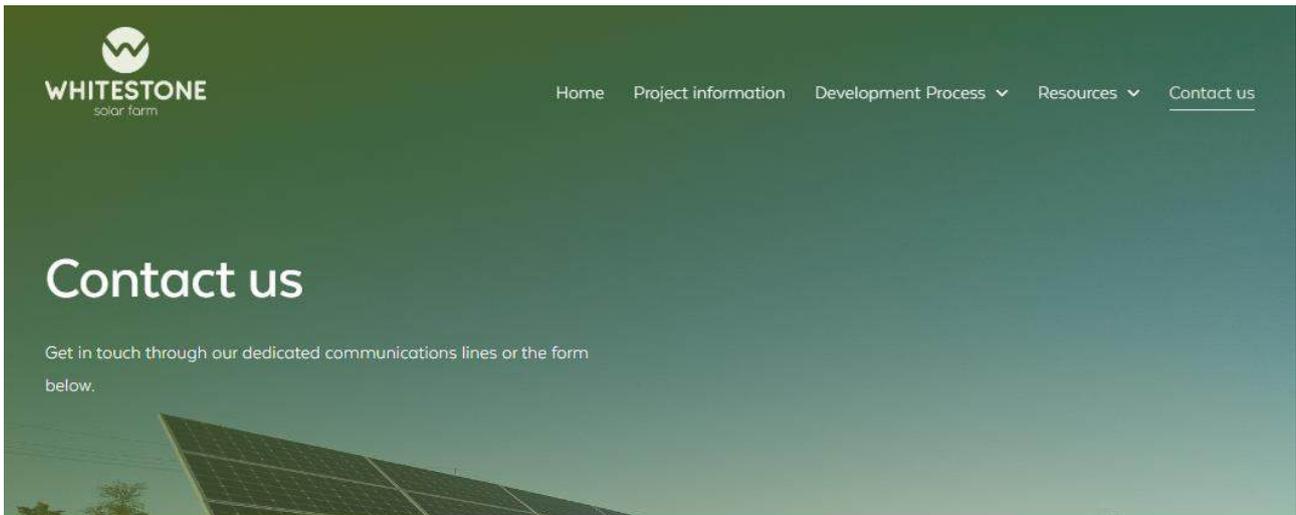
- Booklet- This is the consultation booklet to explain our proposals.
- Questionnaire – The questionnaire is available in a digital or print version.
- Masterplan – These are the draft masterplans for Whitestone 1, Whitestone 2 and Whitestone 3.

Launch

- Leaflet – This is a short leaflet to introduce the project.
- Project location map – This map shows the area we are considering for Whitestone.



Appendix C4.6 Contact us Page



 <p>Call</p> <p>0800 688 9936</p>	 <p>Email</p> <p>info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk</p>	 <p>Write to</p> <p>Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL</p> <p>(no stamp is needed)</p>
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Get in contact

Sam Jones*

name@company.com

Write your query here

By submitting a contact form, you agree to our terms and conditions and that you have read our [Privacy Policy](#).

Submit

APPENDIX C5 BANNERS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS



Welcome

Thank you for visiting our public information event about Whitestone Solar Farm.

We held our first consultation for Whitestone from November 2024 to January 2025. During that period, we received 940 pieces of feedback and met 702 individuals at public events. We also met with MPs, parish councils, ward councillors and residents who live near the project boundary. We want to thank everyone who took the time to engage with the consultation and send in your feedback.

In response to the feedback we received, we have made significant changes to the project design. This includes a reduction of around one fourth of the solar panels to create offsets around homes, villages and public rights of way. Based on technical and environmental assessments, we have now updated the masterplan to include the potential locations for substations, batteries, and cable routes.

During this second consultation, from 16 September to 28 October, we are presenting this updated masterplan as well as the draft Environmental Statement (ES) which includes the preliminary results of environmental assessments. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals that we plan to submit next year in our application.

During this event, you can review our materials that explain how the project has changed, meet the project team to ask any questions you may have, and submit your written feedback for this consultation.

Thank you for coming.

Why do we need solar?

Our demand for electricity continues to grow and is projected to double by 2050. To meet this demand with clean energy, more solar and wind energy projects are needed. The Clean Power 2030 mission sets a goal to triple solar capacity by 2030, as well as ramp up onshore and offshore wind development. Solar and wind work well together, and a mix of both helps provide stability to the energy supply.

We support the 'rooftop revolution' and continue to explore commercial rooftop installations as part of our broader business, but note that large scale solar developments are needed to produce enough energy to meet our national energy goals.

Why here?

The National Grid connects energy sources to energy users through a network of substations and overhead lines that run across the UK. However, new renewable energy projects can only connect into the National Grid where there is available capacity, which is limited. We secured an agreement to connect into the grid at Brinsworth substation and then searched for land near the grid

connection point that would be suitable for solar. We also wanted to avoid environmentally sensitive areas and the highest quality agricultural land where possible.

This process has resulted in the project boundary we presented during the last consultation. We will continue to refine the proposals within this boundary to ensure that there are appropriate offsets and buffers from the community and other environmental features.

Green Nation

Whitestone is a proposed solar farm with battery storage that would be located in South Yorkshire between Rotherham and Doncaster. Whitestone Solar Farm is being brought forward by Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (owned by Net Zero One Ltd.). The overall manager for the project is Green Nation, a UK-based solar developer that was established in 2011 with extensive experience in both rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects.



The average LED lightbulb uses about 10 watts (W)



An onshore wind turbine generates 2-3MW, which is enough to power a large hospital



A large coal power station generated 2GW, enough to power a small city



TW → 1,000W=1kW → 1,000kW=1MW → 1,000MW=1GW

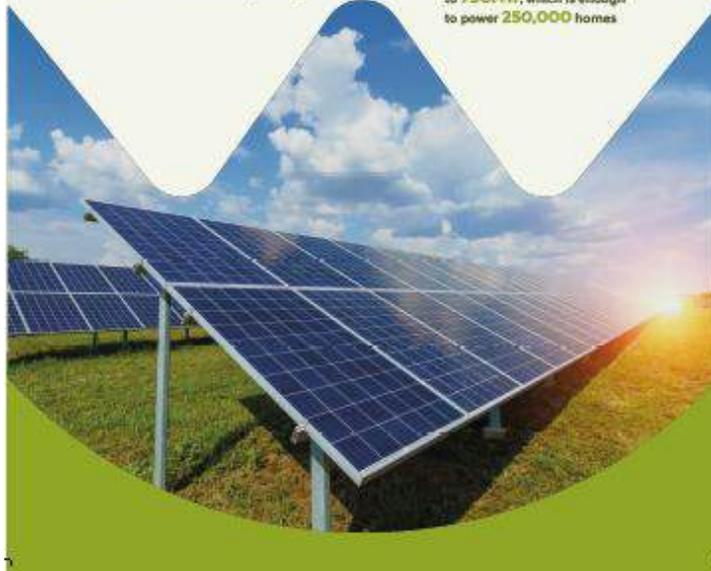


The average rooftop solar installation generates 4 kilowatts (kW), enough to power the home it sits on during the day



WHITESTONE
solar farm

Whitestone would generate up to 750MW, which is enough to power 250,000 homes





Development process

Because Whitestone would generate more than 50 MW of energy, it is considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) according to the Planning Act 2008.¹ We are therefore required by the Planning Act to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to develop Whitestone.

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, who will review the application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS).

We must demonstrate in our application that we have met requirements for pre-application consultation with local authorities, technical bodies and members of the community and how that feedback has shaped our proposals. If the application meets requirements, it will be 'accepted', and the Planning Inspectorate will then appoint an Examining Authority to review the application through a 6-month public examination period. After this stage, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the application, and the SoS will make the final decision.

Indicative timeline

We held our first consultation from November 2024 to January 2025. Feedback from this consultation informed updated proposals we submit during the second consultation.

First consultation
Autumn 2024

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate (PIHS), who will review the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

DCO Submission
Spring 2026

After examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation about whether to approve the project, and then the Secretary of State will make the final decision.

Decision
Summer 2027

Second consultation
Autumn 2025

We are now in our second round of consultation, which is considered 'statutory'. Feedback from this consultation will inform the updated proposals we submit in the DCO application.

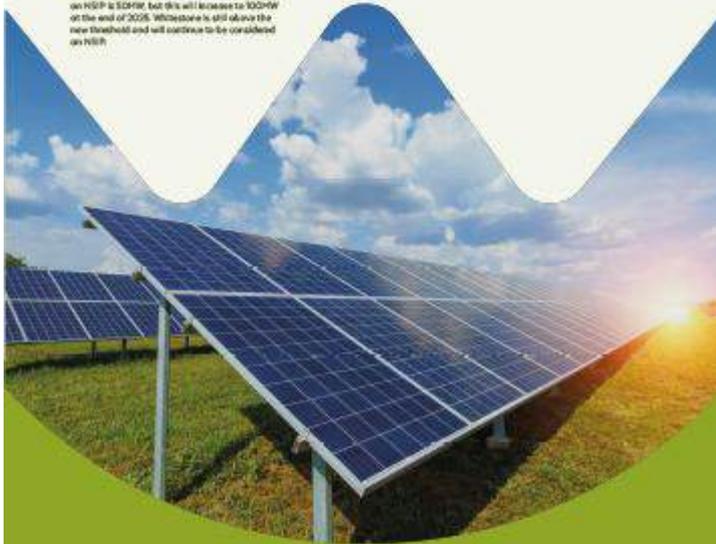
Examination
2026-2027

During a six-month period, an Examining Authority made up of Planning Inspector(s) will be appointed by PIHS to review and examine our application.

Operation
2029

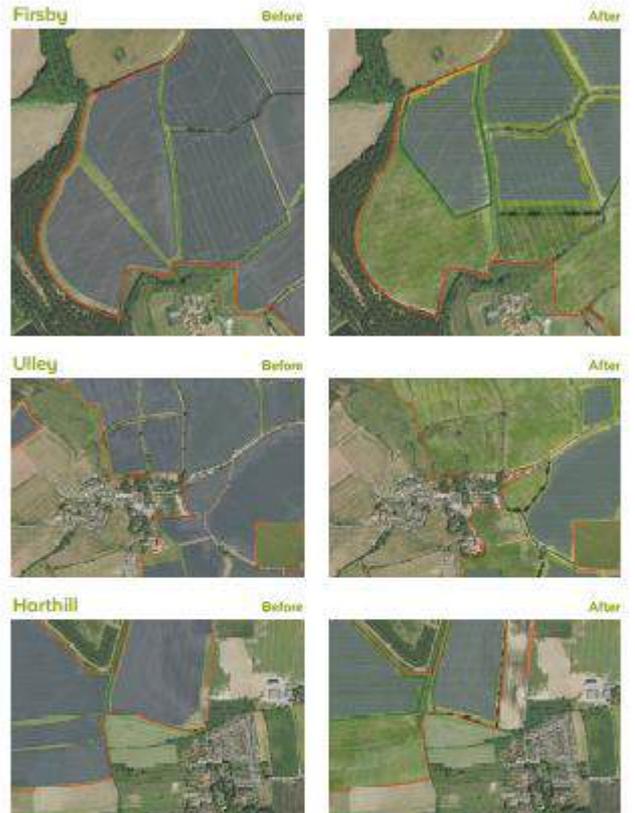
If Whitestone is consented, after a two-year construction period the project could become operational in 2029.

¹ Under current law, the threshold to be considered an NSIP is 50MW, but this will increase to 100MW at the end of 2025. Whitestone is still above the new threshold and will continue to be considered an NSIP.



Design changes

In response to feedback from the first consultation, we have removed around one fourth of the solar panels. The following graphics show closeups of some of the changes to the masterplan to create offsets around homes, villages, and public rights of way.





Green spaces

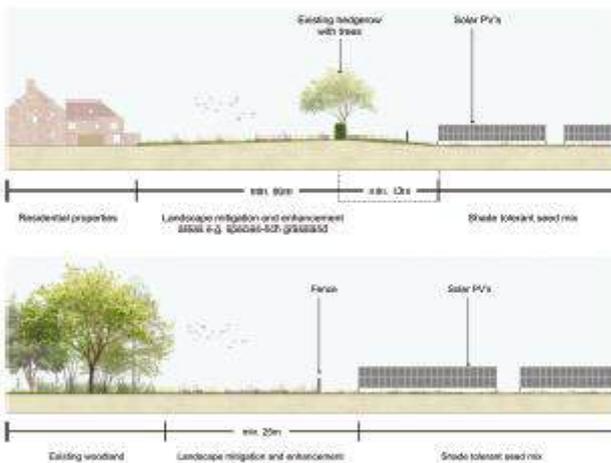
Where we have removed solar panels from the project to reduce potential visual impacts, the land could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement. These areas would not have any above-ground infrastructure, but may still be needed for underground cables or access tracks to support the rest of the project.

These spaces would be planted with a mix of native grasses or wildflowers to support local wildlife. Projects like Whitestone are now required to increase biodiversity by at least 10%, however, most solar farms exceed this requirement. We are exploring a variety of methods to increase biodiversity in

these areas, which could include bat boxes, bug hotels and water scrapes to provide new habitats for vital pollinators, small mammals and bird species.

As we complete the environmental impact assessments, we may identify the need to set aside land for certain species to mitigate potential impacts in other areas of the project. If we identify that we do not need all of this land for mitigation, we may choose to remove it from the project boundary altogether. In this case, the land would remain with the landowner and could continue to be used as it is today.

Below are examples of offsets from homes and woodlands.

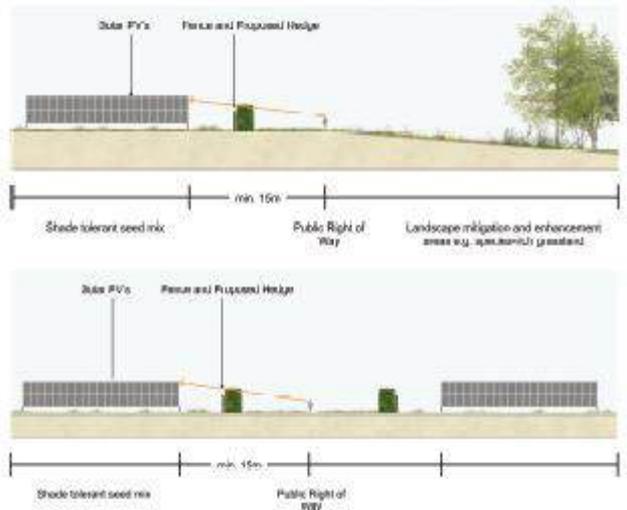


Public rights of way and permissive paths

We currently anticipate that all existing public rights of way would remain open throughout the project's lifetime. However, some temporary closures may be needed during construction for safety reasons. Any public rights of way that are within the project boundary would be maintained by us. The masterplan includes a minimum of 15m offset from either side of paths, or 30m total. In most cases, we have been able to provide more than this minimum by removing panels from the field on one side of the path.

As part of the masterplan, we would like to offer new permissive paths to expand recreational access across the site which are shown on the masterplan. These have been developed in response to feedback from the first consultation and ongoing engagement with local stakeholders. They would be available for walkers and cyclists throughout the lifetime of the project.

Below are examples of offsets from public rights of way.





Components of a solar farm



- Solar panels would collect energy from sunlight and convert it to low voltage, 1 direct current (DC) electricity.
- Underground cables would carry the electricity from the solar panels to other components around the site and to the final point of connection to the National Grid.
- Power conversion stations (PCS) would change the power from DC to Alternating Current (AC) and increase the voltage.
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would store the energy during times of low energy demand until it is needed. The BESS could also take up extra energy from the grid to store until it is needed most.
- Substations would increase the voltage again to prepare it to enter the grid. Smaller 'satellite' substations would be located in Whitestone 1 and 2 to increase the voltage of the electricity.
- Another larger 'primary' substation would be needed to collect the electricity and increase the voltage again to prepare it to transfer to the National Grid.
- The energy would then be transferred into the National Grid at the new substation near Brinsworth (Brinsworth B), so that it could go on to power homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the UK.

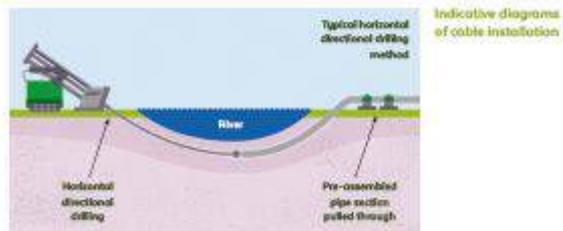
The PCS and BESS would typically look like shipping containers, with their technical components hidden inside. The PCS units would be painted green or other natural colours to blend into the landscape.



Cable corridor options

Underground cables are needed to connect the sections of the project together and into the National Grid, which would be laid approximately 1m below ground level. After installation, these cables would no longer be visible, and normal activities could continue above them.

In order to connect the three project sites to each other and into the National Grid, we have identified several options for the cable routes. These have been informed by technical assessments, and initial environmental assessments to avoid sensitive areas. We are now consulting on these cable route options to help make the final decision on which route to use.





Environmental assessments

Because it is an NSIP, we are required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the potential impacts of Whitestone during construction, operation and decommissioning. If we identify any potential significant impacts, we must also explain how we would mitigate them.

Key milestones in this process include:

- The Scoping Opinion is an important first step in the EIA process. We submitted our Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate on our proposed approach to the EIA, and after consulting with technical stakeholders, they responded with their Scoping Opinion. This document details which environmental topics we must consider in the assessments, and now forms the basis of our assessments.
- The Draft Environmental Statement (ES) includes the preliminary results of the EIA and is the subject of this consultation. We are consulting you on this currently, before completing our assessments.
- The Environmental Statement (ES) will include the final results of the EIA and will be included in our DCO application. It will be informed by the feedback we receive on the draft ES.

These are the environmental topics that we are assessing for the EIA

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Biodiversity and nature conservation | Climate change and greenhouse gas |
| Landscape and visual | Air quality |
| Cultural heritage and archaeology | Traffic and transport |
| Ground conditions and land quality | Noise and vibration |
| Water resources and flood risk | Socioeconomics and land use |

Other environmental issues: Waste, glint and glare, telecommunications and utilities, major accidents and disasters, electromagnetic fields.

Construction

If consented, we expect it to take around two years to construct Whitestone, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029. During this period, construction would be phased across the site to minimise disturbance at any single location, however there would be work occurring at each of WS1, WS2 and WS3.

Construction of Whitestone would be informed by our final 'detailed design' and a series of management plans that would be informed by ongoing consultation with local authorities and other technical experts.

Working arrangements

Working hours would typically be between 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm on Saturday, with no work on Sundays or Bank Holidays. There may be times where we need to work outside these hours, but this would be agreed in advance with local authorities and communicated with residents.

Traffic management

While we expect construction to take around two years, the level of activity would vary throughout this period.

Construction traffic would include cars, small vans and minibuses to transport workers, as well as HGVs, mobile cranes, and a small number of abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) for construction materials. Construction delivery traffic would be scheduled to avoid peak traffic periods (8-9am and 5-6pm). We have assessed the current local road network to understand which roads would be more suitable for construction traffic and the current traffic levels. This includes eliminating roads that would be too small for construction vehicles or have other size limitations on traffic and avoiding villages when possible.





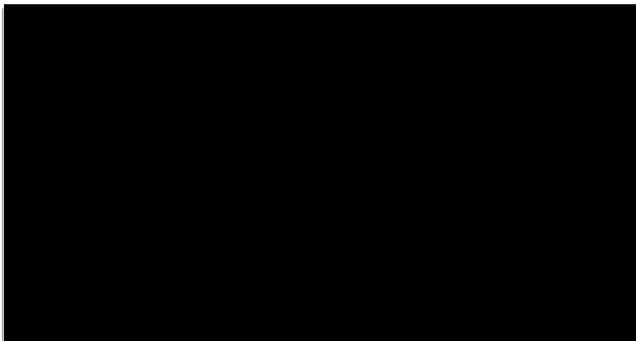
Community Benefits

To ensure that there are also local benefits from the project, we would like to offer a community benefit fund of £400 per MW per year. Based on the grid connection of 750MW, this would be £300,000 per year. Based on the maximum lifespan of the project of 60 years, this would amount to £18,000,000 for the life of the project. These amounts may be subject to change depending on the final size and lifespan of the project.

We recognise it is important that the fund be managed in a way that is both transparent and tailored to local needs, ensuring that the application process is clear and decisions are made openly. We propose that the funds would be available through a nominated fund manager to administer the funding, with local stakeholders and elected officials, such as parish councils and local councillors, serving on the board to advise on funding decisions.

Groups or individuals in the local community could apply for funding for projects or initiatives, such as:

- Improving local community facilities, like parish halls, schools, or community centres.
- Supporting education programmes, work study, and skills training for green jobs in local schools and colleges.
- Supporting existing charities and organisations that work in the local area on mental health, physical health and recreation, other initiatives related to health and wellbeing.
- Supporting organisations that reduce energy costs through insulation, rooftop solar, and other energy efficiency projects.



Jobs and skills

Constructing, operating and decommissioning Whitestone would require a wide range of skills and expertise. Beyond the direct employment, there would be indirect jobs created through the supply chain and spending by the direct and indirect workers. This would result in more than 2,000 local jobs, and approximately £19,500,000 in benefits to the local economy during the construction period.

During construction, we envision a maximum of 600 construction jobs at the peak, to deliver materials and construct the solar farm. Across the construction period, this would include approximately:



Once operational, we would need a team of roughly 11 local, full time employees to maintain and operate the project, including:





Have your say

This consultation period is running for six weeks from 16 September to 28 October 2025. During this period, anyone can provide their written feedback on our proposals through the following methods:

- Complete the online feedback form at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Complete a paper feedback form, which is available at the public events or by request through the project's communications lines
- Send an email to: info@whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk
- Write to:
Whitestone Solar Farm Freepost
SEC Newgate UK Local (no stamp is needed)

Next steps

After the consultation has ended, we will review and consider all of the feedback we have received. This feedback along with ongoing environmental assessments will help inform the final masterplan and Environmental Statement that we submit in our DCO application.

Within the DCO application, we will also include a Consultation Report that shows how we have had regard to all consultation feedback and how the project has further evolved as a result of that feedback.

For future project updates, please visit our website to sign up for the 'Keep Informed List' at whitstonesolarfarm.co.uk





WHITESTONE
solar farm

Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936



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Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Appendix D Compliance with the SoCC

Project reference
EN0110020
Rev00
March 2026

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APPENDIX D3 AFTER THE CONSULTATION	6

APPENDIX D1 PUBLICISING THE CONSULTATION

Actions	Evidence
Send a leaflet to the 'inner' consultation zone that includes around 45,000 addresses	A leaflet was sent on 9 September to announce the start of the consultation and invite them to attend public information events included in Appendix B4.1 .
Publish statutory notices in the Rotherham Advertiser, Doncaster Free Press, Derbyshire Times, London Gazette and a national newspaper in online and in print, and advertise on Facebook	<p>A combined section 47 and 48 notice was published in the Doncaster Free Press, Rotherham Advertiser and Derbyshire Times on 11 September, and the same notice again on 18 September. The notice was also published in The Guardian and London Gazette on 16 September.</p> <p>Advertisements were posted on Facebook from 16 September until 28 October. A copy of the Facebook ads is located in Appendix B4.2, and the notices are included in Appendix B3.1.</p>
Email the host and neighbouring parish councils the consultation information	<p>The host and neighbouring parish councils were emailed 11 September to announce the upcoming consultation.</p> <p>A further email was sent on 17 September to the host parish councils to invite them to an online briefing on Zoom on 30 September. The Applicant offered an in-person briefing, but only Treeton Parish Council responded to request this, which took place on 13 October. The meetings are described further in Table 4.6. The emails are included in Appendix B1.2.</p>
Email the community groups the consultation information	Emails were sent to the community groups on 18 September to announce the start consultation, explain how they could take part and invite them to the public information events. The community groups are listed in Appendix B4.4 and a copy of the email sent is included in Appendix B4.3 .
Email our 'keep informed' list the consultation information	Emails were sent to the 'keep informed' list on 18 September to announce the upcoming consultation and explain how they could take part and invite them to the public information events.
Email the elected officials from host and neighbouring regions the consultation information	Emails were sent to the host and neighbouring elected officials on 23 September to announce the upcoming consultation, explain how they could take

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

	part, and invite them to the public information events. The elected officials are included in the Appendix B4.4 , and a copy of the email sent is included in Appendix B4.3 .
Send a press release to local and national media outlets	A press release was sent on 26 September. The press release and the media list that was sent the press release are included in Appendix B4.5 .
Update the dedicated project website	The project website was updated on 16 September with the SOCC and the consultation materials. Screenshots of the website are included in Appendix C3 .

APPENDIX D2 PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT WHITESTONE

Actions	Evidence
<p>We will host in-person events where members of the community can learn about our proposals from members of the project team including technical experts across a variety of relevant topics.</p>	<p>As detailed in the SoCC and described further in Section 4.4, the Applicant held seven in-person events where the public could attend to view materials about the project and meet the project team, including experts from a range of topics. An additional information event was added in Treeton, making it eight in-person events. This was communicated to the community by sending out a letter to properties in Treeton.</p>
<p>We will schedule events for the community to learn about our proposals in locally convenient and wheelchair accessible locations on various days of the week and times of day to accommodate different work/life schedules.</p>	<p>The events were located in eight locations across the project to minimise travel time for the public to attend. These venues were selected not just for their location, but also based on accessibility and size to accommodate the events. The event times were chosen to be at a variety of different times in the day to accommodate different schedules of the public.</p>
<p>We will also offer to host a joint briefing for host parish councils.</p>	<p>On 17 September, the Applicant contacted all of the host parish councils, as detailed in the SOCC, who represent geographies that would host the project. The Applicant hosted an online Zoom meeting on 30 September to brief parish councils on the statutory consultation and answer any questions. Parish councils in attendance were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conisbrough Parks • Braithwell with Micklebring • Ravenfield • Bramley • Wickersley • Maltby • Ulley • Thurcroft • Harthill <p>Treeton Parish Council requested an in-person briefing, which was held after the Treeton public information event on 13 October.</p>
<p>We will produce a range of documents and materials to provide more information about Whitestone which will be available through</p>	<p>The leaflet, booklets, questionnaire, exhibition boards, draft ES, masterplans were available on the project website during the consultation period and continue to be</p>

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<p>our project website: www.whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk.</p>	<p>available on the project website through the Document Library tab. These are included in Appendices C1, C2, C3, C4, and C5.</p>
<p>Hard copies of the consultation booklets, questionnaire and SoCC free of charge on request – as well as USBs containing all of the consultation materials (including the Draft ES). We will review requests for hard copies of the Draft ES on a case-by-case basis. A fee to cover printing costs (up to a maximum of £750 for one full set of consultation documents including the Draft ES) may be charged to the recipient. Hard copies of all materials will be available at the public information events.</p>	<p>Any requests received for hard copies of the consultation booklets, questionnaire, and SoCC were responded to and the relevant materials sent out in the post. The Draft ES was available in its entirety at the public information events. The document was too large to send out in the post.</p>
<p>Requests for consultation information in alternative formats (e.g. large print) will be considered on a case-by-case basis so we can establish how best to provide the information required.</p>	<p>There was one request for an audio version of the Draft ES. As with the print copies of this document, it was too large to be able to share in this way.</p>
<p>Throughout the consultation, we will operate the following communications channels for individuals to contact us with any questions.</p>	<p>These communication channels have been open throughout the project development.</p>

APPENDIX D3 AFTER THE CONSULTATION

Actions	Evidence
<p>If there are any changes needed to the arrangements described above, we will notify the community.</p>	<p>During the consultation, we received requests from the MP and the public to add an additional event in Treeton. The Applicant added this additional event to take place on 13 October. This was notified by writing to the community in Treeton via a letter on 30 September and updating the project website. The letter sent out to Treeton is in Appendix B4.6.</p>
<p>Our communications channels will remain open throughout the pre-application process to answer any questions from the community. Individuals can opt-in through the project website or consultation questionnaire to our 'keep informed' list if they would like to receive project updates.</p>	<p>The communications lines were open from the start of the project launch and continue to remain open now. Individuals can register to receive updates through the project webpage.</p>



WHITESTONE
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Contact

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

info@whitestonesolarfarm.co.uk

0800 688 9936



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Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Appendix E Responses to the AoCM

Project reference
EN0110020
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March 2026

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APPENDIX E1 CITY OF DONCASTER COUNCIL (CDC) AOCM RESPONSE



**Doncaster
Council**

Contact: [REDACTED]
Web: [REDACTED]

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

Date: 24 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Whitestone Solar Farm Development Consent Order

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report (AoCM), a copy of which was provided to City of Doncaster Council (CDC), by email on 05 February 2026.

CDC understands that the Planning Inspectorate will seek the formal views from the Council about the adequacy of consultation, under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 and that our representations at that time must be limited to whether the Applicant has complied with its duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act, and not broader matters such as the merits of the application itself.

With this context in mind, the following comments are provided.

Compliance with Statutory Requirements

CDC notes that the AoCM report sets out, in comprehensive detail, how the Applicant approached consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Based on the information presented, the Council is satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met and that CDC was appropriately identified and consulted as a host authority.

Engagement with CDC on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

Doncaster Council
Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU



CDC confirms that engagement has taken place with the Applicant since 2024, including during the preparation of the SoCC and throughout the subsequent statutory consultation stages.

Community Consultation

CDC acknowledges the consultation undertaken by the Applicant, including leaflet distribution, in-person events, online engagement tools and accessibility measures. The Council is therefore satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the agreed SoCC.

However, Conisbrough Parks Parish Council has written to CDC expressing significant concerns regarding the community consultation that has taken place to date. This is included in full as an Appendix to this response.

The Ward Councillors for Whitestone 1 have also been contacted to seek their feedback on the experiences of residents involved in the consultation and CDC reserves the right to share any such further feedback once received.

Furthermore, CDC understands from liaison with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, another Host Authority, that they received feedback raising significant concerns regarding the overall quality and effectiveness of the consultation, and that consequently this has been perceived as inadequate by stakeholders.

Based on the above, CDC has concerns regarding the efficacy of the consultation that has been undertaken.

Consideration of Feedback:

CDC notes that the Applicant has made changes to the draft masterplan following the Statutory Consultation, and these are provided at Figure 4.8 of the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report. However, CDC does not consider that these minor changes meaningfully address the detailed feedback provided in the Statutory Consultation response whatsoever. Moreover, the meetings that have subsequently been held between the Applicant and the Host Authorities have not sought to address that feedback in any substantive way. CDC made clear through this process the conclusion that Whitestone 1 should be removed from the Order limits completely. It is disappointing that so little has been done by the Applicant to properly acknowledge this position. Indeed, this lack of acknowledgement is reflected by the fact that the changes that have been incorporated in no way meaningfully address the objections raised.

Equally, some of the fundamental questions CDC raised through the Statutory Consultation response concerning the relative contribution that Whitestone 1 would make to energy generation when viewed against the very harmful impacts arising to the special, historic landscape have not been acknowledged or answered by the Applicant, despite repeatedly raising this with them.

CDC does not consider that dialogue in these respects has been altogether constructive and therefore questions whether the engagement to date has been meaningful. For example, on

topic specific discussions regarding heritage and historic landscape matters, very little was understood on the part of the Applicant of the special character of the historic landscape comprising Whitestone 1, other than their focus on intervisibility with Conisbrough Castle and its immediate setting. This is a fundamental oversight, betraying a clear misunderstanding of the wider historic landscape and CDC consequently does not consider the Applicant has taken reasonable steps to understand or engage with its objections in this respect.

Furthermore, it is notable that, despite the Host Authorities requesting sight of the draft DCO on various occasions, no draft has yet been provided. Officers are therefore concerned that the Applicant's intention to submit the DCO to PINS in May 2026 will provide very limited time for meaningful review by CDC prior to submission. This is not conducive to effective collaborative working and is contrary to the Government's guidance on early and ongoing engagement with local authorities during the NSIP process. We therefore reserve the right to make representations to PINS on this point in due course.

Conclusion

CDC is satisfied that the Applicant has addressed the statutory duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. However, CDC has concerns about how meaningful the engagement has been on fundamental aspects of the project.

CDC will provide a full statutory adequacy of consultation response when formally requested by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55.

Yours faithfully



Directorate of Place
City of Doncaster Council

Appendix 1 – Letter from Conisbrough Parks Parish Council dated 24 February 2026

Conisbrough Parks Parish Council

To: Head of Planning

Planning Department

City of Doncaster Council

24th February 2026

Subject: Inadequate Consultation by Whitestone Net Zero Limited (Whitestone Solar Farm)

Dear [REDACTED]

Conisbrough Parks Parish Council wishes to make you aware of its concerns and issues about the adequacy of the consultation process undertaken by Whitestone (Green Nation) regarding the proposed Whitestone Solar Farm. The Councillors consider the process to be fundamentally flawed and inadequate, failing to meet the legal requirements for meaningful community engagement as set out under the Planning Act 2008. Their detailed position is as follows:

1. Systematic Exclusion of Affected Communities

The consultation systematically excluded the residents most affected by this development:

- **Prohibitive Costs:** The Non-Technical Summary states that hard copies of the full Environmental Statement cost "up to £750", creating an unacceptable financial barrier to accessing essential information.
- **Over-reliance on Digital Platforms:** The process relied heavily on online materials, excluding elderly residents in communities such as Conisbrough Parks, Conisbrough, Ravenfield, Hooton Roberts, Micklebring, Clifton, and Firsby.
- **Technical Complexity Barrier:** The Environmental Statement uses impenetrable technical jargon that the Non-Technical Summary fails to adequately translate for ordinary residents. For example, the Non-Technical Summary describes "Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)" effects in technical language that obscures serious harm and fails to explain in plain English how residents' daily lives will be affected.
- **Local Experience:** In Conisbrough Parks, many residents are elderly or lack reliable internet access, making it extremely difficult for them to participate meaningfully in a process so heavily dependent on digital communication. These points were brought to the attention of the Parish Council by residents who felt excluded and unable to access key documents or submit their views.

- **Lack of Inclusivity and Accessibility:** The second consultation events did not include one in Clifton, despite Whitestone (Green Nation) having previously attended meetings in an available village hall at the initial stage last year. Residents without internet access or transport to Conisbrough or elsewhere have not been treated in a fair and considerate manner, a matter brought to the attention of Parish Councillors and City of Doncaster Ward Councillors. This failure is unsatisfactory given that Whitestone 1 has a direct impact on landscape views from the village.

2. Inadequate Consultation Programme

Insufficient Public Events: Only seven public events were held for a development affecting multiple communities across nearly 2,000 hectares.

- **Poor Geographic Coverage:** Smaller communities like Clifton (part of Conisbrough Parks), Firsby, and Hooton Roberts were poorly served, forcing residents to travel significant distances.
- **Limited Accessibility:** Events were poorly timed for working families, with insufficient weekend options.
- **Conisbrough Parks Impact:** The nearest event for many Conisbrough Parks residents was held several miles away, with no provision for those with limited mobility or without private transport. This further disadvantaged those already struggling to access information.
- **Communications to residents via post in the parish were not consistent, some received correspondence and details of consultation whilst others did not, parishioners reporting these concerns to Parish Councillors. This demonstrates exclusion of residents and inadequacy of their consultation and engagement, especially given that a number of elderly residents don't have access to electronic communication.**
- **Consultation Response Time:** The consultation response time of six weeks during September and October 2025 was of great concern, given the volume and number of documents to consider, read, and process, in addition to the 'Consultation Booklet'. This is particularly pertinent when considering that the first consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 was eleven weeks with less information to read and process. This matter was brought to Whitestone's notice by numerous individuals and recognised organisations, including Ward Councillors and MPs. The Parish Council raised extreme concern that the time to read and process documents for the second consultation was far too short, not allowing for full discussion at meetings and to formulate this written response. As a Parish Council, Councillors requested an extension in a letter to Jonathan Thompson (CEO of Green Nation) earlier in the consultation (which was not responded to), and again in a letter in response to the

consultation of 23rd October, specifically requesting that the consultation period be extended until 28th November 2025.

3. Consultation on Outdated and Incomplete Information

- **Heritage Assessment Rendered Obsolete:** The heritage assessment is now fundamentally flawed. Historic England recently designated the Roman Villa at Conisbrough Parks as a Scheduled Monument after the heritage assessment was completed.
- **Underestimated Significance:** The assessment fails to account for this site, described as "undoubtedly one of the best surviving and most important sites in the region".
- **Inadequate Reassessment:** This designation should have triggered a complete consultation restart, not just cosmetic updates.
- **Local Context:** The Parish Council notes that the Roman Villa is a site of exceptional local and national importance, and its new status was not properly communicated to residents or reflected in consultation materials. This omission deprived the community of the opportunity to comment on a key heritage issue.

4. Failure to Provide Accessible and Complete Information

- **Non-Technical Summary Inadequacies:** The summary downplays significant impacts, describing "Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)" effects in technical language that obscures serious harm. It fails to explain in plain English how residents' daily lives will be affected and omits key information about heritage impacts due to the Roman villa designation.
- **Technical Document Complexity:** The Environmental Statement chapters are impenetrable to ordinary residents, using expert-level language without adequate explanation. The volume and complexity, hundreds of pages, requires professional expertise to understand, and information is scattered across multiple volumes and appendices, making cross-referencing difficult.
- **Limited Information Provided:** The Parish Council did not receive all the documentation with information that needs consideration prior to this response. For example, the 'Draft Environmental Statement' was only available by request at an event, and refers to numerous appendices that have not been circulated by Green Nation. As a statutory consultee, the Parish Council did not receive some necessary documents despite written emailed requests. Most of the meaningful documents required for an informed consultation response were only available online and should have been provided free of charge to all statutory consultees, including this Parish Council. Furthermore, the consultation documents miss several points and there are many inaccuracies in the details and maps.

- **Conisbrough Parks Experience:** Residents reported that even the so-called Non-Technical Summary was difficult to interpret, and that attempts to seek clarification from the developer were met with generic or unhelpful responses.

5. Dismissal of Community Expertise

Despite receiving 940 responses in the first consultation:

- **Substantive Concerns Dismissed:** Community objections about fundamental site unsuitability were treated as minor design issues.
- **Cosmetic Changes Only:** Claimed design changes failed to address core problems raised by residents.
- **No Genuine Dialogue:** Technical responses failed to engage with community concerns.

6. Legal Requirements Not Met (Section 47, Planning Act 2008)

The consultation fails to meet statutory requirements for meaningful community engagement:

- **Accessibility Failure:** Systematic exclusion through digital bias, cost barriers, and technical complexity.
- **Inadequate Opportunity:** Insufficient public meetings and rushed timelines prevent meaningful participation.
- **Information Failure:** Technical documents and incomplete surveys prevent informed community input.
- **Geographic Bias:** Poor coverage of smaller communities most affected by the development.
- **Conisbrough Parks View:** The Parish Council believes these failures amount to a breach of both the letter and spirit of the Planning Act, and that the process has not enabled genuine participation by those most affected.

7. Procedural Inadequacies

- **Premature Consultation:** Consulting on incomplete surveys and outdated heritage assessments.
- **Information Barriers:** Financial and technical obstacles prevented community access to essential information.
- **Timeline Inadequacy:** Insufficient time for communities to coordinate responses to complex development.
- **Local Impact:** The Council notes that several key documents were updated or replaced during the consultation period, causing confusion and making it difficult for residents to know which information was current or relevant.

8. Impact on Democratic Decision-Making

These consultation failures undermine the entire planning process:

- **Compromised Community Input:** Affected residents could not provide informed responses due to accessibility barriers.
- **Flawed Evidence Base:** Decision-makers lack comprehensive information needed for balanced evaluation.
- **Democratic Deficit:** Systematic exclusion of communities violates principles of participatory planning.
- **Conisbrough Parks Perspective:** The Parish Council is concerned that the voices of smaller, rural communities have been marginalised, and that the process has failed to uphold the standards of transparency and fairness expected in major infrastructure planning.

9. Freepost Address Errors and Reliability of Consultation

Concerns regarding the Freepost address were raised early in the second consultation period, yet no correction was issued. The address advertised by Whitestone — “Whitestone Solar Farm, Freepost SEC Newgate UK Local”, was confirmed by Royal Mail’s Response Services Team as non-compliant with the Freepost Name licence held by SEC Newgate UK. The correct format should have been “Freepost SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL”, with the project name placed separately.

Royal Mail confirmed that items addressed using the incorrect format were initially flagged for surcharge or potential return, and delivery depended on manual intervention by Sheffield Mail Centre staff. This process relied on items being posted from the “local catchment”, even though the consultation area extends over 20 km and crosses multiple mail regions and counties. As a result, responses from some parts of the area or from national organisations may not have benefited from local intervention, risking lost or delayed submissions.

This administrative error undermines the accessibility and reliability of the statutory consultation process required under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and raises serious doubt as to whether all public feedback has been properly received and recorded. Whitestone’s unwillingness to acknowledge or correct the issue, even when alerted by Parish Councils and by Members of Parliament, suggests a dismissive approach to local engagement and procedural accuracy.

10. Failure to Extend Consultation Period

Despite requests from Conisbrough Parks Parish Council and several other Parish Councils across the consultation area, Whitestone Net Zero Limited declined to extend the consultation period. Given the geographical scale of the proposed development and the number of communities affected, an extension would have been both proportionate

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

and reasonable. The refusal to allow more time has limited the ability of residents and local councils to fully understand and respond to the proposals.

Conclusion

Whitestone's (Green Nation) consultation represents a fundamental failure to engage meaningfully with affected communities as required by law. The systematic exclusion of residents through cost barriers, technical complexity, incomplete information, and rushed timelines violates both the letter and spirit of democratic participation in planning decisions. A development of this scale, affecting multiple historic communities and heritage assets, deserved proper consultation that genuinely includes and engages with those whose lives will be permanently affected.

Conisbrough Parks Parish Council urges City of Doncaster Council to take these serious procedural failings into account when providing feedback to the Planning Inspectorate on the adequacy of the consultation, and ask that a request is made to undertake a new, legally compliant consultation process.

Yours sincerely,



Clerk to Conisbrough Parks Parish Council

APPENDIX E2 NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (NEDDC) AOCM RESPONSE



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council



DWD 100
69 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5EQ

Our Ref:

Contact:

Tel:

E-mail:

Date:

25 February 2026

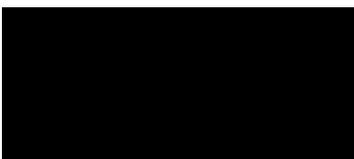
Dear 

Re: Whitestone Solar Farm - Adequacy of Consultation Milestone - North East Derbyshire District Council

Thank you for consulting North East Derbyshire District Council on the above. I am writing to inform you that the council considers the consultation is adequate, however we do request that any future consultations are also sent to the Killamarsh West Ward members: Cllr Stephen Clough, Cllr Clive Fletcher and Cllr Carol Lacey as originally requested by us.

Otherwise we appreciate the work you have done to inform the local community and the changes made to the scheme following the feedback received.

Yours Faithfully



Principal Planning Officer.

APPENDIX E3 ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (RMBC) AOCM RESPONSE



Regeneration & Environment

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1
E-mail
Email

Our Ref:
RB2025/0603

Please Contact:

27th February 2026

Dear

Whitestone Solar Farm – Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report ("AoCM Report") received by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) on 06 February 2026 by email.

RMBC understands that, in due course, the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will seek the Council's formal views under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 relating specifically to whether the Applicant has complied with its consultation duties under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act. RMBC acknowledges that representations at that stage must be confined solely to statutory adequacy of consultation, and not to the planning merits of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

With this context in mind, RMBC provides the following comments.

Compliance with Statutory Requirements

RMBC notes that the AoCM report sets out, in comprehensive detail, how the Applicant approached consultation under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008. Based on the information presented, the Council is satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met and that RMBC was appropriately identified and consulted as a host authority.

Engagement with RMBC on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

RMBC confirms that constructive engagement has taken place with the Applicant since 2024, including during the preparation of the SoCC and throughout the

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subsequent statutory consultation stages. The AoCM Report accurately reflects Officer's input and the corrections sought during this process.

Community Consultation

RMBC acknowledges the consultation undertaken by the Applicant, including leaflet distribution, in-person events, online engagement tools and accessibility measures. The Council is therefore satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the agreed SoCC.

However, it is worth noting at this juncture, significant concerns have been raised by Parish Councils, local residents, and elected Ward Members. These concerns indicate that, while statutory compliance may have been achieved, the quality and effectiveness of the consultation has been perceived as inadequate by these stakeholders. Issues reported to officers include:

- Consultation process lacked transparency, clarity, and genuine community engagement.
- Flyers resembled junk mail and were frequently discarded; some also contained incorrect Freepost addresses, raising concerns about whether responses were received.
- Not all directly affected residents received communication about consultation events.
- Only a small number of drop-in sessions were held across a very large geographical area, many during working hours, with no formal presentations.
- Consultation events were poorly advertised and offered limited opportunity for meaningful participation.
- Treeton was initially excluded from both consultation rounds and only included after pressure from the local MP.
- Whitestone representatives showed poor local knowledge, dismissive attitudes, and were unable to answer key questions regarding flooding, traffic, biodiversity, and community benefits.
- After two years of planning, key infrastructure locations (cable corridors, battery storage, substations) remain undetermined and were not clearly presented.
- Technical documentation was extensive, but the consultation period was too short for residents and organisations to review and understand its implications.
- No consideration was given to extending the consultation period despite issues with incorrect or inconsistent addressing on leaflets and display materials.
- Engagement with both Inner Zone and Outer Zone communities was inadequate, leaving many residents unaware of the scale and impact of the development.
- Communication relied heavily on unclear maps and hard-to-read materials, making it difficult for residents to identify local impacts.
- No information has been provided on the Community Benefit Fund.

- The scale of the scheme, approx. 3,400 acres of Green Belt is not reflected in the limited and superficial consultation undertaken.
- Parish Council(s) believe the overall consultation process is unfit for purpose and should be declared null and void.
- Statutory Notice Failure - No Section 42 notice has ever been served on joint legal owner of Springvale Farm, despite the owners clear status as a statutory consultee. Whitestone were informed in October 2025 that the site forms part of a residential home and is an active Camping and Caravan Club Certified Site. Despite invitations to engage, telephone calls on 17–18 February went unanswered. A representative from Whitestone subsequently attempted entry without notice, contrary to the owners 48-hour requirement issued on 9 February. The representative opened the owners private residential gates and drove into their yard, blocking access. The follow-up email acknowledged a communication issue but not the perceived civil trespass. The engagement to date has not reflected statutory obligations, accurate mapping, or the operational realities of the Certified Site. The current access strategy is not legally or technically viable.

Consideration of Feedback

RMBC notes that the Applicant has made changes to the draft masterplan following consultation feedback, including reductions in solar panel areas and refinements to parcels of land adjacent to Rotherham communities. RMBC welcomes these changes and will continue to examine the evidence base when further submission documents are provided within the Environmental Statement (ES) and draft DCO.

RMBC will, in particular, scrutinise detailed assessments on transport, landscape, green belt, heritage, ecology, agricultural land quality, and other relevant environmental matters through the Local Impact Report and subsequent stages. Officers welcome continued constructive dialogue with the Applicant's technical advisors as the Environmental Statement is finalised and note that there are particular areas of concern, such as the LVIA where no meetings have yet taken place since the Council's initial comments on the draft ES.

Furthermore, RMBC wishes to highlight that, despite requesting sight of the draft DCO on various occasions, no draft has yet been provided. Officers are therefore concerned that the Applicant's intention to submit the DCO to PINS in May 2026 will provide very limited time for meaningful review by RMBC prior to submission. This is not conducive to effective collaborative working and runs counter to the Government's guidance on early and ongoing engagement with local authorities during the NSIP process. We therefore reserve the right to make reps to PINS on this point in due course.

Conclusion

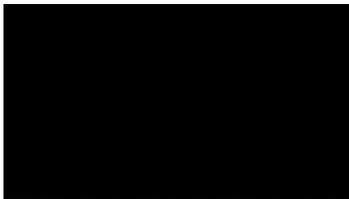
Although the Council recognises that the applicant has endeavoured to satisfy the statutory consultation obligations pursuant to section 42 of the Town and Country Act, at this point due to the failure to serve the appropriate notice at Springvale Farm the Council's position must be that statutory consultation requirements have not been

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION MILESTONE REPORT

fully satisfied, unless you can provide appropriate evidence that service has legally taken place. Furthermore, RMBC wishes to emphasise the considerable dissatisfaction expressed by some local communities regarding the quality of the consultation experience. Subject to Data Protection legislation, this information can be provided and will be submitted to PINS in due course. RMBC also remains concerned regarding the absence of the draft DCO and the implications this may have for constructive pre-submission engagement.

RMBC will provide a full statutory adequacy of consultation response when formally requested by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55.

Yours sincerely



Executive Director Regeneration and Environment



WHITESTONE
solar farm

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